

NATO/CCMS pilot study 'Integrated Water Management'
1st Workshop Antwerp (Belgium) 21 – 24 May 2003
REPORT

Introduction

The pilot study is supported by the Belgian Office for Scientific, Technical and Cultural Affairs (DWTC) and by the Italian Embassy in Belgium and was launched by NATO/CCMS in November 2002.

Pilot study director is prof. dr. P. Meire, University of Antwerp, dpt. of Biology and holder of the chair of Integrated Water Management, Institute of Environmental Studies and Flemish Environmental Agency (VMM).

Objective

The main objective of the pilot study is exchanging and combining expertise in water system research, considering different dimensions of water management and their intra and inter relations. The dimension *Integration of knowledge* represents the required competences; it includes natural scientific as well as social and economical aspects, considered as basic information about the functioning of water systems and the chains of the water users. The *Organizational Integration* dimension concerns all relevant competences and participation of stakeholders and means an important support for the efficiency of the water management. The *Legislative basis* dimension is the regulating basic framework including and combining all legal aspects.

The knowledge brought together by means of the pilot study, has to contribute to the knowledge of Integrated Water Management in general, including differentiation for different types of basins or watersheds. Therefore theoretical studies on the functioning of water systems as well as cases will be discussed.

Activities of the first workshop

1. State of the art in the different countries
2. Objectives (general + coming workshops)
3. Publication and dissemination of contributions and results
4. Methodology and planning

The first workshop aimed to fine-tune the overall objective of the pilot study and to develop an adequate programme. Integrated Water Management is a complex and comprehensive policy and knowledge field. Therefore the meeting agreed that working groups should be organized.

Fine-tuning the objective

Sciences, management, policy and societal needs are the main fields of interest in a river basin. Those fields are studied in depth all over the world, but essential for building (International) River Basin Management Plans (IRBMP) are the interrelations between them. Therefore this pilot study aims to contribute to the concept of Integrated Water Management by working on concepts and methodologies of those interrelations, making use of the background knowledge gathered in the different research and experience fields.

Final aim

- Publications
 - scientific papers with concepts, not detailed guidelines
- Examples to build upon
 - to learn from comparison, not to develop a IRBMP
- Networking
 - initiatives for new projects
- Capacity building

Organization

The next four workshops will include both working group sessions and a plenary session.

The working groups focus on given aspects or themes. Each working group starts with a selected number of questions to be answered. The working group members prepare a common paper on this questions based upon the contributions of the participants. The plenary session aims to discuss and to integrate the outcomes of the working groups in order to be applicable in a IRBMP concept.

A final workshop should be more comprehensive and could make use of the input of a NATO Advanced Research workshop, NATO Science for peace projects and other research projects.

For each working group a 'leader' has been chosen. The WG-leader chairs the WG-meetings and prepares the programme for the WG in cooperation with the other WG-leaders and pilot study director. The pilot study director and the WG-leaders will form a 'steering committee' for the pilot study.

Working groups

1. Environmental indicators / human health, WG-leader is L. Lavkulich, University of British Columbia, Canada
2. Public participation, WG-leader is L. Santbergen, Wageningen University, the Netherlands
3. Transboundary, WG-leader is G. Roll, Peipsi Center for Tarnsboundary Cooperation, Estonia
4. Goods and services / policy analysis, WG-leader is M. Fisunoglu, Cukurora University, Turkey.

Communication

We will make use of the NATO/CCMS website to propose the pilot study and to announce workshops and other events.

Beside the workshops participants will exchange useful information by e-mail.

Publications

The proceedings of the 1st Workshop will be published in October 2003 in a special issue of the 'Quaderni Europei dell'Ambasciata d'Italia a Bruxelles', titled 'Integrated Water Management'.

The presentations of the first workshop will be distributed in PDF format on a CD-rom in October 2003.

Articles and / or papers after the workshops.

One (text)book at the end of the pilot study.

Workshop II

27 – 31 January 2004, Genoa, Italy

Workshop III

June 2004, Tartu, Estonia