

## INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

### IWRM-NET MID-TERM EVENT

**BRUSSELS**

**11-12 FEBRUARY 09**

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

#### **Summary:**

Over 50 delegates from 16 European countries met to find out about, and work on, ideas and processes to improve the Science Policy Interface in IWRM and develop the research agenda. The meeting was very successful and the following key-points were noted.

- **Science Policy Interface:**

- Different European countries have different approaches and different “communities” (scientific, operational, etc) have different languages
- Effective transfer of knowledge involves individuals learning, and is enhanced in a “community of practice”
- Organisations also have to “learn” and there are processes to enhance organisational learning
- Science-policy interface is not a linear process (demand ⇔ supply). There is a need for a different approach to research: co-construction; common objects; common activities
- There is a need for an IWRM community of researchers and river basin managers to take SPI forward

**Role of IWRM-NET:**

- The IWRM-NET projects of the first call could provide inputs to SPI-CIS mandate; examples of linking science and policy
- SPI should be pushed forward in IWRM-NET second call
- IWRM-NET to ask Water Directors for support through CIS SPI group to develop an IWRM community to promote the human aspects of SPI activities

- **IWRM research in Europe**

- The four IWRM-Net funded projects – FORECASTER, I-FIVE, KNAC and RIPFLOW - are very ambitious in their dissemination aspirations
- IWRM-Net is developing future IWRM research needs in Europe as well as more specific questions and issues for the 2<sup>nd</sup> IWRM-Net call to be made in July this year.

#### **Format of the meeting:**

*The meeting started with presentations on the **Science Policy Interface**.*

In a challenging presentation on making better use of water research in Europe, **Phillipe Quevauviller**, a scientific officer at DG Research, suggested that up to 80-90% of European research may be wasted because it does not cross the science policy ‘divide’.

He commented on the various European funding programmes (LIFE, INTERREG, etc) and the issues of differing timescales as well as cultural and language differences. While recognising the efforts of scientists to disseminate, he was concerned that their efforts were often unsuccessful because the results are not available in a language users can understand. He suggested that the newly formed CIS –SPI group could gather examples of successes and failures to build a programme for improvement.

*Next followed the experiences in several Member State's of developing applied research programmes for the WFD given by*

- **Stuart Kirk** an integrated catchment science programme manager and ex-WFD manager from the Environment Agency, England and Wales in the UK who emphasised the needs for close links between science and policy teams, written agreements, and partnership working. He called for a focus on improving the "Integrated" part of IWRM working.
- **Dr. Jochen Fischer** a representative of the German working group of the Federal states on water issues in ERA-Nets explained the "top-down meets bottom-up" approach in Germany to the transformation of research results, "step by step" and through workshops, ensuring their use in practice.
- **Prof Lucila Candela** from the Technical University of Catalonia and representative of the Ministry of Science and Innovation in Spain explained the recent Spanish experience in harmonising the programmes of various Ministries. She explained the plans for implementation in two particular programmes.
- **M. Bernard Barraqué** – Research Director, CIRED in France gave a short presentation during which he emphasised the distinction in sciences – social and natural – and the separation of "relevance" and "excellence" aspects of research programme proposals.

In a short question and answer session, there were responses on the ways to measure the impact of research, issues of timing, focus and various "languages", eg social and natural science, policy, media and research languages.

Following this, **Dr. Judy Payne**, a director at Hemdean Consulting, gave an inspiring presentation on conceptual approaches to knowledge transfer, in particular ways of "closing the research-practitioner loop". She explained the tensions involved in translation of knowledge from "learning mode" to "using mode", the processes and levels of learning in an organisation and suggested that the "Gap" between science and practice is where knowledge gets "lost after translation" because an organisation does not have appropriate mechanisms for change.

This talk excited considerable interest in the following plenary session, where issues raised and discussed included the use of "Web 2.0" as learning forum, aspects of political science and the dangers of having "an agenda".



*In pursuit of the second theme of the meeting – **IWRM research in Europe** – there were presentations of four IWRM-Net funded research projects.*

- **FORECASTER** – a project to develop hydro-geomorphological guidance for water managers with innovative, Google-maps based, dissemination given by **Prof Ian Cowx**. Case studies looking at the ecological effects of human activities in six countries will be used to develop guide-lines for water managers.
- **I-FIVE** – concerned with Institutional learning in a WFD context by **Eduard Interwies**. Investigators will join innovative institutions and looking at the instruments used to implement the WFD. Knowledge transfer will be through promotion of exchanges of experience.
- **KNAC** - a project on planning and decision making for hydro-morphological changes which aims to connect knowledge and action more effectively, given by **Prof Erik van Slobbe**. Co-creation of knowledge and the connections between knowledge and action will be studied in the Rhine basin. Knowledge management through developing communities of practice.
- **RIPFLOW** – a case study based project, aiming to model riparian vegetation given by **Prof Felix Frances**. This hydro-geomorphological study will be based on 2 way conversations between researchers and local authorities aiming to manage environmental regimes for the WFD.

**Stephen Midgely** of SNIFFER presented the work on-going within **IWRM-Net** to develop an agenda of **IWRM research needs for Europe** and topic areas for **IWRM-net's second call**. He discussed the mapping of national and regional research programmes in IWRM-Net partner countries, the difficulties of classification, and the recently developed web-based **IWRM-Net Community, Forum and Knowledge Management Tool**. The **Forum** classifies and summarises the research questions and allows interactive comment, while the **KMT** allows users to compare these with ongoing research programmes held in the IWRM-Net database. **Researchers** are asked for feedback on the research questions – relevance and whether it has already been worked on. **Funders** are able to see what issues are being addressed in other countries. **Policy-makers** can ask their own questions and find out where they may already have been addressed

*Finally there were half a day of workshop sessions on the two conference themes:*

#### **A. Improving Science/Policy communications**

“What does SPI mean for you?”

“What are the tools, methods and aims to improve Science Policy interface?”

**Key points** arising in this workshop included:

- Science-policy interface is not a linear process (demand leading to supply). There is a need for a different approach to research: i.e. co-construction; common objects; common activities.
- The IWRM-NET projects of the first call could provide inputs to SPI-CIS mandate; examples of linking science and policy
- SPI should be pushed forward in IWRM-NET second call
- The role of IWRM-NET network in the “human dimension” aspect of SPI

The **key points** captured in these workshops are in **Appendix II** below.



## **B. Developing an European IWRM strategic research agenda**

There were five separate workshops aimed to

- engage the wider stakeholders in the process of developing the research needs.
- build a process of engagement and ownership of the IWRM-net strategic research agenda
- develop and improving the IWRM-Net forum for IWRM research issues

Issues covered were:

Workshop B1 = Droughts and Ephemeral Streams

Workshop B2 = Integrated Pollution Management.

Workshop B3 = Foresight methodologies and questions

Workshop B4 = Management of River basins and floodplains

Workshop B5 = (Wetlands –cancelled)

Workshop B6 = Climate Change and adaptation

The **key points** captured in these workshops are in **Appendix III** below

### ***Feedback on the event::***

Overall responses to the event were positive. The presentations were mostly rated as good or very good, although some were too fast for non-native speakers. (The presentations are available on the IWRM-Net website – see [www.iwrn-net.eu](http://www.iwrn-net.eu)). Particularly positive responses were received to the concept of the event overall, the Science Policy Interface presentations and workshop and to the presentation on the conceptual approach to knowledge transfer (by Payne). Areas which it was suggested could be improved were the research questions, round-ups of points made and the time allowed for plenary discussion and interconnections as well as the length of the event (too short!).

A more detailed report of the event will be published on the IWRM-Net web-site as one of the IWRM-net deliverables.

Peter Allen-Williams  
IWRM-Net European Project Officer  
Environment Agency

March 09



## Appendix I – Final Programme

<b>WEDNESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY</b>	
<b>1300hrs</b>	<b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – GILLES NEVEU</b>
<b>SESSION 1</b>	<b>THE SCIENCE POLICY INTERFACE</b>
<b>KEYNOTE address – “Making better use of water research in the European Union”</b> <b>Phillipe Quevauviller – DG Research</b>	
<b>Experiences from Member States</b> in developing policy-relevant water research programmes in UK, Germany and Spain - the experiences of research managers	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>England &amp; Wales, UK – Stuart Kirk</b> – Integrated Catchment Science Programme manager and ex-WFD manager</li> <li>2. <b>Germany – Dr Jochen Fischer</b> - Representative of the German Working Group of the Federal States on water issues in ERA-Net</li> <li>3. <b>Spain – Professor Lucila Candela</b> – Technical University of Catalonia (UPC). Ministry of Science and Innovation (MICINN)</li> <li>4. <b>France – M Bernard Barraqué</b> – Research Director, CIRED</li> </ol>	
<b>Putting educational concepts into practice</b> – an academic and practitioner’s experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr Judy Payne</b> – Director Hemdean Consulting</li> </ul>	
<b>Plenary session</b>	
<b>SESSION 2</b>	<b>IWRM RESEARCH - PRESENT AND FUTURE</b>
<b>Presenting current research projects funded by IWRM-net</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>FORECASTER</b> – hydrogeo-morphological guidance for water managers - <b>Prof Ian Cowx</b></li> <li>• <b>I-FIVE</b> – institutional learning in a WFD context – <b>Eduard Interwies</b></li> <li>• <b>KNAC</b> - planning and decision making for hydro-morphological changes – <b>Prof Erik van Slobbe</b></li> <li>• <b>RIPFLOW</b> – modelling riparian vegetation– <b>Prof Felix Frances</b></li> </ul>	
<b>Developing IWRM research needs for Europe</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stephen Midgely</b> – IWRM-Net</li> </ul>	
<b>20.00 - EVENT DINNER – VENUE - UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION CLUB</b>	
<b>Session 3</b>	
<b>0900hrs – 1230hrs</b>	<b>THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY</b>
<b>09:00</b>	<b>SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS FROM WEDNESDAY – Gilles Neveu</b> <b>AQUATERRA - Presentation - Marc Rijnveld</b>
<b>09:30 First Working Group sessions</b>	
<b>10:45 Second Working Group sessions</b>	
<b>Contents of Parallel Working Groups</b>	
<b>Workshop A - Improving Science/Policy communications – (repeated before and after coffee)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• °What does SPI mean for you?</li> <li>• °What are the tools, methods and aims to improve Science Policy interface?</li> </ul>	
<b>Workshop B. Developing an European IWRM strategic research agenda (six separate workshop sessions)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• engaging the wider stakeholders in the process of developing the research needs.</li> <li>• building a process of engagement and ownership of the IWRM-net strategic research agenda</li> <li>• developing and improving the IWRM-Net forum for IWRM research issues</li> </ul>	
<b>Before coffee</b>	
<b>Workshop B1 (Room A ) = Droughts and Ephemeral Streams</b> <b>Workshop B2 (Room A ) = Integrated Pollution Management.</b> <b>Workshop B3 (Jean Willems ) = Foresight methodologies and questions</b>	
<b>After coffee</b>	
<b>Workshop B4 (Room A ) = Management of River basins and floodplains</b> <b>Workshop B5 (Room A = Wetlands (cancelled)</b> <b>Workshop B6 (Jean Willems) = Climate Change and adaptation</b>	
<b>12.00 – 12.30</b>	<b>PLENARY AND CLOSE</b>

## Appendix II – Resume of SPI Workshops

See also “Working Group A – keypoints.pdf”

### Working group A: « Improving Science Policy Communications »

Context: Science-Policy Interface (SPI) under the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS)

CIS process offers opportunities to move forward on science-policy interface between Member States which face shared challenges in the implementation of the Water Framework Directive. It is a route to find “user’s ears”. Integration of science in the process has been progressive in each working group of the CIS and there is a willingness to strengthen this process and to have it supported and facilitated. There is also a need for better integration and a cross-cutting vision among the groups and with other initiatives. This was the main rationale for the proposal to create a SPI group under the CIS process. A one-year pilot initiative was presented in November 2008 to Water Directors. A first meeting was held on 28 January 2009 to exchange about expectations from various stakeholders. The objectives of a SPI group were agreed:

- Compile feedback from users and identify future research needs accordingly
- Act as a translator to provide the policy makers with usable research results
- In support the different important deadlines of the WFD 2012, 2015, 2021, 2027

The pilot initiative would have two key outputs by the meeting of Water Directors in November 2009: a report to the Water Directors, providing a mechanism to compile feedback from users and identify future research needs accordingly, and highlighting what is available in terms of research relevant to the WFD and other relevant policies and research gaps; and a Mandate for a SPI group in the CIS work program 2010-2012 showing how the group can help to resolve problems and act as platform to connect actors.

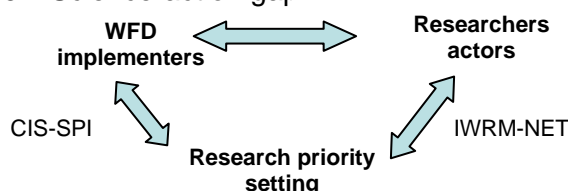
#### Objectives of the working group

What would be needed to promote uptake of scientific knowledge in river basin management for science and for policy, in order :

- o to improve IWRM-Net practices in terms of water stakeholders involvement in research programming and dissemination of scientific results phases
- o to give feedbacks to the CIS-SPI group.

#### Conclusions of the working group

- o Science-action gap



- o Interactive and continuous process

Science-policy interface is not a linear process (demand ⇔ supply). There is a need for a different approach to research: co-construction; common objects; common activities

#### Role of IWRM-NET:

- The IWRM-NET projects of the first call could provide inputs to SPI-CIS mandate; examples of linking science and policy
- SPI should be pushed forward in IWRM-NET second call
- Human dimension of SPI: role of IWRM-NET community in being part of this network

## Appendix III – Key points arising from Research Issues workshop

### River Basin Management

- Integrated River basin management should be a question on its own so that the focus will be on the integrated aspects and the regions, biomes, typologies etc such as floodplains and coastal management will be subtopics.
- Valuation of the resources including the economic, social, environmental aspects was agreed as something that should be included but too much of a focus on the economic aspects could reduce the political process and the consideration of other values.
- The group proposed a scientific check of a sample of river basin management plans to review the plans and investigate how to improve the process the next time round. It was recognised that the political nature of the documents meant that they were difficult to produce and it would be important to agree the criteria for the scientific review.
- Trust was an issue raised, on the basis that cooperative decision making relies on the development of dialogue between stakeholders and creating good communication between people. This includes the science policy interface.
- An important aspect of river basin planning is communication and education. It was proposed that research should investigate tools for communication and education and to support the development of capacity in this field.

### Water Scarcity and Droughts

- The inclusion of flooding was questioned, which led to the highlighting of context as important. The inclusion of flooding was on the basis that in Mediterranean countries they often deal with ephemeral flows and flash floods as a consequence of their geography.
- Land use management and river basin planning were discussed as a main theme that could then allow operational management of the issues such as water scarcity and droughts, controlling water demand, efficiency of use and looking at seasonal pressures. This was considered a pan-European issue that could easily be a call for research by IWRM-net.
- There was a debate on the use of Environmental Flow Regimes instead of Ecologic Flow Regimes. The majority preferred Environmental as this was a broader term but this was not agreed across the group. This was considered a cross-cutting issue that again could be a call theme in its own right.
- The development and use of indicators was proposed as a means of triggering management responses. They could also be used as a basis of comparison but this leads to difficulties with the varied topographies across Europe.
- Ephemeral streams were considered to be a difficult subject as there are problems with typology and reference conditions making them difficult to manage and tackle in terms of research. Little work was considered to be ongoing at the moment which perhaps recommends this as a topic for an IWRM-net call.