



## GOOD PRACTICE

### Title of the practice

Joint Monitoring plan for the Common Meuse  
(cross border monitoring plan, transnational teams,  
cross border efficiency)



### Detailed description of the practice

In the past, the two Meuse river authorities in the Netherlands and Flanders both had their own monitoring systems. The measuring of e.g. water levels, discharges, stream velocities, morphological features, water quality elements and biological data was done by each country individually (both in Flanders and in the Netherlands) in the same river. In 2005, the two countries decided that they could work together as one river authority with regard to the monitoring of all these data. One big workshop that lasted three days was successfully organized and resulted in a action plan towards a shared mutual monitoring programme. The implementation of the programme is done by an active transnational working group that meets twice a year. Key success factor: two parties with a good initiative, a strong will and convincing powers.

The Netherlands and Flanders have agreed to produce together one common monitoring plan for the common Meuse river. By choosing strategic locations, sharing data, and teamwork with regard to the retrieval and analysis of data, efficiency is obtained. Besides, in this way both countries use the same measuring data as basis for other activities (such as policy and maintenance work).

### Evidence of success

Nowadays all common Meuse data are being exchanged and a tool has been developed to adapt the data to the different national reference systems (X,Y,Z). The analysis of hydrological data is done by the two parties, so that they both have similar results. The number of measuring stations is reduced by omitting the unnecessary stations. In 2012 one of the two water level measuring stations at Maaseik will be removed. A highlight!

### Location of the practice

Country: *Netherlands*

City: *Maastricht*

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