

Coordinating twinning partnerships towards more  
adaptive governance in river basins

**D. 3.1:**

**Briefing Paper**

*for*

**Regional Workshops**

*on*

**Best Practices and Tools in Water Governance**

*in*

**River basins from EC twinning projects**

Twin2Go: EC FP7  
Coordination and Support Action

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**Twin2Go** Coordinating twinning partnerships towards more  
adaptive governance in river basins

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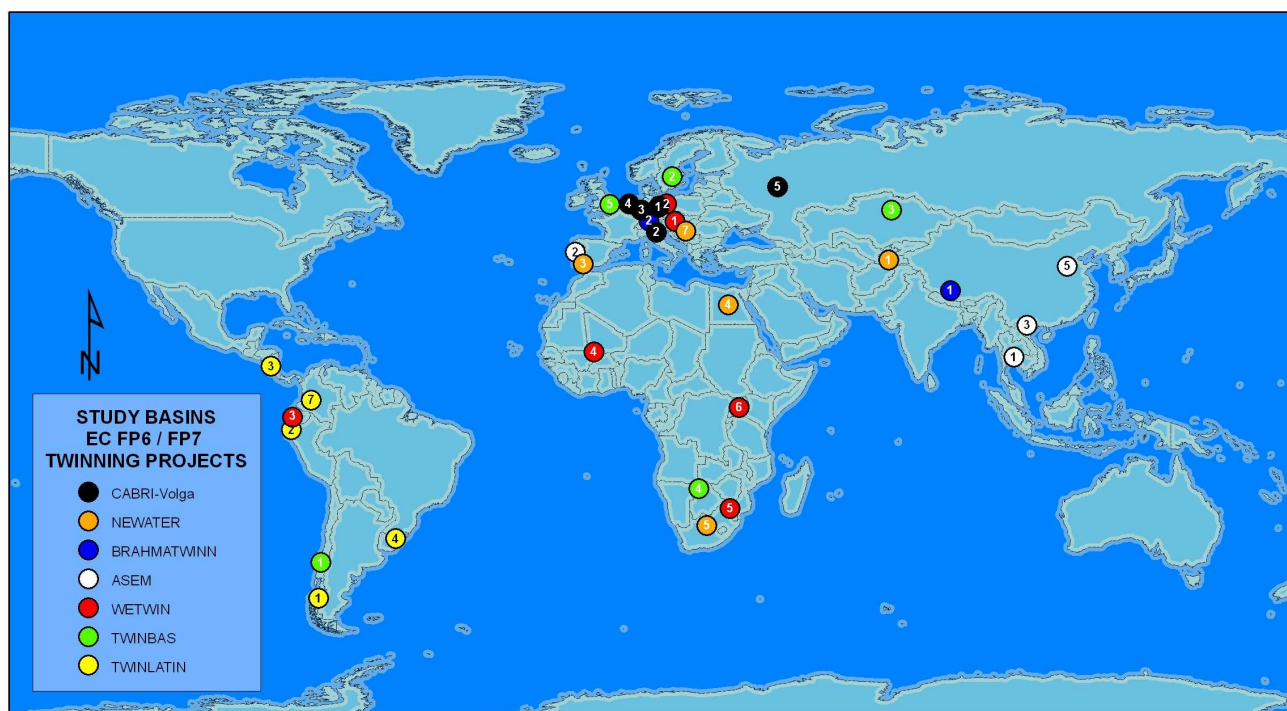
### **About Twin2Go:**

Twin2Go, or “Coordinating **T**winning partnerships **t**owards more adaptive **G**overnance in river basins” is a coordination and support action which runs from 2009 till 2011 under the EC 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Program for Research and Technological Development (FP7). Twin2Go intends to promote adaptive water governance, particularly in the context of climate change.

Over the past years, the EC has funded a series of projects that undertook research activities on specific integrated water resources management (IWRM) issues carried out in more than 30 twinned European and non-European case study river basins. The aim of Twin2Go now is to review, assess, synthesize and consolidate progress in adaptive water governance in these twinning project case study basins, to make the results transferable and applicable to other basins, and to promote their adequate dissemination to relevant authorities, stakeholders and end-users.

<http://www.twin2go.eu/>

**Figure 1. Twin2Go: Case study river basins from the EC twinning projects**

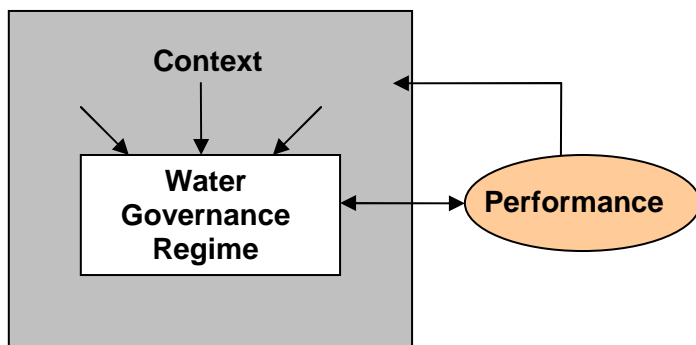


RIVER BASIN	COUNTRIES	PROJECT NAME	
Biobío	Chile	Twinbas	①
Norrström	Sweden	Twinbas & Twinlatin	②
Nura	Kazakhstan	Twinbas	③
Okavango	Botswana – Angola – Namibia	Twinbas	④
Thames	United Kingdom	Twinbas & Twinlatin	⑤
Baker	Chile (Argentina)	Twinlatin	①
Catamayo-Chira	Peru – Ecuador	Twinlatin	②
Cocibolca Lake	Nicaragua - Costa Rica	Twinlatin	③
Cuareim – Quarai	Uruguay – Brazil	Twinlatin	④
Upper Cauca	Colombia	Twinlatin	⑦
Elbe	Germany (Czech Republic)	CABRI-Volga & NeWater	①
Po	Italy	CABRI-Volga	②
Rhine	Germany	CABRI-Volga & NeWater	③
Scheldt estuary	The Netherlands – Belgium	CABRI-Volga	④
Volga	Russia	CABRI-Volga	⑤
Amu Darya	Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	NeWater	①
Guadiana	Spain – Portugal	NeWater	③
Nile	Egypt	NeWater	④
Orange	South-Africa	NeWater	⑤
Tisza	Slovakia, Ukraine, Hungary, Romania, Serbia	NeWater & ASEM WaterNet	⑦
Bang Pakong	Thailand	ASEM WaterNet	①
Mondego	Portugal	ASEM WaterNet	②
Red River	Vietnam – China	ASEM WaterNet	③
Yellow River	China	ASEM WaterNet	⑤
Danube	Austria – Hungary	WETWin	①
Elbe – Spreewald	Germany	WETWin	②
Guayas	Ecuador	WETWin	③
Niger (Inner Niger Delta)	Mali	WETWin	④
Olifants	South-Africa	WETWin	⑤
Upper White Nile	Uganda	WETWin	⑥
Upper Brahmaputra	China, Bhutan, NE India	BrahmaTwinn	①
Upper Danube	Germany	BrahmaTwinn	②

**Introduction:**

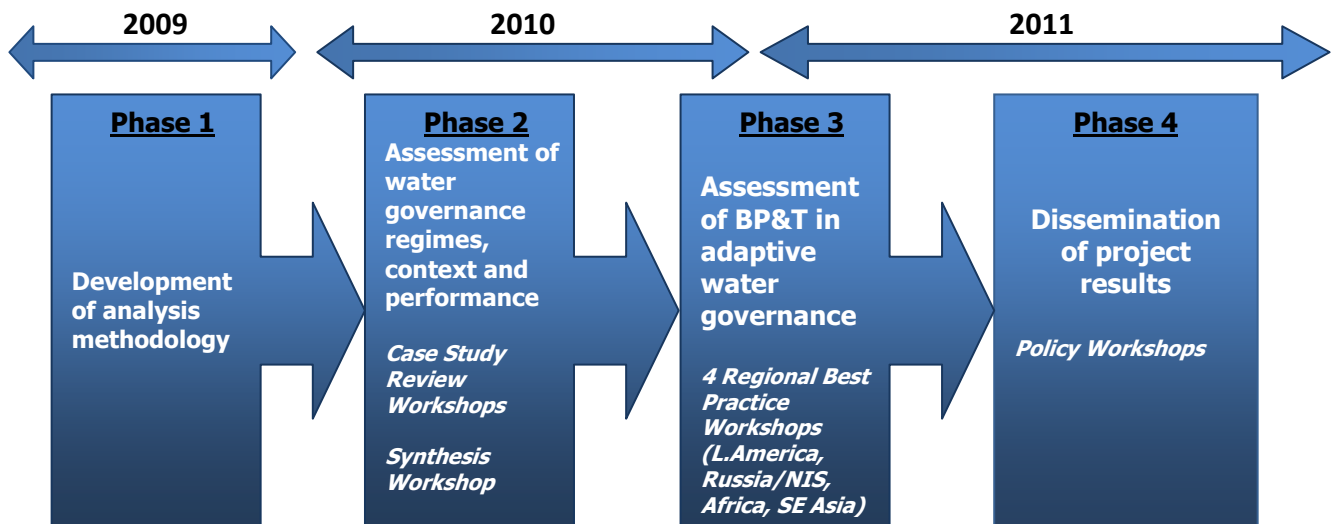
The Twin2Go project has aggregated the data from 29 river basins worldwide (Fig.1) about the design of existing *water governance regimes*, the *context* and their *performance* (Fig.2). Altogether 98 indicators were used for this purpose; they were scored by about one hundred external experts from river basins and by project partners. The synthesis of results including hypothesis testing and assessment and comparison of major trends in adaptive water governance and participatory IWRM are being finalized.

**Figure 2. Essential elements for Twin2go analytical framework**



The Twin2Go project is now entering phase III (Fig.3). The inventory of Best Practices and Tools (BP&T) in adaptive water governance will be based on expert opinions and data from twinning projects and river basins under study. A series of four Regional Best Practice Workshops with experts and practitioners will be held in: (1) Europe/Russia/NIS, (2) Africa, (3) Latin America and (4) South-East Asia. These Twin2Go Regional Best Practice Workshops are being organized in parallel according to this common agenda.

**Figure 3. Flow chart: steps towards the achievement of Twin2Go goals**



# **Best Practices and Tools in implementation of adaptive water governance and Transfer of experiences across river basins**

## ***Twin2Go REGIONAL BEST PRACTICE WORKSHOPS***

**(Latin America, Africa, Russia/NIS, South East Asia)**

### **Goals:**

#### **The four Regional Best Practice Workshops of Twin2Go have three goals:**

- Review and synthesize innovative Best Practices and Tools (BP&T) in implementation of adaptive water governance and participatory IWRM as identified by the twinning projects in river basins of the four targeted regions
- Exchange experiences and lessons learned about transfer and adaptation of BP&T across river basins and countries
- Develop a dialogue on major problems, possibilities and constraints for application of BP&T and knowledge with authorities, stakeholders and end-users in the region, and identify their interests, needs and capacities in implementing innovative practices in adaptive water governance

These goals are addressed through discussion with the invited experts from the regions of their practical experiences and stories, through BP&T inventory and research results learned from the Twin2Go twinning projects and through joint brain-storming in working groups during the workshop. Workshops promote the dialogue and experience exchange between experts from twinning projects and authorities, stakeholders and end-users in the targeted regions. Exchange of lessons about success and failures in this field, and how to better overcome existing barriers and policy-practice gaps in application and dissemination of BP&T in adaptive water governance will be among practical outcomes of such interactive dialogue. Key messages relevant for the targeted regions and strategic visions for BP&T dissemination will be explored.

### **Background:**

Diversified domestic laws and institutions in water management in the countries, or in the river basins which are under study by Twin2Go is the key, but not sufficient condition for good water governance. Particularly important for its success is the process of functioning of institutions, implementation of their provisions and rules in every-day practices by multiple stakeholders, as well as overcoming the existing constraints and benefiting from challenging opportunities. Identifying both general and context-specific BP&T that promote adaptive water governance and participatory IWRM is in the core of our quest. How to better transfer such practices across basins, regions, or stakeholder groups and what drivers and barriers accompany this process is also crucial.

The current phase of our inquiry is rooted in the Twin2go triangle “water governance regime – context - performance”, but now focuses on the next stage of assessment – *context* and *performance* of BP&T in adaptive water governance. It evaluates the implementation process, practices by stakeholders, and effectiveness of best practices applied by them; although the assessment of the latter is not always easy, because certain evidence and results gained over time are essential. Existing designs in water governance regimes and their peculiarities in the regions significantly destine the BP&T implementation process. The context – existing economic, social, political, environmental and sustainable development frameworks in the regions or in the river basins – affects BP&T application and channels its outcomes. Opportunities and constraints for BP&T effectiveness are often rooted in the context specifics and in the so called ‘situational factors’ at national, regional and local levels.

*BP&T in water governance* and specifically in adaptive water governance is the red thread of our assessment. However, we are aware that sometimes while analyzing the performance and implementation process it is difficult to *distinguish* in practice between 'water governance' in river basins and 'adaptive water governance' in river basins. Adaptive capacity and potential at various levels of the targeted regions is another point of our interest.

Within this broad area of interest in the targeted regions and building on results already gained by Twin2Go, we suggest to concentrate during the regional workshops on three major foci in assessment of BP&T: (1) application of national water governance frameworks in river basins; (2) engagement and coordination among actors and forms of interaction/partnerships; (3) enabling learning and building adaptive capacity in water governance.

What BP&T in water governance are used in the region? How and to what extent do they enhance capacity building, awareness raising, stakeholder participation and partnerships? What domestic incentives are provided to stakeholders to stimulate application of BP&T? What are the priority goals, interests and capacities of stakeholders in that respect? What are the visions of adaptive strategies in river basins? These and other questions will be discussed during the Regional Best Practice Workshops.

*Transfer of BP&T* across countries and across river basins is also in the core of discussion with experts. Why is it not always possible to directly transfer good practices to other river basins and countries? Why their adaptation to local/regional contexts and situational specifics is often needed? How to better adapt them? Why cannot some BP&T be easily adapted? What are the major barriers and constraints to their transfer and adaptation?

Each regional workshop has the 'standard' goal to identify *challenges and obstacles* to implementation of BP&T in adaptive water governance in the regions and to provide expert vision how to benefit from opportunities and how to overcome barriers in this domain.

#### ***BP&T: what does it mean?***

*A best practice is a technique, management method, process, activity, incentive, or reward that is believed to be more effective at delivering particular outcome than any other technique, method, etc. when applied to a particular condition or circumstance. Best practices can also be defined as the most efficient (least amount of effort) or effective (best results) way of accomplishing a task, based on repeatable procedures that have proven themselves over time for large numbers of people.*

#### **Invited experts:**

Each workshop will bring together about 15 participants – international and local experts representing various stakeholders from the targeted regions and Twin2Go projects partners – those who are engaged in promoting in practice, or studying water governance systems and their implementation in river basins. Practitioners with their experiences and insights about application of BP&T and about their exchange across countries, river basins and stakeholder groups are encouraged to discuss major lessons learned with decision-makers and scholars. The particular interest is in concrete practices that are essential for promoting adaptive water governance and participatory IWRM.

We invite experts to the workshops to engage in new thinking, envision broader possibilities, exchange and identify innovative instruments to expand up-take of knowledge and BP&T in implementation of adaptive water governance.

In order to effectively exchange lessons learned with the others we encourage experts to bring to the meeting their own stories about BP&T in water governance and to answer 15 questions of the BP&T Inventory questionnaire attached for each major illustration or case study.

The meetings will be conducted under Chatham House rules: there will be no attribution of ideas or positions of participating experts during or after the event.



## Synthesis of BP&T Results:

Results of discussions, messages from assessment of BP&T in river basins, of opportunities and constraints for their transfer across river basins will be synthesized in the Workshop Report. All papers and results will be made available for the wide public. These will be sent to all participants and will also be downloaded at the Twin2Go website ([www.twin2go.eu](http://www.twin2go.eu)). Results of discussions during the four Regional Best-Practice Workshops will be aggregated and used by Twin2Go to formulate best practice guidelines and tools for knowledge transfer and implementation of adaptive governance in river basins worldwide. The product will be disseminated among participating experts. On the basis of regional workshops, Twin2Go envisions to support and expand the international expert networks and cooperation between them.

## Program and format:

The program of the workshop includes:

**Day 1** of the Workshop will be dedicated to plenary discussion of Twin2Go assessment of water governance regimes in 29 river basins worldwide and presenting the initial overviews from Inventory of BP&T in water management in the twinning river basins and projects from the region. Discussion of main messages with experts and integrating findings with the experiences of invited practitioners and scholars is among the tasks. The second half of Day 1 will be dedicated to discussion of the core questions, themes and setting the agenda for the brainstorming exercise in the two working groups.

**Day 2** of the Workshop will be dedicated to two parallel working group sessions concentrating on the exchange of stories, views and major lessons about (1) application of BP&T in water management and stakeholder roles. The potential for (2) transfer and adaptation of experiences across basins, countries and stakeholder groups will be critically explored. International and local experts from research and practice will be involved in filling-in the Twin2Go Inventory questionnaires and discussion of (3) summary messages and recommendations for the region.

**Day 3** of the Workshop will be dedicated to presenting the key results of discussions in the working groups, as well as the main messages about success and failures in application of BP&T in water management in river basins. The final plenary session will aggregate the findings from expert assessment for the targeted region and identify key strategic visions for BP&T in adaptive water governance and lessons learned. In particular it will concentrate on major messages from the working group sessions about: 1) lessons learned from experts' stories of application of BP&T; 2) stakeholder roles; 3) specifics in socio-economic context (barriers and drivers) for BP&T application; 4) opportunities and constraints for BP&T transfer across countries, river basins and stakeholder groups; 5) core challenges for the region and recommendations for problem solving.

## **ANNEX: Formats for BP&T Inventory and Expert Dialogue**

### **Introduction:**

The Questionnaire aiming at BP&T Inventory (Format-1) is sent to experts in about two weeks prior to the workshop. It plans to record the expert opinions and data about implementation of water governance regimes and BP&T used for that purpose. It assembles expert stories and examples from the regions, or river basins, or stakeholder groups about *application* of BP&T in water governance, about the *context* affecting their use, and about *performance* outcomes. The BP&T examples are structured according to three major foci:

- Application of national water frameworks in river basins
- Engagement and coordination among actors and forms of interaction/partnerships
- Enabling learning and building adaptive capacity in water governance.

Possible options and constraints for the transfer and adaptation of BP&T across countries, river basins, or stakeholder groups are assessed. Recommendations and expert opinions how to better implement BP&T and exchange them are registered. The ultimate goal is to identify BP&T that lead to, or otherwise enhance, adaptive water governance under climate change.

Stories of experts and Examples of BP&T are to be discussed in the working groups during the workshops and major messages and lessons learned are to be recorded in the summary table (Format-2).

### **Annex 1:**

#### **Questionnaire for Experts: Inventory of BP&T in water governance (Format-1)**

***Note for Experts:*** Please briefly describe your stories and examples of BP&T by answering the below questions about their application, context and performance. Your examples can be structured according to the three major foci mentioned above. The transfer of BP&T and also expert visions for problem solving in the region are among the topics for joint brain-storming. If you feel that the questions below do not cover an important issue please provide additional comments at the bottom of each section. The examples should not be long – about 1-3 pages each.

#### **FORMAT-1**

#### **BP&T INVENTORY**

***(experts are kindly asked to bring to prepare their stories about BP&T)***

#### **Section I. BP&T APPLIED**

1. What exactly was the best practice or tool?
2. With what purpose and reason of its application?
3. Who applied it (i.e. authorities, water-users, civil society, international agencies), and what stakeholders were involved?
4. Were any regulatory enforcement and incentive mechanisms used to support BP&T application?

#### **Section II. CONTEXT FOR BP&T IMPLEMENTATION**

5. What were the major socio-economic or political constraints/barriers for BP&T application?
6. What were the major constraints/barriers rooted in domestic water governance designs?
7. What were opportunities and drivers for BP&T application?

### **Section III. PERFORMANCE and EFFECTIVENESS**

8. What was the degree of success, or failure in BP&T application in the river basin?
9. Did application of BP&T result in further development of capacity (regulatory, administrative, human, etc.) for adaptive water governance in river basins?
10. Did application of BP&T result in changes towards more adaptive behavior of stakeholders?
11. Did application of BP&T contribute (and to what possible extent) to problem-solving, or its mitigation)?

### **Section IV. EXPORT- IMPORT of BP&T ACROSS COUNTRIES and BASINS**

12. Examples of BP&T transferred across countries, river basins and stakeholder groups
13. Did BP&T transferred required adaptation (and to what extent) to local context and domestic specifics?
14. What were the major barriers and opportunities for transfer and adaptation of BP&T?
15. What was the 'external' influence in your BP&T implementation?

### **Section V. RECOMMENDATIONS about MAJOR CHALLENGES for the REGION**

Annex 2:

**Summary of BP&T**  
(Format-2)

**Note for Experts:** Please think about the key messages from your stories about application of BP&T to be registered in the Summary Table which will be filled-in during the discussion in Expert Working Groups

Format-2

**Summary of BP&T from Expert Working Groups**

BP&T Examples	BP&T Applied				Context		Performance	
	Major purpose	What is done	Actors involved	Incentive/enforcement	Barriers/constraints	Opportunities/drivers	Success stories	Problems encountered
<b>Foci 1: Application of national water frameworks in river basins</b>								
1. 2. 3.								
<b>Foci 2: Engagement and coordination among actors, forms of interaction/partnerships</b>								
1. 2. 3.								
<b>Foci 3: Enabling learning and building adaptive capacity in water governance</b>								
1 2 3								
<b>EXPORT-IMPORT of BP&amp;T</b>								
1. 2. 3.								
<b>MAJOR CHALLENGES: RECOMMENDATIONS FROM EXPERTS</b>								
Challenge 1. Challenge 2. Challenge 3.								