Multi level cooperation in transboundary river management
The Scheldt and Meuse Rivers

A typical case of northern Europe
EUROPE

Wallonia - Belgium
Demographic context
The Scheldt Basin
The Meuse Basin
Context

- 100 years of conflicts between parties
- Serious water quality problems
- Navigation and access to the sea
- Floods
Negociations

- Treaty for the Rhine basin
- Parties with different priorities
- The Netherlands located at the estuaries
- Belgium in the middle
- France at the sources
A complex treaty

The treaties have been negotiated
Between states and regions!
The Sheldt

• States
  • The Netherlands
  • France

• Regions
  • Wallonia
  • Flanders
  • Brussels-Capital
The Meuse River

• States
  • The Netherlands
  • France
  • Germany
  • Luxemburg

• Regions
  • Wallonia
  • Flanders
  • Brussels-Capital

Wallonia ~ Belgium
Specificity

The first time international treaties were signed between Regions of a federal State and other States.
WHY?

• The regions of Belgium have the constitutional right to sign treaties for the matters devoluted to them.
• In that case each region and state have taken its own responsibilities to improve water management in the river basins with a specific approach for each river.
Domestic cooperation

• To manage the two international treaties, we need more than the formal cooperation between the parties!

• We need the cooperation of the citizens!
Domestic cooperation

• Each party has organised consultations and sensibilisations among the populations of the different partners!

• The civil society is part of the treaty even if this role is informal!
Questions?

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