

## **EDITORIAL**

The good news today is that we have two new Water JPI partners: **Israel and Germany**. Welcome to this exciting period of cooperation. We are 16 countries now!



Water JPI partners are ready to jump into the pool of programming Research, Development and Innovation in Europe. The design phase of the WatEUr CSA proposal is almost over, and programming activities have been designed for the period 2013-2015.

## **ECHOES FROM EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS**

### **Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, Commissioner**

During the launch of the Research Strategy of the JPI on Neurodegenerative Disease Research (JPND, [press release](#)), the Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science supported the JPI process. In her words, “*by working together, across borders, we will make faster progress in getting the results that millions of people depend on*”. At the same time, she linked joint Programming to Horizon 2020: “*While it is too early to judge how Horizon 2020 could best interact with the JPND, it is clear that public-public partnerships will play a vital role in addressing the societal challenges that are the focus of the three pillars of the Horizon 2020 structure.*”

### **Maria de Graça Carvalho, Member of European Parliament**

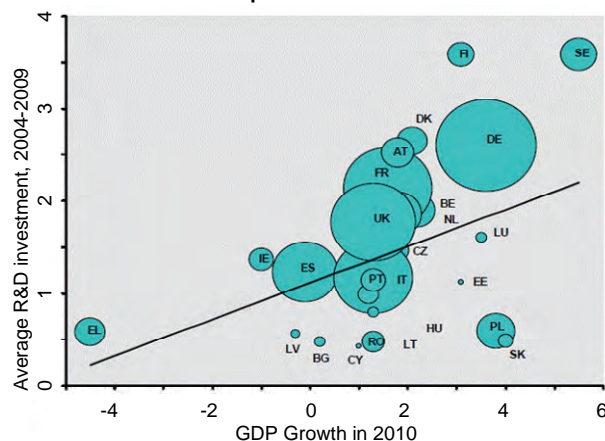
By mid-February 2012, Ms. Graça Carvalho was [appointed rapporteur](#) for the Specific Programme Implementing Horizon 2020. She will be in charge of defining the details of the

three priorities. Priorities include Excellent Science (“*will confirm the EU as a world leader in science*”) Industrial Leadership (“*will contribute to ensuring industry leadership in the sphere of innovation*”) and address major Societal Challenges. Joint Programming is included in this last priority.



### **Luisa Prista, Head of Unit, DG R&I**

During her address to the Board of the [WssTP](#), Luis Prista introduced Horizon 2020 from the perspective of water. She presented this interesting figure on the relationship between economic growth and R&D investment in Europe:



Her [presentation](#) contains useful information to understand the sketch of the new Framework Programme.

## **WATER JPI, A SOLUTION IN WWF**

Water JPI will be participating on the 6<sup>th</sup> [World Water Forum](#) (WWF6) as one of the solutions identified in a [session](#) organized by [ONEMA](#) and the International Office for Water ([LOW](#)). WWF6 will be held in Marseille between March 12 and 17<sup>th</sup>. Our

session is EU 10/CS3.1, and is titled: “*Science and Water Policy Interface*”. **Join us on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March from 11:00 am to 4:30 pm.**

### **UPCOMING JPI MEETINGS**

#### **WatEUr**

WatEUr CSA partners are getting together today in The Hague to design the final steps of the CSA proposal. With this last push forward, we are close to achieve common agreement on the future activities of water research in Europe.

#### **Third meeting of the Executive Board**

A meeting of the Executive Board will analyse today the WatEUr proposal and the engagement process of the Water JPI Advisory Boards: the Scientific and technological Board (STB) and the Stakeholders Advisory Group (SAG). Due to the different nature of these boards, the recruitment of candidates has been different. Current STB members received the mandate of proposing new members. Candidates to the SAG have been proposed by Water JPI partners. The Executive Board will also analyse progress towards a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, resulting from the input received from the STB and the SAG. In this respect, we want to **recognize** the excellent work done by the Advisory Boards during the last months.



#### **EIP ON WATER**

On February 1<sup>st</sup> the European Innovation Partnership on Water held a Stakeholder Consultation in Brussels. The change in name (from “Water Efficient Europe” to “EIP on Water”) broadens the scope of interests.

The composition of the High Level group (30 members) was discussed, along with the envisaged creation of a Task Force which will prepare a Strategic Implementation Plan. The Kick-off event will take place before summer.

#### **COOPERATION WITH FACCE JPI**

On February 22 and 23 the Water JPI participated in the [FACCE](#) (Food, Agriculture and Climate Change) JPI Mapping Meeting on Climate Change Adaptation. The meeting was organised by the Spanish reference FACCE



partner [INIA](#). The Water JPI took this chance to formally present the state of play, and informally discussed opportunities for cooperation between both JPIs. Further discussions are envisaged which will improve the efficiency of the system and may lead to actively explore the interface between both initiatives.

#### **REPORT ON EUROPEAN SOILS**



The European Commission Joint Research Centre and the European Environmental Agency have recently presented a [report](#) on the current State of Soils in

Europe. The report shows how soil resources in many parts of Europe are currently being overexploited, degraded and irreversibly lost.

#### **UPCOMING EXTERNAL EVENTS**

##### **“Water Innovation Europe” event**

WssTP, ACQUEAU and IWA are organizing this [EUREKA event](#) in Brussels, on 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> May 2012.

##### **AquaConSoil 2013 conference**

This major water event is being organized by [Deltares](#) in The Netherlands and the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research ([UFZ](#)) in Germany. The event will be held in Barcelona on April 16-19, 2013.

#### **LINKS TO THE PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS**

[First season](#) (issues #1-9), [#10](#), [#11](#), [#12](#), [#13](#) and [#14](#). More info at our [public repository](#)!