

EUREGIO



Key Document TFWG

Task Force Water Governance with special focus on border regions (TFWG)

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Maastricht, January 2013

Task Force Water Governance with special focus on border regions (TFWG)

1. Reference framework

- Background

Since 2004 the EMR (www.euregio-mr.eu) has successfully applied for INTERREG funds in the field of cross border cooperation, water management and water governance. As lead partner the EMR successfully coordinated FLAPP (www.flapp.org) and FLOOD-WISE (www.floodwise.eu), belonging to INTERREG 3C and INTERREG 4C.

Partners of FLOOD-WISE have expressed their wishes to continue the network within a Taskforce on cross border water governance to monitor future possibilities and necessities for further cooperation and to be able to profit from the really positive cooperation within this project.

This Task Force should bridge the time gap between the conclusion of the FLOOD-WISE project and a new project application. The next appropriate EU programs such as INTERREG 5 A, INTERREG 5 B, INTERREG 5C are expected to be open by mid 2014. The other programs LIFE, 7th Framework, Horizon 2020 and other programs offer incidental possibilities for the aspect of cross border cooperation and water management.

- Problem description

European water legislation such as the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the Floods Directive (FD) embrace sustainable water resources management on a river basin scale. Although transboundary river basin management is strongly advocated in these directives, a real joint approach across (inter)national borders is not common practice and hampered by practical and legal obstructions. Moreover, unbalanced flood management strategies may harm the ecologic functions of the river and its floodplain as advocated in the WFD, the Wetland Convention and the EU Bird and Habitat Directives.

During the previous projects FLAPP and FLOOD-WISE, in which EU and non EU partners were involved, it was clear that future projects should focus on sustainable water governance in a cross border setting.

2. Working method of TFWG

- Aim

The Task Force can be considered as a vehicle to bridge the present program period and future programs when new programs for cross-border water management activities (INTERREG 5A, INTERREG 5B, INTERREG 5C, Horizon 2020, Life +, etc) will be available (probably as from mid 2014_).

The aim of this Task Force (TF) is therefore to contribute to:

- continue and maintain the existing partnerships and enhance new ones (networking)
- organize meeting opportunities on a regular basis
- offer a breeding ground for new project
- initiate proposals and prepare applications matching the new programs

- Tasks

Tracking and monitoring programs as from 1.1.2013, dealing with aspects of sustainable water governance in a cross border setting and providing insight in the possible programs to the partners.

- Communication

The working method is interlinked with good communication. The TFWG will act as an interface between the members and attractive subsidy programs.

In order to communicate in a proper and effective way we create:

- a website/ social media instrument or other means of communication
- a project idea form (fiche) will be made downloadable (see annex)
- regular conference calls and meeting opportunities will be organized

3. Organization TFWG

- Project Development Team (PDT)

The chairperson of the TFWG is the Regional Minister of Water of the Province of Limburg.

A Project Development Team (PDT) has been established by the Lead Partner EMR to fulfil the role of project secretariat and back office.

The PDT covers project coordination, communication management and information analysis. The PDT will involve 3 persons: one contracted coordinator and 2 strategists from Province of Limburg and Waterschap Roer en Overmaas

The coordinator (average 1 day/week) of the PDT will be contracted by the Lead Partner, while the remaining staff will be seconded from the Province of Limburg (average 1 day/month) and the Waterschap Roer en Overmaas (average 1 day/month).

The structure and responsibilities of the Task Force are similar to the FLOOD-WISE project. This means contracts concerning use of expertise or services are in compliance with national, Dutch law.

- Finances.

The available budget is consisting of the cash contributions of the member-organisations, plus the extra contribution by the Province of Limburg, Rijkswaterstaat and Waterschap Roer en Overmaas. This will cover the expenses of contracted personnel of the PDT members, including a working budget for realizing activities of the working plan during 2 years 2013-2014. A workplan 2013-2014 is annexed.

- Miscellaneous

Additional questions might develop for which neither this document has an answer. In this case, please do not hesitate to contact the Taskforce (see below).

Finally, there will certainly be problems which will have to be worked out between the members in the course of the 2 year activity. The PDT will assist this process as a facilitator and conflict manager between the members as well as between the Task Force and the Lead partner EMR.

The PDT is located in the office building of the Province of Limburg in Maastricht (NL).

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 PO Box 5700
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4. Preliminary workplan 2013-2014

The starting activities will be dominated by the establishment of the required structure, such as

- a website/ social media instrument or means of communication
- a fiche for project ideas will be designed and be made downloadable
- regular conference calls (monthly)
- meeting opportunities through workshops (4 times/year)
- list of members, list of candidate members
- detailed workplan 2013-2014

The activities in 2013 will be organized around the agenda:

- Workshop Satellites for local cross border use, Eurisy, Paris (F)
 - Workshop Multi Level Governance, Benelux, Brussels (B)
 - Workshop on Climate Change Adaption in Transboundary River Basins, UNECE, Geneva (Ch)
 - AEBR annual conference, Liege (B)
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Annexes:

- project idea form (fiche)
- workplan 2013-2014