

Exchange of experiences of joint bodies

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Two consecutive workshops have been organised in Geneva:

- 23-24 September, 2013: Legal and Institutional Aspects
 - Report available
- 9-10 April, 2014: Technical aspects
 - Report will come
- During the workshops information of experiences was exchanged, good and fruitful discussions
- One of the main outcomes: draft principles for effective joint bodies

Draft principles for effective joint bodies: Establishment, structure and functions

- Broad competence of the joint body
- Clear definition of the waters subject to cooperation
- Clearly defined tasks and powers
- Organisation structure to adopt decisions and implement them
- Broad representation of national authorities
- Availability of technical and scientific support
- Sufficient information basis
- Mandate to identify and assess potential benefits

Draft principles for effective joint bodies: Operational issues

- Effective accountability mechanisms and transparency
- Effective cooperation with national authorities
- Clearly defined reporting lines
- Mechanisms for public participation
- Coordination of activities with other joint bodies in the same area
- Functioning as a forum for the exchange of information and data
- Facilitation of assessments of impacts
- Early warning mechanisms

Draft principles for effective joint bodies: Financial and human resources

- Adequate, stable and timely human resources
- Financial sustainability of a joint body

Due to the differences between joint bodies, not all principles will be applicable or relevant in each case!

Future activities

- UNEP: First International Environment Forum for Basin Organizations that will take place in Bangkok, Thailand, 26-28 November 2014
- Further development of draft principles?
- Continuation during the next Work Programme (2016-2018)?