Funding needs for cooperation in shared basins

The ICPR as an example of a coordination-oriented River Basin Organization

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The Rhine – a European river

200,000 km²
1 river basin – 9 states

The Netherlands
Belgium/Wallonia
Luxembourg
France
Germany
Austria
Liechtenstein
Switzerland
Italy
+European Union
Many different functions
Tasks of the ICPR

- Ecology
- Flood risk management
- Climate change adaptation
- Water quality
How does the ICPR function?

- Founded in 1950
- Expert groups (political mandates, expertise)
- Unanimous decisions, no sanctions
- **All measures implemented nationally!**
- 3 working languages, secretariat based in Koblenz (Germany), annual budget of € 1,2 million
Expenditures (2019)

- Staff, ling.: 36%
- Staff, scient.: 26%
- Staff, admin.: 0%
- Rent: 20%
- IT: 6%
- Cartography: 4%
- Office equipment: 2%
- Language: 1%
- Communication: 1%
- Travel: 1%
- PR: 1%
- Trainings: 1%
- Expenditures (2019)
Funding types (2019)

• Regular contributions of the delegations: → 94 %
• Special contributions of the delegations: → 5 %
• Project funding: → 0 %
• Reserve from a river prize awarded in 2014: → 0,5 %
• Donations: → 0,5 %
Funding by countries (2019)

- Germany: 29%
- France: 29%
- Netherlands: 29%
- Switzerland: 8%
- EU: 2%
- Luxembourg: 2%
- Austria: 1%
- Wallonia: 0.2%
- Liechtenstein: 0.2%
Development over the years

- Regular contributions
- Expenditures
- Linear (Expenditures)
Development of the salaries in the German public service

→ ICPR salaries linked to the German Public service labour agreement
Conclusion: Challenges

• Implementation of measures (e. g. fish passes, flood retention areas) from the ambitious ICR programmes requires enormous financial resources

• Different economic developments in national states (e. g. development of salaries)

• Changing political situation in national states → can affect funding of projects, but also of the commission itself

• Different government concepts (centralism vs. federalism)

→ constant funding & commitment needed
Conclusion: Opportunities

• Are coordination-based commissions less sensitive to political changes?
  → it’s “only” about resources for coordination, not implementation of measures

• States identify with the products their national experts have been working on

• Trust has grown since WW II

• The ICPR as a success story
  → 16 ministerial conferences
  → a pacemaker (“Rhine 2020” + “Rhine 2040”)
  → the outcome (pollution reduced, fish coming back, ecology recovering, flood risk reduced)
Thanks for your interest!

European Riverprize 2013, Vienna (Austria) & International Riverprize 2014, Canberra (Australia)

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Conference of Rhine Ministers, 2020

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