

Simul'Eau, an approach to foster integrated water resources management in Ouest Hérault

Question asked: How to foster integrated water resources management Ouest Hérault ?

Region: Ouest Hérault

Backer: InterSAGE 2009 - 2014 research program

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Within the scope of an InterSAGE 2009 - 2014 research program, around twenty partners (from public to private institutions) have worked on the conception and the facilitation of a ComMod approach.

They worked on two main issues. The first was related to the coordination between different structures involved in the management of 3 coastal rivers basin (Orb, Astien, Aude) which share the same water resources. The second was related to the coordination between continental and sea water managers. At the end of the first project stage, context analysis, they decided to focus on the first issue as necessary conditions to develop a ComMod approach were not fulfilled in the second case (lake of participants' interest; lake of local levers of control...).

The project started in 2009 and lasted 3 years. It gathered together more than 130 participants, who produced recommendations for a better water governance.

The approach was conducted through several steps:

- Context analysis (bibliography, interviews...)
- Pre-models development
- Organization of several participatory modeling workshops to foster these pre-models
- Design of a single share model (role playing game)
- Scenarios exploration through role playing game sessions

Regarding the project evaluation, the approach enabled: to build a share representation of the system at stake, to enlighten local levers where coordination must be fostered, to build trust among participants, to create share recognition of each participant's legitimacy, to overtake conflicts.

Quotation from a participant: « *The fun of the role playing game allows to overtake conflicts and so to lead a more impartial conversation* ».

For further information:

- A movie (in French <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOhx671p868> ; and English http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_wqc9CS57A)
- A flyer (in French)
- A first article in French: Guérin-Schneider, L., M. Dionnet, G. Abrami, Y. von Korff. 2010. Comment évaluer les effets de la modélisation participative dans l'émergence d'une gouvernance territoriale. Actes du Colloque OPDE « Aide à la décision et gouvernance », 2010. INRA, Montpellier (in French)
- A second article in French (*coming soon*)

