



Alpine space
In Movement

Discussion with German Stakeholders

Munich, 11. June 2014

Version 01
Date 30.06.2014

Kremser Helga, Schinegger Rafaela



Badura Marianne

blue! advancing european projects

- I'm mostly working in projects with ecological connectivity where water is one issue but not the only one
- Water topic due to the WFD and the RBMP's very well organised in terms of being transnational because it already covers a catchment area which normally consists of several countries whereas in ecological topic, natura2000 or ecological connectivity in general it's much more difficult to convince the people on working on a transnational level. It's not self understanding that there is a need of exchange on this transnational level.
- there is for example the platform on ecological connectivity at the level of the Alpine Convention which could be an instrument to establish such type of cooperation but which is bound to the regulations of the Alpine Convention of course which makes it quite slow and complicated in terms of getting on an operative level, but this would be necessary also for this ecological connectivity topic to have it a little bit more on an operational level.
- Alpine Convention is very political and strategic, natura2000 is first of all on national level, transnational cooperation is a voluntary thing.
- in the water topic it's different, so you have an advantage let's say.

Ballnus Florian

Ministry of Water and Environment, ASP national partnership, Danube strategy

- the core challenge in general and also in the AIM project is how to safeguard all these research results and are taken into consideration.
- you provide all these results to the decision makers and then it's up to them this used to be the way so many projects followed but obviously there is still a gap because in many cases all these results and material is not used to the full extend by the decision makers and I think this is an interesting question how to solve this problem and gap and also the situation varies on the different administration levels you have this kind of separating line between the experts and decision makers.
- I have no full answer of course but maybe would be more promising to have a better way of integration and cooperation of decision makers and experts in an earlier stage already.
- to meet the needs of the policy level I think it's really starting at the very first stage of design in a project, very simple maybe, but obviously the policy level needs must be included from the beginning on and take them on board to really raise also their interest and even more not only interest but to work together on something they are really waiting for. And you from expert site can elaborate all these needed material and decision making elements within the project and this starts at the very early stage.
- at the moment I would say the majority of classic INTERREG projects are doing it the other way round they are defining an idea or project objectives in the hope that the results will be useful for the decision makers. but if they go to the decision makers only at the stage where the results are given they say okay it's interesting but we have no time. Maybe a slight change in the project circle would be necessary.



- it is often quite difficult to convince especially administration and decision makers concerning this transnational aspects.
 - so maybe it's a core issues to integrate administration and decision makers from the beginning on when it comes to the design of a project and to address their needs.
 - it might not be necessary to emphasise the transnational aspect so much but to more focus on the regional or even local aspects in order to attract their attention and also to make them aware what we are doing here is exactly what you need and the transnational issues are done by the project in any case.
 - for some of the people the keyword transnational cooperation is a big barrier and an additional burden.
 - bring the results to the ones that need them. Convince them very softly, make them aware – okay this is useful for me. This might also be one off the reasons why transnational projects have some limits in the way of adapting to these results because of the different working environments that people are in. So maybe there are several details which one can adapt to his or her daily work but others can not in the different regions or countries due to very different reasons. This gets to a very detailed and personalized direction but maybe it's necessary.
 - work more on the methods and process of capitalisation and dissemination – this was the objective of call 5.
 - be aware of other call 5 projects which work more or less on same topics with the same wording or to refer to each other. This would be a very important message to the programme. A joint agreement or solution.
 - contact **WIKIALPS**, they are working on terminology extracting the best practice of several projects.
 - the macro regional strategy is still under development and here I see perfect opportunity coming from all those call 5 projects to include the results also in this process of the Alpine Space strategy.
 - I am convinced a higher political awareness will be achieved by the new element of the strategy and this will close the current gap.
 - Alpine region strategy will be developed different to the danube strategy, from the beginning on a very strong bottom up focus, and bottom up in this case means regional involvement and this of course includes stakeholders and than again it is linked to the policy level, this is the main idea of the strategy to bring all these topics that are classic INTERREG projects are working with to a higher policy level.
 - there are regional workshops currently prepared or going on including several mayers, involvement from the beginning on, public consultation process going on.
-
- **go to the next level**
 - **close the gaps between participants**
 - **tailor sized results, digestively format**
 - **not only hand over the guideline, but also the skills to really use the results, training!**



Stefan Schmutz

Institute of Hydrobiology and Aquatic Ecosystem Management, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna

- we are talking of two projects here, one is Alpine Space Programme Projects and you are also talking about hydropower projects and other projects and the full implementation process from first plan to operation so I think we have to separate the two things, the different types of projects
- what we are always seeking in both is the involvement or the more interlink age between experts, administration, decision makers and this is the big challenge. It's a question of time, it's a question of money but first it's a question of awareness that it is important to have this interlink age
- in this AIM project we are facing the fact that administration and decision makers definitively say we do not have the time for an ASP, because we do not get money we do not have the people to work on it, we are interested but we do not have the resources
- we have good legislation, we have the CIS working group on a very upper strategic level but then below that there is a big gap in the implementation and so there is a huge need for this kind of programmes but they are not efficient enough
- we are always dealing with local or regional problems but we have common problems in transnational regions and that is the idea of the programme not to reinvent the wheel five times in more or less the same ecoregion or whatever
- the observers dive not deep enough into the topic, they don't see the benefit

Eva Stare

JTS

- there is a link between the programme and the member states and the national levels also because there is a national committee in each country and when all the major decisions like now for the preparation of the operational programme the priorities and also for the terms of reference of the calls are decided this national committees are consulted and there the representatives of the ministries that are relevant for the topics are inside. so there is a link, there is a possibility but this is probably not known enough in administrations, so maybe you can also educate the stakeholders that are there that they also have this possibility
- duty of each project, contact right people involve them from the start, regular work. This call was organised to better bring the results to the target group and so on.
- the AIM of aim in the end is to bring the results closer to the target group, how can the result be used by the stakeholders, this has to be done right now
- you can show them that there are further calls, maybe you can find something to involve them in a network
- establish relationships, not only come when you need something. Be also interested on there needs and you build on that so they have something useful out of the project.



Susanne Muhar

Institute of Hydrobiology and Aquatic Ecosystem Management, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna

- Stakeholders stress the need of a strategic instrument at a higher level which would make transparent this process of data, of arguments of different sectorial sites and to make a transparent process how decision is made.

Ales Bizjak

Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana

- The higher you go the more abstract the themes are the easier you loose one off the stakeholders; they don't see where there are in the projects. When they are emotionally involved, like they see the river each day.

Lucija Marvot

Communication Management Ltd., Radovlica

- when approaching authorities on regional or national level of course they have different capacities and different interest regarding their local involvement or not. In some cases we managed to attract them and have personal meetings. Because our national authorities don't want to come to local events but they are interested in results. After approaching national authorities individually we managed to get them to an local event at the end. We really had to adapt methods and treat them with special care. We managed to attract them with personal meetings, special presentations, phone calls...



www.aim2014.eu

Project Contacts

maximo.peviani@rse-web.it

andrea.danelli@rse-web.it