

SNOWMAN NETWORK

Knowledge for sustainable soils

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**A NETWORK FOR KNOWLEDGE ON
SUSTAINABLE SOILS**

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Call 2 and 3 coordinator





Outline

- **The Snowman network**
 - **Goals**
 - ***History: from an ERA-Net project to a self sustained network***
 - ***Partners and activities***
 - ***Content scope***
- **The coordinated calls**
 - ***Procedures***
 - ***Main figures***
 - ***Management***



Why this network ? Incentives

- Insufficient awareness of research activities amongst government(-related) research funders hence lack of efficiency and knowledge
 - EU thematic strategy for soil protection
 - Snowman partners are convinced that soil policies and research should be connected to societal developments, i.e.:
 - sustainable energy and climate
 - sustainable agriculture
 - sustainable water management
 - sustainable urbanization
- and thus integrated into multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approaches including socio-economic aspects



Goals of the SNOWMAN network

- **Develop** and **share** relevant knowledge for the sustainable use of soil and groundwater
- **Develop** a Research Programme based on stakeholders' needs
- **Execute** the research agenda through **calls for projects**
- **Share:**
 - new knowledge from calls (leverage)
 - existing knowledge



History - ERA-Net project

- **EU funded ERA-Net project (2003-2009):** Sustainable Management of Soil and Groundwater under the Pressure of Soil Pollution and Soil Contamination (7 countries : AT, DE, FR, NL, UK, BE/Flanders, S)
- **Achievements:**
 - Inventory of research programmes (2004)
 - Vision Paper
 - Research Programme
 - Communication Strategy / Action plans
 - 2 Calls – 9 projects - M€ 1.77 Snowman contribution
- **June 2009 - transition to network 'Knowledge for Sustainable Soils'**
 - Self sustained and new partners
 - Decision for a 3rd call for projects





Partners and activities

Full members

- Sweden:
 - SEPA
 - Formas (-2010)
- Netherlands:
 - SKB
- Belgium – Flanders
 - OVAM
 - LNE
- France
 - Ademe
 - MEDDTL (2011-)

Affiliate members

Call2

- Romania (UEFISCSU)
- Austria (KPC)

Call 3

- Belgium, Wallonie (SPW)
- Sweden (Formas)

Activities

- Define and Execute the research agenda
- Calls for projects (own budget, secretariat)
 - 3 calls held, 2nd and 3rd ongoing
 - 4th call in preparation
- Knowledge dissemination and exchange
- Conferences, workshops
 - E.g. ConSoil
- Communications
 - E.g. Website, linkedin Group
- Networking with stakeholders
 - E.g. NICOLE, Common Forum, EC
- New members/funding



Content scope - Research areas

- **transformation processes on functions of soil**

Physical, chemical and biological processes as a basis for ecosystem services

- **biodiversity**

role of soil in maintaining diversity of species

- **hydrological system**

interaction of soil and (ground)water

- **climate change and energy supply**

role of and effects on soil, including carbon cycles

- **sustainable agricultural production**

high yields while maintaining soil fertility

- **contamination**

Risk assessment of human health, ecology, risk reduction technologies

- **socio-economic factors**

Impact and influence of socio-economic factors on soil functions



Coordinated Calls

- Derived from the SNOWMAN Research Programme, **topics of common interest for a group of Funders**, any funding organization in Europe is welcome
- SNOWMAN wants to fund **“strategic” research** that is applicable for the stakeholders involved
- Findings of SNOWMAN funded projects should be **published**
- Procedures are updated each time



The Call procedures

Common Activity

Advertising (Website)

- Application Process (common application form and selection criteria)
Electronic application
- Fit to call check

National Activity

- Advertising (National Journals)
- Funding (National Rules)
- Fundability check

International Peer Review (Moderation meeting)

- Call Steering Committee & Call Secretariat
- Funding Recommendation
- Project monitoring
- Acceptance of outputs
- Funding Confirmation
- Establishing Research Contracts
- Contract monitoring, payments

Scope of the Calls

- **Call 2:**
 - Area management of contamination
 - Integration of soil management into spatial planning
 - Use of contaminated land for biofuel crop production
- **Call 3:**
 - **Soil functions and ecosystem services**
 - functional soil biodiversity
 - integrating soil ecosystem services in decision making
 - **Sustainable agriculture and forestry**
 - impact issues of agricultural and forest practices on soil quality
 - the role of soil in the adaptation and mitigation of the agriculture and forestry sectors in Europe to climate change
 - **Contamination**
 - risk assessment and management
 - soil filtering capacity
 - regional or/and area management



Calls main figures



	Call 2	Call 3
Number of funding organizations	7	8
Number of countries	6	4
Initial budget (M€)	1.8	2
Number of proposals submitted	12	15
Number of proposals after eligibility, fundability, fit to call check	10	14
Number of proposals after moderation meeting (review)	4	9
Number of projects funded	3	6
Success rate	25 %	40 %
Budget spent (M€)	0.955	2.277



Management of a coordinated Call

- **Call Steering Committee (CSC)** : body responsible on behalf of the funding organisations (one representative / funder) for the execution of the call from the announcement to the approval of the final reports
- **Call Coordinator** : overall supervision
- **Secretariat : single contact point !**
 - Collect the contracts, consortium agreements and reports
 - Organise the approval of the reports
- **Project boards (PB):** in order to assist the CSC for the the transnational monitoring of the projects
 - At least one representative / funder involved in a project
 - The chair is the contact point for the project coordinator



Role of the Project Boards (PB)

- To answer questions and resolve problems raised by the researchers which cannot be solved internally
- To approve any changes to the contracts
- To review progress and final reports
- To advise the funders and the CSC on the acceptability of the project outputs
- Through the PB chair, to present the collective views of the funders to the project coordinators

Watch out !

- Synchronization of all the contracts of the same project :
 - Start date
 - Date for interim report(s)
 - Date for final report
- Consortium agreement should be signed soon !
- A meeting chair of the PB - Research coordinator is necessary
- Final payment : only after the delivery and the approval of the transnational outputs.





Questions from the researchers?

- Eligibility of costs, payments : to Funders
- Events, changes in work plan or budget, delay :
 - from the researchers to the Project coordinator
 - The project coordinator contact the Secretariat and the chair of the project board

Thank you for your attention

Questions?

More information?

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