

RIVERTWIN

3rd Meeting of the Management Board April 7, 2005 at Thessaloniki

Participants:

Karl Stahr (Project Coordinator) Christos Fragakis (CPO) Thomas Gaiser (Protocol) Jacques Ganoulis (Protocol)	Mouinou Attanda Igue Hans-Georg Schwarz von Raumer Victor Dukhovny
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Oskar Wallgren (SEI) and Ben Sonneveld (SOW-VU) were invited to participate but they informed the board that they were unable to attend the meeting. Karl Stahr opened the meeting and noted that all members of the management board having the right of vote were present. Jacques Ganoulis expressed his welcome to all participants in Thessaloniki and reminded the time available for discussions and some organisation arrangements.

The topics as listed in the program were confirmed. Under topic No.2, a second subtopic "Financial issues concerning SEI budget" was introduced.

1. Status of project activities in the three river basins

a. Neckar basin (WP 2 and 3)

On behalf of the river basin leader Frank-Michael Lange, Thomas Gaiser presented the status of the work packages No. 2 and 3 in the Neckar basin. In summary, the majority of the milestones has been achieved and all deliverables have been submitted. The digitizing of individual objects (water extraction, soil properties) is slightly delaying the progress in some WP tasks. For example, the validation of the groundwater model as well as of the SLISYS results are affected. Therefore, the integration of the model results and the scenario calculations will be also slightly delayed. The other models are keeping track with the time schedule. Consultations and meetings with various river basin authorities stakeholders (WP3) took place as provided in the description of work.

b. Oueme basin (WP 4 and 5)

Mouniou Attanda Igue presented the status of RIVERTWIN in the Oueme basin. Emphasis in the first year of the project was put on data collection. A large proportion of the data that were defined in the table "RIVERTWIN data requirements" is already available. The participant ILPOE has started to sort the data and put it into the RIVERTWIN metadatabase. Major data constraints are data on water demand and water supply in rural areas and water quality data. Therefore, participant UAC started with water quality monitoring and participant INRAB is carrying out surveys on water demand in 68 villages distributed within the 17 communes of the basin. Furthermore, soil data collection is more time consuming, because the total surface of the river basin had been underestimated in the beginning. A workshop with on the hand training in model application had been organized at Cotonou in March 2005. Twelve RIVERTWIN members from Europe trained personnel of partner institutions (Direction hydraulique, INRAB, University of Abomey-Calavi) in Benin. A good spirit of cooperation and exchange of experience was developed.

c. Chirchik basin (WP 6 and 7)

Victor Dukhovny presented the work done in the Chirchik river basin and the results obtained during the first year. As in the Oueme basin, data collection has also advanced considerably in

the first year. A large amount of data objects has been captured. Similar to the Oueme basin, water quality data are scarce except for salinity measurements in surface waters. Statistical data for soviet time period are more abundant than for the post-soviet period. Thanks to the data requirement list, prepared in October 2004, many GIS layers have been created. A two weeks model training for staff members of the SIC.ICWC has been held from January 24 to February 4, 2005 at Universities of Hohenheim and Stuttgart.

In WP7, the institutional and economic framework of the water management has been studied. Water management in the Chirchik basin is strongly linked to national political and economic objectives, because irrigation influences food security and foreign exchange balance (cotton production). In addition, the goals of water management must consider the interstate regulations for ecological flow requirements into the Syrdarya river. In summary, the national economic and political framework is very dynamic. Therefore, a large range of scenarios should be taken into account and the scenario assumptions will greatly influence the model results.

All presentations are available on the BSCW server at Meetings and Workshops / Management Board.

2. Workpackage progress and budget

Thomas Gaiser pointed out that the work packages are mostly keeping track with the time schedule. Some individual WP tasks are slightly delayed, some are ahead of the time schedule.

The project expenditures in the first reporting period (March 2004 to February 2005) amounted to 838.838 EURO. This means that 71% of the pre-financing of 1.193.880 EURO had been spent. Only participant SJE spent more than its pre-financing amount due to the labour intensive mapping campaigns. Accordingly, the projects that spent less than expected will have a lower pre-financing in the second year of the project.

3. Efficient use of additional resources in the budget of SEI

The additional resources of 63.000 EURO in SEI's budget of which 50% have to be financed by the respective contractor, should be used most efficiently. Before the meeting, the MB members received three proposals from SEI, SJE and SOW-VU respectively with respect to the use of the additional resources. The MB followed Mr. Fragakis proposal that, since, this is a twinning project, the most important criteria for the decision about the use of the money should be the expected benefit of the proposals to Benin and Uzbekistan. E.g., the money could be used to train as much students (incl. personnel concerned with water management, water ecology or water economics) as possible in Benin and Uzbekistan. Therefore, SEI, SJE and SOW-VU are requested to submit detailed proposals (Working description, additional benefit, expected costs, labour requirements) until May 2, 2005 to the management board members. Then, the MB will decide about the utilization of the resources based on the above mentioned criteria.

4. Midterm Review Meeting

The MB confirmed that the Midterm Review meeting will be held on Oct 3 to 7, 2005 in Benin. The draft program is attached in the Annex.

!!!Each contractor has to make sure that he is well represented, because at least two external reviewers will be present and evaluate the performance of the project!!!

Representatives of other water management research projects will be invited incl. the other twinning projects.

!!Each RIVERTWIN contractor who is responsible for the application of model(s) should prepare a poster with the status of his model application and a handout that contains a short model description!!

5. Project time schedule

The next meetings of the MB will be on October 7, 2005 at Cotonou and on April 7, 2006 at Tashkent. At Cotonou, the decision about the timing of the final project conference will be taken.

6. Model integration

Guideline for model integration: Presently the integration approach is a defined cascade of model runs through the exchange of out- and input data between the submodels. The model (or data) interfaces between the submodels used in the Neckar basin are defined in the so called "interface table" which is available on the BSCW Server at / Working Groups / Model Interfaces. Similar lists have to be prepared for the Oueme and Chirchik basin. The MB asks ILPOE, as the leader of the model integration, to write, in addition to this table, a manual (or guideline) on how to carry out the integration steps.

Uncertainties and reliability of model results: Uncertainties in model results are caused by both uncertainties related to input data or input assumptions and by uncertainties related to the process descriptions in the model. There are various ways in order to quantify these uncertainties. In order to harmonize the methodologies used in the project, the MB asks Jacques Ganoulis and Hans-Georg Schwarz-v.-Raumer to propose some guidelines for uncertainty evaluations to be handed over to the model appliers in the project and to assist them in carrying out uncertainty analysis.

7. Miscellaneous

Publishing: IMPORTANT!! Each publication made based on RIVERTWIN results must clearly acknowledge funding by the EC. Mr. Fragakis encourages, in addition to publications in scientific journals, to write contributions to journals which are addressed to practitioners like the INBO Newsletter and others.

RIVERTWIN book project: the possibility to publish major RIVERTWIN results in form of a book has been discussed. Main problem is funding. This could be either overcome by (1) submitting a SSA (Specific Support Action) proposal to the EC (2) All participation scientists and stakeholders may buy at least one copy of the book in order to cover the costs for editing and printing.