

PROGRESS ON WATER JPI

THE END OF AN ERA: GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK TO PADRAIC LARKIN WATER JPI CO-CHAIR 2014-2018

Well we have come to the end of an era. Padraic

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DROPLETS

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OPPORTUNITIES

CALL FOR PROPOSALS NEW ATLAS PROJECT ON WATER-ENERGY-FOOD

The European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC), the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and

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EVENTS

26-27 FEBRUARY 2019, LONDON, UK

The 2019 World Water-Tech Innovation Summit is an event where water utilities from all over the

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THE END OF AN ERA: GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK TO PADRAIC LARKIN WATER JPI CO-CHAIR 2014- 2018



Well we have come to the end of an era. Padraic Larkin has decided to step down as the Water JPI Co-Chair after co-steering the ship for four years. Padraic, was instrumental in the successful running of the Management and Governing Board meetings. He championed the Advisory Board renewals with an inclusive and collaborative engagement approach. His work and support as task co-leader on the Alignment work and his input to the Water JPI VISION and Strategy would simply not have been achieved or succeeded without Padraic's commitment, hard work, energy and positivity.

His constructive and diplomatic approach is second to none. Padraic's ability to get us all to see the big picture, avoid getting bogged down in the day-to-day work details, while understanding all of our national and cultural differences, always ensuring we got the job done.

Commitment, Enthusiasm, Energy, Experience, Positivity, Hard-working, Engaging, Leadership, Charming, Fun, Real, Supportive, Collaborative and Diplomacy are only some of the words people in the Water JPI community and outside of it have

used to describe Padraic – what a LEGEND!.

We can only thank Padraic from the bottom of our hearts (tears welling up now) and wish him the best of luck, good health, happiness and continued fun (with Claire his wife - a jolly good friend and honorary member of the Water JPI community) in to the future.

Thank you Padraic for everything from all your friends in Water JPI, we will miss you and don't be a stranger.

THE WATER JPI CONFERENCE MOVIE

The Water JPI [movie](#), entitled: “ The Water JPI presents: Sustainable water systems for a sustainable economy” was recorded in Helsinki in June 2018 during the 2nd Water JPI conference “Emerging pollutants in Freshwater Ecosystems”, and published on line on YouTube on Oct 2, 201.

Experts, researchers and policy-makers highlight the importance of collaboration and common goals in ensuring clean water for us all in the future.

THE NEW WATER JPI WEBSITE IS ONLINE!

The [Water JPI](#) launched a renewed website implemented according to the Public Administration Accessibility and Usability guidelines and within the European guidelines for website design. The renewed restyling and the improvement of some functionalities now allows easier access to information on the Water JPI and its activities to a wider audience, in the public and water research community. Greater visibility of the latest news, events, on-line materials and

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improved functionality for use on all kinds of devices (desktop, tablet or smartphone).

So what has been improved? Improved full-text search of contents, the document library with faceted search, a new navigation menu and the use of RSS feed system that allows to exchange the information between multiple website in real time. The new website also gives access to the renewed Water JPI Open Data and Open Access tool allowing improved dissemination of all scientific publications produced within the projects funded under the Water JPI Joint Calls. In addition, also the Intranet section, located in the Water JPI website, has been redesigned. It is a tool that enables the partners involved in this EU initiative to have a private space on the internet where they can share information and documents in order to reach the internal communication objectives.

WATER JPI PRIVACY POLICY

A new version of the [Water JPI Privacy Policy](#), in line with the European General Data Protection Regulation ([GDPR](#)), has been adopted the last october and it replaces the its first edition of May 2018. The new Water JPI Privacy policy version includes the description of the protection personal data and presentations materials during workshops or events organised by the Water JPI including the living streaming. How the disclosure and the storage of the personal information are managed within the Water JPI have been updated in this updated document.

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE UN SDGS

Following the ranking list of proposals prepared

by the independent Evaluation Panel of experts, the Call Steering Committee, composed of the IC4Water partners participating in the Water JPI 2017 Joint Call, has shortlisted eight transnational research projects recommended for funding - with a total grant fund of 6.8 million euros. The [eight shortlisted projects](#) are scientifically excellent projects, covering a wide range of disciplines (from social and economic sciences to natural sciences), and address the challenges presented in the [call announcement](#).

THE FIRST WATER JPI POLICY BRIEF “WHAT IS CONTAMINATING OUR WATERS NEXT?”

The 1st Water JPI Policy brief entitled “What is contaminating our waters next? Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs) – novel ways to reduce their human and environmental risks” was completed last month led by AKA (Finland), Water JPI Pilot Call 2013 Secretary. Seven projects funded from the 1st Water JPI transnational call between 2015-2017 have compiled their final results in to a Policy brief that will showcase the findings and recommendations in an understandable form for the stakeholders of water management and society. The main aim of the Policy brief was to produce a researcher statement based on the latest scientific high-level results that in turn highlights urgent recommendations for policymakers, to deal with the increasing issue of CECs in our environment and their impact.. The Policy brief will hopefully increase the scientific knowledge and accelerate the translation of the science to policy development at the EU level. The recommendations produced will have long-term scientific, and most importantly have a societal

The Policy brief was produced over 10 months. It was produced with the full co-operation between the funded projects, Water JPI community, Water JPI Advisory Boards and high-level stakeholders. The Policy brief was finalized in workshop in Helsinki (Finland) on 5 June 2018 and the 15 key messages from the Policy brief were presented at the Water JPI International Conference on 6 June in Helsinki.

The Water JPI will publish the Policy brief before the end of this year.

JPIS EVENT AT XENOWAC CONFERENCE

Water Research Center ([Nireas-IWRC](#)) of the University of Cyprus organized the [XENOWAC II](#) conference, in Limassol. This event was a decade after the first XENOWAC conference (XENOWAC I) which took place in Cyprus in March 2009. The conference addressed the “Challenges and Solutions related to Xenobiotics and Antimicrobial Resistance in the Framework of Urban Wastewater Reuse: Towards a Blue Circle Society”.

The Conference included and highlighted the work undertaken within the framework of NEREUS COST Action ES1403 and H2020-MSCA-ITN-2015/675530 ANSWER, both of which were coordinated by Despo Fatta-Kassinou, Nireas-IWRC and chair of the Scientific and Technological Board of the Water JPI. The event presented and discussed the latest concepts and developments in the field of contaminants of emerging concern and urban wastewater reuse.

Researchers, experts, policy-makers and economic sector representatives attending the conference were invited to participate in the Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs) session, co-organised between the JPIs Water, Oceans and Anti-Microbial Resistance. The interactive session

was organized around:

- the role of the Joint Programming Initiatives, and their activities;
- the knowledge Hub concept for transferring knowledge to end-users; and
- a discussion on the potential future call on emerging contaminants.

Feedbacks and suggestions from the audience have been collected and forwarded to the partners in charge of the Knowledge Hub development and the elaboration of the future call for RDI projects.

5TOI NEXUS THINK TANK MEETING IN VENICE

The [NEXUS Think Tank meeting](#) took place in Venice on October 24th, 2018 . The Think Tank discussed the latest project outputs in energy water, food challenges and their nexus in the Mediterranean area.

The NEXUS Think Tank is composed of experts from academia, leading R&D institutions, government agencies, industry and civil society representatives.

The NEXUS Think Tank meeting discussed regional monitoring socio-economic indicators, key policy papers and the shared Joint Action Plan for reinforcing regional cooperation in the coming years.

The NEXUS Think Tank also exchanged with the project partners the content of the final project conference.

Key outputs and the meeting report will be shared [on line](#) and discussed with the main EU Institutions and distributed free of charge to all the interested subjects

The final project conference will take place in Tunis, Tunisia, mid-February 2019.

DROPLETS

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: REPORT ON QUALITY OF DRINKING WATER

On 1 February 2018, the European Commission published a proposal for a review of the Drinking Water Directive. On 1st October, the European Parliament (EP) officially published the report on the proposal, following the vote of the Environment Committee (ENVI) of the European Parliament (EP) on 10 September. Click [here](#) for the [report](#).

DISINFECTION BY PRODUCTS IN DRINKING WATER. NEW DETECTOR MAY MEET NEED FOR MONITORING AND DETECTION OF BROADER RANGE OF DBP CLASSES, SWEDEN

This [article](#) highlights the issue of the presence of disinfection by-products (DBPs) in drinking water as an emerging health concern.

DBPs come in many classes and are chemically diverse, making them challenging to monitor. Swedish researchers have evaluated a new method for the simultaneous determination of a broader range of DBPs than typically possible using current available techniques. The method uses gas chromatography (a laboratory technique that separates and analyses vaporisable compounds in a mixture), together with a halogen specific detector (XSD).

Having been tested in real water samples from

two municipal waterworks in Sweden, the method has been optimised for the simultaneous determination of a wide range of neutral DBPs.

NEW INSPIRE GEOPORTAL LAUNCHED

On 18 September 2018, the European Commission presented the new [INSPIRE Geoportal](#) offering easier access to spatial data in the EU. The redesigned portal is a one-stop shop for public authorities, business and citizens to discover, access and use data sets related to the environment in Europe.

All EU countries produce and use geospatial data on, for example, ground water, transport networks, population, land use and air temperature. Threats to the environment or crisis situations do not stop at national or regional boundaries. Therefore, public authorities need to be able to easily access and compare geospatial data across borders. The INSPIRE data infrastructure enables the sharing of such data among public authorities and facilitates public access to spatial information across Europe.

The INSPIRE Geoportal makes it easier to discover, monitor and directly use geospatial data sets relevant for specific application areas, in particular European environmental policy. The new Geoportal provides overviews of the availability of INSPIRE data sets by country and thematic area, and makes the data available ready-for-use in a range of applications.

OPPORTUNITIES

CALL FOR PROPOSALS NEW ATLAS PROJECT ON WATER-ENERGY-FOOD AND ECOSYSTEM NEXUS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

The European Commission's Joint Research Centre ([JRC](#)), the Union for the Mediterranean ([UfM](#)) and the Global Water Partnership for the Mediterranean ([GWP-Med](#)) have joined forces to address the complex nexus between the water, energy, food and ecosystem sectors in the Mediterranean region. The three organisations are currently preparing a joint "Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem Nexus" publication in the form of a Nexus Atlas.

This Atlas will provide a spatial baseline analysis and projection of the interconnected water, energy and food requirements in the Mediterranean region, and their associated impacts on the environment.

Interested parties willing to suggest useful examples, please click [here](#) to download the 'Water-Energy- Food-Ecosystem Nexus –Best practice example' form and submit it [here](#).

Case studies must refer to existing initiatives and activities, not to ones that are planned or have just started. Deadline: 31 December 2018.

XENOWAC II OUTPUTS

Two special issues will host selected papers from XENOWAC II Conference and the wider scientific community: Read more here: -<https://www.journals.elsevier.com/water-research/call-for-papers/challenges-antimicrobial-resistance-urban-wastewater-reuse> ... -<https://www.journals.elsevier.com/chemosphere/call-for-papers/urban-wastewater-reuse-and-chemical-contaminants-of-emerging> ...

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LIFE: MEMBER STATES TO BENEFIT FROM QUARTER OF A BILLION EUROS

The European Commission has approved an investment package of € 243 million from the EU budget for projects supporting nature, the environment and quality of life in Europe's transition to becoming a more sustainable and low-carbon society .

EU funding under the [LIFE programme](#) for the Environment and Climate Action will mobilise additional investments leading to a total of € 430.7 million going towards 142 new projects. With numerous trans-national projects funded, LIFE will have an impact in every EU Member State. Short summaries of each project can be found in [annex](#).

EVENTS

26-27 February 2019, London, United Kingdom, World Water Tech Innovation Summit

The [2019 World Water-Tech Innovation Summit](#) is an event where water utilities from all over the globe come to find solutions to today's challenges of digitisation, security, energy recovery and new water resources. The summit brings together water leaders for two days of collaboration, dialogue and deal-making. Each year the World Water-Tech Innovation Summit is produced in partnership with the UK Department for International Trade and attracts large delegations from Europe, Asia, North America, South America, the Middle East, Africa and Australasia who come to showcase best-in-class innovation and form lasting business partnerships. At the following [link](#) the agenda.

7-8 March 2019 Rabat, Morocco, Climate change adaptation in the Middle East and North Africa region

Similar to what is seen in other parts of the world, there are clear signs of the impacts of climate change the Middle East and North African region (MENA). The MENA region, which hosts a variety of ecosystems, already showing the signs of damage from human-induced climate change. According to the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), climate variability and extreme events have been affecting the MENA region in a variety of ways. Apart from increases in temperatures, trends such as erratic rainfalls

and extended droughts have been negatively affecting agriculture and livestock production, leading to property losses and threatening livelihoods. It is against this background that the [Symposium](#) is being organized. To register click [here](#).

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 30th November 2018.

Deadline for registrations: 30th January 2019.

Deadline for submission of papers: 30th March 2019.

16-20 June 2019, Berlin, Germany, 12th IWA International Conference on Water Reclamation and Reuse

Water stress, either caused by droughts, competing water uses or hydrological conditions is an important driver for an efficient water management by all water users. This applies to many regions across the world. Water reclamation and reuse is the key strategy to cope with these problems.

The thematic framework of the [12th IWA International Conference on Water Reclamation and Reuse](#) will address the full range of topics related to water reclamation and reuse. The [event](#) brings together experts from research and development, solution providers and application. It is innovation and solution focused by addressing water stress from three different perspectives.

08-13 September 2019, Vienna, Austria Biennial Symposium of the International Society for River Science

The [symposium](#) of the International Society for River Science ([ISRS](#)) will emphasise research related to the use and protection of water resources considering complex and large river systems. Topics, such as the structure (biological, chemical, and physical) and functioning of lotic ecosystems, will be addressed through disciplines contributing to the integrative field of river science.

Amongst others, these comprise aquatic and floodplain ecology, monitoring of freshwater biodiversity, food web interactions, restoration of freshwater ecosystems, hydrologic connectivity, balancing human and ecological objectives, urban ecosystems, ecotoxicology, ecosystem management and ecosystem services.

The symposium serves as a wide platform for the exchange of ideas and experiences between science and practice.

Time line: January 2019: [call for abstracts and registration](#) opening; April 2019: deadline for abstract submission; May 2019: acceptance notification.

