



TWINBASIN^{XN} : Promoting twinning between basins to reinforce practices of Integrated Water Resource Management:

In order to build the capacity of basin organizations for managing water resources, INBO is promoting bilateral twinning arrangements, as testifies the Associated Program with the Global Water Partnership (GWP); indeed, direct exchanges seem to be the more reliable way of disseminating the good practices and strengthening the human resources of the Organizations.

The TWINBASIN^{XN} project aims at facilitating these twinning arrangements, by defining a framework for action, by enabling the move of staffs between twin agencies and by capitalizing the knowledge thus acquired.

This initiative of the Basin Organizations will be opened to the other major stakeholders (Administrations, Universities, companies), to work together for facilitating these twinning arrangements.

The tool thus developed will focus on the capitalization of the acquired know-how to share it on the widest scale possible. Special attention will be paid to the relations between Basins and research to increase the dissemination of research results to the users and thus improve management according to demand.

The project outputs will include:

- guides and agreement models for arranging beneficial twinning arrangements,
- exchanges on today topics (transboundary waters, public participation, modeling, monitoring, etc.),
- scholarships to facilitate the mobility of executives between basins (0.5 to 2-month practical courses),
- tools for managing knowledge and distance training,
- etc.

Participation in the TWINBASIN^{XN} community will be open: it will "only" be necessary to support the project principles, to sign the TWINBASIN^{XN} protocol (the MoU – Memorandum of Understanding) to become member, then to commit himself to participate in the exchanges, through Specific Working Groups (Specific Interest Groups – SIGs), specialized on such and such topic of interest.

The work will be mainly remotely carried out, by relying on an appropriate computerized tool, with, however, opportunities of encounters during INBO General Assemblies.

Web-conferences will be organized with experts to disseminate the results of the research, as well as the reports of the staffs involved in the exchanges.

The project will financially support exchanges of staff members, about 50%, on the average, of the travel and stay expenses in the twin organization; this amount will be modulated according to the organization of departure (the modulation will be later defined by the Steering Committee of the project).

The project should regroup 150 members before 4 to 5 years (Basin Organizations, Administrations, Universities, etc.). To start its activities, it will rely on a group of 20 founder members, representatives of the stakeholders concerned, who will compose the project Steering Committee:

Coordinator : International Office for Water (France)
International Network of Basin Organizations (France)
Seine-Normandy Water Agency (France)
Ea – Water Pole (France)
Confederación Hidrográfica del Júcar – MENBO (Spain)
Department for International Development (UK)
Cap-Net (the Netherlands)
Techware (Italy)
RZGW – Gdansk (Poland)
National Water Authority - OVF (Hungary)
Interstate Coordination Water Commission – ICWC Aral Sea (Uzbekistan)
Jara Tirta I Corporation (Indonesia)
African Network of Basin Organizations (Africa - Niger)
River Basin Agency Algérois – Hodna – Soumman (Algeria)
River Basin Agency – Sebou (Morocco)
Organization for the Development of the Senegal River – OMVS (Senegal)
Comisión Nacional del Agua (Mexico)
Agencia Nacional de Aguas (Brazil)

A group of partners, including the International Office for Water, GWP and Techware, will constitute the operational team of the project (TwinBasin Support Service), in charge of the daily operating of the network (in particular for allocating and managing mobility scholarships) and of its promotion.

The project has been selected within the framework of the "Global change and ecosystems" priority of the 6th Framework Program for European Research during the first invitation to tender. The European financing of the project will cover the operating expenses of the network (travels of the Steering Committee members, tool development, mobility scholarships, management of SIGs, dissemination of results, etc.), i.e. about € 900,000 for a 48-month period.

The official launch of the project will take place on Sunday 25 January 2004, during INBO General Assembly in the Martinique (French Antilles).

All INBO members are invited to this event.