

PRESS RELEASE

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The high-quality research of Nireas-IWRC of the University of Cyprus is recognized by the Joint Programming Initiative on Water Challenges of the European Commission

The Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) “Water challenges for a changing world” deals with research in the field of water and hydrological sciences. The availability of water in sufficient quantities and adequate quality is indeed a public issue of high priority and addresses a pan-European and global environmental challenge.

The Council of the European Union decided to launch the JPI “Water Challenges for a Changing World” on 6 December 2011 as a contribution to the reduction of fragmentation of efforts by Member States and mobilisation of skills, knowledge and resources, with a view to strengthening Europe's leadership and competitiveness on water research and innovation.

Europe invests an estimated amount of 500 million € per year to fund public research and innovation activities in water. While European countries invest 370 million €, the European Commission invests 130 million €. The Joint Programming Initiative will actively cooperate with the European Commission to provide the European society with the maximum return of these investments. The Initiative responds to the grand challenge of “Achieving Sustainable Water Systems for a Sustainable Economy in Europe and Abroad”. No single European country can address this challenge by itself, due to the magnitude of the needed operations and to the geographical variation of the water problems. Responding to the grand challenge requires a joint multi-disciplinary approach, since outstanding economic, ecological, technological and societal challenges are to be addressed.



The WATER JPI currently counts on 20 partner countries: Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, Moldavia, Sweden. Also it has 4 observer countries: Belgium, Greece, Hungary, and Latvia.

In 2015, Dr. Despo Fatta-Kassinou has been re-elected by the Governing Board of the Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) 'Water Challenges for a Challenging World' as a member of the **Scientific and Technological Board (STB)**. It is noted that the STB now consists of ten members only. As per the JPI, the STB is comprised of Academia and

Industry experts conducting research, development and innovation in the fields of interest of this JPI. Members of the STB are visionary senior experts with recognised leadership in the specific relevant fields covered by the Water JPI. They come from public or private research and development institutions. The members of the STB, up to a maximum number of 10, serve in their individual capacity as independent of national or institutional affiliation. They are elected among the most pre-eminent scientists in the field. Their integrity is beyond doubt. The criteria for nomination are:

- Expertise in at least one of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda areas which are connected to key challenges for water issues
- Outstanding academic record (publications in peer-reviewed journals, patents / licenses, etc.) and international visibility and reputation
- Recent and active participation at European and International levels (e.g.: RTD projects, evaluation committee, etc.)
- Participation in science-policy initiatives

End of Press Release