

Target Rationale

There is a great need for improved water education, knowledge exchange, and information dissemination in order to meet the requirements of the water MDGs and other internationally agreed goals.

There are 276 transboundary rivers over the world.

River Basin Organisations (RBOs) are generally regarded as one of the best solutions for developing Integrated Water Resource Management at catchment level. However, RBOs come in a number of forms, some of which have existed for several decades, and many of which are still under development. They comprise a great diversity of legal statutes and economic schemes. None of them can be regarded as a model.

To implement the content of the global cooperation agreements on the transboundary rivers and lakes basins established between the riparian countries, it is necessary to put in place and make it operational transboundary basin organisations.

Knowledge exchanges between these basin organizations, namely through the international and regional networks, have to be developed, and activities such as twinning/partnering between basins promoted.

It is important to actively support the existing structures to ensure cooperation and collaboration in the common endeavours for the benefit of all. There is a need for the development of increased sharing between these institutions. This will take full advantage of their significant past and present experiences.

In particular management practices should be improved in the relevant bodies, especially in the basin organizations. The basic mean to make progress is to develop twinning processes between basin organizations in order to favor mobility of staff, who can learn on the ground about the know-how, practices, knowledge used in an other basin organization.

Twinning between transboundary basin organisations is thus a key tool for a tailor made development of capacities and exchange of know-how. By facilitating direct exchanges of best practices, as well as failed experiments, **twinning** help RBOs improve their effectiveness. RBOs thus profit from their peers on administrative, technical and institutional matters, meaning that research can be put to quicker use in the field. .

The Ministers present in the WWF 5 in Istanbul have stated that « they will take, as appropriate, tangible and concrete measures to improve and promote cooperation on sustainable use and protection of transboundary water resources through coordinated actions of riparian States, in conformity with existing agreements and/or other relevant arrangements, taking into account the interests of all riparian countries concerned. They will work to strengthen existing institutions and develop new ones, as appropriate and if needed, and implement instruments necessary for improved management of transboundary waters ».

Target Description

By 2015, establish and support programmes of ‘peer-to-peer’ twinning between basin organizations, water centres and other concerned institutions, to foster knowledge and exchange

Efforts have been made to have Twinning agreements really implemented, above the “political” event organised for the signature of the Agreement and related communication campaign.

Twinning programmes among basins have to be promoted for improving the efficiency of existing organisations. Means should be provided for fostering these twinning related to the implementation of IWRM at transboundary level.