



SWAN FEASIBILITY STUDY

FIRST RESULTS (JUNE 2014)

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Feasibility Study (WP5)

1- Scientific and institutional goals:

- ✓ **Common framework** for interdisciplinary research on water resources management that serves as scientific basis for permanent collaborative organization
- ✓ **Network for a Transatlantic Dialogue on Water (NTDW)**: long-term international collaboration between scientists, students, and stakeholders

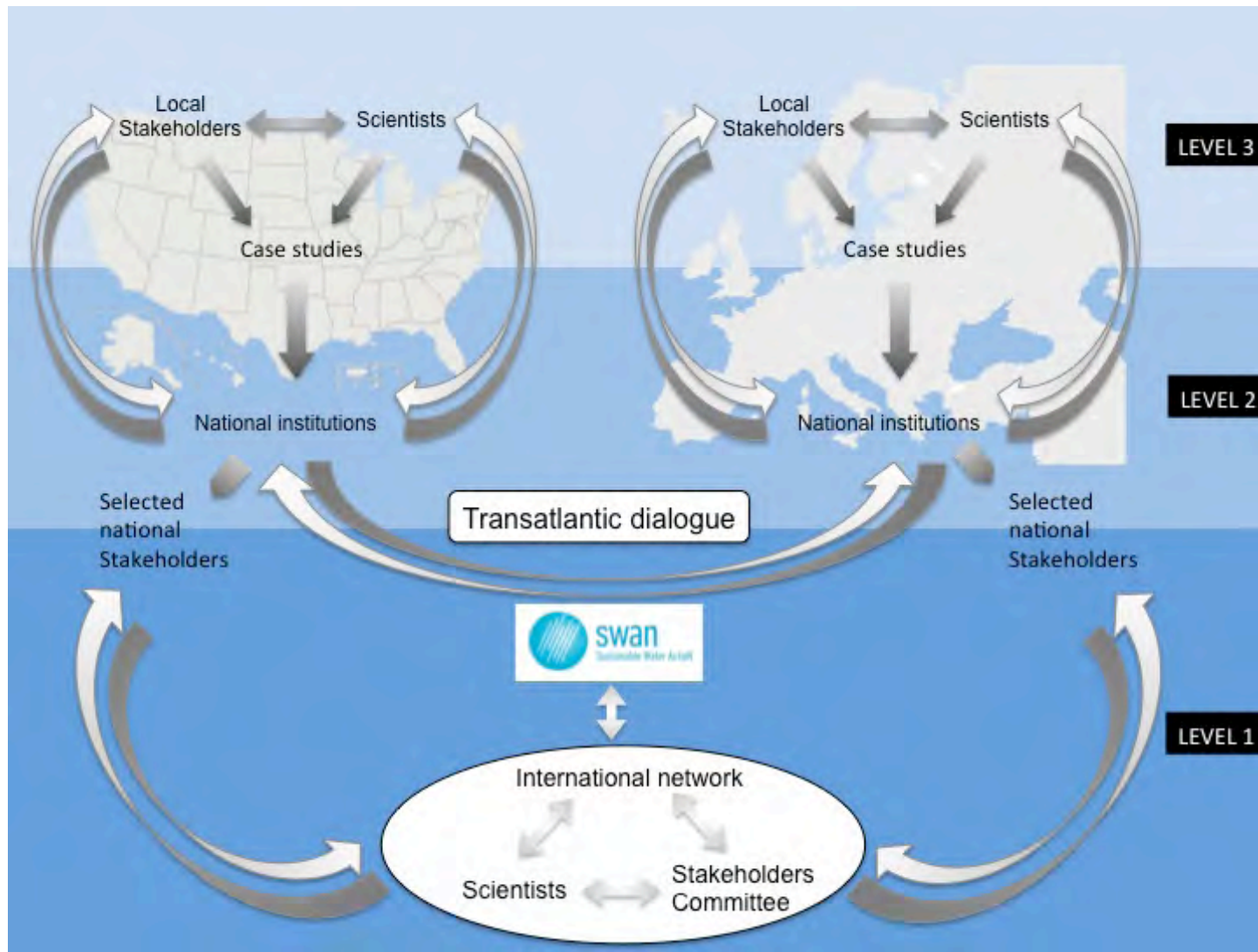
2- Sociology of sciences: is there a specificity of water issues in terms of organization of scientific work?

Cf. Sahra: political frame and not only direct relation researchers/stakeholders
=> multi-level regulation of environmental issues

3- Stakeholders' engagement: how to get recommendations for the Feasibility Study?

- ✓ **Workshops and team activities.**
- ✓ **Evolution of the project:** from an abstract perception of stakeholders to an analysis of the differentiation of « public participation » cf. D.5.2

Methodology (1): 3 levels of stakeholders



Action plan for the Feability Study (April 2014) (mails with Nuria and Chad *et al.*)

- ✓ The **Network for a Transatlantic Dialogue on Water** will be the institutional output of the SWAN project. It aims to function as a major international network for scientists, students and also stakeholders and communities from Europe and the USA. The goal is to extend the network over time to include partners from the rest of the Americas.
- ✓ Based on the four years of experience of collaborative research on water-related issues in the framework of the SWAN project, a Final Strategic Report on the vision, scope and structure of the Center, necessary to start its implementation, will be produced. The report will include a short list of potential new partners, and criteria to enhance the process of scientific and institutional integration.
- ✓ From a scientific perspective, the OTWD will build from an explicit recognition of uncertainty and complexity in water-related research and a commitment to interdisciplinary research and comparative approaches. The work of the future Network will be articulated around three multidimensional issues:
 - 1- Incommensurability and legitimacy of several positions, which requires the clear definition of explicit choice of narratives and external references.
 - 2- Contextuality, transparency and expression of implicit positions, values and interests.
 - 3- Integration of skills, sectors, policy, experts and different perspectives into the project.
- ✓ This articulation will require the involvement and commitment of stakeholders to SWAN's work at different levels through the development of effective modes of participation. A strategy for effective stakeholder involvement will be developed building from the experience of SWAN's work.
- ✓ The final Strategic Report will propose the strategy to expand the UMI 3157 (CNRS / University of Arizona) into a multi-partner scientific and training European platform in the USA for new ideas, methods and research projects at a worldwide scale. From an organizational standpoint the report will build from the experience of collaborative research and scholar mobility of the 4-year SWAN project to propose:
- ✓ A mechanism for student and staff mobility between SWAN partners; particularly with arrangements for student exchange and study.
- ✓ A Secretariat, based perhaps at UMI/UoA, that provides the support for the work of SWAN.
- ✓ A multi-institutional collaborative training program.

Outcomes

- ✓ **Final Strategic Report** on the vision, scope and structure of the Center, necessary to start its implementation: ***Network for a Transatlantic Dialogue on Water***
- ✓ Report will include a short **list of potential new partners**, and criteria to enhance the process of scientific and institutional integration.
- ✓ Strategy to **expand the UMI 3157** (CNRS / University of Arizona) into a multi-partner scientific and training European platform in the USA for new ideas, methods and research projects at a worldwide scale. From an organizational standpoint the report will build from the experience of collaborative research and scholar mobility of the 4-year SWAN project to propose:
 - A mechanism for student and staff **mobility between SWAN partners**; particularly with arrangements for student exchange and study.
 - **A Secretariat**, based perhaps at UMI/UoA, that provides the support for the work of SWAN.
 - A multi-institutional collaborative **training program**.

Methodology (2): why to make a survey?

- ✓ A **practical/convenient tool** to cope with the material and epistemological difficulties to get stakeholders' recommendations for the feasibility study (different issues related to their level of action)
- ✓ An **exploratory** phase: to put in relation with other researches or experiences?
- ✓ Beware of the “global environmental doxa”: aren't we going to receive the most “fashionable” ideas?
- ✓ A sample with specific characteristics

Who's who?

- Rijkswaterstaat Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment
- *Manager*, Savex Ltd - Bulgaria
- *Member*, Bulgarian Water Association (BWA)
- Sofiyska voda (Sofia, Bulgaria)
- *Associated Pr*, National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (Blg)
- *Head of Directorate Water*, Ministry of Environment & Water, Water Management Directorate (Bulgaria)
- *Head of Planning Department*, West Aegean Water Basin Directorate – Blagoevgrad (Bulgaria)
- *Professor*, University of Arizona
- *Project Manager*, Berkeley Water Center
- Fundacion Nueva Cultura del Agua
- *Consultant*, United Nations Environment Programme
- *Professor*, Sciences Po/European Parliament Public Services Intergroup and European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)



First Results of the Sample about the organization...

QUESTION 1: What is the primary aim of your organization (and specific unit)?

Management

- ✓ To promote & facilitate sustainable management of resources reconciling socio-economic development & environmental preservation
- ✓ Water management incl. mineral water; protection of surface and groundwater, and Black sea. Water use of complex and significant dams under Annex 1 (Water Act); preparation of monthly and annual schedules, issuing of water abstraction permits & water use; transposition & implementation of water-related EU Directives.
- ✓ Integrated Management of Water resources on River Basin according to requirements of European and national legislation in the fields of water management

Utilities/Services

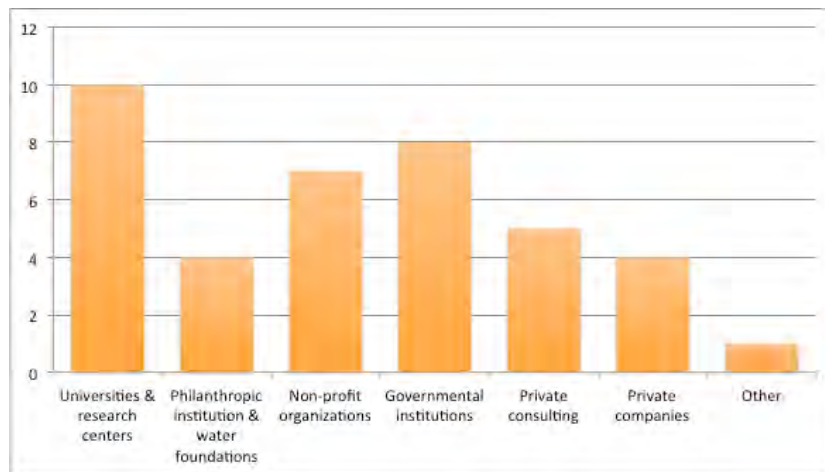
- ✓ To protect against flooding; To ensure good water quality of national water systems; To construct, manage and maintain the main roads and waterways; To ensure safe movement of traffic; To generate reliable information
- ✓ To provide quality services in water sector and environmental protection
- ✓ Water treatment & water supply, sewerage services, waste water collection and treatment. Our aim is to provide utility services of excellent quality to our customers.

Education, Research & Debates

- ✓ Education, Higher Education, Scientific Research and Professional Service
- ✓ To change the dominant vision and policy of water by promoting ecosystem protection & sustainable water use: policy analysis, advocacy, outreach and education programs, organizing seminars, policy debates, issuing reports, supporting the work and networking with other citizen and environmental organizations.
- ✓ Theoretical, experimental and applied research related to the management, use and protection of water resources.
- ✓ To associate national practitioners, academics, researchers & corporate entities, and facilitate their cooperation in providing strategic views, expertise and training in water and wastewater fields.

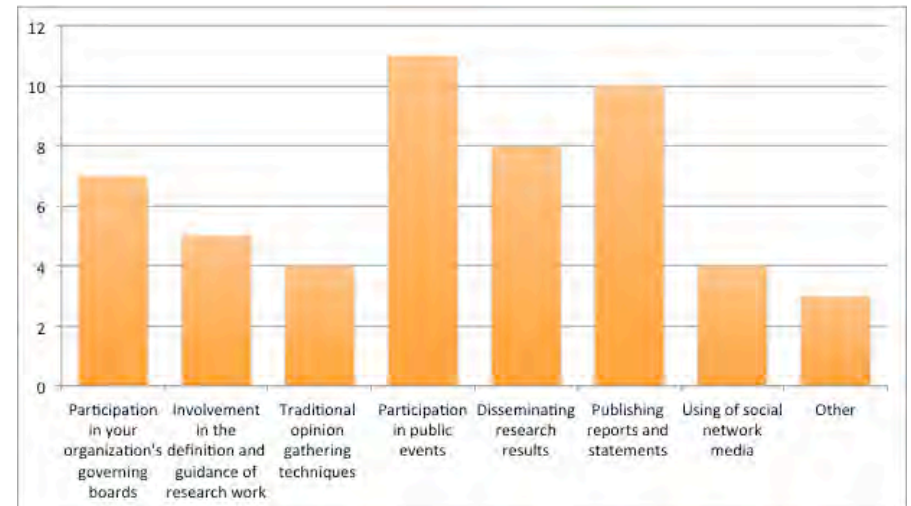
Description of the respondents organization

QUESTION 2: Are your organization's aims developed with partner organizations?



- ✓ Link with academic, non profit organizations, governmental institutions (4), 2 with all kinds of partners
- ✓ 1 private consulting / 1 municipality / 1 university only
- ✓ 2 with private companies

QUESTION 3: How do you engage your partners and stakeholders in carrying out your mission?



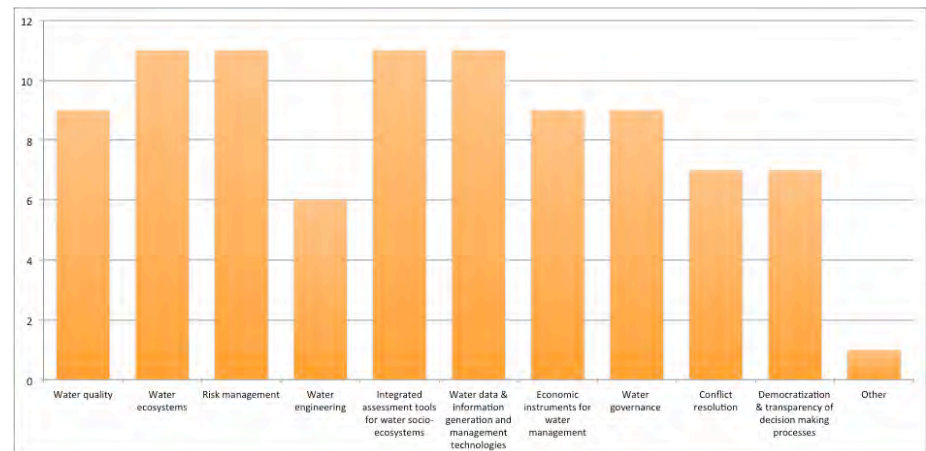
- ✓ Links with partners/ stakeholders in the research process: mainly in public events, dissemination, publications, less in governing boards and research process

... and the Potential Transatlantic Dialog

QUESTION 5: Where does your organization get the information from regarding cutting edge work?

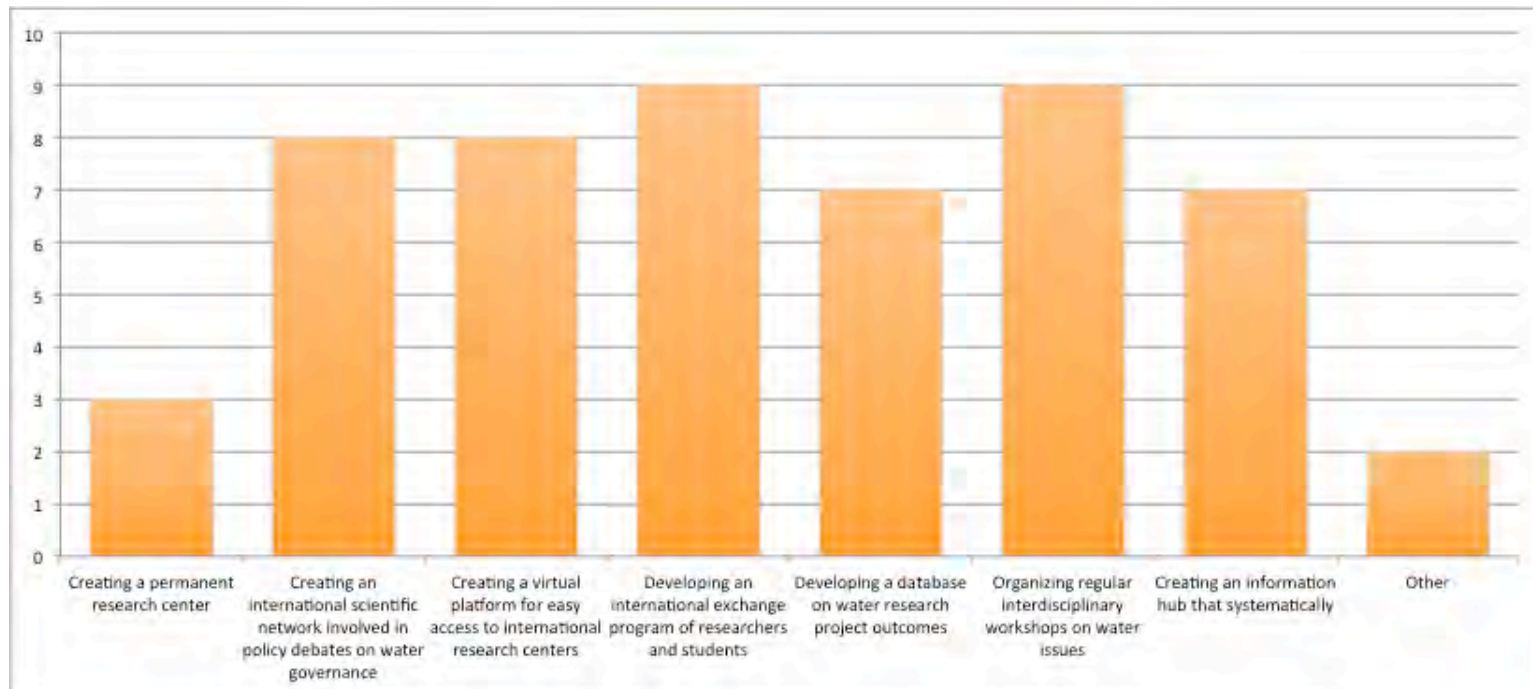
- ✓ Conferences, workshops, direct contacts, professional network, reports, internet
- ✓ Few people by scientific publications
- ✓ Web-based systems or data produced by company

QUESTION 4: Which water-related research topics require a multidisciplinary approach that could be the focus for a Transatlantic Water Dialogue?



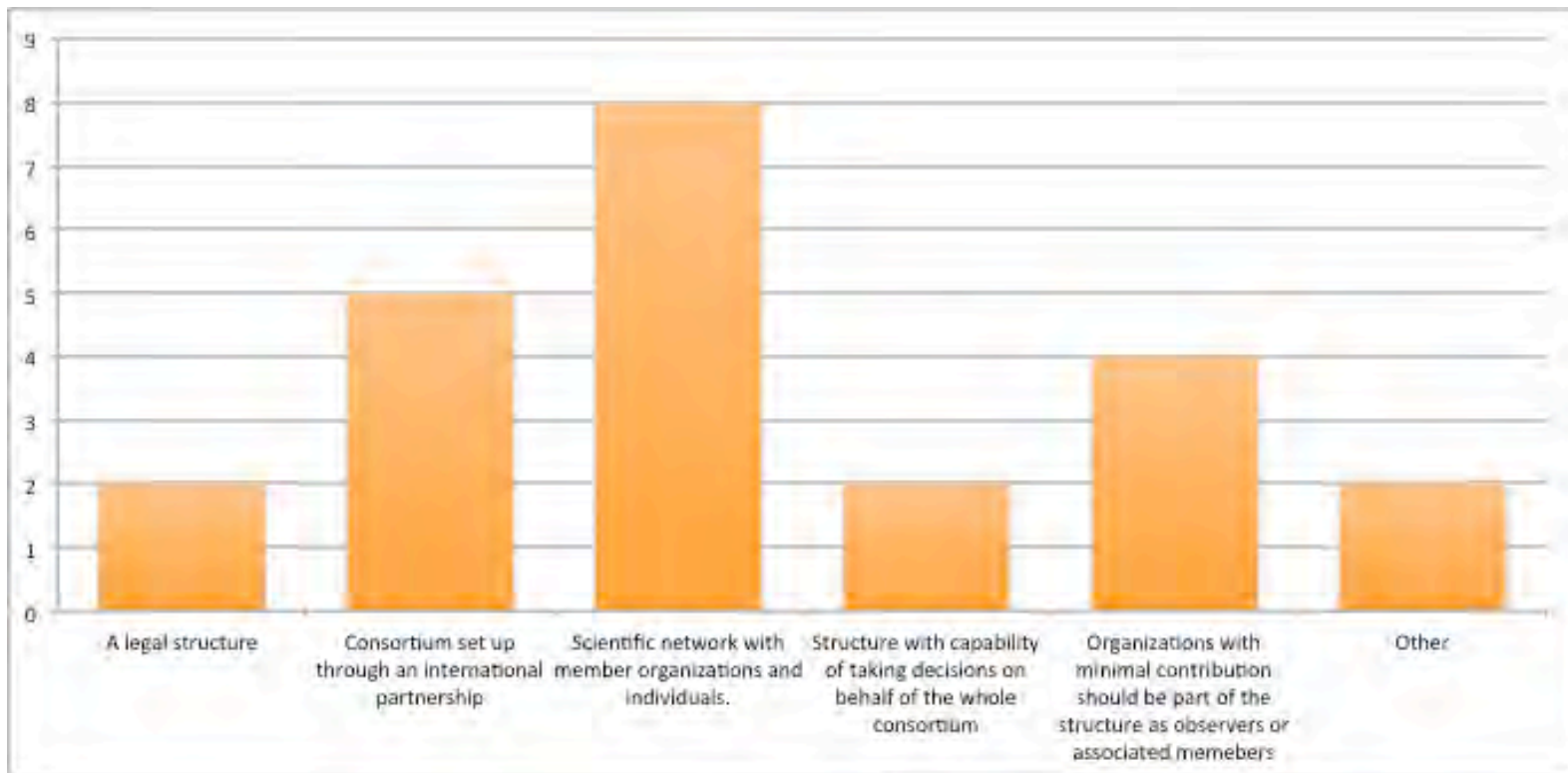
- ✓ Problem with this question: 4 of the respondents checked all the answers
- ✓ Little interest for water engineering: because many people are already involved in water management and have capacities on that issue? Or change of paradigm?
- ✓ Little interest in conflict resolution and transparency, and in the development of economic tools

QUESTION 6: Given the wide array of international water related research centers that exist today, how could a new scientific organization for a Transatlantic Dialog between Europe and the USA help improve water-related research?



- ✓ No need for one more center (only 3) but for connection between areas of research, areas of action, research and decision making: access to research by workshops, internet platform, network, exchange program, information hub

QUESTION 9: What type of structure should a new scientific organization for a transatlantic dialog have?



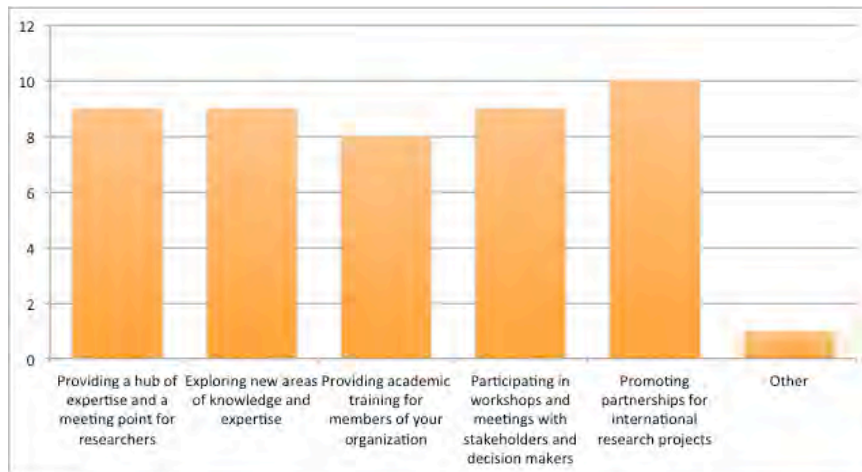
- ✓ Scientific network
- ✓ Minimal and open
- ✓ Associated observers
- ✓ Consortium
- ✓ Few responses in favor of a legal structure => pb for allocation of international funds

QUESTION 7: How do you think that a new research organization might impact international and national water policies?

- ✓ Cutting-edge publications, workshops
- ✓ Harmonizing legislations
- ✓ Exchange of good practices & information at international level
- ✓ Collaborative actions with existing international centers
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Development of system-theory based approaches for improving communication of knowledge
- ✓ Independent viewpoints on water issues (data, technologies, etc.)
- ✓ Counterbalancing the corporation agenda (scientific and politic)
- ✓ Links research-decision making
- ✓ Inventing new regulations for water use and management, not only center for science and qualification
- ✓ Innovative methodologies

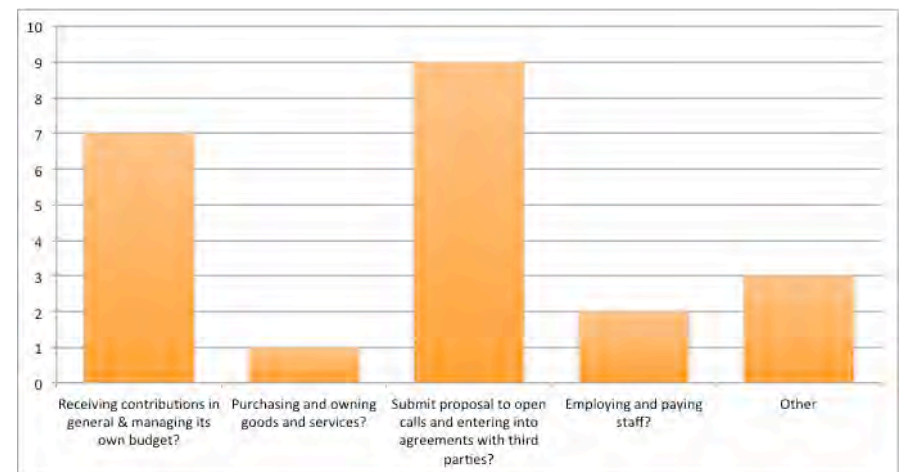
Description of the respondents organization

QUESTION 8: How could such a scientific collaboration benefit your organization (and specific unit)?



- ✓ Half of panel check all responses
- ✓ Expertise, workshops
- ✓ Partnership for projects
- ✓ New areas of knowledge
- ✓ Training

QUESTION 10: This organization should be capable of...



- ✓ Submit proposals
- ✓ Get agreements with other partners
- ✓ Receiving contributions
- ✓ Added value to existing networks

Suggestions

- ✓ The proposed network should not only be scientific, but also have a close cooperation with the private sector and governmental institutions
- ✓ To build common standards between EU regulation in sustainable water management and other countries
- ✓ Open process: from scientific network to more institutional structure
- ✓ First to define the research perspective: research niche= to govern the commons for the general interest
- ✓ Not creating new organizations: available collaboration formats should be enough to generate transatlantic dialogue
- ✓ Creating such a structure will lead to broadening and deepening the development of simulation models of best practices for water management. Will be the impetus for the development of science and qualification of the personnel involved in the management and use of water.
- ✓ easy access to the network; comprehensive communication with stakeholders; uniqueness and innovations of the network
- ✓ The new organization could improve exchange of experience of implementation of European Directives in the fields of waters. This will contribute about improvement of water management politics.
- ✓ Contacts suggested with environmental training organizations
- ✓ By jointly writing papers and books, and co-organizing training activities

Contributions and limits of the survey

- ✓ Coherence of the responses in function of the belonging institution but lack of information on the position of the respondent in its institution (sociology of organizations)
- ✓ Positive suggestions
- ✓ Contradiction between the demand for a light organization and the legal status for making it work (funds, staff, etc.): networks, flexibility, projects, etc.
- ✓ Did we need this stakeholders' survey to understand that? What kind of stakeholders do we need to incorporate? Cf. Clifford Conner, *People's History of Sciences* (2005)
- ✓ What stakeholders did not understand: the possibility of an international structure (national frames of perception of the world): difficulty to conciliate local problems and global actions? (when political ecology has been built on « think global, act local »)

Next steps for the feasibility study?

- ✓ Case Study as a model of collaborative research?
- ✓ Grants and funds (Horizon 2020, NSF, etc.)
- ✓ Research training:
 - Academic validation on both sides of the Atlantic
 - PhD research training of larger seminar (master, etc.)