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## **PROMEMORIA**

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# Activity report SLU Water Forum 2022-06-03 - 2022-09-28

Below follows a summary of the activities and work within SLU Water Forum between early June to late September 2022. At the end there is also a short outlook on future plans and activities of the forum.

## Program proposal for Mistra's call on *Blue economy*

June-September. The work was focused on writing the final program proposal (proposal name: *Mistra Blue Pathways*), and submitting it to Mistra in mid-August (18/8). SLU Water Forum is via Jens Olsson involved in the program proposal by leading the work package focusing on “co-creation” and collaboration with external partners. Within this work package, more than 35 external partners representing blue sectors including fisheries, shipping, energy production, military defense, aquaculture, food production, as well as NGO's and local and national management authorities and regional development bodies have signed up as “co-creators”. Mistra's final decision on which of the three submitted program proposals that will be granted funding is expected later this fall, and the consortia for *Mistra Blue Pathways* is currently preparing for program interviews on the 26/10.

This activity has occupied the majority of Jens Olsson's time as a coordinator for SLU Water Forum during the period June to September.

## Spring 2022-meeting with WaterCOG

13/6. The spring 2022-meeting with the coordination group for water at SLU (WaterCOG), focused on dissemination of activities within SLU Water Forum during spring 2022, sharing information between meeting participants, discussing upcoming research calls related to water, and suggesting activities within SLU Water Forum during fall 2022. Among other things discussed at the meeting, it was suggested that the next “water-seminar” at SLU should focus on younger scholars and take place in January/February 2023, that it is desirable to continue to produce newsletters from SLU Water Forum, that it would be good to open a call for seed-money for 2022/2023 to strengthen water-related research at SLU if the budget allows, and to develop a *Strategy and workplan* for SLU Water Forum for 2023-2024. See [notes](#) from the meeting for more information.

## UN's High Level Political Forum (HLPF)

5-12/7, New York. The [forum](#) serves as UN's platform for sustainability and aims at reviewing the progress and achievements of Agenda 2030. Sustainability goals 14 (life below water), 15 (life on land) and 17 (partnership), all key focal areas for the operation at SLU, were amongst the goals discussed during this year's HLPF. Jens Olsson participated as SLU's representative in the Swedish delegation for the forum. Following HLPF, Jens Olsson has participated in follow-up meetings (31/8 and 27/9) at the Government Offices of Sweden aiming at discussing and sharing perspectives and lessons learned from HLPF among delegates and officials at the Government Offices of Sweden. SLU Water Forum has also been asked to contribute to SLU's reporting of how we contribute to Agenda 2030 for goal 14 (life below water). The report will be submitted to the Times Higher Education ranking of universities contribution to Agenda 2030.

## Collaboration with the *Life IP Rich Waters* project

26/8. Meeting with the project coordinators for [LIFE IP Rich Waters](#) project to share news and information from SLU and Rich Waters, and to also discuss future possibilities for collaboration between researchers at SLU and partners (foremost county boards and municipalities) within LIFE IP Rich Waters. Rich Waters aims to organize workshops on developing future collaboration on eutrophication issues during this fall. Researchers from SLU will be invited to the workshops. In the longer time-perspective, discussions have been initiated for a possible new application for an [Interreg](#) project in the Baltic Sea region in which SLU should be a key partner.

## World Water Week

23/8 – 1/9, Stockholm. SLU did not arrange a session during this year's World Water Week in Stockholm, but Jennie Barron (Dep. Soil and Environment) were amongst those researchers from SLU participating in the conference. Jennie Barron was seminar responsible for three sessions focusing on *[Achieving 2030 food-nutrition security targets through water security](#)*, and co-arranged one side-event together with FAO [Water, food and nutrition in a climate crisis: Field insights](#).

## Baltic Sea Day 2022

25/8, Skansen. Magnus Huss (SLU Aqua) and Jennie Barron (Dep. Soil and Environment) gave presentations at an [event at Skansen](#) focusing in climate change in the Baltic Sea region during the Baltic Sea Day. Anna Gårdmark (SLU Aqua) also participated in a panel debate during the event. SLU co-arranged the event with Skansen and Stockholm University.

## Miljöövervakningsdagarna 2022

13-15/9, Umeå. Several "water-experts" from SLU participated, gave presentations and showed posters during the 2022 edition of [Miljöövervakningsdagarna](#). The conference focus on environmental monitoring and assessment, and attract experts and officers from national authorities, country boards, municipalities, universities and the private sector.

## SI-application restoration of ecosystems in Ukraine

September. During the spring 2022, Jens Olsson was contacted by colleagues in Ukraine regarding potential collaboration between SLU and the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla on capacity building and knowledge transfer focusing on restoration of damaged ecosystems in Ukraine after the Russian invasion. This has resulted in a planned application to the Swedish Institute (SI) for the call [Academic collaboration in the Baltic Sea region](#). The application is led by Brian Kuns (Dep. Urban and Rural Development) with the participation of, among others, several “water-experts” at SLU.

## News feed and Twitter

June-September. From 3/6 to 28/9, 19 news/press-releases related to water at SLU have been posted in the news feed at the SLU Water Forum web. These posts and other relevant issues on water related to SLU have routinely also been posted at SLU Water Forum’s Twitter account (@SLUwater).

## Information on water related funding opportunities and events

March-May. During this period, six e-mails on upcoming funding opportunities and events related to water have been distributed to the SLU Water Forum mailing list.

## Plans/activities during late spring and early fall 2022

### Interview *Mistra Blue Pathways*

September-October. Preparatory work for the program interview by Mistra on 26/10, where key persons in the *Mistra Blue Pathways* consortia will participate. SLU Water Forum is represented by Jens Olsson who is leading the “co-creation” work package of the program proposal.

### THE Agenda 2030 ranking

October-November. SLU Water Forum will contribute to the annual SLU-reporting to the Times Higher Education (THE) Agenda 2030 ranking of universities. SLU Water Forum will specifically contribute to the reporting of activities and contribution to fulfillment of SDG 14 (life below water).

### News post seed-money 2021

November-December. The outcome of the projects receiving seed-money from SLU Water Forum for the 2021 call will be summarized as a news post on the SLU Water Forum [web](#).

## Fifth news-letter from SLU Water Forum

December. The fifth news-letter will be released later this fall and aim to summarize the activities within SLU Water Forum during summer and fall 2022.

## Meeting WaterCOG

November-December. The fall 2022 meeting with WaterCOG will disseminate recent activities within SLU Water Forum, share information between participants on planned activities and coming calls, and discuss future collaboration and activities within the forum.

## Workplan SLU Water Forum 2023-2024

November-December. The strategy and work plan of SLU Water Forum for 2023-2024 will be developed and outlined based on input and advice from WaterCOG.

## Seed-money from SLU Water Forum during 2023

January-February 2023. The planned call on seed-money for projects aiming at strengthening transdisciplinary cooperation and research on water at SLU, that was planned to be opened during early fall 2022, has been postponed due to budget constraints. If the budget allows, the call will instead be launched in early 2023.

## Third internal water seminar at SLU

October-February 2023. Preparatory work for arranging the third internal “water-seminar” at SLU will be initiated during fall 2022. A smaller group including Jens Olsson, Lisa Beste and a few representatives from WaterCOG are anticipated to organize and plan the seminar.

## Additional plans/activities if feasible

### Digital seminar series on water at SLU

Pending available funding, continued planning of a future popular science-oriented seminar series on water at SLU, that is open to the public, is foreseen.

### SLU Water Forum on Wikipedia

As a “low-hanging fruit” for branding and showcasing the expertise on water at SLU, we have encouraged experts (in our latest newsletter) at SLU to contribute with texts and literature to relevant subjects on water at Wikipedia. During 2022 we will give practical Wikipedia support, within SLU Water Forum (if researchers show an interest for this).

### List of “water experts” at SLU

A list of experts on water at SLU, to be displayed on the Water Forum web, will be established. The current list of “[Baltic Sea-experts](#)” at SLU will serve as the basis for the “water-expert” list.

## Outline and structure of the SLU Water Forum web

The SLU Water Forum web will be updated, to make it more accessible, structured and informative.