



Making a SPLASH!

Newsletter 13 – April 2011

NEWS FROM SPLASH

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1. One year extension for SPLASH

SPLASH was originally scheduled to finish at the end of 2010. However, in February, SPLASH was granted a one year no-cost extension using the remaining funds received from the EU. This gives an opportunity to complete ongoing activities and to ensure further dissemination of findings and lessons learned from SPLASH. Under this extension, the project will now end on the 31st of December 2011.

2. Coordination of SPLASH by the Danish Water Forum (DWF)

The Danish Water Forum, on behalf of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has taken over coordination of SPLASH from the UK DFID, with the agreement of all other SPLASH partners and the EU.

Key people from DWF working on SPLASH are:

- **Dr. Palle Lindgaard-Jørgensen**
Project Coordinator
Palle Lindgaard-Jørgensen is Deputy Chairman of DWF and Head of Innovation of DHI Water Policy. Dr. Lindgaard-Jørgensen has been working with development assistance and water for more than 20 years and has been working actively to support the EU Water Initiative in Eastern Europe and Central Asia region.

- **Ms. Miriam Feilberg**
Project Manager

Miriam Feilberg has a background in public administration and is presently working as project manager for DHI and as Network Coordinator in the Danish Water Forum, where she is coordinating a Knowledge Network for Water and Development. She is also involved in a research project on CSR and water management.

- **Ms Hanne Berthelsen**
Technical Assistant

Hanne Berthelsen is the secretary of the Danish Water Forum and will assist SPLASH in arranging meetings, travel and other logistics.

3. New work plan for SPLASH

At the SPLASH Funders Meeting in Brussels in October 2010, decisions were made on how to spend the remaining funds. It was agreed that half of the funds will be spent in the following ways:

1. Lobbying for a next phase of SPLASH, to be funded by FP7. If this is successful, follow-up activities and proposal writing will be prioritized.
2. Maintaining contact and liaison with the EUWI working groups.
3. Continuation of dissemination activities of the lessons and results of SPLASH, to ensure that the SPLASH profile remains high during this critical time.

4. Moving ahead with the pilot of the Research Management training materials.

In addition to these, funders also chose, from several possible concept notes, two activities to be taken forwards:

- A jointly funded call focusing on Decision Support Systems (DSS) for water resources management. Switzerland will provide some support to take this forwards, with an additional contribution of up to €50,000 of remaining SPLASH funds. This activity will draw on the experience of the SPLASH sanitation call.
- Work on groundwater management and sharing European lessons on this topic will be prioritized and will be supported with up to €50,000 of remaining SPLASH funds. An additional €60,000 will be provided by BMZ through BGR. The aim of this is to carry out a needs assessment and further work on groundwater management in transboundary basins.

4. SPLASH Research Management training materials

Within SPLASH, work package 3 is dedicated to implementing studies in research management. A key finding of these studies is that research management is not taught formally at any level of education and as a consequence, many researchers do not have a clear idea of good practice in this area. As a result of this finding, both SPLASH's Scientific Advisory Council and its funding agency partners endorsed an idea to develop a course on research management. The course would include units on the preliminaries of responding to a call; proposal development; contract negotiation; managing the research; dissemination, communication and uptake; and monitoring and evaluation. By the end of 2010, a draft of the course was ready for peer review and this took place during a meeting of the NEPAD centres of excellence in water, (southern-Africa chapter), held in Stellenbosch, South Africa in February 2011.

At this meeting, representatives of the centres of excellence devoted two days to reviewing all the individual course units, giving recommendations for improvements and suggestions for additional content as appropriate. They also discussed potential modalities for delivering the course when launched and gave advice on how to improve pedagogical aspects of the course; for example, types of activities to include in the course material aimed at enriching the learning experience by introducing activities relating to self- and group-learning. This review and feedback was most valuable and will considerably strengthen the course to meet the needs of its users.

The final three stages of the course development are:

- to incorporate changes suggested by the centres of excellence and prepare a framework to pilot the course;
- to run the pilot in a face-to-face classroom setting; and
- following completion of the pilot, to finalize the course ready for launch before November 2011.

The course will be available in a ready-to-use format, free of charge to universities and research institutes that are interested to either introduce research management into their curricula or offer it as a short course. Further updates will be made available as the final three stages are completed. For further information, please contact Dr. Frank Odhiambo F.O.Odhiambo@lboro.ac.uk.

5. SPLASH future events

And finally, SPLASH will be hosting a side event 'SPLASH – Sharing Experience and Future Plans' at the next WEDC International Conference, which runs from 6-8th July 2011 in Loughborough, UK, see <http://www.wedconference.co.uk/>

We very much hope to see you there!

Contact SPLASH:

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Please forward this newsletter to anyone you think may be interested. Thank you!