

# Spatial Planning, Cross-border Cooperation and River Basin Management: Learning from International Experience

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INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR  
LOCAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Promoting best practices in spatial planning and economic development.

# A Double Challenge

1. Sectoral Coordination, Negotiation and Integration: river basin management spatial planning and other policy sectors
2. Cross-border coordination: A spatial governance challenge



# Learning from International Experience

- ICLRD Study: Good Practice Case Study of Elbe International River Basin District
- European Environment Agency Report: August 2012



# EU Water Framework Directive

- Objectives of WFD are very ambitious and demanding: *new generation* environmental policy
- Working across spatial and sectoral boundaries is a key requirement
- Significant potential synergies with spatial planning objectives



# Synergies: RBMPs and Spatial Plans

RBMP Objectives	Spatial Planning Objectives
Spatial approach to environmental management	Spatial approach to development and land-use
Management of conflicts over water issues	Water supply as a key issue for spatial planning
River basin as environmental resource	Promotion of green infrastructure
Enhance public awareness of water issues	Development of amenity value of water bodies and their surroundings
Coordination across policy sectors	Coordination across policy sectors



# River Basin Management and Spatial Planning

- 1. A Factor in Planning Decisions  
(Development Control)*
- 2. A Factor in Spatial Plan-Making  
(Development Planning)*
- 3. Active Policy Integration*
- 4. Spatial Strategies as Frameworks for Policy  
Coordination*



# Elbe IRBD

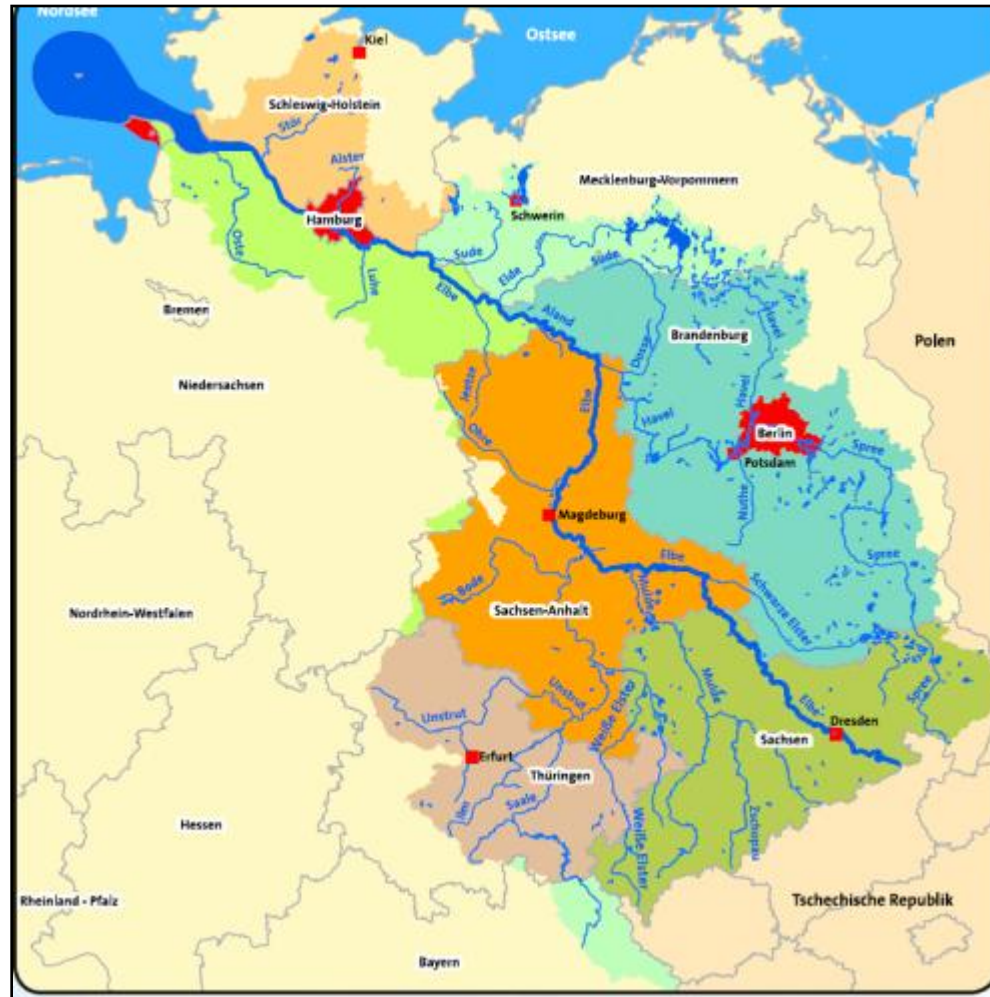
- Population 25 million, area 150,000 sq km, Germany, Czech Republic
- Crosses boundaries of 10 federal states within Germany
- Start of cooperation in 1990s
- International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe



## Elbe International River Basin District:

### Challenges of Spatial Governance:

- international
- between federal states (Länder)





Level	Key Actors	Actions and Responsibilities
Federal	Federal Ministry of the Environment	Reporting to the European Commission, Providing enabling framework legislation, Representing Germany on International Commissions
International River Basin District	International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe River	Coordination and Preparation of International River Basin Management Plans, Ensuring cross border cooperation, Resolving conflicts of interest and information exchange and harmonisation issues
Inter-state coordination	Elbe River Community Council (FGG Elbe)	Resolving border issues, Development of transboundary concepts and strategies, Exchange of experience, Data harmonisation
Federal States	Brandenburg Ministry for Environment, Health and Consumer Protection	Development of policy and legislation, participation in interstate and international fora
	State Environment Agency Brandenburg	Implementation of River Basin Management Plans – Development of waterbody development concepts (GEKs) and programmes of measures
Regional and Local	State Environment Agency, consultants, local authorities, stakeholders	Development of GEKs with stakeholder and public participation, Hosting of and participation at regional information seminars













## Governance Structures of Elbe River Basin Council

Reflects importance  
of hierarchies in the  
German system!



# Water management and spatial planning:

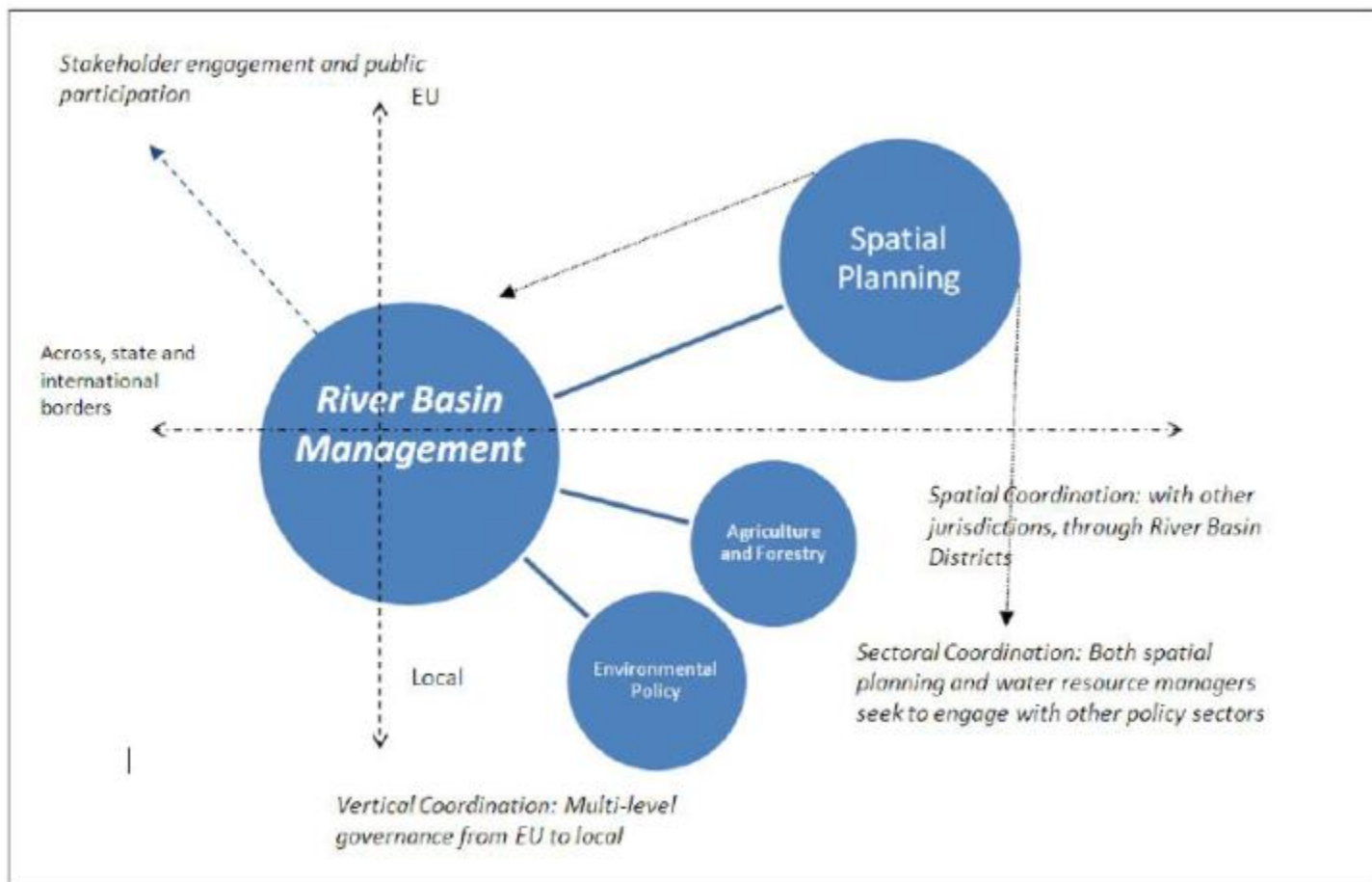
## Traditional hierarchical model

	Water Resource Management		Spatial Planning
<b>Federal</b>	Legislative Framework		Legislative Framework
	 	 Formal but weak links in legislation between the two policy sectors	 
<b>Federal States</b>	Legislation, policies and operational programmes, controls and standards		Spatial and landscape plans, implementation projects
	 	 Weak links in practice	 
<b>Regional and Local</b>	Implementation, monitoring and policing		Land-use development plans



# Water management and spatial planning:

## Negotiated governance model



(Continued on slide 10)



# Good Practice in Linking RBMPs and spatial planning

- SEA - to ensure integration of environmental objectives - key issue of cumulative impact
- Typology of areas based on vulnerability to deterioration in status
- Multi-functional policy instruments such as green infrastructure
- Common data infrastructures through GIS



# Recommendations

1. Develop expertise in environmental planning
2. Communication across disciplinary boundaries.
3. Integrated assessment methodologies and monitoring systems
4. Inter-agency coordination and cross-jurisdictional cooperation



# Recommendations

5. Strategic Leadership
6. Communication and engagement with elected representatives and other stakeholders
7. Resource allocation and prioritisation



# Thank you for your attention

Links:

<http://iclrd.org/>

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/territorial-cohesion-and-water-management>



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