Session 3: Funding transboundary cooperation

Sustainable financing of joint bodies - perspective of a joint bodies’ party

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Germany – Joint bodies

• 10 river basins
• 6 international river basin commissions
  – Danube, Elbe, Odra, Meuse, Rhine, Moselle-Saar
• 4 bilateral water commissions, with
  – Austria, Czech Republic, Poland and the Netherlands
  – Mainly concerning management of water bodies at the frontiers
• Implementation of measures takes place on national level, paid by the countries, not the commissions
Flussgebietseinheiten in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland
(Richtlinie 2000/60/EG - Wasserrahmenrichtlinie)

Die Markierung und Kennzeichnung der außerhalb der Grenzen der Bundesrepublik Deutschland liegenden Teile internationaler Flussgebietseinheiten dienen lediglich der Veranschaulichung und lassen Festlegungen anderer Staaten sowie internationale Abstimmungen unberührt.

Kartengrundlage:
Länderarbeitsgemeinschaft Wasser (LAWA),
Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie (BKG)

Quelle: Umweltbundesamt, Juni 2004
International river basin commissions
Financing – regular budget (I)

• Regular budget, especially
  – Permanent Secretariats
    • Staff
      – Executive secretary, technical experts, support staff
      – Interpretation/Translation
    • Rent for rooms, buildings
    • Technical Equipment etc.
    • Travel costs
  – Development of maps, data platforms
    • Implementation of EU Directives, e.g. WFD
    • Sometimes outsourced
  – Publications
    • Technical reports, brochures
  – Meetings of commissions, heads of delegations, expert groups
  – Workshops
International river basin commissions
Financing – regular budget (II)

• Regular budgets
  – Drafted and decided on a yearly basis
  – Budget outlines for the next 2 or 3 years
    • To enable parties to secure the necessary resources in the national budgets
    • Budget increase often difficult due to financial constraints in the countries
  – Amount differs according to size of basin and number of parties
    • ICPDR (Danube) budget 2014: around 1,14 Mio. EUR
      – 15 parties, basin of around 800,000 km²
    • ICPMS (Moselle-Saar) budget 2014: 260,000 EUR
      – 3 parties, Rhine sub-basin of 28,000 km²
  – Germany: ca. 1 million EUR per year for all river basin commissions
    • Between 67,000 and 490,000 EUR per commission per year
International river basin commissions
Financing – regular budget (III)

• Contribution keys
  – Either fixed in the river basin convention or in the rules of procedure or financial rules
  – Based on share of the basin and population
    • E.g. International Meuse Commission
      – Surface-share of the International Hydrographic District for each contracting party and its population = FR 15%, DE 14,5%, NL 30%, BE 0,5%, BR 4,5%, VL 5%, WL 30%, LU 0,5%
    • E.g. International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe
      – Share of the Elbe river and share of the catchment = DE 66,7%, CZ 33,3%
  – Alternative: Equal parts
    • E.g. International Commission for the Protection of the Danube
Equal Parts – Example ICPDR

- The budget is shared by member countries – de jure on an equal basis, de facto with a levelled contribution system that takes into consideration economic differences but aims at achieving equal cost-sharing.
International river basin commissions

Other financing sources (I)

• Projects, which can not be covered by the regular budget
  – Separate funds co-financed by the parties
  – E.g. development of a tool to evaluate the effects of flood risk management measures of the ICPR (Rhine)
    • Parties share the costs of this project on the basis of their contribution keys of the regular budget

• EU funds
  – Application by countries necessary, competition of projects
  – EU covers up to 75% of the costs
  – E.g. INTERREG = funds for regional cooperation
    • FLOW MS project in the Moselle-Saar basin
      – Flood protection, climate change
  – E.g. South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme
    • FLOODRISK project in the Danube basin
      – Danube Atlas with hazard and risk maps
International river basin commissions

Other financing sources (II)

• E.g. UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project
  – Part of a 15 years’ strategic approach to manage the Black Sea and the Danube River Basin
  – 2001- 2006
    • To reinforce regional cooperation of the Danube countries
    • To ensure a common approach to the protection of international waters, sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity
    • 17 million USD
  – Support of the development of national policies and legislation and the definition of priority actions for pollution control
  – Vital to help develop the ICPDR into a functioning and effective joint body
International river basin commissions

Other financing sources (III)

- Cooperation with companies
  - E.g. cooperation of ICPDR with Coca Cola Hellenic
    - Danube box (education tool for teachers and students)
    - Items for yearly Danube Day (posters, bags etc.)
    - Based on a bilateral agreement

- In kind contributions of parties
  - Organising meetings on their territory
    - Meeting rooms, catering etc.
  - Translation of documents
  - Temporary secondment of staff
Bilateral Water Commissions

- No regular budgets
- Meetings and work (e.g. monitoring programmes) are organised and paid by countries
  - E.g. commissions’ meetings by Germany every second year
  - Federal Environment Ministry has regular financial resources for such events
- EU funds are sometimes used for studies, which also give input into the bilateral work
  - E.g. German-Polish project NEYMO on climate and hydrological modelling on the Lausitzer Neiße, a shared Odra tributary
    - Results will be used for the work of the German-Polish bilateral water commission
Financing joint bodies
What happens on national level?

- Two budget items in Germany
  - Contributions
  - International
- Financial resources have to be part of the Federal Government’s overall yearly budget
  - Budget of the Federal Environment Ministry
- Relevant division has to declare financial resources to the internal budget division
  - For the next budgetary year
  - On the basis of joint bodies’ budget outlines and other financing needs
  - Internal Meeting to justify the numbers if necessary
- Budget development procedure including the parliament
  - Budget for the next year is normally decided in the year before
- Contributions are paid to the joint bodies’ secretariats at the beginning of the budget year
- International account is used e.g. for co-financing projects of joint bodies, meetings and workshops, travel costs of eligible experts etc.
- Each payment has to be allowed by the internal budget division
Thank you for your attention!