

## Social networking for scientific excellence in Europe

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IWRM-Net is a European ERA-Net project bringing together regional and national research programme managers and funders in the field of Integrated Water Resource Management. Collaborating across Europe requires an exchange across the countries and regions and Information Technology can provide some vital support, especially in this age of reducing carbon emissions where we need to be conscious of the implications of travel. Hence, the project is looking to use TWEEGG technology to develop a platform that allows water managers, scientists and policy makers a means of debating and promoting their priority research needs to the funding bodies, i.e. the IWRM-net partners.

But the partners still like to meet people because to build effective working relations the face to face encounters are still valuable, so the platform will improve the exchange of information both before and a meeting, making them more efficient and productive. The European Water Community will be launched in February 2010

([www.europeanwatercommunity.eu](http://www.europeanwatercommunity.eu)). It will be moderated by OIEau and SNIFFER. You can already get in touch with Natacha Amorsi or Stephen Midgley for more details.

To test the platform partners have already started to discuss subjects such as wetlands with European wetland

scientists and managers and will look to improve the delegate experience of our final conference by making it more interactive, in its development. The event will be in Brussels the week commencing

the Royal Society of Chemistry)

At the final conference delegates will receive an update on the two IWRM-Net joint calls, of which the second call



The screenshot shows the IWRM-Net website interface. At the top, there are navigation links: Home, Contact, About, and Blog. Below these is a search bar with the text 'iwrn-net' and a language dropdown set to 'English'. There are also input fields for a username (containing 'n.amorsi@oieau.fr'), a password (masked with asterisks), and a 'Remember Me' checkbox. An 'Enter' button is next to the password field. Below the search bar, there are three main content boxes: 'news' (with a lightbulb icon and text 'Create public and private groups to discuss common issues.'), 'research needs' (with a lightbulb icon and text 'Submit your research needs for comments and voting.'), and 'team' (with a lightbulb icon and text 'Connect with IWRM-Net community.'). Below these boxes is a 'Join IWRM-Net virtual community' section with a 'Professional email' label and an input field. Below the input field is a note: 'Use the email address of the organization you work for (name@organization...). This service is highly secure. All published data belong to iwrn-net.' and a 'Validate' button.

ing the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2010 and will bring together water scientists and research managers to consider the costs and benefits to European Collaboration, sharing the experience of being part of an ERA-Net and delivering water research across Europe. This sharing of experience and knowledge is an important aspect of the era-net process, improving the delivery of research outputs to a wider range of people and organisations in a clear manner for each targeted audience. This interface between science and policy has been an issue considered by the partners of IWRM-Net who they have recently been involved in the production of book on the subject (Water System Science and Policy Interfacing, edited by Philippe Quevauviller and published by

has recently been closed. It received interest from 15 proposals covering subjects in Climate change and water management, Economics and environmental valuation, and Water Scarcity and Drought. It is proposed that the use of social networking tools will benefit the development of the research consortium and the exchange of information between, funders, users and scientists through the support of a scientific coordination project. By allowing collaboration and sharing of information online, IWRM-net can improve the benefits of collaborative funding for research consortium across Europe.