

Twin2Go in a nutshell

Synthesising research on adaptive water governance

2011 Project Presentation

Twin2Go received funding from the European Commission's
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Why do we need more adaptive water governance?

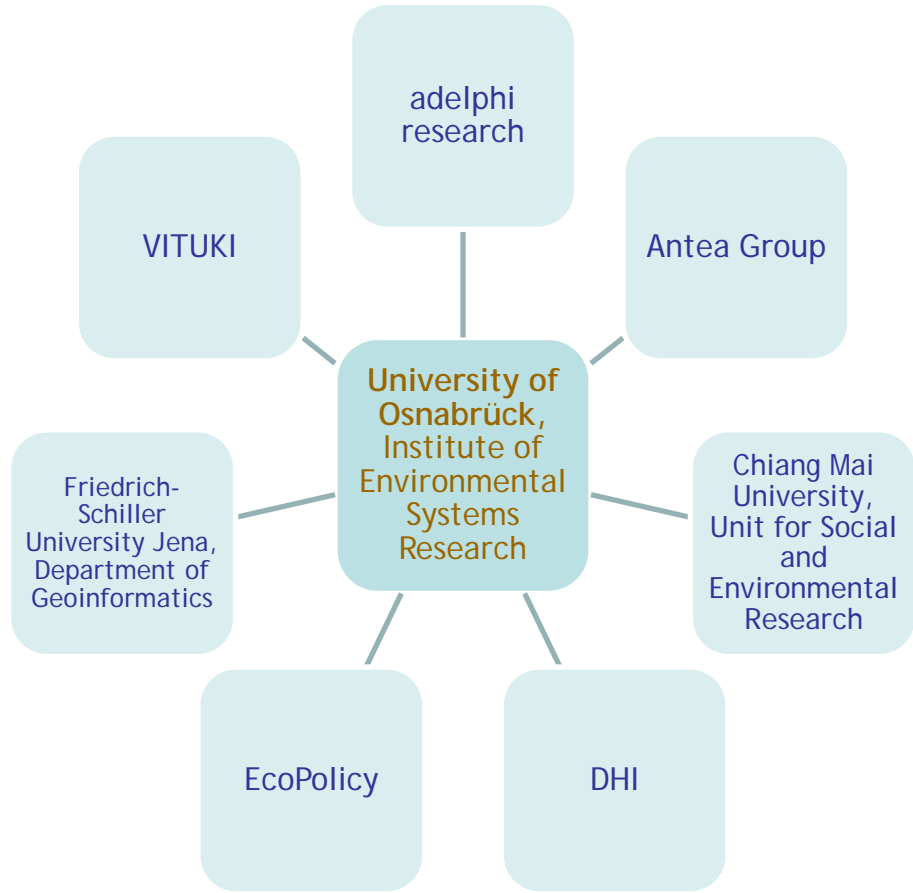
- Many of today's problems in water resources management can be attributed to governance failures
- Climate change will increase the vulnerability of governance regimes

Where uncertainty cannot be reduced, or where policy decisions cannot be postponed until better knowledge is available, adaptive approaches to water resources management are required that are able to respond flexibly and accommodate conflicting interests.

Goal and Objectives

- **To draw policy relevant research results on ‘adaptive water governance in the context of climate change’ and to make them transferable to other basins**
 - review, compare, synthesise and consolidate the outcomes of several EU projects
 - draw context-sensitive, but transferable approaches
 - formulate policy-relevant best practices and tools
 - disseminate outcomes effectively to relevant stakeholders

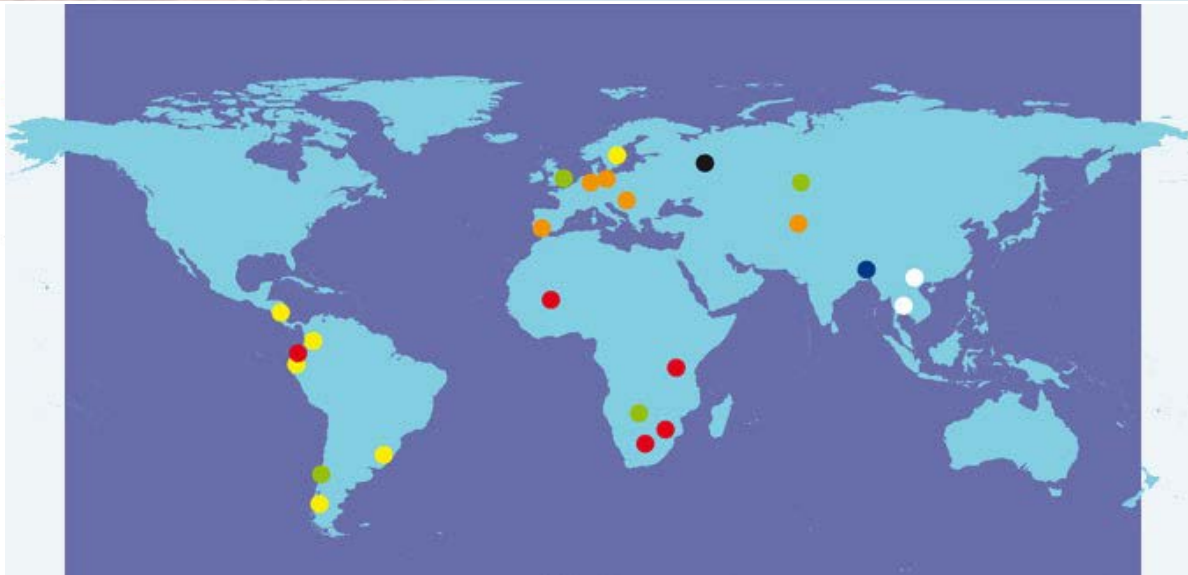
Partners and Projects



Twin2Go's 8 partner institutions built on 7 EU twinning projects to analyse governance systems in 25 river basins around the world



Projects & Case Studies



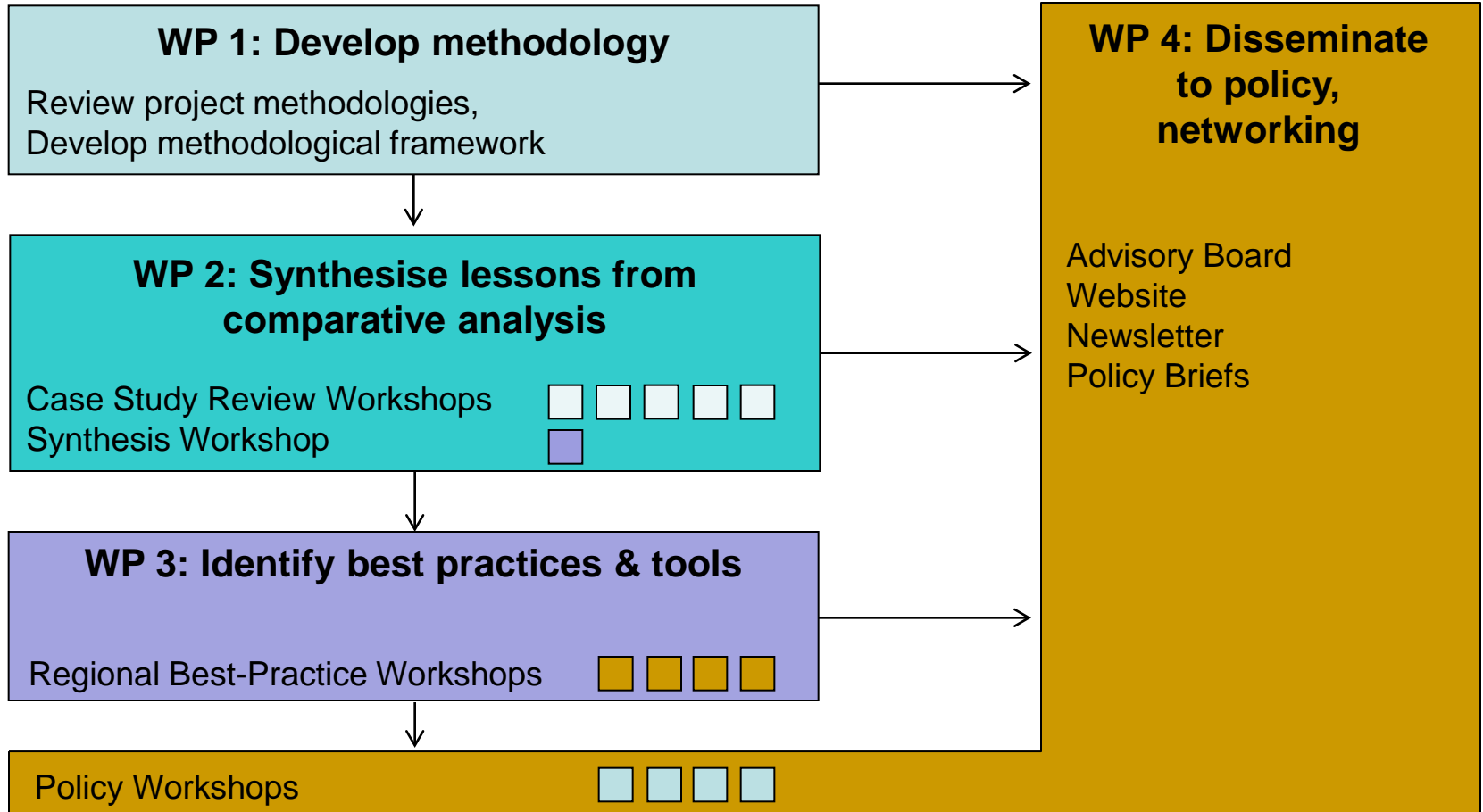
- CABRI-Volga
- NEWATER
- BRAHMATWINN
- ASEM
- WETWIN
- TWINBAS
- TWINLATIN

The image shows the locations of the Twin2Go case study basins that the synthesis will draw on.

Twin2Go's synthesis draws on:

- 29 case studies of governance regimes in river basins
- 48 examples of best practices

T2G Process



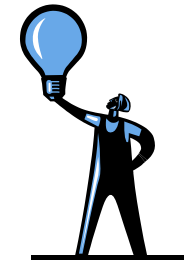
What features of water governance systems increase the ability to respond to the challenges posed by climate change?

- **Polycentric governance systems** have a higher capacity to respond to climate change than centralised or fragmented systems
- Water resources governance systems that have adopted innovative approaches to take into account existing **uncertainties in decision making** are also more likely to respond adequately to future climate change
- A **sound legal and administrative framework** for water resources management is a precondition for good performance in water-related adaptation – but it needs to be complemented with **sufficient implementation capacity**

What are the challenges to introducing new water governance practices?

- **Culture and norms** – potential mismatch between new practice and existing context (incl. water governance system, legal and organisational frameworks, social organisation, capacities)
- **“Shock therapy”** – it takes time for new practices to take root and mature
- **The implementation stage** – crucial point of potential failure

Discussions with regional experts and stakeholders led to the ***following recommendations***



Recommendation 1

Develop clear strategies for best practice transfer and implementation

- **Detailed action plans ensure smooth transfer and uptake of best practices in recipients context**
 - Set up the introduction of best practices in phases
 - Allow sufficient time for new institutions to fully mature
 - Develop mechanisms for monitoring and control

- **Institutional and cultural contexts are critical**
 - Check compatibility of best practices with existing governance systems
 - Use interim institutions to support embedding best practices

Recommendation 1 cont.

Develop clear strategies for best practice transfer and implementation

- **On-going water governance reforms provide windows of opportunities**
 - Use new water legislation, institutions, strategic plans, or reforms for introducing best practices
- **Innovative financial solutions ensure long term viability**
 - Seek diverse funding opportunities including microfinance, and others
 - Combine funds from multiple state and private sources
 - Ensure accountability and transparency in allocation of funds



Recommendation 2

Ensure coordination in implementation of best practices

- **Coordinating multiple actors and interests increases efficiency and helps avoid conflicts**
 - Divide duties and competencies between water agencies to avoid administrative competition over best practice implementation
 - Use inter-sectoral and inter-ministerial planning and coordination
 - Build consensus between actors with different interests



UN Photo - Devra Berkowitz

Recommendation 3

Involve stakeholders early in best practice transfer and implementation

➤ Stakeholder engagement helps adapting governance approaches to existing contexts

- Use early dialogue and partnerships in decision-making
- Establish mechanisms for communication and consultation
- Complement top-down implementation with bottom-up participatory approaches



Recommendation 4

Complement best practices with capacity development and communication

- **Enable domestic capacities in human, administrative, technical, and organisational resources**
 - Assess human and physical resources
 - Support organisational frameworks with information, expertise, etc.

- **Empower local communities to participate in decision-making and implementation**
 - Raise awareness through dissemination of knowledge and information
 - Support voluntary local initiatives



➤ **Best Practice Guidelines**

- Lessons learned for successful transfer and implementation in adaptive water governance

➤ **Policy Briefs**

- Policy recommendations for increasing adaptiveness of water governance systems and introducing new practices in water resources management

➤ **Best Practice Inventory**

- 33 best practice examples from 22 river basins around the world

➤ **Twin2Go Water Governance Database**

- Web database including data on water governance regime, context, and performance of the 29 river basin case studies
- Aims to facilitate collaborations and collect further case study data as a basis for refined analyses in the future

Access these and many other relevant publications at www.twin2go.eu