

# Water challenges for a changing world

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## EDITORIAL

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were approved at the UN headquarters in New York (USA) on Friday 25 September. The 17 Goals include a dedicated Water SDG that aims at ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. For achieving this goal, six technical targets and two additional targets on means of implementation have been identified:

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## PROGRESS ON WATER JPI ACTIVITIES

### Waterworks 2014

The submission of the full proposals (second step of the call) ended in September 14. All consortia submitted their documentation on time and the proposals have been allocated to the Evaluation Panel Members who were selected based on their domain of expertise and taking into account the distribution of the proposals through each of the three topics of this call. The evaluation of proposals is ongoing and efforts are now being directed towards the monitoring of the evaluation process and organization of the evaluation meeting that will take place in Lisbon, and it will involve the participation of all Evaluation Panel Members, an observer representing the European Commission and the funding partner organisations involved in this call.

### Pilot Call projects

Partners of the project MOTREM (Integrated processes for Monitoring and Treatment of Emerging contaminants for water reuse) are involved in the organization of a thematic session about "Contaminants of Emerging Concern: Antibiotic resistance, microbiological hazards, nanopollutants" during the next *Leading Edge Conference on Water and Wastewater Technologies* of the International Water Association. This conference will be held next June 2016 in Jerez de la Frontera, Spain. The deadline of the call for abstracts for [LET2016](#) is 31st October. Coordinators and partnerships of the other projects (FRAME, PROMOTE, METAWATER, PERSIST, STARE, TRACE) funded by the Water JPI Pilot call on "Emerging water contaminants" are invited to take part in this conference as speakers and to coordinate their contributions with the MOTREM team.

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### Towards the SRIA 2.0

The 2nd consultative workshop about the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda took place in Orléans at the BRGM Scientific and Technical Center (France) the 8th and the 9th October 2015. About 40 people, members of the Advisory Boards, the Water JPI and national experts, participated in this workshop. This workshop was the occasion for the participants to exchange during breakout & plenary sessions as well during informal moments (visit of the Orléans city, of the technical Hall of the BRGM with experiments undergoing linked to groundwater quality issues).

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### Participation in the WRC Symposium and Water-Tech Summit



The Water JPI coordinator, Dominique Darmendrail, was a keynote speaker in the Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) symposium and water-tech summit organized from September 16 to 18 by South Africa's national funding agency for water research and development, the Water Research Commission, partner in WaterWorks2014. Held every two years, this symposium aims to find new ideas on issues that affect all water users, like climate change, energy efficiency, sustainability and the protection of drinking water quality and therefore public health. More than 400 participants from 20 countries (Canada, India, USA, France, Netherlands, Germany, Australia, the United Kingdom and Singapore, to name a few of the countries represented) attended the 2015 Symposium which was dedicated to "Universal access to drinking water and basic sanitation wherever you are".

An integrated approach to address the challenges of future water uncertainties, climate change, and changing habits, diets, lifestyles and water-demand patterns, was discussed by means of showcasing the most impactful water and sanitation research and technological innovations from South Africa and the various other countries represented. Communities are looking for innovative social and technological solutions, in particular simple and affordable solutions for everyone for better justice and equity to water access and sanitation services. For achieving this, there is a need of changing of approach paradigm (from centralized systems to decentralized) allowing to deal with the system complexity. Enhancing human capital development in water sciences, moving faster by more purposed RDI, finding synergies between different sectors (water-energy-food nexus) should underline the future research and innovation programmes. The Water JPI was invited to discuss why water cooperation is necessary and how partnerships should be developed at different scales (within South Africa, within the continent and more globally). [More information](#).

## FOCUS ON WATER RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



in Poland



Water research is funded in Poland by The [Ministry of Science and Higher Education](#) (*Ministerstwo Nauki i Szkolnictwa Wyższego*) which started its activities in May 2006 in continuity with the role performed by some sections of the former Ministry of Education and Science. The Ministry of Science and Higher Education has a budget for scientific research provided by State funds.

The Council for Science constitutes a formal representation of the research community and plays an advisory role to the Minister of Science and Higher Education, who represents the decision-making authority in the field of scientific policy and funding of R&D. The Council for Science is independent from the Minister in issuing its opinions.

All government support for civil research is channelled entirely through the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. The Ministry has identified six ways of financing. Three of them are relevant to the activities carried out by the Water JPI:

- 1) Peer-reviewed research grants based on research proposals, presented by small research teams or individual researchers. Applications are evaluated by an appropriate group of the Committee twice a year;
- 2) Subsidies for R & D programmes of national importance commissioned by enterprises, state administrative bodies or local authorities. The financial means are allocated for the implementation of projects and the utilization of research findings;
- 3) Subsidies for international scientific and technological cooperation resulting from intergovernmental agreements.

The name of the research programme most related to water research is Ecology & Environmental Protection (MNISzW - Ekologia i Ochrona Przyrody). This programme covers research areas directly or indirectly related to water, such as ecology, biodiversity, landscape and ecosystems. This programme provides funds to public research centres and higher education institutions.

### RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

#### Bioaccumulation in aquatic systems

Monitoring chemical concentrations in biota are widely and increasingly used for assessing the chemical status of aquatic ecosystems, and can be used also for compliance checking with regulatory directives, for identification of chemical sources or event-related environmental risk assessment.

[Read more](#)

### DROPLETS

#### One thousand intermittent rivers

An eco-hydrologist from IRSTEA ( French national research institute of science and technology for environment and agriculture) has launched a project to improve knowledge of intermittent rivers (dry for part of the year) in order to address the present lack of data on these water bodies. The global network established to carry out the project activities consists in marshalling scientists from around the world to voluntarily focus on intermittent rivers.

[To know more](#)

#### Forests can help prevent floods and droughts



The European Environment Agency (EEA) has recently published the report "[Water-retention potential of Europe's forests](#)" focusing on the importance of the relationship between water and forests in Europe. One third of European territory is covered by forests and approximately 296 million Europeans live in or close to forests. Forests are essential for human well-being and provide a wide range of ecosystem services to society, including 'water retention', defined as the water absorbed or used by forests. The report is based on the Water Accounts Production Database developed at the EEA. The results represent 287 sub-basins hosting more than 65 000 catchments across Europe.

#### New guidance for old waterfront walls



Coastal engineering specialists from HR Wallingford have produced a new manual titled [Old waterfront walls: management, maintenance and rehabilitation](#). It is an updated version of the publication Old Waterfront Walls, a guidance for the management of old masonry waterfront walls. This manual aims at helping owners, asset managers, engineers and contractors to understand historic waterfront wall design and construction techniques. It also provides guidance on risk management, legislation and funding issues and identifies and describes techniques for the inspection, management maintenance and repair of these structures. [To know more](#)

#### First technical guide on river embankments and seawalls



This new technical guide for the management and engineering of river embankments and seawalls is a project coordinated by [IRSTEA](#). The way French river embankments were built differs from one region to another, and the lack of knowledge of these structures made it difficult for experts, scientists, and managers in charge of their upkeep. This technical guide aims at getting all the stakeholders (consultancy firms, managers, regional authorities) to agree on basic concepts: technical knowledge, vocabulary, solutions and current methods used. It is not intended to be prescriptive or regulatory. [Further information](#)

#### Water-related challenges posed by global urbanization



Cities around the world are facing major water-related challenges: too much water, too little water, or contaminated water. Global trends such as urbanization and climate change are aggravating these challenges. In this context the Technical University of Denmark (DTU) has established the research centre [Water DTU](#) to solve the water-related challenges facing major cities and ensure that the University's researchers adopt an interdisciplinary approach to identify new solutions in the field of water management. [To know more](#)

### OPPORTUNITIES

#### H2020 workprogramme 2016-2017 approved



The European Commission adopted the new [work programme](#) within Horizon 2020 last 13 October with the aim of boosting European competitiveness by investing almost 16 billion € in research and innovation in the next two years. A list of opportunities for innovation in the water sector is provided [here](#) by EIP-Water Online Marketplace.

#### H2020 Simplification Survey

Horizon 2020's design and rules have been simplified to make them more user-friendly. The European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation is conducting an online survey with the aim of finding out what you think about the impact of the existing simplification measures and gathering ideas for further simplification. The online questionnaire should not take more than 30 minutes. It is anonymous and all the answers will be kept strictly confidential. Deadline: 23 October 2015 [ACCESS THE SURVEY](#)

#### INNEON network for eco-innovation investment



INNEON ([Network for Eco-Innovation Investment](#)) has recently launched an [Eco-Innovation Awards Competition in Cyprus](#) (deadline 9th Nov 2015). This network dedicated to eco-innovators and investors provides access to pan European markets, live networking events and more, to improve the quality of deals. This platform aims at extending public or private funding sources for eco-innovation and social innovation in Europe.

#### Pact on water and adaptation to climate change



The Presidency of COP21 on climate was especially requested to make initiatives in the area of water. A strong mobilizing of stakeholders, governments, donors, and the civil society is ongoing at INBO (International Network of Basin Organizations) to prepare a "Paris Pact on water and adaptation to climate change in the basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers". Commitment can be expressed before COP21 at [inbo@inbo-news.org](mailto:inbo@inbo-news.org) with deadline 20 November 2015. [To know more](#)

#### TAIEF funding instrument



The Environmental Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Facility (TAIEF) aims at supporting policy development and implementation in Asia, Africa and Latin America by providing technical assistance and exchange information on EU policy approaches to green economy and resource efficiency, with a focus on EU environmental legislation. Short-term peer-to-peer assistance is required from EU experts to contribute to workshops or seminars in the partner countries, or to provide short-term targeted assistance on environmental challenges. [To know more](#)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### IWA WDCE2015 Jordan "Water Security for Sustainable Growth"



This global event deals with water solutions with a special focus on emerging economies and developing countries and is addressed to world's water institutions, companies and organizations involved in the development of clean, safe drinking water and sanitation. Water security represents a key component for economic growth and societal development. [To know more](#)

#### 13th International conference « EUROPE-INBO 2015



The annual conference of the European Network of Basin Organizations for the implementation of the European Water Framework Directive will be held in Thessaloniki, Greece, from 21-24 October 2015. A workshop will be organized on diffuse pollution reduction to promote the exchange of questions and solutions in this domain. Member States and basin organisations will have the opportunity to compare practices and practical experiences. [To know more](#)

#### Amsterdam International Water Week



The event is titled '*Integrated solutions for a circular economy and resilient cities*' and proposes itself as a platform of new alliances and fresh ideas ranking from water and sanitation, delta technology, food, agriculture, finance and governance. Each edition of the Amsterdam international Water Week includes a combination of events and a special programme for young professionals. [To know more](#)

#### Policy priorities for flood management in England



The Westminster Energy and Environment Forum organizes an event on infrastructure, responsibilities and local strategies to assess the policy priorities for flood and coastal risk management in England and discuss about the current approach and the latest progress. The event will be held in London on 3 November 2015 and is targeted to senior policymakers, industry experts and representatives, advisors and commentators, finance and legal experts, local government and citizen's groups, academics and others. During the sessions the impact of planned funding will be evaluated and there will also be a discussion on the new [Flood Re](#) insurance scheme, currently due to begin operation from April 2016. [To know more](#)

#### 11th EWA Conference "Water Challenges in Europe"



EWA annual conference is organized in Brussels on 16-17 November 2015 in cooperation with the DG Environment of the European Commission. The main objective of the event is to establish a dialogue between EC and European water professionals and stakeholders offering the opportunity for a review of the water status in Europe as agriculture still puts a significant pressure on water, as well as other hydro morphological alterations. [To know more](#)

#### ERA LEARN 2020 Annual Joint Programming Conference



The European Commission organizes this conference "Building and Sustaining Commitment to Public-Partnerships" in Brussels on 24-25 November 2015 to discuss about Public-Public Partnerships and the future of the European Research Area. Several parallel sessions will be organized focusing on different themes such as the experiences with ERA-NET Co-fund under Horizon 2020, the evaluation of Joint Programming, the widening participation in Public-Public Partnerships, the internationalization of Public-Public Partnerships beyond Europe and the ERA-LEARN 2020 platform. [To know more](#)

#### Soil and water bioengineering: skills, regulations and benefits



AG6Bio (Association française pour le génie biologique ou génie végétal) organizes this international conference in Lyon on 23-25 November 2015 bringing together European and world experts to share and discuss about the latest advances in terms of soil and bioengineering. These two sectors are developing particularly in France and in Europe where the regulatory framework, including the EU Water Framework Directive, introduced the need to implement soft techniques for soil erosion control and to restore degraded environments. [To know more](#)



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## CALL FOR PAPERS

### 13th IWA Leading Edge Conference on Water and Wastewater Technologies



Submission of abstracts is open till 31 October 2015 to contribute to the IWA Leading Edge Conference on Water and Wastewater Technologies to be held in Jerez de la Frontera, Spain, from 13-16 June 2016. Conference topics are: sustainable desalination, circular economy–recovery of water, energy and nutrients, solar and algal based water technologies, energy efficient water and wastewater management, contaminants of emerging concerns: antibiotic resistance, microbiological hazards, nano-pollutants, smart management of water and assets, microbial electrochemical technologies. More information is available at [Let2016](#)

### Nanotechnologies for Water and Wastewater Treatment

In the domain of water purification and wastewater treatment, nanotechnologies represent a moving science with a great potential. The nanoscale has stimulated the development and the use of novel and cost-effective technologies for catalytic degradation, adsorptive removal, and detection of contaminants as well as other environmental concerns. The Journal of Chemistry is calling for investigators working in relevant research areas, experts from the water industry and public authorities to contribute for a special issue on the subject, by submitting relevant, original, research and review articles. Manuscript Due: Friday, 25 December 2015. [Further information](#)