



# Mexico 2006 4th World Water Forum

## Public Participation and Solidarity in Basin Management *Local Innovations and Lessons Learned*

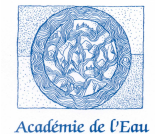


Linking-up the public for sustainable water management  
in the Rhine basin

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**On behalf of the RhineNet team**



# RhineNet and INTERREG IIIB



## Interreg III B

- Initiative of the European Fund for Regional Development
- Fostering collaboration of regions in the European Union in the period from 2000 – 2006

## INTERREG IIIB Program Northwest-Europe

- Support of transnational collaboration in Northwestern Europe with several action foci: e.g Sustainable Management of Water Resources



# RhineNet Partners

- Solidarité Eau Europe (F) (*initiator and coordinator*)
- Naturlandstiftung Saar (D) (*lead partner*)
- Agglomération Saarguemines Confluences (F)
- Federal Association of Citizens' Initiatives for the Environment (D)
- Ecologic (D)
- European Rivers Network (F)
- Fondation Hëllef fir die Natur (L)
- Ministry for Environment and Transport of Baden-Württemberg (D),
- Office International de l'Eau (F)
- Regiowasser e.V. (D)
- Reinwater Foundation (NL)
- Environment Agency of Karlsruhe City (D)
- Environment Ministry of Saarland (D)





L'EUROPE DE L'EAU  
ET SES BASSINS

EUROPEAN INLAND WATERS  
AND RIVER BASINS

EUROPAS GEWÄSSER  
UND FLUSSGEBIETE



1000 0 1000 Kilometers

This Map shows major European and Middle Eastern Rivers with their basins.  
Approximate value for River catchment area is about 10 000 km<sup>2</sup>.  
Map in decimal degrees, not projected.

supported by



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### Countries in the Rhine basin

- The Netherlands
- France
- Germany
- Switzerland
- Luxembourg
- Belgium
- Austria
- Liechtenstein
- Italy

### Tributaries

- Main
- Meuse
- Moselle
- Neckar
- Aar



# Who are the stakeholders of RhineNet?

## *RhineNet partners*

- NGO, ministries, and research institutes (innovation)
- Interested to link-up their activities to reach a broader audience
- Exchange of ideas and approaches and learn from each other

## *Target groups*

### Authorities

- Different levels
- Benefit from best practices

### Broad public

- Awareness raising for the protection of intact river systems
- Capacity-building for active participation
- Comprises many different audiences

# Public Participation Tool/s & Process

## Innovation

- Linking of various participation projects in the Rhine basin
- Identification of synergies
- Testing of new approaches for actively involving the broad public and stakeholders

## What we achieved

- In-depth study of participation in the Rhine area
- Information events and workshops in the basin
- Development of a methodological guide for public participation at the regional and local level
- Incorporation of the transboundary perspective into participation at the local level: awareness raising
- Local level: consultation about the future measures to be taken in the Rhine basin
- Testing of new methods: farmers' game

# Public Participation Tool/s & Process

## Rhine-Study: Results

- Good basis for public participation in the Rhine basin
- Various approaches, but not necessarily active involvement

## Information sessions

- Development of a model concept for information sessions
- Several sessions and workshops throughout the Rhine basin targeted at different audiences
- Development of an educational program about public participation

## Guide

- Part 1: Basic approaches and methods for public participation
- Part 2: Approaches taken in the Rhine basin, illustration of theoretical approaches
- Part 3: Lessons learnt, do's and don'ts
- Consultation: discussion fora





# Lessons Learned

- Public participation is important at all levels of river basin management
- Different languages, different administrative approaches and cycles are a considerable barrier
- Preparation for participation: training about methodologies
- Initiatives need to be geared to meet the demands of the target groups
  - Requires that specific water culture in the basin is taken into account
- International river basins call for the linking of relevant actors between countries and regions
  - RhineNet offers a platform and a good starting point

# Transferability of our Process & Tool/s

## Opportunities

- Strong methodological basis
- Creative approaches geared to the target audience: broad public
- Interlinked multi-level activities
- Step-by-step approach including methodological development as well as hands-on experience

## Constraints

- Long history of public involvement in the Rhine basin
- Democratic regimes and strong institutional background
- Open dialogue for a long time

# Conclusions

## Further activities!!!

- Do not stop at this stage – it is still only the beginning!
- The RhineNet should continue and **link up with even more initiatives** throughout the basin.
- Establishment of **regular forum for the exchange** of information and the initiation of activities.
- While collaboration and interaction at the local level is working quite well, institutional obstacles in the riparian countries still need to be overcome.