



Twin2Go

Synthesising research on adaptive water governance

Annika Kramer, adelphi

Twin2Go received funding from the European Community's
7th Framework Programme under grant agreement n°226571



Presentation outline

1. Background and project overview
2. Comparative analysis of water governance
3. Lessons learned
4. Recommendations





About Twin2Go

➤ Full Title: „Coordinating Twinning partnerships towards more adaptive Governance in river basins“

- EU project funded under in the 7th Research Framework Programme
- Running from June 2009 to Sept. 2011

Goal

- 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

www.twin2go.eu



Background

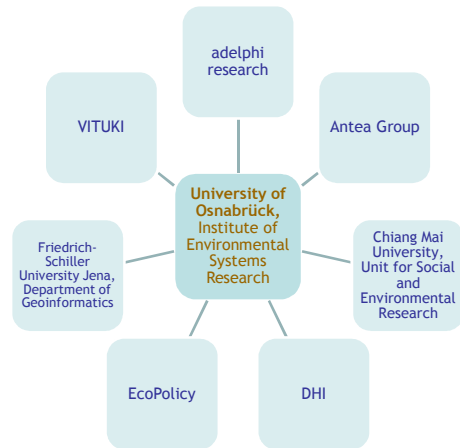
Why do we need more adaptive water governance?

- Many of today’s problems in water resources management can be attributed to governance failures
- Climate change will increase the challenges for water governance

Where uncertainty cannot be reduced, or where policy decisions cannot be postponed until better knowledge is available, adaptive water governance structures are required that are able to learn from past experience, to respond flexibly, and to look forward.

www.twin2go.eu

Partners and Projects



Twin2Go's 8 partner institutions
Representing 7 EU twinning projects



www.twin2go.eu

Projects & Case Studies

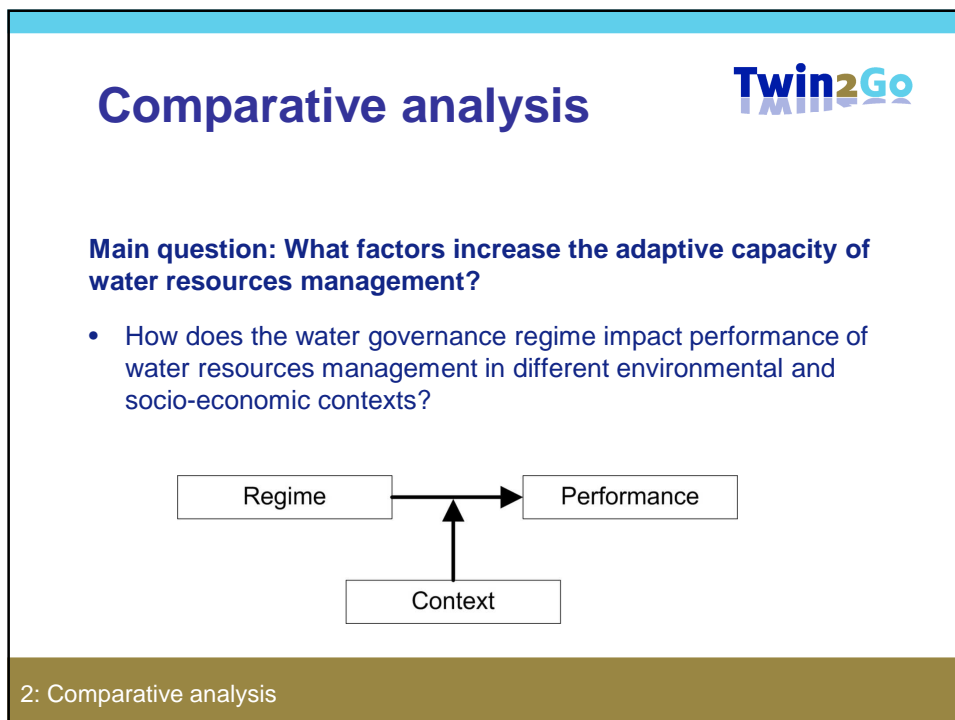
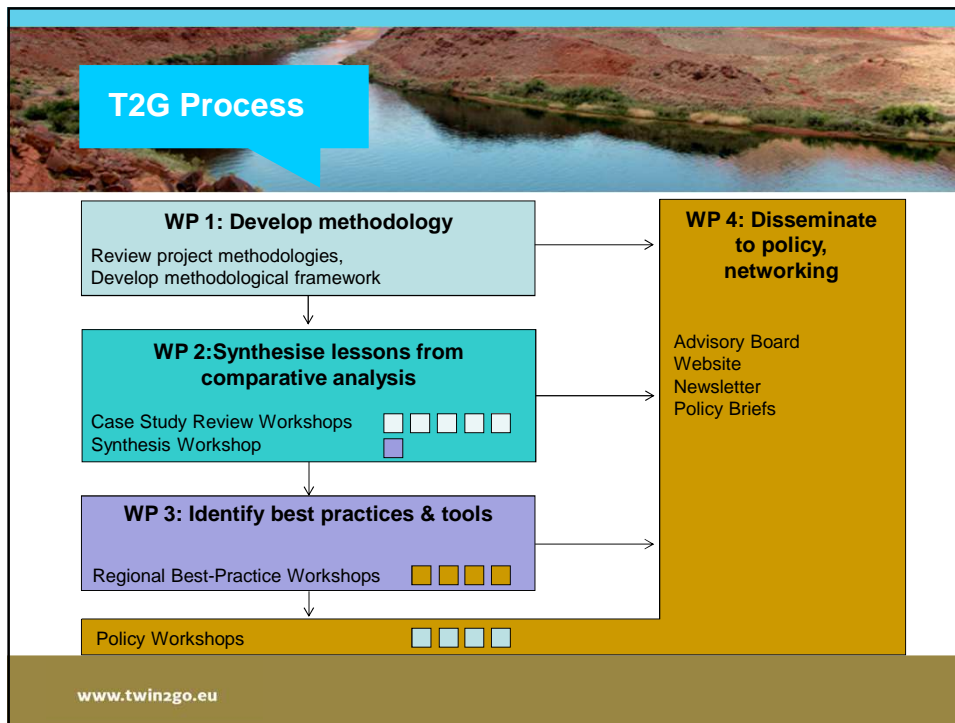


The image shows the locations of the Twin2Go case study basins that the synthesis will draw on.

Twin2Go's synthesis draws on:

- 29 case studies of governance regimes in river basins

www.twin2go.eu



Twin2Go Questionnaire



- 98 indicators
- 3 sections: Governance regime, context, performance
- Basis for data collection and comparative analysis

No.	Indicator	Score	Comments
b) Formalisation of IWRM principles & Millennium Development Goals			
24.	Formalised IWRM principles		
25.	State of implementation of IWRM principles		
26.	Capacity to implement IWRM		
27.	Is universal and non-discriminatory access to safe drinking water and sanitation a goal?		
28.	Integration of wetlands in IWRM and IRBM		
28.a	Case-specific indicator(s)...		
c) Decision making regarding uncertainties			
29.	General practices for dealing with uncertainties		
30.	Dealing with uncertainties: Reversible and flexible options		
31.	Dealing with uncertainties: Safety margins		
32.	Are scenarios used for decision making?		
33	Climate risks: Climate		

Water Governance Regime



- Institutional Characteristics
 - Water Policy, organisational & legal framework (formal and informal)
 - Formalisation of IWRM principles and MDGs
 - Decision making regarding uncertainties
- Actor Networks
 - Cooperation and coordination structures
 - Information sharing
- Multi-level interactions and cross-sectoral integration

Performance



- Progress towards stated sustainability goals (MDGs)
- Good governance principles (realized)
- Response to Climate Change
- State of the aquatic environment
- Water Management Practice

Context



- Economic and institutional development (e.g. GDP, GINI index, CPI)
- Environmental dimension (e.g. water availability, climate)

Case Study Basins Review

- Data collection, questionnaire with 98 indicators
- 5 workshops held, each with a regional focus
- ~ 100 case study experts
- Dataset on 29 (sub-)basins
- Quantitative & qualitative comparative analyses



2: Comparative analysis

Adaptive governance

What features promote adaptiveness of a water governance regime?

1. **Polycentric regime architecture** (decentralised decision-making complemented with coordination and balance between top-down and bottom-up approaches)

	Polycentric	Fragmented	Centralised
Distribution of formal power	High	High	Low
Multi-level distribution of functions and resources	High	High	Low
Vertical coordination	High	Low	Low
Horizontal coordination	High	Low	Low



Adaptive governance

What features promote adaptiveness of a water governance regime?

2. Innovative approaches to dealing with uncertainties (related to climate change and variability, quantifiable and non-quantifiable)

- flexible or reversible management options that can be adjusted to changing conditions, soft rather than hard measures
- increased safety margins
- use of multiple scenarios

➤ *the more uncertainties of different kinds are taken into account in water management today, the better will the governance system be able to respond to future climate change.*

www.twinzgo.eu



Adaptive governance

What features promote adaptiveness of a water governance regime?

3. A sound legal and administrative framework for water resources management is a necessary precondition, adopting principles of good governance and IWRM is also related to improved performance

– but is not sufficient

➤ **Capacities for implementation (human, technical, administrative) need also to be in place.**

www.twinzgo.eu



Recommendations

Governments and international donors promoting water governance reforms should:

- Promote polycentric structures in water governance: distribute functions, responsibilities and authority among different levels of administration, while providing platforms for effective coordination across levels and sectors.
- Provide procedures and practices for the proactive consideration of uncertainties in decision making
- Strengthen capacities at all administrative levels in order to take over functions and responsibilities in responding to climate change
- Promote the effective implementation of legal frameworks as well as good governance and IWRM principles, by developing the necessary human and administrative capacities and providing financial and technical resources.

www.twinzgo.eu



Thank you!

Annika Kramer
Senior Project Manager
adelphi research, Berlin, Germany
kramer@adelphi.de

www.twinzgo.eu