

**SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME
PRIORITY 1.1.6.3
GLOBL CHANGE AND ECOSYSTEMS**



“Twinning European/third countries river basins” projects

Common Position Paper
RIVERTWIN – TWINBAS – TWINBASIN^{XN} - WADE

RATIONALE :

Four projects have been selected for contributing to the FP6 priority II.3.1) *Integrated water management at catchment scale* :

*II.3.1.a) **Twinning European/third countries river basins.** Specific integrated water resources management research activities in case studies, to be carried out on twinned catchments/river basins from Europe and from developing countries. This research activity will contribute to the objectives of the EU Water Initiative launched in Johannesburg at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The participation of African and NIS countries is particularly requested. The participation of International Organisations is welcome, particularly for establishing interfaces with other bilateral or multi-lateral international co-operation actions.*

They are 3 Specific Targeted Projects :

WADE : The WADE project aims to assess long-term (decades to centuries) water resources in selected semiarid to hyperarid ephemeral river basins by determining long-term transmission losses from floods and quantifying floodwater recharge into alluvial aquifers. An innovative approach will be applied based on three principal research themes. 1) Palaeoflood hydrology will be used to determine long-term flood magnitude and frequency in order to quantify the frequency of recharging flood events. 2) Surface and sub-surface hydrology will be monitored in order to quantify transmission losses through the river bed into the alluvial

aquifers. The combination of these two methodologies will be able to quantify long-term aquifer recharge through flooding. 3) The final research theme focuses on the socio-economic issues related to the use of alluvial aquifer groundwater within the study catchments. The research will be undertaken in 4 research basins, twinning catchments in Spain and Israel with study catchments in Namibia and South Africa.

RIVERTWIN : *The project “RIVERTWIN” aims in developing, adjusting, testing and implementing an integrated regional model for the strategic planning of water resources management in twinned river basins under contrasting ecological, social and economic conditions. The regional model will take into account the impacts of demographic trends, economic and technological development, the effects of global climate and land use changes on the availability and quality of water bodies in humid temperate, sub humid tropical as well as semiarid regions.*

The model will be first developed and tested in a European river basin with high data availability and data density. The transferability of the model to other regions with different economic level, ecological standards and with low data availability will be jointly tested by the project team and river basin organisations in two river basins in West Africa and Uzbekistan.

TWINBAS : To reach the strategic objectives of TWINBAS, a number of research tasks on hydrology, modelling of pollution flow, impact assessment, socio-economics, scenario analyses and action efficiency have to be carried through. For all these activity areas, the goal is to bring knowledge to a level where IWRM can be implemented for the five twinned river basins; Okavango (Botswana), Nura (Kazakhstan), Bío Bío (Chile) Thames (UK) and Norrström (Sweden).

The research and the IWRM components of TWINBAS are organised according to the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) so that the FWD guideline documents can be utilised. The strong component of public participation and stakeholder involvement will ensure that each component has local ownership and addresses priorities identified within the region. The river basins selected represent a wide variety of water use problems, and a variety of political and societal systems. Thus, the applicability of the WFD approach will vary for the third country basins, and methodology applied will be a modification of the WFD process.

and one Co-ordination Action :

TWINBASIN^{XN} : The main objective of the TWINBASIN^{XN} participants is to improve the effectiveness of the co-operation between European and Third Countries river basins for the implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) principles, as stated in the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the European Water Initiative (EUWI), by promoting twinning between Basin Organisations, as a tool for enhancing their human resources capacities, and by collecting and disseminating the shared knowledge for the common benefit of all. This will be achieved by creating a world-wide forum dedicated to identifying and sharing knowledge and best practices, as well as staff exchanges for in-depth know-how transfer.

COMMON POSITION :

The co-ordinators of the above-mentioned projects (University of Stuttgart-Hohenheim, IVL, CSIC and Office International de l'Eau) have issued the present common position paper for presenting the potential co-operation activities between the 4 projects.

It is of outmost importance to disseminate the knowledge gained from the projects to the water management community, both within the consortiums, and outside ; it is also stressed that exchange of information could lead to better implementation of individual projects.

The following activities will be supported by the four consortium :

- The projects' web sites will be linked (the WebRing of twinning projects), to facilitate the surf of users between the respective sites.
- In order to capture the experience of twin activities within their consortium, the co-ordinators will support the signature of the TWINBASIN^{xN} Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by their partners, and their effective participation in the Specific Interest Groups (SIGs) exchanges.
- The projects' co-ordinators will be invited to participate at the TWINBASIN^{xN} Steering Committee meetings once a year as observers. At a specific meeting in connection to the SC meeting, the four co-ordinators will meet, present their project progress and discuss how to standardise or harmonise methodologies if similar methods are applied in the other projects (scenario development, model application).
- A common electronic newsletter will be issued once a year, with information collected from all projects, and disseminated to all individual project letter subscribers, as a special issue.
- Experts from each project will present regularly key outcomes of their work through the web seminars run by TWINBASIN^{xN}, as guest-lecturers (free of charge).

OPERATION :

Since one aim of the Co-ordination Action project TWINBASIN^{xN} is to ease the transfer of knowledge and know-how among water professionals, it is stated that their Support Service unit will play a central role in the circulation of information among the projects partners, but it will be a duty of each co-ordinator to do his/her best to select / promote / disseminate valuable information.