

TWINBASIN_{XN}

The TWINBASIN_{XN} project aims to facilitate twinning between Basin Organizations in order to disseminate good practices and strengthen their human resources.

It was officially launched on the occasion of the General Assembly of the International Network of Basin Organizations, in the Martinique in January 2004.

It relies on a **Steering Committee regrouping the 18 founder members**: INBO and its Regional Networks for Africa (ANBO) and the Mediterranean (MENBO), the Seine-Normandy Water Agency (France), the International Office for Water, (France), the Secretariat for Water Resources (Brazil), the Global Water Partnership (Sweden), Techware (Italy), the University of Pretoria (South Africa), the National Water Authority - OVF (Hungary), the Interstate Coordination Water Commission - ICWC Aral Sea (Uzbekistan), Jara Tirta I Corporation (Indonesia), the Algérois - Hodna - Soumman Basin Agency (Algeria), the Sebou River Basin Agency (Morocco), the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS), the National Water Commission (Mexico) and Apele Romane (Romania).

The main orientations defined by this Steering Committee were:

- the need to prioritize assistance to the existing twinning arrangements;
- the advantage of a "preliminary study" that compiles a summary report and carries out an analysis of the past twinning arrangements: outcome, successes, failures;
- the significance of defining very stringent and demanding criteria for accessing to mobility scholarships;
- the creation of the first three Specific Interest Groups (SIG) on the "twinning", "mobility" and "dissemination" topics. Other SIGs will be created in the future, in particular for the "transboundary rivers" topic.

The project was selected within the "Global change and ecosystems" priority of the 6th Framework Program for European Research.

The European financing of the project will cover the operating expenses of the Network (travels, tool development, scholarships, etc.) for a 48-month period.

A restricted Steering Committee met again in Dakar (Senegal) in November 2004, during the joint Assemblies of the African Network of Basin Organizations and of the Network of International Commissions and Transboundary Basin Organizations.

WFD-COMMUNITY

We are a community!

In order to facilitate the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, the "WFD-Community" project consists in testing a new method for training young professionals from Basin Organizations, based on a virtual community of professionals.

It deals with:

- the creation of a virtual place on the Internet for training and tutorship between junior and senior professionals,
- remote exchanges of knowledge on the Web,
- opportunities of virtual meetings in addition to the events organized by the International Network of the Basin Organizations (INBO),
- a teaching scenario based on exchanges between working colleagues.

The computerized infrastructure was installed and the experiment will start in the first quarter of 2005, thanks to volunteers.

If you wish to participate in the project, contact us:

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IWRM.NET

A new network of national and regional research programs on Integrated Water Resource Management

IWRM.Net was born in Stockholm in August 2004 and gathers 35 program managers from 20 countries of the European Union and neighboring countries.

Based on an inventory of research and of its organization in the Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) field in 13 European countries, it appears that real synergies are possible between each ongoing research program on water to succeed, in the next 5 years, in:

- **Systematizing exchanges of experiences and good practices** on the methods used for the management of existing programs and better sharing of their results,
- **Defining common strategies**, such as for example the assessment of the needs for research, in relation with the new Framework Directive in particular, but also the practices used for disseminating and transferring the results to water experts and managers,
- **Developing joint activities by favoring crossed participations** between programs (launching joint invitations to tender, project evaluation, etc.) up to the planning of real transnational research programs.

IOWater has developed this network in relation with INBO, starting it with a European cartography of research programs on water in 13 countries.

It clearly appears that the Water Framework Directive (WFD) strongly renews a demand for research and will result in changes in the methods of thinking, acting, planning in the water field.

The Stockholm Conference clearly shows that research results deserve to be better enhanced and are not sufficiently visible to the community of potential users (decision-makers, managers, elected officials, communities and even the general public).

If our proposal is accepted by the European Commission, within the framework of ERANet (European Research Area Networking), which aims at better coordinating European research financed by public authorities and at strengthening links between programs, the effective launching of the work of the IWRM Network is scheduled for the Summer of 2005. It will be based on the feasibility study and the inventory already available online on the website: <http://www.iowater.org/eranel>

At the core of the Framework Directive implementation, IWRM.Net aims at creating new synergies between the stakeholders of good European water governance and research, and more solidarity among the Member States of the European Union.