

Networking Event in the field of water management and sanitation Europe - Africa - EECA 16th - 17th September - Vienna, Austria



133 participants from 37 different countries participated at the networking event of water management and sanitation in Vienna.

The participants coming from 13 African, 19 European and 5 EECA countries met in order to cooperate on the Africa Call of the 2010 Environment (incl. Climate Change) Work Programme. This cross thematic call had a budget of 63 million Euros with contributions of the FP7 Cooperation areas 'Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology', 'Environment (including climate change)' and 'Health'. The brokerage event - being a common initiative of the EU-funded projects ENV-NCP-TOGETHER and INTERLINK - was organised by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) in cooperation with ADEME and Projektträger Jülich and the support of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research, the Austrian Chamber of Commerce and the European Commission.



The aim of the two-day event was to initiate competitive research project proposals in the **field of water management, sanitation and sludge treatment.**

The first day was dedicated to providing background information about water research in the EU and opportunities for ICPC (International Cooperation Partner Countries) in FP 7. Andrea Tilche – Head of Unit for Environment, Technologies and Pollution Prevention – gave a short introduction into the strategy of the European Commission on water research, focussing on land use and drought. Asked about the Africa Call he emphasised the open approach of the 5 topics promoting participation of all African countries from North to South and East to West.



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In the **afternoon two Round tables** with the following topics took place.

Round table 1 (moderated by Andrea Tilche, European Commission):

**Examples of successful research projects of research cooperation with third countries
in the field of water**

Simon Kenfack – partner in the NETSAFF project – described the challenges of one of the first European-African Research projects in the field of water. The high number of experienced European partners in the project helped the African partners in dealing with their financial and legal issues.



Benedict Mutua – an African partner of the ROSA project and Günter Langergraber – the coordinator of the same project shared their experiences. Benedict Mutua focused on the necessity of financial and activity reports every 3 months in order to keep the project on track. Mr. Langergraber confirmed it by referring to a clear and strict project management. Both agreed on the fact,

that a small number of participants – African and European – simplify implementation considerably.

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Round table 2 (moderated by Jean-François Renault, Projektträger Jülich):

International Networks for water research

Enhancing research cooperation between EU and Third Countries



Six different International networks for water research presented their work and research capacities.

IWA - International Water Association - Sarah M. Tibatemwa,

IWA is a network of water professionals in science, research, technology and practice in the field of water. The most pressing issues the Africa office is facing are the improvement

of water quality and the promotion of environmentally sustainable urban water management practices.

The Africa office has a special programme for young water specialists. In this framework, several seminars and workshops are organised in order to raise awareness concerning various water issues.

ASKnet - The African Sanitation Knowledge Network - David Hawksworth

ASKnet is an initiative launched in February 2008 in order to enhance the ability of academics and professionals across the disciplines to contribute to the mainstreaming and up-scaling of sustainable sanitation in Sub-Saharan Africa, to the benefit of livelihoods, health, and the environment.

In the framework of ASKnet, two conferences have been organised in Mozambique and in Kenya to permit specialists in the field of sanitation to meet and exchange experiences.

WssTP - Water supply and sanitation Technology Platform - Céline Hervé-Bazin,

Liaison Officer, France, **Hans Zojer**, Joanneum Research Center, Austria

The WssTP is the European Technology Platform for Water. The WssTP was initiated by the European Commission in 2004 to promote coordination and collaboration of Research and Technology Development in the water industry and it has an NGO status since 2007.

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It is a network of water researchers and stakeholders and it delivers research and reports on specific issues. In an organisation of this kind working in the field of water, it is necessary to be transversal and to focus on communication tools.

Regarding their experience with Africa, WssTP has been asked by the Commission to analyse the obstacles to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. A dedicated report summarises the findings of this effort.

UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme - Natallia Rybianets, Executive Director of Belarus National Committee for UNESCO, Belarus

The MAB programme was launched in the 1970s. It notably targets the ecological, social and economic dimensions of biodiversity loss and the reduction of this loss.

EUWI Africa - EU Water Initiative, Africa Working Group - Robert Burtscher,

EUWI is a political initiative initiated by the Member States and the Commission in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The Africa working group has a multi-stakeholder approach. The purpose of this group is to make an effective joint (Africa-Europe) contribution to the achievement of water and sanitation related MDGs in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The African Ministerial Committee for Water is involved as a key partner.

SuSanA - Sustainable Sanitation Alliance - Arno Rosemarin,

SuSanA is a learning and working open platform formed by around 100 partners created in 2007. SuSanA contributes to the policy dialogue towards sustainable sanitation through its road map, its fact sheets from several working groups and through a collection of resource materials such as the website, DVDs, Google-based world map on sustainable sanitation projects and case studies.

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The second day was opened with an introduction about “Enhancing research cooperation between EU and Third Countries” by Nikolaos Christoforides from the Environment Directorate of DG RTD of the European Commission. Since FP7 every country in the world can be a partner of any research project in FP7. The European Commission supports and values the integration of international cooperation. This lecture was followed by an extended Q&A session regarding the Topics of the Africa Call and FP7 rules in general.

The highlight of the second day was the Brokerage Event in the field of water management and sanitation

During a time-slot of 3 hours, more than 150 one-to-one Meetings à 20 minutes were organised in order to give each participant the opportunity to talk and chat with the partners



of her/his choice. The main aim of these bilateral meetings was to support the fostering of possible cooperation within future FP7 projects.

