Kennis voor Klimaat

Knowledge for Climate

Work Package 5.2: *Go with the flow(?)*

Developments on transboundary governance of climate change adaptation in European river basins

River basins & climate change

By adopting principles like the river basin approach in its water legislation, the European Union has been promoting transboundary governance among its Member Stares. This research aims at identifying to what extent normative principles that can be derived from European water legislation have influenced the development of transboundary governance between the Netherlands and its neighbours, as regards climate change adaptation. The research specifically focuses on river basins.

Project Associates

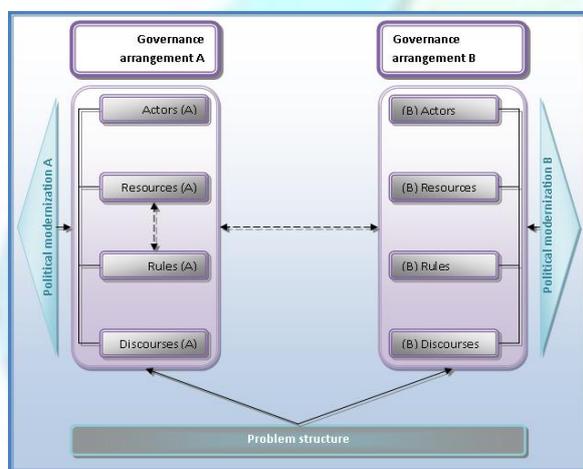dr. C. Dieperink, University of Utrecht,
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Research framework & empirical analysis

The applied research framework is the Policy Arrangement Approach. The different countries' policy arrangements as regards issues of climate change adaptation are compared to determine their congruence (see model left). The changes in that congruence since the entry into force of the relevant EU directives are assessed and subsequently compared to the development of transboundary governance. These are then related to the normative principles, to determine which are likely to have influenced changes in congruence and subsequent developments in transboundary governance.

Research goals & further relevance

The goal of this research is understanding the how and why of recent developments – or lack thereof – as regards the transboundary governance of climate change adaptation. Moreover, this research aims to gain insight in its possible future developments. Is it likely that such governance will significantly develop within the EU? Or are hampering factors present making further developments unlikely? Should we try to influence these factors? Or should we just 'go with the flow'?

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