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Volume 9, Issue S2
1 November 2007

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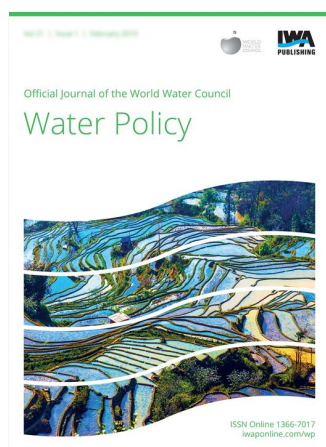
RESEARCH ARTICLE | NOVEMBER 01 2007

Water governance: trends and needs for new capacity development





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Water Policy (2007) 9 (S2): 19–30.



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<https://doi.org/10.2166/wp.2007.137>

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New forms of governance focusing on process-oriented societal co-steering through, for example, formal and informal networks, partnerships and dialogue, have emerged within the water sector. The governance transformation is intrinsically linked to the increasing focus on the complexity of water management and the multifunctional character of water and the search for alternative forms of organisation. The emergence of concepts like integrated water resources management and river basin management should be seen in the light of the governance transformation. The full potential of the governance transformation for improved management of water resources and services is yet to be fully realised. Water decision-makers and managers are currently not prepared to fully realise the development potentials of new forms of governance, such as facilitating inclusive decision-making processes, coordination and negotiated outcomes. There is thus a need for additional *sociocratic* knowledge and capacity development that, for example, puts the emphasis on the management of people and processes, diversity of organisation and knowledge sharing. As a part of this it is paramount to treat politics as a part of the problem as well as of the solution and to broaden water issues outside the water sector itself.

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Adapting water governance to changing needs, while coping with the uncertainties caused by climate change and the consequences of urbanisation and demographic growth, is key for inclusive, safe and resilient cities. The urgency of the challenges calls for innovative practices to enhance water security and provide better services to citizens, as foreseen by the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6. The key question is: how to accomplish these objectives? While there is no doubt that technical solutions are available and play a fundamental role, they represent only part of the solution. MDPI and ACS Style. Romano, O.; Akhmouch, A. Water Governance in Cities: Current Trends and Future Challenges. *Water* 2019, 11, 500. AMA Style. To address global water-related development needs, this Strategy provides an increased focus for USAID's water programs that is sustainable, works through host country systems, uses emerging science and technology, and learns from past efforts. The goal of this Strategy is: To save lives and advance development through improvements in water supply, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs, and through sound management and use of water for food security. ■ Builds on USAID's comparative advantage in capacity building and governance by emphasizing policy reform, strengthened enabling environments and institutions, participatory governance, and innovative financing.