

Facilitating the transfer of IWRM principles to non-EU countries



Assessment of recent practices of knowledge transfer acquired in EU countries for helping to implement IWRM (WFD) principles in Mediterranean non-EU countries

Many current water-related RTD projects have already established operational links with practitioners, in several river basins, which allow the needs of policymakers to be taken into account. However, experience has shown that this interrelationship is not as efficient as it could/should be. Often, RTD results are not easily available to policy-oriented implementers (policymakers) and, vice versa.

An assessment of recent practices and needs of non-EU countries, together with an in-depth analysis of the operational needs in two Mediterranean pilot river basins, have allowed preparing recommendations for an efficient transfer of knowledge.

Four main issues are pointed out by this survey:

- The success of the transfer of EU principles is directly related to the key actor involved in the initiative. The country and their representative involved in the initiative should have **a strong political good will**. The key actor should have a **clear mandate for deciding** and **a strong commitment**;
- EU initiatives do not meet enough of the non-EU countries expectations. They should **take into account the local needs, local conditions, local sensibilities**, related to promoting a **bottom-up approach** (truly for all the scales of the decisions) and **participatory approaches**;
- Concrete and local initiatives successfully running. The initiative should have a part dedicated to the **intellectual approaches** (organisational aspects) in addition with **concrete actions** (field tests to solve concrete identified problems for example ...);
- **EU Financing should cover the organisational aspects** of the initiative (management, coordination of experts' networks, travel expenses...) and help the non-EU countries to find donors to finance the transfer of technologies related to the WFD implementation (e.g. performing monitoring, technical training, and capacity building...).

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"Promoting twinning programmes and agreements between water organisations (such as RBO or administrations in charge of water) will help demonstrating tools, methodologies and results developed by RBO in the frame of WFD implementation to another non-EU RBO."

Knowledge transfer through active participation from non-EU River Basins in international networks

The experience gained in the frame of the SPI-Water project show, that networking activities between water managers from different water basins enables and improves water management. Conferences and workshops, where water managers from different regions and countries meet, are an effective way of exchanging information and making personal contacts with experts with know-how in the fields of water management. One of the networking organisations is the International Network of Basin Organisations (INBO), whose common goal is the implementation of IWRM on the river basin level. Several regional networks as MENBO (Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations) focus on regional problems and unite EU and non-EU partners in the aim of achieving common objectives.

The pilot river basins of SPI-Water project, Agence de Bassin du Sebou (Morocco) and the Litani River Basin Authority (Lebanon) are already member of MENBO.

For more information on international networking visit INBO at www.rhoc.org and MENBO at www.remoc.org

Project :

SPI-Water is an EC funded project (contract 044357) dealing with "Science-Policy Interfacing in support of the Water Framework Directive implementation"

More information :

www.spi-water.eu



Review of the following EU initiatives:

- **MED-EUWI** (MED component of the European Water Initiative)
- **MED-EUWI/WFD Joint Process**
- **EMWIS** (EURO Mediterranean Regional Programme for Local Water Management)
- **MENBO** (Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations)
- **Twinning Programmes** (Pre Accession assistance)
- **TwinBasinXM project** (Twinning between Basin organizations, FP6)
- **INWEB** (International Network of Water environment centres of Balkans)
- **WWI by WWF** (Water and Wetland Index) of the WFD.

First lessons learnt: to be improved and promoted

- **Financing** for: travelling, coordination, network, monitoring, capacity building, transfer of technologies...
- **Bottom-up approaches** -> targets, needs and local conditions not enough taking into account, EU initiatives not close enough to non-EU needs,
- The **coordination** with other administrations, policies, instruments, ... in Med region
- The **involvement** of institutional representatives (experts...)

Twinning between River Basins improves IWRM transfer

Our experience and findings show that during the implementation of WFD in EU States many interesting achievements in water management have been obtained. These are practical results, tools, methodologies and organisational framework developed by River Basin (RB) organisations (RBOs), that could be of benefit to RBs. Unfortunately, access and transfer of such knowledge to other RBOs is rather limited.

Twinning promotes knowledge transfer and capacity building of RBOs to improve their expertise, and to help them overcome water management problems mainly by:

- Promoting friendly cooperation between water managers and creating ties among RBOs;
- Encouraging exchange of expertise, knowledge and technical personnel;
- Strengthening effectiveness of integrated water management within the RBOs;
- Improving overall functioning of the RBOs.

Twinning between RBOs is a means to support IWRM transfer. By facilitating direct exchanges on best practices, and as well on failed experiments, twinning can help RBOs to improve their effectiveness by a greater technical, scientific and institutional expertise. RBOs can profit from peers opinion regarding administrative, technical and/or institutional aspects, coming from a sister organisation with another geographical, political or economic context. This is particularly true for the youngest RBOs, but also makes it possible to improve RBOs having already reached a further stage of development, which can make some kind of "self-assessment" on their own practices.

Leads for recommendations on IWRM & WFD transfer

- To adapt the institutional **twinning programme to the river basin organisations**
- To develop "**dialogue-understanding**" projects
- To promote **concrete actions** and exchanges of experiences

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