



Coordinating twinning partnerships towards more adaptive governance in river basins

Twin2Go reviews, consolidates, and synthesises research on adaptive and integrated water resources management in basins around the world. The aim is to draw insights relevant to policy and research on issues around adaptive water governance in the context of climate change, and to make them transferable to other basins. Twin2Go further promotes sharing of research results with practitioners and high level decision makers through effective dialogue.

Background

Where uncertainty cannot be reduced in the short-term, or where policy decisions cannot be postponed until better knowledge is available, adaptive and integrated management of water resources is required. Failures of governance systems have been identified as one of the most important reasons for increased vulnerability to water related disasters. The EU has established a significant portfolio of research projects on issues of integrated water resources management (IWRM). To accelerate the pace at which water management practices and water policy move towards adaptive and integrated approaches, much more importance needs to be given to effective communication of research results and to constructive engagement with stakeholders from all levels, including political decision makers.

Objectives

Against this background, Twin2Go's objectives are:

- **to review, compare, synthesise** and consolidate the outcomes of several EU-funded, and other, projects on IWRM in basins around the world.
- **to draw context-sensitive, but transferable approaches** for improving IWRM so that it becomes more adaptive.
- **to formulate policy-relevant best practices** and tools for implementing adaptive water governance and for better use of research-based knowledge.
- **to effectively disseminate outcomes** to relevant stakeholders, including policy makers.

Activities

In order to achieve its aims, Twin2Go will carry out the following activities between June 2009 and May 2011:

- **elaborate a diagnostic approach** that allows comparative analysis and synthesis of past and on-going research projects.
- **analyse and consolidate research results** in regards to improved water governance and adaptation to climate change together with stakeholders from the case study basins.
- **elaborate best-practices and tools** that are meaningful for the development of water management strategies and water policies. This step will involve regional workshops with relevant stakeholders.
- effectively disseminate synthesis results to all relevant target groups. A series of dialogue workshops will be organised to **share results with high level decision makers** in water policy.

What is adaptive water governance?

In order to regulate and balance the different and often competing interests of the various sectors, a governance structure for water resources management is required. Water governance refers to the range of political, social, economic and administrative systems that are in place to regulate development and management of water resources and provision of water services at different levels of society (UNDP, 2000). In the context of climate change, a major challenge is to create governance structures that are flexible and robust in the face of uncertainties and inevitable surprises. According to the UNDP, successful governance in river basin management is characterised by being participatory, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive and following the rule of law.

Twin2Go's overall goal is to increase the output and benefit of research by consolidating results and using synergies. This will help to build up the critical mass that will reach audiences at the policy making level and promote implementing research results.

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