



Project no. **001450**
Project acronym: **TwinBasin^{xn}**
Project: Title: **TWINBASIN^{xn} : Promoting Twinning of River Basins for
Developing Integrated Water Resources Management Practices**

Instrument: **Coordination Action**
Thematic Priority: **1.1.6.3 - Global Change and Ecosystems**

Deliverable no. **D 2**

SIG 1 Inception Report

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Start date of the project: **January 5th, 2004**

Duration: **4 years**

Organisation name of lead contractor for this deliverable: **GWP**

Revision [draft]

**Project co-funded by the European Commission within the Sixth Framework
Programme (2002-2006)**

Dissemination level: PU - Public

Special Interest Group – SIG 1 : Twinning

Scope Statement: *this SIG will work on the setting of operating rules for strengthening the profitability of the exchanges and on the promotion of twinning agreements between Basin Organisations.*

I. INTRODUCTORY DOCUMENT

WHAT IS TWINBASIN^{XN}?

Project launched by INBO, OIEAU, GWP and TECHWARE, supported by 13 other partners to encourage the twinning of river basin organisations worldwide.

WHAT DOES TWINNING MEAN?

There are many types of twinning (among communities, schools, governments), but the twinning promoted within TWINBASIN focuses on integrated water resources management at the basin level. This twinning means establishing a link between two basin organisations (or similar entities that deal with water management at the basin level) to foster exchanging of knowledge, learning from each other and discussing similar problems.

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF A TWINNING AGREEMENT?

The main objective is to promote capacity building of river basin organisations, to improve their expertise, and to help them, through twinning, to overcome water management problems mainly by:

- Promoting a friendly cooperation between water managers
- Tightening ties among basin organisations
- Improving communication between the basins participating in the twinning
- Encouraging exchange of expertise, knowledge and technical personnel
- Strengthening effectiveness of integrated water management within organisations
- Improving, overall, the functioning of these institutions

WHO MAY APPLY FOR A TWINNING?

Existing river basin organisations or other established legal institutions that deal directly with river basin management and have an interest on learning from similar institutions of the same region, of a different country or continent.

WHAT ARE THE PROCEDURES FOR ESTABLISHING A TWINNING?

The requirements to start a twinning within TWINBASIN^{xN} consist of:

1. Identifying a good cooperation or interest between two or more river basin organisations (or similar entities)
2. Establishing specific points of interest, and topics to focus the twinning
3. Signing a twinning agreement (contract) between the interested parties
4. Starting the twinning program
5. Presenting a twinning proposal to the Steering Committee of TWINBASIN^{xN}
6. Getting the approval from the Steering Committee

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A TWINNING BETWEEN RIVER BASINS?

It is expected, that through TWINBASIN^{xN}, basin organisations will find funding and a starting point for improving their capacity and for finding solutions to water management problems. Since the interested basin organisations present their own proposal, the objectives achieved will depend on the basins' interests and will.

II. DRAFT OF TWINNING AGREEMENT

The twinning agreement should include at least the following:

1. Title of the Twinning, for example: "Júcar-Buzau"
2. All the information of Basin Organisations (BO) involved in the twinning
 - a. Name of the Basin Organisations, logos
 - b. Representatives, their name, position and background
 - c. Address, phone, mail, web site
3. The names of 1 or 2 contact people, which can act as representatives of the Twinning.

4. Definition and length of the Twinning Agreement, and in more detail:
 - a. Number of exchanges (per year)
 - b. Length of the exchanges of the personnel
 - c. Description of expectations and goals to be achieved
 - d. Additional information: Specific areas of interest or initial motivation to participate in the twinning (for example: WFD implementation development, Automatic Hydrologic Information Systems, monitoring networks etc.)
5. Number of people involved in the exchange and the required level/ position within the BO (e.g. technician-engineers)
6. Signature of at least 1 representative of each BO (Director, President, Head of Department...)

III PROCEDURES ONCE THE AGREEMENT IS APPROVED AND SIGNED

1. It is the responsibility of each BO:
 - a. To develop a full twinning program with a time table
 - i. First contacts (previous or after signing the agreement)
 - ii. Exchange of BO's information
 - iii. Stages to be completed
 - iv. Analysis of outcomes
 - b. To present a report for each mission which has received financial support, for knowledge dissemination ; and at least once a year to present a synthetic report describing how the twinning program is being or has been completed.
 - c. To hand in a final report describing: what Basin Organisations have globally learned, gained, and obtained through the twinning, and in general how the program has benefited each BO.
2. It is the responsibility of the Steering Committee to assess the progress, and provide advise if any problem during the twinning arises.
3. Information regarding the twinning will be posted on the TWINBASINXN website. (This point will be further developed by the Dissemination SIG).