Joint Programming Initiative

Water Challenges for a Changing World

PILOT CALL PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT

WATER JPI PILOT CALL FOR TRANSNATIONAL COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS

TOPIC: Emerging water contaminants – anthropogenic pollutants and pathogens

IMPORTANT DATES:
Pre-announcement: **20th September 2013**
Official announcement and call opening: **1st November 2013** **Documents available from the Water JPI website**
Proposals submission deadline: **19th December 2013 at 12.00 (CET) and 13.00 (FI)**
Funding decision announced: **May-October 2014**
Start of projects**: Autumn 2014**

A one-stage application procedure will be used in this call. Proposals (in English language) must be submitted electronically via the Academy of Finland online services. Instructions for submission will be published in the Call Announcement; however, registration to the online system is already open. Technical instructions for registration and electronic submission and guidance are available at http://www.aka.fi/en-gb/A/For-researchers/Online-service/. For further questions on registration, please contact the Call Secretariat: Mr. Harri Hautala (harri.hautala@aka.fi) or Ms. Kata-Riina Valosaari (kata-riina.valosaari@aka.fi).

The Joint Programming Initiative "Water Challenges for a Changing World" (the Water JPI) is an intergovernmental initiative aiming at strengthening European leadership and competitiveness in the field of water research and innovation whilst safeguarding water resources. The Water JPI is harmonizing and mobilizing National and Regional Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Programmes.
This Pilot Call for proposals aims to enable multi-national, collaborative research, development and innovation projects addressing the topic "Emerging water contaminants – anthropogenic pollutants and pathogens". This call theme is framed within the priority theme **"Developing Safe Water Systems for the Citizens"**, as described in the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) of the Water JPI. **The overarching aim of this Pilot Call of the Water JPI** is to identify new ways to efficiently assess, prevent, control and remove emerging pollutants and pathogens and thereby prevent human health risks and secure ecological functions of water ecosystems now and in the future. The call also intends to stimulate mobility of researchers between participating countries, consequently enhancing European collaborative research during the project life and beyond.

FUNDING ORGANIZATIONS from 10 countries:
RPF **Cyprus**; DCSR **Denmark**; AKA **Finland**; ONEMA **France**; BMBF **Germany**; EPA **Ireland**; MIUR **Italy**; RCN **Norway**; FCT **Portugal**; MINECO and CDTI **Spain**.

Within each selected consortium funding of the participating researchers will be provided by their respective national funding organisation according to their normal terms and conditions for project funding. The amount of public funding available for transnational collaborative research projects through this call is estimated almost up **to 9 M Euros**.

Proposals with duration of 24-36 months may be submitted by Universities, higher education institutions; public research institutes, industries, companies and SMES.
At least one of the three themes shall be addressed by applicants. Bullet points are only meant as examples.

1) **Identification and prevention of emerging freshwater contaminants** including but not limited to:
- Identification of new contaminants as well as their sources
- Prediction of environmental behaviour in surface water, sediments, soil, groundwater, aquatic food web, as well as in wastewater or drinking water systems
- Assessing the transfer time of the different contaminants between various environmental compartments as well as understanding the processes suffered during transfer
- Modelling transport and fate of emerging contaminants as well as the propagation of antimicrobial resistance
- Development of reliable, sensitive, innovative, and rapid analysis and detection systems
- Development of comparable and validated data sets on the prevalence and distribution of major contaminants in the freshwater environments
- Assessing the formation of transformation products (TP) and elucidating the processes leading to these TPs

2) **Control, mitigation and methods for treatment and removal** including but not limited to:
- Development, implementation and evaluation of management measures and technologies to control and reduce the dispersal and impact of emerging contaminants on water quality, especially under the aspect of water reuse
- Development of technologies for a more efficient removal of these contaminants at source or in urban or rural water treatment system
- Evaluation of treatment efficiency and implementation of existing and novel techniques. Including monitoring/sensor technologies
- Development, implementation and evaluation of mitigation options

3) **Impacts on ecosystem services and human health** including but not limited to:
- Impact assessment of emerging contaminants on ecosystem services (ecotoxicology) and human health (toxicology) at different scales, considering short-term and long-term aspects
- Development of integrated risk assessment methodologies for emerging contaminants; especially for those acting at sub-lethal level
- Estimation of health risks resulting from new water management practices, such as water reuse in urban areas
- Understanding and predicting the environmental behavior of emerging contaminants in surface water, sediments, soil, groundwater and in freshwater food webs

Tackling societal challenges always requires a multidisciplinary approach. Therefore, all submitted applications should emphasize participation of stakeholders and dissemination and exploitation of results. Consortia must include a minimum of three partners from three different Water JPI partner countries contributing to the funding of this call. Researchers from 1) Water JPI partner countries not funding this call; 2) Water JPI observer countries; or 3) Third countries can participate in the consortia at their own expense.