

Developing Transboundary Monitoring Networks in Europe

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Biographical Sketch of Author

Jos Timmerman is programme manager and interim director for the International Water Assessment Centre, a collaborating center under the UNECE Water Convention, and programme manager at the Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment (RIZA). He is specialized in strategies for water quality monitoring and assessment with emphasis on the specification of information needs.

Abstract

Water quality monitoring in Europe is a national issue in the European countries. However, as an estimated 60% of the European rivers are transboundary, national monitoring does not provide for all the necessary information. The UN Economic Commission for Europe was among the first to recognize this and developed the Convention on Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes that was adopted in 1992. The convention obliges the signatories to develop transboundary monitoring networks to determine the mutual influences from riparian countries.

Several pilot projects are performed to gain experience in developing joint monitoring programs. These projects built on an analysis of the water management situation and structuring of information needs where the objectives of the different countries were compared and brought together into one monitoring system. This presentation will describe how the water management analysis and the subsequent specification of information needs was done and how this helped the countries to develop a joint monitoring program that provides information for all riparian countries.

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