NEWSLETTER

Issue # I "You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink"

November 1st, 2010

GETTING STARTED

We are happy to present you with the first issue of the Water JPI Newsletter. The goals of this monthly publication are to I) reinforce our visibility; 2) keep the internal energy level high; and 3) show where we are progressing and where we are not. The newsletter will let us know what we are doing in the scope of related initiatives and will remind us where we want to be. This publication is open to contributions from all of us... do not hesitate!

ECHOES OF THE KICK OFF MEETING

The kick off meeting was everything but boring. Due to an air control strike, reaching Brussels was not an easy task, and not everybody could make it. Our colleague **Wolfram** took a few pictures of the meeting. In one of them we can see three members of the Spanish team (**Alda**, **Estrella** and **José María**). They could not make it to Brussels and contributed by videoconferencing. A number of other colleagues could not make it at all.



Despite the strike, some 35 of us got together and worked in a long, very productive session. We hope we can gather even a larger crowd next time.

IPI TASK FORCES IN ACTION

Four <u>task forces</u> have been set up to reinforce the co-operative nature of our operation:

- Review of the Vision Document (VD) and preparation of a Terms of Reference document, led by Hans;
- Mapping water research in Europe.

- Taking steps to constitute the Advisory Board.
- Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) thematic analysis, led by **Manfred**.



Task forces will perform their activities during 3 to 6 months. In addition to these four task forces, we will use the period till the end of the year to define the tasks and profiles of national delegates to the Governing and Executive Boards, and communicate to the Organization the name of the National Delegates.

CIS-SPI EVENT. BRUSSELS, BE

We were invited by the Environment Directorate of DG RTD of the EC to participate in the "Water Science Meets Policy" event, making part of the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The meeting was held in September 30th, and was organized by the EC and by ONEMA, the French National Agency for Water and Aquatic Environments.

The Water JPI – represented by **Enrique** – acted as *rapporteur* of the working group on water and agriculture. The event covered a wide perspective of water issues and their policy implications. A <u>research agenda</u> has been published, which will be very useful to those taking part in our VD and SRA task forces.

FP7-ENVIRONMENT INFO DAY. DUBLIN, IE

Alice invited the JPI to present their activities at the event organized by the Environmental Protection Agency of Ireland on October 6th. The event was very rich in contacts, and the goals and vision of the JPI was presented to a wide audience of scientists, science and technology managers and civil servants in charge of environmental protection. Our presentation at the event can be easily adapted to suit similar events in other countries.

JPI CONFERENCE. BRUSSELS, BE

The Belgium Presidency of the UE organized a JPI Conference in October 18th and 19th. All actors involved in the design, construction and exploitation of successful JPIs presented their opinions. A number of these presentations can be downloaded from the Conference Portal,



CRUE CONFERENCE. MADRID, ES

The CRUE ERA-Net held its mid-term meeting last October 19th and 20th. The meeting reviewed progress in the funded projects, promoted interaction between scientists, research managers and stakeholders, and analysed the possibilities for further research funding. The Water JPI presented its views and prospects for future activities. Coordination between CRUE and the Water JPI is expected in a number of areas.

EC COMMUNICATION ON INNOVATION UNION

In October 6th the European Commission released their Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative on Innovation Union. This initiative was discussed at the Kick off Meeting, as reflected in the Minutes. One of the Innovation Partnerships is on "Water-Efficient Europe". On this issue, the Communication reads: "The aim of the Partnership is to promote actions that can speed-up innovation in the water sector and remove barriers to innovation. The

actions are intended to achieve the EU water policy objectives while reducing the EU water footprint, improving water security and promoting the worldwide leadership of the European water industry". This Communication may become very important for the future of this JPI.



UPCOMING EVENTS

The following events are scheduled to take place in the upcoming weeks:

- Indo-EU workshop on Water Technology Research and Innovation Collaboration. 9-10 November, 2010. Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. The JPI will be represented in this event aiming at establishing research priorities for the EU and India, with the view of developing common research actions. Fot our initiative, this represents a chance to increase our International visibility.
- India-EU and Member States Partnership for a Strategic Roadmap in Research and Innovation. Conference on Water and Bioresources Related Challenges.
 Delhi, India. 11-12 November 2010. This conference will discuss the priorities identified in the workshop above and set them up in the context of science in participating countries. A presentation will cover the nature and future development of the Water JPI.
- IWRM-Net ERA-Net final conference.
 Brussels, December Ist and 2nd. Our JPI will contribute with a presentation.

EARLY PLANNING FOR NEXT MEETINGS

- Executive Board Meeting: foreseen for January 2011.
- Governing Board Meeting: foreseen for February / March 2011.