

Subject: Highlights of the EurAqua Management Board Meeting 46, hosted at the University of Zagreb, April 8-9, 2016

The MBM46 took place in Zagreb from 8 April 12:00 to 9 April 13:00. 20 participants from 14 institutes attended the meeting. The focus of the meeting was concentrated on three issues.

Towards an EurAqua research needs position paper as input to H2020 (2018-2020)

The EurAqua Core Group proposed that developing an EurAqua Research Agenda would be useful for several reasons: i. to contribute to the international debate on research needs in the field of water resources with EurAqua's own approach (based mostly on Water Resources Management), ii. to complement industry based approaches; iii. to improve EurAqua's visibility. The Management Board endorsed this suggestion.

Anticipating this endorsement, all members were invited to submit suggestions on research needs, possibly elaborated according to the usual FP7/H2020 format (challenge, scope, expected impact). The collected cards were grouped during the meeting under 6 thematic areas. All the member organizations agreed to select the most relevant issues according each one's point of view to prioritize the list.

EurAqua research Agenda and SC5 position paper

As a follow-up of the previous step, members were informed about the Public Consultation launched by the EU on the possible content of the upcoming H2020 WorkProgram about the Social Challenge 5 (Environment, Climate Change and Raw Materials). The deadline for sending such Consultation contribution was set for the 9th of April (the second day of the MBM46). Michiel Blind took the duty of building the document answering the 5 questions included in the Consultation, and including the prioritized list of research needs developed in the previous point. The EurAqua contribution was then finalized by Antonio Loporto after the end of the meeting and sent to the EC in due time.

EurAqua as a legal Entity

EurAqua is currently an Association of Organizations without legal status. This situation implies that the participation of EurAqua to be an official partner in projects is impossible. Typically, in such cases, EurAqua is represented by one of the member institutes. As an example EurAqua was invited to the Water-JPI consortium developing a response to an internationalization call. Since EurAqua as such could not join the consortium, IRSA participates on behalf of EurAqua. If the project requires other EurAqua members to participate on behalf of EurAqua, this will be more complicated compared to a situation in which EurAqua is a legal entity. Antonio Lo Porto reported on the first analysis of advantages and disadvantages, and possible next steps. The members endorsed the action to analyse possibilities in more detail, and discussing it at the next management board meeting.

Other issues

Because of the time spent on previous issues, several items in the agenda were skipped or summarized. Updates were given regarding i) recently approved COST Actions of interest for the EurAqua members and ii) a proposal developed on Hydrological Observatories, and iii) about the ERA4CS call.

Durk Krol (WssTP) updated the audience regarding the development of the WG of the Platform, future programs, the situation of the Water and Agri EIPs, the status of contacts started by the Water Alliance.

A final remark regarded the next MBM47 meeting that was decided to be held in Brussels: exact date and venue to be decided on the basis of an exploratory check to be done by AL and MB.