



International Cooperation in R&I and Water Services

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EurEau - Who we are

EurEau is the European federation of water services

We represent both **public** and **private** sector



We represent **32** national associations of **drinking and waste water operators** from **29** European countries

With **470,000 direct jobs**, we make a significant contribution to the European economy.

EurEau - What we do

- ▶ Our experts exchange knowledge
- ▶ We establish positions
- ▶ We engage with EU policy makers.



Involvement to date

- ▶ Not a regular task to collect this information but...
- ▶ We collected some information from our members (or members' members) from the survey but few answers so far – to be developed
- ▶ Individual companies or national associations are involved in projects
 - ▶ Generally at international – EU level
 - ▶ Sometimes with non-EU countries

Reason for non-participation

- ▶ Lack of national resources to allocate for joint action and to networking
- ▶ Difficulties to coordinate participation nationally
- ▶ Absence of national strategies/priorities or of alignment of these national priorities with international agenda
- ▶ Still they see added value for enhancing strategic positions of the involved partners

For the one that participate

- ▶ Activities that are not coming back:
 - ▶ Mobility of researchers
 - ▶ Summer schools / young researcher seminar
 - ▶ But, I was a Marie-Curie ITN for a waste water operator
- ▶ Otherwise all the other activities are covered
 - ▶ Joint calls
 - ▶ Development of RIA
 - ▶ Knowledge transfer
 - ▶ Mapping
 - ▶ Short-term exchanges
 - ▶ Good practices
 - ▶ RI/pilot/living labs sharing
 - ▶ Data/Platform sharing
 - ▶ Workshops

Types of projects

- ▶ Mostly INTERREG but also H2020
- ▶ Cooperation with various countries even for the same company
- ▶ Depend on opportunities and network.



Motivation

- ▶ Common motivations:
 - ▶ Accessing to existing knowledge, good practices and experiences to progress more rapidly
 - ▶ Contributing to increased and faster knowledge transfer from research results to public policies/policy-makers
 - ▶ Extension of market opportunities in a shorter time line
- ▶ For association:
 - ▶ Joining national resources at international level fro creating a critical mass necessary to tackle global challenges
 - ▶ Allowing alignment between national activities and processes
 - ▶ Contributing to increased and faster knowledge transfer to other stakeholders

Motivation

- ▶ For companies:
 - ▶ Setting a common and shared R&I agenda on areas of global challenges
 - ▶ Ensuring an International agenda that is also of national importance
 - ▶ Taking leadership worldwide in a given societal challenge



Barriers and bottlenecks

- ▶ For association
 - ▶ Lack of national financial resources to allocate for Joint Actions and to networking / follow-up of activities of interest
 - ▶ Absence of alignment of funding programmes and processes
 - ▶ Con-continuity in the RDI value chain
- ▶ For companies:
 - ▶ Lack of human resources for joining int. Cooperation
 - ▶ Complexity of rules of engagement
 - ▶ Intellectual Property Rights to be addressed and implemented in a proper and fair way

Added-Values

- ▶ Larger portfolio of activities
- ▶ Co-design and co-production of inter-transdisciplinary R&I
- ▶ Creating larger and impactful opportunities for national researchers to partner on a global scale
- ▶ Mutualizing efforts, in particular for activities with no immediate and large return on funding investments
- ▶ Providing a more exhaustive panorama of the existing R&I outputs treasure and of the research in progress
 - ▶ Leverage effect of research funding and trigger greater cost-efficiency
 - ▶ Enhancing strategic positions of the involved partners
 - ▶ Increasing impact of national programmes and outputs due to the international cooperations
 - ▶ Preparing the future by having access to different conditions

Key lessons learned

- ▶ Legal difficulties in establishing collaboration agreements
- ▶ Sharing information is important before, during and after the project and from other projects (innovation is everywhere)
- ▶ Benchmarking is important to improve
- ▶ Enlarge contacts, competences, knowledge sharing
- ▶ Results usually better than expected



Joint Actions

- ▶ Initiate is difficult
- ▶ Implement is difficult
- ▶ Monitor is not so easy or very difficult (but very important)



Conclusion

- ▶ Motivation seems to be slightly different from companies and associations
- ▶ International cooperation is highly valued in R&I
- ▶ Barriers are different from companies or associations: to be confirmed
- ▶ Unexpected value of outcomes, improved networking and shared knowledge, being pro-active to improve are the key lessons learned of engagement in international cooperations
- ▶ To be continued...



Thanks to all!

See you...

