

## PROGRESS ON WATER JPI

### LAUNCH OF THE ERA-NET COFUND 2017

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The platform members agreed to work on a joint contribution to the Commission's Reflection Paper

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## OPPORTUNITIES

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The Water Tech Saudi Arabia focus on achieving maximum visibility and creating a platform for

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## PROGRESS ON WATER JPI

### LAUNCH OF THE ERA-NET COFUND WATERWORKS2017



We are pleased to announce that the ERA-NET Cofund WaterWorks2017 has started in January 2018 with a kick-off meeting scheduled for the 7th February 2018. The project is covering the thematic area “Closing the Water Cycle Gap, for a sustainable management of water resources” of the Water JPI Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda ([SRIA Theme 5](#)).

WaterWorks2017 brings together sixteen Water JPI member and observer countries, as well as four organisations from associated and third countries, in an effort to reinforce international cooperation in the area of the sustainable management of water resources. Additional Activities will be carried out to further support the implementation and strategy of the Water JPI, including the organisation in 2018 of major international events. See below more information about these events!

## 2018 JOINT CALL WATER JPI 2018 JOINT CALL OPENING SOON....

WaterWorks2017 is pooling resources from the twenty-one participating research the scientific area. The Water JPI 2018 Joint Call will be launched by mid-February 2018. Nineteen countries are involved in this call:

Belgium, Brazil, Cyprus, Estonia, Egypt, Spain, Finland, France, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Moldavia, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Sweden, and Tunisia. The pre-announcement is available [here](#) for further dissemination.

## 2017 JOINT CALL

### JPI 2017 JOINT CALL: SUBMISSION STEP 1 CONCLUDED

The first step of the Water JPI [2017 Joint Call](#) on the topic “Water resource management in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals” was concluded on 13 December 2017. The 2017 Joint Call on UN SDGs is funded by twelve due time. submission of full proposals: end of June 2018.

### WATER JPI CONFERENCE: CALL FOR ABSTRACTS NOW OPEN!

The Academy of Finland will organise the second Water JPI Conference in Helsinki on 6–7 June 2018, back-to-back with the Final Review of the seven funded projects under the Water JPI Pilot Call. The aim of the international conference is to attract 200 experts in Emerging Pollutants to meet and discuss common challenges and share their recent discoveries and knowledge.

The call for abstracts is now open! To have your abstract considered for acceptance, please submit it by the end of February 2018 through the Water JPI Conference registration system available



## SURVEYS FOR DESIGNING PLATFORMS ON WATER RELATED INFRASTRUCTURES AND MOBILITY SCHEMES

The Water JPI has identified Mobility and Infrastructures, as other relevant instruments, in order to support the Water JPI community and its network. Mobility actions and research infrastructures can involve capacity transfer of individual persons working or visiting a place, which is not the one they belong to (e.g. foreign Institutes, other sectors), or even the exchange of larger groups (e.g. between research infrastructures). The European Commission already has funding instruments for such actions (e.g. [ESFRI](#) or [Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions](#)), but the support for mobility of researchers, students and staff from water-related entities, or the access to infrastructures could also be strengthened at all levels if more information were available. In order to improve the current situation, the implementation of two platforms is planned:

- Mobility schemes: this platform will aim to boost the cooperation of the researchers within Europe and beyond as stated in the Water JPI SRIA by providing information on existing mobility funding schemes;
- Infrastructures and observatories: this platform will aim to optimize transnational cooperation and competition, access to scientific knowledge, results and activities of existing research infrastructures.

In order to identify the needs of the stakeholders and set priorities for the implementation of both platforms, the two surveys are available on-line. To help us designing our platforms, please fill out the online surveys for [Mobility](#) and [Infrastructures](#) by 28 February 2018.

## THE WATER JPI NEWSLETTER QUALITY SURVEY IS ONLINE!

Seven years after the first issue of the Water JPI Newsletter ([1st November 2010](#)) and its renewal in 2016, the Water JPI is issuing a survey to determine the satisfaction level and seeking suggestions on this communication tool. This consultation with the Water JPI Newsletter readers is part of our ongoing improvement process and its objective is to collect the views and analyse the level of satisfaction.

You can contribute to the survey by completing the [online questionnaire](#). In order to allow us to better understand your position, you are also welcome to elaborate on your answers in the dedicated text boxes included for this purpose. The survey is open until the 9th March 2018. Please note that this survey has been drafted for information and consultation purposes only. Thank you very much for your time and cooperation. If you have any difficulty accessing the online survey, please contact: [enews@waterjpi.it](mailto:enews@waterjpi.it)

## THEMATIC ANNUAL PROGRAMMING ON WATER

As part of the strategy of alignment, the Thematic Annual Programming (TAP) action will allow the setting up of a network of newly funded national projects focused on specific RDI needs as a way to increase the overall impact of activities at the European level and to create critical mass whilst addressing research gaps and avoiding duplication.

The topic selected for the first [TAP Water](#) is on “Ecosystem services” (SRIA [Subtheme 1.1](#)). Up to now, the first TAP Water brings together four Water JPI participating countries: France, Ireland, Spain, and United Kingdom. Funding partner organisations can express their interest until February 2018! Please contact Margaret Keegan at [m.keegan@epa.ie](mailto:m.keegan@epa.ie) if interested.

## WATER JPI PARTICIPATION IN THE 8TH WORLD WATER FORUM

The Water JPI participation in the eighth [World Water Forum](#) to be held on 18-23 March 2018 in Brasilia, Brazil, is currently under preparation.

A high-level panel bringing the role of science in the World Water Forum agenda is under discussion with Brazilian partner institutions and ministries. A preparatory meeting was organised in Brussels in November 2017 between the Water JPI, Brazilian representatives and relevant actors such as the European Commission, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), in order to align presentations and activities to be presented at the event. More information coming soon!





# DROPLETS

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMISSION'S HIGH LEVEL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM

The platform members agreed to work on a joint contribution to the Commission's Reflection Paper "Towards a sustainable Europe by 2030", which was announced in the Commission's 2018 Work Programme and will be adopted later this year. This Reflection Paper is part of the [Future of Europe debate](#) launched by the Commission in 2017. Platform members also identified several priorities for future discussion, including how to mainstream the SDGs in the context of the Multiannual Financial Framework, how to generate both inclusive and sustainable growth, and how to monitor and report on progress. Overall, members agreed that the platform should assist the Commission in applying the SDGs in the European context.

## UN-WATER SDG 6 SYNTHESIS REPORT 2018

Every year at the [HLPE](#) (High-level Political Forum), an annual theme helps to increase focus as well as an in-depth review of a selection of Sustainable Development Goals. In 2018, [SDG 6 on water and sanitation](#) is one of the goals to be reviewed. The present report is a joint position from the UN family on the global status on SDG 6 and other water-related targets. The report also explores the linkages within SDG 6 targets and the

interlinkages between SDG 6 and the other targets and indicators. The report builds on the baseline data on [SDG 6 global indicators](#) coming from [JMP](#), [GEMI](#) and [GLAAS](#).

## WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE: CEEP PROPOSALS FOR AN EVER MORE EFFECTIVE EU WATER

The European Commission launched an evaluation of the European Water Framework Directive ([WFD](#)). The European Centre of Employers and Enterprises providing Public Services and Services of general interest - [CEEP](#) welcomes this evaluation and suggests a series of [measures](#) to ensure that the Directive continues to play a key role also in the decade to come. CEEP is convinced that the WFD has been an effective key instrument of European water policy. The objectives of the WFD should essentially be retained, taking into account the polluter pays principle and the precautionary principle. The Commission should support the Member States in the implementation of the WFD.

## NEREUS COST ACTION



Within the framework of Working Group 1 of the [NEREUS COST Action](#) ES1403 an effort is being made to compile a large and global dataset based on shotgun metagenomic data from Waste Water





Treatment Plant (WWTP) effluents, in order to acquire a comprehensive understanding of the most abundant and potentially hazardous antibiotic resistance gene (ARGs) that are released from wastewater effluents. The Working Group 1 is looking for published and unpublished resistomes collected from effluents of urban or primarily urban WWTPs. The team expects to complete the survey and publish the results as a joint consortium of researchers by May-June 2018.

## 5 TOI\_4EWAS PROJECT

The [5TOI\\_4EWAS](#) (Energy, Water and Agriculture in the South Mediterranean Neighbourhood) project backs a very inclusive innovation policy implementation path as well as the Horizon 2020 objectives for encouraging the research and innovation cooperation between the European Union and Southern Mediterranean Neighbourhood. The project will enhance and support regional smart specialization and development by increasing research capacity, effective mobility of young innovators/ researchers and shared knowledge to improve their participation in the EU research area

During the first 18 months of the projects, some relevant outputs have been achieved:

- establishment of a Methodology Guideline to gather information from the targeted Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC) and definition of the extent of cooperation between researchers, innovators, and policymakers within the target countries: more than 100 relevant literature sources gathered,
- more than 700 people replied to a survey to study the cooperation between higher education institutions and public and private organizations in Mediterranean countries,
- 46 qualitative interviews were performed with relevant representatives of the quintuple helix of the value chains of water, energy, and food from at least 10 countries from the partnership,
- development of an interactive map of existing observatories active on food, energy and water in the MPC area to observe and monitor EU-MD cooperation and trends in the societal challenges,
- formation of the Nexus Think Tank, a group of 36 high-level international experts, supporting the development of policy recommendations.

## NEW TOOLS FOR IMPROVED RIVER ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING ARE LIKELY TO INFORM FUTURE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

The EU Water Framework Directive ([WFD](#)) recognises hydromorphology as a fundamental component in the classification and monitoring of a river's ecological status. As such, hydromorphological tools are increasingly fundamental to supporting informed sustainable river management actions in Europe. Although numerous novel assessment methodologies have been proposed since the WFD's implementation in 2000, a [recent review](#) identified a need for more comprehensive, process-based hydromorphological tools that consider the character and dynamics of the river with greater accuracy.

To meet this need, scientists working under the EU-funded [REFORM](#) project have developed and extended three hydromorphological tools for the synergetic assessment and

monitoring of river conditions. These novel tools include: Morphological Quality Index (MQI), Morphological Quality Index for Monitoring (MQIm), Geomorphic Units Survey and Classification System (GUS).

The [full article](#) is published on [Science for Environment Policy](#).

## WASTE-WATER ANALYSIS HIGHLIGHTS EXPOSURE TO ENDOCRINE-DISRUPTING PHTHALATE PLASTICISERS

In this [article](#), published on [Science for Environment Policy](#), researchers in Spain have analysed waste water to calculate levels of individual exposure to phthalates. The calculations showed that levels of four types of phthalate exceeded safe daily limits in some of the sites studied, with levels of exposure in children being of particular concern. Using the results of waste-water analysis in this way can identify areas where action may need to be taken to lower exposure.



# OPPORTUNITIES

## PUBLICATION OF PRIMA CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2018

[PRIMA](#), the new Partnership on Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area, has published the [Section 1 and 2 Call 2018](#).

The calls for proposals are part of the [PRIMA Annual Work Plan 2018](#), which covers the priorities described in the PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda ([SRIA](#)) under the PRIMA thematic areas. Here follows the topic of the calls:

- Call [SECTION 1](#): Management of water, Farming system, Agro Food Value chain.. Deadline: Stage 1 Pre-proposals - 17th April, 2018; Stage 2 Full proposals - 15th September, 2018.
- Call [SECTION 2](#): Multi Topic.. Deadline: Stage 1 Pre-proposals - 27th March, 2018; Stage 2 Full proposals - 4th September, 2018.

## 19-20 FEBRUARY 2018, MAROUSSI, GREECE, GLOBAQUA TRAINING COURSE

[GLOBAQUA](#) project is an EU-funded project aiming to identify the prevalence of, and interaction between, stressors under water scarcity in order to improve knowledge of relationships between multiple stressors and to improve water management practices and policies. The project is organising a [training course](#) on “Economics of Sustainable Water Management in accordance to the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the Millennium Ecosystems Assessment (MEA) and Sustainable Development Goals of the UN Agenda 2030”. Deadline for [registration](#): 11 February 2018.

## 02-05 MAY 2018, SOUSSE, TUNISIA, 3RD ICIEM 2018

The Committee of the International [Conference](#) on Integrated Environmental Management for Sustainable Development (ICIEM) programme solicits fundamental or applied research papers on the following topics: Environmentally sustainable innovative approaches and methods; Water resources; Pollution Prevention Strategies; Environmental and Health Risk Assessment.

All presenters are invited to [submit](#) papers by 24 February 2018.

## HELSINKI, FINLAND, 6-7 JUNE 2018 SECOND WATER JPI CONFERENCE

The theme of the [Conference](#) will be “Emerging Pollutants in Freshwater Ecosystems”. The aim of the international conference is to attract experts in emerging pollutants to meet and discuss common challenges and share their recent discoveries and knowledge. The [programme](#) includes topics such as the effects of pollutants on ecosystem function and human health as well as innovative methods for monitoring and remediation. The call for abstracts is now open till 28 February only via the conference [registration system](#).

## 26-29 AUGUST 2018, THESSALONIKI, GREECE, SWAT5 CONFERENCE

The main conference goal of 5th International Conference on Small and Decentralized Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants ([SWAT5](#)) is to present the best drinking water and/or wastewater treatment techniques, especially those related to small municipalities, communities, settlements, hotels or industrial plants, based on environmental, financial, technical and social criteria.

The manuscripts that will be selected will be included in the conference programme and will be electronically published in book format e-proceedings with a separate ISBN number. Manuscripts are accepted in English. The scientific and organizing committees will publish selected papers presented at the conference as special issues in international scientific journals. Deadline to [present papers](#): 15 February 2018.

## 10-12 OCTOBER 2018 LIMASSOL, CYPRUS, XENOWAC II CONFERENCE

Nireas International Water Research Center ([Nireas-IWRC](#)) of the [University of Cyprus](#) has announced the [XENOWAC II](#) conference, almost a decade after the first XENOWAC conference (XENOWAC I) took place in Cyprus in March 2009. The Conference embraces the work performed in the framework of NEREUS COST Action ES1403 and H2020-MSCA-ITN-2015/675530 ANSWER, both coordinated by Nireas-IWRC. The conference will try to answer various challenging questions on the following thematic areas: Fate of contaminants of emerging concern and antimicrobial resistance in urban wastewater treatment plants. Contaminants of emerging concern and antimicrobial resistance: From urban wastewater treatment plants to the environment. Bioassays/tests to support urban treated wastewater quality management. Technologies to meet urban treated wastewater reuse characteristics. Risk assessment and policy development. Deadline for [submission of abstract](#): 31 March 2018.





## EVENTS



### 19-20 FEBRUARY 2018, RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA, WATER TECH SAUDI ARABIA

[Water Tech Saudi Arabia](#) focus is on achieving maximum visibility and creating a platform for the industry experts to avail of this opportunity and be a part of the imminent growth in the Kingdom. The topics are: in depth assessment of current infrastructure and reforms needed under vision 2030; Sustainable Water Management and modernisation of existing infrastructure; Emerging Treatment Technologies (Seawater Desalination, Wastewater Treatment, Mine Water Treatment); Utilization of new technologies in the study of arid environments & their natural resources. Here is the [link](#) for registration.

### 20-21 FEBRUARY 2018, LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, WORLD WATER-TECH INNOVATION SUMMIT

Vulnerable to weather extremes, water quality issues and high-energy consumption, the water sector is at a tipping point. Do we innovate to maintain and optimise existing assets or do we look to radicalise operations with advanced technologies? In any case the water sector needs to take action.

[Water-Tech Innovation Summit](#) is taking place on the 20th -21st February to meet new technology partners, forge alliance and do business with the best in water. Here is the event [agenda](#).



### 20-23 FEBRUARY 2018, SAN ANTONIO, UNITED STATES, AWWA/WEF THE UTILITY MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

American Water Works Association and the Water Environment Federation [joint event](#), is the premier workshop for young professionals in the water and wastewater sector. At the Young Professional Summit, local and national leaders will discuss emerging issues in the water sector and provide programming to expand leadership skills. Water and wastewater managers and professionals will gather to hear the latest approaches, practices, processes, techniques, case studies, and research in all aspects of utility management.

### 19-21 MARCH 2018, CAIRO, EGYPT, 4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ENGINEERING DIVISION

The [conference](#), organised by the [National Research Center](#), "Steps Towards Innovative Sustainable Developments" aims to foster the interaction between scientists from academia and industry working on a fundamental and applied basis. It will also give an excellent overview of recent developments in the areas of Water Desalination, Eco Materials, and Technology, Mechanical Engineering, Renewable Energy, Information Technology, Climate Change and Chemical Engineering. This event will gather the nanotechnology and Materials for Energy and Environment communities, including researchers, industrialists, policymakers, and investors. Internationally renowned speakers will offer the attendees exceptional opportunities.





## 21 MARCH 2018, PARMA, ITALIA, LABIRINTO D'ACQUE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The University of Parma, in cooperation with the United Nations Commission for Hydrology of the World Meteorological Organization, World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) of UNESCO, Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research and Po River Basin District Authority announced the first edition of the [Labirinto d'Acque International Conference](#) that will be held at the [Labyrinth of Franco Maria Ricci](#) near Parma on the occasion of the UN-Water World Water Day celebrations. The international leading actors will be recurrently convened in the labyrinth to address the challenge of the century: the Global Water Crisis and its Connections with Climate Change, Sustainability, Innovation.

The conference will be followed by three days of cultural events open to the public that represent the Italian focal point for the UN-Water World Water Day celebrations.

## 22 MARCH 2018, WORLD WATER DAY 2018

[World Water Day](#), on 22 March every year, is about focusing attention on the importance of water. [Nature for Water](#) is the theme for World Water Day 2018, focusing on how we can meet the water challenges of the 21st Century by applying nature-based solutions.

## 14-17 OCTOBER 2018, LISBON, PORTUGAL, 6TH PARTICLES IN EUROPE CONFERENCE

The Particles in Europe (PiE) conferences are typically 3-day gatherings of scientists and engineers working with water for research or monitoring. This [conference](#) focuses on measurement, dynamics, impact and other scientific or monitoring implications of particles in water – coasts, ports, harbours, streams, rivers, sedimentation in hydropower.

Particle in Europe, or PiE, is a bi-annual conference on the measurement, monitoring, impact, and managing of in situ particle size and concentration in the aquatic environment. The meeting is sponsored by Sequoia and the Instituto Hidrografico Marinha of Lisbon, Portugal. Specialists from many fields but with a common interest in particles in water attend in an intimate, informal environment and exchange ideas on phenomena, dynamics, and technologies. PiE brings together some of the world's experts in studies on particles in water. The presentations cover dynamics, measurement, monitoring, and impact of particles in oceans, ports, coasts, rivers, lakes, streams, and wastewater

