



Announcement

'Knowledge for Healthy Soils'

Conference on SNOWMAN's transition from an ERA-NET to a self maintained research funding network

Vienna, June 16 – June 18, 2009

The ERA-Net project SNOWMAN on the sustainable management of soil and groundwater under the pressure of soil contamination, is in a transition process from an EU funded ERA-NET project to a self maintained research funding network. To mark this transition officially and to launch the new network the conference 'Knowledge for Healthy Soils' will be held in Vienna, from the afternoon of June 16th until the afternoon of June 18th 2009.

This conference will be of interest to members of the funding and science community, research users and stakeholders, working in the field of 'Knowledge for Healthy Soils'.

The conference will be organized in three parts:

- the 'learning history' of the SNOWMAN project;
- a 'Science day';
- the kick-off meeting of the new network. This specific part of the meeting is for research funding organizations only (or their representatives).

Although the SNOWMAN ERA-NET will end on 30th June, solid foundations have been laid by the SNOWMAN partners to continue this network of research funders. The primary objectives for the network will be the execution of coordinated research calls and the dissemination of research results.

On **June, 16 2009** in the afternoon, we will present you the story of SNOWMAN related to the ERA-Net project: our 'learning history' and achievements, our evaluation and recommendations for the future. Special attention will be given to the cornerstones of SNOWMAN (our vision paper, the SNOWMAN research programme and joint calls) and the importance of communication and dissemination of research results. The European Commission will present its perspectives on ERA-Net projects and SNOWMAN in particular. And a funder will elaborate on its motivations to join SNOWMAN in transnational cooperation. This will also link us to a brief outlook for future perspectives.

On **June, 17 2009** we will have a 'Science Day', wholly dedicated to the dissemination of knowledge gathered so far. Two key note speakers will introduce you to the soil-policy interface and the challenges related to the dissemination of research results. We will present the scientific results of the projects which were conducted under the first joint call. Funders' and Common Forum's perspectives on the use of the results will form the introduction to a plenum discussion on the future of SNOWMAN research. We hope that by the end of that meeting you are convinced to participate in the upcoming joint calls, either as a researcher or as a funder. The day will end with a social event.

On **June, 18 2009** we will dedicate the morning to inaugurating the new network **together with new funders**. The principle documents which will form the basis of the network will be presented and discussed finally before electing the first chair of the network. The first concrete steps for the launch of a third joint call in 2010 will be taken. SNOWMAN is a network of funding organizations, and if you are

interested in becoming part of this, you should participate in this part of the meeting. Draft documents will be provided in good to help you prepare.

Attached to this announcement you will find:

- the agenda of the different parts of the meeting;
- practical information on the organization and registration.

The agenda will also be available via the SNOWMAN website (www.snowman-era.net). Please, check the website for the latest version.

In case of further questions, please contact Ms Esther MICHOR (esther.michor@lebensministerium.at).

