

Joint Programming Initiative “Water Challenges for a Changing World”

NEWSLETTER

“All the water that will ever be is, right now”

April 1st, 2011

Issue # 6

EDITORIAL

Relevant efforts were required last month in order to push progress and show it. The milestones requested by the EC at our first EB meeting in January 19th were met: new Vision and Mapping documents were included in a comprehensive dossier. The dossier was submitted to the EC and presented to the GPC in March 15th. We have received external comments containing support and recognition messages. Thanks to all. We are now ready for the next challenge.

NEW PARTNER ON BOARD

We are glad to welcome Norway as a new JPI partner. Today our JPI is composed by 14 partners and counts on 6 observing countries.

THE DOSSIER FOR THE EC

The coordination team would like to thank all our partners and observers, as well as a number of GPC National representatives, for their leadership and valuable contributions on the elaboration of this dossier.

The dossier describes the current status of the JPI and puts together the main findings of the Water JPI Task Forces, particularly those for the Vision Document and Mapping. The dossier is available for download in a practical PDF format, with hundreds of links and a practical interactive Table of Contents. The main aspects of the dossier are discussed in the following paragraphs.

The logo gallery

The mapping exercise has revealed the existence of 48 research programmes in the 14 JPI partner countries. Since mapping will be a recurrent task of this JPI, more programmes will most likely be identified at the national and regional levels.

The new vision document (VD)

Thanks to the outstanding work performed by the Task Force and to the partner contributions received during the beginning of March, the new version of the VD has been finalised. As agreed at the kick off meeting, a new document structure has been implemented. Our VD has been simplified and shortened to about 15 pages. The document has been worded in a more direct and convincing style. At the same time, the document sticks to the consensus reached at the beginning of 2010. Feedback has been received from the EC to make this document even sharper. As a consequence, the ES and NL teams are currently working on a set of proposed modifications which will be submitted to the consideration of the GB.

The mapping exercise

Our mapping activities aimed at identifying public research programmes funding Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) in Member States and in selected FP7

Associated Countries. A total of 45 online surveys were received from 15 countries. This represents a very positive indicator of resources mobilization. The mapping section was completed through informal surveys obtained from 9 additional countries. All country and programme information was sent for review to JPI or GPC national contacts... excellent, coordinated work by the Task Force!

Surveyed information was considered complete in 13 countries. This information was used to calibrate a model for the estimation of public water RDI from national GDP, ratio of RTD expenses to country GDP and population. The model was applied to countries where surveys were not complete or not available at all. The following Table presents National Public Water RDI funding

estimates in different contexts.

JPI partners currently represent 52 % of current funding in EU Member States and Associated Countries. Achieving two-thirds of the funding (67 %) would be a relevant milestone that this JPI expects to reach soon.

Other Topics

The dossier also covers the latest developments in the implementation of the JPI governance, including the preparations for the implementation of the Advisory Board at the first meeting of the Governing Board. Finally the identified sources of information for the Strategic Research Agenda Thematic Analysis are presented.

GETTING READY FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

The first GB meeting is quickly approaching. The meeting will be held in Brussels in April 14th. Most of the JPI partners have already used the Letter of Intent template to nominate representatives at the Executive and Governing Boards and to express commitment to the initiative. There is still time to do it. The draft meeting agenda includes issues such as:

. Presentation by European Commission Representatives;

. Progress report on the activities performed since the kick off meeting;

. Establishment of the Scientific and Technologic Board and the Stakeholder Advisory Group.

. Prospects for the harmonization of RDI agendas and activities;

. Mandate to the Executive Board for future activities.

. Road-map for upcoming meetings

GPC MEETING

In March 15th a GPC meeting reviewed the evolution of all ten JPIs.

The EC presented the process for possible endorsement of the six JPIs composing the second wave. A template prepared by the EC will have to be filled in and submitted by April 20th. The EC will prepare a recommendation based on this information. A call text for a Coordination and Support Action designed for mature JPIs will be included in the respective 2012 Work Programme.

EVENTS

. The new website of the Hydrological Observatory of Athens was launched last month.

. WssTP Stakeholders Event in Brussels, 17- 18th May. We will be there and will present what the are currently doing!

. HyMeX workshop in Menorca (Spain), 17-19th May.

LINKS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Issues #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5.