



Activity report SLU Water Forum 2021-09-21 - 2021-11-19

Below follows a summary of the activities and work within SLU Water Forum between mid September and end of November 2021. After this there is a short outlook on future plans and activities of the forum.

Theme days at Baltic Sea Science Center (Skansen), autumn 2021
20-24/9. During these days, SLU together with Stockholm University, Stockholm vatten och avfall and Skansen (all partners at BSSC) arranged digital meetings between school classes and experts on the Baltic Sea (<https://www.slu.se/ew-kalender/2021/9/temavecka-bssc-ht-2021/>). From SLU's side, Tomas Brodin (Department of Wildlife, Fish and Environmental Studies) and Stefan Skoglund (Department of Aquatic Resources) gave presentations during the event.

Workshops within the *Waterdrive* project

30/9, 22/10. Jens Olsson participated in workshops aiming at establishing a national competence center for sustainable water management in agricultural landscapes.

Third newsletter from SLU Water Forum

1/10. The third newsletter from SLU Water Forum was released on 1/10 (<https://www.anpdm.com/newsletterweb/474051447340475E4572434059/424A5C4474454B5A477147475D43>). The newsletter summarizes the activities within SLU Water Forum during spring and summer 2021.

Future digital seminar series on water at SLU

8/10. Meeting with Richard Johnson (Department of Aquatic Sciences and Assessment), Anna Gårdmark (Department of Aquatic Resources), Lisa Beste and Jens Olsson on the possibilities for a future popular science-oriented seminar series on water at SLU that is open to the public. The conclusions from the meeting were that:

- this is something we should aim for,
- there should be four-six seminars each semester ideally covering at least two water focal areas,
- we should use the existing survey on water competence at SLU as the basis for selection of subjects for the seminars,

- in order to attract interest, the seminar series should be advertised and arranged in a professional manner.

For all this to happen, it is crucial that a dedicated effort including additional funding is needed. As such, we will look for potential funding sources for arranging the seminar series in 2022.

Meeting with the new coordinator for UUSI

8/11. Jens Olsson had a first meeting with the new (since September) coordinator for Uppsala University Sustainable Initiative – water, Susann Baez Ullberg, to discuss further cooperation on water between SLU and Uppsala University. The discussions focused on 1) the potential for SLU and Uppsala University to join forces for the Mistra Blue Economy call, 2) presentations by Jens Olsson during UUSI meetings, 3) Susann's participation in the 2nd SLU seminar on water (see above), and 4) the arrangement of a common seminar during 2022 to spur collaboration between SLU and Uppsala University.

"Teacher-training" at Baltic Sea Science Center (Skansen)

15/11. During the fall 2021 version for "teacher-training" at the Baltic Sea Science Center, the focus was on innovations for combatting eutrophication in the Baltic Sea (<https://bssc.se/kan-innovationer-stoppa-overgodningen-i-ostersjon/>). Jenna Senecal and Anastasija Vasiljev (both from the Department of Energy and Technology) gave presentations at the event. In all, 16 teachers participated.

Samverkansforum SLU och Uppsala kommun

September-November. Following a period during winter to early autumn 2021 with low activity, the collaboration between SLU and Uppsala kommun has now been revitalized with the new contact persons at Uppsala kommun and Uppsala vatten. Following a meeting between Stephan Köhler (Uppsala vatten), Johanna Andersson (Uppsala kommun) and Jens Olsson (SLU Water Forum) on the 27/9 we have started to draft a common platform on Teams for further collaboration that will hopefully also serve as digital space for exchange of ideas and knowledge.

New contract for collaboration at Baltic Sea Science Center

September-November. The final issues and details for the new contract between Skansen, Stockholm University and SLU during the coming three years have been solved and outlined. The next step for finalizing the contract is to get signatures from the collaboration partners, something anticipated to happen in early 2022.

2nd SLU seminar on water

September-November. The second seminar on water at SLU is planned for 25-26/1 2022 at Ultuna. The meeting will be physical with possibilities to attend digitally. The focus of the seminar is younger researchers and have the title "*Future water research at SLU – a seminar on perspectives from younger scholars*" (<https://www.slu.se/en/ew-calendar/2022/1/seminar-future-water-research-at-slu-->

[a-seminar-on-perspectives-from-younger-scholars/](#)). An invitation for speakers and participants was posted to the SLU Water Forum mail list on 28/9. Currently, eleven speakers have signed up for the seminar, and during the common weeks we aim to detail the program and send out a reminder to potential additional participants.

Collaboration with the *Life IP Rich Waters* project

October-November. Jens Olsson participated in a meeting aiming at further fostering the collaboration between water at SLU and the EU Life project IP Rich Waters. This resulted in an invitation to experts within SLU Water Forum to participate in Mälarförbundets workshops to inspire development work and collaborative activities with local municipalities. Jens Olsson also participated in the conference *Inspirationsdagar för kommunal vattenplanering* on the 17/11 with a presentation on water related work at SLU and suggestions for collaboration between SLU and local municipalities in Sweden (<https://youtu.be/-Cu3ebtbMRA>).

Call from Mistra on *Blue economy*

October-November. Since the opening of the call in mid September, researchers at SLU have formed a consortium and brought up ideas for a future program lead by SLU. Currently, the suggestion for a program has developed significantly and has the tentative title *Adaptation to Climate Change for a Sustainable & Resilient Blue Economy*. The suggested program will be led by professor Anna Gårdmark (Department of Aquatic Resources) and will include researchers from the Department of Aquatic Resources and Department of Economy (Staffan Waldo, Agrifood). Other partners within the consortium includes RISE, Gothenburg University, Stockholm Resilience Center (SRC), KTH, IVL and potentially also Chalmers. As the coordinator for SLU Water Forum, Jens Olsson is engaged in leading the collaboration with stakeholders within the planned program. At this stage, we are working on detailing the program content and inviting key stakeholders to the consortium. Following this, a “pitch” for the suggested program will be developed and outlined for the first stage submission of the call on 10/1 2022.

News feed and Twitter

September-November. From 21/9 to 15/11, 23 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

September-November. During this period, twelve 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 2021 and early 2022

Autumn 2021 meeting with WaterCOG

In the autumn 2021, a meeting with WaterCOG is scheduled to 6/12. The focus of the meeting is to review the activities within SLU Water Forum during the past six months and discuss potential activities and work during the coming six months. We will also have detailed discussions on the conditions and potential for a future education program on water at SLU.

Call from Mistra on *Blue economy*

There will be a key focus on supporting the application lead by SLU (see above) to the open call from Mistra on Blue economy during the coming weeks.

2nd SLU seminar on water

25-26/1 at Ultuna, “*Future water research at SLU – a seminar on perspectives from younger scholars*” (<https://www.slu.se/en/ew-calendar/2022/1/seminar-future-water-research-at-slu--a-seminar-on-perspectives-from-younger-scholars/>).

World Water Day 2022

22/3. During early 2022, efforts will be undertaken to engage experts and researchers on water at SLU during a planned “news-drive” during the World Water Day 2022. The theme for the World Water Day 2022 will be “*Groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible*”.

Fourth newsletter from SLU Water Forum

The fourth newsletter from SLU Water Forum summarizing the activities and work within the forum during autumn 2021 and early winter 2022, will be released during spring 2022.

SLU Water Forum at World Water Week 2022

29/8-2/9. During early 2022, the interest among researcher within SLU Water Forum for participating in the World Water Week 2022 will be investigated.

Additional plans/activities if feasible

Publication record for SLU Water Forum

We plan to produce a list of publications from people included in the SLU Water Forum mailing list. Following this, the selected publications will be visualized and communicated both internally and externally to highlight water related research at SLU.

SLU Water Forum on Wikipedia

As a “low-hanging fruit” for branding and showcasing the expertise on water at SLU, we plan to encourage experts within SLU Water Forum to contribute with texts and literature to relevant subjects on water at Wikipedia during the autumn 2021.

List of “water experts” at SLU

A list of experts on water at SLU, to be displayed on the Water Forum web, is planned for. The current list of “Baltic Sea-experts” at SLU (<https://www.slu.se/om-slu/pressrum/ostersjoexperter-slu/>) will serve as the basis for the “water-expert” list.

Outline and structure of the SLU Water Forum web

We plan to update the SLU Water Forum web to make it more accessible, structured and informative.