The implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and its daughter directives, as well as the Floods Directive, is not a “business-as-usual approach” and constitutes an exceptional challenge to water managers and governments across Europe. Assessments of the current status of implementation have shown that less than 40% of water bodies will meet the Good Ecological Status in 2015. Meeting these objectives in the long run will require additional knowledge and know-how in terms of designing measures and management approaches. This knowledge is to a large extent generated by EU-funded research, but insufficiently applied to address the challenges occurring in the context of WFD implementation.

The goal of the WaterDiss2.0 project is to find solutions for better water management within the research available and speed-up its transfer and diffusion to knowledge users. Under the banner of the Science-Policy Interface (SPI), the WaterDiss2.0 project supports dissemination and innovation processes and help key actors to more quickly improve processes and methodologies in water management.

Water practitioners and researchers share a common interest in catalyzing the transfer and use of EU-funded water research outputs in order to meet the policy aims set out in the Water Framework Directive and related directives. The WaterDiss2.0 project, funded within the Seventh Framework Programme for research and technology development (FP7), aims to improve the processes of research communication and uptake and adds an intermediate step after research, much like a marketing team in industry. From 2011 until 2013, the WaterDiss2.0 consortium will be working to speed up the transfer of FP water research results to intended users with the support of events designed for specific audiences and by engaging scientists, policy makers and water managers in the European Water Community. (www.europeanwatercommunity.eu)

During the initial project phase, the focus of WaterDiss2.0 has been upon assessing the needs and requirements for improving the dissemination and uptake of research results. For a selection of 60 FP6 and FP7 projects, the WaterDiss2.0 consortium is now looking to analyse the potential futures of the research outputs in close collaboration with the research teams and to design and help realise dissemination strategies for each individual project.

With this conference, the WaterDiss2.0 consortium aims to introduce, discuss and validate our approach to communicating results of EU-funded water research and to promoting their uptake in the water sector. We aim to emphasize how the WaterDiss2.0 process can be a normal component of the dissemination step of every research project. Finally, by bringing together practitioners and scientists, the conference will serve as a platform to build and strengthen networks of water professionals, an essential tool in order to better protect our European water bodies.

More information on: www.waterdiss.eu/cc
WaterDiss2.0 Swapshop: Getting research results to help you innovate
Pollutec - Paris, 1 December 2011

Focalized on research and innovation area and attended mainly by technicals experts and water managers, Pollutec 2011 is an opportunity to promote our tools by organizing a workshop entitled “Getting water research results to help you innovate”.

This workshop is an opportunity for the WaterDiss2.0 consortium to present to the potential users of research results, tools and methodologies developed to make access to these results fluid and fast. Water stakeholders going to be inform of how the WaterDiss2.0 project and the tools developed can be a valuable help in access to information on water research results and contribute to the emergence of innovative solutions.

The first part will introduce the social network called “European Water Community” and its contribution in terms of thematic access to information exchanges, contacts with all water stakeholders including the research.

A second part will present our dissemination methodology illustrated by concrete analysis examples of european projects whose results are likely to be valued in water technical fields or dealing with resources management and the impacts on human activities.

From research to innovative solutions, the WaterDiss2.0 project sheds new light and new opportunities for the use and ownership of research results by water stakeholders.

More information on: www.waterdiss.eu

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News from the SPI Water Cluster

Common activities

WaterDiss2.0 is also involved in the SPI-Water Cluster including the two other projects dealing with science-policy interfacing in water management: STREAM and STEP-WISE. These projects have as main objective the dissemination and uptake of FP environmental research results with tangible impact on economic growth and social welfare.

The cluster will be represented at the World Water Forum in Marseille in March 2012. This event is in accordance with the European session on science-policy interfacing.

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Join us on the European Water Community

The community is a communication platform with the aim to connect science with policy to improve water management in Europe.

It is open to all those interested in the science-policy interface, where you can exchange ideas and information regarding research projects, results and research needs between scientists, policy makers and water managers.

It is coordinated by the International Office for Water and supported through a number of projects and the consortia involved such as WaterDiss, WaterRtoM, IWRM-Net SCP.

Join us on: www.europeanwatercommunity.eu