

MarineTT - From Marine RTD to Measurable Value Creation

On 23rd May 2012, the MarineTT consortium organised an “Open Stakeholder Workshop to Explore the Challenges and Solutions to Effective Knowledge Capture and Transfer” as a satellite event to the European Commission Green Week. The workshop focused on the barriers that are preventing the uptake of knowledge generated by European funded research and the subsequent effect this has on innovation. Participants were drawn from Industry, Research, and Policy to ensure that all stakeholders in the innovation from research life cycle were represented.

A series of presentations set the scene of the various stakeholders requirements for Knowledge Transfer at the Policy level including the EU (Mr. Cornelis Vis - Bureau of European Policy Advisors) and the EC (Mr. Arnoldas Milukas - DG Research and Innovation). Mr. Willem De Moor (JPI Oceans) outlined the Knowledge Transfer requirements of the Joint Programme Initiatives while Dr. Panos Christofiliogiannis (Aquark) outlined the Industry needs as determined by the Technology Platforms. Novel approaches to Knowledge Transfer and some barriers to transfer were provided by other initiatives including ICE2SEA, MESMA, Marcom+ and LEI Fisheries Knowledge Groups. Presentations are available on the MarineTT website.

Mr. Cornelis Vis, who presented on the wider policy scenario which aims to get more innovation from investment in research and identification of new ways to generate smart, sustainable and inclusive growth as outlined in the Horizon 2020 strategy, considers that the MarineTT project and its approach reflect very well the European need to get innovation from research.

Presentations were followed by an interactive session involving the input of all workshop participants. Prior to the workshop participants provided and ranked a list of barriers to effective Knowledge Transfer which affect innovation from research, and proposed some possible solutions. Dr. Mike Hogan (National University of Ireland, Galway) brought the workshop participants through an interactive Integrated Management process to identify the critical barriers from the 12 top ranked barriers using his newly developed software. Dr. Hogan explains that “Integrated Management is a thought mapping technique that enhances group problem solving and which recognizes that multiple viewpoints on an issue are needed to resolve complex problems.” Consensus in the relationships between barriers had to be reached before new barrier relationships were investigated.

This exercise generated a map of the three critical barriers/bottlenecks to effective Knowledge Transfer encountered by participants. Participants were then broken into three Working Groups (balanced by stakeholder groups) and were tasked with developing options for resolution of these barriers. The outcomes of this exercise will be further developed to become part of the MarineTT Best Practice Guidelines on Knowledge Transfer of Research Results.

A follow up workshop will be held in early July to further develop the barriers and solutions identified during this workshop and will be broadened to include participation from other

research sectors. Coordinators from projects with a similar aim to MarineTT will be invited to participate in the follow up meeting where it is hoped that a collective response to the most common barriers to effective Knowledge Transfer and innovation from research will be identified, and solutions proposed. Further details will be provided on the MarineTT website (www.marinett.eu).

Those with an interest in improving knowledge exchange between Industry, Policy and Research are invited to join the MarineTT Marine Knowledge Transfer Linked In Group at http://www.linkedin.com/groups/MarineTT-Marine-Knowledge-Transfer-4403470?home=&gid=4403470&trk=anet_ug_hm