



**Full members:** Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom **Observers:** Greece, Hungary, Latvia  
**Observer country participating in joint actions:** Belgium **Additional partners:** Canada, Egypt, South Africa, Taiwan, Tunisia

## PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES IN FIRST IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

2013 Pilot Call	10 countries	11 funding agencies	€ 9 million
2015 Joint Call	15+ European Commission	17 funding agencies	€ 14 million
2016 Joint Call	22+ European Commission	25 funding agencies	€ 25.5 million

## WATER JPI

The Water JPI is dedicated to achieving sustainable water systems for a sustainable economy in Europe and further afield; an ambitious challenge. This will be delivered via a multi-disciplinary approach, including economic, ecological, societal as well as both technological and non-technological considerations.

The Water JPI provides an opportunity for broader cross-border cooperation, greater collaboration and a more unified focus on water RDI both in Europe and further afield:

- In 2015, the World Economic Forum<sup>4</sup> identified water crises as the number one risk in terms of their impact to economy and society in the coming years. Global water requirements

are projected to exceed sustainable water supplies by 40 per cent by 2030. Decision-makers will be forced to make tough choices on how to allocate water in ways that will impact users throughout the economy;

- The European water sector (annual turnover €72 billion) is highly fragmented with a diverse range of stakeholders; water resources, water supply and wastewater are often locally managed;
- The current development of water technology is insufficient to meet the grand challenge of delivering sustainability. Bringing Europe to the top of global competitiveness levels will require further technological advances. Often, the main running costs of technologies relate to energy consumption. This means that the water-energy nexus plays a crucial role in all economic sectors and in society at large; agricultural production presents another challenge for the water resources framework, and

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Ten key achievements have been reached to date. The Water JPI membership has grown, currently with twenty partner countries and four observers, resulting in a partnership that accounts for 88 per cent of all European public RDI annual expenditure on water issues. One of the main key achievements of the Water JPI, since its approval by the European Member States in December 2011, is the high level of partner involvement in implementing joint transnational calls. The international cooperation dimension of these first actions include Israel, Norway, the Republic of Moldova and Turkey (full Water JPI members), as well as three additional Horizon 2020 associated countries (Egypt, South Africa, and Tunisia) and two international partners (Canada and Taiwan).

These first actions were implemented in close cooperation with key water stakeholders. There were consultations with the two Water JPI advisory boards (scientific and technological board, stakeholders advisory group), two public consultations on the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), national mirror groups and the first Water JPI conference, with more than 200 participants. There were also three round-table discussions with speakers representing water public utilities, ministries, research centres, private foundations, EU and international water-related platforms and networks. These covered the water research priorities identified in the SRIA, their implementation and the benefits of international cooperation

- New approaches in water efficiency within economic sectors that can decrease the costs of energy consumption will be the next challenge for science in the coming years. In addition, there needs to be policies and programmes that create the appropriate conditions for relevant RDI breakthroughs and innovation. Non-technological innovation, mainly relating to governance, organisational and social innovation (eg, consumption patterns) present additional challenges for the water sector.

The science-based knowledge produced by the Water JPI will support European and international water policies, including identifying and quantifying existing problems and developing feasible technical and managerial solutions.

in jointly tackling the grand challenge of delivering sustainable water systems worldwide. These identified new ideas for future exploration for transforming the Water JPI SRIA with concrete and practical actions, structuring the necessary co-operation and accelerating the development of solutions.

<sup>4</sup>Global Risks 2015 report, 2015 <http://reports.weforum.org/global-risks-2015/part-1-global-risks-2015/introduction/>

### References:

- Water JPI Key Achievements 2011-2016 - May 2016
- Water JPI Vision document - April 2011
- Water JPI Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda - April 2016
- Introduction to the Water JPI SRIA 2.0 - May 2016
- Water RDI mapping report - December 2014



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