



**SWITCH Training workshop:
'Advancing Learning Alliances to increase research impact'**

26-29 November 2008 in Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Final draft programme

Background

The Sustainable Water Management Improves Tomorrows Cities Health (SWITCH) project is a research partnership funded by the EC undertaking innovation in the area of *integrated urban water management (IUWM)*. In a range of cities¹, learning alliances (a form of multi-stakeholder platform) have been established by the project (see www.switchurbanwater.eu/learningalliances for more information). Rather than solely focusing on new research, the project is supporting city learning alliances to put *research into use* across different aspects of the urban water cycle to help improve integration and *scaling-up* impacts.

In December 2007, SWITCH cities came together in Accra, Ghana to share their experiences in establishing learning alliances. This workshop, almost one year later, aims to build on the Accra workshop and to share experiences in advancing the city learning alliances since then. Given the location of the workshop in Latin America, particular attention will be given to the experiences in Spanish and Portuguese-speaking SWITCH cities (Belo Horizonte, Lima, Zaragoza and Cali), and by having some workgroups in Spanish. Other experts and practitioners from the Latin American region involved in multi-stakeholder processes and improving water governance are also invited to contribute and participate.

Objectives of training workshop

The objectives of the training workshop on 'Learning Alliances' are:

- To advance and consolidate the establishment of learning alliances in SWITCH and other similar projects and programmes through sharing experiences and lessons learned.
- To address some specific issues that we know are important (and perhaps problematic) through introduction of tools and experiences: 1) social inclusion in learning alliance processes, and 2) high quality documentation of learning alliance processes and good communication, 3) joint planning based on visioning, scenario-based planning and use of models, and 4) engaging stakeholders in action research around demonstrations.

Who should attend?

The workshop is aimed at both SWITCH and external participants. SWITCH participants will include city learning alliance facilitators and other participants interested in aspects of making learning alliance approaches work, such as city coordinators, researchers, programme managers in the cities and members of the management team. Other participants involved in research and development projects and programmes that follow learning alliance or similar multi-stakeholder approaches from Latin America and elsewhere are also warmly invited. In total, there will be space for 25 participants.

¹ Accra, Alexandria, Beijing, Belo Horizonte, Birmingham, Cali, Chongqing, Hamburg, Lima, Lodz, Tel Aviv and Zaragoza.

Summary of training programme and methodology

The first part of the workshop will focus on the experiences of the participants with the effectiveness of learning alliances and multi-stakeholder processes in research, both within SWITCH cities and in other projects and programmes. Most participants will have gained valuable experience in dealing with the day-to-day realities and challenges of bringing stakeholders together in one or more platforms, maintaining dialogues and initiating collaboration between these stakeholders. Participants will be invited to prepare presentations and other inputs. The second part of the workshop will focus more in-depth on some key and difficult aspects of learning alliance processes. Advanced methods and tools for social inclusion and documentation of learning processes will be introduced and discussed. The workshop will end with a session in which the participants will work on their own city Learning Alliance plan to include lessons learnt from the workshop.

Workshop methodology

The IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre and SWITCH learning alliance facilitators will prepare the workshop programme and co-organise sessions. The workshop will combine short (expert) presentations from key resource persons combined with discussion, exercises and group work based upon the participants own experiences and other examples. These interactive sessions will be based on adult-learning principles. Participants will be asked to prepare specific inputs (presentations and other contributions) for the workshop. The lead facilitators will engage with participants about that. In addition, participants will be asked to co-facilitate certain aspects and group work, so they can practice and improve their own facilitation skills during the workshop.

The main language of the workshop will be English, but the workshop will be accessible to Spanish and Portuguese speakers and a multi-lingual facilitator will provide limited translation. Some parallel workgroup sessions will be held in Spanish/ Portuguese with participants from the Latin America region.

Workshop arrangements

The workshop will be hosted in Ouro Preto in Minas Gerais which is close (about 1 hour drive) to Belo Horizonte, Brazil from Wednesday 26 to Saturday 29 November 2008. Participants should arrive in Belo Horizonte on Tuesday 25 November or before 1000 on Wednesday 26 November. Participants may wish to stay in Belo Horizonte for the annual SWITCH scientific conference to be held from 30 November to 4 December 2008.

The workshop venue, the hotel 'Estalagem das Minas Gerais', is located in a park and is 5 km outside Ouro Preto. The full contact details are: Estalagem das Minas Gerais, Rod. dos Inconfidentes Km 87 – Tripuí, Tel: +55.31.3551-2122, Fax: +55.31.3551-2709

Participants will need to cover their own travel and subsistence costs (accommodation/ meals) from their own SWITCH or other project budget. For SWITCH participants, an allocation of money specifically for these training events has been made within SWITCH city budgets and should be used for this purpose. Non-SWITCH participants will need to cover their own travel and subsistence costs.

All participants in the training course will need to pay a fee at the workshop in cash - we estimate about 200 euros - that covers airport transfers, venue costs, refreshments and lunches but NOT accommodation or other meals or costs. These costs will be shared equally across the participants. A receipt and copy invoice will be provided.

Participants will all stay in the same hotels and the booking and transfer arrangements will be made as soon as your travel details have been supplied (date, time and flight number of arrival and departure) following the procedures for registration for the event (see registration form). Participants are responsible for organising visas, and ensuring they make proper insurance and medical arrangements.

Registration and further information

Participants should have already registered using the combined form for the learning alliance training workshop and the following week's SWITCH scientific meeting.

See www.switchurbanwater.eu/learningalliances for more details on the training workshop under capacity building. To register and for more information about the content of the programme, please contact John Butterworth (butterworth@irc.nl).

Annex A: Draft Programme Outline

Wednesday 26 November	
1330-1430	<p>Session 1: Introduction Introduction of participants, logistics, objectives of training workshop, expectations (John Butterworth and Stef Smits)</p> <p><i>Successful learning alliances for research and impact</i> (John Butterworth/ Stef Smits)</p>
	<p>Session 2: Sharing experiences with learning alliance methodologies</p>
1430-1645	<p>Session 2a: Sharing of learning alliance experiences from SWITCH cities in Latin America including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Learning Alliances for Integrated Water Management in the city of Cali, Colombia</i> (Diana Paola Bernal & Alberto Galvis) • <i>Learning alliances in Belo Horizonte, Brasil: Water is everybody's business</i> (Sonia Knauer) • <i>Engaging Small and Medium Size Enterprises (SMEs) to address pollution in Bogota, Colombia</i> (Monica Sanz)
1645-1700	Summary of day 1

Thursday 27 November	
0900-1230	<p>Session 2b: Sharing of learning alliance experiences from other SWITCH cities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Influencing urban water management through learning alliances: a mid-term reflection on an experiment in Łódź, Poland</i> (Iwona Wagner) • <i>A mid-term review of switch in Birmingham, its learning alliance and engaging research to address the challenges of integrated water management</i> (Jennifer Chlebek) • <i>Bringing a fragmented sector together: Documentation of the Learning Alliance Process in Accra, Ghana</i> (Bertha Darteh) • <i>Summary of findings from the city assessments</i> (John Butterworth)
1400-1730	<p>Session 3: Reaching the poor and their representatives within learning alliance processes (making processes more socially inclusive)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>An introduction to social inclusion</i> (John Butterworth)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>SWITCH case studies: best practices in social inclusion</i> • <i>Exercise on power and negotiations between stakeholders: tanneries in Bogota</i> (Monica Sanz) • Addressing social inclusion in your own city and learning alliance process
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Friday 28 November	
0845-1230	<p>Session 4: Influencing decision support and planning in SWITCH cities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Review of visioning and scenario-based planning by SWITCH learning alliances</i> (John Butterworth) • <i>An overview of the City Water model</i> (Marc Soutter) • Practical session: using the City Water economics module • <i>A reality check from three Latin American cities: why an understanding governance is important for joint planning?</i> (Stef Smits) • Use of the City Water tool for joint planning by learning alliances
1400-1500	<p>Session 5: Linking demonstrations and learning alliances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>An introduction to principles of action research</i> (Stef Smits)
1500-1730	<p>Session 6: Innovative communication, training and learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>City websites to communicate with learning alliance members</i> (Barbara Anton and Ralph Philip) • <i>Experiences with E-training: a review of the SWITCH stormwater online course</i> (Alison Duffy)

Saturday 29 November	
0900-1000	<p>Session 7: Documenting change and impacts for learning (process documentation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An introduction to process documentation and progress in SWITCH to date (John Butterworth) • Improving SWITCH process documentation (Stef Smits)
1030-1230	<p>Session 8: Concluding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitated discussion: <i>Finding ways forward for multi-stakeholder processes in research</i> (John Butterworth and Stef Smits) • <i>SWITCH learning alliances planning: introduction of process</i> (Carol Howe) • <i>Evaluation and next steps</i> (John Butterworth and Stef Smits)