

# Knowledge Brokerage to further the uptake of water research results

WaterDiss2.0 at Biofresh Project Meeting 18 April 2013, Leipzig

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#### WaterDiss2.0 rationale and objectives

## 10 years

typical length of time needed to complete the development cycle (in the water sector) (FP6 FUNDETEC 2007)

## Speed-up knowledge transfer

There is a strong need to transfer research outputs to users more effectively

## WaterDiss 2.0

Objective: improve dissemination and the uptake of water-related FP6 and FP7 research results by using knowledge brokerage



#### Knowledge Brokerage

Scientists

Researchers

Two-directional learning and participatory process

Knowledge changes with context

Knowledge Brokerage: method to facilitate the transfer of knowledge from one group to another in order to help learn, innovate and improve

Scientific knowledge

Users

**Businesses** 

Industry

**Decision takers** 

Policy makers

General public

Other researchers



#### WaterDiss2.0 approach

1. Analyse dissemination and uptake of past FP projects in the water sector

2. Act as Knowledge Brokers

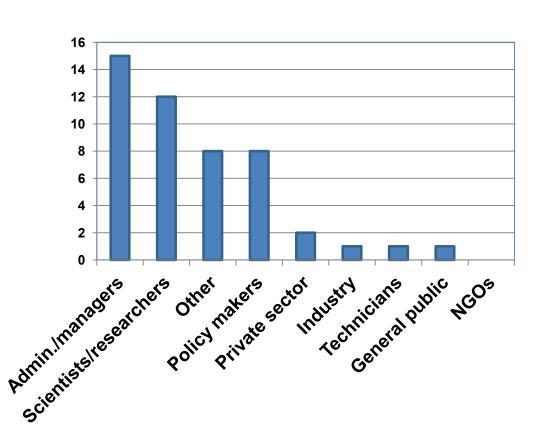
Cooperate with project managers to identify their needs and offer targeted support

- 3. Use innovative Web2.0 tool
- 4. Organise face-to-face activities



#### Analysis of dissemination & uptake

#### Relevant target groups

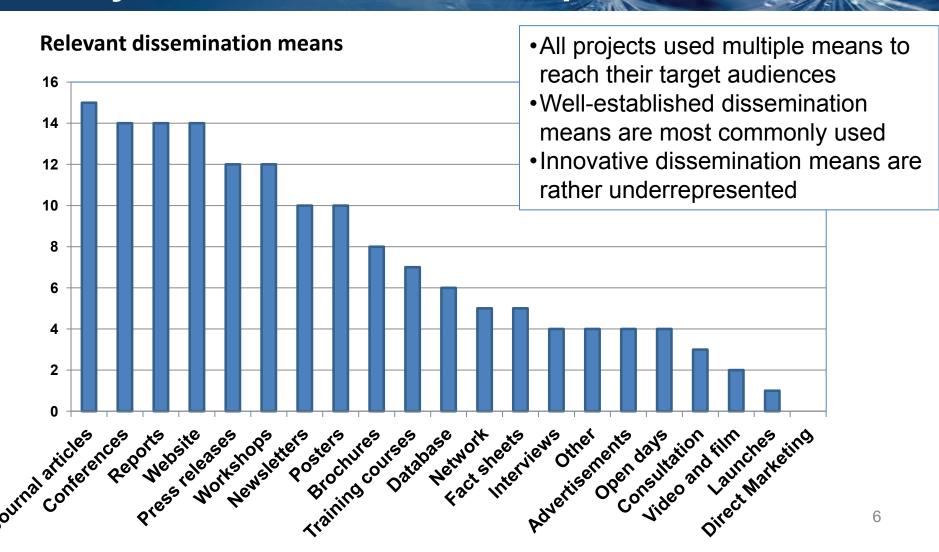


Online-Questionnaire and interviews with projects coordinators

- 22 responses from 60 projects to questionnaire
- 12 follow-up interviews with project coordinators



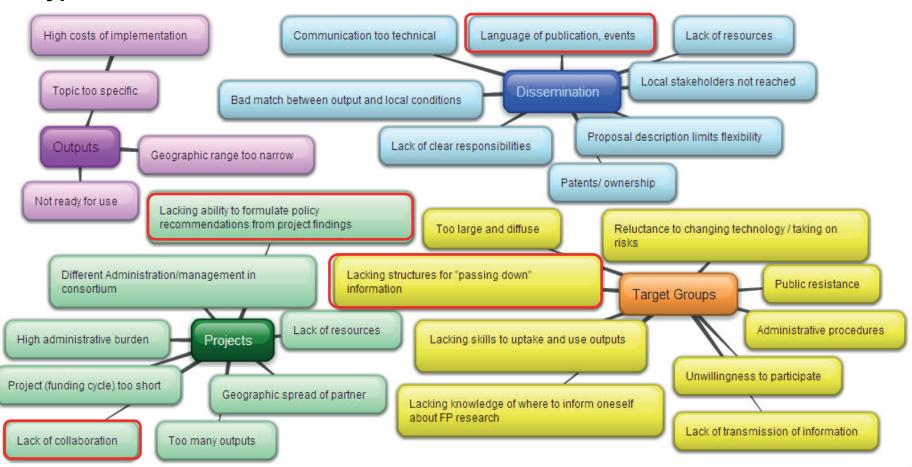
#### Analysis of dissemination & uptake





#### Analysis – barriers for knowledge transfer

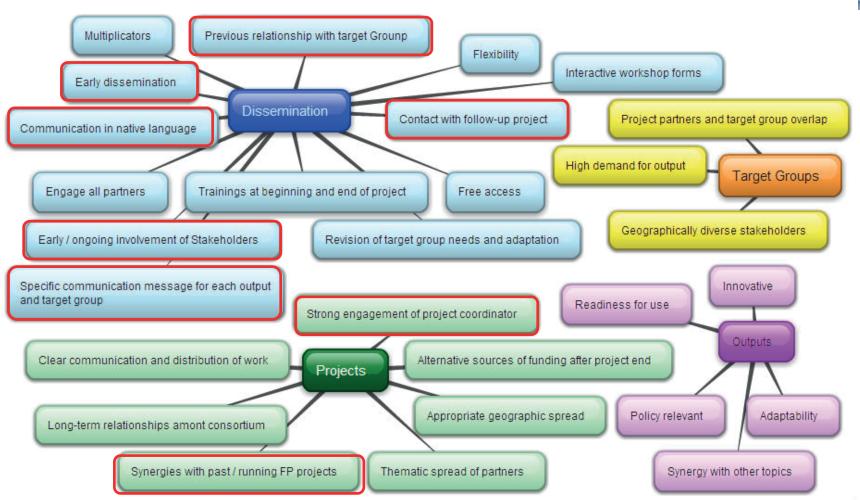
#### **Typical barriers**



WaterDiss2.0 at Biofresh - Engaging in SPI: Water and Biodiversity

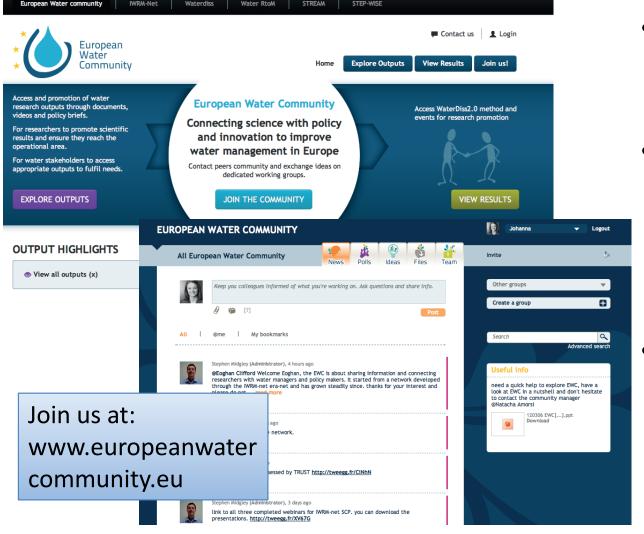


### Analysis – facilitators for knowledge transfer





## Use of innovative web2.0 features – the European Water Community



- Online communication platform
- Open to exchange of ideas and information regarding research projects
  - Searchable online database, where projects can upload and present their outputs



#### Lessons learnt

#### **Target group – best practices**

- Identification of target groups in an early project stage is needed in order to explore and integrate their knowledge needs (proposal phase!)
- Involvement of target audiences in the consortium or advisory board is recommended
- There is a need to be very specific in the target group characterisation

#### Dissemination means and channels – best practices

- Face-to-face meetings and participatory approaches are effective communication channels but are time-consuming
- Virtual aspects and social media are highly relevant
- Social media need a critical mass of 'followers' and active participants.
   This aspect depends on a close cooperation of all project partners.



#### Thank you for your attention

#### WaterDiss2.0

**Summer School 2013** 

# Increasing Sustainability in River Basin Planning and Management: Concepts and Tools for River Restoration

San Servolo Island, Venice, 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> August 2013

