



# Success Stories



Researchers' Success Stories / February 2010

## EnviroGRIDS enables informed decisions about water use

EnviroGRIDS is building the capacities to assess and predict the vulnerability and sustainability of water resources in the catchment area of the Black Sea. The project coordinator, Anthony Lehmann (University of Geneva), says that neither coordination nor getting funds is easy, but well worth the effort.

So far, Anthony Lehmann seems to be highly satisfied with the EnviroGRIDS. He describes the role of a coordinator as “interesting”, “stimulating” and “exciting”. EnviroGRIDS is funded under the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) of the European Commission. It involves around 100 researchers across 27 organizations and 15 countries, making it possible to “learn so many new things”, as Lehmann puts it.



nating team, he says. But once the aims of the Work-Package Tasks are clear (“Work Packages” are the smaller organizational units of the project as a whole), and once the partners feel proud of being a part of the project, the coordination becomes easier. Coordinating such a project, also requires quite a lot of administrative work. But after the project proposal had

been accepted, Anthony Lehmann could hire a full-time manager, Nicolas Ray,

**“Being the coordinator of this project is very interesting, stimulating and exciting.”**

who now deals with most of the administrative work. All in all, Lehmann does not feel

### Motivation as the key to success

Coordinating the work of so many individuals is a difficult task, which requires a lot of personal investment of the coordi-

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

EnviroGRIDS collects information about the state of water resources in the catchment area of the Black Sea. It aims at providing an infrastructure to enter, store and process this information and share it in adequate forms with scientists, policy-makers and the population of the Black Sea catchment area. It will produce models and scenarios to analyze the human impacts on the environment in the past, present and future. By such a data-driven view of the area, EnviroGRIDS aims to assist governments and communities to track environmental trends in the Black Sea catchment area and respond to the resulting possible risks to human health, biodiversity, agriculture and energy supply.

that the project is unduly restricted by the regulations of FP7.

### Persistence as the key to getting funds

Another difficult task was getting funds in the first place: Lehmann’s first attempt to get funds was not successful, but when Euresearch presented FP7 in Geneva, he saw a new chance. “Euresearch was very helpful during the process of preparing the proposal”, says Lehmann.

### Networking opportunities

Apart from money, FP7 provides another vital resource: visibility. “EnviroGRIDS has also given us more visibility”, says Lehmann. With the University of Geneva, he is already involved in another FP7 project and has been asked to join another project. Furthermore, he has the opportunity to present EnviroGRIDS to both decision-makers and other researchers, which is a huge opportunity for networking building. “I don’t think that we would be where we are now without EnviroGRIDS.”

### FACTS AND FIGURES

<b>Project Name:</b>	EnviroGRIDS – Building Capacity for a Black Sea Catchment Observation and Assessment System supporting Sustainable Development
<b>Research Area:</b>	ENV.2008.4.1.4.1.
<b>Coordinator:</b>	Dr. Anthony Lehmann
<b>Institution:</b>	Université de Genève
<b>Start Date:</b>	2009/04/01
<b>End Date:</b>	2013/03/01
<b>Duration:</b>	48 months
<b>Project Cost / Funding:</b>	7,90 million Euro / 6,22 million Euro
<b>Contract type:</b>	SICA
<b>Reference Number:</b>	226740 (FP7 - Environment)

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