

## How to revitalise your Panta Rhei working group?

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Has your Panta Rhei working group been dormant for a while? Do you lack the time / priority to engage fully in Panta Rhei and organise your working group successfully? Would you like to make use of the large potential for collaborative research projects with colleagues in your Panta Rhei group? Are you interested in simple but effective tricks to energize your working group? Then read this document put together with input of those present at the 2017 EGU Panta Rhei day.

### Engagement with Panta Rhei

The challenge for all Panta Rhei working groups: finding the balance between input and output. The most important gains of being actively involved in a Panta Rhei working group are: papers, exchange of data / models, a network of interesting colleagues, many opportunities.

### Factors that help forming an active Panta Rhei working group:

- Trust! (Part of) the group knows each other from before or is engaged in an active research project. Or you meet to get to know each other.
- Time! If you don't have this, make use of early-career scientists who do have time and to which the working group can be a huge benefit in terms of data, collaboration, etc.
- Money! There are funds that support networks / workshops, e.g. EGU/AGU workshop funding, local network funding, a COST network, etc.

### What to do to activate your working group:

- Organise a workshop of a few days for people to get to know each other and to brainstorm about collaborative research projects (see photo Drought group workshop in Birmingham, Sept 2016).
- Appoint early-career scientists as co-chairs of the group or as leaders of a specific project within the group. They have more time than you and can gain a lot (experience, enhanced CV, collaboration).
- Organise follow-up meetings at International conferences, such as EGU, AGU, IAHS, etc. to inform each other what has been done and what the future plans are (see photos Drought group meeting at EGU, April 2017).





- Organise Skype meetings with small sub-groups about collaborative research projects, grant writing, etc.
- Organise something in which the whole group is involved: a review paper, a methodological paper, an opinion paper, a model / case study comparison paper, a proposal, a conference session, etc.
- Define PhD / MSc / BSc student projects to explore new collaborations or innovative research ideas. Co-supervise these projects with working group members from different organisations.

#### **Other tips:**

- Have an up-to date member list, including email addresses, research topics and institute website and send that around the group once in a while.
- Welcome spies into your working group! People who are member of multiple working groups can share information and best practice between groups.
- Organise your communication with the working group. Do you send too many or not enough emails? Do you have an active member list? Do you have a Dropbox-folder for sharing information and data? Do you send notes of meetings to the rest of the group to keep them involved?
- It is difficult to include all working group members all the time and you cannot expect members to be active all the time. Try energetic leadership and positive encouragement to stimulate members to actively engage in the working group.
- Use LinkedIn, Twitter and other social media to show what your working group is doing.