

# Water challenges for a changing world

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## EDITORIAL

We are pleased to welcome you again, after the summer break, with this beautiful drawing by Oscar Galliani. In his works, now shown in Milan for EXPO 2015, the artist considers water a substance that brings knowledge to all living creatures and, changing through biological and chemical cycles, holds inside the codes of their creations.

Indeed this image is particularly evocative: water is essential for life, for health, for beauty, for history...

We, the Water JPI team, are absolutely convinced of this and we are ready to give new boost to our cooperation in the following years. Many activities are already planned for the months to come: update of our Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda in primis. Please, read the news on the progress of the initiative and all other information provided in our monthly newsletter. Thank you!



## PROGRESS ON WATER JPI ACTIVITIES

### Development of the second call for proposals

The WaterWorks2014 cofunded call on the topic "**Research and Innovation for Developing Technological Solutions and Services for Water Systems**" had its deadline for the submission of full proposals on 14th of September 2015.

A total of 118 pre-proposals were submitted by the May 2015 deadline. A total of 106 eligible pre-proposals were then sent to scientific evaluation by a virtual panel of international experts (33 members). They were evaluated by early July 2015. Based on the results of the scientific evaluation, the Call Steering Committee selected the top 41 proposals of the ranking to be invited to the second step. This call is supported by 17 funding partner organisations from 15 different JPI member countries.

### Pilot Call projects

A PhD dissertation on the theme "*Antibiotic resistance in human impacted environments*" was held in Helsinki on 4 September 2015 in connection with the activities of the project **StARE** "*Stopping Antibiotic Resistance Evolution*" funded within the Water JPI Pilot Call. More information on this doctoral dissertation is provided at this [link](#).

The second meeting of the JPI water project FRAME took place in Koblenz from 9th to 10th of September, with the active participation of more than 20 scientists from the partner institutions and stakeholders. Besides the presentations of the first results of the experimental activities, during the meeting a FRAME common approach for risk management and assessment of groundwater recharge via surface spreading (SAT), which is one of the possible Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR) practices, has been agreed upon. Criteria for the selection of the chemicals of environmental concern (CEC) and pathogens for a first target screening at the experimental sites have also been chosen. The procedures for chemical non-target screening with high resolution mass spectrometry and a screening using ecotoxicological tools, to get a more reliable picture of potential risks connected with the IPR practices, have been planned. The participation of several stakeholders allowed the assessment of the structure of a Decision Support Framework which will be the key instrument for supporting stakeholders in their feasibility studies for the application of IPR in their specific field sites. All the transfer and dissemination activities will be collected and be publicly available in the form of a final handbook for stakeholders.

The project **MOTREM** "*Integrated processes for monitoring and treatment of emerging contaminants for water reuse*" coordinated by the University Rey Juan Carlos of Madrid will hold a partnership meeting next October. Other partners of this project are the universities of Stuttgart, Helsinki, Turin and two Spanish companies: Aqualia and Bruker.

### Management Board

A position paper on JPIs is under preparation by the Task Force on Interactions with H2020 following the recommendations of Science Europe issued in this [document](#) on the role and future of joint programming. The Task Force on Alignment is elaborating a questionnaire to understand how water research agendas are developed in the different countries involved in the Water JPI. This survey will be circulated in the coming weeks and results will be discussed at the upcoming workshop on alignment programmed on 18 November 2015, i.e. before next GB meeting to be held in Paris next 19-20 November 2015.

### Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda-version 2.0

Following the on-line public consultation opened from 27 April to 2 May 2015 and the suggestions provided by the renewed Advisory Boards an updated version of the Water JPI SRIA will be discussed for further integrations during a workshop to be held on the 8th and 9th of October in Orleans in France.

### Further implementation

The proposal for a second ERAN-NET Cofund, **WaterWorks2015**, related to water and agriculture challenges submitted last April has been approved by the European Commission. 26 funding agencies joined the proposal of which 6 represent countries beyond EU (Canada, Egypt, South Africa, Taiwan, Tunisia, and USA). The proposal has now reached the stage of Grant Agreement Preparation.

## FOCUS ON WATER RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



in Turkey 

TÜBİTAK is the leading agency for management, funding and conduct of research in Turkey. The Council is an autonomous institution and is governed by a Scientific Board whose members who are selected from prominent scholars from universities, industry and research institutions. TÜBİTAK is responsible for promoting, developing, organizing, conducting and coordinating research and development in line with national targets and priorities.

[Read more](#)

### RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

#### Contamination of freshwater ecosystems with microplastic particles

Plastics are synthetic organic polymers derived from the polymerization of monomers extracted from oil or gas. The main properties of plastic matter are cheapness, lightness, hardness, corrosion resistant and with high thermal and electrical insulation. These characteristics caused the progressive accumulation in marine environment and the interaction with biota. Over the last decade, marine debris has become a major factor affecting the coastal ecosystem worldwide. Marine litter consists of items that have been made or used by people and deliberately discarded or unintentionally lost into the sea and on beaches including solid materials transported into the marine environment from land by rivers, draining, sewage systems or winds.

[Read more](#)

### DROPLETS

#### MoU for intercalibration of EU Water Framework Directive renewed



Nine member countries of the Joint Programming Initiative Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans (JPI Oceans) have committed to a renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding for intercalibration of EU Water Framework Directive. The countries involved are: Belgium (Lead), Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Belgium, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and United Kingdom. During the first part of the exercise from August 2014 until July 2015, the intercalibration of the benthic invertebrate fauna for coastal waters has been finalized and the results have also been accepted by the review panel of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre. [To know more](#)

#### ERA-LEARN 2020 web portal is now live



ERA-LEARN 2020 is a support action (CSA) funded by Horizon 2020. It started in January 2015 as a support platform for the Public-Public-Partnerships (P2P) community. P2Ps align national strategies, in order to avoid fragmentation of public research effort. The ERA-LEARN 2020 web portal is a user-lead platform providing a wide range of material on Joint programming Initiatives, ERA-NETs, and Art. 185 initiatives, including: a database of P2P networks and joint calls with a call calendar, information on H2020 calls for P2Ps, learning material such as practical information on ERA-NET COFUND and GPC related information. The content of the ERA -LEARN 2020 web portal will be constantly updated in cooperation with the entire P2P community. Visit the [ERA-LEARN 2020 web portal](#)

#### WRI Report: "Ranking the world's most water-stressed countries in 2040"



This report, by The World Resources Institute, is based on a combination of representative concentration pathways and shared socio-economic pathways from IPCC 5th Assessment Report, used to estimate future water supply and demand. In this report future water stress is scored and ranked, a measure of competition and depletion of surface water in 167 countries by 2020, 2030, and 2040. They found that 33 countries will face extremely high water stress in 2040. Every water-stressed country is affected by a different combination of factors and such situations severely threaten national water security and economic growth. Management and conservation practices to protect essential sustainable water resources are needed for years to come. [To know more](#)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Workshop on research to improve river basin management



Integrated flood risk management is one of the top priorities of the Loire River Interregional Programme. It is a well known fact that a major flooding of the Loire River and its tributaries constitutes a great risk which would cause considerable disturbance and damage. With the aim of stimulating research on development and innovation, on river basin, the Loire River Basin Authority (*Etablissement public Loire*) organizes a [conference](#) in Orléans on 24-25 September 2015, in cooperation with "Le Festival de Loire" to provide a good platform to exchange experience through scientific and technical sessions.

#### JPI Urban Europe High Profile Event



This event titled "Transition towards sustainable and liveable urban areas", and held on September 29 -30 2015 in Brussels, is jointly organized by the JPI Europe and European institutions. During the event the JPI Urban Europe Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) will be launched as the long-term strategy and program for the period 2014-2020. [To know more](#)

#### 2015 SusChem Brokerage Event



SusChem is the European Technology Platform for Sustainable Chemistry addressing challenges specific to the European chemical and industrial biotechnology industry for the benefit of society as a whole. SusChem Brokerage Event 2015 will take place on 6 October 2015 at Sheraton Brussels Hotel. It will be the best occasion to present project proposals for the up-coming 2016-2017 calls of Horizon 2020, interact with strategic partners and take ideas to a competitive new level. A "speed dating session" will facilitate the development of projects' consortia. [To know more](#)

#### WATER FOR HEALTH



The sixth edition of the **EU-India STI cooperation days** will be held in Rome on 15-16 October 2015 jointly organized by the **INDIGO POLICY** and **INNO INDIGO** projects. The workshop will be focused on clean water for health. Wastewater management including applications to industry and agriculture, green chemistry applied to water purification including drinking water purification, development and applications of membrane technology in water purification/sanitation, membrane bioreactor applications at

domestic and industrial wastewater management, reuse of municipal/industrial wastewater will be discussed. More information is provided [here](#)

#### IWA Water and Development Congress & Exhibition 2015



The IWA Water and Development Congress will be organized in Jordan on October 18-22. The focus of the event will be water security for sustainable development around the following themes: *Turning the Tide on Water Resources Rapid Urbanization as Driver for Sustainability and Resilience*, *New Business Models for Water and Sanitation Services Water & Cleantech as Opportunity for Growth and Development Growing Professional and Sector Wide Capacities*. As part of the event an exhibition area will be dedicated to the world's leading institutions, companies and organizations involved in the development of clean, safe drinking water and sanitation services. [To know more](#)

#### 13th "EUROPE-INBO 2015" international conference (21-24 October 2015, Thessaloniki –Greece)



The European Group of Basin Authorities "Europe- Inbo" organizes the 13th International Conference "EUROPE-INBO 2015" around a preparatory workshop and 4 roundtables dealing with the updated issues related to implementation of the WFD and other European water directives. Means for a better integration of the processes and new measures to cope with the main challenges will be explored, such as: diffuse pollution, hydro-morphology, adaptation to climate change, prevention of droughts and floods, the need to get the stakeholders more involved in the field implementation of these measures, the economic tools and the funding of the [Programmes](#) of Measures.

#### Earth Observation for Water Cycle Science 2015



This [conference](#) is co-organized by ESA, EGEWEX in Frascati near Rome on 20-23 October 2015. The purpose of this event is to review our knowledge on the water cycle science at different scales in space and time; to advocate for the development of robust satellite geo-information data products to characterise and model the water cycle from global to basin scales; and to foster the improvement of models and data assimilation systems to support local, regional and global water cycle predictions, climate change impacts and development of mitigation strategies in water resources management.

#### JPI Climate workshops on engagement and dissemination



Two events aimed to explore engagement opportunities with funding agencies, stakeholders and researchers in countries and organisations not currently linked with the JPI Climate will be held in Vienna on next 21 October and in Venice on 5 November 2015. [To know more](#)

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### CALL FOR PAPERS

#### 1st GLOBAQUA International Conference



The 1st GLOBAQUA International Conference "*Managing The Effects Of Multiple Stressors On Aquatic Ecosystems Under Water Scarcity*" (11-12 January 2016-Freising, Germany) focuses on novel methods of environmental monitoring and modeling to improve process understanding in the interconnectivity and feed-back mechanisms of climate, land use, economy, hydrology and hydraulics, water quality, biology and aquatic ecosystems. Online submission of abstracts for oral and poster presentations is open to all scientists who share interest in the topics of the conference. Deadline for submission: 31st October 2015 at [link](#).

#### Rome2015 - Science Symposium on Climate (19-20 November – FAO Headquarter)



The Call for abstracts for "*Rome2015-Science Symposium on Climate*" is opened. Scientists, researchers and policy makers are invited to provide a detailed summary of the key impacts of climate and climate change on natural and socio-economic environments, and highlight needed response actions and related policies on adaptation and mitigation activities. During the Symposium the Italian scientific community will propose a statement that will be presented at the XXI UNFCCC-Conference of the Parties in Paris, COP21, on Dec 2015. Deadline for online submission of short abstracts is September 20, 2015. [To know more](#)

#### 9th edition of Novatech international conference



The 9th edition of the Novatech International Conference on sustainable urban water management (28 June-1 July 2016 ) will be organized around the following themes: stormwater and urban planning; innovative solutions for stormwater management; stormwater and aquatic environments; stormwater, city and stakeholders. Submission of papers / case study proposals is possible before November 30th. [To know more](#)