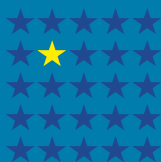


A Guide to Public Participation

according to article 14 of the EC Water Framework Directive (WFD)

A RhineNet Project Report



RhineNet

EUROPEAN WATER PROTECTION

Saarland

Ministerium für Umwelt



Baden-Württemberg

UMWELTMINISTERIUM



Sarreguemines
Confluences



Karlsruhe



Reinwater



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Hëllef fir d'Natur

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ALSACE NATURE



Regiowasser



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Office
for Water



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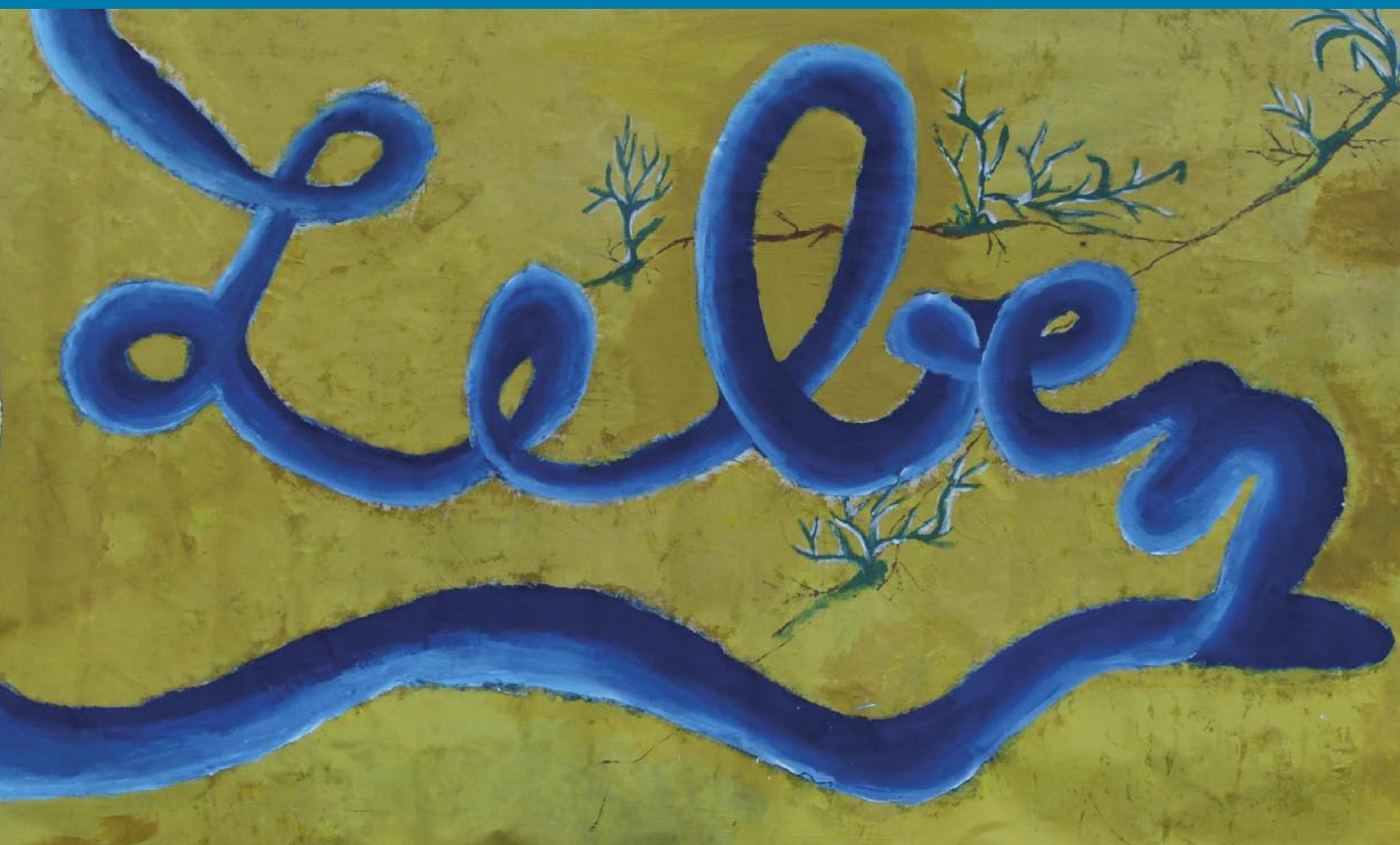


A Guide to

Public Participation

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„Water is life“
Painting by the 7th grade of the St. Ursula school in Freiburg in the framework of „rivers
of pictures and streams of words“ competition in the summer of 2005 (chap. 5.1)

Foreword



*Dr. Helmut Bloch
European Commission,
Directorate General for the
Environment*

„Water is not a commercial product like any other, but rather a heritage which must be protected, defended and treated as such.“

These are the opening words of the EU Water Framework Directive. They also reflect the growing demand of the population: Polls such as Eurobarometer show the importance of water to the citizens. The Water Framework Directive stipulates:

- The comprehensive ecological protection of our water bodies on the one hand,
- the comprehensive public participation in the development of necessary measures, until a good status of our water bodies has been reached, on the other.

In this respect, „RhinNet“ has performed groundbreaking work beyond administrative and country limits, by appreciating the opportunities and potentials of public participation, but also the still existing obstacles and limits.

I would like to wish RhinNet, its partners but also its convictions, which back this work, the utmost success in achieving our collective goals: more protection for our waters, more participation by the population.



*Stefan Mörsdorf
Minister for the Environment
of Saarland*

Democracy, since its first tentative steps in ancient Greece until the establishment of modern democratic forms, had to travel a road filled with obstacles.

Slowed down by setbacks and centuries long disruptions, the power which comes from the people must still today be constantly developed and consolidated.

Therefore the European Union manifests within the Maastricht treaty of 7th February 1992 all decisions within the Union should be reached as citizen-oriented as possible.

From public information to active public participation – attempting this step was the task which the Interreg III B project „RhinNet“ has set itself.

In the course of executing specific water management plans within the catchment area of the Rhine basin, the required active participation of all interested parties, as demanded in article 14 of the EU Water Framework Directive, has been encouraged and implemented through diverse activities.

In this „Guide to Public Participation“, the experiences gathered in this process are being presented and exemplarily documented for future participation projects.

As Minister for the Environment of Saarland, I am glad that my ministry, in its capacity as project partner, was able to actively contribute to the successful completion of the „RhinNet“ project.

Acknowledgements

When we suggested to our partners in 2001 that they should join the „RhinNet“ project, we at Solidarité Eau Europe (SEE) were already strongly convinced that the demand for public participation in the Water Framework Directive should be emphasized and encouraged.

Today, against the backdrop of the results of this joint RhineNet adventure, we can reaffirm this conviction. On this occasion, I wish to congratulate all the partners, and thank them for their dedication, which made the workings of this research and exchange process possible, by organizing innovative activities for and with the citizens. A challenge which wasn't always easy, but became so through the competence and complementarity of the main actors of this project.

First of all I would like to thank Christine Bismuth, without whom the RhineNet project would not be possible.

To conclude, I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to the Saarland Ministry for the Environment and the Naturland Foundation of Saar.

They believed in this project and supported it from the start. I was moved by their openness and by the fact that they have readily accepted the idea of a joint coordination.

Now we must circulate this outstanding work as far as we can in order to show that public participation is a vital and direct everyday-life component of every European directive. Thank you for your support.



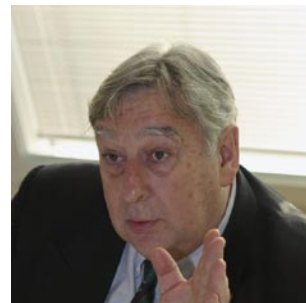
First, we would like to thank all those who have submitted texts and enriched this guide by adding suggestions, sources, recommendations, photographs and paintings, as well as proofreading the texts, among others Sophie Schmitt, Ulrich Heintz, Ute Ruf, Klaus-Jürgen Boos, Barbara Bennewitz, Stephan Müllenborn, Melanie Zabel, Nik Geiler, Nicole Kranz, Johannes Reiss, Reina Kuiper, Roberto Eppe and many more. We thank Corinna Buisson for the French translation and Moshe Haas for the English translation.

In addition, we would like to say thank you for the financial support, which RhineNet has received within the framework of Interreg III B.

We would especially like to thank Birgit Freiheit (Naturland Foundation of Saar) for her patience concerning all the administrative aspects of our project.

Without her, a smooth and successful conclusion of the project would be unimaginable.

We dedicate this final report to all those who dedicate or dedicated themselves to the protection of our waters. Thank you!



*Raymond Jost,
Chairman of Solidarité Eau
Europe (SEE)*

Freiburg, September 2008

Jörg Lange





Introduction

„Every Tom, Dick and Harry wishes now to join every water management project's decision-making process, without knowing anything about it! That is going to just block and sabotage these necessary measures!"

This was the devastating verdict given by a German administration employee in response to the demand for more public participation in water sources management.

„It is quicker this way. When you seat everybody at one table from the start, you can save yourself a lot of trouble afterwards. Until now, this method has shown itself to be very successful." This were the words of Klaus Müller, Minister for the Environment of Schleswig-Holstein, referring to the experiences made so far following the participation requirement in article 14 of the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

In the tension between those two, the INTERREG III B project „RhineNet" presents in this following final report its experiences based on its own and external case-studies regarding article 14 of the EC- Water Framework Directive in the Rhine basin area.

This final report/guide regarding public participation within the WFD consists of:

- An introduction to the „public participation" issue
- Summaries of case studies
- Reports regarding multi-partner projects
- Model projects beyond the RhineNet project
- Presentation of the jointly reached conclusions regarding the WFD's participation requirement.

The name RhineNet reveals the joint goal of all partners: constructing a network of various institutions and people in the Rhine basin area.

However, one should not be under the impression that one project can create a network on the Rhine or even display one.

At the beginning there was no RhineNet to speak of. On the one hand, there are many organizations, groups and associations in the Rhine basin area which deal with the Rhine and its tributaries and were not partners in this project, and on the other hand the partnership of the very different organizations involved had to first be developed.

The EU's requirements regarding funding (e.g. appropriate guarantees, high accounting and reporting costs, co-financing rate of 50%, long lead-time) were also very demanding.

Therefore, in looking back, it is so surprising and gratifying that in the course of the project a sort of a RhineNet network spirit did emerge. Some organizations have applied together for a new INTERREG IV B - project. Others exchange information in other fields or collaborate in other projects.

In spite of many difficulties regarding the project's coordination, a small Rhine-network did come to life, thanks to the regular RhineNet partner meetings, and mainly due to the multi-partner activities such as „Big Jump", RFIM/Painting exhibition ship" or „Trans-Rhine" and the participation of many external partners.

Many intensive contacts were created especially during the preparations for joint activities, which in spite language barriers, remained even beyond the RhineNet project. A first step towards a comprehensive network of active groups and institutions in the Rhine basin has been taken, which is also a step towards a new public participation



culture of the wider public in the river basin's management plans.

This report / guide is not so much an action instruction manual, but rather an experience report in view of the implementation of the WFD from a public participation perspective. In the foreground there are experiences gathered in specific projects, the successes as well as the difficulties which came up during the implementation process.

There is no „blue print“ for the implementation of the WFD in the Rhine basin, especially as far as the way one should choose to actively involve the public.

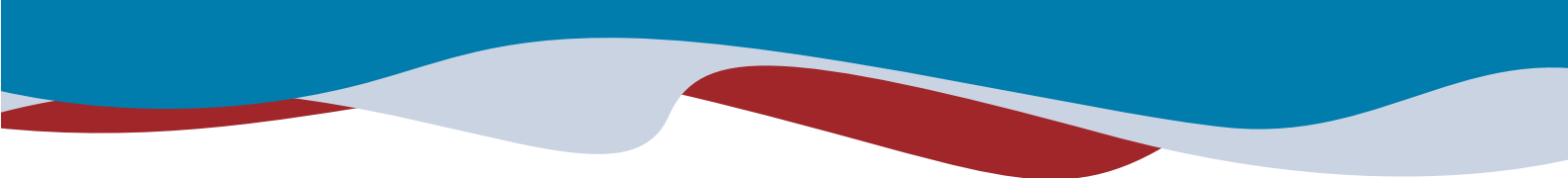
This is due to the diverse cultural, regional and institutional circumstances. However, one could deduce success factors from the first experiences, which could contribute to the successful realization of public participation in water-source management.



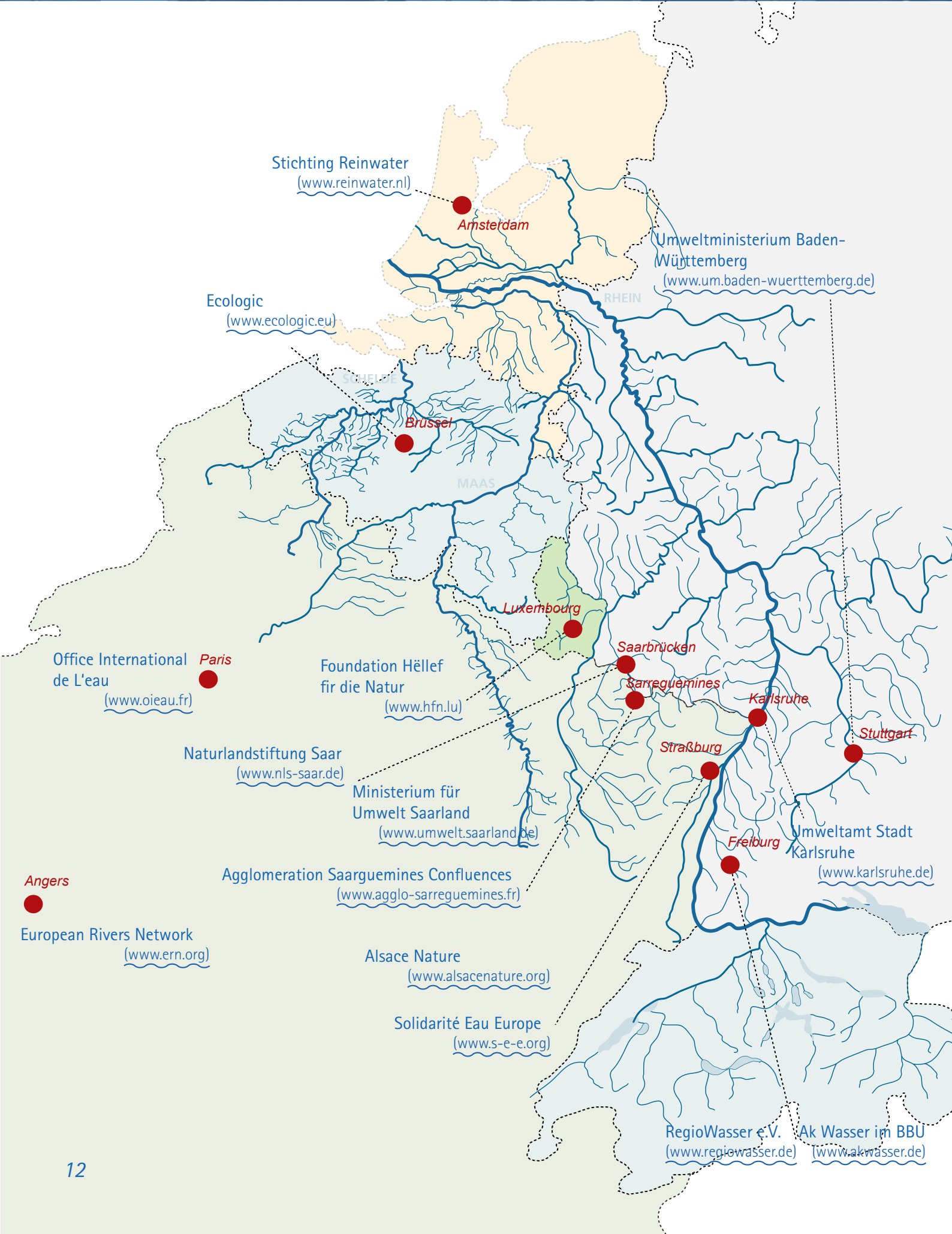
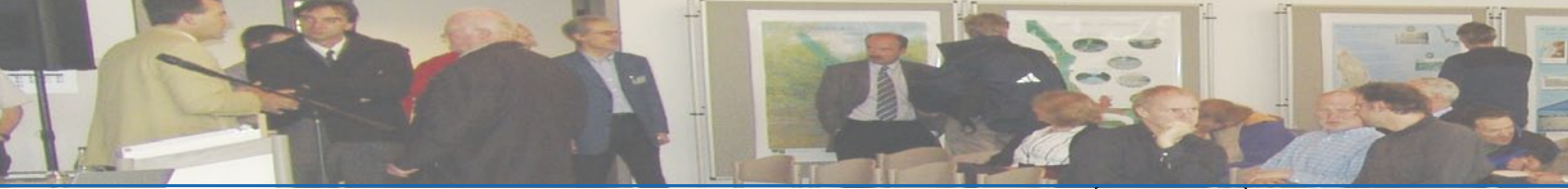


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1 The RhineNet and its Partners

www.rhinenet.net

The RhineNet-Project idea has been brought up by the Soidarilté Eau Europe (SEE) during a May 2001 session of the Rhine Youth Parliament, with the purpose of demonstrating the water-management achievements made by the civil society in the Rhine basin area.

The RhineNet was a project within the framework of the INTEREG III B NWE European area-development program, and had the overriding goal of attracting people who live along the Rhine and its tributaries, to participate in the implementation of the European Water Framework Directive.

The overlapping interest of all 14 project-partners from four countries, was to get people involved in water protection issues, as was envisaged by the WFD. The project lasted seven years (2001-2008). The total project costs amounted to 4.1 million Euros, of which 50 % were funded by the NWE III B Regional Development Fund. The responsible body for the project (Lead Partner) was the Naturlandstiftung Saar (Naturland Foundation of Saar - NLS). The SEE assumed responsibility for coordinating the project.

1.1 The Project Partners – a Brief Introduction

The Saarland State Office for Environmental and Labor Protection (LUA)

The LUA is an environmental agency which is responsible for various administrative and professional tasks. It is both a professional authority and an enforcement agency. Its joint areas of competence are nature protection, water and soil protection, the geological bureau, the central environmental laboratory, the flood warning center, the bio-documentation center and trade supervision. It operates as a contact address for professional associations, organizations, business employees and citizens. The LUA has a total of 390 employees.

The Ministry for the Environment of Baden-Württemberg

The Ministry for the Environment of the Baden-Württemberg federal state is an environmental authority, which carries the highest responsibility for the implementation of the EC-Water Framework Directive (WFD). The WFD's goal is to achieve in all European water bodies a good ecological status by 2015. At present, various workgroups in Baden-Württemberg and in Germany are preparing the implementation of this goal at various levels. As a first step, the WFD conducted a comprehensive survey that was to be completed by 22.12.2004. This work was mainly undertaken by professional authorities. The following steps include comprehensive monitoring, development of management plans and action programs as well as their realization. The planning procedures of these action programs involved the public and took place at about 70 on-site events.

Saarland

Ministerium für Umwelt



Baden-Württemberg

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The city of Karlsruhe

The Karlsruhe Environment and Labor Protection, formerly known as the Environmental Department, has among other things the role of initiating and coordinating urban environmental- and nature-conservation activities. The city's jurisdiction, as far as rivers and streams are concerned, is limited to water-bodies of the 2nd class, which do not include the Rhine. For 20 years now, the city has been transforming its rivers and canals with a nature-oriented approach. A great emphasis is put on the Alb, a small river which flows across the city and residential area. The river and its close surrounding are a popular local recreation area and also part of the 'Natura 2000' European protected area network. Finding ways which meet the area's ecological significance and the population's recreational needs, is an important endeavor. Within the framework of the „RhineNet“ project, interested organizations and the „Mensch und Gewässer“ („Humans and Rivers“) citizen's workgroup, which is a part of the 'Agenda 21' project in Karlsruhe, have participated in developing and implementing related concepts for this purpose.

The Naturland Foundation of Saar

The Naturland Foundation of Saar operates actively since 1976 as a private non-profit foundation (in accordance with the German Civil Code) for the conservation of nature in Saarland. All the „green organizations“ of Saarland are represented on the foundation's board (21 members). The spectrum of represented organizations ranges from nature conservationists to nature users. The goals of the foundation are the preservation, cultivation and development of our plant and animal biodiversity. In addition, the foundation purchased ecologically-valuable land and creates a network of cohesive preservation areas in Saarland. The foundation has acquired so far 620 ha of land, which are spread across 84 preservation areas.

The foundation's work at the federal level („Naturschutzgroßprojekt“) and EU level (two INTERREG projects, one INTERREG III projects, two LIFE-Nature projects) contributes to the sustainable safeguarding of our natural and cultural heritage. Through its cooperation with partner organizations in France, Belgium and Luxembourg, the Naturland Foundation of Saar practices nature conservation without borders, and helps actively in preserving the European biological diversity.

The foundation acted as lead partner in the RhineNet project, and cooperated with the Saarland State Office for Environmental and Labor Protection in planning and in some cases implementing numerous nature-protection measures.

Solidarité Eau Europe (SEE)

Solidarité Eau Europe (SEE) is an international NGO which was created thanks to a joint initiative of the Council of Europe and the International Secretariat for Water with the support of the „Comité Inter-Agence de l'Eau“. SEE is based in Strasbourg and its activities are associated with the Council of Europe (47 states of the European continent) and especially the Rhine basin area as well as the states of central and eastern Europe (CEE). The SEE's goal is to advance all forms of solidarity regarding the supply of drinking water and sanitation for the entire European population while especially emphasizing on the socially disadvantaged. The activities developed by SEE take place at various levels and complement one another:

- Developing projects with specific operation areas, which target the water supply in central and east Europe (especially in Moldova and Bulgaria).
- Youth Parliaments for Water which aim to enhance youth participation in the area of water management at the local and European levels, as well as to promote political education.



- Public relations and communication work targeting the wider public and policy makers.
- Organizing international conferences/seminars to promote knowledge transfer and to develop a culture of solidarity in the field of water management, especially in Europe (e.g. European Solidarity Week for Water).

SEE has initiated and coordinated the RhineNet-project.

The European Rivers Network (ERN)

ERN is a European information and operation network for organizations and private individuals who are involved in river protection activities. Its goal is to interlink associations and organizations (environmental, cultural, human rights and education organizations) to improve the communication between them and to conduct awareness-raising campaigns for the „Living Rivers“ projects. ERN endorses sustainable and sensible river management, as opposed to the exploitation, contamination and degradation, which were often the results of water engineering activities of the past. ERN was founded in 1994 by Roberto A. Eppele as an S.O.S. Loire Vivante project (France) with technical assistance provided by the International Rivers Network and other partner organizations and has a non-profit, NGO status („loi 1901“ statute). The organization has six branches and offices in France and five coordination offices across Europe, and is represented by at least one partner organization in each of the 40 larger river basin areas.

Stichting Reinwater

Stichting Reinwater characterizes itself as the „water's voice“ in the Netherlands. Its aspiration is to have clean and natural water-bodies for humans and animals. The organization works in fields which are associated with ecology, water quality, climate and regional planning. It

conducts studies, provides political lobbying services and initiates solution-oriented working-groups in the midst of society. It also advocates for intensified public awareness-raising and inclusion in all water-related issues. Stichting Reinwater backs the development and application of innovative working methods, effective public relation campaigns suitable for any target group, and experience-oriented education programs for primary and secondary schools. The organization is very successful thanks to its large national and international partner network.

In the last decade, Stichting Reinwater became very experienced in integrating various interest groups. In some innovative projects, It has brought a variety of interest groups and authorities to work together in looking for solutions to water-related problems. It has become the „expert“ in developing and applying innovative methods to improve partner cooperation and in connecting local initiatives with the latest water-related developments and the relevant policy makers. Stichting Reinwater has 12 employees - six project managers, three assistants, one managing director, one office manager, and one technical assistant for its ships. The organization receives funding from the Dutch ministries of agriculture, nature and food quality, from the Waterschappen (Dutch water boards), from town and provincial councils, from the EU as well as from various funds such as the VSB Fund for social initiatives, the Prins-Bernhard-Cultuurfonds, the Stichting Deon and the Koninklijke Nederlandsche Heide-maatschappij. The organization is also being financially supported by a small number of loyal donors. The foundation owns two ships which are used for water-related environmental education purposes.





Fondation Hëllef fir d'Natur

Fondation Hëllef fir d'Natur is a non-profit foundation in Luxembourg, which supports nature conservation since 1982. Its main activity areas are:

- The acquisition and maintenance of ecologically valuable areas.
- Applied scientific studies.
- National, interregional, and European projects with natural environment conservation and advancement objectives.
- Campaigns to raise public awareness for nature protection.
- Fundraising for the purchase and maintenance of protection-worthy biotopes.

Member associations such as the Lëtzebuerger Natur a Vulleschützliga, NATURA, die Société des Naturalistes Luxembourgeois and AAT are the foundation's important pillars, a fact which emphasizes the great significance of Hëllef fir d'Natur in Luxembourg and the Greater Region. Along side its participation in various RhineNet collaborative events, The Foundation Hëllef fir d'Natur was the initiator of the „Charter for a clean Syre“.

Alsace Nature

Alsace Nature is a regional association which was founded in 1965. It consists of individual members (3000) as well as member organizations (147). It is recognized as a non-profit environmental protection federation and is affiliated with the national federation for environmental protection „France Nature Environnement“. The goals of Alsace Nature are:

- To unify and coordinate the will and the efforts to protect nature and conserve the landscape,
- to inform the public and raise awareness of the necessity to respect the environment,
- to establish and maintain contacts with public authorities, elected officials and all of the relevant corporate bodies,

- to be represented at all the consultation committees,
- to work out and to recommend the necessary measures for the conservation of landscapes and natural monuments,
- to conduct surveys and submit reports regarding soil contamination, water and air pollution, the state of the fauna and flora, the landscapes and the environment,
- to use all available legal means to protect the environment.

A motivated team of employed staff supports about 300 volunteers in organizing events and coordinating projects and assists in legal matters and procedures. Alsace Nature has joined the RhineNet project as a partner only during the last phase, after being recommended by the RegioWasser Association. Alsace Nature's main goal for taking part in the project was to improve the cross-border cooperation in water-bodies and nature protection issues on the Upper Rhine under the working title „The Upper Rhine Future Conference“.

The Workgroup „Wasser“ (Water) in the BBU- Bundesverband Büregreinitiativen Umweltschutz (Federal Association for Environmental Public Campaigns)

The voluntary workgroup „Wasser“ (Ak) seeks since 1981 to interlink environmental groups and public campaigns in the field of water-bodies conservation. The „BBU-Water-Archive“, with its about 10,000 Newspaper articles and essays from professional journals, is a service provided to water conservationists. On the basis of this archive, the workgroup „Wasser“ continuously assembles up-to-date material on water management issues. References to new or updated material are found in the BBU-Wasser-newsletter's „footnotes“. The newsletter informs its readers about once every 14 days about the latest news in water



ALSACE NATURE





management, water-bodies preservation and aquatic nature protection fields. In 1986 the workgroup „Wasser“ was awarded the IKEA Foundation's first prize (10,000 German Marks) for its outstanding dedication to water-bodies protection, and in 1988 the Gerolsteiner Foundation's „Blue Planet“ first Prize (10,000 German Marks) for its „active water protection“, „outstanding dedication“ and „being a role model in water-bodies protection activities“.

The RegioWasser registered association

The RegioWasser workgroup started its work in 1999 at the recommendations of the „Wasser“ workgroup at the BBU and Badenova (FEW in 1999) energy supply corporation. In association with numerous regional water management institutions it began considering the measures that should be advanced in order to reach viable and sustainable water-management in the greater Freiburg area. Founded in 2002, the association received initial funding from the badenova „Water- and Climate Protection Innovation Fund“ enabling it to take up its coordination functions and to conduct some additional projects. The RegioWasser Association members have made it their business to promote the cooperation among water management institutions such as regional authorities, associations, planners and universities. Moreover, it provides citizens who are interested in participating, a platform for developing a viable, sustainability oriented regional water management concept. Within the RhineNet framework, the RegioWasser association in close cooperation with the BBU Wasser workgroup has undertaken the surveying of the Dreisam river near Freiburg, as well as conducting a study of the „Altrhein“ (Old Rhine) between Weil and Breisach.

Office International de l'Eau (OIEAU)

The OIEAU is a non-profit special-purpose association, which aims to link many public and private organizations that are involved in water- management and protection in France, Europe and the entire world, into one network. A total of 149 organizations are affiliated with OIEAU (multi- or bilateral cooperation structures, water agencies, regional corporations, universities, engineering schools, research centers, regional planners, NGOs etc.).

Ecologic

Ecologic is a „think tank“ for applied environmental research, political analysis and consulting with bureaus in Berlin, Brussels, Vienna and Washington D.C.. As a private, independent institute, Ecologic devotes itself to the task of introducing new environmental policy ideas, promoting sustainable development, and improving eco-political practice. Ecologic's work encompasses the whole spectrum of environmental topics, including integrating environmental issues into other political areas. Ecologic was founded in 1995 and is a partner in the network of Institutes for European Environmental Policy. In the RhineNet project, Ecologic had the responsibility of providing scientific support. Alongside assisting the various events it has produced a comprehensive study of public participation procedures in the Rhine basin area.



Regiowasser





*Text of Water Frame directory,
download:*

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu>

I

(Acts whose publication is obligatory)

DIRECTIVE 2000/60/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

of 23 October 2000

establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 175(1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee⁽²⁾,

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions⁽³⁾,

Acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 251 of the Treaty⁽⁴⁾, and in the light of the joint text approved by the Conciliation Committee on 18 July 2000,

Whereas:

(1) Water is not a commercial product like any other but, rather, a heritage which must be protected, defended and treated as such.

(2) The conclusions of the Community Water Policy Ministerial Seminar in Frankfurt in 1988 highlighted the need for Community legislation covering ecological quality. The Council in its resolution of 28 June 1988⁽⁵⁾ asked the Commission to submit proposals to improve ecological quality in Community surface waters.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 184, 17.6.1997, p. 20,
OJ C 16, 20.1.1998, p. 14 and
OJ C 108, 7.4.1998, p. 94.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 355, 21.11.1997, p. 83.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 180, 11.6.1998, p. 38.

⁽⁴⁾ Opinion of the European Parliament of 11 February 1999 (OJ C 150, 28.5.1999, p. 419), confirmed on 16 September 1999, and Council Common Position of 22 October 1999 (OJ C 343, 30.11.1999, p. 1). Decision of the European Parliament of 7 September 2000 and Decision of the Council of 14 September 2000.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 209, 9.8.1988, p. 3.

(3) The declaration of the Ministerial Seminar on groundwater held at The Hague in 1991 recognised the need for action to avoid long-term deterioration of freshwater quality and quantity and called for a programme of actions to be implemented by the year 2000 aiming at sustainable management and protection of freshwater resources. In its resolutions of 25 February 1992⁽⁶⁾, and 20 February 1995⁽⁷⁾, the Council requested an action programme for groundwater and a revision of Council Directive 80/68/EEC of 17 December 1979 on the protection of groundwater against pollution caused by certain dangerous substances⁽⁸⁾, as part of an overall policy on freshwater protection.

(4) Waters in the Community are under increasing pressure from the continuous growth in demand for sufficient quantities of good quality water for all purposes. On 10 November 1995, the European Environment Agency in its report 'Environment in the European Union – 1995' presented an updated state of the environment report, confirming the need for action to protect Community waters in qualitative as well as in quantitative terms.

(5) On 18 December 1995, the Council adopted conclusions requiring, inter alia, the drawing up of a new framework Directive establishing the basic principles of sustainable water policy in the European Union and inviting the Commission to come forward with a proposal.

(6) On 21 February 1996 the Commission adopted a communication to the European Parliament and the Council on European Community water policy setting out the principles for a Community water policy.

(7) On 9 September 1996 the Commission presented a proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and

⁽⁶⁾ OJ C 59, 6.3.1992, p. 2.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ C 49, 28.2.1995, p. 1.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 20, 26.1.1980, p. 43. Directive as amended by Directive 91/692/EEC (OJ L 377, 31.12.1991, p. 48).



2 Participation – an introduction



2.1 The WFD in the Rhine River Basin

Billions of Euros have been invested in the public and private waste water purification and rainwater treatment since the 1970's. Consequently, the water quality in most streams and rivers in large parts of Germany, France, Switzerland, Luxembourg and the Netherlands has significantly improved.

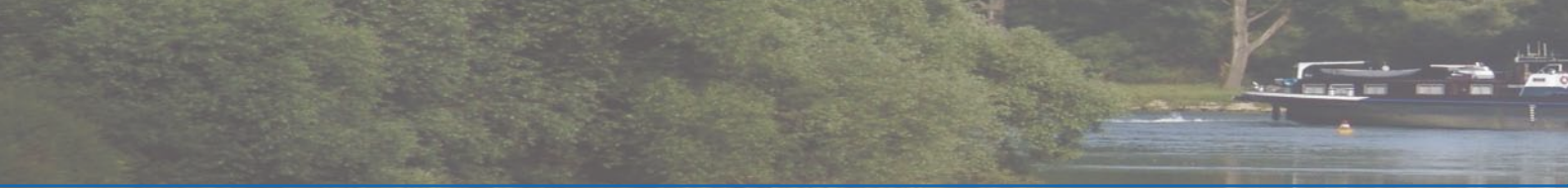
The European Water Framework Directive (WFD) generated hopes that over the next years and decades the conditions for nature conservation of many rivers across the Rhine basin would substantially improve as well.

The announcement made by a few German Federal States to merely implement the WFD "word for word" have already dampened those hopes considerably and during the survey phase it has become apparent that surveying the entire water bodies renaturation activities and the nature compatible flood controls would not advance but rather result in years of delay.

The completed survey of March 2005 was accordingly sobering. It has shown that according to the administration's opinion most rivers would probably not reach a „good ecological status" which is natural and barely affected by humans. Nevertheless, the WFD has created an additional legal foundation with which an improvement of water resource structures could be achieved. The extent of those improvements ultimately depends upon social will for providing the necessary means and taking all the required decisions.

One of the most important innovations of the WFD is that the composition of aquatic fauna and flora are the decisive factors in evaluating a water body ecological state. Morphology and chemism on the other hand are in such an evaluation mainly of descriptive nature.

The survey documents in an impressive fashion how many artificial river constructions and waterway obstacles



Article 14

Public information and consultation

- (1) Member States shall encourage the active involvement of all interested parties in the implementation of this Directive, in particular in the production, review and updating of the river basin management plans. Member States shall ensure that, for each river basin district, they publish and make available for comments to the public, including users:
 - a) a timetable and work programme for the production of the plan, including a statement of the consultation measures to be taken, at least three years before the beginning of the period to which the plan refers;
 - b) an interim overview of the significant water management issues identified in the river basin, at least two years before the beginning of the period to which the plan refers;
 - c) Edraft copies of the river basin management plan, at least one year before the beginning of the period to which the plan refers.On request, access shall be given to background documents and information used for the development of the draft river basin management plan.
- (2) Member States shall allow at least six months to comment in writing on those documents in order to allow active involvement and consultation.
- (3) Paragraphs 1 and 2 shall apply equally to updated river basin management plans.

for power extraction or large river canalization for shipping greatly impact the natural habitation of our water bodies.



2.2 The Participation Requirement (§14) – the WFD

The participation requirement (§14) of the EC Water Framework Directive (WFD) raises now for the first time the broader discussion about participatory approaches towards water management. The demand for more citizen-oriented policies and public participation is nothing new. Many forms of participation are already known and tested since the 70's and 80's. Most of them emerged from city and regional planning projects and discussions. There is ample literature concerning the pros and cons of early and advanced public participation procedures compared to the purely informational presentation or about the objection possibilities at „open sessions“ and „hearings“ and therefore they will not be discussed here. It has been shown that communication plays a central role in planning, and that participation, apart from a few successful examples, is generally still a much more theoretical concept rather than a practical one. This is especially true in the case of water management.

Varying parameters in Germany, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands

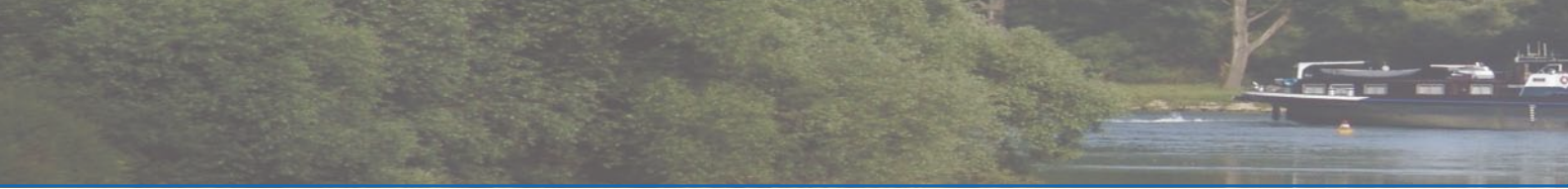
The WFD concept of a specific approach towards the river basin originates in France, and enjoys there a long tradition. Through the already established water agencies, which are distributed across the basin area and have their own budgets, and the SAGE (Schéma d'Aménagement et de Gestion des Eaux), the groups interested in participation are already well sorted, including being allocated the relevant financial means. However, even the already existing co-determination structures for the allocation of funds in France, do not guarantee a faster and better implementation of the WFD objectives than in Germany,



Luxembourg or the Netherlands. E.g.: Germany's quality of water and water bodies is still substantially better than France's, and there are justifiable hopes that even within the current water management authority structures in Germany, successful public participation projects could be executed, as in the pilot project of the High Rhine regional administration authority (Chap.6.3). In the Netherlands, according to the experiences made by RhineNet, there are wide-ranging public participation forms, which are much more well-rooted than in Germany or France (cf. Chap. 5.3).

The different approaches towards public participation in the Rhine basin area prove that there cannot be a single implementation blue print.

However, the basic requirement in all of these cases is that the various actors trust one another. Cross-boarder public participation may be the most difficult one to organize. The experiences of RhineNet and other initiatives show, that cultural and primarily language differences pose obstacles for transnational



public participation. The large number of institutions and the different management structures impede transnational participation. One way to implement public participation in a transnational context is for associations to cooperate within the framework of the ICPR (International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine). Even though these associations were formally allowed only to have an observer status, they have been able in recent years to contribute to the shaping of ICPR programs.

The issue of the level at which influence could be exercised, can play a decisive role during the implementation of public participation. Integrating local interests into the regional basin planning level that is applied to the basin area, is presenting itself as a difficult task and requires an increased conjunction of the participating institutions. Ultimately a lot depends on how seriously and engaged the authorities would perceive, acknowledge and would be ready to let the WFD's goals, requirements and opportunities become reality. Hence below are a few general reflections to summarize the issue of public participation.

2.2.1 What is participation?

The various views and answers to what public participation might be, depend upon who you ask. The perceptions in this matter extend from notions that have nothing to do with public participation as such, to co-determination or even self-determination.

- Non-participation
- Propaganda
- Manipulation
- Obtaining approval
- Information
- Co-determination
- Self-determination

Local public participation and integration do not evolve „in a vacuum“, they do not „just happen“. They are in no way just a result of the relevant actors' good will, but rather are imbedded in

framework conditions, such as the legal frame of the EC Water Framework Directive, or more specific structures such as compensation implementation schemes that relate to street or power station constructions. Therefore there is not a right or a wrong definition for public participation. There is a view which maintains that public participation could only be taken seriously if from the start all interests and guidelines are put aside. Instead of getting people interested in issues which the experts believe would be important for those concerned, the actual existing wishes and with it the people's motivation is being surveyed. Within a so-called activating survey, no predefined categories are surveyed, but basically only open questions are being asked: How do you like it here? What is life like here? Which things do you approve of or disapprove of?

The trick is to openly ask, without forcing any agenda in the form of key points. Otherwise –according to the theory– what would happen is exactly what we have been taught in school, namely one tells the other what one believes the other wishes to hear. This practice which prescribes nothing but basically just a blank piece of paper, may be tempting under certain conditions and in individual cases. There is a range of methods which use this to open a public participation process, such as Gibson's developed method „planning for real“.

However, to expect such a method within the daily routine of water management authorities is currently unrealistic: Sternly constrained conditions, such as legal, political instruction and/or the absence of qualified personnel, limit the authorities' possibilities. In many public participation cases their role is still essentially to obtain the acceptance of those concerned, or to exercise administrative oversight to make sure nothing important would be overlooked.



From obtaining acceptance to consensus decisions

When one speaks of acceptance or obtaining acceptance, there is often a negative undertone to it, and in extreme cases it could even mean manipulation or propaganda. In this case, obtaining acceptance ought to be understood as a positive step towards decision making and/or implementation.

Here it's about a public participation procedure which aims towards having as many people as possible, ideally everyone, ultimately understanding and supporting the decisions reached or the implementation plans. In other words, being able to live with them. It isn't however about not presenting or even ignoring the differences and various concerns (cf. workshop for violence-free action, Baden 2004). This approach is more pragmatic, a fact that may be legitimately criticized.

However, this approach seems to be more planable and therefore better suited for the political daily life. At least as long as there isn't a distinct and practiced public participation culture (cf. Chapter 2.2.3).

Who participates, who may participate and who is able to participate?

Very often, the requirement or the desire to participate does not come from an administrative offices or politicians, but rather from the people concerned or the interested parties themselves. There has been too little attention given to the yet unsolved problem of how to socially contend with that on a society level. The administration usually continues to hold the view, that it should be „conducting“ the public participation process, be it requested or legally required. However very often the administration has neither the interest nor the capabilities to „conduct“ a public participation process. There is a contradiction here: one cannot force public participation. Participation implies people who wish to participate and those who wish to be included.

The debate on whether it makes any sense to just hand public authorities the means necessary for carrying out public participation, ought to be intensified in the future.

2.2.2 Characteristics of successful public participation – success factors

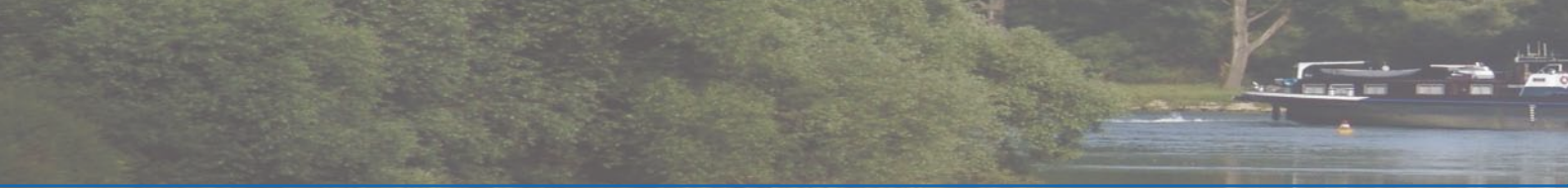
A few factors / parameters which advance the above described approach to public participation are mentioned below. The list does not claim to be complete and its order does not suggest any particular emphasis. Often it is possible to have a successful public participation even without having all of these factors.

Actor analysis

Analyzing the operating, interested and / or the affected actors is one of the most essential precondition for conducting an efficient and successful public participation. This requires first of all the skill to neither forget nor exclude any of the important actors. It is essential to identify the particular acting persons / institutions which enjoy the appropriate trust, and which are also in a position to quickly, properly and comprehensively inform the respective parties the current state of affairs. One must at the very minimum incorporate these representatives early and comprehensively, but in some cases that may not be sufficient (see individual interviews).

Political auspices

Administration approval or a patronage given by several prominent figures, can be extremely helpful, however in critical cases, where they are most needed, they are usually not given. In the future, the administration and policy makers would set up or support independent contact- points, which would respond appropriately to questions concerning factual issues raised by those who wish to be involved (see also intermediary institutions).



Clear game rules

Very often, after years of planning and open discussions, some basic matters which have been already decided for a long time by the administration and policy makers, would get challenged. A clear understanding of the „game rules“ by the parties at the beginning of a participation process, which is set by the administration or policy makers, belongs to the more essential rather than to just the helpful or adequate preconditions to ensure success. It is also necessary during the participation process to repeat these game rules over and over and if necessary to adjust them in the spirit of „learning while planning“. The framework in which the public participation would take place, the goals and the details which would be negotiable and those which wouldn't be negotiable, must all be clearly stated.

Such an approach is much more likely to create a „culture of acknowledgement, appreciation and cooperation“ than one which is vague concerning negotiable matters. This helps to avoid misunderstandings, frustrations and insoluble conflicts.

Early information

The early release of data and information also belongs to the necessary confidence-building foundations. Fearing and banning early release of „unverified information or surveys“ is often one of the gravest mistakes made by political and administrative authorities during controversial projects. The relationship of trust is already at this early stage damaged and often remain so for a long time.

Trust / Intermediary organizations

The significance of intermediary organizations has been already pointed out by Selle (1990). They exist in various forms, such as citizen-oriented advisory offices or even just as a network of interested individuals, professionals or represen-

tatives. They distinguish themselves by enjoying trust „on both sides“ (e.g. administration and the people affected) and by displaying important communication mediation. It is advantageous, when intermediary organizations can work with financial independence, e.g. by being financed through independent endowment funds.

Individual interviews

In a few successful public participation projects it has become apparent, that one needs not only to involve the interest groups/associations as institutions, but to also have conversations with individual participants, e.g. individual farmers, in order to make the project's issues elaborately comprehensible (cf. chap. 6.1).

Associations also often tend to draft sweeping objections, sincerely believing that would be the best way to represent and protect their members.

Transparency

Many of the mentioned factors which benefit public participation, have one thing in common: they create transparency and with it trust and understanding for the arguments and concerns of the respective counterparts. This is as well an essential condition for public participation.

2.2.3 A plea for developing a public participation structure

Broadly speaking, there is to date no public participation culture in the field of water management. A proper public participation process is a complex matter and it requires, in order to run successfully, a certain participation willingness from all parties. Even this information about having a basic common denominator is very often missing. There is justified hope however, that public participation would become appreciated as being a cultural accomplishment and as such a learnable one. This is true both for



those who wish to initiate or „conduct“ the participation process as protagonists as well as for those being affected and / or interested parties who ought to / wish to get involved.

An unsuccessful public participation process does not say anything about a process as a whole. Strong networks of process participants and interest groups frequently endure after public participation processes. These networks could affect new issues and projects very positively. In other words, the people know each other, and in the future there is a chance to know, value and appreciate each other even more.

Possible steps during the public participation process:

1. Exploring the interests, actors and opinions
2. Informing, forming opinions
3. Listening and clarifying
4. Collectively discussing and deciding
5. Cooperating
6. Taking personal responsibility / Co-determination

Co-determination / Teledemocracy?

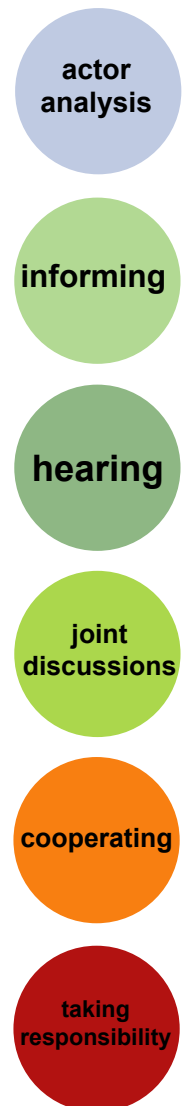
Co-determination is the most extensive form of public participation, and in these times of technological possibilities such as E-mail and Internet it is becoming increasingly viable.

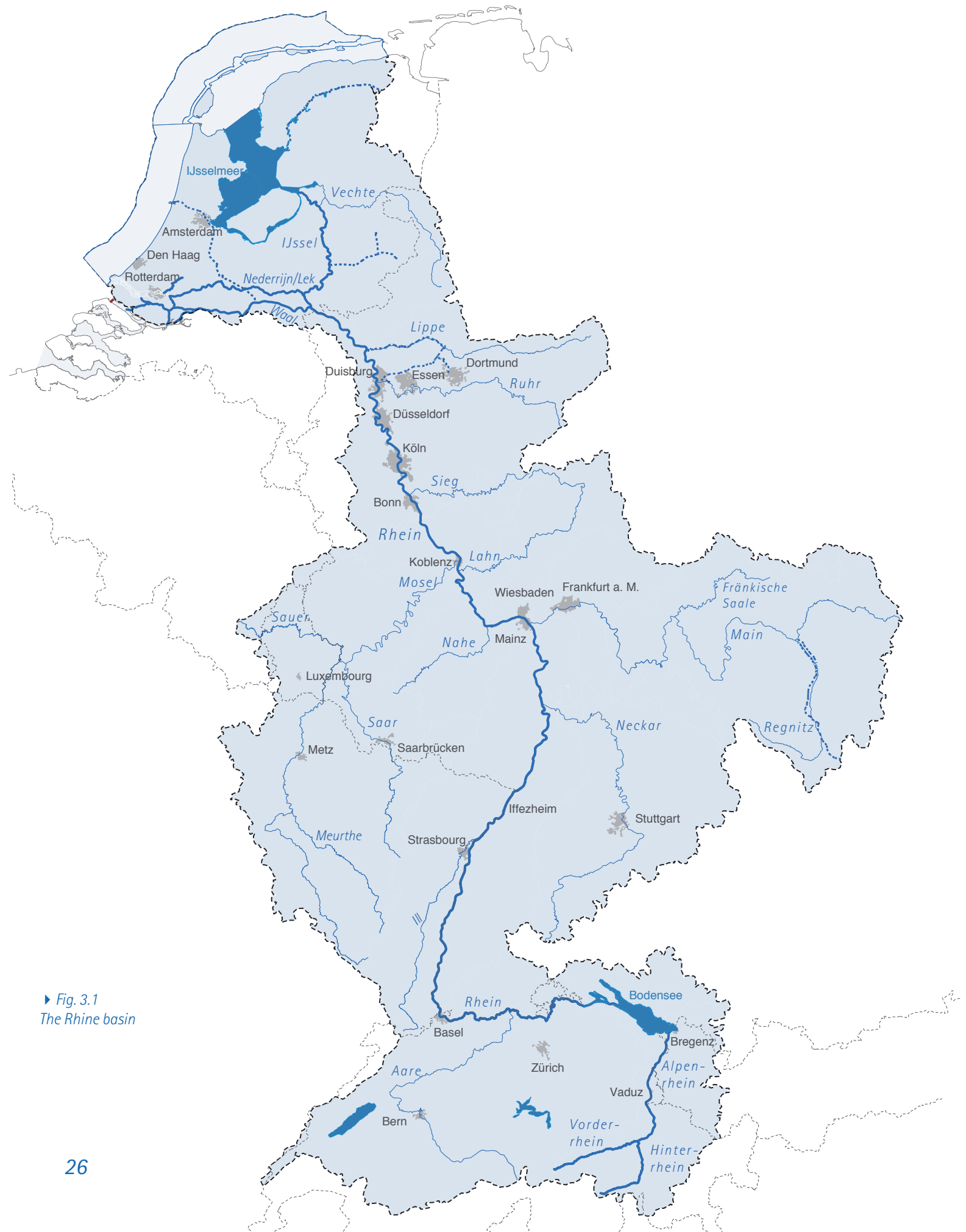
It is also practicable in cases of individual projects or narrow scoped issues. It bears however some risks as well:

1. The willingness of the participants to question or forgo their own particular interests for the sake of reaching a consensus, does not always exist.
2. There are often not enough resources (time, personnel, money) available to process the existing information in order to make it understandable to all, as well as for presenting it in a balanced manner. In such cases there is a danger of getting a voting result, which does not reflect the overriding social interests, due to systematic propaganda of special interest groups.

The concept of participatory budgeting is moving as well towards self determination. This way one could allocate city neighborhoods and special-purpose districts their own budgets, and they would decide how to use it themselves.

▼ Fig. 2.2.1
Possible stages during a participation process





► Fig. 3.1
The Rhine basin

[illegible]

The participation of the public sphere on the Rhine has already a relative long tradition. It ranges from the early protests against the excessive river pollution of the early 60's (cf. Rhine Tribunal) to the active public participation in accordance with the EC Water Framework Directive of today. The „Rhine community's“ awareness of the problems is relatively high and there is a basic willingness to participate. However there are still challenges in the Rhine basin which could only be solved transnationally. Varying administration systems in the countries along the Rhine complicate a coordinated public participation. The EC Water Framework Directive attempts to think and do something about that. Furthermore, it is necessary to keep reviving the public awareness for the river, in order to prevent not just severe disasters like



The Rhine tribunal on 13th of December, 1986

The Rhine tribunal on 13th of December, 1986

On the 13th of December 1986, some regional, national and international environmental groups as well as green parties from all the Rhine countries convened for the first time in Auggen (Baden) north of Basel, to jointly hold a tribunal on the pollution of the Rhine. On trial were the Sandoz case, as well as the legal daily poisoning of the Rhine by Hoechst, BASF, Bayer, and others. The accused were those responsible for the pollution in the chemical industry and in politics. The event began with charges made by representatives from Switzerland, the Netherlands, France and the Federal Republic of Germany, followed by charges made by the audience. The accused themselves could not be heard, because they have refused the invitation.

An internationally assembled jury questioned the expert witnesses. A round of questions from the audience concluded the questioning.

After that the jury retired to deliberate upon the verdict. A supporting program has called attention to the worldwide connections between the production of chemicals and third world environmental pollution.

The verdict was announced at an international press conference in Weil am Rhein on 14.12.1986, and was read out loud during rallies along the Rhine from Basel to Rotterdam, as part of the „Rheinalarm“ („Rhine alert“) campaign.



▲ Fig. 3.3

In May 1988, the Minister for the Environment Klaus Töpfer swims in the Rhine and confirms therewith to the media, that the river is relatively clean again.

On the 20th anniversary of the Federal Ministry for the Environment in 2006, the former Environment Minister Klaus Töpfer (CDU) admitted that he did not swim through the Rhine on May 1988, dressed in an overall swimsuit and a red bathing cap, in order to prove the cleanliness of the river, but mainly because of a lost bed he made as Environmental Minister of Rhineland-Palatinate with his election district opponent from the SPD. (FAZ, 5th of June 2006); Photo dpa.

the Sandoz accident of 1986, but also creeping pressures (keyword Micro-pollution) in the entire basin area.

This is where the sponsored project RhineNet within the framework the trans-regional NWE IIIB program comes in. Thirteen very different project partners from the entire basin area formed a cross-boarder, interdisciplinary network with the following goals:

- to identify sustainable approaches to water management of the Rhine and to advance the strengthening and development of the Rhine's natural environment while getting the public involved.
- to demonstrate and raise awareness to the conflict of interests between navigation, energy production, agriculture, industry, recreation and urban development.
- to promote international cooperation of citizens, institutions, authorities and communities.

Integrating the projects should release synergies and combined development potentials ought be put into use.

However, the RhineNet activities comprise of more than just the exchange of information among the several Rhine basin water management projects. Apart from advancing and developing the appropriate measures for active public participation in water management planning, the shared and trans-boarder experience of this water body stood also at the heart of the project. This goal is being pursued in various ways, which nonetheless aren't separate from one another, but rather join together to make up an integrative whole.



▼ table 3.1

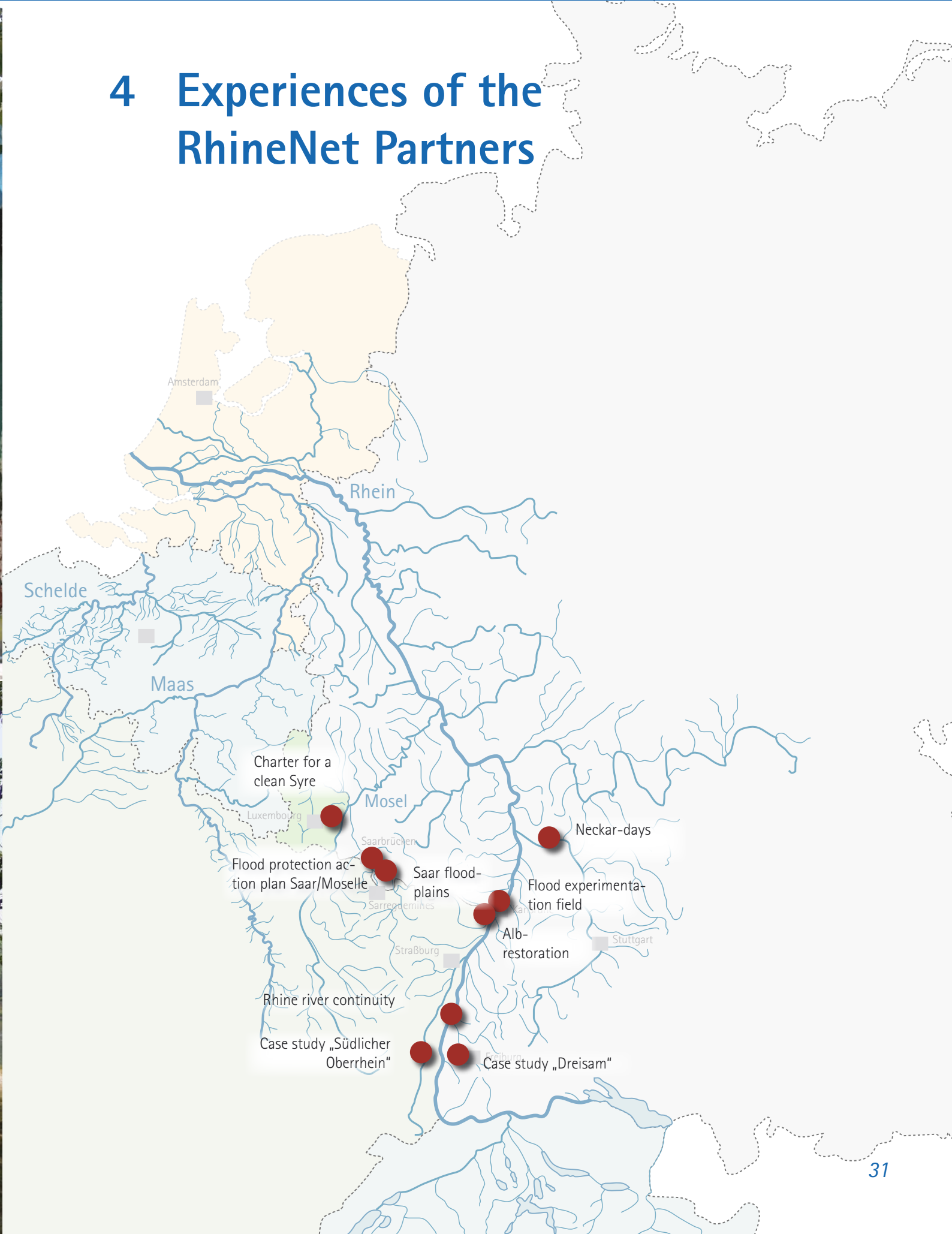
An outline of the participation steps in the described projects, within and outside the RhineNet-project

Chap. Projects	actors' analysis	informing, forming opinions	hearing	joint discussions and decisions	cooperate	taking responsibility / co-determine
4.1 Case-study "Südlicher Oberrhein"						
4.2 Case-study "Dreisam"						
4.3 Reactivating of the Saar-floodplain near Hostenbach						
4.4 Flood protection action-plan Moselle / Saar						
4.5 Charter for a clean Syre						
4.6 Riverbank restoration on the Alb in Karlsruhe						
4.7 The "Flood Experimentation Field" in Karlsruhe						
4.8 Workshop on the Rhine's continuity						
4.9 Neckar river basin						
5.1 A ship full of paintings						
5.2 Big Jump - swimming like in the old days						
5.3 Role-playing game						
5.4 Transrhein - Rhine ministers conference on 18.10.07						
5.5 The Rhine Youth Parliament						
5.6 RhineInfo web-based system						
6.1 Ill river wilderness						
6.2 Birs river restoration in Basel						
6.3 Early participation by the Freiburg Regional Council						
6.4 Public participation by the Agence de l'Eau Rhin -Meuse						
6.5 Local Agenda 21: the Eurodistrict ideas competition						





4 Experiences of the RhineNet Partners





▼ Fig. 4.1.1
The location of the old Rhine
between Weil and Breisach





4.1 The Upper Rhine River Case Study

The RhineNet partner RegioWasser Association, and the workgroup „Wasser“ within the Federal Association for Environmental Protection Public Campaigns (BBU), in cooperation with many other environmental associations, have taken up the task of raising public awareness to the possibilities associated with the restoration of the original and uncultivated parts of the Rhine.

They wish to convince the public, that restoring the Upper Rhine's continuity belongs to the EC- Water Framework Directive.

A conducted analysis of the involved parties, especially on the German side, shows the great number of jurisdictions, and also that reaching a collaborative cross-border planning on the southern Upper Rhine, in the spirit of the WFD, has still a long way to go. Until very recently, many decisions concerning the Upper Rhine were set up and taken at the highest political levels. Public inclusion within the legal requirements of each state meant, at best, having a public hearing. The environmental organizations' view, that the perception of the „Old Rhine“ as a border is obsolete, implies the lifting of the Upper Rhine's continuity and the „Old Rhine“ revitalization project to the level of becoming a model of cross-border environmental cooperation between France and Germany in implementing the WFD.

Mayors, political representatives and citizens will be informed during various planned discussions, statements and events about the many plans and feasibility studies regarding the Upper Rhine, in order to raise awareness to the great potential a continuous and upgraded Rhine has.

One of the first activities of the RegioWasser Association was to organize, together with Alsace Nature and many

other „Dreyeckland“ (north-west Switzerland, Alsace, south Baden, Rhineland-Palatinate) NGOs, the „Opportunity for the Upper Rhine“ conference in 2002. 250 participants from the entire region attended the tri-national conference.

In this convention a resolution has been adopted, in which the Dreyeckland nature conservation organizations declared their unanimous support for the revitalization of the Rest-Rhine.

Historical constraints

As stipulated in the treaty of Versailles of 1919, France was awarded the exclusive rights to produce hydraulic power in the southern Upper Rhine.

France started already in 1902 to implement the elaborate plans for the „Grand Canal d'Alsace“, which were drawn by the Alsatian industrialist René Koechlin. It constructed canals made entirely out of concrete parallel to „Tulla's Rhine“. The Versailles treaty also stipulated that Switzerland should also be represented in the Central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine, and therefore would be allowed for the first time to have a say in the fate of the Upper Rhine. Switzerland was very interested in having the „Tulla Rhine“ extended for large ship navigation, before the completion of the Grand Canal d'Alsace, which meant regulating its low water flow by constructing dikes. With the completion of the canal and its four weirs with hydro-electric power installations in the 1950s, a 45 kilometer section of the former Tulla Rhine between Märkt (just south of Basel) and Breisach became the „Rest-Rhine“ section (image 4.1.1).

While up to 1400 cbm/s are being diverged into the Grand Canal d'Alsace for power production and to ensure the ship navigation, the „Rest“-discharge average of the Rhine is confined to 20 - 30 cbm/s

Info

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<http://www.restrhein.de>

Participation steps taken

Akteurs-
analyse

Information

Conference in Colmar on 16.11.05,
welcoming address by P. Barbier

<http://membres.lycos.fr/colloquerhin/>



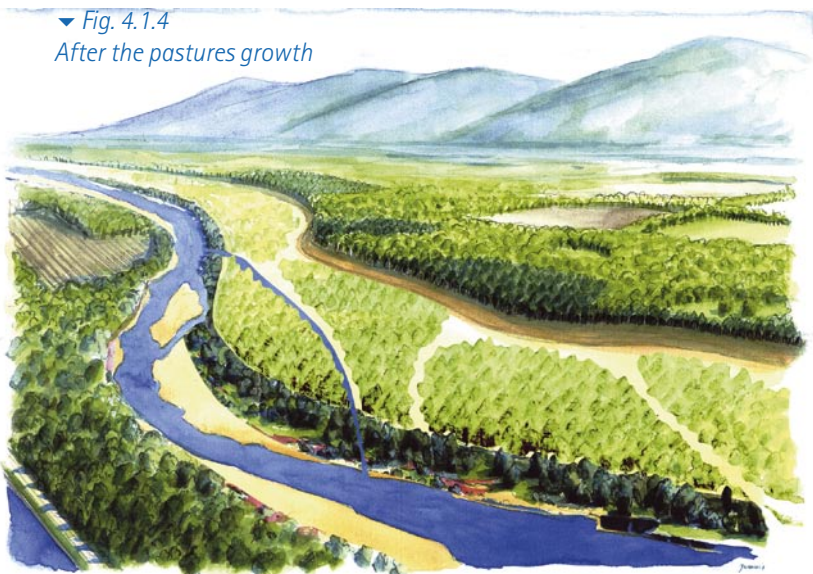
▼ Fig. 4.1.2
nowadays



▼ Fig. 4.1.3
Shortly after the excavation works



▼ Fig. 4.1.4
After the pastures growth



for 300 days a year. By way of comparison: the natural average discharge of the Rhine near Basel is 1030 cbm/s, and during severe flooding more than 3000 cbm/s flow in the „old“ Rhine. Nothing has remained of the former floodplain landscape, which used to channel out of the southern Rhein.

The lateral canals solution – northern Breisach (1961-1970)

The Grand Canal d'Alsace should have originally been constructed all the way to Strasbourg. Germany's objection has led to the 1956 treaty, which stipulated the lateral canals solution between Breisach and Strasbourg, which brought about the construction of short lateral canals (loops) in which power-stations and navigation locks (cf. red bars in fig.4.1.1) as well as a movable weir were installed. In addition, there are 7 multi-step weirs (cf. black dots in fig. 4.1.1) and the agricultural weir in Kehl for sustaining the groundwater level, and letting water reach the Old Rhein's bayous.

The water discharge in the „loops“ is nowadays only 15 cbm/s. Further down the river, the Rhein itself has been canalized and the power stations Gambenheim (1974) and Iffezheim (1977), which block the entire river bed, have been built. Extending the Rhein has to a great extent stopped its natural flow dynamics between Basel and Iffezheim. The flow between Basel and Maxau is today about 80 km shorter and the high water that originate in the Alps, the Black Forest and the Vosges reach Karlsruhe and Mannheim earlier. The absence of chemical substance removal has reduced the foliage-trees regeneration into a small area.

Typical species such as the German tamarisk, *Calamagrostis pseudophragmites*, wild grape, sea hawk, salmon and otter have disappeared.

Between Basel and Mainz, about 660 sqkm have been drained as a result of the river „correction“ and the construc-



tion of weirs, and largely stopped existing as floodplains.

Given this backdrop, the Rhine countries have committed themselves in a series of international agreements and treaties, to improve flood protection through the allocation of retention basins, with a goal of reaching again a 200-year-long flood security, just like it was before the weirs were constructed. Main elements of this comprehensive concept are dike relocations, the reconnecting of former bayous and floodplains, as well as constructing retention basins (so-called Polders). During severe floods the diked plains are be flooded and cap the flood's peak.

In 1982, France and Germany declared in a treaty the necessary measures for

flood protection. In 1988, a resolution by the state government of Baden-Württemberg followed, and stipulated the development of an outline-concept for implementing the agreed containment measures in the state.

The realization of this outlined concept, the so-called Integrated Rhine Program (IRP), commenced with the state-government approval in 1996.

In the original IRP framework, measures were also being planned to revitalize the floodplains. Meanwhile however, the Baden-Württemberg water-management authority decided that its obligations lie only in the specific implementation of environmentally-sustainable flood-protection. The reasons for that are the empty coffers and the fact that water

▼ Fig. 4.1.5
The rivitalized Old Rhine between Weil und Breisach in 2020 according to the vision of the environmental groups in the „Dreiländereck“ region (Illustrationen J. Helmer)





management has lost more than 40% of its personnel in the last 20 years. Some of the most challenging parts within the IRP framework, are the „Old Rhine“ plans between Weil and Breisach, because of the great development potential which is associated with this last freely flowing section of the southern Rhine. This section is also the IRP'S most southern retention basin, and it is basically different from all of the other retention basins. Due to the strong erosion of the Rhine, a total of 442 ha of gravel, 3-10 meters deep and up to 600 meters wide parallel to the river are being planned for removal. On these lower lying surfaces, softwood floodplains will quickly develop, which would delay the flow so strongly, that a retention capacity of 25 million cbm in total would be attained.

The required retention-basin earth-moving work on the „Old Rhine“ show the extraordinary dimensions of the project. The planned retention basin has been subdivided into four parts. The plans for the most southern section have been officially approved in May 2008.

By digging in three section areas between Märkt and Kleinkems, flood retention basins with a capacity of 2.8 million cbm will be created.

Renewed licensing for Kembs

Whether this synthesis of flood retention, nature protection and a local recreation area which is unique in central Europe could be realized, depends also on the presently pending renewed licensing procedure for the first Rhine hydropower plant Kembs (image 4.1.7),

▼ Fig. 4.1.6
Old Rhine near Kembs





on the most southern weir of the Grand Canal d'Alsace.

The old license was valid for 75 years and is now about to expire. Objectives such as the nearly-natural and attractive „wild streaming floodplains“ could only become a reality if the minimum water discharge level in the „Old Rhine“ is substantially higher. The view of the environmental organization is that the minimum water allocation in the „Old Rhine“ between Märkt and Breisach cannot be set independently from the future morphology of the Alsatian „Rhine Island“'s lateral erosion, and the lower lying off-river surfaces (retention basins Weil/Breisach) in the south of Baden. They therefore recommend that the parties involved in the licensing procedure in France, Switzerland and Germany should discuss the means and the direction to which the Old Rhine between Weil and Breisach should and could develop, considering the expectations placed on it for future decades.

From the environmental organization's perspective it depends, among others,

on the following aspects:

- The diversity and formation of spawn and fry habitats along the lateral erosion and lower lying surfaces, depend on the minimum water discharge in winter.
- Which water quantities in the planned side-canal across the digging surfaces are needed and according to which criteria?
- What would be an „Old Rhine“ network's minimum output which we could accept?
- Reconciling the renewed licensing with the WFD's implementing „Old Rhine „action plan“: to which portion of the discharge can the EDF (Électricité de France) be entitled? Which deductions from the reference area's water-discharge status (floodplain furcation) may be allowed?

Keeping with the spirit of the WFD's article 14, the environmental organizations recommended, that the „interested circles“ should be included in the consultations regarding the setting of future

▲ Fig. 4.1.7
Power plant Kembs



▲ Fig. 4.1.8
Willows in an Old Rhine section
near Munchhausen (Alsace)

surveys, as well as in the preparation of such surveys.

Before the Salmon and other long-distance migrating fish would be able to swim in large numbers up the Old Rhine to Basel, many further migration obstacles in the Upper Rhine must be overcome. Even though the power installations in Iffezheim and Gamsheim are meanwhile equipped with fish passage devices, there are still many further obstacles they have to go through (cf. fig 4.1.1).

Because of the Grande Canal, the French have no more access to the Old Rhine. This can be clearly seen by the number of bathers on both sides of the Rhine: While the German bank is filled with hundreds of bathers during the summer days, there are rarely any on the French side.

The French people's interest and knowledge regarding the EDF's intentions within the renewed licensing or concerning the retention basins Weil-Breisach are also minimal.

On the German end, the Old Rhine communities' interests are being much more clearly articulated and noticed, as reflected in the Lörrach county's resolution regarding the minimum water discharge level, the urban planning of the town Neuenburg am Rhine, which

turns towards the Old-Rhine, and also in the town of Hartheim's turning away from the Old Rhine.

The WFD was central in turning the fish fauna into becoming a central criteria in the water-bodies' future ecological development.

The continuity of the Upper Rhine could only be achieved if the perceptions of „nature protectors" and „nature users" grow closer and take each other into consideration. The constructive participation of all concerned and interested parties is therefore both a cultural endeavor and cultural accomplishment. That means, it must be learned by all involved and must develop as a participation culture. Setbacks should be expected at the outset, and shouldn't be regarded as proof that the participatory process has failed. Despite all the disputes, there is generally a consensus concerning the Rhine's basic parameters and usage rights. The main ones are flood protection, the use of hydraulic power, ship navigation and drinking water protection.

The goal stated by the WFD and the 2001 ICPR's Rhine 2020 program, is to reinstate flow continuity and to reactivate the wild-river-like prospect for salmon and co.. Based on the Weil-Breisach retention basins, the Old Rhine could become a centerpiece in the ICPR's bio-



tope network plan, from Lake Constance all the way to Rotterdam. This prospect for a living Rhine could only exist if all parties would get better in reaching agreements, reconciling this vision with the pre-existing plans for the coming decades and tackle the river continuity issue systematically and transnationally. To reach this goal, the following points (among others) would be needed:

- A higher water-allocation minimum to the Old Rhine south of Breisach, as well as to the Rhine bayous north of Breisach (loops). Allowing bank erosion for the improvement of dynamics. (If what is meant are river-flow dynamics, then bank erosion does not actually affect them. In this case, the term bed-load balance might be more appropriate).
- A comprehensive, barrier-free tributary network left and right of the Rhine as well as on Rhine islands.
- A systematic reconstitution of passability through the existing migration obstacles in the Old Rhine bayous as well as in the canal stretches in the north of Breisach. A river continuity concept in and out of the Old Rhine near Breisach.
- Installing fish-friendly turbines.

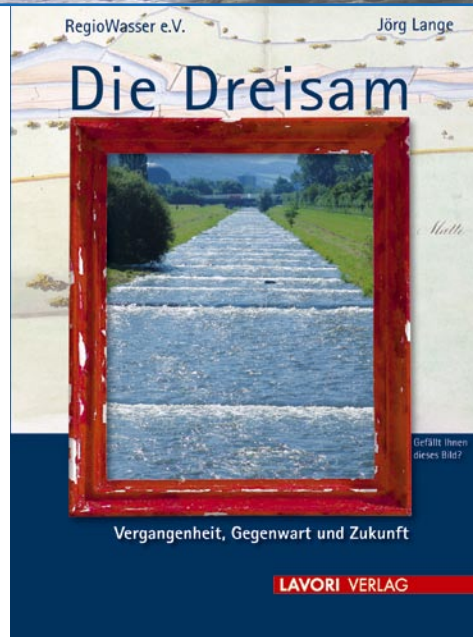
Many experts agree that by implementing these steps, the Rhine landscape would gain in quality and appeal for the benefit of humans and nature.

▼ Fig. 4.1.9
Gravel bed in the Old Rhine



▼ ► Fig. 4.2.1

The book „Die Dreisam“ gives an overview of the Dreisam's past, present and possible future. This fascinating compilation of documents and photos shows that the Dreisam, despite enormous interferences during the 19th and 20th centuries, has remained a local recreation area and habitat. The return of many of its past residents, such as the salmon, is already within reach.



Die Dreisam

Vergangenheit, Gegenwart und Zukunft

November 2007

ISBN 978-3-935737-54-8

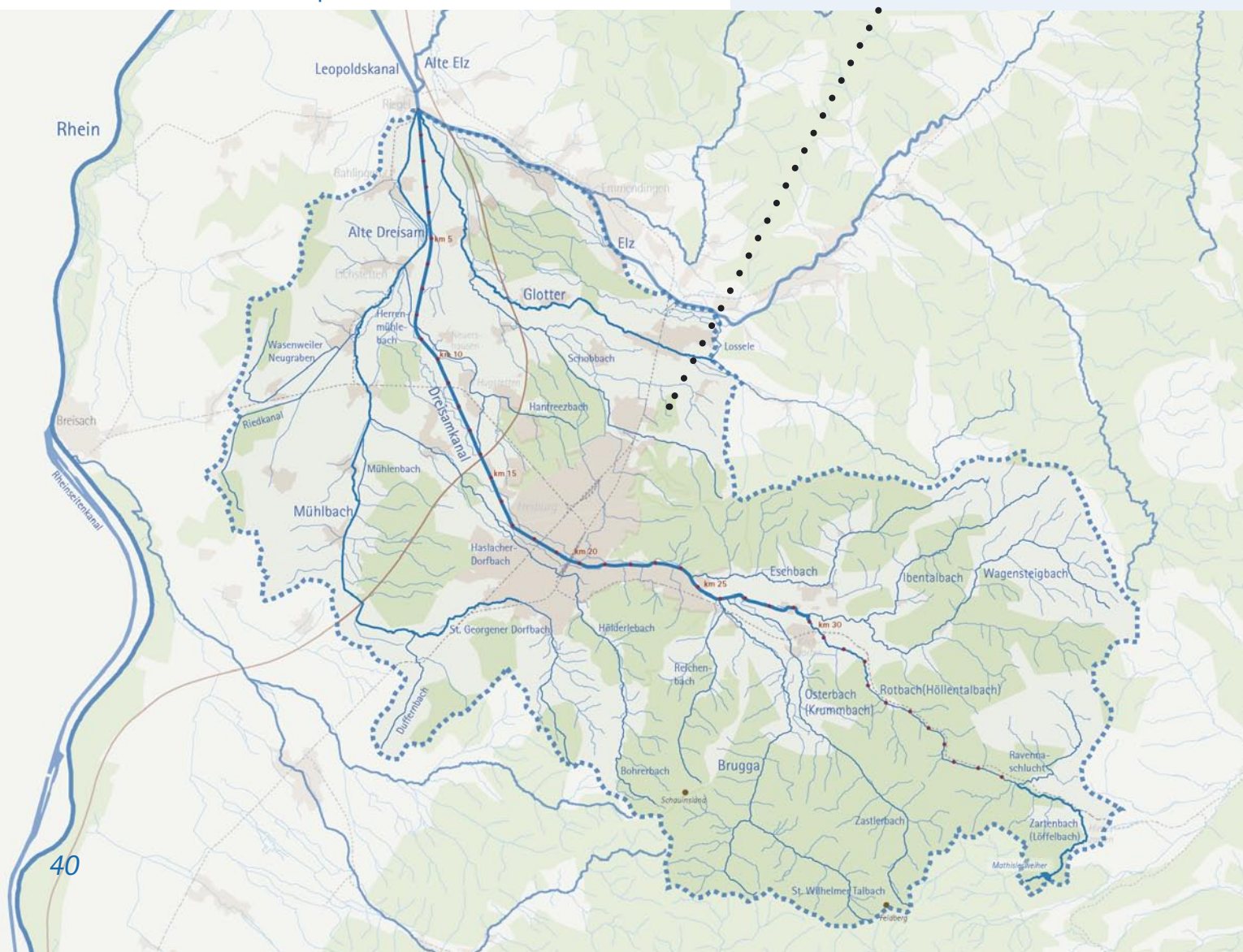
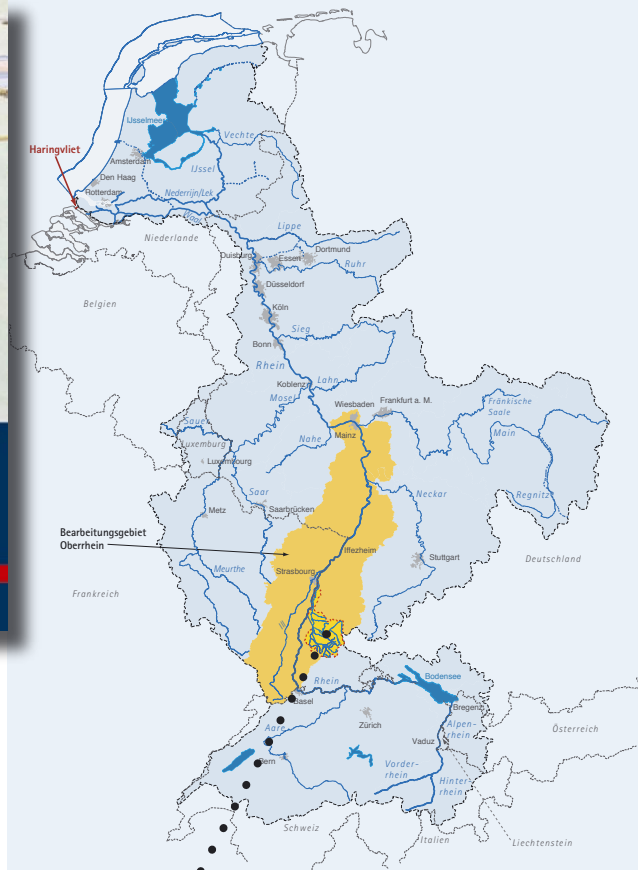
www.shop.lavori-verlag.de

22,2 cm x 28,5 cm, 248 Seiten, geb.

EUR 29,80

▼ ► Fig. 4.2.2

Map of the Dreisam river basin



4.2 The Dreisam River Case Study

Motive: more participation

The concern about flood protection stood until very recently at the forefront of the Dreisam river development. The B 31 highway which runs parallel to the Dreisam clearly demonstrates the way the Dreisam was being perceived first and foremost: as a drain channel.

The RegioWasser Association's project „Our Dreisam“ had aimed to raise the public's (and where necessary the authorities') awareness to the ecological and usage-oriented importance of the Dreisam.

RegioWasser's second „Regional Water Days“ event in April 2003 has been dedicated to the Dreisam river. For an entire day, experts speakers spoke about all the aspects of this small river which flows in the middle of Freiburg. Excursions, on-the-river events, as well as a four-part series of articles in the „Badische Zeitung“ newspaper have completed the program. During the second „Regional Water Days“ event, a workgroup was formed, which set itself as its goal to document the Dreisam (past, present and future).

During the research of the river's historical development, it became clear, that there are only a few subject-areas in which the Dreisam has been surveyed and documented.

Photo competition and exhibition

Photos are especially valuable as a means of transferring knowledge and approaching the public. An idea that quickly ensued was to involve the public itself in the search and to sponsor a Photo competition. The deadline for sending in the Photos was 15.5.2004. One looked for Interesting or artistically valuable Photos of historical nature which were taken all along the Dreisam, from source to mouth. A selection of more than 300

submitted Photos were presented in an informative exhibition dealing with the Dreisam's past, present and future and were awarded some prizes. Some Photos were also used in a documentary book about the Dreisam river's historical past, present and future.

The „Our-Dreisam-Future“ Public Participation Project

In reference to the Freiburg Regional Council's pilot-project Elz-Dreisam, and on the basis of the existing river-development concept, the RegioWasser Association had initiated a public participation project on one particular Dreisam river section, in the town of March. Until then, the authorities usually considered aligning their ideas with the public's demands, only after the planning had already become specific and fundable. The uniqueness of this particular project was, that all the residents of March were able to submit their own ideas and visions during the development of specific viable concepts for the Dreisam's upgrading, without having any specific implementation plans from the relevant authorities. There were not any specific guidelines whatsoever.

A pole taken in the western March

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Participation steps taken

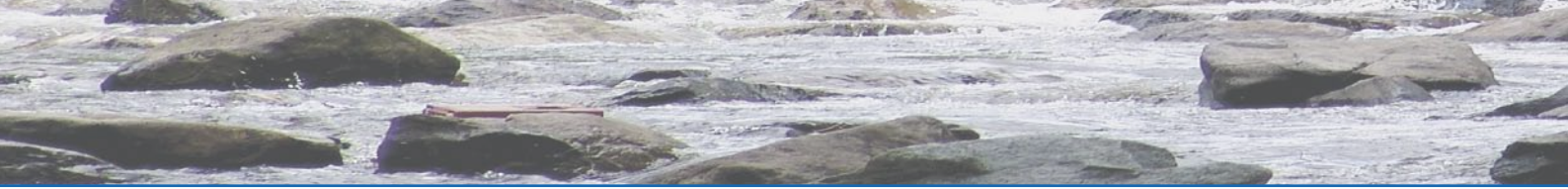
informing

hearing

joint
discussions

▼ Fig. 4.2.3
Paddling a faltboat on the Dreisam in 1953; 1st price in the photo competition of 2004
(Photo: Photo Stober i.A. des Freiburger Faltbootfahrer e.V.)





The report „Unsere Dreisam – Zukunft Dreisam : Bürgerbeteiligungsprojekt zur Entwicklung der Dreisam im Gebiet der Gemeinde March“ (public participation in the development of the Dreisam in the March community area), can be found at:

<http://www.freidok.uni-freiburg.de/>

communities in December 2002 and January 2003, which included about 300 households with a total of 850 residents, has shown that about 60% of those poled found the Dreisam to be attractive and beautiful, and about a 1/3 of those poled even considered it in its present state to be natural. But at the same time, 3/4 of those poled considered a few Photomontages they've been shown, which simulated some possible restructuring ideas (widening of the dam, removal of dike foreland, initiation of river dynamics), as being better than the actual state of the river. The older those questioned were, the likelier they were to reject these ideas. 39% of those poled, especially the younger generation, expressed their basic interest in a participation process.

To the question of whether they know any other restored rivers, about 25% answered with yes, though some of them have given some wrong examples (e.g. the Rhine). In general, 3/4 of those surveyed looked positively at restoration measures. In the cases where restoration was already known, this result went even higher to 86%.

Following a public appeal to all the involved residents involved, which included casting letters, advertising in the community newsletter, billboards and a public information event, about 50 residents in 3 workgroups have decided to participate. The workgroups were moderated by the Physiography Institute of Freiburg University, and the detailed results can be seen on the project homepage at www.unsere-dreisam.de.

Representatives of the RegioWasser Association will be trying now, within the framework of the participation procedures initiated in May 2006, to have the results enter into the action plan for this body of water (chap. 6.3).

City Tunnel – The Dreisam Tunnel

A future large-scale project in Freiburg, which should also benefit the Dreisam is the widening of the B31 federal highway, which at the moment closes in on both sides of the Dreisam in the city center. Up to 50,000 vehicles a day are currently filling the highway along the Schreiber- and Lessinstraße in the heart of the city of Freiburg. This number is going to be even higher in the coming years. The Dreisam jams itself between the lanes of the overloaded B31 through the city from east to west, and as a result it is separated from the Freiburg city center. In order to successfully connect the Dreisam to the city center and to relieve the pressure of the B31-residents between Ganterknoten and Kronenbrücke, constructing the tunnel is indispensable. The city tunnel would allow the re-development of a local recreation area along the Dreisam for the young and old, and would better connect the city with the Dreisam.

Within the framework of a student project, RegioWasser Association has conducted a residents survey, which dealt with the above subject.

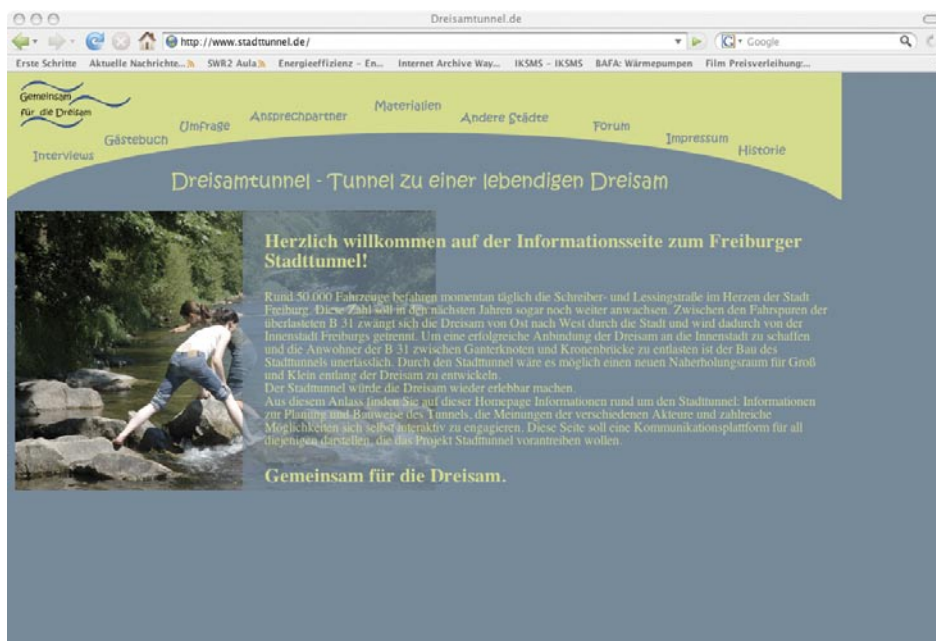
▼ Fig. 4.2.4

The correction of the Old Dreisam between Eichstetten and Bahlingen 1924/25



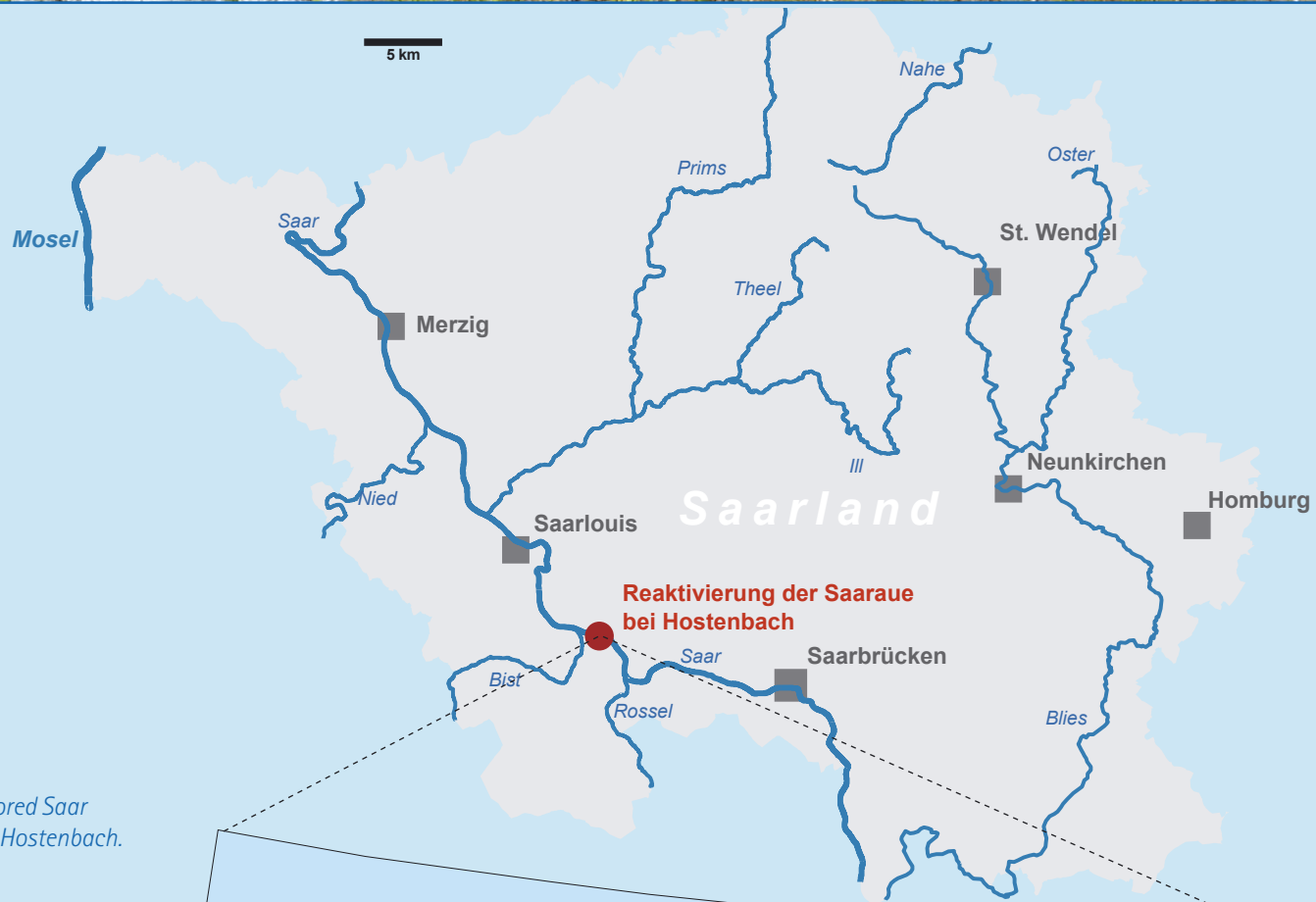


▲ Fig. 4.2.5
A traveling exhibition of the Dreisam, created in cooperation with Freiburg university's geography students. It was also presented at the GEOTag species diversity event on 12.6.2004 along the Dreisam.



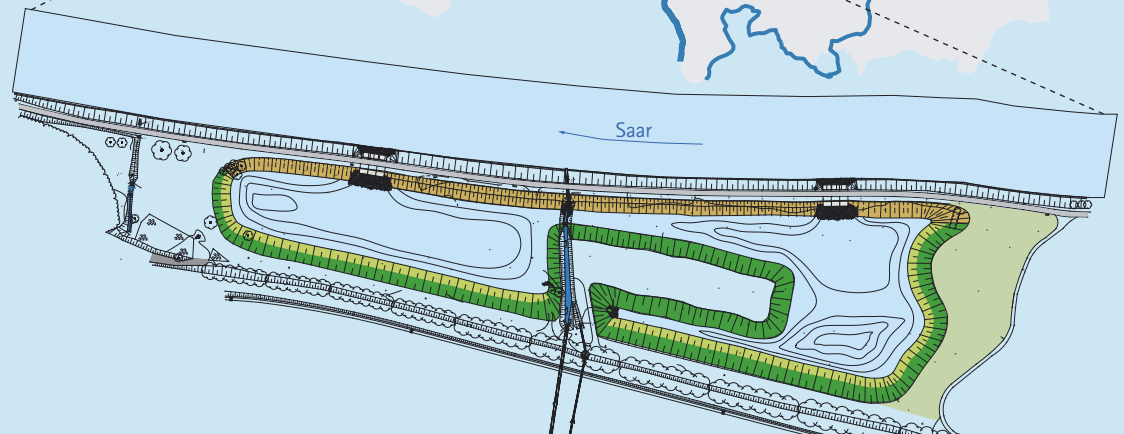
◀ Fig. 4.2.6
The results, which can be found at www.stadttunnel.de

show that the those interviewed felt insufficiently informed, but would still welcome an upgrading of the Dreisam river.



▲ Fig. 4.3.1
Map of the restored Saar
floodplain near Hostenbach.

▼ Fig. 4.3.2
Measures to reactivate the Saar
floodplain near Hostenbach during
the spring of 2007.





4.3 Reactivating the Saar Floodplains near Hostenbach

„Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament for establishing a framework for community action in the field of water policy" or in short Water Framework Directive (WFD), came into effect on 22.10.2000. In addition to its calling for the improvement of surface- and groundwater to the point of them reaching a good ecological status, it also calls for favorable riverbank- and floodplain structures in particular. This however also includes the goal of optimizing the field of flood-protection.

Against this backdrop, the Naturland Foundation of Saar has acquired in the municipality territory of Wadgassen some developed land areas with close proximity to the Saar river, or at least obtained the land-owners permission to drown their lands and to activate them as retention basins. The special- purpose association Illrenaturierung (Restoration of the Ill River), which is an affiliation of four communities (Eppelborn, Illingen, Marpingen and Merchweiler) was chosen along with Naturland Foundation of Saar to steer the project.

The association had already extensive experience in the field of implementing a water-body restoration project, the so-called „Ill Gewässerrandstreifen-programm" (The Ill river bank-strips program), which was funded from 1992 until 2006 by the Federal Nature Protection Agency (BfN - 75%), The Ministry for the Environment of Saarland (15%) and 10% by the associated communities own contribution.

The project's goal was to permanently secure and develop the 125 sq km basin area, with its around 1,050 ha core (floodplain) area, and to safeguard it for nature protection purposes through acquisition, as well as through a large variety of other measures. In such a project site, with about 60,000 residents at

the edge of Saarland's densely populated area, such far-reaching nature-protection objectives were only made possible by persuading the population and policy makers.

A combination of being present at the project site, conducting countless one-on-one interviews with land users and land owners, running imaginative PR campaigns and successful species-protection projects (e.g. the resettlement of the beaver in Saarland), as well as using traditional tools such as the printed media, has brought this project to a successful conclusion.

The „Hostenbach" project with its 5 ha of the Saar floodplain-area has been approached with this great background of experience. In order to activate it as a retention basin, the level of the terrain had to be lowered by 4.5 meters. To be able to „flood" the area, two frame-passages (2 meters high, 5 meters wide), made out of reinforced concrete, had to be built under the service path in the digging area, to connect the area to the Saar river. They were positioned in such a way, that the area would already be flooded after a single 1-year flooding event. In addition, depressions were set up in the dug areas to retain some water, after the accumulated water recedes.

Through the alternating flood and drain conditions, a dynamic process has emerged, which is now attracting floodplain animals and plants.

100,000 cbm of earth had been remove in this project. The costs for the construction measures amounted to 1.5 million Euros, which were partly paid by the Intereg III support program, as well as 53% being paid by the state of Saarland and 11% by the Naturland Foundation of Saar.

At an early stage, after receiving the relevant authorities' approval, the project's

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Participation steps taken

actor
analysis

informing

Costs

Restoration of the Saar floodplain near Hostenbach

Total costs 1,543,800 EUR
(EU-InterregIIIB-funding 555,700 EUR)



▲ Fig. 4.3.3
An artificially created steep wall
for bank swallows.
Photo: Dr. Axel Didion

► ▼ Fig. 4.3.4
Newly created retention basin in
the uncultivated industrial area
right after its completion.
Photo: Dr. Axel Didion

▼ Fig. 4.3.5
A pipe passage between lowline
surfaces
Photo: Dr. Axel Didion

plans were presented to the mayor of Wadgassen, the municipal committees and the citizens themselves. The project has received great support, and a great flexibility was shown during the citizen's assembly in regard to the details of the construction has been demonstrated. One important subject of discussion was the additional local truck traffic, which inevitably accompanies such a project (8,000 trucks during the construction works), and as a result, a barely noticeable alternative path for the earth removal

has been agreed upon.

During the construction work period, meetings and discussions were held regularly, to which interested citizens or those with complaints were also invited. The media was also invited to report the events in the local bulletins, newspapers, television and radio, so that the necessary information would reach the people in the region.

After the works were completed, the area has not only been „adopted“ by adapting animal and plant species, but also has





been noticed by many recreation fans, who use the neighboring service path. Our experiences in relation to the implementation of big nature-protection projects and with the necessary public participation have shown, that public acceptance can only be obtained when inclusion starts at the earliest possible stage, followed by continuous monitoring, having (at least) one contact person on the site, as well as considering wishes and ideas with reasonable flexibility. However, one should not underestimate the amount of time that needs to be spent, because neither the modern media, nor a professionally organized press conference could replace the individual interviews with affected, interested and critical-minded people.

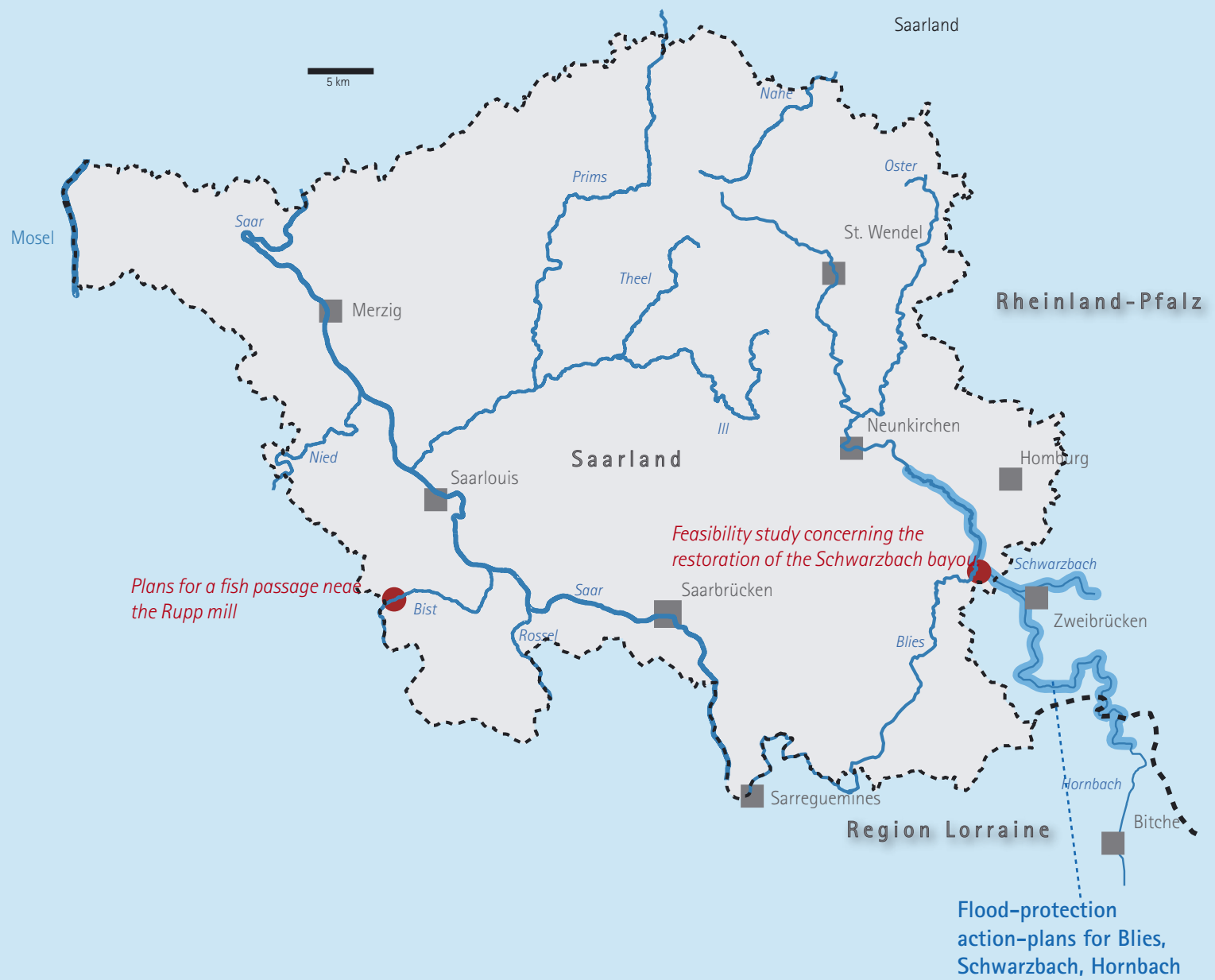
▼ Fig. 4.3.6
*Summer 2007 – a new habitat for
floodplain inhabitants.*
Photo: Dr. Axel Didion





▼ Fig. 4.4.1

Plans and measures of the international flood protection action plan Moselle/Saar in the framework of the RhineNet project.



4.4 The Moselle/Saar International Flood-protection Project

The Moselle-Saar rivers basin district has been in the past decades repeatedly afflicted by strong floods, which at times caused considerable damage.

Similarly to some other rivers, its flood retention basin has significantly dwindled, the International Commission for the Protection of the Moselle and the Saar (IKSMS) has drawn up a flood protection plan. Within its framework there are measures which should be planned for some sections of the river in order to improve its flood protection, but also to increase the ecological potential of this often changing water-body. These measures will be presented here in detail.

4.4.1 Reactivating the Schwarzbach floodplain – feasibility study

The subject matter for the feasibility study was to examine the following questions: Is it possible to reactivate the Schwarzbach floodplain near Homburg-Einöd by opening the existing flood dam? What is the retention volume that could be activated? How large would the flooded area be? How is such a reactivation going to affect the flood situation of the Blies and Schwarzbach rivers?

In order to be able to take full advantage of the newly available retention basin, the opening of the dam had to be optimized.

The floodplain lies on the right bank of the Schwarzbach river and is a part of its natural flooding area. The Schwarzbach river is a part of the Saar river basin.

Due to the construction of the super highway, a large retention volume on the left land-strip had been used in the past to fill the highway's dike. A dam was built on the right river bank, in order to protect the right land-strip against flooding. The dam broke during the flooding

of December 1993, and large areas were flooded.

The feasibility study's examinations have shown, that a complete flooding of the floodplains by partially lowering the dam is feasible. The impact of the floodplains on a flood could be compared to a flood retention basin or a polder which is parallel to the river. It has however also been shown, that further tests were needed, especially regarding the effects on the neighboring areas. The engineers who were responsible for the study, stated the importance of an early inclusion of the adjacent residents and land owners in the measures' preliminary planning. Since the realization of a flood-protection measure depends greatly on the acceptance of those involved, their comments concerning the measure should be gathered as soon as the implementation starts taking place.

4.4.2 Planning a fish passage in the Rupp water mill in the district of Bisten

In the area of the Rupp water mill in the district of Bisten, there is a weir which is protected under the water act, and is used to propel turbines for electricity production. This device prevents the biological passage of fish and small organisms.

The restructuring was aimed at providing fish and small organisms with a two-way passage using an appropriate fish ladder, which would fit the local characteristics. The goal of the planning was to reach biological continuity by constructing a fish ladder which would run parallel to the turbine building, and would use the existing overflow that is generated by the weir.

In order to reach this renewed biological continuity goal, the planners have

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Participation steps taken

actor
analysis

informing

Costs

Flood protection action plan Moselle/Saar

(Landesamt für Umwelt- und Arbeitsschutz, Saargemünd with financial support from the state of Rheinland-Pfalz) planning costs 312,070 EUR (EU-InterregIIIB-funding 119,530 EUR)

Feasibility study Schwarzbach bayou

(Landesamt für Umwelt- und Arbeitsschutz) planning costs 40,700 EUR (EU-InterregIIIB-funding 20,350 EUR)

Restoration of the Schwarzbach old river bed near Einöd

(Landesamt für Umwelt- und Arbeitsschutz) investment costs 116,150 EUR (EU-InterregIIIB-funding 58,075 EUR)

The Rupp-mill fishway

(Landesamt für Umwelt- und Arbeitsschutz) planning costs 14,310 EUR (EU-InterregIIIB-funding 7,155 EUR)

► Fig.4.4.2
Weir under current at the Rupp-
mill in the district of Bisten



recommended installing an already proven prefabricated fish ladder, made mostly out of reinforced concrete. The advantages of this chosen device are, that by installing it no additional land surfaces have to be used, and the planned measures would not have any negative impact on the flood occurrences in the planning area. The estimated costs for the planned project amount to 125,000 Euros, which do not include the costs for possible land acquisition, property re-measurements or potential compensations. In order to implement these planned measures, it is necessary to reach permission agreements with the grounds owners, for dealing with the protective building regulations.

4.4.3 Flood Action Plan for the Blies, Schwarzbach and Hornbach rivers

A damage potential assessment of the Blies, Schwarzbach and Hornbach rivers has been carried out, and on its basis action recommendations regarding flood protection and raising the retention levels in the basin area have been worked out. Since parts of the Blies are in the territory of the Agglomération Communautés Saargemines (France),

the State Office for Environmental and Labor Protection of Saarland has cooperated closely with the commune of Saargemünd and the State of Rhineland Palatinate. The Blies river basin area is 1,798 sq km in size, the schwarzbach basin is 1,152 sq km, and the Hornbach 521 sq km. 37% of the basin area are in Saarland, 45% in Rhineland -Palatinate and 18% in France. The Blies river gage in Reinheim recorded the highest flow discharge at 373 cbm/s. These record measurements occurred during the floods of December 1993.

The use of land in the German part of the basin is divided as follows: 23% forest, 34% agriculture, 15% grassland, 3% orchards, 23% built-up area and 2% other uses.

In order to increase the retention levels in the mentioned river areas, some area-use changes from agriculture to grassland have been suggested, as well as laying out river-bank land-strips and constructing small retention reservoirs. Likewise, the planting of riverside forests in some areas of the Blieskastel commune have been recommended. For each individual commune and its locally affected area in the river basin, individual measures have been specified, and they



have been added in the form of tables to this report. The recommended measures are e.g. water level evaluations, property-protection measures for some buildings, discharge capacity improvement next to bridges, reinforcement of river banks and riverbed in specific areas, as well as various construction measures on flood dikes.

In the feasibility study it has also been pointed out, that taking appropriate building and behavior precautions significantly reduces the damage potential in the event of a flood.

Only in very few communities there is a central contact address which deals with flooding issues. That is why it has been suggested to appoint a flood commissioner in the relevant communities.

For the purpose of informing the public about the creation of a flood action plan,

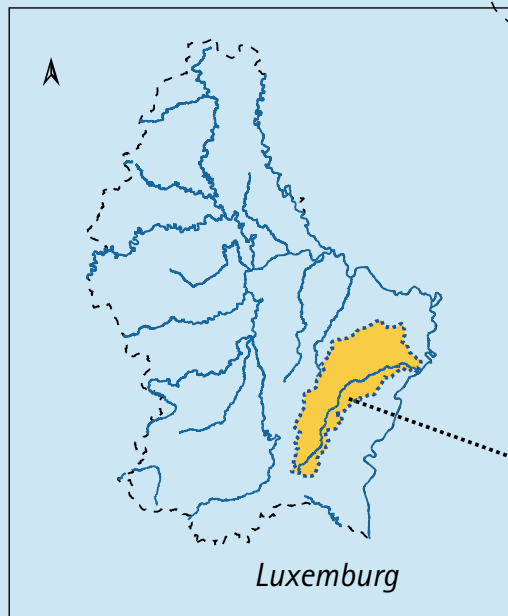
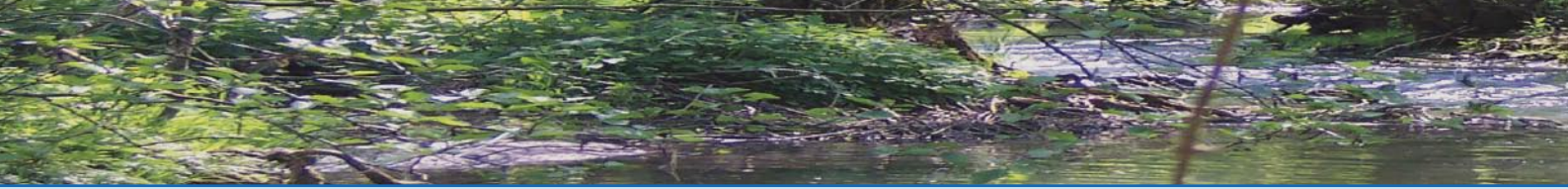
an information flyer (bilingual) has been issued and made available to the basin area communes. Press releases have kept the public informed about the planning. Conversations were held with the involved associations to pass on information, and the measures have been presented at various information events.

The purpose of the bilingual flyer was to inform as well as to involve the public in the process. Unfortunately, the number of the active responses was very small.

One could only hope, that during the measure implementation the active public participation would intensify. An imperative requirement is that the communication would intensify and that the public participation measures would be backed up and supported by the highest political level.



◀ Fig. 4.4.3
Weir at the Rupp-mill in the
district of Bisten



Einzugsgebiet der Syre

Luxemburg

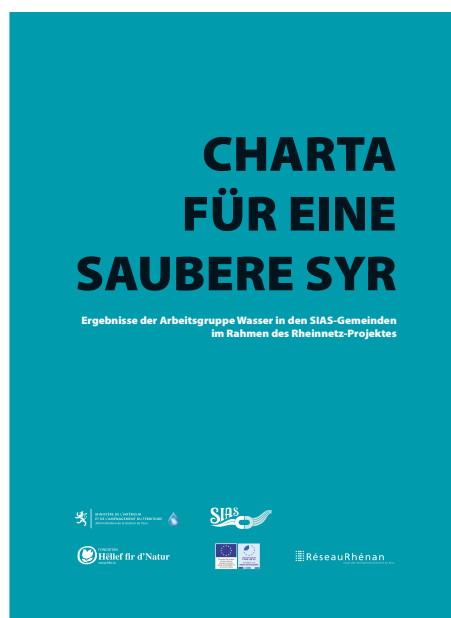
▼ Fig. 4.5.1
Map of the Syre basin



4.5 A Charter for a Clean Syre

The purpose of this initiative is to actively incorporate the local population in the planning process in accordance with the European Water Framework Directive. The five SIAS (Syndicat intercommunal à vocation multiple) communities of Contern, Niederanven, Schuttrange, Sandweiler and Weiler-la-Tour in Luxembourg were chosen as a project area. Apart from joint sewage treatment facilities, these communities share additional intercommunal nature- and environmental protection responsibilities, as well as a river which flows through all of them: the Syre. In the summer of 2005, an information event about the RhineNet project has been organized. A number of people who had participated in a SIAS-questionnaire campaign, and who had expressed their wish, by ticking the appropriate box, to have some more information about water issues, as well as their willingness to participate in the „Water“ working group, have been invited to the event. About 20 people have responded to the call. The goal of the workgroup would be to come up with „a Charter for a clean Syre“ which would be presented to the communal decision-makers and the Luxembourgian administration. This document was to be taken into consideration in any future water management planning procedures. Following an informative part which was conducted by the Hëllef fir d’Natur (HfN) Foundation, a moderator-led discussion has taken place, in which the issues appearing especially important to the working group members were defined. The central question was: Where do the people of Luxembourg identify water-related problems, and which demands should be derived from that?

The Hëllef fir d’Natur has documented the results and drew up a basic charter framework. In addition, a time-frame



was established to structure the project's course. The charter idea has been welcomed by most of the participants, although some skeptical remarks were also expressed („could we really make any difference?“).

In October 2005, the working group was offered a water-theme field trip, and over time two newsletters were also sent, in order to inform the participants about the developments in the charter's status.

To the second working group meeting which took place in December 2005 some more people were invited: farmers, foresters, community representatives and communal environmental commissions. 25 people showed up, most of whom had already attended the first meeting. At first, Various SIAS inventory reports (=status quo) prepared by the Hëllef fir d’Natur Foundation have been presented: an inventory of water- and ground water dependant habitats, a mapping of near-natural water resources as well as environmentally disturbing factors in streams. In the second part of the

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Participation steps taken

actor
analysis

informing

hearing

joint
discussions

Costs

Total costs about 105,000
EUR (EU-InterregIIIb-funding about 52,500 EUR)



▲ Fig. 4.5.2

The results were presented to the workgroup, which documented the need for action in a charter.

Photo: HfN

▼ Fig. 4.5.3

It begins at the source: all natural bodies of water in the five communities were charted from the spring to the Syre river.

Photo: HfN



evening the charter's basic framework was presented, followed by discussions about the ways it would correlate to the previously identified problems, and about the additional requirements that should be included.

A 25 page preliminary draft of the „Charter for a clean Syre“ was presented during the third „Water“ workshop. The document was widely approved by the working group members. The participants were granted the possibility of submitting additional corrections and supplements to the Hëllef fir d'Natur Foundation.

The drinking water issue has invariably dominated all of the workshops. The wish, or rather the demand for a safe supply of clean drinking water, and for proper sewage facilities which have adequate infrastructure/technology is

reflected in all of the charter's chapters. The final version of the charter is divided into the following chapters: water resources, agriculture, pollution and water management articles, the Luxembourg-Findel airport, emergency planning and information, raising public awareness and participation. Each chapter described the situation and gave a problem analysis, by which specific goals and requirements were drawn up. This countermeasure plan should serve towards implementing the goals. The plans also include the communities' commitments and those of the other parties involved. The charter is a document which has been drafted by a wide range of interest groups. The reasons for participating in the working group range from professional interest, to desire for active public participation, and even curiosity. The comments and attitudes within the group were accordingly diverse. Those participants, who might be described as professionally interested and active, have taken part in the discussions in an intense and constructive way.

However, those that might be described as curios, were rather cautious and skeptical.

Nevertheless, over the course of three workshops, some of the doubts, especially those expressed by a few farmers, were clarified. Moreover, most of the farmers kept coming to the meetings. The next step was to assemble a small working group delegation which discussed the charter with the five SIAS communities. The measures which would improve the status of the Syre have been determined based on those discussions and in conjunction with the community representatives.



However, this dynamic would have an impact beyond just the community level. It would have a national impact, and accordingly bring along the national level support.

In order to practically implement these action plans, the project would continue by developing a river partnership plan (Partenariat de Rivière) with the Syre.



„Water for Life" water week

From the 16th to the 24th of March 2005, the Fondation Hëllef fir d'Natur has organized, in cooperation with the interior ministry, a „water week" in the SIAS communities. On the program were five lectures on water supply, sewage treatment, agriculture and the Attert river partnership, as well as three guided tours to nature reserves, restoration projects on the Syre and the springs in Glasbueren.

▲ Fig. 4.5.4

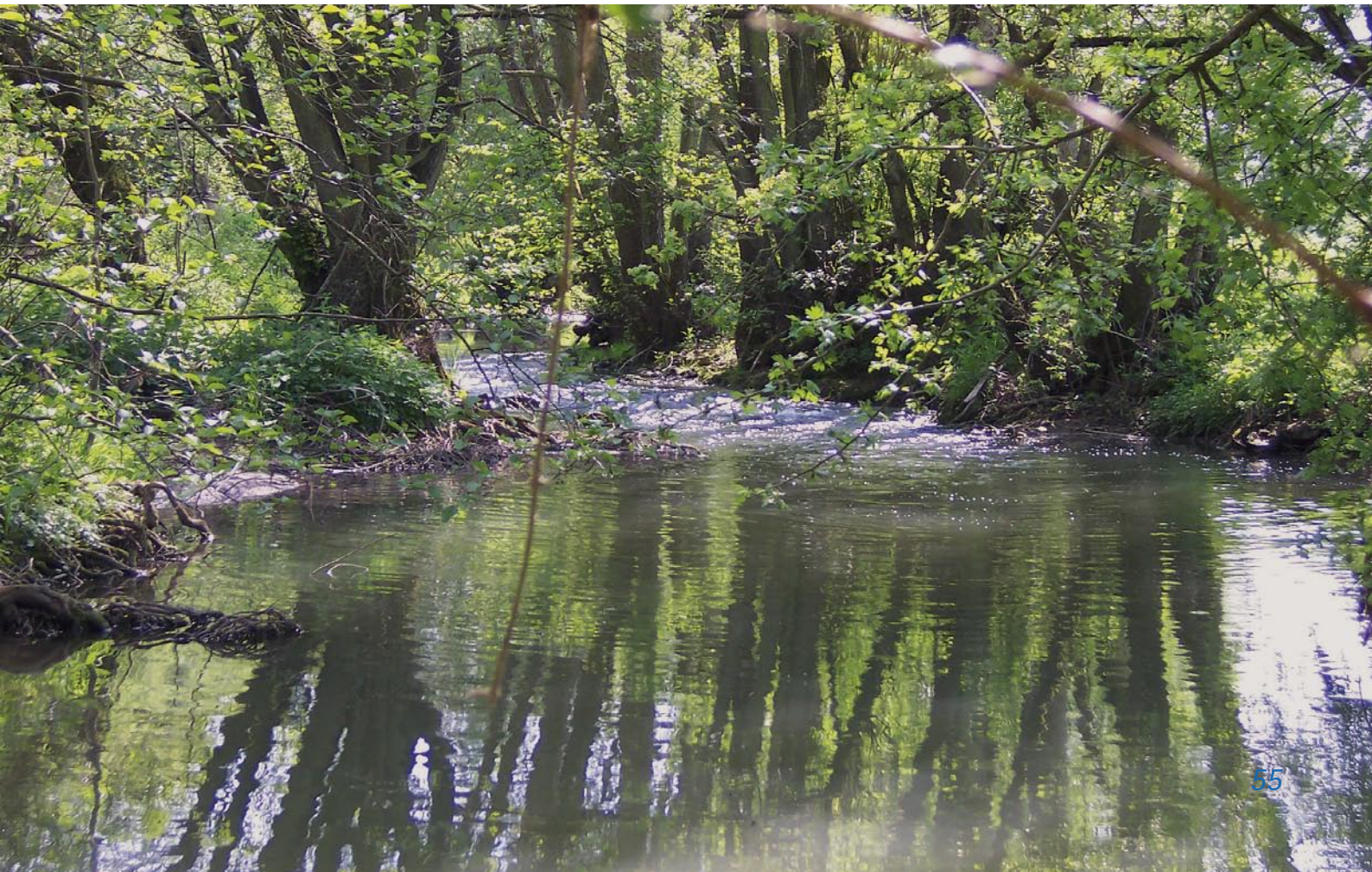
The workgroup which wrote the „Charter for a clean Syre".

Photo: HfN

▼ Fig. 4.5.5

A natural section of the Syre.

Photo: HfN



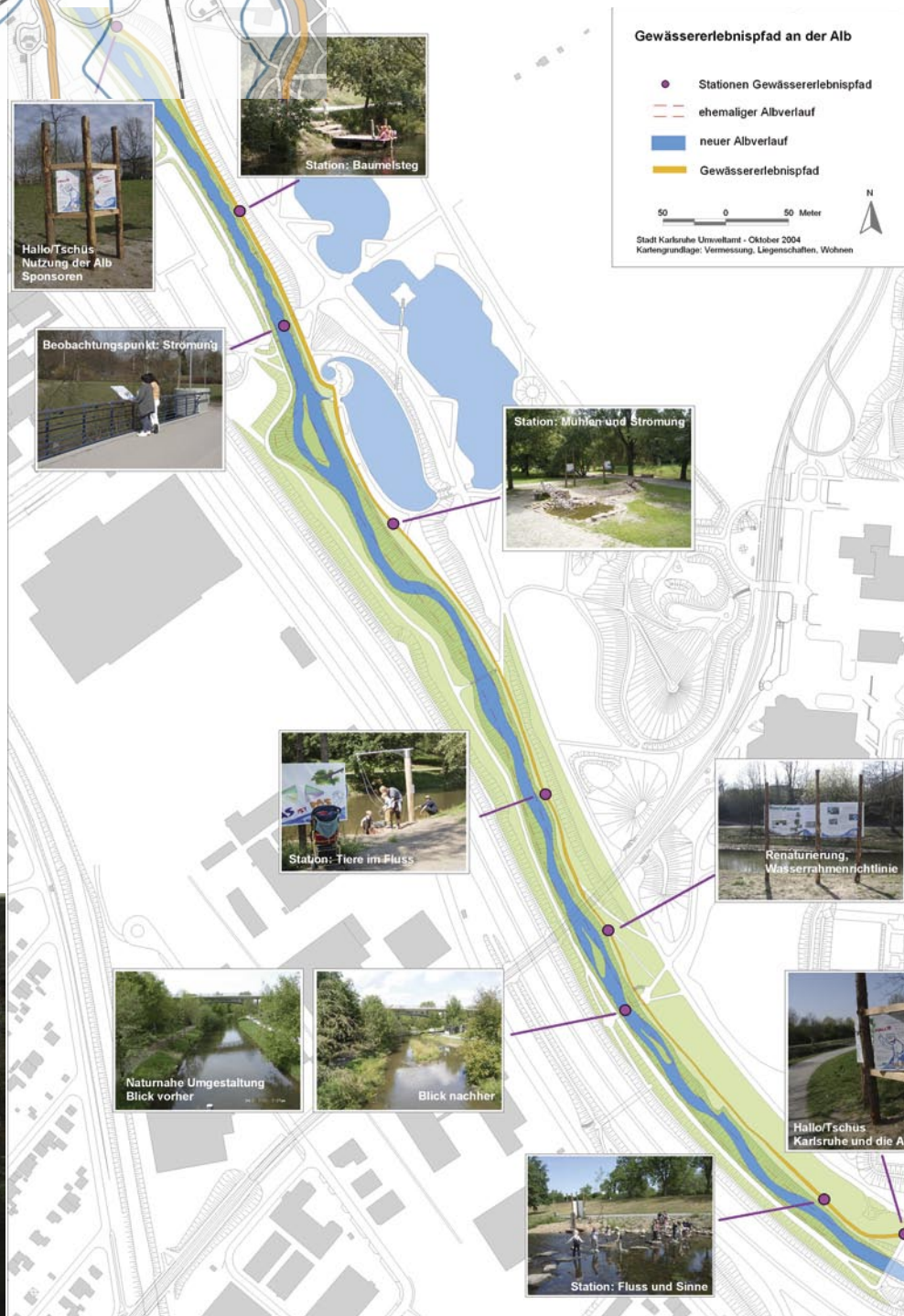
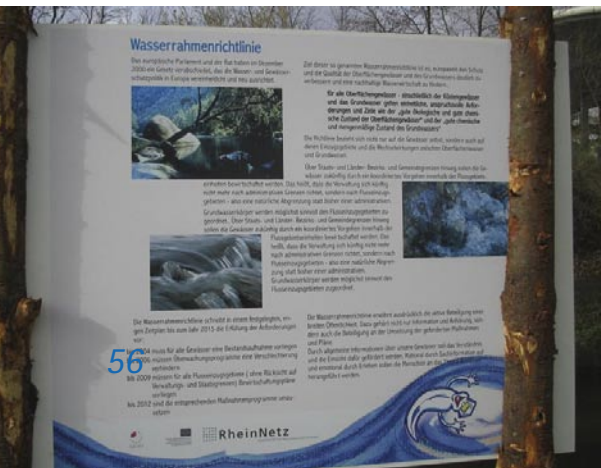


▲ Fig. 4.6.4
The Alb river before the upgrading measures
Photo: Volker Hahn

▲ Fig. 4.6.1
Map of Karlsruhe, a natural trail in red.
(Source: city of Karlsruhe)

► Fig. 4.6.2
Stations on the natural trail
(Source: city of Karlsruhe)

▼ Fig. 4.6.3
A board describing the WFD's natural trail
Photo: Volker Hahn



4.6 The Alb River-Bank Restoration in Karlsruhe

In an urban area of Karlsruhe inside the Günter-Klotz public gardens, a 1.2 km long river-bank strip has been restored. The project has been carried out by the city of Karlsruhe with the financial support of the regional council and the Naturschutzfonds Foundation.

In order to make the river bank restoration measures attractive to the public, the working group Agenda 21 proposed constructing a nature-trail, which would be accompanied by an information brochure. Both ideas were implemented within the RhineNet framework. The nature-trail has been essentially designed by the Agenda working group. Along the Alb river restored section, various so-called „stations“ were installed, with large distances between one another. The access to the bank sections between those „stations“ has been made intentionally difficult through extensive maintenance work. This enabled guiding the visitors along the bank in a direct and managed way, while sparing the ‚Natura 2000‘ area of the Alb as much as possible.

Stadt Karlsruhe
Umweltamt



Naturführer Alb Die Alb

zu Fuß und mit dem
Fahrrad durch die Natur



The nature trail's stations deal with the river's ecology, while the visitors are being encouraged to actively and playfully explore the river for themselves. Schools and other groups have been also provided with a „river backpack“ containing various learning materials. The Alb river travel guide leaflet (in three languages) completes the nature trail, by taking the visitors across 6.5 km into places where they could experience ecological themes in an especially vivid way. The Nature trail and travel guide also provide information about the WFD. On the whole, all of these steps resonated extremely well with the public. This is also due to the fact that the interested parties had been actively involved in the project's development and implementation from the very beginning.



Info

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<http://www.karlsruhe.de>

Participation steps taken

informing

Infos about the Alb river nature
guide

[http://www3.karlsruhe.de/servlet/
is/4890/Alb.HTML](http://www3.karlsruhe.de/servlet/is/4890/Alb.HTML)

◀ Fig. 4.6.5

Station with stepping stones in the
river Alb.

Photo: Volker Hahn

Costs

Total costs for nature guide,
„Alb“ backpack and the
natural trail 80,000 EUR,
including 22,000 EUR from
RhineNet (EU-InterregIIIB-
funding 11,000 EUR)



0m 200m 400m

► Fig. 4.7.1
The experiment field location



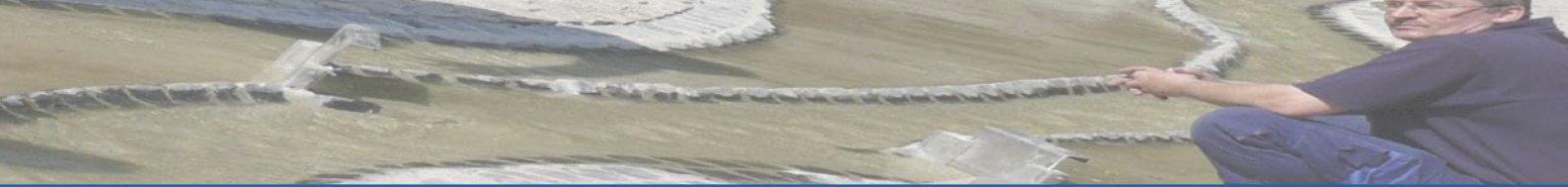
▼ Fig. 4.7.2

Inauguration of the "Flood experimentation field" with the Minister for Nutrition and Rural Affairs of Baden-Württemberg, Peter Hauck, the Deputy Mayor of the city of Karlsruhe, Siegfried König and the director of the nature protection center, Harald Dannenmayer.
Photo: Volker Hahn

**Experimentierfeld
Hochwasser**

Opening hours of the Karlsruhe-Rappenwört nature-protection center
Mon 8-16 Uhr
Di - Frei 8-18 Uhr
Sun. & holidays 11-18 Uhr
registration: ++49-(0)721-950470





4.7 The "Flood Experimentation Field" in Karlsruhe

For some years now, there has been in the Nature Protection Center in Karlsruhe a Rhine river model, which illustrates clearly the altered water flow rates in the adjusted Rhine and the effects caused by flood retention basins.

It appeared, that children and teens were getting quickly getting bored with the model because while observing it, they themselves remained passive, and only a few people could watch it at a time.

That is when the idea of further developing the model onto a larger scale came about. This enabled the youngsters to 'touch' the Moselle river and to playfully experience for themselves the fundamental relationship between river ecology and flood control.

The outdoor experimentation field is made of two Rhine river models, which clarify complex waterways issues through observation and experimentation. Pupils and other interested visitors can conduct experiments with professional guidance.

Three river course scenarios are being displayed over a 20 x 10 meter lightly slanted surface.

- Scenario 1 shows the Rhine prior to its course adjustment
- Scenario 2 shows the adjusted Rhine course of today
- Scenario 3 shows the Rhine of today with retention basins.

One could experience the differing flow patterns of the original, the adjusted and regulated, as well as the retention basins filled Rhine river.

In scenario 3 the pupils themselves can simulate a flood situation. For that purpose a controlled „flood“ is being generated, in such a way that cities and structures would be safe and natural areas would grow.

It is possible to inject various quantities of water. Retention basins which can be flooded and drained are also available as an experiment tool. Since its inauguration in May 2007 until the end of October 2007, 64 school classes with 1824 pupils, as well as 7696 adults and 6278 children have visited the experiment grounds.

Info

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<http://www.karlsruhe.de>

Participation steps taken

informing



◀ ▶ Fig. 4.7.3, 4.7.4
Flood experimentation field
Photos: Volker Hahn

Costs

Total costs about 30,000 EUR
(EU-InterregIIIB-funding
about 15.000 EUR)





▼ Fig. 4.8.1
Outline map of the migration
obstacles in the Upper Rhine



▲ Fig. 4.8.2
Fish passage in Gamsheim

- River sections of the migrating fish program
- Barrier weirs
- ▭ Power plant with fish passage
- ▭ Power plant without fish passage



4.8 Workshop on River Continuity of the Rhine

The environmental ministers of the Rhine countries have met in October 2007 in Bonn following a long pause, to discuss among other things the way river continuity from the river mouth to the Rhine Falls in Schaffhausen could be restored. Ten weirs in the Upper Rhine block the Salmon and other „long-distance migrating fish“ from reaching their traditional spawning grounds.

In order to prepare for the Rhine minister conference on 18.10.2007 in Bonn (cf. chap. 5.4), environmental, nature protection and fisheries organizations from the Netherlands, Alsace, northwestern Switzerland and Germany were invited to an international workshop on the continuity of the Rhine on 22./23. of June 2007 in Freiburg. Along side the organization representatives, authority representatives and politicians, the interested public has also been invited.

The workshop was organized by the RegioWasser e.V. Association in cooperation with Alsace Nature, Grünen Liga and many other institutions.

The simultaneous interpretation of the 16 introductory presentations given by selected speakers, has given the around 70 participants mainly from Germany, Switzerland and France the opportunity to get informed about the status, the shortcomings and the possibilities of restoring river continuity.

The topic of continuity was not limited to the up- and downstream fish migration, but also dealt with Rhine's bed-load transport status.

The EC-Water Framework Directive of the year 2000 stipulates the restoration of continuity until 2015. However the Directive allows in some cases an extension until 2027. During the international workshop people spoke against making any concessions to the Electricité de France (EDF).



The EDF, which operates the ten Upper Rhine hydraulic power stations, is pushing for being exempted and for costs reasons wants to, if need be, transport ascending salmon over land to Basel (the „omnibus solution“). The opinion of the organizations meeting in the Freiburg workshop was that the Rhine ministers conference should urge the EDF to install fish ladders in all of the Upper Rhine weirs. In addition, the EDF must make sure that migrating fish - especially the eels which spawn in the Atlantic - would no longer be decimated by the power stations' turbines any longer.

Info

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<http://www.restrhein.de>

Participation steps taken

informing

hearing

joint discussions

The workshop's programs, presentations and summaries can be found at:

<http://www.restrhein.de/workshop.shtml>



Pourquoi un workshop ?

Lors de la prochaine Conférence ministérielle sur le Rhin, le 18 octobre prochain (la dernière conférence a eu lieu à Strasbourg en 2001), l'une des questions traitée sera de savoir si, et dans quelle échéance, les pays riverains du Rhin sont prêts à allouer les finances nécessaires pour la reconquête de la continuité écologique du Rhin.

Une étude de faisabilité de la continuité écologique jusqu' à Bâle a été établie par la Commission Internationale pour la Protection du Rhin (CIPR) et une stratégie globale est en cours d'élaboration.

Le workshop souhaitait intégrer le public dans le débat autour de l'avenir du Rhin.

Électricité de France (EDF), concessionnaire des usines hydroélectriques, considère que le transport des saumons par les camions est une solution adaptée et économique pour rétablir la continuité écologique et le retour du saumon jusqu'en Suisse. Les associations environnementales considèrent, certes, que le retour du saumon est un objectif important pour l'intérêt général, mais considèrent également que le transport en camion est une mesure qui ne tient pas compte des objectifs du bon état écologique. Le workshop devrait donc aboutir sur une position commune de tous les acteurs intéressés par la continuité écologique du Rhin.

Programme

Vendredi 22 juin 2007

- 13:30 Accueil
- 14:00 Allocution d'ouverture
Regiowasser e.V. / Grüne Liga
- 14:30 Présentation du jeu de rôle
Reina Kuiper, Stichting Reinwater
- 15:00 Jeu de rôle „Transposition des objectifs de la Directive Cadre sur l'Eau concernant le Rhin Supérieur franco-allemand“
Tous les inscrits
- 18:00  événements 2007 „Relais du Rhin“ et „Big Jump“
Roberto Eppe, European Rivers Network (ERN)

Samedi 23 juin 2007

- 9:30 Accueil et café de bienvenue
(distribution de documents)
- 10:00 Allocution d'ouverture
Frédéric Deck, Président Régional Alsace Nature

Introduction

- 10:15 Problématique et enjeux du Rhin (changement climatique, dynamique fluviale, etc.)
Dr. Jörg Lange, Regiowasser e.V.
- 10:30 Sédiments et continuité écologique?
Prof. Dr. Andreas Ditttrich, TU Braunschweig
- 10:45 Analyse de l'efficacité de la continuité écologique des fleuves avec barrages
Ulrich Dumont, Bureau d'étude Floecksmühle
- 11:00 Possibilités de renaturation des berges et de reconnexion des zones inondables au lit majeur dans la région du Rhin Supérieur, en aval d'Iffezheim
Dr. Volker Späth, ILN, Bühl

-----pause café -----

La continuité écologique du Rhin

- 11:45 Continuité écologique et „SDAGE“ ?
Jean Wencker, Alsace Nature
- 12:00 Plan d'actions pour les poissons migrateurs du Rhin
Dr. Detlev Ingendahl, Wanderfischprogramm NRW
- 12:15 Écologie des poissons migrateurs
Dr. Jörg Schneider, BFS, Frankfurt
- 12:30 Le rôle des politiques
Dr. Walter Caroli, MdL BW 1988-2006, Nabu

-----Déjeuner -----
au „Süden“

- 14:15 Les objectifs de la Directive Cadre sur l'eau pour le Rhin Supérieur et ses barrages
Nik Geiler, AK Wasser im BBU
- 14:30 Continuité piscicole sur la Loire
Jean-François Luquet, Délégué interrégional adjoint ONEMA Nord-Est
- 14:45 „Plan Loire Grandeur Nature“
Martin Arnould, WWF France

Exemples sur les affluents

- 15:00 L'ILL
Gérard Burkard, Saumon Rhin
- 15:15 Exemples suisses
Dr. Armin Peter / Eva Schager, EAWAG
- 15:30 L'ancien bras du Rhin et ses affluents
Hans-Dieter Geugelin, IG Altrhein
- 15:45 Bassin de la Kinzig et Elz
Ingo Kramer, Landesfischereiverband Baden

-----Pause café -----

- 16:30 Position commune des associations environnementales
- 17:00 Débat et conclusion
- 18:30 Excursion dans le quartier Vauban
- 19:30 Verre de l'amitié au „Süden“

Er war schon weißgottwo,
doch eines Tages - oh! -
da kam er an ein Wehr:
das maß zwölf Fuß und mehr!
zehn Fuß, die sprang er gut!
Doch hier zerbrach sein Mut.
Drei Wochen stand der Salm
am Fuß der Wasseralm.
Und kehrte schließlich stumm
nach Deutsch- und Holland um.

Christian Morgenstern, 1910



At the end of the workshop, the organizations have worked out a comprehensive catalog of demands to be given to the Rhine ministers.

Alongside the demand to restore fish passage, the catalog also listed the demand to limit the thermal discharge caused by thermal power stations in the Rhine and its tributaries, through internationally agreed heat discharge regulations. Combined with climate change, the thermal discharge causes temperatures that are deadly to more and more fish species.

This catalog of demands is an appeal to the Rhine ministers to put the ICPR's programs of ecologically upgrading the river quickly into action. A role-playing

game to simulate the WFD's implementation procedures, which had been widely tested in the Netherlands, was deployed in the workshop. In the game, all of the concerned parties' positions were realistically simulated. The participants appeared to be very impressed by the ease with which the virtual Rhine power companies' representatives were able to present their case.

◀ ◀ ▶ Fig. 4.8.3

Dr. Walter Caroli's presentation on the role of politics in cross-border nature and water-bodies protection was received with great interest.

◀ ◀ ▶ Fig. 4.8.4

The „River continuity" workshop's program on 23rd of June, 2007

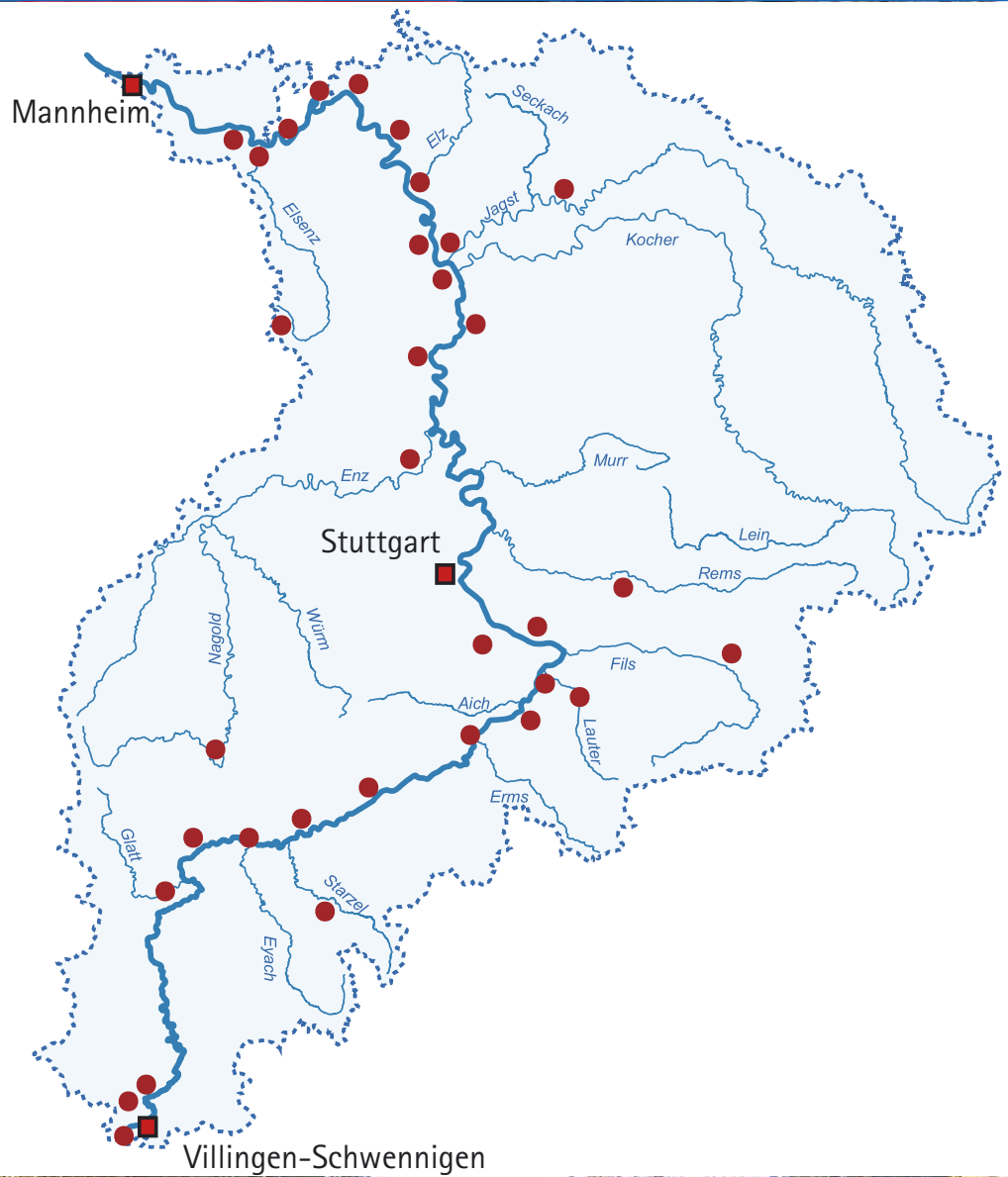
▼ Fig. 4.8.5

Simultaneous translation is in most cases still a pre-condition for cross-border dialog.





► Fig. 4.9.1
A map outlining the events during
the Neckar-basin action-days.
Graphic: Büro am Fluss



► Fig. 4.9.2
Members of the „Living Neckar“
workgroup in Reutlingen placing
rocks in a Neckar tributary, before
having it linked again to the
Neckar river.
Photo: BUND Regionalverband
Neckar-Alb.





4.9 The Neckar River Basin

The Neckar basin action days

The third Neckar basin action days event took place between the 22nd and the 24th of July 2005. Colorful parties to celebrate the Neckar river, its many tributaries and a large variety of water-related themes took place through the entire basin area.

The action days have given many Associations, Communes, authorities, and private individuals who for many years have dedicated themselves to their rivers, the opportunity to present their projects and accomplishments to a wide audience, under the motto „thousand sources – one river“.

No limits were placed on the actors' imaginations. All contributions were welcome: from culinary treats to sporting events on or along the river, from valuable biotope cultivation to excursions or to scientific experiments.

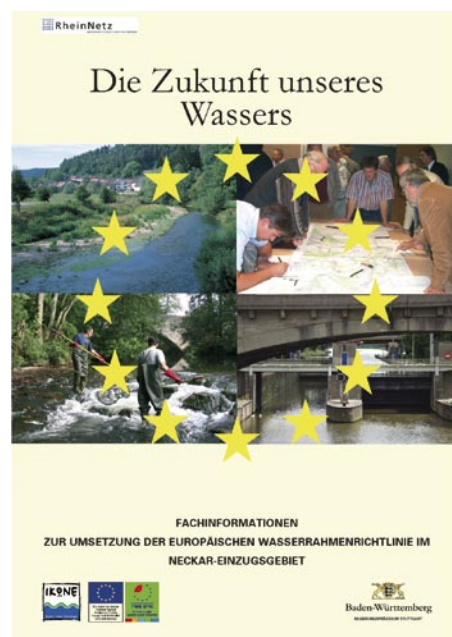
Apart from the beauty and the value of experiencing the streams and rivers closely, flood protection, river ecology, water sports, singing, and culture were also event subjects, as well as the difficult work involved in the WFD implementation.

The events have taken place at more than 30 locations. Their center of gravity was, as during the 2001 and 2003 action days, the Neckar river itself. However, nature protection and fisheries groups were active on the Neckar's tributaries Glatt, Enz, Fils, Rems and Jagst as well.

Professional information brochures regarding the WFD implementation in the Neckar basin area

The brochures published by the Stuttgart Regional Council provide professional information and background regarding the WFD in the Neckar basin-area, and represent a detailed in-depth version of the information, which the basin-

area authorities already published in a shorter brochure. In this publication, a large variety of topics related to the specific implementation of the WFD in the Neckar project area were processed in depth, e.g. defining environmental goals, river typology, survey results, but also the possible WFD's significance for various river-user categories, such as navigation, hydropower and agriculture. The brochures were also a good preparation for the active public participation, which started taking place in 2006 in the individual project area sections of the Neckar basin. The brochure texts are available on the Internet at www.rp-stuttgart.de.



Info

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team@buero-am-fluss.de

Geschäftsstelle IKoNE
Regierungspräsidium Stuttgart
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70565 Stuttgart
Phone ++49 (0)711 904 0
Fax ++49 (0)711 7846940
geschaeftsstelle@ikone-online.de

For more information on the „Neckar action days“:

<http://www.ikone-online.de/index.php?id=8>
<http://www.aktionstag-neckar-einzugsgebiet.de/>

Participation steps taken

informing

joint
discussions

cooperating

◀ Fig. 4.9.3
Brochures on the Neckar basin district

<http://www.rp.baden-wuerttemberg.de/servlet/PB/show/1148801/rps-ref53-wrrl-zukunft.pdf>

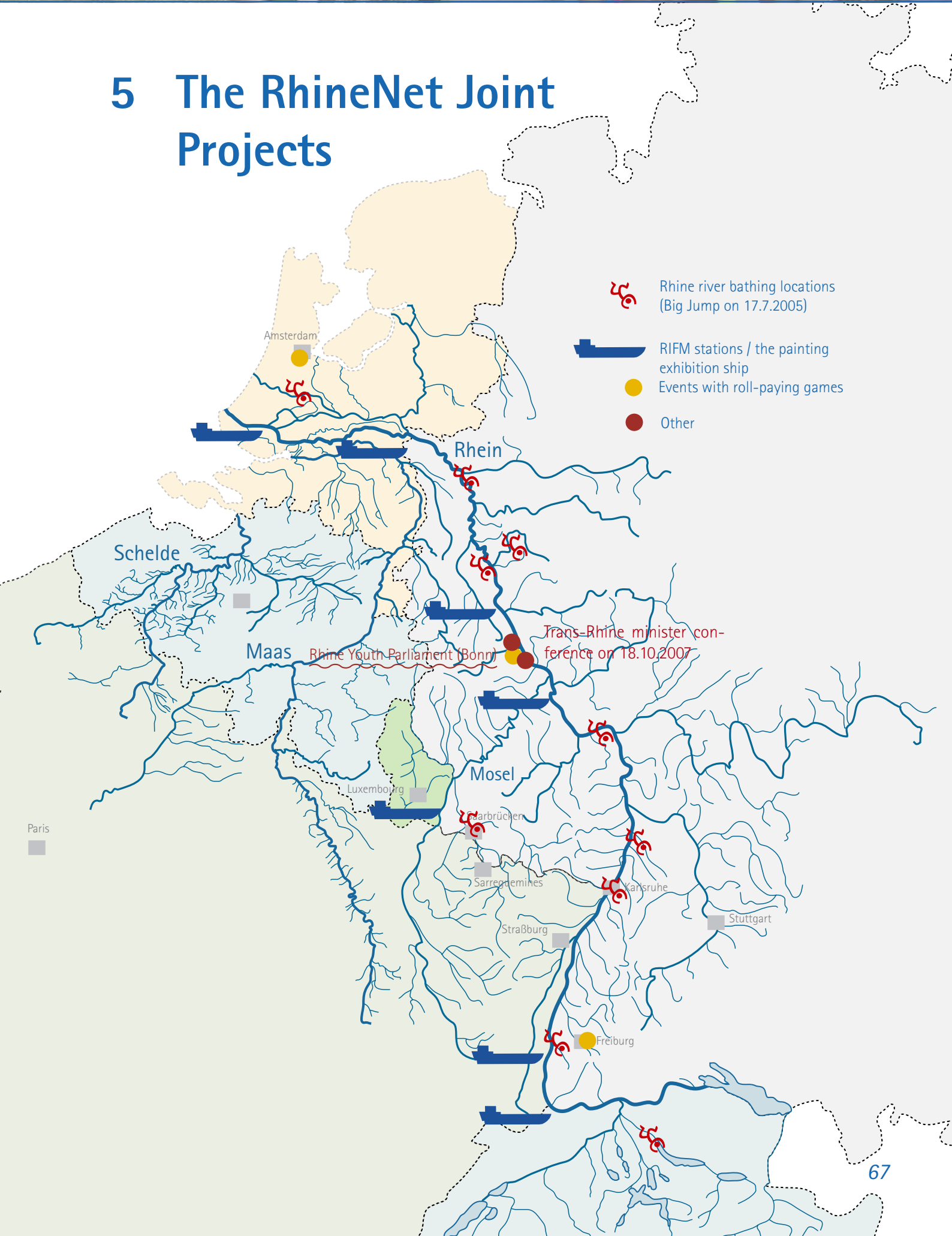


Mon fleuve coulant
Oh, qu'il est grand
S'en allant en avant
Et rencontrant son frère grand
L'immense Rhin sillonnant
Laisant derrière lui pays petits et grands
Et restant pour le petit enfant
un immense géant

ECOLE PRIMAIRE
DEMY SCHLECHTER
LUXEMBOURG
3^e année
G. FRANZEN



5 The RhineNet Joint Projects





▲ Fig. 5.1.1
Roberto Eppler (ERN) in an
interview with SWR radio

► ▼ Fig. 5.1.2
The „painting ship” - MS Reinwater
in Breisach





5.1 A Ship full of Paintings



„Rivers of pictures and streams of words“ or in French „Rivières d’images – Fleuves de mots (RIFM)“ was an educational project which dealt with rediscovering rivers as a living environment. It linked art with environmental education. School classes in the entire basin area were able to participate in this project, which linked art with environmental education.

Overcoming borders

An important emphasis of the project lied in overcoming barriers on many levels:

- between art and knowledge (being creative means also learning),
- between different branches of science (the river is a link between natural sciences, history and literature...),
- between ecological and social concerns (a river is both a natural and a cultural landscape).

An integral part of living in a river basin area is knowing its ecological address. The pupils' identification with THEIR river is being encouraged through its sensual discovery (colors, sounds, smells...) and through the use of the arts as an access to knowledge. Learning their personal ecological (hydrological) address enables the pupils to perceive themselves as belonging to an overall river basin area and

puts them in the position of understanding the consequences of their actions on those who live downstream and of becoming responsible minded citizens. The project conveys the insight, that each local action has global repercussions and that exemplary individual behavior is of great significance for the overall interest.

Course of action

With the aid of a multilingual comprehensive guidance, more than 80 school classes from 5 countries have devoted themselves over several months to their Rhine or one of its tributaries. The participating organizations have given the teachers and pupils some teaching materials which were especially designed for the project, and included topics such as river protection and culture in the Rhine basin-area, as well as the goals of the WFD.

The teaching materials were designed to be applied in various subjects (such as biology, geography and art). Excursions were taken regularly, and some school classes have contacted other project participants and exchanged with them their own experiences.

Alongside from their internally documenting their projects, each class has collectively drawn a 2.5x1.5 meters large painting (poster), and thus captured its

Info

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<http://www.ern.org>

<http://www.bilderschiff.de>

Participation steps taken

informing

hearing

joint
discussions



▲ Fig. 5.1.3
Concluding event in Breisach on
28.6.-30.6.2005

► Fig. 5.1.4
„Paintings ship” stations

More information about the
project can be found at:

www.bilderschiff.de.

To see the participating school
classes and their sheet paintings,
one can click on the photo gallery
of this Homepage. Some of these
paintings of the 80 participating
school classes were exhibited on
the Rhine promenade in Breisach
until the BigJump event on 17th
of July, 2005. The „Painting Ship”
project resonated very well with
the participating classes' teachers.

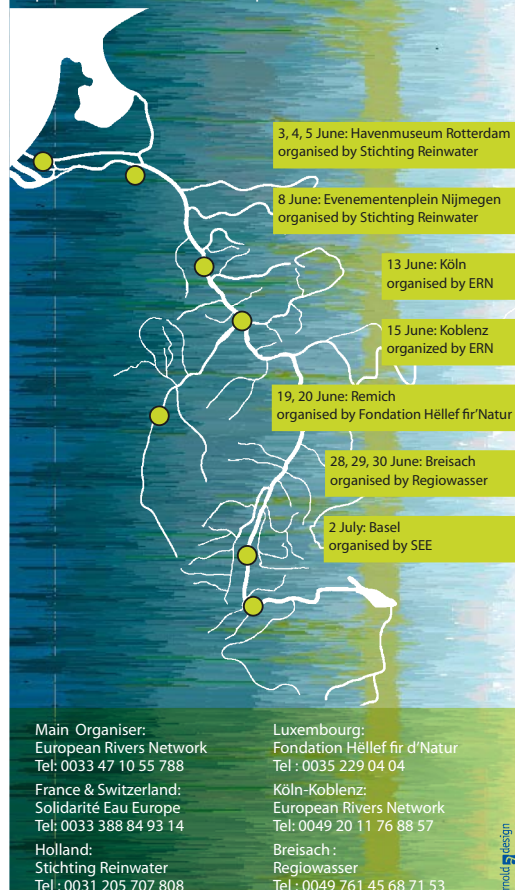
impressions. In some cases the colorful-
ness was accompanied by poetic texts.
Canvases and paints were provided by
the RhineNet project.

The painting ship – a travelling exhibi- tion along the Rhine

On June 2005, as part of a joint project
of the RhineNet partners, the MS REIN-
WATER, a cargo ship that had been con-
verted into an exhibition boat, has sailed
the Rhine from Rotterdam to Basel. In
each of its landing stages, the „river-
protection freighter” has been loaded
with more and more large paintings and
collages.

TRAVEL AND STOPS OF THE BOAT PRESENTING THE RHINE EXHIBITION

If you want to see the paintings of the Rhine,
please choose the closest stop of the boat



More Information : www.ern.org www.rhinenet.org www.bilderschiff.de

The largest environmental pupils' project

The conclusion of the project was celebrated in Breisach. The city of bridges and European cooperation (Europastadt) hosted on both river-banks a river-education festival from the 28th to the 30th of June 2005, in which about 800 pupils as well as teachers and other guests participated, thus making it the largest pupils' environmental project along the Upper Rhine yet, and probably even the largest one along the entire Rhine.

During the 3-day conclusion festival, the painted-on sheets were being exhibited on both the Baden and Alsatian banks of the river, in Breisach and Vogelgrun. There were theater performances, coach rides from Baden over the Rhine into Alsace, and a hiking tour under the Rhine through a „secret passage“ (under the Breisach agricultural weir) to choose from.



▲ Fig. 5.1.5
The international jury

During the festival, the most original paintings have been awarded prizes by an international jury. One member of the jury was Henk Sterk the Dutch secretary general of the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR). In addition, awards were given to the best educational concepts, with which the teachers and their classes approached the „Rhine and its tributaries“ issue.



◀ Fig. 5.1.6
The cover of the project's 20 min. long documentary film, which can be obtained by contacting Stichting Reinwater.
© Stichting Reinwater

http://www.reinwater.nl/pub_algemeen_vervolg.php?cat=7&id=55



► Fig. 5.2.1

... on 17th of July 2005 at 2 p.m. the time has finally arrived!

One of the many placards advertising the Big Jump event on the 17.7.

(Source: Stichting Reinwater)



▲ Fig. 5.2.2

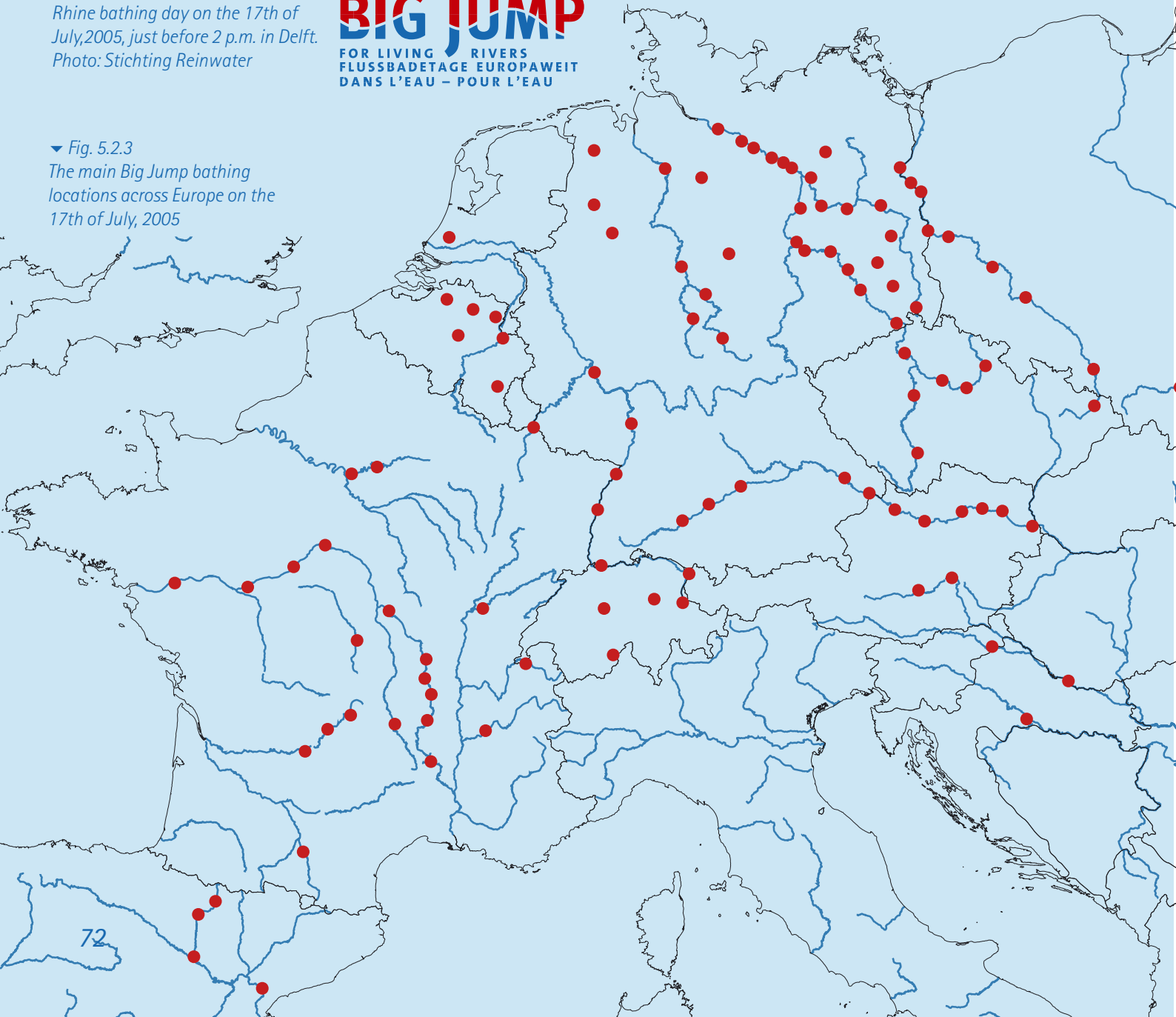
Rhine bathing day on the 17th of July, 2005, just before 2 p.m. in Delft. Photo: Stichting Reinwater



BIG JUMP
FOR LIVING RIVERS
FLUSSBADETAGE EUROPaweit
DANS L'EAU - POUR L'EAU

▼ Fig. 5.2.3

The main Big Jump bathing locations across Europe on the 17th of July, 2005





5.2 Big Jump – Swimming, like in the old days

On the 17th of July 2005 many thousands of citizens all over Europe went for the first time to swim in their rivers simultaneously.

The occasion was „BIG JUMP“ - the first European river bathing day, conceived by Roberto Epple, the founder and director of the „European Rivers Network“ (ERN).

„BIG JUMP“ distinguishes itself by initiating and coordinating a large number of events of various kinds, especially by organizing series of simultaneous cross-border river-bathing days, both up- and downstream! These river-bathing days which are organized as much as possible at river basin areas, take place annually



With more than 200 bathing events all over Europe, the European Water Framework Directive's goal of further improving the European rivers' ecological conditions has been emphasized again in a pleasure-oriented fashion. The celebrations took place in 22 countries and on 31 rivers - including on the Rhine and its tributaries.

Project background

The reconciliation of the citizens with their rivers and lakes, is an important step for incorporating the people in the formation and implementation of the ambitious European Water Framework Directive and other regional river-, floodplain-, and groundwater-protection projects.

or at least regularly, and are accompanied by many parallel, preceding or following activities (exhibitions, school projects, events) which raise the awareness of the necessity to protect the rivers and lakes. However, the positive demonstration of the progress that has been made to achieve clean and lively bodies of water stands always at the core of the event. Of the various river-bathing days, the ones that take place during the European bathing days of 2005, 2010 and 2015 are the most important. 2015 is important because that is when, according to the WFD, the European surface- and ground water-bodies must reach an ecologically good status. All of Europe will thus be able to celebrate its restored rivers - from the glaciers to the ocean simultaneously.

Info

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Fax ++33 (0) 471 02 60 99
www.ern.org | www.rivernet.org
e-mail: info@rivernet.org

<http://www.bigjump.org>

<http://www.rheinspringen.de>

Participation steps taken

informing

◀ Fig. 5.2.4

Around 1930, up to 5,000 people came to Breisach on sunny summer weekends to swim in the Rhine.

Photo: Stadtsarchiv Breisach

▼ Fig. 5.2.5

The Rhine river bathing facility around 1930. There were river bathing facilities on the Rhine until the 1970s.

Photo: Stadtarchiv Breisach





Big Jump in the Rhine basin area

The river-bathing days idea is linked to the 19th century's river-bathing tradition, which was disrupted due to the Rhine's pollution from the 1930s until today.

However, in the last 20 years the water quality has significantly improved and the bacteriological water quality increasingly surpasses bathing water standards.

Against this backdrop the European Rivers Network initiated and coordinated 10 official bathing events in Holland, Belgium, Germany, France and Switzerland. The individual events were organized by RhineNet partners and organizations which have an observer status in the ICPR. All 10 bathing events were a great success.

2 events stood out in particular:

- In Karlsruhe, a long-distance swimming event in the Rhein with 300 swimmers and a huge bathing celebration party with several thousands of guests.
- In Breisach im Breisgau, a cross-border swimming event in the Rhine, and various related events.

The latter will be described here in more detail as a representative example.

A cross-border swim in the Rhine

Around 150 bathing fans swam from the French Rhine island near Breisach towards the opposite Breisach river bank and back. Many spectators on the bank and on boats watched the first border-crossing swimmers. The jump in the Rhine was imbedded into a festive program of accompanying events.

The „Big Jump“ weekend on the Rhine began already on Saturday with a children celebration on the „Kinderinsel“ Rhine river island, organized by the Office de Tourisme des Bords du Rhin, the Syndicat intercommunal à vocations multiples (SIVOM), Hardt Nord and the city of Breisach.

A stage discussion about the background of „Big Jump“ and the future of swimming in the Rhine was held on Sunday at 11:00.

All water bodies in the EU should reach a virtually natural status in 10 years, and the restoration of lakes and rivers should incorporate a wide public participation. This is not just some romantic wishful thinking, but rather the ambitious goals of the 5 year old EC - Water Framework Directive.

This was the background for a binational stage discussion during the „Big

▼ Fig. 5.2.6

*Cross-border Big Jump event in Breisach on the 17th of July, 2005, from the French bank in Vogelgrün to Breisach in Germany and back.
(Photo: RegioWasser e. V.)*





Jump" Rhine river-swimming event in Breisach.

Among the invited guests were the EU-representative Mr. Karl von Wogau, the head of the water and waste department at the Federal Ministry for the Environment (BMU) Henriette Berg, Phillipe Lacoumette (board Alsace Nature Haut Rhin), Jean Pluskota (general secretary of Alsace Nature Haut Rhin), Mr. Gantz (president of SIVOM) and the mayor of Vogelgrün. The preparation for the Rhine swimming event began at 13:00. All the participants were asked to show up wearing original and/or historical bathing fashion.

During the whole weekend and with the cooperation of the Breisach city archives, one was able to see an exhibition on river-bathing tradition on the Rhine island.

The river swimming event at 14:00 was safeguarded by the local DLRG (German Lifeguard Association) group. A corresponding information leaflet informed the eager swimmers about the main dangers. About 10,000 citizens in total took part in the 2005 Rhine river-bathing day.

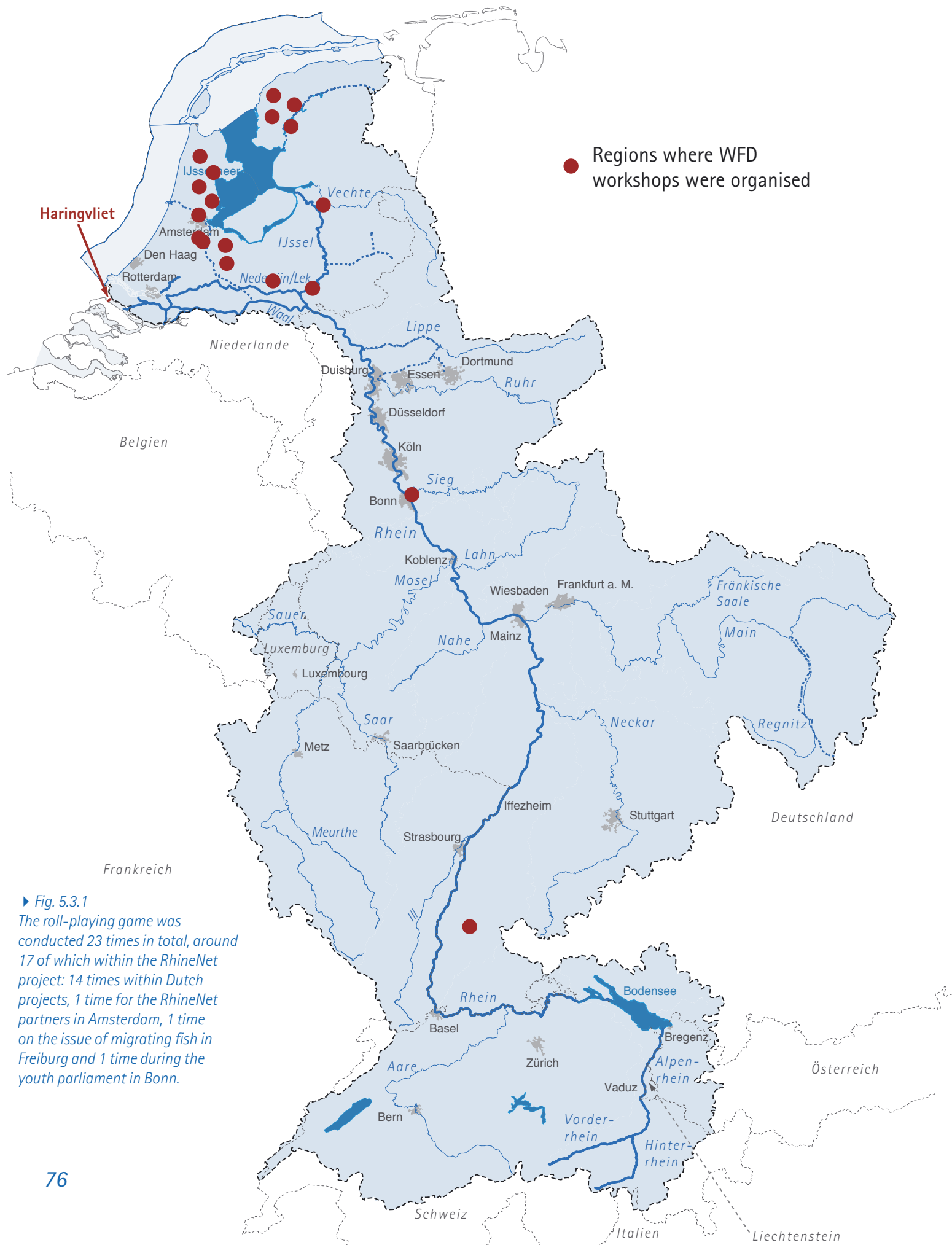
A considerable media attention at national, regional and local levels has been recorded in the entire Rhine basin area. The various TV segments and radio broadcasts, as well as the large number of newspaper articles reflected the great public interest. Some communities and a great number of organizations have long afterwards expressed their interest in the project. There is no doubt, that more „Big Jump" events will be taking place on the Rhine in the future.



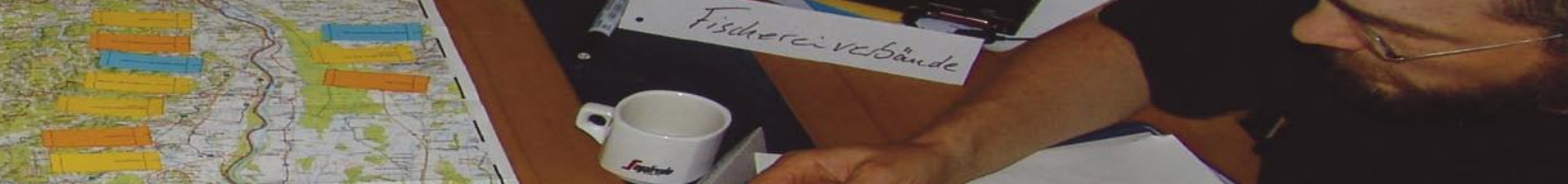
▲ Fig. 5.2.7
Big Jump T-shirts with the names of the European rivers are still available..

▼ Fig. 5.2.8
„On your mark, get ready, go..."
Rhine bathing day on 17 of July, 2005 at 2 p.m. in Delft
Photo: Stichting Reinwater





► Fig. 5.3.1
The roll-playing game was conducted 23 times in total, around 17 of which within the RhineNet project: 14 times within Dutch projects, 1 time for the RhineNet partners in Amsterdam, 1 time on the issue of migrating fish in Freiburg and 1 time during the youth parliament in Bonn.



5.3 Role Playing

Workshops and excursions regarding the Water Framework Directive organized by the Reinwater foundation. Various methods which bring about active participation.

Participatory sessions concerning the WFD

Reinwater has developed a role-playing game, a workshop and excursions which contribute to the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) by dealing with its various phases.

During such a session all the participants sit together at one table, in order to determine the common direction which should be pursued.

In addition, the measures that are needed to achieve a good ecological state are being determined. The games, the workshop and the excursions have the effect, that all the participants take part in the deliberation process. By using the applied tools, a common basis is being defined which helps to resolve conflicting interests.

The roll-playing games are mainly designed for better managing participation processes which appear at first to be difficult.

In the course of the games, the participants are able to test the Water Framework Directive's implementation process, without having to commit themselves to anything.

They play the role of another protagonist, a method that can lead to a better understanding among the participants. The workshops and excursions help the decision-making processes, and are meant to lead to the drafting of a management-plan for achieving a good ecological status. Both of these methods can help the participants agree about the measures that ought to be executed.

The necessity for cooperation

The public institutions are having a growing need for public relations work and for cooperation with the various participants such as farmers, the tourism industry or the environment conservationists.

In order to be able to put the 2009 basin management plan into practice, it seems necessary to give the big project opponents the opportunity to express their opinion and to be heard. The best case scenario is when all the relevant local parties have the possibility to participate in the deliberations concerning the needed measures and specific implementation. Incidentally, the latter case can become more complicated if the authorities decide to ignore the various groups' recommendations.

Cooperation plays a very important role particularly in the cross-border regions, because it can stop the problems in one country from being transferred to the other.

The target groups

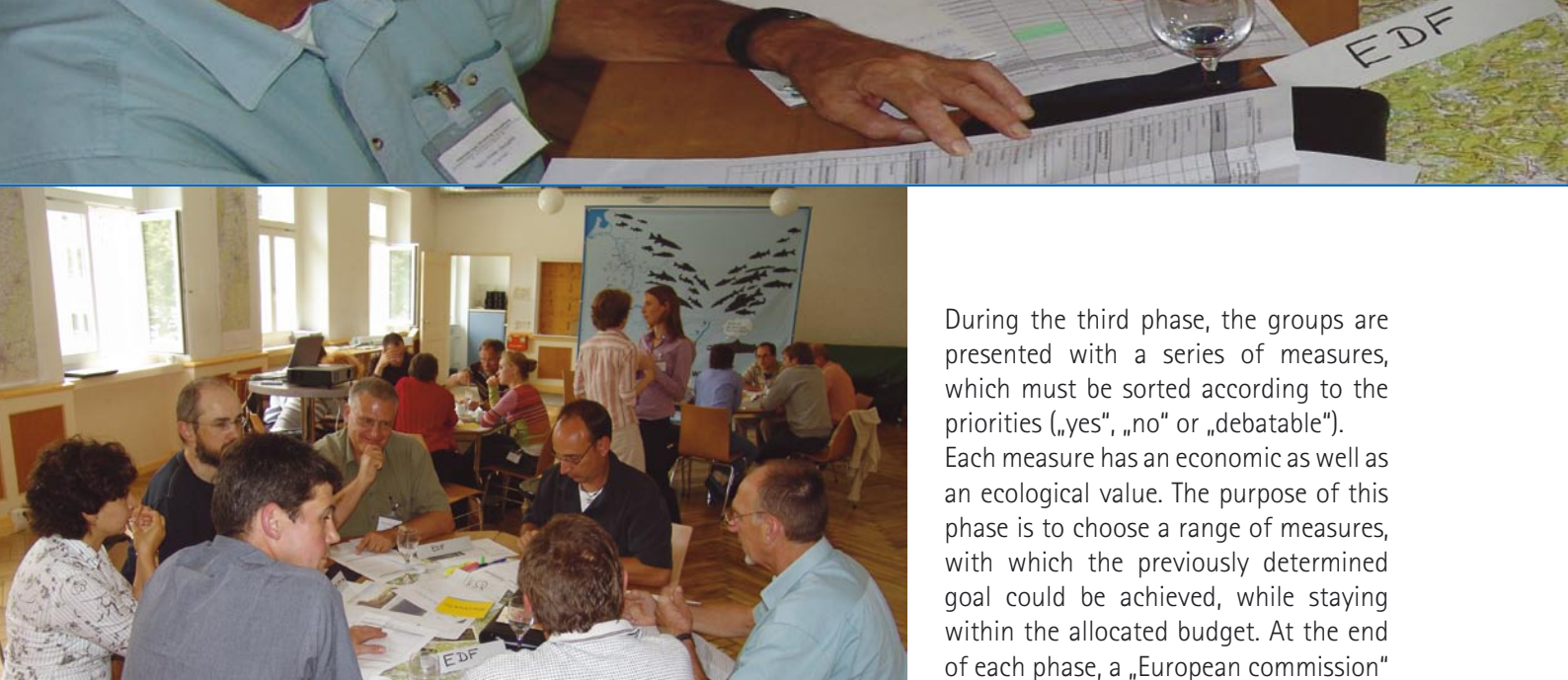
The target groups which are chosen by the Reinwater Foundation are defined according to demand and necessity. Basically anyone who is involved in and/or affected by the WFD's implementation process may participate in the sessions. The local and regional water authorities are the most important partners of the project. They are responsible for inviting the parties which are affected by the WFD implementation process. The Reinwater Foundation takes the role of the neutral mediator, and acts and takes during the sessions the role of a broker. Many other actors have taken part in the session which were organized by Reinwater. In the Netherlands, agriculture is the main cause of water pollution, and getting the farmers to participate in a

Participation steps taken

informing

hearing

joint
discussions



▲ Fig. 5.3.2
 Role-playing game on „continuity
 of the Rhine“ in Freiburg on June
 22nd, 2007

deliberation process still remains difficult.

The specific organization

The sessions are organized in cooperation with a local partner (regional or local authorities, an actor group association etc.). Experts supply some technical background information (maps, data, etc.), and the Reinwater Foundation adjusts the course of the workshop according to the demands and the case which has to be analyzed. The session is moderated by a professional expert. Following this session, an excursion which is assembled according to each particular case takes place.

Description of the proceedings

– The game

The first important elements of a game that deals with the WFD are a large space with three large tables and about 10 chairs per table. The participants are divided into groups of 8-10 individuals. Each group receives a map of one of the relevant basin area sections (depending on the partner's request, it can be either a fictional or a real map).

The first phase of the game is about choosing a role, understanding its character (local actor or a public authority) and about presenting oneself to the other actors.

During the second phase, the groups determine how ambitious their goal should be. After that, a specific suitable goal for achieving the ecological quality is chosen.

During the third phase, the groups are presented with a series of measures, which must be sorted according to the priorities („yes“, „no“ or „debatable“). Each measure has an economic as well as an ecological value. The purpose of this phase is to choose a range of measures, with which the previously determined goal could be achieved, while staying within the allocated budget. At the end of each phase, a „European commission“ which consists of experts, comments on the groups' results. At the end of the game the „commission“ declares a winner, which receives a prize.

The game lasts three hours. To conclude, a plenary session takes place, during which the course of the game and the conclusions which should be drawn from the game are discussed.

The workshops

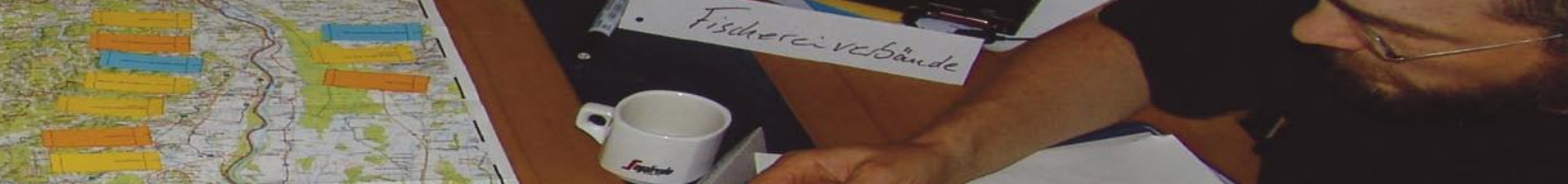
Workshops are useful for triggering a discussion about a real case, and to give the participants the opportunity to express their opinions or to pre-select the necessary measures. Depending on the issue, this work leads to a more or a less passionate debate. The partner can narrow the range of measures, in order to

focus the debate to one particular issue. Here we are talking about a workshop, and no longer about a game, because each participant plays „his“ own role.

The excursions

The excursion contributes first and foremost a pedagogical dimension. They can either be used to prepare a workshop, or to raise the politicians' awareness to a particular issue and to create a better understanding for the decisions that need to be taken within the scope of the WFD.

The choice of the excursion's location triggers in the majority of cases many debates. That is why the participants work on the local issues in small groups, in order to clarify the debated points, and



to look for possible solutions. During the excursions, working methods such as measuring water quality, surveying animal and plant species or a questionnaire concerning the value of a cultural heritage can be provided. The partner can decide whether the excursion's organization should be associated with the workshop, in order to intensify the implementation process. Depending on the chosen location and character, the excursion can last anywhere from three to six hours.

The results

The roll-playing game contributed to raising the awareness of the local actors and in so doing the awareness of the farmers, the tourism industry, the sport fishermen and the environmentalists, and was able to bring the WFD's implementation process closer to them. Some schools wanted to prepare their pupils for the realities of the working world, whereas the role-playing games gave the pupils the opportunity to express

and debate their opinions on environmental issues.

The workshops and excursions became especially important when it came to the specific WFD's implementation. The excursion in particular contributed to raising the awareness of local politicians, who in view of the WFD possess decision-making powers. Furthermore, the excursions were used to prepare those individuals with only few technical skills for the workshops. In the Netherlands, as in other countries, the workshops have clarified the various standpoints.

They also contributed to reaching a better understanding among the various groups, which led to a concrete implementation of the Water Framework Directive and participatory dynamics.

▼ Fig. 5.3.3
Role-playing game near Wetterskip
Fryslân with the relevant
stakeholders.
Photo: Stichting Reinwater





Trans-Rhine – a touring exhibition on the Rhine
 The exhibition „Trans-Rhine“ has by now „travelled“ to various locations and events in the Rhine basin area. Here are a few examples:

- Expo Nature, Chalampé (F), September 2007
- The Rhine minister conference in Bonn (D), October 2007
- Strasbourg (Journée Mondiale des Zones humides), February 2008
- Karlsruhe Kletterzentrum des Alpenverein, March 2008
- Karlsruhe, Naturschutzzentrum Rappenhäuser, March/April 2008

The exhibition cube will continue to be available to interested associations, organizations etc. for free (not including transportation costs).

Info: European Rivers Network (Rhine Office)

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» A Trans-Rhine exhibition flyer «

► Fig. 5.4.1

Trans-Rhine exhibition during the Rhine minister conference on October the 18th, 2007

◀ Fig. 5.4.2
 Participating institutions



5.4 Trans-Rhine – The Rhine Ministers' Conference on 18.10.2007



The Trans-Rhine project is divided into several parts:

- transporting sediments on the Rhine,
- presenting the sediments during the Rhine ministers' conference,
- designing and coordinating an NGO-campaign within the Rhine ministers conference's framework in Bonn,
- compiling a „construction site“ booklet,
- creating a touring exhibition.

The first step was to contact the major environmental organizations and nature protection associations across the Rhine basin area, and to reach a basic agreement to work together on a joint campaign. The participating organizations' interest in such a campaign is evident in their jointly written correspondence to the ministry for the environment.

The second step was to convince the administration and the ICPR to support

the NGO's campaign, so it would be officially included in the conference agenda. This goal has been reached in September with the approval of the BMU (the German Ministry for the Environment), to officially schedule it as part of the press conference (from 12:00 to 13:30).

At the same time, the coordination of sediment extraction and the sediment transport on the Rhine started taking place. The Strasbourg based shipping company „CroisiEurope“ was recruited as project sponsor for the most important Rhine tributaries.

During its various cruises on the Moselle, Neckar, Main and along the Rhine between Amsterdam and Strasbourg, it has collected sediments from the rivers, placed them in boxes and temporarily stored them in Strasbourg. About half of these boxes were brought to Koblenz in the beginning of October and were transported from there by a truck to an interim storage facility next to the German Ministry for the Environment.

The remaining sediment boxes were delivered by the local associations themselves on the day of the conference. A remarkable thing about this International Rhine Ministers' Conference in Bonn on the 18th October, 2007, was the fact that the fisheries and environmental organizations have appeared together for the first time, in order to reassure the Rhine countries' delegations.

For the purpose of demonstrating to the ministers, state secretaries and water authority directors, the locations in which action was most urgently needed, a 1:12,500 scale model of the Rhine and its 20 important tributaries was placed in front of the BMU conference venue in Bonn: several hundred meters long of blue fabric banners were laid out to symbolize the Rhine basin's „arteries of life“. The original sediments taken out

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Participation steps taken

actor
analysis

informing

hearing

joint
discussions

„Construction sites“ booklet

http://www.restrhein.de/pdfs/baustellenbuch_bs.pdf

▼ Fig. 5.4.3

Mrs. Tineke Hizinga-Heringa, the Dutch State Secretary for Transport, Public Works and Water Management, being presented with the „construction sites“ (sites for improvement) booklet.

Photo: Ronald van Dokkum





▲ Fig. 5.4.4

Thanks to the support of many groups and associations, one could transport the soil from the various Rhine tributaries (here from the Nahe) all the way to Bonn. The Rhine ministers received stone and sandy greetings from the entire Rhine basin area.

Photo: Erwin Manz

► ► ▲ Fig. 5.4.5

The simulated Rhine basin area in front of the Federal Ministry for the Environment during the Rhine minister conference on October the 18th, 2007 in Bonn.

► ► ▼ Fig. 5.4.6

Representatives of environmental and fisheries organizations having an intense discussion with Minister Gabriel and Minister Gönner during the Rhine minister conference in Bonn.

of the various Rhine sections and 18 of its tributaries were spread along the banners. A long-term demand made by the fisheries and environmental organizations was to restore, at least partially, the „bed load's natural impulse" i.e. the natural transport of gravel, grit and sand in the Rhine basin rivers. For only a river bed load which „reshuffles its layers" several times a year, can sufficiently provide gravel spawners with clean oxygen-rich sediments to spawn. The regional fisheries and environmental organizations' representatives positioned themselves next to the problem spots („for construction sites") along the cloth banners, so they could show the ministers the concrete steps necessary to improve the rivers' ecology. The main issues which were discussed were ecological river continuity, water quality and river morphology deficiencies.

Prior to the conference, the activists had produced a „construction site" booklet consisting of „construction site pages" for each of the Rhine sections and tributaries, each page respectively depicting the relevant shortcomings and proposed

solutions. The booklet was given to all the delegations and media representatives in Bonn.

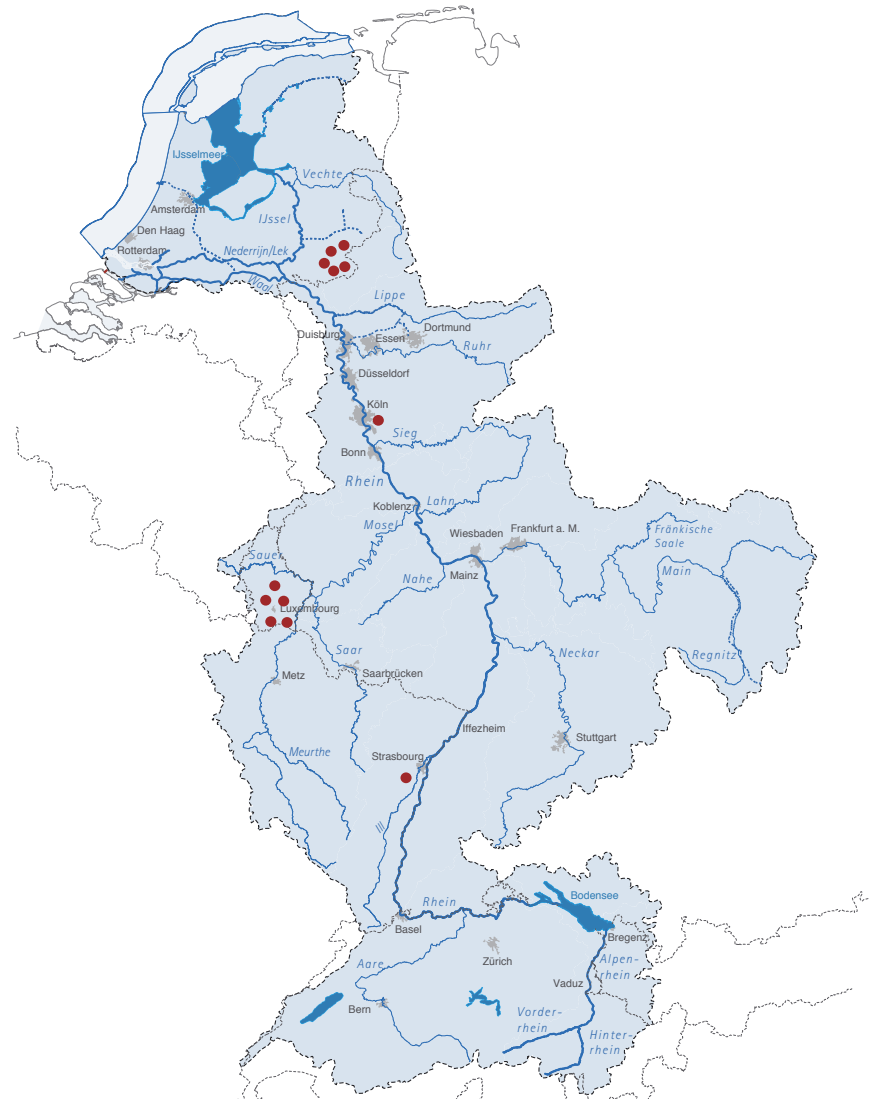
The campaign ended up being a great success and was described by the German Environmental Ministry as a conference „highlight". It also had the effect, unlike during previous conferences, of bringing media attention to the event itself, as well as to the questions which were raised there. The German national press and television networks (Spiegel, ZDF, Tagesthemen) have subsequently reported about the Rhine's ecological river continuity.

The Trans-Rhine touring exhibition has been set up in Bonn as well, and was met there with great interest. The six cubic 2,7x 2,7x 2,7 meters exhibition banners illustrate the „stones' journey through the Rhine". River bed-load problems, ecological river continuity as well as particular problems in the various Rhine sections are examined carefully. They cleverly and comprehensibly convey information concerning the Rhine basin. The exhibition is especially designed for travel and can be borrowed by paying for its transportation costs.





► Fig. 5.5.1
The Rhine parliament participants'
places of origin



▼ Fig. 5.5.2
Young parliamentarians from
the entire Rhine basin area are
examining the Reindorf stream
during the Rhine youth parliament
session in Bonn on March the 8th,
2008.





5.5 The Rhine Parliament

The European youth parliaments for water, which were created in 1998 by the Solidarité Eau Europe, take place at a local level along a river basin area or at an international level. Each parliament handles one topic, which, depending on the background, is associated with water uses (sewage, agriculture, industry, culture, health, hygiene, nature etc.). The goals set for these parliaments are very diverse:

- to generate solidarity and cooperation among the river neighboring residents,
- to advance local mobilization,
- to raise youth awareness to water issues and the latest challenges that are associated with it,
- to strengthen local, regional, national and international democracy and citizens' right to co-determination.

SEE assists the local institutions to organize the parliaments and offers its 10-year experience-based knowledge and connections with partner organizations. From the 7th to the 11th of March 2008, 45 individuals have come together in Bonn (Germany) within the framework of the youth parliament for the Rhine. They consisted of 35 teens between 15 and 22 years of age, as well as teachers, experts and delegates, all residents of the Rhine basin area (Germans, French, Dutch, and Luxembourgiens). The goal of the parliament was to give the youngsters an opportunity to get involved in activities associated with the Rhine, to exchange, learn and to develop projects at an international level. Furthermore, it was an opportunity to experience democracy and the citizens' right to co-determination, as well as to state one's positions vis-à-vis political, regional and international institutions. The parliament was organized together



with Stichting Reinwater, project partners of RhineNet and partners of the city of Bonn.

The 4-day program consisted of an excursion on a stream in Bonn - a Rhine tributary -, a role-playing game as well as a presentation by the ICPR (International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine), workshops and a plenary meeting at the Bonn city hall.

The parliaments are supposed to help in strengthening the involvement of young people at the local level and to draw the politicians attention to their suggestions and expectations. Various levels of participation have been applied: information, exchange and discussion, cooperation and creating a sense of responsibility.

Informing

In order to convey to the young people the existing knowledge and to have them grasp the Rhine's problems, SEE has made some literature available to the delegations, as well as questionnaires of the French water agency which is responsible for the Rhine-Moselle

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Participation steps taken

informing

hearing

joint
discussions

cooperating

Costs

Total costs around 33,000
Euros (EU-InterregIII B-fund-
ing 50%)



▲ Fig. 5.5.3
The youth parliamentarians in
Bonn
Photo: SEE

▲ Fig. 5.5.4
Plenary meeting on March the
11th, 2008, in the town hall in Bonn
with Mayor Ulrich Hauschild
Photo: SEE



basin. The youngsters were able to test these on 50 people per delegation and to present the results at the parliament's opening. The ICPR ((International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine) representative introduced the features of this international structure as well as the way it functions and the challenges it faces.

The available information turned out to be insufficient. In fact, it is necessary to use diverse information sources and contradictory data, in order to enable an objective, comprehensive perception of the upfated situation on the Rhine. Only then is a debate about the raised issues at all possible. Furthermore, for organizational reasons it was not possible to work closely with every youngster. Therefore, there wasn't any possibility of checking the extent to which the information given to them had been understood and were necessary to add further explanations. However, this is also a precondition for objectively familiarizing oneself with a subject and being able to submit an article with the smallest possible outside influence.

An employee of the environmental authority in Bonn has presented a specific restoration project of a stream in Bonn, which was launched in 2001. The young-

sters were able to get an impression of it and to form their own opinions. They were divided into three groups in order to conduct an analysis. SEE and Stichtig Reinwater handed them a questionnaire which they had to fill out within half a day. They were accompanied in the process by experts. They examined:

- the residents' perception of the stream,
- the water's quality and bio-diversity,
- the flood management.

This made a variety of contrasting data which was essential to the project. The analysis could obviously not be complete, and the objective of this method was not to pass judgement on a project, but rather to learn, to analyze different kinds of information and to develop a critical mind set. This, combined with the roll-playing excursion completed the flow of information, by making it possible to be in the local actor's or the public representative's shoes. The youngsters had to learn how to take project-accompanying limitations into consideration and to deal with conflicting arguments. By that, they themselves were forced to take a position and to make suggestions to the Bonn authorities.



From listening to creating a participant's sense of responsibility

During the parliament, a great deal of emphasis was placed on democracy. This process assumes problem familiarity, which allows the parliament members to become actors themselves – during the parliament sessions and in their own regions.

SEE has especially made sure that enough time for discussions remains, and that all the documents drafted during the session would be adopted by all of the parliamentarians. The youngsters had to take positions and introduce conflicting pieces of information in order to stimulate discussions within the groups. During the meeting the parliamentarians were able to choose their course of action and to approve or reject SEE's recommendations.

The idea here is to learn how to listen and to be able to accept jointly adopted resolutions to a previously set goal. This is where it was particularly difficult to give the youngsters the opportunity to become more and more active as members of parliament: to inform them, to guide them and ultimately let them make their own choices and to help them take responsibility for their decisions and publicly defend those decisions. The reality of youngsters getting themselves familiarized with the way parliament works and engage in the decision-making process, is essential for a functioning democracy.

One member of each delegation present and the vice-president of the previous parliament which was held in Moldavia, have worked out the rules for the representatives' election. The parliamentarians were systematically encouraged to consider which youth parliamentary election-system would be in their opinion the appropriate and most democratic one. The representative would be elected for a period of one year and would be responsible for continuing the parliamentary work. They would represent the

Rhine parliamentarians for a whole year, especially in the following events:

- as Rhine basin area representatives at the rivers and lakes festival in Quebec (Canada) on May 2008,
- during the ICPR plenary meeting on the 2nd of July 2008,
- in local political structures or schools.

The act of passing on the results to the local politicians and the international setting deepen the youngsters' sense of responsibility and gives the politicians a chance to consider the youngsters' views.

School schedules and the participants' age make it difficult to follow up on the progress. It remains difficult to determine the actual attained level of the parliamentarians' sense of responsibility. Therefore, in the long run, an evaluation of all the parliaments should take place. In addition, a partnership with the local project administrators must be built, to guarantee the parliaments' continuation and the transfer of knowledge. These could be school-related structures and/or many other citizens' affiliations which are rooted in a local context.

SEE's mission is neither to take positions at the local level, nor to carry the responsibility for local challenges. SEE assists in organizing and in factoring in the youth when local political decisions are made.



▲ Fig. 5.5.5
Roll-playing game on the Rheindorf stream. How should the stream be restored?
Photo: SEE



▲ Fig. 5.5.6
A workgroup for drafting an appeal to all mayors and relevant politicians in the Rhine basin area.
Photo: SEE

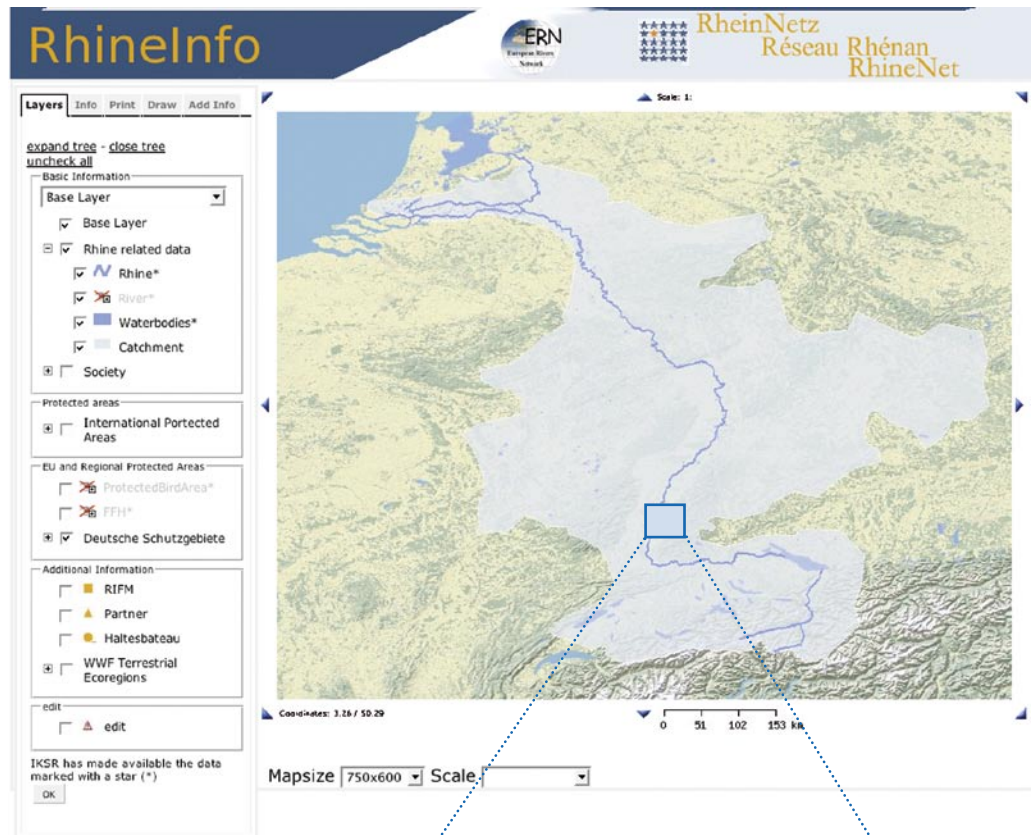
▲ Fig. 5.5.7
Compiling the test report on the Rheindorf stream to be given to the Mayor of Bonn
Photo: SEE





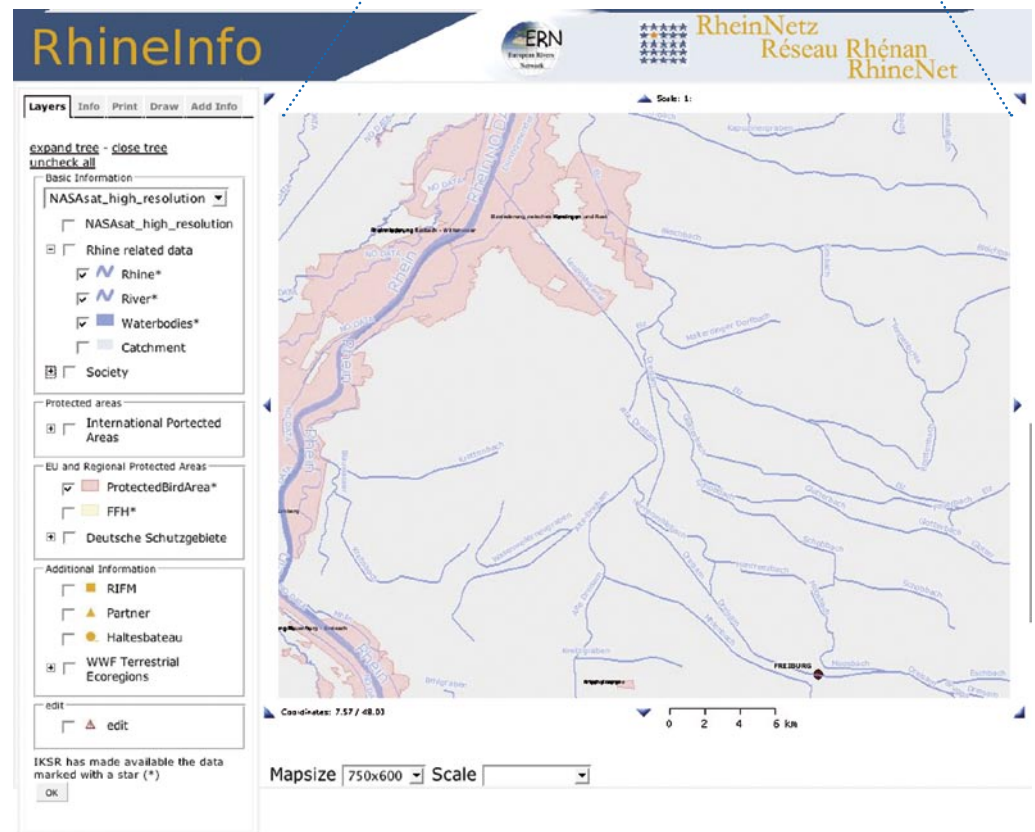
► Fig. 5.6.1
First examples of the „RhineInfo“
mapserver, which provides
geographical information on the
water-bodies in the Rhine basin
area.

<http://www.rhineinfo.org>



► Fig. 5.6.2
One could also easily add in
information (e.g. points, texts or
surfaces) to the map extracts, and
save them as pdf data, or print
them up to an A3 size, with various
resolution and illustration sizes.
Here as an example the bird reserve
on the Rhine and Leopold canal
in the Taubergießen area north of
Freiburg im Breisgau.

<http://www.rhineinfo.org>





5.6 Web-based Rhine Information System

There are many Internet applications for presenting geographical information (maps). Only a few of them offer users the possibility of adding their own information by using simple tools. The most famous programs are Google Maps and Google Earth. Until now there were pretty much no water-bodies maps which offered the same possibility.

The European Rivers Network, within the framework of the RhineNet project, began constructing this sort of river-specific Internet maps service for the Rhine basin area, using the name RhineInfo. It uses early experiences gathered in projects on a smaller scale, such as the one on the Elbe („Lebendige Elbe“-“Living Elbe“) in cooperation with UNESCO and a network of German and Czech NGOs.

The International Commission for the protection of the Rhine (ICPR) was an important additional partner to the project. As a first step, the ICPR made the following data available on the Internet, as a basis for display:

- the Rhine water-bodies and the corresponding basin district network,
- fish-migration obstacles,
- former salmon waters,
- information about wildlife corridors
- protected areas (such as Natura 2000, nature reserves and protected landscapes, national parks etc.,
- measurement points in the Rhine.

The RhineNet partners are certain, that by providing such information on the Internet, a bigger access for a broader public awareness of our rivers has been created.

In the future, the water sources management plans for most of the European water-bodies, which according to the EU-Water Framework Directive must be presented by the end of 2009, could be accessed relatively easily and with „free

delivery“. (cf. chap. 6.3). Furthermore, registered users can present their own data and opinions regarding some rivers or river sections, by using the corresponding „editing function“. Another option will make it possible to locate Rhine-actors of the whole NGO spectrum in any chosen sector of the Rhine basin, and quickly access their information. The same goes for model projects as well.

In addition, map-based links to Photo collections, studies, reports, and libraries are being planned. The administrating and updating of the RhineInfo system can be gradually decentralized, and data security would be guaranteed by security program routines and strong access control.

These RhineInfo applications are made possible by the installed MapServer „open source“ supporting technology. The technology was developed by the University of Minnesota and is being constantly updated by many partners. Its basic configuration provides many functions, which allow also non-professionals the ability to use geographical information. Some examples are the support for various languages and tools for drawing boxes, polygons, points and lines, as well as the highlight option and a search option for finding geographical information. Ideally it will become an interdisciplinary tool for interested citizens as well as for authorities and administrations.

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Participation steps taken

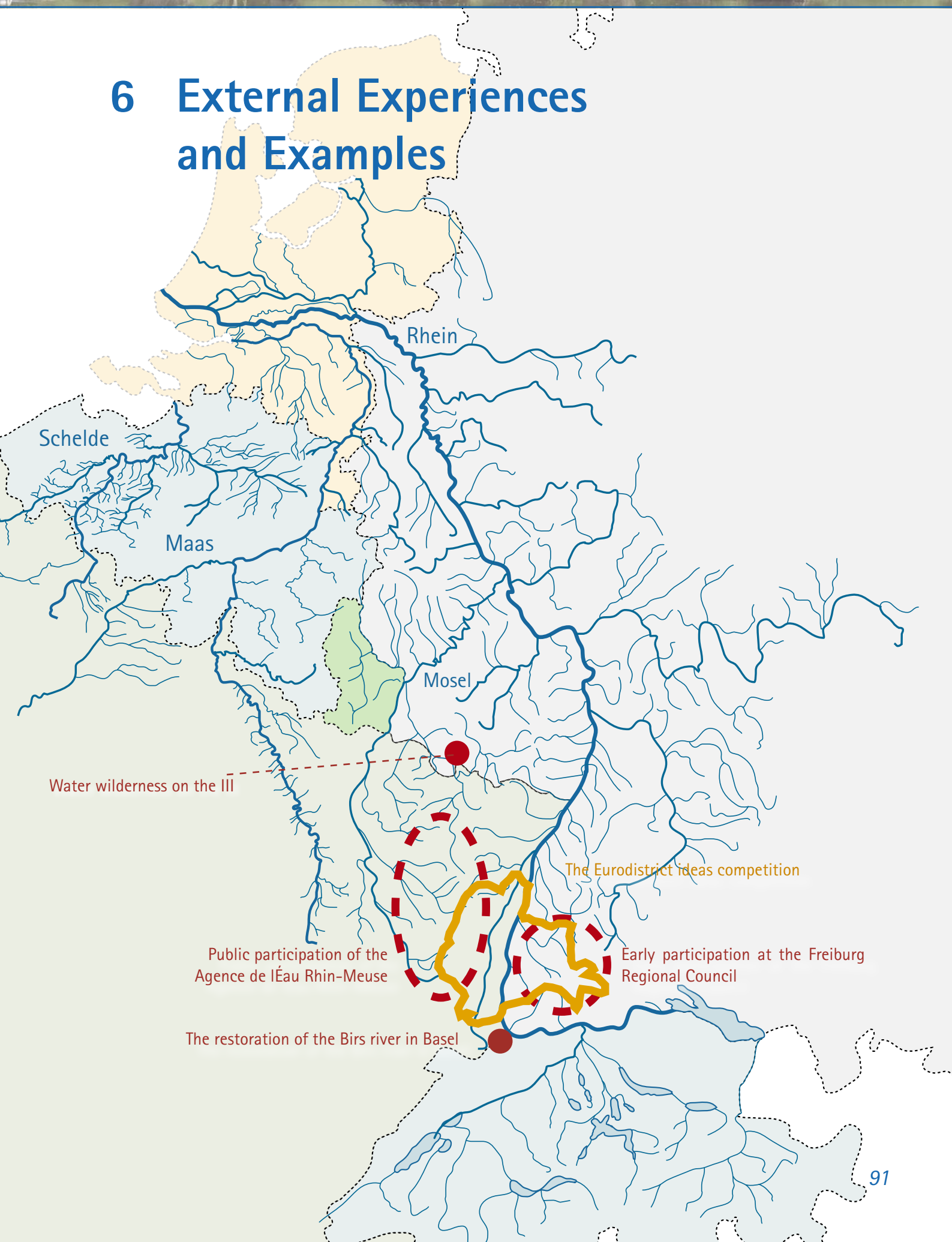
informing

Looking for partners!

Institutions and/or private people who are interested in contributing to the development of the Rhine information system, can contact to the European Rivers Network (ERN) directly or send an e-mail to info@rhineinfo.org

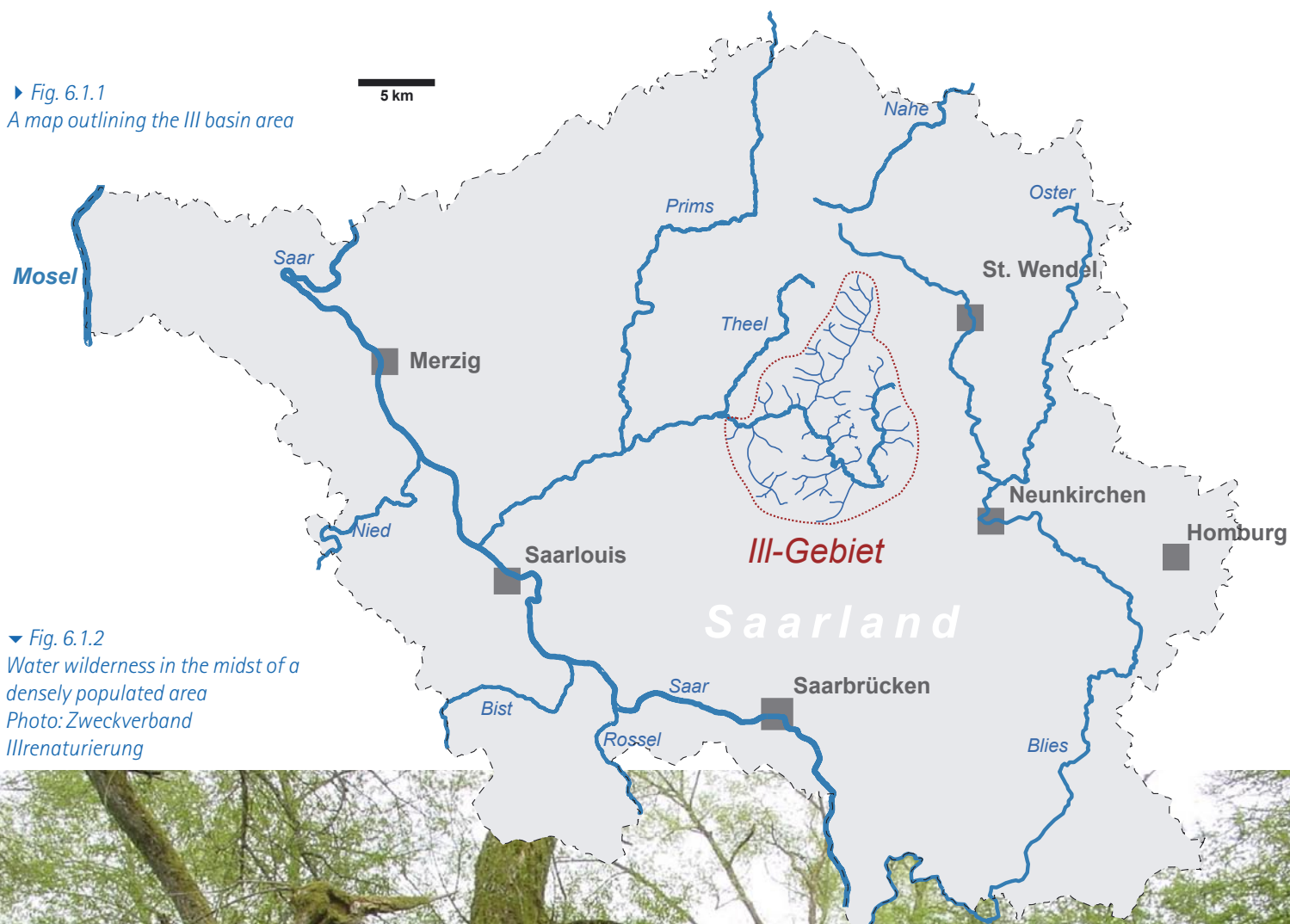


6 External Experiences and Examples





► Fig. 6.1.1
A map outlining the Ill basin area



▼ Fig. 6.1.2
Water wilderness in the midst of a
densely populated area
Photo: Zweckverband
Illrenaturierung



6.1 Water Wilderness on the Ill River

The regional association for restoring the Ill river has been founded in 1991 for the purpose of applying and especially implementing the „Ill river-bank restoration project“.

Following the unanimous decisions taken by the Eppelborn, Illingen, Marpingen and Merchweiler municipal councils, as well as through the participation of the Saar Naturland Foundation, an organization form has been chosen, which could implement both the administrative and nature conservation aspects of this undertaking by the end of 2006.

According to the allocation notification which was sent by the former ‚Federal Research Institute for Nature protection and Landscape Conservation‘ (today: the Federal Nature Protection Agency) about 16 million Euro were spent by purchasing the core areas, as well as by taking the necessary „biotope management measures“. 75% came from this Federal Environmental Agency's budget and 15% from the Environmental Ministry of Saarland. The remaining 10% had to be raised by the four regional-association communities. This might appear at first to be a modest sum. However, considering that the communities had to absorb the additional labor and material costs over the entire period, while unconditionally ceding their core area properties to nature protection objectives, this was certainly a remarkable achievement, especially against the increasing communal budget deficits backdrop of recent years.

Project area and objectives

The Ill, Alsbach and other side streams combined, add up to about 150 km in length. The total size of the adjacent core areas amounts to about 1,100 ha and the basin area to about 125 square km. The Ill project isn't and has never

been about merely restoring a few river segments, but rather about

- restoring river passability for water organisms,
- allowing the largely unconfined natural river course,
- making the still existing area usages adjacent to the rivers compatible with ecological standards,
- improving the water quality up to a grade II (at the minimum),
- saturating adjacent floodplains wherever possible, as well as preserving and improving the retention function and all these, from the head (at 395 m) down to the mouth (at 220 m), including all 42 perennial tributaries.

Such ambitious goals, considered at first by some experts to be too ambitious, could only be implemented in core areas owned by the regional associations.

The acquisition of the land

Even though the total land purchase, carried out with the affected farmers' broad consent, consists of only about 1,100 ha, and compared to other nature-protection projects across the Federal Republic of Germany might appear relatively modest, it represents however a remarkable achievement.

The body responsible for the acquisition was the LEG (Land Development Society of Saar), which had to ascertain more than 3,000 land owners in this inherited land distribution area, and successfully managed the acquisition and swap negotiations through an open purchase setting or accelerated land-merger program. By the end of 2006, close to 600 ha were described as being in public ownership.

The land acquisition was the basis for stopping river adjacent grassland fertilization within a range of about 500 ha.. That is meanwhile the standard in the

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Participation steps taken

informing

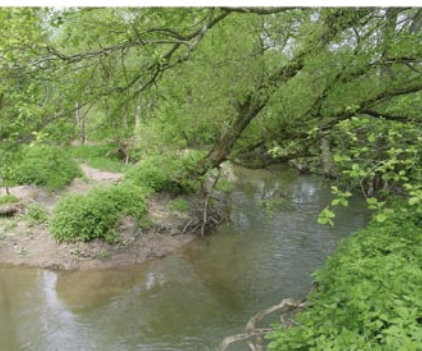
hearing

joint
discussions

cooperating

▼ Fig. 6.1.3
The Ill river - no longer a traditional water-amusement area
Photo: Zweckverband
Illrenaturierung





▲ Fig. 6.1.4
Raw soil surfaces after a flood
Photo: Zweckverband
Illrenaturierung



▲ Fig. 6.1.5
A beaver dam on Berschweiler
Rohrbach
Photo: Zweckverband
Illrenaturierung

entire basin area. It also determined that the first crop would be in the middle of June and that both river banks would have a 5 meter, in the case of smaller water bodies, or 10 meters broad land-strips which would remain completely untouched. These strips serve as buffer zones against nutrients, as successive areas for the growth of locally characteristic riverbank vegetation or simply as an unconfined space for the stream course's natural development processes.

The restoration

In addition, according to the updated conservation and development plan, about 500 ha were simply left to develop naturally, going through the various phases such as uncultivated floodplains up to „floodplain forests“.

However, in such a densely populated area (about 60,000 inhabitants) some „restoration compromises“ had to be reached: existing pipework paths couldn't be entirely removed, but were replaced by wooden bridges, passages and paths which were passable for organisms. Former weirs were near-naturally bypassed or were turned into „dismantled ramps“ which are passable for the fish and their nutrition of stream creatures.

Out of the over 100 artificial ponds across the basin area, 40 were purchased, existing recreational facilities such as weekend homes were dismantled, the ponds' water level lowered or simply left to its natural dynamics and transitional stages.

Allowing dynamics to happen in the Ill floodplain landscape is actually the result of a „dynamic“ planning and implementation process. While during the early years, such ideas as taking biological alteration measures to significantly reduce riverbed erosion, or classic landscape-conservation planting patterns for reforestation had dominated the thinking, a different concept has emerged during the over 14- year project implementation period: selective boosting

of natural dynamics, omitting water bodies maintenance, selected fostering and preservation of deadwood structures in water bodies or riverbank strips' natural succession instead of planting.

The availability of land and the practice of exchanging information over the years with other innumerable restoration projects, encouraged the project participants to now and again conduct experiments, or better yet, encouraged them to let nature experiment for itself. Nature is now „showing its gratitude“ through constantly evolving structures such as stream bank erosion, river bed potholes, bank formation, shifting stream beds and in short everything one might expect of an unleashed stream flow.

Public relations and public acceptance

Public perception, or better yet public acceptance is crucial for the success of a project that is so close to a densely populated area of Saarland. Creativity was needed here as well: the significance of a fallen tree for the stream's inhabitants may be (by now) self- evident to the experts. However, to the average person strolling along the same stream, who may have witnessed for decades the removal of such obstacles to the river flow, and sees today that the opposite occurs, this must be „explained“ in a variety of ways over and over again. Forming public perception, as in the case of landscape conservation, is a lengthy process, which can only be successfully achieved with the availability of the necessary capacities. However, in the case of the Ill river, which is so close to many people who use it in various ways, there has been an „especially large contact surface“ as far as public's perception was concerned.

The special purpose association, with its community association's committees and members, who are also local and community councils members has proven itself to be the appropriate discussion and decision-making panel.

By now, more than a 1,000 children, teens and adults visit the Ill river site annually, to take nature-experience excursions. The Ill river restoration association offers however more than just half and whole day excursions. In cooperation with the Berschweiler ‚BiberBurg‘ (‚Beaver Lodge‘) countryside boarding school, the association offers the school classes and other nature lovers the possibility to book eco-pedagogical project-weeks or beaver-watching excursions.

The beavers are coming back

The decisive breakthrough in the public perception campaign came in 1994 with the Ill's beaver resettlement in the middle the Illingen area. After 1 1/2 years of preparation and public relations campaign, and in cooperation with the NABU (Nature Protection Society) provincial association of Saarland, the first four Elbe beavers were „set free“ into their specially prepared artificial lodge. The initial public skepticism went away, as people increasingly noticed the animals' incredible water engineering activities, so close to their home town.

The Ill river and the beaver have now become synonymous. The beaver can be seen again on the newly installed town signs of Berschweiler and Marpingen community district.

Review and prospects

The originally expressed concerns regarding the overall representability of this area were certainly justified at first. But when one looks at all that has been achieved and more importantly all that has emerged, such as kilometers of unconfined waterways, large grassland areas without fertilization, the areas untouched by humans, the many measures taken to restore water passability for stream organisms, the improved water quality with by now 25 species of fish, and area usage according to nature protection requirements, it could be said that ambitious nature protection re-

quirements and some water wilderness in the middle of a densely populated area are at the very least achievable.

In 2002 the area has been designated as the „Täler der Ill und ihre Nebenbäche“ (Ill river valleys and tributaries) nature reserve, and has been declared a „Natura-2000“ site. All these certainly contribute to the preservation of the German Federal Republic's natural heritage, for the present and future generations.



▲ Fig. 6.1.6
Ill river - allowing natural processes
Photo: Zweckverband Illrenaturierung



▲ Fig. 6.1.7
Dead wood in the Ill
Photo: Zweckverband Illrenaturierung



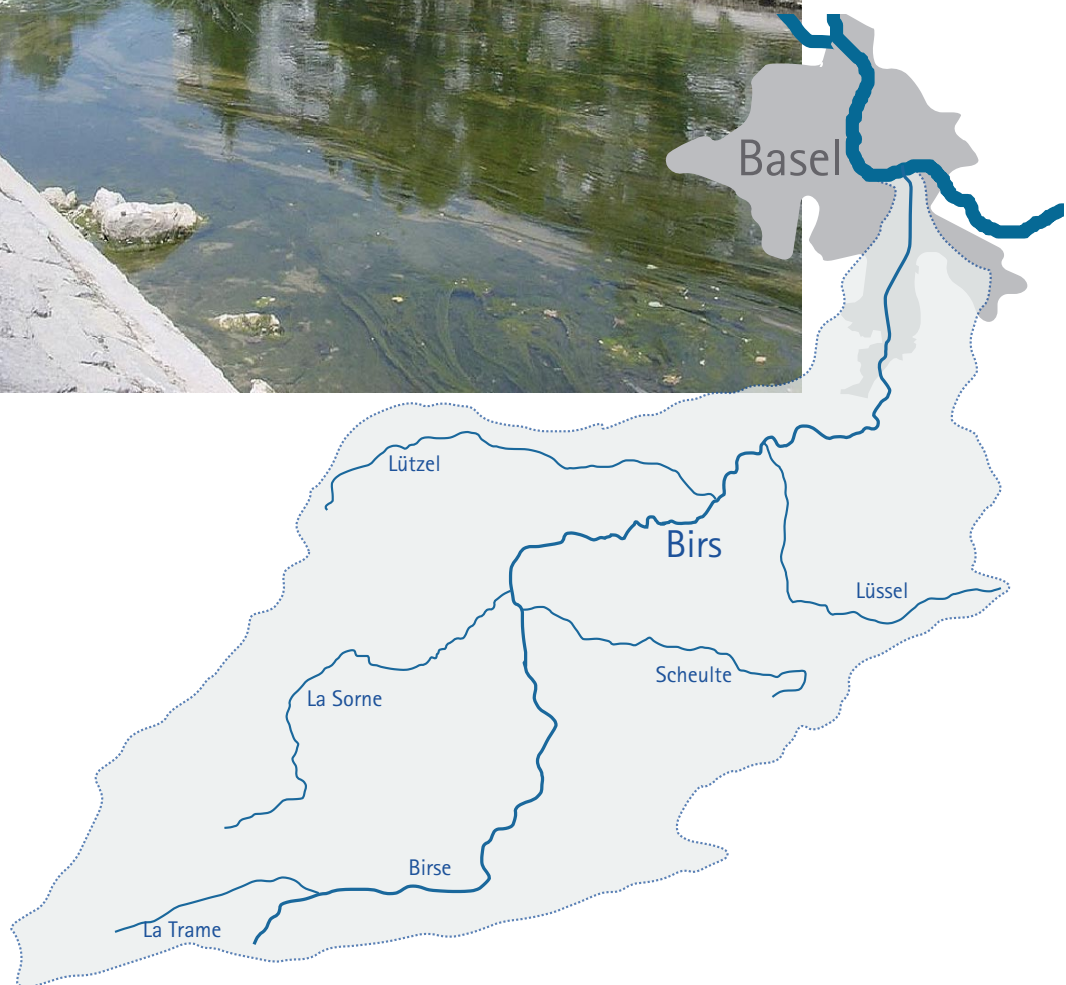
▲ Fig. 6.1.8
Ill river mouth area - a floodplain
Photo: Zweckverband Illrenaturierung



► Fig. 6.2.1
The Birs river-bank before
its revitalization in the Basel
municipal area
Photo: Heike Freiburger
(25.07.2003)



► Fig. 6.2.2
The Birs river basin



▼ Fig. 6.2.3
The Birs river-bank in the Basel
municipal area after the structural
improvement of 2006





6.2 The Restoration of the Birs River in Basel

The Birs

The Birs in canton Jura is the only large purely Swiss river and is a first-class river tributary. Its source lies near Tavannes in canton Bern at 762 m above sea level (Pierre Pertuis). After a 73 km reach that flows in a north-easterly direction it empties into the Rhine near Birsfelden at 251 m above sea level. The basin area is about 922 sq km. The average discharge (measured over 87 years) is 15.3 cbm/s (BWG – Swiss Federal Bureau for Water and Geology, 2004a, 161).

The highest discharge volume measured so far was 330–350 cbm/s (1973), the lowest however was just 0.83 cbm/s (1921). The Birs too has been „rectified“ and is since 1811 a canalized receiving-water with a straight shoreline, significantly shortened course and uniform cross-section (trapeze- or double-trapeze-shape). Following the flood of 1973, during which the Birs massively eroded, the lower-reach bank has been reinforced with granite blocks from the black forest.

Since 1991, some sections of the Birs between Aesch and Birsfelden have been ecologically upgraded, the channel has been widened from 20 m up to a maximum of 40 m, and the granite blocks have been replaced by spur dikes. In the summer of 2002, during the construction of a sewage canal for water quality improvement, comprehensive restoration works on the Birs river began taking place. The concrete reinforced bank was broken open and reconstructed in a nature-oriented fashion. The difference between revitalizing the Birs and other projects of this sort, is the fact that this river runs in the middle of a residential area.

The first resident survey

In the beginning of the restoration works 27 questions were asked in order to examine how the affected population

perceives this revitalization in the middle of a residential area, and which ideas, concepts and feedback exist in the population. In the questionnaires, the residents were also given the opportunity to make their own suggestions concerning the design of the Birs revitalization. The survey had a response rate of 31% (752 questionnaires).

The second resident survey

On September 2004, after completing the construction works on the Birs, a second resident survey has been conducted, which was linked to the first survey. The response rate this time was 25% (591 answered questionnaires). While in 2003 only 53 individuals out of 752 surveyed liked the pre-restoration visual design, nearly 80% of those surveyed after the restoration rated the water course and the design of the bank as very good. Prior to the revitalization it was not yet possible to ask the people about the water course. Compared to the first survey (41%), 53% of those surveyed said they were at all times very well informed, and the acceptance rate for the measures went up from 45% to 53%.

The other striking result was that while before the measures only 34% of those surveyed were in favor of revitalizing other rivers, after completing the works, half of those surveyed favored the idea. After the revitalization 84% of those surveyed were of the opinion, that knowing what they know today (and knowing the immense disturbances caused by the works) they would still approve of revitalization. There is now plenty of evidence that good examples are essential for boosting receptiveness towards revitalization.

Info

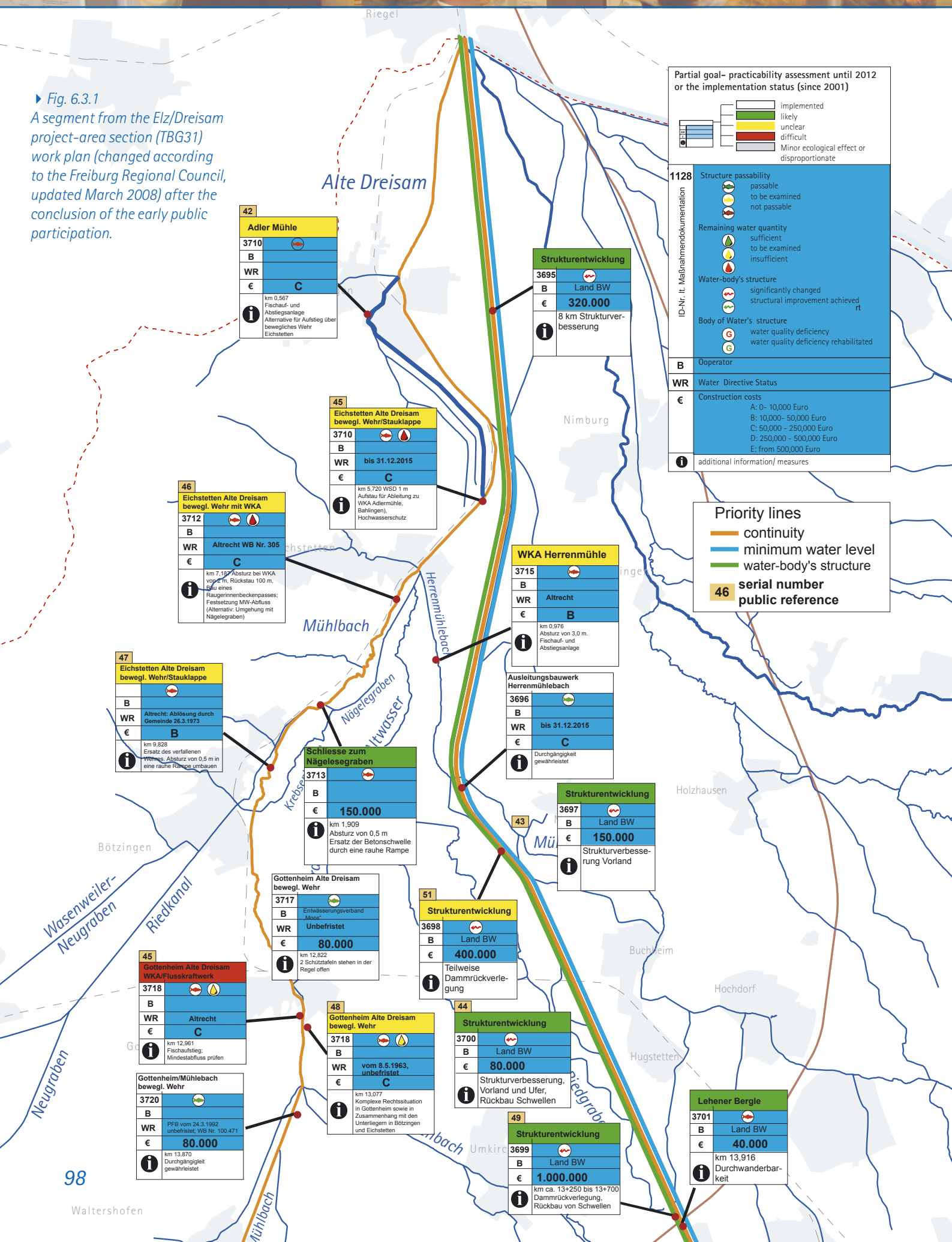
Wüthrich, Chr., P. Huggenberger, H. Freiberger, U. Geissbühler, Chr. Regli & O. Stucki (2006): Revitalisierung urbaner Flusslandschaften – Schlussbericht zum MGUForschungsprojekt F1.03 2003 – 2005, Geograph. Inst., Institut für Geologie und Paläontologie, Basel

Participation steps taken

informing

hearing

A segment from the Elz/Dreisam project-area section (TBG31) work plan (changed according to the Freiburg Regional Council, updated March 2008) after the conclusion of the early public participation.





6.3 Early Public Participation by the Freiburg Regional Council

In the following, there is the outline of the experiences gathered so far during Baden-Württemberg early public participation project, (as per article 14 of the EC- Water Framework Directive), in which the RhineNet project partners have also taken part.

The pilot phase on the High Rhine

The Freiburg Regional Council had conducted a pilot project in the basin segments of the Wiese and Wutach rivers (High Rhine project area) from October 2004 until July of 2006. The purpose was to gather experiences in view of the state-wide interested bodies' active participation, as per section § 3e of the Baden-Württemberg Water Act. The communities, associations and other interested districts were given during this process the opportunity to actually take part in the plans and programs' development, beyond the already established formal procedures. The information and participation of the involved parties took center stage in the project, and reflected the acting administrative workers self-perception.

The invitation list for the opening and following events included city and com-

munity representatives, agriculture-, nature protection-, hydraulic energy use-, fisheries-, recreation- and sports associations, as well as the local press. The invitation and event information were posted on the Freiburg Regional Council's website to promote the interested parties' participation. In addition, the invitation was given as a press release to the local press and sent to the communities, along with the request of having it publicized in the local information leaflets. However, publication did not follow everywhere. The gathered optimization experience and the growing public interest benefited the upcoming events. In the opening event, the workgroups topics (= important water management questions) have been worked out with the participants, on the basis of the survey's results. These topics were then discussed by the workgroups one after the other.

The method that has shown itself to be the most practical, was a mixture of short motivating presentations, followed by an „active phase“ in which the participants were given the opportunity to get specific information from the display boards and to make suggestions. Regional

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Participation steps taken

informing

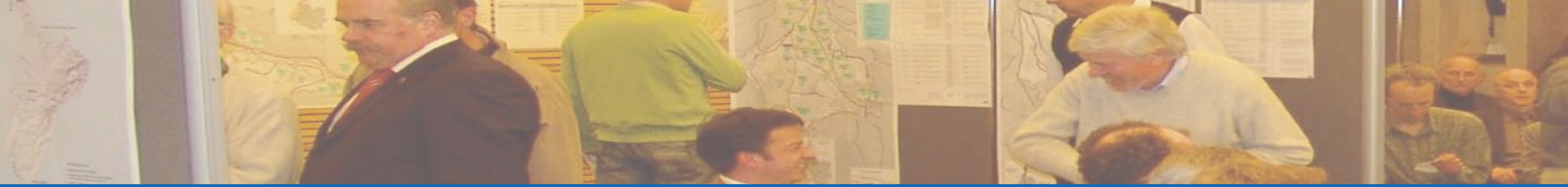
hearing

joint
discussions

▼ Fig. 6.3.2

*The Freiburg Regional district team
for implementing the WFD*





council and district administration representatives were standing by to answer questions. The small groups' discussion points were introduced, discussed and incorporated into the written protocol during the closing general session.

A total of 13 such events have taken place between 26.10.2004 and 24.07.2006 in the High Rhine project area, and in some cases more than 100 people have participated. The participants came mainly from the fields of fisheries, environment- and nature protection, agriculture, and hydro-energy. Community representatives and private individuals have consistently attended as well. The protocols can be seen on the Internet. The practices and gathered experiences are documented in the official project report that deals with the Freiburg Regional Council's early public participation.

Early public participation in Baden-Württemberg

The High Rhine pilot project became a model for public participation all across Baden-Württemberg. In the Elz/Dreisam project segment area for example, the practices and results of early public participation will be outlined. In the survey taken at the Dreisam Elz project segment area (TBG 31), all 7 water bodies were classified as being at risk. Three in terms of continuity, water-body structure and occasional insufficient water

quantity, two in terms of passability and water-body structure, one in terms of water-body structure and occasional insufficient water quantities, and one in terms of water-body structure only. Suggestions were concentrated into subject areas specified by the Regional Council.

In 7 events which took place in various places across the project area, the participants were given the opportunity to directly write their suggestions, recommendations, remarks and questions, by filling in provided cards. In the case of TBG 31, there were all together 74 specific water-body recommendation (6 concerning France) and 11 general suggestions and questions. 57% of these specific recommendations were incorporated into the action planning.

The Regional Council has compiled an action-recommendation priority list out of the risk assessments, the fish migration requirements (migration charts) and the public comments and suggestions, and coordinated it with the relevant authorities. Each water-body is represented by a 1:25000 scale preliminary work-plan (surface water-body action plan).

The plans and their matching tables were sent to the participants upon request, and serve as a basis for further public participation until the "river basin management plan" final draft by the end of 2009. According to the environment

▼ table. 6.3.1
The Freiburg Regional Council's event calendar of the early public participation in the Dreisam/Elz project-area district (TBG 31)

Date	Session	Place
23.05.2006	Opening event	Freiburg
18.07.2006 25.07.2006	1st session: river continuity,minimal water levels,fish and water-body structure	Kirchzarten Müllheim
23.11.2006	2nd session: river continuity,minimal water levels,fish and water-body structure	Waldkirch
6.03.2007 13.03.2007	3rd session: Water quality/chemical contamination of surface waters	Emmendingen Neuenburg
11.07.2007	Ecological and chemical status of the Rhine	Kehl
15.04.2008	Final session: Presentation of the draft „action plan surface waters“ (work plan)	Freiburg



► Fig. 6.3.3
On July the 18th, 2007, the Freiburg Regional council held an event in Kirchzarten, concerning the „active“ participation of the public-sphere in the Dreisam project-area district.

ministry of Baden-Württemberg, 50 to 70 percent of the suggestions and recommendations which were given during the river-area authorities' conventions have been incorporated into the High Rhine and Upper Rhine „action plans“. The Kinzig river plan, with 74 %, incorporates the highest percentage of recommendations. The commitment shown here, especially by the Freiburg Regional Council, to extensively implement the WFD on their own initiative is remarkable, and should be considered as a „good-practice“ example.

▼ Fig. 6.3.4
The concluding event of the early public participation in the project-area districts of Möhlin (TBG 30) and Elz/Dreisam (TBG 31), on April the 4th, 2008 in the Freiburg Regional Council



► Fig. 6.4.1
An excerpt out of the questionnaire

The questionnaire of the second survey can be seen on the Internet in its French, English, Dutch and German versions, and it calls on all the citizens to participate in the survey.

Source: Rhin-Meuse Water Agency

http://www.eau2015-rhin-meuse.fr/enquete_2015/site/gb_votre_avis.php



► Fig. 6.4.2
An event organized by Alsace Nature, for distribution of the questionnaire
Photo: Patrick Barbier

6.4 Public Participation by the Agence de l'Eau Rhin-Meuse

Water resource management in Alsace

A planning instrument at a basin-area level has already been introduced to France with the French water act of 1992, the so-called SDAGE (Scémas directeurs d'Aménagement et de Gestion des Eaux). The SDAGE prescribes the main features of the water sources management plan, and at the basin section level under the name SAGE (Schema d'Aménagement et de Gestion des Eaux) it becomes more detailed. However, drawing up a SAGE is not compulsory, and so there are until today a few basin section areas in Alsace, which do not have a SAGE.

In order to implement the Water Framework Directive's requirement for public participation, the Rhin-Meuse water agency has decided to conduct a two-phase survey of the population. The first poll for ascertaining the important questions took place in 2005. During this phase, questionnaires and self-addressed stamped envelopes were sent to all the basin area households. The regional environmental and nature-protection associations in Alsace and Lorraine were integrated into this public-relations campaign through special contracts. The Alsatian association and regional federation Alsace Nature distributed 5,000 questionnaires, with a response rate of 12%. The volunteer workers (members of 140 Alsace Nature member organizations, as well as the heads of the many local groups) were trained, so they would carry as multipliers the Water Framework Directive's goals and issues into their local groups and associations. About 400 people participated in the public events organized by Alsace Nature. More than 30 speakers participated actively in discussion forums all over Alsace, as representatives of the various „water“ interests (agriculture, industries, water companies etc.). As a result, Alsace

Nature was able to submit to the water agency a summarized presentation of the public-relations campaign's results, but also its own positions regarding the most important questions associated with the water issue, and by doing so made a decisive contribution to the revision of the SDAGE planning instrument, which until 2009 would be adjusted according to the WFD's requirements, and is therefore revisable. Alsace Nature is directly involved in this, because 3 association representatives sit on the water agency's committees and workgroups. Alsace Nature has obtained the chair of the „Nature and Bio-diversity“ workgroup, which was established within the revision framework of SDAGE.

The second population survey regarding the revised SDAGE took place between the 15th of April 2008 and the 15th of October 2008. Once again, questionnaires were sent to the basin area households, but this time in reference to the revised SDAGE. The main issue in this process as far as the agency is concerned, is the issue of public acceptance (e.g. to what extent would the citizens accept higher water prices or restrictions in areas such as housing developments, which are necessary for the implementation of the WFD's environmental quality goals). The regional environmental and nature-protection associations were once again integrated in the survey's 2nd phase, because with their member-, and member-organizations-network they were able to approach the population better than any public authority such as the water agency could.

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<http://www.eau2015-rhin-meuse.fr/fr/consultation/book.php>

Participation steps taken

informing

hearing



▲ Fig. 6.5.1
A map outlining the Eurodistrict
region Freiburg/ Centre et Sud
Alsace

6.5 The Local Agenda 21: The Eurodistrict Ideas Competition

As a partner of the Ecotrinova e.V. Association (a cooperation committee of environment-oriented institutions, associations, and corporations in Dreyeckland) The RhineNet partner RegioWasser e.V. participated in organizing the project „Sustainability across the Rhine for energy/climate protection and water-bodies“. In a competition sponsored by the local Agenda 21 program of Baden-Württemberg, the public was called upon to formulate energy/climate protection- and water-related ideas for building up a sustainable Freiburg / Centre et Sud Alsace Eurodistrict.

The Freiburg / Centre et Sud Alsace Eurodistrict region includes the four Pays Région Mulhousienne, Rhin-Vignoble-Grand Ballon, Colmar and l'Alsace Centrale (with Sélestat a.o.), as well as the three districts of Freiburg, Emmendingen and Breisgau-Hochschwarzwald.

The following were able to participate in the competition: citizens, initiatives, associations but also teenager and children's organizations as well as players and guests from the communes, economy/industry, education/universities and the regional agriculture. The submitted contributions have been meanwhile presented in two whole-day moderated workshops on energy/climate-protection and water (water workshop) which took place in 2005. The contributions have been discussed, each with simultaneous interpretation, with the workshops' participants.

In October 2005, during a concluding event, the green book on energy, the blue book on water and the awarded ideas were presented to the public.

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Participation steps taken

informing

hearing

joint
discussions

„Blue-booklet“

<http://www.ecotrinova.de/projekteprojets/dprojekte/index.html>

▼ Fig. 6.5.2

*Participants in the workshop's ideas competition at the eco-center C.I.N.E. le Moulin, July the 2nd, 2005
(near Luttenbach, Mulhose)*





The image shows a large display of children's artwork, likely a mural or a collection of drawings, mounted on a wooden frame outdoors. The artwork is divided into several sections. The top section features a grid of 12 small, colorful drawings, each depicting a different scene, possibly related to a story or a theme. The bottom section contains a list of names, presumably the artists, arranged in two columns. The names are written in a simple, handwritten style. The overall theme of the artwork appears to be related to a story or a theme, possibly a fairy tale or a historical event. The display is set against a background of green foliage and a wooden fence.

KLASSE 6 d
HUGO-HÖFLER-REALSCHULE
 7926 BREISACH
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Hani Amador
 Thomas Bieri
 Tobias Bieri
 Doreen Jey
 Tullian Fied
 Evi Lenz
 Hannik Schaff
 Markus Schaff
 Stefan Hühner
 Yvonne Rühl

Maxim Zander
 Julia Bieri
 Jonas Bieri
 Hanna Grottel
 Alexandra Hübner
 Hanna Krüger
 Eva Kustermann
 Lea Kustermann
 Doreen Lohr
 Schirin Lohr

Alexandra Noll
 Jule Hübner
 Brigitte Rüdiger
 Lisa Schaff
 Hans-Lukas
 Helene Lohr
 Hanna Lohr
 Doreen Lohr

Alter: 12 Jahre
 Juni 2008

A-35

Die Hühner Rühl

Klasse 6d, Hugo-Höfler-Realschule, Breisach



7 Conclusions

7.1 Experiences and Case Studies

The RhineNet partners all agree that one could call the Water Framework Directive a success, only when along with improvement in water quality, the flow continuity of many water-bodies will be restored. Due to its history of river engineering, restoring the Upper Rhine's continuity as well as that of its tributaries is one of the most ambitious tasks the Water Framework Directive poses the Rhine countries, a fact which has already been recognized by the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR) and the water management bodies even before the WFD came into effect.

The participation models within the framework of the WFD can also be judged as to whether they contribute to the recreation of river continuity or not.

However, it is also clear that implementing the WFD's participation requirement does not happen in a vacuum, and so it must be addressed with a goal-oriented approach (cf. chap. 2.2), a basic rule that should be communicated and should actually postulate the existence of a certain basic consensus on future re-creation of river continuity. Finding out if such a consensus exists should at least be the first item on the agenda of public discussions which concern water management plans. A specific question could be whether all those present recognize the restoration of river continuity as one of the WFD's most important basic goals. The WFD characterization „a good ecological

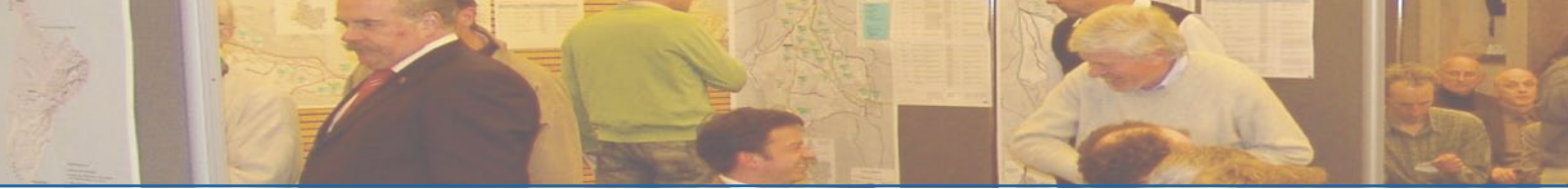
status" suggests that the authors had a natural-scientific term and the ecosystem's functions in mind. The demands to implement as economically as possible and to take existing water-use interests into consideration do not change that.

Most case studies show, that people tend to perceive the water-body's visual impression. The natural-scientific quest for a water-body natural status normally means very little to them especially because there are almost no „natural landscapes" (in the narrow sense of the word) left (cf. chap. 6.2).

The „Leitbild Fließgewässer Schweiz"-BUWAL & BWG 2003 („Model streams in Switzerland") states that rivers and streams should display sufficient space, flow and quality, and that only this way can a long-term preservation or restoration of natural or nearly natural water bodies including all their diverse functions be guaranteed. The Swiss wording may be therewith more generally understandable than the WFD's „good ecological status" but it indicates the same scientific way of thinking.

This abstract approach, which is oriented more towards ecological functions is balanced against many people's perceptions, which ought to be taken into consideration if the inclusion of the wider public, as the WFD requires, should succeed.

For a predominant number of people it is „important" up to „very important" to be able to make „nature" trips. This by itself proves the fact, that naturally designed areas in close proximity to a residential area would be used a lot, as long as they are easy to reach. The 7 year-old pilot



project of restoring a 300 m long section of the Wiese river (near Lörrach) is a good example for that. The restored stretch became immediately so popular with the recreation seekers, that already one year later, due to overcrowding, another 300 m were revitalized. On sunny days such places become enormously popular. This is especially true in the case of water-bodies which are near cities, such as the Wiese or the Birs, but also in remote areas, especially when they are rare (like the river Nied in Saarland).

The most important insights of the case studied are therefore:

1. A better communication is often the only way to bridge perception differences, such as the argument over what is near-natural and what isn't. One could say that any addition to public information and participation is of great value, if the public is to be won over for the WFD's goals. Early information is especially of great significance.
2. Upgrading measures appeal to the public only when it becomes clear that the upcoming measures benefit not only „nature“ (however its defined), but also their own needs (e.g. recreation, cf. chap. 4.2, 6.2). For many people it makes little difference whether the areas were created artificially or whether they are more or less natural. The case studies show that in such cases, the public is ready to accept unfavorable conditions (such as construction noise, restrictions etc.).
3. Public acceptance can be achieved in many cases (as clearly shown in the Birs river case study, chap. 6.2) already by involving the affected population through the means of surveys, polling and extensive information.
4. Projects which involve the public as early as during the planning phase are very rare, and therefore there are almost no available experiences.
5. A paradigm shift is taking place these days: in the future, the water-management authorities are no longer going to perceive themselves as entities which determine the goals and measures of the water-sources management, but rather as „supporters“ of a decision-making process. The water management authorities are having difficulties with this paradigm shift, because they are used to reaching decisions which are purely based on scientific, financial and political necessities, without having to involve the relevant parties. This paradigm shift has to be actively supported. That includes training the authorities intensively on participation issues. It has also become obvious during a few RhineNet projects, that the personnel and financial resources for public participation were very limited. Allocating sufficient funding is along with political support a basic precondition for a successful participation process.
6. Public participation needs time, especially when various players with various needs have to be incorporated into the process. In a participation process it is crucial not to exclude any of the relevant parties only because of their needs. Participation processes which lead to a consensus of all the parties involved are very rare. However, participation can produce a maximal transparency of the decision-making process, a fact that significantly affects the acceptance levels for the decided measures.



7. Participation is one of the basic foundations for an integrated and sustainable water-sources management. Another one is the creation of matching management structures such as a water-source advisory committee to ensure sustainable management for the long run.

The RhineNet partners' view is that at present there is no sure formula for the right sort of public participation, at best there are only success factors (cf. chap. 2.2.2). One of the reasons is that there is until now no absolute method for evaluating when a certain participation form leads to success and when it doesn't. When one compares various case studies, they normally comprise of totally different preconditions and goals, and therefore a comparative evaluation is not possible. However there is one common success factor: could a stable and permanent structure be built, which would actively support the participation project? Such structures could be for example water-sources advisory committee or a local Agenda 21 structure.

The case studies show that even the understanding what participation means, and who feels qualified to undertake a participation process, can vary significantly from one case to the next. In many cases still, the authorities are conducting participation processes, mainly in order to boost acceptance for planned measures. But in many cases participation is not triggered by the authorities, but rather by the parties involved, or just simply by individuals who are interested in the issue, such as in the case study of „Our Dreisam“ (chap. 4.2) or the very different „Lively rivers“ project. However, the extent to which some individuals may be affected or some local constraints could also determine whether a strong public participation would produce the desirable effect, namely, everyone being able to live with the results of the collective deliberations (consensus).



Feasibility study on bathing in the Saar

With reference to both the new (2006/7/EG) and the old (76/160/ EWG) EU Bathing Directives' examination parameters, which are partly valid for a transitional period until 2011, possibilities and conditions for bathing in the Saar have been examined in two locations of the Saarbrücken municipal area (Saar bayou on the Undine and Saar river next to the potato island recreational park).

The bathing feasibility in the examined areas is presently contrasted by the at times very high microbiological contamination, which is mainly affected by the precipitation intensity. Sewage treatment plant discharge, canalization water overflow, as well as sediment germ re-suspension are being considered as possible contamination sources. In Saarbrücken itself, the Saar receives rainwater only from the split canalization system (not counting faulty connections). However, in the upper current basin stronger sewage residuals in rainwater overflow from the mixed canalization can be expected. Sediment re-suspensions which are being used by

E.coli bacteria as refuge, can be another contamination source in the bayou. To restore bathing water quality in both planned locations, several measure options were examined.

Since the microbiological contamination in the Saar strongly fluctuates depending on the entering rainwater quantities, reliable time periods in which bathing water quality could be established, by installing a 50,000 Euro system which would record and analyze the rainwater reception. In order to improve the water quality in the bayou, one must reduce the contamination caused by faulty water connections (carrying sewage from rainwater canals). It is a case of local contamination which falls under the jurisdiction of the city. After reducing the external contamination caused by rainwater leads, the removal of the sludge from the water can also considerably contribute to the improvement of water quality. This measure is however very expensive (about 70,000 Euros).

To reduce the contamination in the basin, a hygienization by UV disinfection of the discharge waters from the sewage treatment plant Brebach would be necessary, with annual costs

of about 73,000 Euros. In addition, infrastructural measures would be needed to enable a safe access to the bathing locations and provide sanitary installations.

Due to the limitations on both planned locations, some alternative locations on the left riverbank of the Saar, opposite the Römerbrücke power plant or downstream from the Bismarckbrücke have been examined. In a new spring-fed stream created by groundwater, or riverbank filtrate, bathing water quality could be achieved much easier than in both planned locations. Through this measure there will be an increase in retention volumes, which could off-set, at least in part, the possible losses caused by other projects („City on the river“).

In case there is great resistance to the use of the waters in Saarbrücken, there are some other location outside of the city, like in the Nied floodplain which could be considered. An open space, which was formerly used as a camping site on the left bank of the Nied river near Siersburg, could be a potential project site, which would enable the creation of a near-natural bathing lake.

▼ Fig. 7.2.1

A proposed site for a lateral stream just down the stream from potato island on the Saar

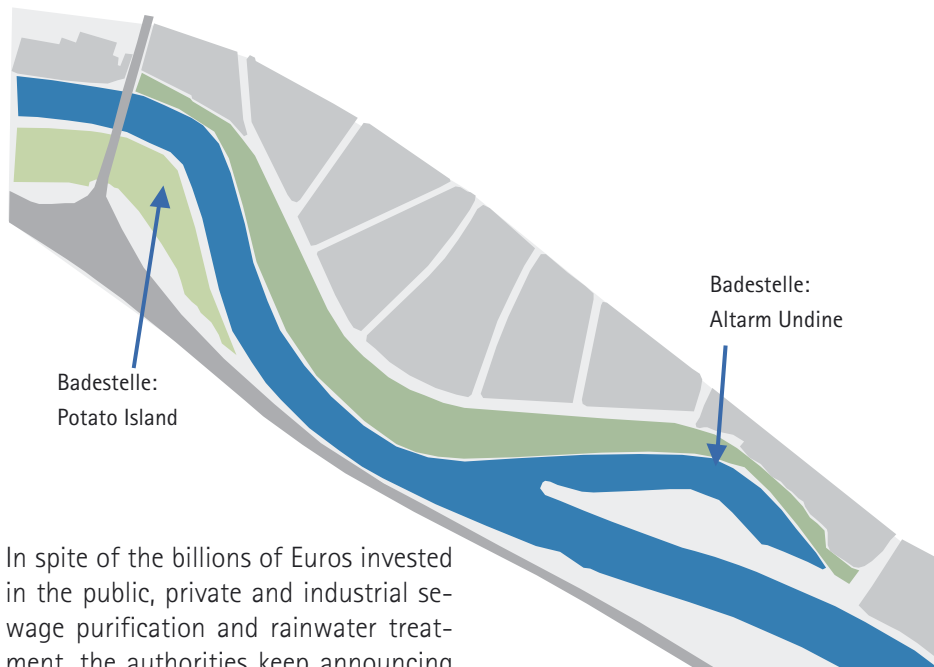
Photo: Boos



The feasibility study on bathing in the Saar was issued by Klaus-Jürgen Boos (Bureau for hydrology and landscape ecology), Saarbrücken, on behalf of the Naturland Foundation of Saar.



7.2 Improving the Water Quality – Swimming in large Rivers



In spite of the billions of Euros invested in the public, private and industrial sewage purification and rainwater treatment, the authorities keep announcing year after year that in the entire federal republic there is no river and no large stream that meets bathing quality.

The purification plants block mainly the decomposable biological substances. Our rivers are still so hygienically strained because of the purification plants and heavy rainfalls over the „mixed water overflow“, that they cannot any longer be designated as bathing water (apart from some very few exceptions). Furthermore, almost all public authorities warn against bathing in our rivers due to safety concerns. The growing number of at times fatal accidents in our rivers proves that the bathers underestimate the dangers. Strong currents and whirlpools next to piers, groins and ports can endanger even the most experienced of swimmers. A large ship can neither brake nor deviate on time. The most the ship's captain can do is stop the propeller so that it does not injure the swimmer.

In spite of that, many more people wish to once again bathe in our rivers and actually do, a fact that was demonstrated during the first international

river bathing day on the 17th of July 2005 at 14:00 (Big jump – chap. 5.2). The European River Network calculated about 250,000 visitors in 31 rivers and 22 countries. Not just through Big jump has the bathing in many rivers become an everyday matter. That brings back a river bathing tradition which since the 1960s almost came to a standstill.

As early as 1777, the doors of the first river bathing facility in the Rhine near

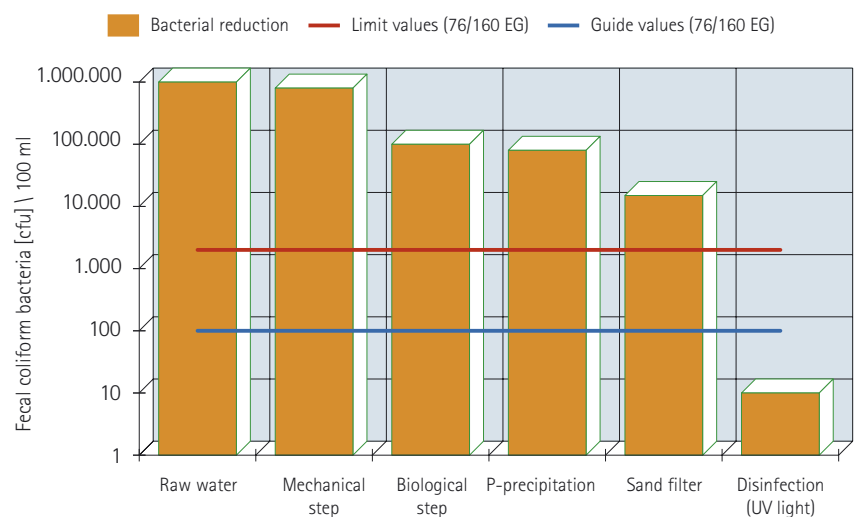
◀ Fig. 7.2.2

A Saar river section between river-kilometer 88.5 and 89.6 in Saarbrücken. In a feasibility study, the Saar distributary in the Undine area and the Saar next to the Potato Island recreational park before Bismarckbrücke, were chosen as possible bathing sites.

▼ Fig. 7.2.3

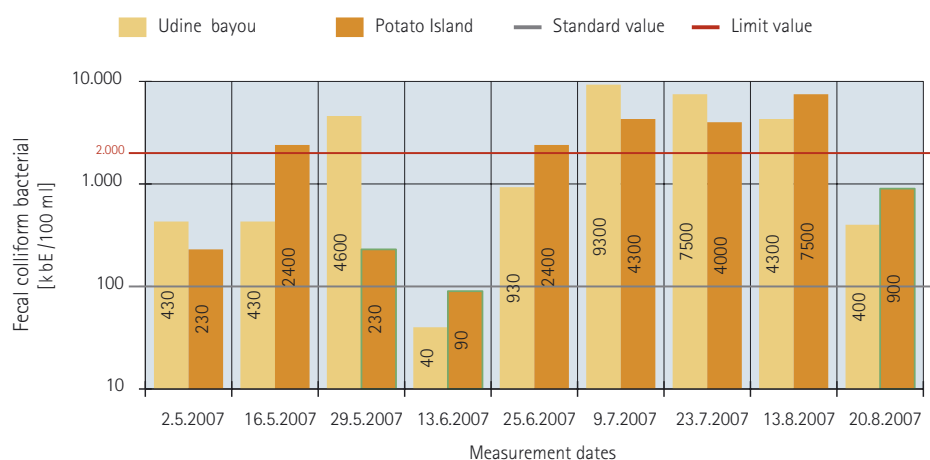
Reduction of fecal coliform bacteria in various phases of sewage treatment
Source: Bayerisches Landesamt für Wasserschafft

www.bayern.de/lfw/projekte/abwasser/toelz/pilotprojekt.htm

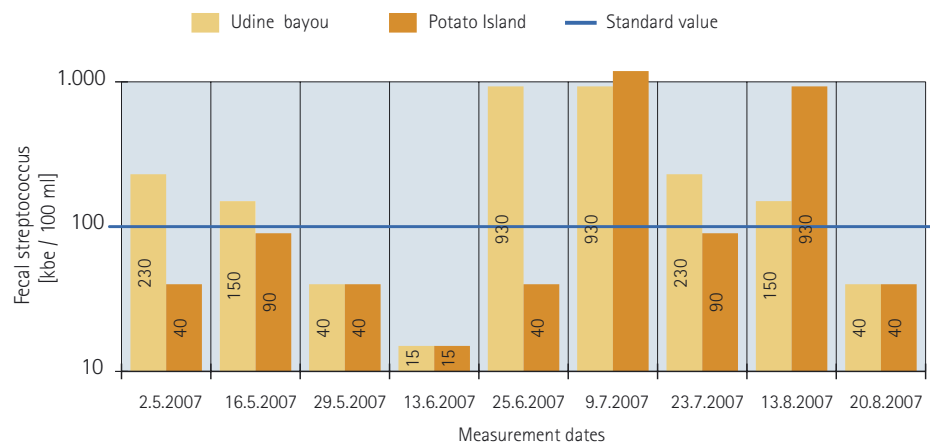




► Fig. 7.2.4
Fecal coliform bacterial
contamination of the tested
locations in Saarbrücken
(Data basis : LSGV)



► Fig. 7.2.5
Fecal streptococcus contamination
of the tested locations in
Saarbrücken
(Data basis : LSGV)



Mannheim were opened. The river bathing facilities met the needs of those who wished to swim risk-free in flowing water. The facilities did not even remotely have the capacity to meet all the demand for swimming in the Rhine. In Breisach for example, it has been reported that up to 5,000 bathing enthusiasts came to bathe in the Rhine near Breisach. Only a few river bathing facilities, like the Lettenbad near Zurich remained continuously open. Most of them had to shut down in the 1970s due to river pollution. Meanwhile, a few bathing facilities have opened again, such as the Rhine near Mainz, even though the Rhine does not meet the bathing water directive. Neither the implementation of the EC-Water Framework Directive, nor the EC-Bathing Water Directive, which came into force in March 2006, are expected to directly boost the improvement of

bathing possibilities in our rivers.

Whether some river sections could be declared as bathing water, following a few appropriate measures, is a subject of debate.

While in Bavaria for example, the assumption of the „bathing water special program“ is that UV irradiation of a few sewage-treatment plants' discharge, is enough to allow the „responsible citizens“ to bathe again at least in the Isar river, the authorities in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia are of the opinion, that in order to allow river bathing, one must use the method of sterilization by nanofiltration (additional costs about 0.25 Euros/cbm).

In the state of Baden-Württemberg, restoring the bathing-water quality to our rivers is at present not even an issue. One considers here other quality problems to be more important. About 80 phar-



maceutical substances can be detected in the discharge of sewage-treatment plants, some of them are suspected to have a hormone-like negative influence on the fish fauna's reproduction. In tests conducted at the sewage-treatment plant in Ulm/Neu Ulm, one was able to reduce these trace substances by an average of 80%, by adding activated carbon (costs are around 0.06-0.1 Euros/cbm).

In 2006, just before the beginning of the bathing season, the Bavarian Minister of State Dr. Werner Schnappauf put the UV-disinfection device at the Freising sewage-treatment plant into service. The general ban on bathing in the Isar has been therewith repealed." The Isar will become the longest open-air pool in Europe", touted the minister, „while bathing in the Elbe, the Rhine, the Tiber, the Seine or the Jangtse is totally inconceivable. To bathe in the river and to have a city beach-in the middle of an industrial country- that is pure luxury!" said the Minister.

That is how the Bavarian administration legitimizes a situation, which anyway could not have been hindered, due to the increasing bathing activities on the Isar in recent years. Minister Schnappauf emphasized however during the same speech, that although the ban has been repealed, the Isar is not yet an official bathing river under the terms of the EC-Bathing Water Directive. The minister argued that rivers are after all a „dynamic system" and that their hygienic quality fluctuates according to the constantly changing incoming germ quantities. By contrast, the amended EC-Bathing Water Directive demands that minimal germ levels should be kept more or less constant. According to Schnappauf, bathing in rivers always means an elevated risk of having a current-related accident, as well as an elevated and unquantifiable risk of an infection! His advice therefore, is to abstain from bathing in cases of high water levels, strong currents and thunderstorms and in the case of sus-

pected pollution to also refrain from swallowing the Isar's water!

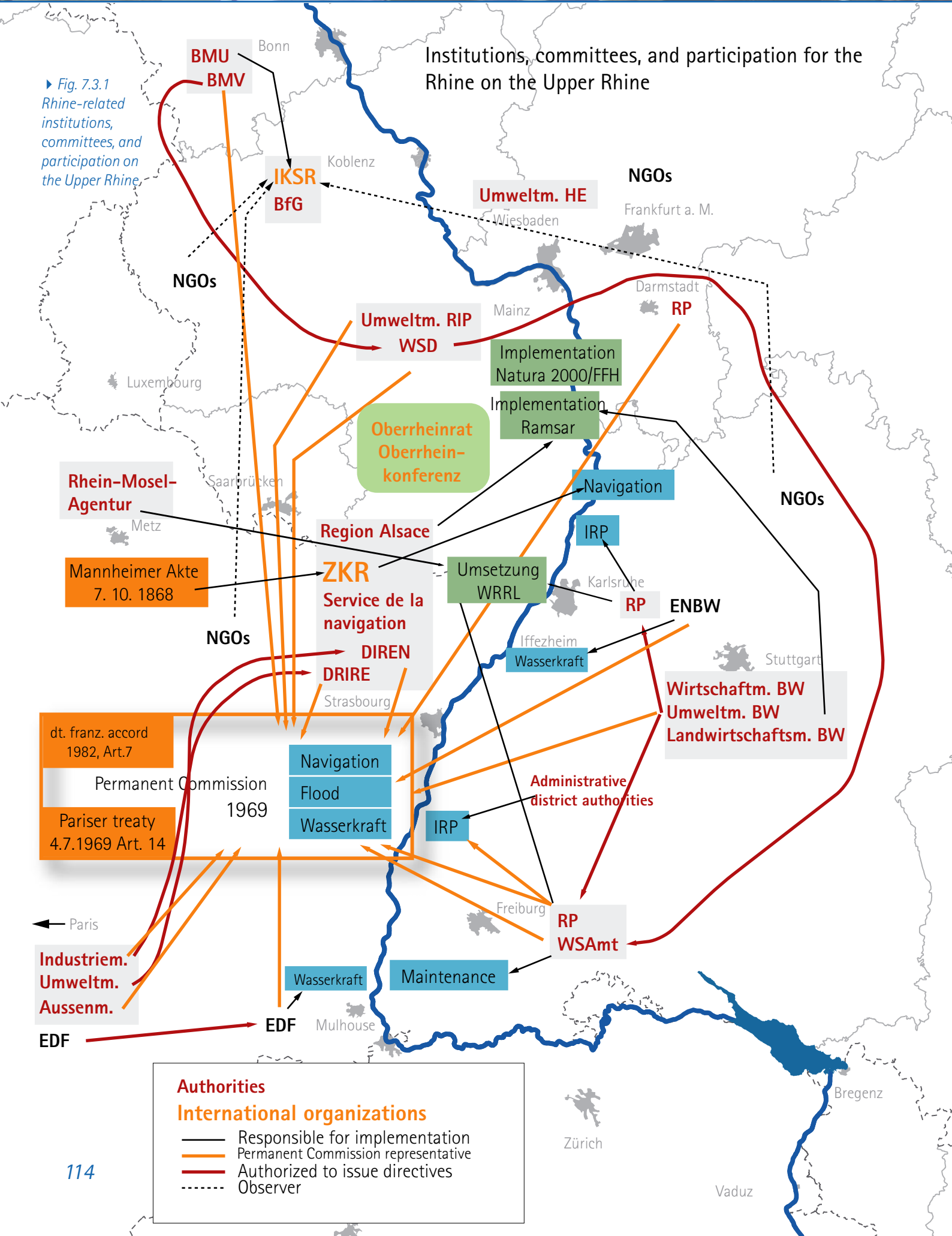
He hopes that the bathers, at least in the Isar, are „sensible, responsible citizens who accordingly possess awareness to problems and can independently notice relevant indications, such as malfunctions in the sewage treatment plant.

The question whether in the near future rivers and river-sections would be officially designated as bathing water, depends ultimately on the way politicians and administrative authorities understand their task to implement article 11 of the EC-Bathing Water Directive, which demands the inclusion of the public, and on how actively the bathing enthusiasts would demand the far-reaching improvement of the local situation, so that the rivers or river sections could be designated as bathing water.

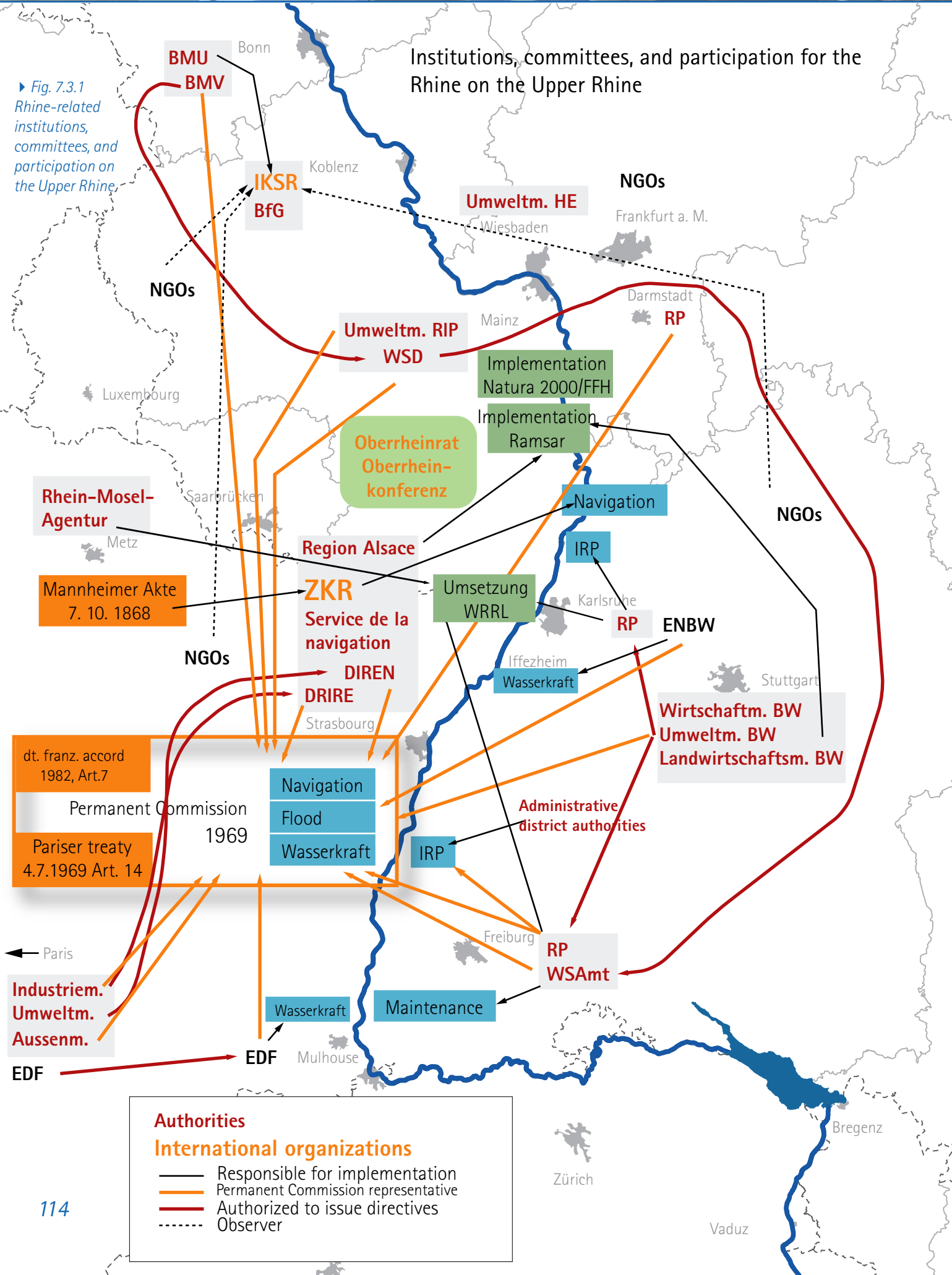
The public-law basics for bathing in water-bodies, vary significantly between one European country and the next. In Germany, bathing in rivers is generally not prohibited, except for areas that directly serve the shipping industry needs, such as ports. The bathers are in most cases responsible for their own actions. In France by contrast, the mayors could become, at least potentially, personally liable if they allow bathing in one of their local water-bodies or water-body sections.

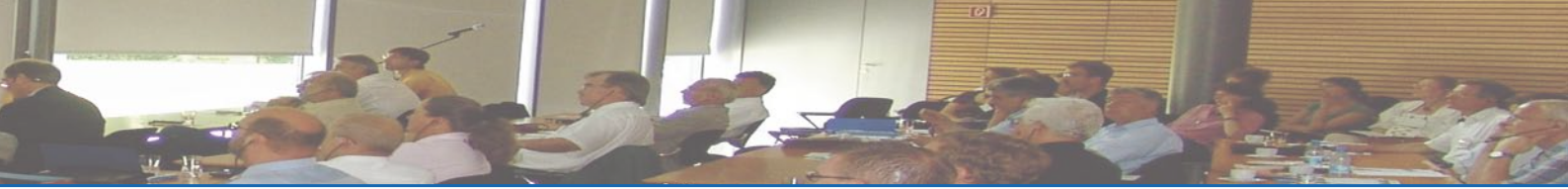
Bathing waters in Germany

The majority of natural bathing waters in Germany are of good quality. However, according to the EU-Bathing Waters Report there are less and less water-bodies in Germany which could be used for bathing. More than 400 bathing locations were struck from the bathing waters list by the relevant authorities of the states, without any explanation. As a result, there is a lawsuit pending against Germany for violating EU treaties. In view of the fact that more and more public bathing facilities are closing due to rising costs, public pressure for developing and opening river sections for the purpose of bathing is increasing.



Institutions, committees, and participation for the Rhine on the Upper Rhine





7.3 Cross-border Participation

Cross-border public participation on the Upper Rhine

While on lake Constance (Bodensee), within the framework of the „Boden-seekommission“ („Lake Constance Commission“) and the „Zukunftskonferenz Bodensee“ („Future Conference Lake Constance“) an international discussion concerning the future of the area is taking place among its bordering states, no such discussion exists concerning the Upper Rhine. One of the reasons for that is that responsible bodies (Upper Rhine Conference, Upper Rhine Council, Euro Districts etc.) do not dedicate themselves to deal continuously with the Upper Rhine and its adjacent riparian zone. The Upper Rhine Conference did admittedly set up an environmental group, which too summoned up expert groups for groundwater and nature conservation. However, these bodies do not deal with the Upper Rhine in an ongoing fashion. The discussions concerning the river flow, which take place in various binational and tri-national committees along the Upper Rhine, are at best sporadic, parallel and uncoordinated. What ever is discussed in each of those committees by itself, eludes to a large extent the knowledge of the other committees.

Table 7.3.1 shows a partial listing of these bodies, and their roles on the southern Upper Rhine from Basel to the Lauter river-outlet. The map 7.3.1 attempts to show the relationships among the various bodies. There are additional institutions and committees in the northern Upper Rhine section between the Lauter river-outlet and Mainz/Wiesbaden, between Hesse and Rhineland-Palatinate as well as in north-western Switzerland.

Fragmentation and lack of coherence

A sheer incalculable number of committees and institutions in north-western Switzerland, Alsace, Baden-Württemberg, Hesse and Rhineland Palatinate is working each on small separate issues, without even attempting to ensure a partial coherence with the others, not least because most of the parties do not or at best sporadically talk to each other. Joachim Blatter comes in his 1994 analysis of Alsatian and Baden committees to the following conclusion:

„On the topic of responsibilities one could generally say, that there is a huge number of administrative bodies and authorities on both sides of the river, which deals with the issues at hand. A similar judgement can be found in Demmke's report (1994: 199) about water management in France. However, the situation in federal Germany is also not so simple. A high complexity arises by overlapping issues of nature conservation with shipping industry management. Therefore, in regard to the authorities, the following general picture emerges: in Germany, the most important legislative and administrative powers reside in the states and are separated there into three authority levels. In France, regionalized state agencies are the main actors. But the asymmetrical structures do not pose the main obstacle for cross-border cooperation, but rather the complexity within each of the administrative structure. The German partners who were interviewed had only very little knowledge when it came to the structures on the other side. Contacts were limited to sectorial counterparts. More intensive discussions, which would be necessary for a broader and more sound understanding are not possible, due to time or capacity reasons.“

This 1994 description is still valid today.

Quelle

Blatter, Joachim (1994):
„Grenzüberschreitende
Zusammenarbeit im Gewässer-
und Auenschutz am Oberrhein“,
EURES discussion paper dp-43
ISSN 0938-1 805, Freiburg, 1994,
104 Seiten



There is still far too little cross-border communication concerning the Rhine river itself. Typical to this fragmentation is the fact, that the Upper Rhine conference, which is the actual southern Upper Rhine coordinative body, doesn't even have the Rhine on its agenda! The fact that there is no special work-group that would deal with the Upper Rhine is even more typical.

A lack of participation

From the perspective of public participation in water sources management (see article 14 of the EC-Water Framework Directive as well as the corresponding detailed preambles in the Directive's preface), the fact that many of these previously mentioned bodies avoid the inclusion of interested parties and that many committees convene behind closed doors, is alarming. From the perspective of the environmental organizations, The „Permanent Commission“ is a textbook example for the lack of transparency and participation. In this cross-border French-German committee, far-reaching decisions concerning the Upper Rhine are being made by experts, without having been previously discussed in public. But also the almost daily decisions regarding upcoming industrial construction and infrastructure projects leave a lot to be desired: no month passes by in France, Germany and Switzerland without having a project in the neighboring country become a subject of controversy and criticism in the press, the locally affected population or the responsible authorities.

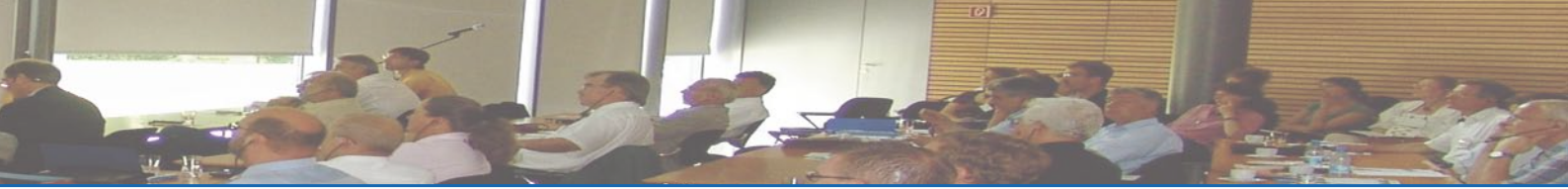
But what could the Germans do against French or Swiss industrial projects on the other Rhine riverbank?

How are the French population's fears regarding the German flood-protection measures on the Rhine being dealt with?

Table 7.3.1

A selection of competent institutions on the Upper Rhine

- International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR): Master plan, only fish; wildlife corridors
- Central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine (ZKR)
- French-German „Permanent Commission“: flood protection and navigation guarantee, as well as hydraulic engineering on the Upper Rhine
- The higher water authorities in the Karlsruhe and Freiburg Regional Councils: WFD implementation, water-source management planning (but only the river itself - without the floodplains!)
- Directions régionales de l'environnement (DIREN)
- Agence de l'Eau
- Environmental Ministry Baden-Württemberg: Integrated Rhine Program (IRP)/ flood retention, revitalization of floodplains.
- Ministry of Agriculture Baden-Württemberg: Ramsar designation of floodplains, so far only for bird fauna
- Nature protection authorities in the Karlsruhe and Freiburg Regional Council: Natura 2000
- Conservatoire des Sites Alsaciens: nature protection operations on the Alsatian side.
- Administrative District Offices function as lower water- and nature protection authorities (responsible a.o. for Rhine-relevant plan determination procedures)
- Water- and navigation management authorities: maintaining the Rhine as a federal waterway, hydraulic engineering and maintenance, guaranteeing the navigation
- Service de la Navigation in Strasbourg: ditto
- Electricité de France (EDF) and Energie Baden-Württemberg (EnBW): hydro-power extraction, water-gate operation (EDF)
- Economy administration: industrial construction along the Rhine river-banks
- Rhinivant: tourism
- Advisory committees in the framework of the Kembs renewed licensing procedures, as well as feasibility studies in the field of river-bed mobilization
- Mining authorities: Securing dangerous waste, monitoring and restoring of the Rhine-adjacent groundwater inflow
- Regionalverband Südlicher Oberrhein (Regional Association Southern Upper Rhine): nature protection and area planning on the south Baden side of the Rhine



How long must the Germans and Swiss still wait for the salmon to return to their waters, when the EDF (Electricité de France) doesn't restore river continuity in its power plants?

Experience shows: projects in the Dreiländereck area always affect the Rhine and the areas close to its banks. However, a cross-border participation culture along the Upper Rhine is still in its infancy. Language barriers, combined with varying legislation and social values complicate the joint cooperation.

A very promising approach was shown during the four „Freude am Fluss“ („Enjoying the river“) mayor conferences.

This project, which was also sponsored by Interreg III, was among other things about mayors exchanging innovative river landscape development ideas, which allow the river more space and involve the public in the planning process.

Cooperation with the Interreg-IIIb-project „Freude am Fluss“ („Enjoying the river“)

<http://www.freudeamfluss.eu>



▼ ▲ Fig. 7.3.2, 7.3.3

The mayors conference in Karlsruhe on June the 19th and 20th, 2006 in which RhineNet was also represented.



Nature-protection partner agreement

Another model for cross-border cooperation is the 2004 partner agreement of the three nature-protection organizations, Coservatoire des Site Lorrains (F) Naturlandstiftung Saar (D) and the Hëllef fir d'Natur (L), to which Stiftung Natur und Umwelt Rheinland-pfalz (D) and Réserves Naturelles RNOB (NATAGORA) joined as two new convention partners in 2007. The agreement includes the cross-border cooperation in nature- and landscape - protection, natural forestation projects, the joint support and accompaniment of scientific studies, and the public-relations work in the Greater Region of Wallonia-Lorraine-Luxembourg-Rhineland-Palatinate-Saarland.

The International Commission for the Protection of the Moselle and the Saar (IKSMS) – A model for cross-border cooperation on the Upper Rhine?

There is only one commission for the cross-border cooperation on the Moselle and Saar rivers. For more than 45 years, the IKSMS exists as one organization. On their website are the following texts:

„The founding of the International Commission for the Protection of the Moselle against pollution goes back to the treaty of October 27th 1956, concerning the navigability of the Moselle. In its article 55, the signing states agree to carry out the necessary measures to guarantee the protection of the Moselle and its tributaries against pollution, and to establish for this purpose adequate cooperation between their mutual administrative authorities.

Consequently on December 20th, 1961, a protocol regarding the establishment of an International Commission for the Protection of the Moselle against pollution was signed in Paris between the governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, the French Republic and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

An additional treaty was signed between the Federal Republic of Germany and the French Republic, regarding the protection of the Saar against pollution, it being the most important tributary of the Moselle. This protocol goes back to article 8 in appendix 8 of the treaty for settling the issue of the Saar, which had been signed by France and Germany on October 27th, 1956.

Both protocols came into force on July 1st, 1962, and both commissions received the mandate of bringing about and maintaining the cooperation of the three governments in order to protect the rivers against pollution.

Both protocols deal with international legal agreements to advance cross-border cooperation between the responsible government agencies to protect the Moselle against pollution.

The cross-border cooperation came underway accordingly in 1963, by each commission establishing two workgroups:

Workgroup „A“: Determining the Pollution's nature, scale and origin (immissions)

Workgroup „B“: examining measures for protecting the Moselle and Saar (emissions).

With this approach, the commissions anticipated already in 1963 the „integrated approach“ of article 10 in the WFD and by that became the pioneers of integrated water-source management in Europe.“

The future will show the extent to which the IKSMS can serve as a model for cross-border cooperation on the Upper Rhine. Consolidating the assignments of ZKR (Central Commission on Rhine Navigation) ICPR and some permanent commission on the Upper Rhine seems to make sense.

8 Further Information

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SLIM (slim = social learning for the integrated management and sustainable use of water at catchment scale)

<http://slim.open.ac.uk/page.cfm?pageid=slimhome>

Harmonicop (Harmonising cooperative planning):

<http://www.harmonicop.uos.de>

<http://www.wrrl-kommunal.de/content,410.html>

8.2 List of Documents

A list of various RhineNet project documents can be found at:

<http://www.rhinenet.net/documents>



www.rhinenet.net

