

Thank you for your introduction and thank you for inviting me.

Good morning Ladies and gentlemen.

It is great to be here at this Conference in Marstrand

I would like to tell you how we do the stakholders involvement in The Netherlands

With my presentation I would like to inspiration you.

It is only an inspiration. It can not solve all your challenges.



My name is Liesbeth van Riet Paap, I work for the the Ministy of Infrastucture and water management and Rijkswaterstaat in the Netherlands.

From 2006 -2013 was responsible for the engagement off all stakeholder involved in the Dutch National Program Room for the River. All stakeholders: so the citinzens, farmers, politicians, practioners, communities and businesses

After 2013 I became a senior advisor on European Programmes

One of my taskes now is the engagement off the specific group of stakeholders: policymakers and practitioners in two EU – projects FAIR and Building with Nature.



In my presentation I would like to start with a short explaination on the circumstances in the Netherlands

Then I would like to tell you about the Dutch Room for the River program and the <u>principes</u> of stakeholders involvement which were used in this program. A program with 34 projects, where stakeholders involvement, <u>and especially citizens and farmers</u> played a cruciaal role in its succes.

Then I will tell you about 2 NSR Interreg 5 projects BwN and FAIR were we incorperated the good practise of stakeholders involvement from the RvdR program.

Finally I will end my presentation with a short conclusion



So I start shortly with the circumstances in the Netherlands and the Room for the River program



This sheet is only to show you where The Netherlands is situated.

Our country is densly populated: 17 million peaple live there

And it is quit small: 41.532 km2



After serious flood risks damage and evacuations in 1993 and 1995, the programm Room for the River started in 2006.

The objective of the program was safer river catchment areas by giving the rivers more room. Making room for the river also was an ideal opportunity to improve the spatial quality of the catchment areas at the same time.

This made The Netherlands safer and improved urban and rural development, creating more recreational areas and strengthening the economy. You may call it a win – win situation for all stakeholders



This is the map with the 34 projects of the RftR program.

So for the safety of the Netherlands all projects had to be realised within budget and on time.

A big challenge, but especially with the stakeholders involvement from the beginning of the program

And we succeded. The programme was finished in time and within budget.



The Room for the River program used the <u>priciples</u> of stakeholders involvement. An other word for this is <u>Multi Level Governance</u>



You can say that Multi level governance has 4 principles.

The first one is Strong leadership on Local, regional, national and on international level.

I think this principle stands for it self



The second principle is the Acceptations principle.

When, during the long proces of a project, a differt, alternative is brought up up by one stakeholder. The other stakeholders need to accept this. Take is seriously. And be prepared to look though the eyes of your partners



The third principle is the Inclusive principle.

--Engage, involve and sometimes co-create with stakeholders -Show your trust and use each others strength



The 4 principle is the Responsibility principle.

- Stay in contact with others
- -Defend your choises actifly and with an open ear.

-Share knowledge

-Be transparant with all information and decision making



Keep in mind:

It takes big efforts of all stakeholders
It is time and money consuming
The basis finance has to be organized
There has to be a sense of urgency
Celebrate successes together; smal and big
It is an on going proces
See the river system as a whole



The Multi Level Governance principles we incorperated in the two NSR Interreg 5 projects FAIR and Building with Nature



On this map you see, the green dots of the Building with Nature projects and the pink dots of the FAIR project., All situated in the countries nearby the North Sea.



And these are the partners of FAIR:



And these are all there partners of Building with Nature:



What is FAIR all about:

At the beginning of the 20^e century a lot of dykes, sluices, storm surge defences were build. Unfortually after 100 years they are at the end of live cycle and have to be adept and / or improved .

The problem is that we do not have enough money to work on so many assets at the same time, we do not know what climate change will bring and we know little what kind of new technologies will be invented.

But we have to do something.

So the countries around the North Sea joint forces in the FAIR project and will both produce a document / Framework with which helps the desicion makers to make a good decision.

The stakeholders in these projects are the policymakers and the practinioners.

To make sure that the Framework is beeing used by them we involve them as soon as possible. This means that meetings are organized were the projectpartners discus the concept Frameworks with the Policymakers and the Practinioners



The goal of the Building with Nature project is to demonstrate solutions that use natural processes and materials, and to generate knowledge on these types of measures. Climate change creates new causes for flooding, such as heavy rainfall, this requires new solutions for flood risk management. Some examples are restoration of rivers and creating room for the river (pictures). The BwN solutions also encourage multifunctionality, it can for example create space for recreation. The project will also look at how to encourage decisionmakers to implement these types of solutions.



In both projects, the output will be a framework.

This will help practitioners, policymakers, and decisionmakers to implement the solutions. They are the people we want to make use of the framework eventually: We want to make sure that the frameworks are useful for decisionmakers, policymakers, and practitioners.



How do we want to engage the stakeholders in these two Interreg projects?

For both of the projects, we have create a Policy Learning Group, which consists of policymakers and practitioners at the partner organisations of the project. The group has two tasks: to review the framework and to share this with their network (picture). In reviewing the framework, the Policy Learning Group also asks for input from their networks. This has benefits for us and for the stakeholders: the framework is better tailored to the needs of the stakeholders and will be picked up by the networks. The networks are also more engaged in the framework, because they have been involved early in the process.

We also organise other events, such as policy debates, in which interested parties can share their opinions and questions. This will give the project better insight into what stakeholders need and want.



So I think I may conclude:

- The Netherlands has developed a "best practice" for multi-level governance on climate adaptation, because we were was forced to do so by water and nature.

-This "best practice" is disseminated through North Sea projects

- Our Stakeholders face together the challenge in the North Sea Area and work closely together to strengthen climate resilience

- We are developing multilevel governance frameworks in current projects through transnational cooperation which can be scaled up and rolled out in future transnational actions.



Thank you for your attention.