



Annette Gatchett is Division Director at EPA's National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) in Cincinnati. She was elected chair of the international Advisory Board (IAB) of INSPIRATION during their first meeting in Berlin in April 2015

### Can you tell us a little bit about your institution?

The mission of the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) is to protect human health and the environment, ensuring that Americans are protected from significant risks where they live, learn and work. More specifically I work in the Office of Research and Development where scientific research supports the underpinnings for credible decision-making to safeguard human health and ecosystems from chemical and biological contaminants in all media.

### What motivated you to join the INSPIRATION international Advisory Board?

Participating in a broad scale project that will address important science issues related to contaminated land and water is one of many priorities for the US EPA. Working together with other organizations, both in the US and internationally, expands our knowledge and understanding of environmental issues. The exchange and transfer of knowledge among the international community is important in advancing the cleanup of sites contaminated with hazardous materials and the sustainable use of land, soil and water.

### What does the project International advisory board (IAB) do and how would you describe your role?

The purpose and goal of the IAB is to provide expert advice to the overall INSPIRATION Project areas and their associated products. The eleven IAB members are a diverse group of scientific experts with extensive experience in their specific disciplines. Specifically the IAB identified five primary roles as follows:

- Formulate recommendations /advice all along the project duration,
- Bring their knowledge and experiences to support the elaboration of the Strategic Research Action (SRA) plan and avoid repeating existing research agendas,
- Challenge the project by the identification of potential emerging needs,
- Strengthen the SRA implementation by communicating/ sharing the identified RTD needs in their own institutions and networks,



- Assist the INSPIRATION project in the dissemination and use of the project results / outcomes among stakeholders in their countries.

### **How do you hope INSPIRATION will advance knowledge in Land and Soil – Sediment – Water related system management? How this SRA should influence the international context?**

Influencing broad goals and informing policy across many countries is challenging but also important in advancing land and soil and water systems management. The INSPIRATION Project in particular is designed to systematically collect data and information in a way to prioritize the most important issues related to land and soil issues across a large area of Europe. This large diverse group of international participants brings their countries' issues to the forefront and gathers more detailed information at the community level. This bottom-up approach will be significant in influencing the EU development of future policies and guidelines.

### **As a representative of policy – makers and regulators, what will help regulators embrace new concept, new knowledge and innovation in this field?**

As with any new research plan, project development, or policy-making, including and engaging stakeholders early and often in the beginning of the process cultivates transparency and leads to better outcomes. Stakeholder involvement becomes an integral part of the process and encourages the use and implementation of new recommendations.