

# Newsletter on the Human Dimension in Water Management



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## **1** Intermediaries of water management across Europe

*New report from the “Intermediaries” research project*

The “Intermediaries” project has just published a report summarising the principal findings from an inventory of some 113 intermediary organisations in seven European countries, which documents the existence and rich diversity of intermediaries affecting the way water and sanitation services are provided and used.

The report – entitled “Making Senses of Diversity” – begins with a description of the sample of intermediaries selected for the inventory, based on a quantitative survey of

the variety of organisational forms, periods of emergence, driving factors, objectives, target groups and issues addressed. It then provides a qualitative interpretation of some of the most common contextual factors that would appear to influence significantly the emergence and further development of intermediaries active in the water sector. In a third section the report explores diverse modes of intermediarity from three complementary perspectives: how intermediaries contribute to EU water policy objectives, how they facilitate social learning

and policy delivery and how they work across diverse policy fields. It concludes with a preliminary assessment of the impacts and potential of intermediary organisations.

The report can be downloaded under: <http://www.irs-net.de/download/SynergyReport.pdf>  
For further information: Dr. Timothy Moss [mosst@irs-net.de](mailto:mosst@irs-net.de) or +49 3362 793-185

## 2 Gender Issues in Water Services Management

*Conflicts in the organisation of the water services infrastructure in the Elbe-Mulde region near Dessau, Saxony-Anhalt in Germany are the core issues of the work package „Environmental Spaces“. It is part of the integrated research project “Blocked Transition? Spaces of Thinking and Action in Sustainable Development”*

### The analytical category „gender“ in water services management

The general thesis is, that dichotomised, hierarchical patterns of reception, thinking and action of societal actors block the process of sustainable development.

The integration of the gender perspective as analytical category into the research design follows three general assumptions:

- Infrastructure systems are a specific socio-technical form shaped by status and gendered relationships.
- Subjects and objects are results of discursive constructions within a semiotic material practice.
- A gender analysis of this practice reveals the diversity of information, its metaphorical content and societal contextuation.

### Fields of conflicts in regional organisation of the water infrastructure

A first evaluation of blockades in water services management had been made on the basis of a secondary data analysis and initial expert interviews in 2003 und 2004. They reveal the following main regional fields of conflicts:

- the specific hydrological conditions of the rivers Elbe and Mulde for infrastructure planning and construction:
- the antagonistic characters of regional decline of population density and infrastructure planning concepts from the 1990s,
- different time-scales of planning and regional transition processes,

- ambivalences of individual participation in water management within the tension of personal and municipal interests

### Private households as empirical category

A first evaluation of the material from qualitative interviews which had been conducted with female and male members of private households in 2004 reveals the following:

- All interviewees show a high awareness of the value of the resource and the importance of the service.
- In their awareness, due to the specific character of the Elbe and Mulde basins, the water services are closely linked with environmental issues.
- There is a differentiated comprehension and proactive handling of water issues due to the various regional fields of conflicts.
- Some interview partners signalled their interest to have more options for participation in the performance of water services infrastructure.
- Several partners wish to have the organisation of water services in the hand of the municipality.

A basis for new strategies to coordinate both dimensions of economy – household and professional – can have the character of “daily life arrangement services”. This concept places institutional transitions between domestic and market economy following the idea, that processes of care and responsibility initiate and stabilise democracy. It assumes the autonomy of the individual as consumer, inhabitant or political actor as something that is achieved

by personal knowledge and individual life experience.

For further information:

Dr. Bettina Knothe

nexus

institut for resource management + organisational development GmbH

fon: +49 030 34 34 74 48

[knothe@nexus-institut.de](mailto:knothe@nexus-institut.de)

## **3 NetSyMod -- Network Analysis – Creative System Modelling – Decision Support**

*Methodology developed by Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei and Università degli Studi di Milano, 2005.*

### Abstract

The NetSyMod methodology is the result of several years of research in the field of environmental evaluations and decision making carried out at FEEM within the Natural Resources Management Research Programme. It is intended to become a flexible but comprehensive methodological framework and a suite of tools aimed at facilitating the involvement of stakeholders or experts in various contexts and in particular in those decision making processes (DMPs) characterised by the participation of multiple actors. In such context decision is intended in a broad sense, including any process in which a choice has to be taken by examining the available information on a given problem. The problem itself, the information, and the choice are defined with the contribution of different actors. The implementation field of NetSyMod is in general the management of natural resources, with two main categories of applications which may be also encountered together in the same case: (i) the involvement of experts in a decision or an evaluation of an environmental problem requiring diversified fields of expertise, and (ii) the involvement of interested actors in a generic participatory process dealing with the management of environmental

resources. This methodological approach can be applied in the following cases:

- Participatory planning and decision making processes for Integrated Water Resource Management;
- Transboundary management and negotiation;
- Contribution of experts to the formalisation of a shared knowledge base and of integrated models.

### Main results and outputs

Improvement of existing Decision Support System (specifically of MULINO DSS) devoted to support decision making processes in the field of natural resources management;

Sound integration among different disciplines in the field of sustainable development;

Improved communication between science and policy.

### Contact person:

Prof. Carlo Giupponi, Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM) and Università degli Studi di Milano. E-mail: [carlo.giupponi@feem.it](mailto:carlo.giupponi@feem.it)

## 4 2<sup>nd</sup> Harmoni-CA/WP5 Policy Workshop on the interaction of agriculture & river basin management

*30 agricultural and water managers from European, national and regional authorities evaluated seven existing tools*

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Harmoni-CA/WP5 Policy-Workshop was part of Harmoni-CA/WP5, which has established and maintains a dialogue between tool/model developers and policy makers to improve the use of tools/models in management processes. The workshop gave 30 agricultural and water managers from European, national and regional authorities the chance to get their hands on seven existing tools/models which may be supporting their management activities during the implementation of the European Water Framework Directive and the Common Agricultural Policy. During the workshop the discussion of the presented tools/models showed that most

of the tools/models can support the joint water and agricultural management processes in some regard. However there was no tool/model identified which was considered fully capable to sufficiently answer all questions raised by the policy makers with regards to the interaction of CAP and WFD. For a full summary of the discussion, please check the Harmoni-CA-website ([www.harmoni-ca.info](http://www.harmoni-ca.info)).

As a next step WP5 will initiate a review on tools to make more knowledge available about the usability of different tools in agricultural and water management. For further information, please contact [harmoni-ca.wp5@usf.uos.de](mailto:harmoni-ca.wp5@usf.uos.de)

## 5 Follow Up from the SLIM project

*Since the SLIM project ended in May 2004, many of the researchers involved have maintained their interests in the area of social learning and natural resource management.*

Many existing relationships with stakeholders in the SLIM case study catchments have continued and new initiatives have been developed. In **Italy**, the SLIMAN research team ([p.p.roggero@univpm.it](mailto:p.p.roggero@univpm.it)) based at the University of Ancona have been invited to organise a training course in North-East Sicily for up to 300 rural development advisors on an emerging focus around the development of a local network between farming, tourist services and agro-food traders.

In the **UK**, the Interreg funded PURE project on urban rivers has requested collaboration on social learning approaches. A series of workshops designed and facilitated by SLIM researchers has led to a greater understanding of the links between participation and learning among PURE

project partners. SLIM researchers based at the Open University are also involved in a 2 year research project with the Environment Agency on developing learning approaches to the UK's national River Basin Planning Strategy for implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

More information on either of these projects from [k.b.collins@open.ac.uk](mailto:k.b.collins@open.ac.uk).

The relationships between farming, water quality and nature conservation will be the central focus of a new **Dutch** project funded by Interreg II (for more information: [janice.jiggens@inter.nl.net](mailto:janice.jiggens@inter.nl.net)). A second project, supported by the Dutch funding agencies, seeks to develop a community of practice around social learning for improved management of water in the Netherlands. SLIM researchers and representatives of Dutch Water Boards are meeting on a

regular basis to learn from their own experiences of water management and stakeholder engagement in, for example, negotiations about managing 'crisis' floods.

More information:

[e.j.j.slobbe@arcadis.nl.net](mailto:e.j.j.slobbe@arcadis.nl.net) .

In **France**, researchers have been working with watershed coordinators of the four departments of French Brittany to explore some of the ideas and approaches contained in the SLIM framework document. More information:

[steyaert@stlaurent.lusignan.inra.fr](mailto:steyaert@stlaurent.lusignan.inra.fr) .

## **6** New German research program: RIMAX

*As a consequence of the floods in August 2002, the program has been initiated by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research*

The intensive and lasting rainfall of August 2002 hit Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic and Slovakia in the catchments of the river Elbe and the river Danube. In Germany, 21 people were killed and substantial parts of the infrastructure were destroyed. The total loss in Germany is estimated to be 11.9 billion €. The aim of the research program is to develop and implement improved instruments of flood risk management by the integration of different disciplines and stakeholders. It focuses on flood events with a return period greater than 100 years and with high damage potential.

The program consists of three major subjects: integrated concepts of flood risk

management, technical flood defense and cross-sectional tasks including education, networking, flood awareness and risk communication.

The cross-sectional tasks should warrant the knowledge transfer in practice and education as well as the national and Europe-wide networking of research activities. The research program stresses on implementation, which means, that the funded projects have to collaborate with responsible organizations at different political levels. For further information, please check [http://www.rimax-hochwasser.de/english\\_sites/content\\_engl.htm](http://www.rimax-hochwasser.de/english_sites/content_engl.htm)

## **7** Announcements

### **Harmoni-COP Conference 4<sup>th</sup> October 2005, Osnabrueck**

The final conference of the EU-funded project Harmonising Collaborative Planning (HarmoniCOP) will take place on *Tuesday, the 4<sup>th</sup> of October in Osnabrueck*, Germany. Results on Participation in Water Management and the European Water Framework Directive will be highlighted from different perspectives:

- Participation and use of Models and Tools
- Fostering Social Learning
- Participation in Europe - Differences and Similarities

See [www.harmonicop.info](http://www.harmonicop.info)

For more information, please contact Dagmar Ridder on [dridder@usf.uni-osnabrueck.de](mailto:dridder@usf.uni-osnabrueck.de)

**OPEN CALL** for contributions to 3rd  
*Harmoni-CA Forum & Conference,*  
5-7<sup>th</sup> April

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Harmoni-CA Conference will take place in Osnabrueck, Germany. Its focus is set by the priorities within the WFD framework activities for 2006, which are the design of monitoring programmes and the involvement of interested parties in the implementation process. As the need for support is high with the innovations of the WFD, tools are strongly challenged to meet the requirements of the policy side. The usefulness of tools is often questioned because of limited data validity or inadequate representation of the relevant management questions. This also affects the trust in tools by stakeholders and authorities.

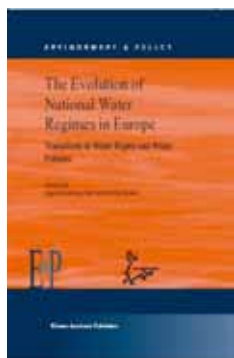
At this stage, we invite operational water managers, water policy makers, researchers and technology providers to exchange their experiences on their current work related to river basin management and the implementation of the WFD. In addition to those external contributions, Harmoni-CA will present syntheses on specific issues linked to the WFD and modelling on the outcomes of European research projects.

If you are interested in presenting a poster or a presentation at the conference, please check [www.harmoni-ca.info](http://www.harmoni-ca.info) for more information and/or submit an extended abstract (max. 2 pages length) **before 1st September 2005** to [HARMONI-CA.WP1@riza.rws.minvenw.nl](mailto:HARMONI-CA.WP1@riza.rws.minvenw.nl).

**EUWARNESS PROJECT**

As a result of the Euwareness project, two books have been published with Springer (Kluwer Academic Publishers) very recently (November 2004).

More information and a summary of both books are enclosed or to find on <http://www.springeronline.com>



The Evolution of  
National Water Regimes  
in Europe  
Transitions in Water  
Rights and Water  
Policies Towards  
Sustainability  
Series : Environment &  
Policy, Vol. 40

Kissling-Näf, Ingrid; Kuks, Stefan (Eds.)  
2004,  
ISBN: 1-4020-2484-3

**Integrated Governance and Water Basin**



Management  
Conditions for Regime  
Change Towards  
Sustainability  
Series : Environment &  
Policy, Vol. 41  
Bressers, Hans; Kuks,  
Stefan (Eds.)  
2004,  
ISBN: 1-4020-2482-7

# 8 List of Projects in the HDWM Cluster

## HarmoniCA – Harmonizing Modelling Tools at Catchment Scale

<http://www.harmoni-CA.info>

The concerted action HarmoniCA will provide guidance on management concepts and ICT tools for river basin management and the implementation of the WFD. Of specific interest for the HDWM cluster is the work package on “Integrated Assessment and the Science Policy Interface” that deals specifically with the involvement of stakeholders in the development of river basin management plans and the representation of socio-economic aspects in river basin management models.



## HarmoniCOP – Harmonizing Collaborative Planning

<http://www.harmoniCOP.info>

The project HarmoniCOP explores stakeholder and public participation and the role of ICT tools in river basin management planning using a social learning perspective. HarmoniCOP aims at improving the conceptual base for stakeholder and public participation and provide practical guidance for the implementation of the European Water Framework Directive.

## **GOUVERNe**

**GOUVERNe**

<http://www.c3ed.uvsq.fr/c3ed/Gouverne/PresGOan.html>

The project responded to the requirement for integrated systems of information permitting coherent policy and resource management decisions covering water uses in Europe. The project developed and implemented in pilot studies a user-based and scientifically validated Decision Support System (DSS) for the improved management of underground water resources at the catchment and sub-catchment levels.



## SLIM - Social Learning for the Integrated

**EUROMARKET**

<http://www.epfl.ch/mir/euromarket>

The EUROMARKET project studies the likelihood, nature, and forms water liberalisation may take in Europe in the foreseeable future. This is done by analysing different liberalisation scenarios, depending

## Management and Sustainable Use of Water at Catchment Scale

<http://slim.open.ac.uk>

This project develops strategic planning methodologies and social tools for the integrated management of water at catchment or river-basin scale and other “bundles” of natural resources. It emphasizes the importance of processes of social learning for integrated resource management.

## AQUALIBRIUM

[www.aqualibrium.de](http://www.aqualibrium.de)

This project investigates the implications of the increasing deregulation of national water markets, and the fact that more and more private companies are involved in the water market. It aims at giving an overview on the current debates and analyses the various models of involvement and co-operation between the public and the private sector in the EU member states.



## FIRMA

<http://firma.cfpm.org/>

This project explored new approaches to improve water resource planning by developing and applying agent-based modelling to integrate physical, hydrological, social and economic aspects of water resource management. Specific emphasis was given to stakeholder participation and participatory model building and scenario development.



## INTERMEDIARIES - New intermediary services and the transformation of urban water supply and wastewater disposal systems in Europe

<http://www.irs-net.de/intermediaries>

This project maps the development of intermediary services and organisations in the water and wastewater sectors, examines how they facilitate the application of new resource-saving technologies and social practices and assesses their impact on the environment, economic efficiency and network management.

upon the evolving water markets, the different enterprises’ strategies, and the existing legislation/regulation both at the national and at the European levels.



### MULINO

<http://www.feem.it/web/loc/mulino/index.html>

The MULINO project is developing a Decision Support System for the integrated management of water resources. The system includes a decision software based on multi criteria analysis procedures. This software is being developed in collaboration with representatives from water authorities in Italy, Romania, the UK, Belgium and Portugal, and through these relationships is exploring ways to include stakeholders' preferences in the assessment of a decision problem.



### EUWARENESS - European Water Regimes and the Notion of a Sustainable Status

<http://www.euwareness.nl/>

focuses on the dynamic relationships between conflicting uses of water resources, the regimes under which these uses are managed, and conditions generating regime transitions towards sustainability. Water basin regimes have been studied in six European countries (Netherlands, Belgium, France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland).

More information:

Project coordinator: Stefan Kuks  
Address: University of Twente, P.O. Box 217, 7500 AE Enschede, The Netherlands  
Email: s.m.m.kuks@cstm.utwente.nl  
Internet: www.euwareness.nl

### ADVISOR

<http://ecomana.dcea.fct.unl.pt/projects/advisor>

ADVISOR aims at the delivery of a set of guidelines to river basin authorities and related EU agencies for the execution of integrated evaluation of projects. The theoretical platform thereby established will support the development of new integrated evaluation methodologies and tools, which will incorporate the state of the art of the latest scientific thinking and assessment tools together with modern participatory, multi-stakeholder decision making processes.



### PRINWASS - Barriers and Conditions for the Involvement of Private Capital and Enterprise in Water Supply and Sanitation in Latin America and Africa: Seeking Economic, Social, and Environmental Sustainability

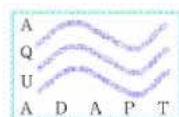
<http://www.geog.ox.ac.uk/~prinwass/>

The project develops an indicative framework of strategy and processes, expressed by relevant guidelines, for sustainable water supply and sanitation services in developing countries, taking into account the roles of the state (national, regional, and local government levels), civil society (users associations, citizen movements, etc.), market forces (privatized water utilities), and their interrelations (e.g. public-private partnerships, other forms of private sector involvement in WSS, etc.)

### MERIT - Management of the Environment and Resources using Integrated Techniques

<http://merit-eu.net/>

The aim of MERIT is to develop a water resource management methodology to help engage the stakeholder in the decision making process. Bayesian networks are being used as tool to help the decision maker by using input from stakeholders to design and construct the networks. A range of participatory techniques are being developed to facilitate the engagement process.



### AQUADAPT - Strategic Tools to Support Adaptive, Integrated Water Resource Management under Changing Utilisation Conditions at Catchment Level: A Coevolutionary Approach

<http://www.aquadapt.net/>

The overall aim of the Aquadapt project is to generate knowledge which supports the strategic planning and management of water resources in semi-arid environments at catchment level under changing supply/demand patterns.

### TiGrESS - Time-Geographical Approaches to Emergence and Sustainable Societies

<http://www.riks.nl/projects/TiGrESS>

The aim of the TiGrESS project is to improve the methodology for understanding human-environmental interactions on the basis of three regional case studies.





**MANTRA East - The Integrated Strategies for the Management of Transboundary Waters on the Eastern European Fringe - the pilot study of Lake Peipsi and its drainage basin**

<http://www.mantraeast.org>

The aim of the MANTRA East Project is to analyze and develop strategic planning methodologies and scientific tools for integrated water management in transboundary water basins following the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive. The project's special geographical focus is on transboundary water basins located on the existing and future borders of the European Union.



**River Dialogue - Empowerment and Awareness Building in River Basin Management Through Focus Groups and Citizens Juries**

<http://www.riverdialogue.org>

River Dialogue is aimed at identifying the best approaches to increase public participation in implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive, including preparation and implementation of river basin management plans. The project will practically test two specific participatory methods of citizens' involvement – focus groups and citizens' juries.

**WASAMED – Water Saving in Mediterranean Agriculture**

<http://wasamed.iamb.it/>

WASAMED is to establish a platform for effective Mediterranean communication and debate on water saving in agriculture, contributing to improved management of limited water resources and sustainable development in the Mediterranean Region.

**Editors**

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University of Osnabrueck  
Institute of Environmental Systems Research -  
Resource Flow Management  
Barbarastr. 12  
49076 Osnabrueck  
Germany

borowski@usf.uni-osnabrueck.de

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