

Twin2Go – Publication in the Global Water System Project (GWSP) Newsletter

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The following article was submitted, and will be published in the 2010 GWSP Newsletter

The failure of governance systems has been identified as being one of the most important reasons for increased vulnerability to water related threats. Successful governance in river basin management depends on adaptive institutions able to cope with complexity and uncertainty. Despite the overall importance of water governance - the global “water crisis” is often described as more a governance crisis than one of resource availability - our understanding of multi-level water governance systems is quite limited. Twin2Go’s mission is therefore to gain insights into adaptive water governance in the context of climate change. Twin2Go follows a diagnostic approach supporting context-sensitive analysis without being case specific and thus not transferable and avoiding simplistic panaceas, which have proven to be weak in their explanatory power and not very useful or even detrimental for policy advice.



Twin2Go is a Coordination Action within the scope of the Seventh EU Framework Programme and runs from May 2009 to June 2011. It 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.

Twin2Go's objectives are:

- to review, compare, synthesize and consolidate the outcomes of several EU-funded projects that undertook research on specific Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) issues in basins around the world
- to draw context-sensitive but transferable approaches for improving adaptive water resources management with regard to adaptive water governance
- to formulate policy-relevant best practices and tools for implementing adaptive water governance and for improving the uptake of research results
- to disseminate outcomes effectively to relevant stakeholders at the policy level.

As a first step, Twin2Go reviewed the methodological approaches from several EU research projects dealing with IWRM. Based on these approaches, Twin2Go developed a questionnaire to collect case study data from basins around the world. The questionnaire comprises 86 indicators, which address properties of water governance regimes, their contexts as well as the actual performance of water governance. Twin2Go hosted six Case Study Review Workshops to collect data about water governance. Experts provided data for numerous case studies in Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia.



Participants at the NeWater Case Study Review Workshop, Berlin



In a next step, Twin2Go is going to prepare and perform analyses of the data collected. Comparative analyses will serve to identify, which water governance properties work well and how the context influences performance. Up to now, hardly any comparative analyses of a similar scope exist. Together with experts from different target regions, Twin2Go is going to formulate best-practices and recommendations for adaptive water governance in the context of climate change. In the first half of 2011, Twin2Go is going to host four Policy Workshops as side events of water conferences and meetings in order to disseminate the consolidated results to decision-makers at multiple levels. For this Twin2Go will closely collaborate with GWSP to ensure a sound transfer of its results to the policy-maker community.