European Science and Technology Network on Unconventional Hydrocarbon Extraction
Working Group 1 (WG 1):
Exploration, demonstration and production projects in the EU

WORK PROGRAMME AND TIMELINE 2015

The Network will initially be set up for a period of 3 years (2015-2017) and it should collect data obtained from exploration, possible demonstration and production projects as well as related research projects carried out in the EU and carry out a comparative assessment. We should conclude with a presentation of the main achievements, presented at the Network's annual conferences and yearly reports (see the Mandate - Ref. Ares (2014) 4022184 - 02/12/2014). We plan to organize four meetings per working year, including the annual conference (February 2016). In between meetings/conferences we shall organize teleconferences (if needed) and continuous exchange of information via internet and a dedicated common space, provided by the Technical Secretariat. Final agreed reports will be posted on the Network webpage.

1. Meeting
23rd February 2015, 15.30-18.30 - Kick-off meeting in Brussels, creation of Task Force subgroups, discussion, acceptance of Work Programme and Method of Work

2. Meeting
April (late) or May 2015 – Second meeting in Brussels, presentation of database of existing and planned (funded) projects related unconventional hydrocarbon exploration projects in the EU; discussion on the lesson learnt and future perspectives

3. Meeting
September 2015 – Third meeting in Brussels, presentation of existing technical environmental reports and report on existing research projects

4. Meeting
February 2016 – Conference with presentation of annual results of working groups (in particular: results of the assessment of project specific environmental reports); summary of the results; adoption of the framework of yearly report; adoption of a framework work programme for 2016.
METHOD OF WORK AND TASK FORCES

The Network WG1 should collect data obtained from exploration, demonstration and production projects as well as related research projects carried out in the EU. Then carry out a comparative assessment by bringing together relevant stakeholders to foster a common understanding on relevant topics (see the Mandate/Deliverables). Exchange of information is particularly important between members of Task Force teams and chairs of WG 1 and WG 2. Basic input (technical notes) to the WG 1 reports should be created within Task Force teams and summarized, harmonized and approved by the chairs. The chairs of the working groups shall steer and moderate the discussions in a spirit of open dialogue and collaboration.

It is important to answer the question: “What sources of info are available to participants that may be useful to the data collection exercise?

Task Force A:
Collation of existing and where relevant, planned unconventional hydrocarbon exploration/production projects in the EU - due in April 2015. The Task Force will compile a database, to be continuously updated, including:
- Location and operator
- Operating parameters or design
- Site specific technical and environmental data available including data related to the potential of the reservoir;
- occurrences of incidents, their causes, consequences and remediation actions taken (per project);

Task Force B: Comparative assessment of project specific environmental data gathered in the database (evidence based knowledge), including if appropriate, comparison at international level

Possible additional Task Forces

Task Force C - Identifying gaps and R&D needs, building on the assessment of project specific data carried out – possibly (this team could join stakeholders from WG 1 and WG 2; not the primary purpose of the WG).
Task Force D – Preparation of annual conference and draft of yearly report

The reports should be approved in a two-step process. First approval by the Task Force, second approval by the WG Chairman. Once agreed they should be forwarded to the EC Steering Group through the Technical Secretariat (JRC).

The necessary resources to manage the network will be provided by the EC’s JRC (Joint Research Centre). JRC will take charge of interacting with the members of the Network, and of organizing all relevant meetings and activities, including communication activities.


A common workspace (UHNetwork) for the WGs is created by the JRC within CIRCABC (https://circabc.europa.eu/).