



**INBO-GWP ASSOCIATED PROGRAM:
« CREATION AND STRENGTHENING
OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS AROUND THE WORLD »**

**ON THE WAY OF SUCCESS!
ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE 2003 AND PROSPECTS**

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In September 2001, GWP and INBO – *the International Network of Basin Organizations, which now gathers 153 permanent members or observers from 52 countries, as well as a majority of the International Commissions or Transboundary Basin Organizations* - agreed to launch an Associated Program for the creation and the strengthening of rivers, lakes and aquifers basin organizations around the world.

It was decided to formalize this cooperation by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between GWP and INBO in May 2003.

This MOU lays down the basic principles and the arrangements for future cooperation between both parties, by specifying the areas of activity in which they will collaborate.

Three years after the real coming into force of the MOU, one should now outline the first achievements and the general lessons learned about the 4 outputs included in the Associated Program.

The specificity of INBO is indeed to gather the Governmental and Basin Organizations, which are really in charge of defining and implementing water policy in their respective countries and basins: far from academic speeches, INBO members are directly responsible for water management and have to face the daily realities that it implies and the preparation of the future.

1/ FIRST OUTPUT: TWINNING OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS

In order to build the capacity of basin organizations for managing water resources, INBO is promoting bilateral twinning arrangements between BO. Indeed, direct exchanges seem to be the more reliable way of disseminating the good practices and strengthening the human resources of basin organizations.

The **TWINBASIN_{xN}** project aims at facilitating these twinning arrangements, by defining a framework for action, by enabling the move of staffs between twin agencies and by capitalizing the knowledge thus acquired.

The tool thus developed will focus on the capitalization of the acquired know-how to share it on the widest scale possible.

The project is funded within the framework of the "Global change and ecosystems" priority of the 6th Framework Program for Research of the European Union.

The project Mobility Committee has still approved 34 eligible twinning agreements, involving more than 40 Basin Organizations from 27 different countries and diverse geopolitical areas.

2/ SECOND OUTPUT: MOBILIZATION OF THE EXPERTISE OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS

. The topics which are the commonest are « participatory management », Integrated monitoring systems, long-term planning (20 years), with notion of « master plan or management plan », operational planning or investment plans (5/6 years), the means and methods for financing priority plans.

This expertise mobilized within the INBO members should allow pilot projects to be implemented such as:

- Transboundary management of Irtysh River (Kazakhstan & Russia),
- Drafting of provisional action plan (2005-2006) for transboundary management of Körös / Crisuri basin (Hungary & Romania), in collaboration with the International Commission for Protection of Danube River (ICPDR),
- Assistance to the Algerian Basin Agencies,
- Preparation of experimental basin master plans in two Mexican river basins, twinned with French water agencies,
- First step towards the creation of the Mexican National Water Information Network,
- Audit, entrusted by the World Bank, of the Niger Basin Authority and the Mahawelli BA in Sri Lanka,
- Support to the creation of the Volta International Commission and also now the CICOS, for the Congo basin....

Important work has been undertaken under the aegis of the European Water Initiative, and specifically its component focusing on IWRM in transboundary basins of Africa. INBO set the indicators for selection of the five pilot basins.

A new project for the test of performances indicators for African Basin Organizations is just funded also by the European Water Facility for Africa.

3/ THIRD OUTPUT: SYNTHESIS OF KNOWLEDGE AND KNOW-HOW

This objective of the Associated Program arises from the fact that there are different types or models of basin organization: The synthesis of knowledge and know-how, which aims to identify successes (« best practices ») but also gaps, is still a relatively new issue as there were before few lessons learned.

INBO members are involved in the HELP program of UNESCO, the following World Bank survey or many European research projects:

- **The World Bank Survey (2003-2004):** INBO has carried out a survey of 100 river basin organizations among its members and was invited to participate into the "Workshop on River basin Management at the Lowest Appropriate Level" which the World Bank organized in Poland from May 22nd to 25th, 2005.

- **IWRM.Net project (2006 – 2010)** aims to identify the impact of the EU Framework directive (WFD) on the methods of programming research in the field of IWRM, at a European scale with a further possible openness to other countries within the European Water Initiative (EUWI), within the 6th Programme for Research of the European Commission.

IWRM.Net was accepted by the European Commission: The first actions were launched in 2006.

17 European partners are involved in iWRM.Net in 14 European countries and are managing 20 research programs.

- **WFD Community, (Virtual Community for the training of water professionals):**

The project consists in testing an Internet device for the continuous training of professionals, based on collaboration between counterparts, and on the remote management of a community for the training of professionals (CVA), working together within the European Union on the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

The financing of the project is borne at about 75% by the European Leonardo da Vinci Program.

Other activities within AP output N°3:

The International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) was a dynamic partner in the **4th WORLD WATER FORUM**, which took place in Mexico City, from 16 to 22 March 2006.

Of course, it is on the topic of integrated water resource management (IWRM) on the scale of the basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers, that INBO has shared the practical experience acquired by its members in the field.

INBO has been selected by the WWF Secretariat to organize four sessions on basin management, on 18 March 2006 in Mexico City, within the « IWRM » topic of the Forum. **More than 1,250 participants actively involved themselves in these 4 INBO sessions during the entire day!**

INBO organized or was partner of many other conference or workshop on IWRM at basin level in Belgium, Canada, Greece, Italy, Morocco, Mexico, Poland, South Africa, Thailand, Tajikistan, etc...

Strengthening Regional Networks:

Within INBO, the partners have organized themselves at the regional level, African, American, Asian, European or Mediterranean, in order to strengthen neighbourhood relations and to take into account all the diversities of local and regional situations.

INBO Regional networks are working as close as possible with RWP of GWP, in particular in West Africa, the Mediterranean and CE Europe.

In Europe, the Water Framework Directive (WFD) is obviously the big endeavour that mobilizes, within the "EUROPE INBO GROUP", our members of the States of the European Union and of the Candidates or associated Countries, as it includes the main management principles that have been formalized by our Network for a decade.

A Russian speaking BO Regional Network is being created.

4/ FOURTH OUTPUT: NETWORKING OF DOCUMENTATION SYSTEMS

This networking has already started within the Associated Program with:

- AQUADOC-INTER in Eastern Europe (Poland, Romania, Czech Republic and Hungary),
- Its Mediterranean counterpart, EMWIS now regrouping the 35 Euro Med Partner countries.

It will be extended shortly to Africa with AWIS, The African Water Information System, with the aim of becoming the information exchange system of the African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO), with a funding of the European Water facility for Africa and of the French Cooperation.

These projects, which aim to gather the written information (documents) and useful information (« who does what and where »), are open projects, i.e. non competitive projects, on what goes on elsewhere on the Internet.

Our ideas are progressing, let's get mobilized to make our results known all around the World!