

## Group 2: Governance structures — facilitated by Jasper de Vries

The plenary discussion resulted in a rich collection of situations of interest related to water governance. Grouping these situations resulted in several themes. One of these themes was 'governance structure'. Within this theme, the following situations of interests and questions were identified:

- The drivers/incentives/barriers to cross-silo working
- Integrating governance across different risks (e.g. flood, water supply)
- To what extent can/must the 'plan' stage define the information/data for the 'review'
- Making the multiple, diverse initiatives part of a coherent whole
- How to make participation meaningful and effective?
- Pre-planning for and management of extreme events such as droughts as well as floods
- A systemic situation built upon a recognition of interconnections across levels of governance and sectors

- Sustaining involvement for continuous improvement and on-going activity.
- Breaking down silos
- Effectiveness of member state regulation in delivering WFD (objective compliance)
- Changes in ecological/economic balance in standards
- Bottom-up or top-down governance?
- How and by whom is the process designed and planned vs. opportunistic evolution
- How do we provide central support for local initiatives to help develop them?
- Big cities are growing, rural communities may lose out

The group discussed the relationship between different governance structures, in which the focus was mainly on the relationships between various scales, such as the local, community level and the larger, national (and European) scale. From this initial discussion, the group focussed on the dynamic between formal and informal

relations. For instance, relations between institutional and non-institutional, formal and informal, and legal and non-legal. Based on this discussion, a main situation of interest was identified. The situation was described as:

*'Optimising activities and interests to ensure efficiency with maximum impact on the chosen Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to ensure water security.'*

### **Actors**

This system of interest incorporates a series of actors including: NGOs, regulators, water companies, LEPs, LAs, Planners, RFCCs, farmers, landowners, communities, interest groups, and researchers. An important issue mentioned is that all sectors and silos should be involved in order to work through various sectors, because working in this governance system

requires an integrated approach.

### **Activities**

The participants in the group came up with the following activities related to improving the system of interest:

- Map initial key players at key tiers (national to local) and take into account the accountability of the different stakeholders. Important aspects related to this mentioned were:
  - Focus on processes, including all sectors, in a collective setting, and make roles and responsibilities explicit
  - This requires a honest and open attitude of all stakeholders
  - Within River Basin Districts, include all land owners
- Important to apply the learning cycle: Plan, Do, Check, Review with all key-actors.