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Status and perspectives for the European Research Area for Water and its link with innovation policies

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A new debate on Community research

Notably influenced by the following main elements:

- **Economic crisis**
- **New institutional context : Lisbon Treaty**
- **New Commission**
- **EU 2020 strategy**
- **ERA governance**
- **Lund declaration : grand challenges;
Council conclusions**
- **Monitoring and evaluation**

EUROPE 2020

(3 March 2010: EC Communication)
(17 June 2010: EU Council adoption)



Three mutually reinforcing priorities:

1. **Smart growth**: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation
2. **Sustainable growth**: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy
3. **Inclusive growth**: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion

« Water » as a
cross-cutting
area



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Water research in Europe

Many programmes, initiatives, networks and actors at various levels ! How to solve the jigsaw? Typical need for a strong and dynamic European Research Area (ERA) in the field of water

- to avoid costly overlaps and unnecessary duplication
- to create a single market for water Research and Innovation (R&I)



Water JPI

Joint
Programming
Initiative

**National
programmes**

Water ERA-NETs

Others...



Towards a more efficient Science-Policy Interface (SPI) in support of EU water policies

SPI activities in the context of the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) of the Water Framework Directive (WFD):

- Promoting partnership relations between researchers and policy makers
 - Linking research needs of WFD implementers with research outputs
- Research is needed to meet future challenges:
- Implementation of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs)
 - Revision of RBMPs for the second and third cycles
 - Policy on water scarcity and droughts
 - Impact on climate change, etc.
- First « Water Science meets Policy » event, 30/09/2010
 - 59 research areas identified including 180 research issues

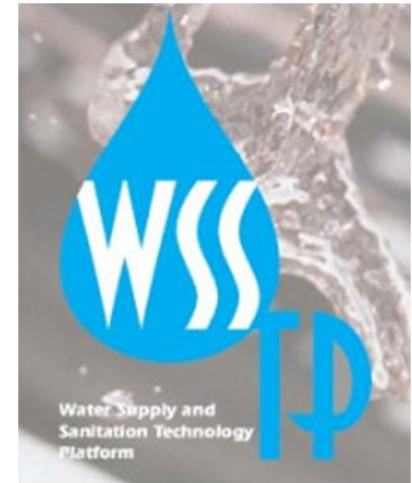
<p><u>Task 1</u> Inventory of research and implementation needs from CIS groups</p>	<p><u>Task 2</u> Available research and research gaps</p>	<p><u>Task 3</u> Improving transfer and usability of research outputs</p>
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Towards a more competitive Water industry in Europe

The Water Supply and Sanitation Technology Platform (WssTP)

- European Technological Platform driven by a **water industry perspective**
- Launched in the context of **ETAP** (2004)
- To strengthen the potential for technological innovation and competitiveness of the European water industry, of water professionals and research institutions
 - Common **vision** and **strategic research agendas**
- To fasten step changes in the technological capacity of the European water industry and consolidate its position in the world market
- To ensure safe and secure water supply for different uses and sanitation services





Towards a more competitive Water industry in Europe

WssTP

- Promote research and technology in the water sector
- Shape future priorities for research and innovation
- Deliver a common vision for water innovation
- Address grand societal challenges of today and tomorrow
- WssTP supports the Innovation Union and the new Water Joint Programming Initiative
- Strategic collaboration WssTP – Suschem (CEFIC) on sustainable water use in industry by optimal intergated resource management

Six pilot programmes:

- Pilot 1: Mitigation of water stress in coastal zones
- Pilot 2: Sustainable water management inside and around large urban areas
- Pilot 3: Sustainable water management for agriculture
- Pilot 4: Sustainable water management for industry
- Pilot 5: Reclamation of degraded water zones (surface water and groundwater)
- Pilot 6: Proactive and corrective management of extreme hydro-climatic events



Towards more joint programming by the Member States of public research for water

Common societal challenge

- contributing to the EU 2020 objectives
- with potential for increased efficiency and impact of public R&D

Water quality & quantity, water balance and extreme events (in a context of rising water demand, water use competition and climate change)

Member States engaging:

- voluntarily on a variable geometry basis
- in the definition and implementation of common strategic research agendas
- based on a common vision

15+ Partner Member States

- coordinated by ES and NL
- kick-off meeting on 29/09/2010

Optimal use of existing R&D instruments

- It may involve collaboration between existing national programmes or the setting of entirely new ones

Ongoing mapping of Water Research programmes in Europe
(while revising the water JPI vision)



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Towards a possible European Innovation Partnership for water

In the context of Europe 2020:
EC communication « **Innovation Union** » on 6 October 2010

The « Innovation Union » plan aims to boosting investment in research and making Europe an attractive place to develop new products

- Calls for “**European Innovation Partnerships**”
 - To pool forces to achieve breakthroughs
 - to link up the innovation chain to get products through to market faster
 - to streamline and better coordinate programmes, instruments, funds in Europe
- Focus on societal challenges
Being worked out in 2011: “**Water efficiency**” as a possible candidate
- Strong political and stakeholder commitment
- Clear EU added-value
- Strong focus on results, outcomes and impacts
- Adequate financial support





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Towards a strengthened international cooperation with countries for which water represents a major societal and environmental challenge

Recent example:

EU-India cooperation in the field of water research

- **Water represents both for the EU and India a major societal and environmental challenge**
- **Research and innovation is indispensable to solve water problems and to reconcile contrasting interests and needs across and between human activities and ecosystem functions**
- **India-EU workshop on water technology research and innovation (9-10/11/2010, Bangalore, IN)**
- **India-EU and Member States Partnership conference for a strategic roadmap in research and innovation (11-12 November 2010, New Delhi, IN)**



Towards a strengthened international cooperation with countries for which water represents a major societal and environmental challenge

Recent example:

EU-India cooperation in the field of water research

- **Already identified: an array of common interests between Indian and European scientists, among which the EC and DST will work for defining the research priorities for a coordinated call on water research in 2012**

Integrated Urban Water Management (including storm water)	Water Purification (including decentralised cost-effective water treatment and water quality monitoring)	Integrated wastewater management for Reclamation & Reuse	Efficient use and management of water in agriculture	Integrated Sustainable Water Resources Assesment and Management
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As called for by the Innovation Union, the European Research Area must be completed within four years, putting in place the frameworks for a truly free movement of knowledge.

This applies to the Water field too!

This requires a major coordination exercise in Europe:

- **To avoid overlaps and unnecessary duplication**
- **To simplify procedures and make them more coherent**
- **To encourage participation, especially by SMEs**
- **To encourage cross-border cooperation**

Several ongoing developments such as the Water JPI, the CIS, the WssTP and a possible Water Innovation Partnership as foundations for a successful Water European Research Area with international outreach.



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THANK YOU

