



Making a SPLASH!

Newsletter 7 – September 2009

NEWS FROM SPLASH

1. Update on SPLASH key objectives:
 - **Objective 1:** *To improve coordination between existing SPLASH partner-funded research programmes in order to exploit potential synergies and reduce duplication*
 - **Objective 2:** *To understand what constitutes good research management practice and ensure that this is known and used*
 - **Objective 3:** *To improve knowledge sharing between researchers and practitioners to help to speed up the use of research findings, and to ensure that new research is demand led*
 - **Objective 4:** *To agree a research agenda and jointly funded activities which can benefit from a transnational approach, that is, with more than one European partner working together*
 2. Looking forwards
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1. Update on SPLASH key objectives

Since SPLASH began in January 2007, it has made good progress on its four key objectives. These are listed below, together with details of recent activities and resources resulting from them.

Objective 1: To improve coordination between existing SPLASH partner-funded research programmes in order to exploit potential synergies and reduce duplication

SPLASH has developed a number of new public online resources in line with this objective:

- **Water for Development Yellow Pages**
The Water for Development Yellow Pages seeks to capture the many water research for development projects carried out by different institutions and funded by a variety of donor organisations, and the plethora of repositories and portals that contain information relating to these. It can be searched by the categories of university and research institutes, research projects and programmes, information portals and repositories, and electronic discussion lists. Full website details are provided, including the main organisations involved and the research outputs they produce. Please visit: <http://www.splash-era.net/yell/index.php>
- **SPLASH Capacity Building Directory**
This directory provides an overview of international capacity development initiatives in the water sector. Capacity development is defined as the process by which individuals acquire adequate technical, managerial and financial skills to enable them to do their jobs. It also refers to the

process by which organisations take deliberate steps to construct an enabling environment to support their staff in performing their duties.

Its target audience is anyone interested in knowing who is involved in capacity development in the water sector. If you know of or are involved in an initiative not already in the directory, or if you would like to update your entry, there is a link provided to do this.

Please visit: <http://splash-era.net/cbd/index.php>

▪ **SPLASH fact sheet series**

SPLASH has produced a number of fact sheets, which synthesise some of its key outputs. Additional fact sheets will be added. Those currently available are:

- Fact sheet 1: A review of national research programmes on water, science and technology for development
- Fact sheet 2: Research management: doing it right
- Fact sheet 3: Lessons for improved uptake of research in policy and practice
- Fact sheet 4: Recommendations for improved uptake of research in policy and practice
- Fact sheet 5: Uptake of research in policy and practice: Perspectives of policy makers and researchers
- Fact sheet 6: Online Water for Development Yellow Pages
- Fact sheet 7: Research management: Online Directory of International Capacity Development Programmes
- Fact sheet 8: Uptake of research in policy and practice: The influence of policy research on government policies

Please visit http://splash-era.net/search_outputs.php#fs

Objective 2: To understand what constitutes good research management practice and ensure that this is known and used

▪ **Training materials on research management**

As reported in the July newsletter, SPLASH is developing open source training materials on research management, in order to fill an identified gap, and also to disseminate findings from earlier SPLASH work on good research management practice. SPLASH aims to have the materials ready for piloting early in 2010. The course developers still welcome suggestions for the course content and mode of delivery. We would particularly like to hear from any individual or organisation that might use the course, and who would be interested to pilot it when developed. Your views will assist us in developing a course that fits your needs.

Please contact Frank Odhiambo: f.o.odhiambo@lboro.ac.uk

Objective 3: To improve knowledge sharing between researchers and practitioners to help to speed up the use of research findings, and to ensure that new research is demand led

▪ **SPLASH lessons learned on the uptake of research**

A workshop in October 2008 provided a platform to synthesise eleven lessons learnt across the SPLASH work programme, which would improve the uptake of research results, relating to all stages of the research cycle, from inception to monitoring and evaluation. More detail is available in fact sheet 3 at http://splash-era.net/downloads/SPLASH_Fact_Sheet_3.pdf

Three lessons relate to the dissemination of research results: firstly, that this activity is often still very inadequate; that existing knowledge could be used more to prevent duplication of research;

and that more needs to be known about how intermediary actors can increase the use of research results. A set of corresponding recommendations were also developed, aimed specifically at the stakeholder groups of funders, research institutions and research programmes. These recommendations provide guidance on making effective dissemination of research results at programme and project level a requirement; on increasing the coordination of existing programmes; and on recognising the role of and actively supporting intermediary organizations. More detail is available in fact sheet 4 at:

http://splash-era.net/downloads/SPLASH_Fact_Sheet_4.pdf

- **Regional training on Groundwater Management for Water Managers:
The Role of Hydrogeological Science**

In July 2009, the African Groundwater Network (AGW-Net) in cooperation with SPLASH and Cap-Net hosted a training course entitled "Groundwater management for water managers: A role for hydrogeological science" at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. The purpose of this course was to describe the role of hydrogeological science in supporting emerging issues and practices in the management of groundwater for non hydrogeologists.

This very successful training course was organized by Professor Tamiru A. Abiye. A total of 13 participants from 10 African countries attended, most of whom were civil engineers and hydrologists, from water ministries and water bureaus. In addition to Professor Abiye and the AGW-Net co-ordinator Richard Owen, two SPLASH partners with backgrounds in hydrogeology (from BGR and GEUS) gave lectures. The course also included discussions and working groups.

It is expected that course participants will disseminate knowledge from this that will lead to common management strategies for groundwater in Africa, where appropriate. It is also planned for SPLASH to support a subsequent workshop in 2010. The format and topic of this will depend on the results of an evaluation of the July training course.



Objective 4: To agree a research agenda and jointly funded activities which can benefit from a transnational approach, that is, with more than one European partner working together

▪ **Jointly-funded activities**

SPLASH conducted a series of consultations which identified research themes that would benefit from a jointly funded approach.

SPLASH donors have agreed to fund a research programme which will examine the delivery chain for sanitation services, with a geographic focus in sub-Saharan Africa. The call for proposals is being developed and is expected to be launched in March 2010.

For more information, contact Manfred Kaufmann (mkaufmann@ethz.ch).

2. Looking forwards

During a meeting in Berne in July, SPLASH donors have also positively responded to:

- A request to support the African Ministers Council of Water (AMCOW) and African Ministers Council on Science and Technology (AMCOST) initiative to develop a network of centres of excellence in water science and technology in Africa;
- A proposal to establish research needs for the sustainable development of small scale hydropower development in the Mekong River Basin; and
- A request to support a coordination initiative in the Niger River Basin between ongoing research programmes.

Our work will start in November 2009.

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Visit the SPLASH Website: <http://www.splash-era.net>