



INVITATION

SPLASH EUWI-ERA-NET Workshop
on
“Research Management for Water for Development”
Incorporating best practices into research programmes

21-22 May, Copenhagen, Denmark

Are you a research or project manager in the field of water for development?

If yes, read on. We would like to invite you to attend a 1 ½ day workshop to be held in Copenhagen in May 2008.

Workshop Focus

- Do you know how the findings of research you fund are used?
- Do you know if they are used at all?
- Do you know if policy makers are taking up the results of your research?
- Do you know what you can do as a research manager to promote innovation and research uptake through your programmes?
- Do you know what you can do as a project manager to promote innovation and research uptake through your projects?

Your active participation in the workshop will tell you things you can do to improve the likelihood of the above happening. You will come away from the workshop with knowledge of how your peers are approaching the issues above in terms of how research programmes are structured to stimulate innovation. You will also gain an understanding of the constraints that project managers face in their attempts to ensure that research is used effectively.

A key objective of SPLASH is to establish a **joint research programme** with input from all stakeholders including you. Consequently this workshop has a secondary objective which is to provide a platform to network peers within the EU research management and wider water for development project management fraternity and for us to garner your insights into the shape of and priorities of a joint research programme.

To achieve these objectives, the workshop design will draw on **knowledge management** principles, chiefly **‘storytelling’**. ‘Storytelling’ involves narrative development based on an anecdote(s) and is a powerful way to distribute information in a context specific and therefore meaningful way. It is a flexible technique designed to be fairly informal while encouraging multiple interaction within a structured discussion topic.



In summary, the workshop will provide you with an opportunity to share your experiences with and learn from your peers in a stimulating yet informal setting. We are confident you will benefit through new ideas and have some of what you already know affirmed, and made more insightful for being presented in a different perspective.

Who will attend?

The workshop will gather together **research managers** (people managing research programmes within EU member state funding agencies), **research project managers** - (people who manage research project) and **knowledge management experts**.

Who will facilitate the workshop?

Two key speakers will present. The first will speak to how knowledge management techniques can be interwoven into research and project management to assist the innovation process and the second speaker will bring the perspective of approaches to stimulating innovation from a different sector. The knowledge management experts will facilitate the workshop sessions.

Please see below for more details about the workshop programme.

We will appreciate a response as to your interest and availability as a participant at the workshop by 7 May 2008. Sponsorship may be available for participants from developing countries. SPLASH partners and others will be self-sponsored. **Please write to:** dwf@danishwaterforum.dk indicating your name, position, work address and e-mail address.

Accommodation: We will send you a list of hotels centrally located in Copenhagen.

Workshop venue in Copenhagen: Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen

Yours sincerely

Peter Furu (pfu@life.ku.dk) and
Jesper Dannisoe (jda@dhigroup.com),

Danish Water Forum

What is SPLASH?

The EU Water Initiative (EUWI) SPLASH Era-NET is a consortium of 15 EU member and associated states' ministries, funding agencies and national RTD authorities from 11 European countries. The project aims to improve the effectiveness of EU member state funded research on water for development and to develop capacity of local organisations to coordinate and communicate research activities. The project focus is Africa and the Mekong region. The project coordinator is the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom.



Tentative workshop programme

21 May 2008

- 12.00 Registration (sandwiches and beverages available)
- 13.00 Official opening of the workshop
- 13.15 Research management from the perspective of the development agency - constraints that affect programming and how these are being addressed.
- Speaker 1
- 14.00 Q&A
- 14.15 Research management from the perspective of a project manager - constraints that affect project implementation and how these are being addressed
- Speaker 2
- 15.00 Q&A
- 15.15 Refreshments
- 15.30 **Storytelling session:**
- Facilitated plenary session inviting all participants to tell stories on their respective research management experiences.
- Documentation of good and less good experiences.
- 17.15 Wrap-up session
- 18.00 End of Day 1.

22 May 2008

- 09.00 Recapitulation of yesterday's proceedings
- 09.15 Presentation of themes for the workshop session
- 09.30 **Workshop sessions:**



Suggested themes for workshop sessions (group discussions)

- Drivers of research priorities (researchers; policy makers, users)
- Constraints in programming (dissemination; GRIPP process, etc.)
- Monitoring / ensuring value for money
- Trans-boundary collaboration (barriers, overcoming barriers; experiences of success)
- Capacity building in RM (human resources, managerial capacity; social capital, tangible resources)
- Feed-back loop of best practices in RM for a joint call

10.30	Refreshments
10.45	Workshop sessions (cont.)
12.00	Lunch
13.30	Wrap-up by groups and preparation for plenary presentation.
14.00	Plenary presentations of key learnings from sessions
15.00	Refreshments
15.30	Discussion session including key recommendations
16.15	Workshop conclusion
16.45	Closing of workshop
