



LETTER OF INTENT

BETWEEN EURAQUA – European Network of Freshwater Research Organisations

AND PEER – Partnership for European Environmental Research

DATED 16 September 2009

BACKGROUND

The two organisations, EURAQUA and PEER, recognise that they have many objectives and research interests in common. There are clear benefits of a close cooperation to optimise the synergy of their activities. This is essential especially for the relations with the European Commission, DG Research, DG Environment, JRC, EEA and other international bodies in the field of Environment.

There are common partnerships of member institutes in both networks.

EURAQUA and PEER agree to establish a framework for supporting cooperative activities and for advancing the respective field of interest of the two organisations. Strategic development to secure pressure towards environmental research and implementation of results is one such issue. From time to time, current work plans for specific activities will be shared and/or developed for joint purposes, implementing the aims of this letter.

THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

- 1) In conformity with their network regulations, EURAQUA and PEER are mutually interested in water and environmental research and will:
 - a. Share expertise and resources in cooperative research and development activities and their applications, as well as in prospective activities and scientific brainstorming;
 - b. Participate in knowledge transfer through cooperative demonstration projects, short courses and symposia;
 - c. Encourage the exchange of research personnel between their institutes;
 - d. Report on the collaborative research in the manner agreed for each specific project.

- 2) The activities should be coordinated by a Coordinating Committee consisting of both chairs and secretaries and up to two selected experts for each network not belonging to the same institutions as chairs and secretaries. They shall meet physically or organize a videoconference at least once a year and develop a joint work plan for the cooperation. The secretaries will be in charge of the management of the Coordinating Committee.
- 3) The two parties will together investigate and consider the matters set out in this Letter with the aim of achieving future collaboration. Where the parties agree on areas from which mutual benefit can be achieved, the parties will sign an appropriate agreement for the purpose when necessary.
- 4) The Coordinating Committee should also consider strategic issues of common interest and take initiatives to explore further cooperation activities.
- 5) The PEER Directors Board and the EurAqua Management Board agree on information exchange and mutual reporting on all developments that are of interest for both sides.
 - The EurAqua Chair will be invited to attend the PEER Directors Board meetings when topics of mutual interest need to be discussed and vice versa.
 - EurAqua invites PEER to be an observer in the Management Board of EurAqua
- 6) Results of the collaboration should be promoted mutually, e.g. the PEER web pages will specifically refer to EurAqua and the EurAqua web pages specifically refer to PEER.
- 7) To secure the information flow between the two organizations Agendas for MBMs will be exchanged, documents shared and PEER members will have access to EurAqua internal home pages.
- 8) This Letter of Intent is not legally binding and serves only as a record of their consensus.
- 9) The Letter of Intent shall remain in force until 01.04.2013 and can be renewed according to the wish of the parties. It may be extended in its present form, or in a modified form by mutual written agreement. Any party shall have the right to terminate this Agreement and the Project without cause upon ninety (90) days prior notice to the other party. Termination shall not affect any rights or obligations which have accrued prior thereto.

Signed for and on behalf of **PEER**
by

P.A. Nuttall

Professor Patricia Nuttall
PEER Chair

Signed for and on behalf of **EURAQUA**
by

Merete D. U. Stein

MERETE D. U. STEIN
EurAqua Chair