

Water challenges for a changing world

Newsletter 03 April 2019

Editorial Board

3rd Workshop of the Water JPI Knowledge Hub Contaminants of Emerging Concern (KHCEC) Madrid March 26th 2019

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On March 26th 2019, the Water JPI Knowledge Hub on Emerging Pollutants Seed group held a workshop entitled 'Planning and Progress' in Madrid, Spain. 29 attendees from both the Knowledge Hub seed group (expert researchers) and the steering committee (funding partners) gathered to discuss progress to date, finalise a number of critical outputs and most importantly discuss the future of the knowledge hub and its sustainability beyond February 2020. Under the guidance of Norbert Kreuzinger, the scientific coordinator, (TU Wien, Vienna) and brainstorming breakout sessions, the work started on drafting a Business Plan for the future. Each of the national seed group members gave a short presentation on their national examples of how knowledge is exchanged and what practices are used to communicate outputs in their respective countries and there were many great examples to learn from. The KH Implementation Plan was Each of the attending seed group members. As part of the KH Implementation which is consider a 'living document' the experts worked on finding consensus on common terms and topics, agree on a shared communication approach.



From L to R: Corrine LeGaLe Salle (Universite de Nimes), Norbert Kreuzinger, KH Scientific coordinator, (TU Wien, Vienna), Ignasi Rodriguez Roda ICRA Karin Wiberg Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Kevin Jewell Federal Institute of Hydrology Enda Cummins University Colege Dublin, Don Pierson Uppsala University, Henning Sørnum

Norway Unviserity, Valeria Dulio NORMAN network, INERIS, Kirsti Loukola-Ruskeeniemi Geological Survey of Finland, Javier Marugan, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, Kristof Demesteere, Ghent University, Serge Chiron Montpellier University.

Progress on water JPI

Revision of SRIA 3.0 and Vision 2030 – Update on National Consultation Workshops

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National workshops were held in seven partner countries and the EPA (Ireland) are expecting the remaining summary reports to be returned soon. These workshops are a critical component for the development of the new Vision 2030 and SRIA 3.0 because they provide the national perspectives and invaluable insight on current and future water challenges from partners and geographically diverse regions.

The Irish workshop (14/02/2019) highlighted the need for a clear message in Vision 2030 and the links between the vision and the research objectives of the SRIA needs to be stated clearly. Also, WJPI needs a clear statement regards public engagement and the strategy for delivering specific UN Sustainable Development Goals. The current themes are still relevant but the titles should be revised to make them more concise with a clear message (e.g. Water ecosystems; Public health; Water in agriculture.) Several research gaps were identified but in particular, WJPI needs to focus on behavioural sciences/ civic engagement and getting communities to take action.

The Italian National workshop was organized by MIUR and ISPRA (14/02/2019) and they found the Vision was still valid. Each of the themes and sub-themes were reviewed and recommendations for revisions provided, include a reduction in the number of the issues to be addressed. Belgium is an observer to Water JPI; their National workshop (21/03/2019) recommended the Vision 2030 make a clear commitment regards climate change and the urgent need for resilient water systems. They provided their national WATER Vision 2050 that identifies priority action areas to help inform WJPI Vision 2030. Some key recommendations included: (i) the economic impacts of extreme weather events (e.g. drought 2018) have raised awareness that a systemic approach is required; (ii) International R&D is challenging so WJPI must define clear research objectives and specific scope to ensure successful collaboration and cooperation; and (iii) a number of research and innovation questions were proposed.

Finland returned a comprehensive report on their national workshop (01/02/2019); they recommend WJPI should consider the issue of water and sanitation in small villages in underdeveloped countries because Europe has outsourced environmental problems (e.g. waste materials, hazardous chemicals) and this should be recognised/addressed. Also, international cooperation could be improved by extending the duration of projects with developing countries. They noted a 10-year project cycle would be better to allow for

barriers/ delays as the start. WJPI must focus on climate change, blue economy, circular economy and SDG's for 2030 and beyond. Finland found the current themes were too broad and the soil-water-air nexus and nature-based solutions should be prioritised in SRIA 3.0. Water JPI video and the Policy brief were great examples of how we make impact on policy making. WJPI should promote that messages from researchers to policy makers should be very clear, and directed to the correct level of policymaker.

The Aqua Research Collaboration (ARC) workshop (29/03/2019) report highlighted the need for a more clear, focused Vision 2030; also, they supported alignment and compatibility with UNSDGs. Some key future water challenges were identified including climate change, urbanisation/demographic change and policy development. The current RDI themes are, in general still valid but need to be revised and amended to include some identified research gaps. Budget limitations of WJPI and the need for more than one call per year were identified as a challenges to achieving the strategic aims/objectives.

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Water JPI Advisory Board meeting, 27 February 2019, Brussels, Belgium

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The Advisory Board meeting gathered the ten experts involved in the Scientific and Technological Board (STB) and eight institutions involved in the Stakeholders Advisory Group (SAG). The agenda included a timeslot to exchange on expertise needed for the renewal of the Advisory Boards. The two boards were also consulted on the preparation of the future European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, Horizon Europe, including an interactive session on the Missions and Partnerships. This meeting was also the opportunity to warmly thank the five STB members whose mandate came to an end in March 2019, and who actively acted in the board over the past years, contributing to the success of the Water JPI initiative! Thank You.

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Final meeting of the AGRI-As project at the Oulanka research center, Finland

The AgriAs project on the evaluation and management of arsenic contamination in agricultural soil and water (2016 Water JPI Joint Call) held its final meeting between 11th and 14th March 2019 in Oulanka, Finland.

The AgriAs project on the evaluation and management of arsenic contamination in agricultural soil and water (2016 Water JPI Joint Call) held its final meeting between 11th and 14th March 2019 in Oulanka, Finland. This final meeting gave the Water JPI coordinator and a representative of the Finnish research funder, Academy of Finland, the opportunity to:

- Discuss the progress completed to date within the project, in particular the effect of agricultural practices on arsenic concentrations in soils at two cases studies (Freiberg – Germany, and Verdun – France), solutions for arsenic remediation for soil and groundwater, and the development in risk assessment tool (new pathway introduced for animal product consumption, new data on plant uptake); and
- There was a visit to the research center of Oulanka, which is part of the University of Oulu, and has studies dating back 60 years on aquatic and terrestrial systems (freshwater, biodiversity, plant ecology) in boreal and arctic conditions. The Centre is a member of the Finnish Long-Term Socio-Ecological Research network (FinLTSER), and therefore of eLTER; and
- There was further discussion about the upcoming JPI activities of interest for the AgriAs consortium and on how to connect research centres to the JPI activities on research infrastructures and their recommendation on how to improving call management, into the future.



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The e-Newsletter Water JPI survey is online

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Go to e-Newsletter Water JPI survey. We look forward to hearing your opinion!

[Progress on water JPI](#)

Water JPI Procedure Request for Extension of Project Duration

This procedure is intended for principal investigators involved with the Research, Development and Innovation projects funded in the Water JPI Joint Transnational Calls under the Water JPI funding instruments (WaterWorks2014, WaterWorks2015, IC4Water, WaterWorks2017 and subsequent) who wish to request an extension of their project duration.

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International Workshop on hydroclimatic extremes and impacts at catchment to regional scales

The WaterWorks2014 IMDROFLOOD (Improving Drought and Flood Early Warning, Forecasting and Mitigation using real-time hydroclimatic indicators) project is organizing an international workshop addressing the theme of hydroclimatic extremes and impacts at catchment to regional scales.

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2nd ICRAPHE Conference

The 2nd ICRAPHE Conference will take place in Barcelona, Spain November 28-29, 2019.

The 2nd ICRAPHE Conference will take place in Barcelona, Spain November 28-29, 2019. The conference is, supported by the Water JPI AWARE project (2015 Water JPI Call). Its main aim is to capture outstanding examples of active research in this field and highlight future research needs. It will consist of six themes. Abstract submission. Submission of oral presentations are from 1st March to 1st June 2019 and Poster presentations from 1st March to 1st October 2019.

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Hydroclimatic extremes and impacts at catchment to regional scales

This special issue was inspired by the Water-JPI IMDROFLOOD project.

This special issue was inspired by the Water-JPI IMDROFLOOD project. Submissions from all researchers working on suitable topics are welcome, even if they are not participating in the project. All hydroclimatic researchers are invited to submit the results of their studies to a special issue of Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences (NHESS) addressing the theme of hydroclimatic extremes and impacts at catchment to regional scales. Please find the instructions for authors on the NHESS web page. The individual papers will be peer-reviewed and published as soon as they are available in regular issues but will be labelled as part of the special issue and linked electronically. The main purpose of the special issue is to focus on hydroclimatic extremes (floods and droughts) at catchment and regional scales and their impacts on a broad range of hydrological and environmental systems, including mitigation approaches.

The special issue is currently open for submissions and deadline for these submissions is **30th June 2019**.

Closing the loop: Commission delivers on Circular Economy Action Plan

On March 4th the European Commission published a comprehensive report on the implementation of the Circular Economy Action Plan it adopted in December 2015.

On March 4th the European Commission published a comprehensive report on the implementation of the Circular Economy Action Plan it adopted in December 2015. The report presents the main results of implementing the action plan and sketches out open challenges to paving the way towards a climate-neutral, competitive circular economy where pressure on natural and freshwater resources as well as ecosystems is minimised. The findings of the report will be discussed during the annual Circular Economy Stakeholder Conference taking place in Brussels on 6 and 7 March 2019. Three years after adoption, the Circular Economy Action Plan can be considered fully completed. Its 54 actions have now been delivered or are being implemented. According to the findings of the report, implementing the Circular Economy Action Plan has accelerated the transition towards a circular economy in Europe, which in turn has helped putting the EU back on a path of job creation. In 2016, sectors relevant to the circular economy employed more than four million workers, a 6% increase compared to 2012. Circularity has also opened up new business opportunities, given rise to new business models and developed new markets, domestically and outside the EU. In 2016, circular activities such as repair, reuse or recycling generated almost €147 billion in value added while accounting for around €17.5 billion worth of investments.

Water Reuse: the European Parliament said "YES"

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The new law defines minimum quality standards for reclaimed water to be used for agricultural irrigation. It also sets out obligations for production, distribution and storage operators, as well as risk management measures. Reclaimed water (i.e. urban wastewater that has been treated in a reclamation plant) can now be used to irrigate food crops, processed food crops and non-food crops. The Commission will have to assess within five years whether reclaimed water can be used in other ways.

MEPs say that in the meantime, member states may allow reclaimed water to be used in other ways, such as industrial water reuse and for amenity-related and environmental purposes, provided that human health, animals and the environment are thoroughly protected.

Droplets

Science for Environmental policy. Combining behavioural change and game-like incentive models encourages consumers to save water

The EU has several ongoing research projects that aim to instigate water-saving behaviour using ICT smart metering, which help customers to visualise their water use.

The EU has several ongoing research projects that aim to instigate water-saving behaviour using ICT smart metering, which help customers to visualise their water use. The Smart H2O project¹, provides household users with daily feedback and has a gamified incentive model that uses visualisation, saving tips, and personal, social, virtual, and physical rewards. Similar EU FP7 research projects using ICT are the WATERNOMICS project, which provides personal feedback using dashboards to aid decision-making, and the WISDOM project, which provides real-time consumption feedback on a display with a digital game. These last two projects have published promising results on their impact on water consumption. Shower systems with alarms and visualisation displays showed consumption reductions of 27% and 22% respectively over a short trial period. This is promising —but so far, smart-meter feedback alone has not provided long-lasting behaviour change. This study examines ICT systems through the lens of changing habits in the long term, by providing motivators to encourage people to make the leap across the intention–behaviour gap. Full article [here](#).

Droplets

Countries Supported on Drought through Global Initiative

The Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) – a joint initiative of GWP and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) – is providing targeted drought management support to 8 countries: Ethiopia, Sudan, Burkina Faso, Benin, Niger, Serbia, Macedonia, and Moldova as part of the UNCCD Drought Initiative.

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work is part of a wider collaboration between GWP and WMO, as well as the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) and others supporting the UNCCD Drought Initiative.

The targeted efforts are part of our work with 30+ partners in the IDMP to develop an integrated approach to drought management in Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Central and Eastern Europe, supported by and informing how drought is addressed globally.

Opportunities

ICSD 2019 Conference Call for Abstracts!

The Global Association of Master's in Development Practice Programs (MDP), in collaboration with the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), will hold the Seventh Annual International Conference on Sustainable Development (ICSD) on September 24 & 25, 2019, at Columbia University in New York, USA.

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If you would like to present at the conference, you must submit an abstract as here indicated. The conference is also open to observers (i.e. non-presenters).

The conference theme is ***Good Practices: Models, Partnerships, & Capacity Building for the SDGs***. The aim of the conference is to bring together persons involved in research, policy, practice, and business. Participants will share practical solutions for achieving the SDGs at local and national levels.

Opportunities

7-8 May 2019, The Danube Drought Conference, Vienna, Austria

Danube Drought Conference is a great opportunity to remind ourselves that combating drought is achievable through proactive problem solving, strong community involvement and co-operation at all levels.

Danube Drought Conference is a great opportunity to remind ourselves that combating drought is achievable through proactive problem solving, strong community involvement and co-operation at all levels. The aim of the conference is to increase resilience to drought and reduce risk by advocating an integrated, proactive approach to drought planning, adaptation and management. [Click here to register.](#)

Events

17-20 June 2019, 17th "Europe-INBO 2019" International Conference, Lahti, Finland

Finnish authorities invite Europe_INBO this year to hold the 17th "EUROPE-INBO" International Conference for the Implementation of the European Water Directives.

Finnish authorities invite Europe_INBO this year to hold the 17th "EUROPE-INBO" International Conference for the Implementation of the European Water Directives. The event is co-organized with the "Group of European Basin Authorities for the Implementation of the European Water Directives", from Monday 17th to Thursday 20th of June 2019 in Lahti, Finland. Organizations, administrations and other stakeholders interested in Basin Management are invited to participate in the event and share their experiences on basin management. Click [Europe_INBO](#) for more information and to register.

Events