

WS2: What do young researchers expect from ILEE? How to facilitate the communication/collaboration among them? – short summary

Brainstorming – what kind of communication already exists for ILEE?

- Newsletter 1 per 2 months
- Punctual emails concerning thesis defenses, etc.
- Website
- Kick-off meeting
- University calendar for events

What would you prefer to have as further means of communication/activities?

- Importance of personal contact – the building is missing!!
 - Meetings
 - Social, playful activities (teambuilding 1/y, excursions)
 - Seminars
 - Conferences (also international)
 - Activities for the protection of the environment
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter) – more visual
- Welcome package, lab tour in the first week, “onboarding” important, contact with lab managers
- Awareness raising of the large public (printemps de sciences, press conference, media)

Results from google form/online survey on communication

1. What do you think about the mechanisms of communication that already exist within ILEE, i.e. the newsletter, web site, emails with selective information?

Correct but social networks important (Facebook/Twitter/Youtube for videos etc./Research Gate); All good! And your suggestion of adding social media also seems great.; OK; Good, but Thunderbird considers ILEE emails as potentially suspicious; OK, but would prefer Twitter; newsletter & emails: very good; I do not look at the website.

2. What would be your needs concerning communication? Please feel free to list all those you would think could help create collaboration (information, communication, training,...)

Advanced and selective training (statistics, programming, image processing, use of office tools) for young researchers would be good; research days like at INRA (France) with presentations and posters for young researchers, prizes for best posters;

Probably training events create the most interaction, but I think that attending talks by members of ILEE from other disciplines helps a lot to get different perspectives on a same problem. I enjoyed very much understanding the part that fields like geography and history play in environmental sciences. It was eye-opening.

This type of ILEE workshop was great to start collaborations

New institute members or personnel should be better informed about ILEE and who are the contact persons. Conferences like the kick-off should be continued. Teambuilding sessions would be interesting to organise.

Training from Jean-Luc Doumont on how to give presentations. Could be done in collaboration with other institute(s).

More specific or focused communication, e.g. class it after theme or give a colour code

3. Do you have special expectations regarding the institute? What do you think could improve your research work?

More coherence and solidarity among researchers to open the opportunity to collaborate;

My main suggestion as a foreign researcher specifically working with animals would be to have an online course in English to obtain the FELASA C certificate, that Belgian law requires to work in animal experimentation. This currently doesn't exist here and I had to take a course offered by Ghent, which is less than ideal. I know this is probably very specific for biology, but it would be a huge upgrade.

Have invited top speakers within ILEE, funding for young researchers (PhD and postdoc) for research stays abroad up to 6 months.

ILEE combines various subjects and allows researchers a broader vision on their special topic. The institute should favour the communication: 1) transfer of experience 2) collaboration on complementary topics 3) mutual assistance among researchers that work on different subjects but have similar problems, use the same techniques, etc. Thus, frequent common activities would be ideal to deal with the different topics of ILEE at the same time.

Not sure.

I hope it will help me to join other research groups offering my specific contribution, but I am quite pessimistic.