

A photograph of a shark breaching the surface of the ocean, creating a large splash of white water against the dark blue sea.

PROGRESS ON WATER JPI

10TH MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING –18 MAY 2017, ROME, ITALY

The 10th Management Board meeting was held in Rome on 18th May 2017 focusing on additional activities related to strategy and implementation on WaterWorks2015.

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A close-up photograph of a single water droplet suspended in mid-air, just before it falls, with a blurred background of water.

DROPLETS

THE PRIMA INITIATIVE: PARTNERSHIP ON RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA

A presentation took place in Rome on 18th July, at the Miur Communication Room, on the Euro-Mediterranean Initiative PRIMA,

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A photograph of a white butterfly with yellow markings on its wings, perched on a pink thistle flower.

OPPORTUNITIES

2017 JOINT CALL PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT

The pre-announcement of the Water JPI 2017 Joint Call on “Water resource management in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals” is available on the Water JPI website.

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A photograph of a modern office interior with large windows, wooden desks, and white office chairs.

EVENTS

4TH WATER RESEARCH CONFERENCE: THE ROLE OF WATER TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION IN THE BLUE ECONOMY - 10-13 SEPTEMBER 2017, WATERLOO, BELGIUM

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PROGRESS ON WATER JPI

10TH MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING, 18 MAY 2017, ROME, ITALY

The 10th Management Board meeting was held in Rome on 18th May 2017 focusing on additional activities related to strategy and implementation on WaterWorks2015. Discussions included activities and actions related to the knowledge hub, mobility and infrastructure platforms, a common FACCE-Water JPI vision, international cooperation and alignment activities. In general, Work Package (WP) and task leaders discussed the detailed work plan for the additional activities of WaterWorks2015, the progress of current tasks and any outstanding issues. The

aim of these additional activities is to facilitate continuous progress in the development of a common vision between the Water and FACCE JPIs and the respective SRIA implementation plans through international cooperation in the water area beyond Europe. On the other hand, improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Water JPI community is a priority, through developing a knowledge hub and a mobility and infrastructure platform.



WATERWORKS2015 WORKSHOP: COMMON VISION AND ADAPTING THE STRATEGIES OF THE WATER AND FACCE JPI, 21 JUNE 2017 BONN, GERMANY

A one-day Workshop on the 21st June 2017 in Bonn, Germany was hosted by the Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE). Eighteen experts from all over Europe, as well as members of the two JPIs, [Water](#) and [FACCE](#) (Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change), gathered in Bonn, Germany to develop a framework and an action

plan arising from discussions on the common visions of the two JPIs. With intensive discussions and group work, networking, presentations and updates – the day was certainly busy and full of new information. After a brief introduction by the two JPIs, the participants discussed the JPI visions, the SRIA/SRA of both JPIs including commonalities and differences, research and development needs as well as possible synergy activities and shared strategies. The aim is to receive input for updating the SRIAs and align work as much as possible. Many synergies were found, in the areas of water scarcity, climate change adaptation and ecosystem services. Future collaborations between the two JPIs are planned and this common Workshop is helping to continue in this direction.

JPI CHAIRS STATEMENT

The chairs of the 10 Joint Programming Initiatives produced a statement entitled “[Tackling societal challenges today and tomorrow](#)” about the future of joint programming. The statement, presented to the high level group of joint programming (GPC) in June 2017, aims to bring attention to the relevance and added value of the JPIs focused on transnational research and development.

HIGH-LEVEL GROUP ON JOINT PROGRAMMING OPINION ON THE FUTURE OF JOINT PROGRAMMING

The European Joint Programming Process (JPP) was designed as a central pillar to provide important inputs for addressing the most urgent problems the EU faces by stimulating joint efforts to tackle global Societal Challenges. The High Level Group for Joint Programming adopted on June 7th an [opinion](#) on the “Future of Joint Programming to address societal challenges” in the context of the mid-term review of Horizon 2020 and the preparation of the 9th EU framework programme for research and innovation.

DROPLETS

THE PRIMA INITIATIVE: PARTNERSHIP ON RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA

A presentation took place in Rome on 18th July, at the Miur Communication Room, on the Euro-Mediterranean Initiative [PRIMA](#), the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area, in the presence of the Minister of Education, University and Research, Valeria Fedeli and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Mario Giro.

The PRIMA partnership is an Euro-Mediterranean research and innovation programme for the sustainable development of technological and management solutions to improve water availability, sustainable agriculture production and food production chains, based on the principles of equality, common interest and shared benefits among all participating States.

With the recent establishment of the Foundation for the implementation of the PRIMA programme and the appointment of its chairman, Professor Angelo Riccaboni of the University of Siena, the initiative formally commenced.

Thanks to the contribution of the 19 participating countries and the significant co-financing by the European Union, the programme will have a total availability of around 500 million euros for ten years.

Maria Cristina Russo, Director of International Cooperation - Directorate-General for Research and Innovation - European Commission took part in the presentation together with Marco Mancini, Head of Department for Higher Education and Research, and Professor Riccaboni, who

outlined specific funding mechanisms for Call proposals, which will be launched early next year for research and innovation partnerships between institutions and businesses on the two Mediterranean coasts.

Moreover, the PRIMA consortium was part of the 7th [Meeting Union for the Mediterranean \(UfM\) Water Expert Group \(WEG\)](#), which was held in Barcelona on 19-20 July, and presented the PRIMA programme during the session about Financing Programme on Water sector and discussion on the concept note of the Financial Strategy session.

WATER INNOVATION EUROPE 2017, 14-15 JUNE 2017, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

The Water Supply and Sanitation Technology Platform’s (WssTP) annual stakeholder conference dedicated to ‘[The Value of water: The case for innovation and investment in water](#)’ took place on the 14th and 15th of June in Brussels. The programme of this year’s conference builds upon the main concepts of the new [WssTP Water Vision 2030](#). Distinguished speakers participated in the five different sessions of the agenda and debated how to boost the future water-smartsociety, as envisaged in the WssTP Vision.

WSSTP AWARDS WINNERS 2017

In the context of [Water Innovation Europe 2017](#) conference ‘The Value of Water: The case for innovation and investment in water’, the 2017 edition of WssTP Awards was held on the 14th June and the winners of four prize categories were:



1. [Vitens](#), Water Technology & infrastructure Prize
2. [OPTICITS](#), SME Prize
3. [Global Omnium](#), Digital Water Prize
4. [DHI](#), Water Governance Prize

The innovations of the four winners were identified, as best practice in their field of application with high market potential. The winners receive a marketing and communication support package from WssTP to promote their innovative product. The Winning SME 'OPTICITS' is, additionally, rewarded with a 2 year free WssTP membership.

POST-EVENT PRESS RELEASE ON THE MINISTERS OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (MEP) WATER GROUP PUBLIC SESSION ON THE REPORT 2017 'WASTEWATER: THE UNTAPPED RESOURCE, 6 JUNE 2017

Under the auspices of the EU Maltese presidency, the MEP Water Group in cooperation with the World Water Assessment Programme of UNESCO hosted a successful public session on the 2017 United Nations World Water Development Report "[Wastewater: the untapped resource](#)" on the 6th of June at the European Parliament. The panel highlighted the importance of wastewater as a valuable resource instead of a costly problem. Guy Ryder UN Water pointed out that "Wastewater is a valuable resource in a world where water is finite and demand is growing and everyone can play a part to achieve the [Sustainable Development Goal](#) target to halve the proportion of untreated wastewater and increase safe water reuse by

2030." A panel discussion followed, bringing together the perspectives from water policy, industry, utilities and civil society.

For more information on the UN World Water Development Reports, click [here](#).



COPERNICUS GOES LOCAL 9 JUNE 2017, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

The "[Copernicus Goes Local – Implementing the Space Strategy for Europe](#)" event gathered more than 300 Earth Observation actors and industry representatives from across Europe at the European Parliament (EP) in Brussels on the 9th June.

The EP in Brussels, the chamber at which all the EU citizens are represented and which houses more than 750 offices of elected members, was the venue hosting the first milestone for the European Space Strategy and the latest for the Copernicus Programme. The Copernicus [Relays](#) and [Academy](#) networks, created by the European Commission (EC) at the beginning of the year, are ground-breaking tools for the strong uptake of the Copernicus Programme across Europe, and have aroused vast interest from entities in all participating countries and beyond.

The Copernicus Relays are the regional voices of Copernicus in the individual Member States, thus creating a bridge between the EC and the end-users of Copernicus. The Academy aims to educate and release an increasing number of Copernicus-savvy people into the workforce bringing together the educational and research sectors across the EU.

The User Uptake and Market Development team at the EC is working towards ensuring that all current and potential users of the Copernicus Programme know how to harness the power of the Programme and its data. To ensure this, the Copernicus Academy and the Copernicus Relays were launched by the Commission at the end of 2016 and officially this week and plays a pivotal role in achieving this objective.

The Network includes [62 Relays](#) and [80 Academy members](#), which are now half-way through their first year of operations.



AFRIALLIANCE AND VIA WATER SIGN MoU TO INCREASE COOPERATION 19 JUNE 2017

On the 19th June AfriAlliance and VIA Water met to sign a [Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\)](#). The MoU signals a commitment by both initiatives to increased collaboration on innovation in the African water sector. AfriAlliance and VIA Water are pleased to release the following joint news item.

Africa is one of the regions most in need of innovative solutions for water problems. The water sector is facing enormous challenges due to climate change and population growth. However, a lack of water-related skills and institutional fragmentation are a major obstacle in Africa to address these challenges. [AfriAlliance](#) and [VIA](#)



[Water](#) both are knowledge platforms promoting collaboration and knowledge sharing to generate concerted action for water innovation.

The major thrust of the newly signed MoU is to promote mutually beneficial cooperation between AfriAlliance and VIA Water in the field of water innovation in Africa. To achieve the MoU's objectives, both initiatives agreed to disseminate each other's outputs, to share mutually beneficial contacts and information, and to contribute to or participate in each other's events.

The signing ceremony included AfriAlliance project director, Dr. Uta Wehn and VIA Water programme manager, Ms. Titia Wouters. The MoU represents an important milestone in the relationship between the two initiatives, which are both hosted by the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education.

Ms. Titia Wouters: "*Although we operate at different scales, VIA Water and AfriAlliance share many common goals and ambitions and we look forward to working together for the benefit of the African water sector*"

Dr. Uta Wehn: "*I look forward to a fruitful relationship whereby AfriAlliance can offer the VIA Water innovators the opportunity to showcase their innovation at one of our Innovation Bridge or Road Show events.*"

EUROPEAN COMMISSION WATER AND AGRICULTURE STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

At the end of April, the European Commission published the staff working document on '[Agriculture and Sustainable Water Management in the EU](#)'. The document takes stock of the ongoing work of the internal Commission task force between Directorate-General for Environment ([DG ENV](#)) and Directorate-General

for Agriculture and Rural Development ([DG AGRI](#)) on the existing legislative framework and is one of the elements that will be used in the review of the Common Agricultural Policy ([CAP](#)).

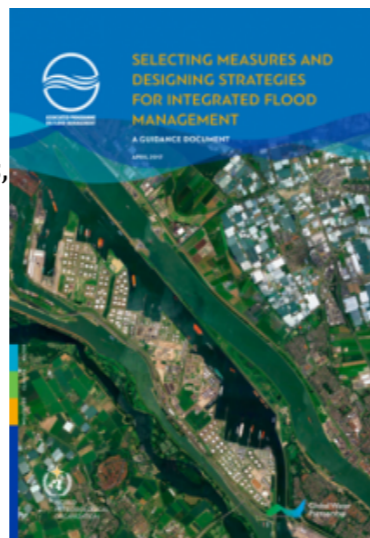
FINAL REPORT JOINT PROGRAMMING SEMINAR PUBLISHED

Wageningen University and Research (WUR) organised a seminar on joint programming on 19th April 2017. The purpose of this seminar was to inform about developments and opportunities of JPIs, ERA-NETs, and Article 185 initiatives with a focus on the bioeconomy. Speakers from ministries, funding organisations and WUR shared their latest information about joint programming. The key points from the presentations and the panel discussion can be summarised in the following recommendations: strengthen joint programming at the Dutch national level, increase visibility of joint programming and its impact and invest in the joint programming process. The final report is available [here](#).

NEW, CONCISE GUIDANCE ON THE DESIGN OF STRATEGIES FOR INTEGRATED FLOOD MANAGEMENT

The [Guidance Document](#) is the operational link between the [Policy Series](#) and the [Tool Series](#). This Associated Programme on Flood Management ([APFM](#)) publication outlines the approach and steps to develop and evaluate well-balanced and well-motivated strategies to cope with the risk of flooding. The design strategies

covers the full range of possible structural and non-structural measures, including structural protection and mitigation measures, planning and building codes, emergency management, raising of risk awareness and preparedness, risk sharing and the like. This guidance document is mainly intended for persons responsible for planning flood management activities, designing flood-defense systems and operating flood-control systems in the public and private sectors.



SCIENCE FOR ENVIRONMENT POLICY: DECENTRALISED SUPPLY OF RECYCLED WATER MAY SAVE ENERGY AND REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Reusing wastewater for non-drinking uses in decentralized plumbing networks may improve the efficiency of water supply in urban areas, a new study has found. Modelling this approach in San Francisco, researchers found that, depending on the local geography, a decentralized water supply could lead to energy savings and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from water treatment of around 30%. Improvements in emerging water-treatment technologies are likely to lead to further savings, which could help increase the efficiency of urban water supply. [Here is the document.](#)

SCIENCE: SEWAGE TO BATTERY GRADE. A NEW APPROACH TO RECOVER SULPHUR FROM EFFLUENTS

Sulphur from a contaminated pond has been successfully recovered and used in a high-performance battery ([here](#) more information). It was achieved by a group of researchers from CSIR-Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CECRI), Karaikudi, in Tamil Nadu. Published recently in the journal [Separation and Purification Technology](#), this is the first time that the sulphur recovery process was done by an integrated approach of biological and electrochemical oxidation process.

EUROPEAN TOPIC CENTRE/INLAND COASTAL MANAGEMENT TECHNICAL REPORT 'USE OF FRESHWATER RESOURCES IN EUROPE 2002-2014 - AN ASSESSMENT BASED ON WATER QUANTITY'

The European Topic Centre (ETC) on Inland, Coastal and Marine (ICM) Waters published the



first report on [Use of freshwater resources in Europe 2002-2012](#) - Supplementary document to the European Environment Agency's core set indicator 18 in April 2016. This second report is the updated version of that report by means of new data involvement. The current update covers spatial and temporal expansion of the European water quantity accounts with special focus on water use by economic sectors. The spatial cover of the European water quantity accounts expands to all member and cooperating countries of the European Environment Agency, while temporal coverage has been expanded from 2002 up to 2014.

This report is a building block of the EEA water accounts and a supporting document to the [EEA's CSI 018 "Use of freshwater resources"](#) indicator, and discusses in more detail the status of renewable water resources, water abstractions by environmental assets, water use by economic sectors.

EUREAU: WATER MATTERS MANAGEMENT

In the '[Water Matters](#)' publication, [EurEau](#) presents its work and the issues they focus on, as well as some of the challenges they face. Their members highlight topics that are high on their agenda from their national perspective. Through this, they shine a light on the triumphs and concerns of the water sector; the problems and how we address them.



RIU.NET, APPROACHING CITIZENS TO RIVERS

[RiuNet](#) is a citizen science project to assess the ecological status of rivers using a highly interactive educational tool and simplified scientific method. Developed by the [Freshwater and Ecology Management Research Group](#) from University of Barcelona, the [Riu.Net APP](#) is currently in its second version and available for mobile phones and tablets on [Android](#) and [IOS](#). The method is based on the observation of the main characteristics of river ecosystems and the identification of invertebrate fauna living in the

river. With this, the citizen will not only determine the ecological state of a river but also strengthen their environmental awareness reviewing the most important aspects that define a river and improve their knowledge about the wildlife living there. Finally, but no less important, these recorded observations, verified by scientists, will become a very valid data that can be viewed on river quality maps, accessed both by experts and environmental managers and help to improve the state of the rivers.



OPPORTUNITIES

2017 JOINT CALL PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT

The [pre-announcement](#) of the Water JPI 2017 Joint Call on “Water resource management in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals” is available on the [Water JPI website](#).

Opening of the 2017 Joint Call - 30 August 2017

1st stage – Deadline for submission of pre-proposals: 2 November 2017

2nd stage – Deadline for submission of full proposals: 17 April 2018

INTERNATIONAL WATER ASSOCIATION WATER LOSS CONFERENCE, 7 - 9 MAY 2018, CAPE TOWN - SOUTH AFRICA

The International Water Association ([IWA](#)) Water Loss Specialist Group, together with City Of Cape Town, will host the biennial [Water Loss Conference](#) and Exhibit from 7 to 9 May 2018 at the Century City Conference Centre and Hotel in Cape Town, South Africa.

The Water Loss Conference and Exhibition 2018 will be one of the world’s largest water loss conferences and is expected to attract over 500 participants from more than 50 countries. Deadline for abstract submission is 30 September 2017.



INTERNATIONAL WATER ASSOCIATION SPECIALIST GROUP ON SLUDGE MANAGEMENT (SGSM) CONFERENCE , 23-25 MAY 2018, ROME, ITALY

This [event](#) is part of the IWA Specialist Group on Sludge Management ([SGSM](#)) conference series, conceived as an international forum discussing state-of-art, practical applications and problems around sewage sludge management problems and best solutions, according to affordable costs, have to be suited to specific territorial contexts. Europe is now a world promoter for the transition from the linear to the circular economy. It is possible to adopt this policy also in sludge management? One of the objectives of this Conference is to give answer to similar questions. Deadline for abstract submission is 29th of September 2017

EVENTS

4TH WATER RESEARCH CONFERENCE: THE ROLE OF WATER TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION IN THE BLUE ECONOMY, 10-13 SEPTEMBER 2017, WATERLOO, BELGIUM

This international [water conference](#), co-chaired by the editors in chief of the Elsevier journals Water Research and Water Resources and Economics and endorsed by the International Water Association (IWA), aims to highlight, discuss and advance state-of-the-art thinking and research to support the transition towards a Blue Economy. It is focused on the role of water science and technology innovation and the necessary institutional-economic enabling environment to foster sustainable behavioral change in current water use and depletion.

4TH IWA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE : WATER CHALLENGES IN XXI CENTURY: ROLE OF ECONOMICS, STATISTICS AND ASSET MANAGEMENT, 11-13 SEPTEMBER 2017, LIVORNO, ITALY

Organized by the Strategic Asset Management Specialist Group and by the Specialist Group on Statistics and Economics of the International

Water Association (IWA). The [conference](#) global theme underpins major challenges of water utilities around the world. Financial and operational sustainability of water services in either, developed regions, emerging economies or developing countries is crucial, not only to assure adequate present and long-term service levels, but also to attract financial resources needed related to water infrastructures.

WATER SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGES, 18-21 SEPTEMBER 2017, COLOGNE, GERMANY

The call for papers related to [Water Security and Climate Changes](#) is open. The conference will take place in Cologne on September 18. Achieving water security is one of the major challenges faced by society on both a global and local level, as it is essential to promote economic and social development as well as resources sustainability. Recent global agreements such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction relate substantially to questions of water security.

15TH EUROPE-INBO 2017 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, 20-23 SEPTEMBER 2017, DUBLIN, IRELAND

The [conference](#) will deal with the updated issues in the field of Implementation of the Water Framework Directive and other European Water Directives. It is organized with 4 thematic Roundtables: WFD, upcoming milestones; Adaptation to Climate Change; and Public Participation. The workshop on “Water data management organization and electronic reporting” will take place on 20 September in the afternoon.

EUROPEAN INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP WATER CONFERENCE, 27-29 SEPTEMBER 2017, PORTO, PORTUGAL

This year's theme is “[Water Innovation: Bridging Gaps, Creating Opportunities](#)”. Innovative solutions to address major European and global water challenges will be on the table. At the same time, other issues to be explored will include market opportunities for these innovations, both within and outside Europe, and how to remove barriers by advancing and leveraging existing solutions. The 4th EIP Water Conference will be hosted by the Municipality of Porto and powered by the European Innovation Partnership on Water (EIP Water), supported by the European Commission and the government of Portugal.



WATER REUSE EUROPE CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION, 9-10 OCTOBER 2017, BRUGES, BELGIUM

Water reuse is playing an increasingly important role in the pursuit of sustainable water resources management and there is strong growth in industrial, agricultural, and municipal reuse schemes across Europe.

[Water Reuse Europe](#) is the trade association for organisations involved in the European water reuse sector. The association will hold its first [annual conference](#) and exhibition in Bruges on 9-10 October 2017.

1ST EURO-MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRATION, 22-25 NOVEMBER 2017, SOUSSE, TUNISIA

The [EMCEI 2017](#) is dedicated to the knowledge sharing among researcher in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The conference aims to gather high-quality, original research papers for publication after peer review in topical collections (special issues) of Euro-Mediterranean Journal for Environmental Integration and some other “Springer” journals on various multidisciplinary topics linked to the evolution and development of the Euro-Mediterranean environment—past, present, and future (see Special Issues). The main objective of the conference is to support research and innovation, promote the exchange of scientific knowledge, and foster collaboration among Euro-Mediterranean communities.