Joint meeting
STREAM / STEP-WISE / WaterDiss2.0

MINUTES

Kick-off Meeting – KOM
26 January 2011
Joint meeting: Brussels (BE)

For the Commission
Michel Schouppe

For STEP-WISE
Anneleen Coosemans (AVNet) (2nd part only), Mark Goodger (Hydro-International), Kees Kramer (Mermayde), Yael Meroz (2nd part only) and Klio Monokrousou (Quality Consult), Victor Ntegeka and Patrick Willems (KU Leuven), Jurgen Plyson (WISE-RTD Assoc.), Xenia Schneider (XPRO), Guido Vaes and Ilse Jansseune (HydroScan);
Excused: Bob Andoh (Hydro-International), Ildi Ipolyi (Quality Consult)
Rapporteur: Kees Kramer (Mermayde)

For STREAM
Paolo Cesaro (Minerva), Lisa Strubbe (European Water Partnership), Chiara Piccolo and Claudio Dondi (Menon Network), Nicola Tucci and Leonardo Piccinetti (Europe for Business)
Rapporteur: Paolo Cesaro (Minerva)

For WaterDiss2.0:
Gilles Neveu (OIEau), Stephen Midgley (OIEau), Darla Nickel (Ecologic), Zbigniew Sobocinski (Gdansk Water Foundation, Silviu Lacatusu (Romanian Water Foundation) Kerry Thomas (ESKTN), Andrea Goltara (CIRF), Simone Bizzi (CIRF), Beatriz Medina (Amphos21), Jerome Boudot (Tripnity)

Introduction

Michel Schouppe, the project officer (PO) for the three projects STEP-WISE, STREAM and WaterDiss2.0, welcomed all partners and participants from the three projects. He presented an overview of the organisation of research funding under DG RTD (notably the Environmental Technologies within the Environment Directorate), briefly presented the three projects, general management and financial issues and focussed on expected synergies between the three projects (see file KM_SPI-cluster_project-officer.pdf distributed by e-mail).

Following the three projects presented themselves. For STREAM by Paolo Cesaro (see KM_introduction_STREAM.pdf), for STEP-WISE by Kees Kramer (see KM_Introduction_STEP-WISE.pdf), and for WaterDiss2.0 by Stephen Midgley (see KM_introduction_WaterDiss.pdf).

Discussion

In the discussions some points were more detailed/highlighted:

⬥ Collaboration with the projects selected under topic ENV.2010.5.1.0-2 aiming at promoting innovative environmental research practices and results originating in the region of the Central and Eastern Europe (ENVIMPACT, PROCEED) is foreseen. The PO will provide the contact details to the project coordinators.

- All three projects started 1st January 2011, STREAM and STEP-WISE for 2 years duration, WaterDiss2.0 for 3 years. The 1st Reporting Period ends on 31/12/2011, the second 31/12/2012 (for WaterDiss2.0 after 18 and 36 months). The formal management reports shall be submitted by the respective coordinators electronically within 60 days to ECAS (https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/ecas). Payment shall take place within 105 days after submission of the reports (provided the reports are approved by the Commission). Access rights to ECAS for the Coordinator are attributed by the PO, for the individual beneficiaries by the Coordinator. It was stressed by the PO that in the reporting there shall be due attention for the cooperation between the projects.

- Beneficiaries are advised to look for more information on FP7, legal issues related to implementation and guidance documents (e.g. on financial issues and reporting) at http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/find-doc_en.html.

Common coordinated/shared activities:

- The Commission would appreciate that the three projects will present themselves as a *cluster of projects*, all three related to the dissemination of RTD in the water sector. Examples of such clusters are FP7 'The nano4water cluster' (www.nano4water.eu), and the FP6 'MBR Network (http://www.mbr-network.eu/). A common template is considered essential. It was agreed to have one common home page for the cluster where the three projects will be visible by logo and possibly a short (common) text. Each cluster project will have one page to highlight its objectives and consortium partners, on which direct links to the respective project websites will be established. Vaes will take the lead and propose to STREAM (Cesaro) and WaterDiss2.0 (Neveu/Midgley) a common layout.
In support of back-to-back organisation of / contribution to events, a common calendar of activities and a shared 'dashboard' will become available on this website (Vaes/Neveu/Cesaro).

- A common approach towards a joint *collection of project inputs* from the cluster projects is stressed (common list of projects, joint design/review of questionnaire(s), coordinated contacts with project coordinators, shared mailing list, etc.). Between the projects there is a layered approach in terms of number of projects on their respective short lists: STEP-WISE > WaterDiss2.0 > STREAM. The detail of information requested is opposite.

  o It was agreed that WaterDiss2.0 (Neveu) will send out their long list of 136 projects (with identification of which projects are short-listed in WaterDiss2.0) to Kramer and Cesaro; this list will be merged with their respective long lists; these long lists will be circulated between the cluster projects in order to check for gaps.

  o A common questionnaire will be prepared by WaterDiss2.0 and STREAM, to which STEP-WISE will add one short contribution;

  o All three projects will collect contact details with coordinators of projects, which will be shared; to avoid repeated interaction, only one project will contact the respective projects; STEP-WISE will not request information from coordinators other than via the questionnaire;

  o In support of a better introduction to the project coordinators, the PO was asked to prepare a joint RTD/ENV letter introducing the cluster and asking coordinators

to support the actions by the respective cluster projects. Kramer will send to the PO the letter that was used by the project SPI-Water.

♦ The projects STREAM and STEP-WISE shall aim at common *eLearning* activities, visualised under the same platform. Working arrangements/contacts between AVNet (Coosemans) and Menon (Dondi) have been established. It was agreed to have a horizontal cooperation between the two e-Learning activities, for this purpose a meeting between the partners involved in both projects will be organised at the beginning of February. Topics to address could include Water policy, Water technologies, RTD results, and Implementation.

♦ Agreed common events:

- o Green Week, organised every June by the Commission; it was advocated to aim at June 2012 (by June 2011 few results will be available); date to be confirmed;

- o World Water Forum (12-17 March 2012), Marseille (FR); subject: "Forum of Solutions";

- o World Water Week (Aug 2012, deadline Feb 2012), Stockholm (SE); caters for science and policy and thus seems to link will to the project(s); date to be confirmed;

- o Final conference, in project month 23 (November 2012; presumably in Brussels); Final STREAM Symposium at European Parliament foreseen in November 2012 (M23) which could be the common final conference of STREAM and STEP WISE.

- o The cluster projects will participate at the CIS-SPI (Science Policy Interface) meeting in September 2011 (topic: ecosystems); date to be confirmed; flexible support is foresee in function of the developments of various other EU water initiatives such as Water Joint Programming Initiative, European Innovation Partnership on Water, and Water Joint Programming Initiatives;

- o Contributions to other events, e.g. by one participant from another cluster project or an eLearning/ePresentation (ppt) is foreseen at e.g. STREAM policy seminars (in ES, NL, PL) and at the European parliament in Brussels.

♦ In support of a maximum and lively impact all partners are requested by STREAM to look for *audio-visuals* on projects/project results that may be used in the eLearning tools or other dissemination actions.

♦ For a *common repository* of project results WISE-RTD+ could serve; however, since WISE-RTD tries to limit the function of a repository (as it aims to hyperlink to information), project result would be better uploaded to the common cluster website;

♦ Regular contacts:

- o Regular web conferences between the coordinators will be made; an option for this is by using Adobe Connect (OIEau/Neveu has a contract and it can be used by the other coordinators free of charge);

- o In order to follow up on progress (and problems) the PO expressed the wish to have contact with the coordinators at 6 months intervals.