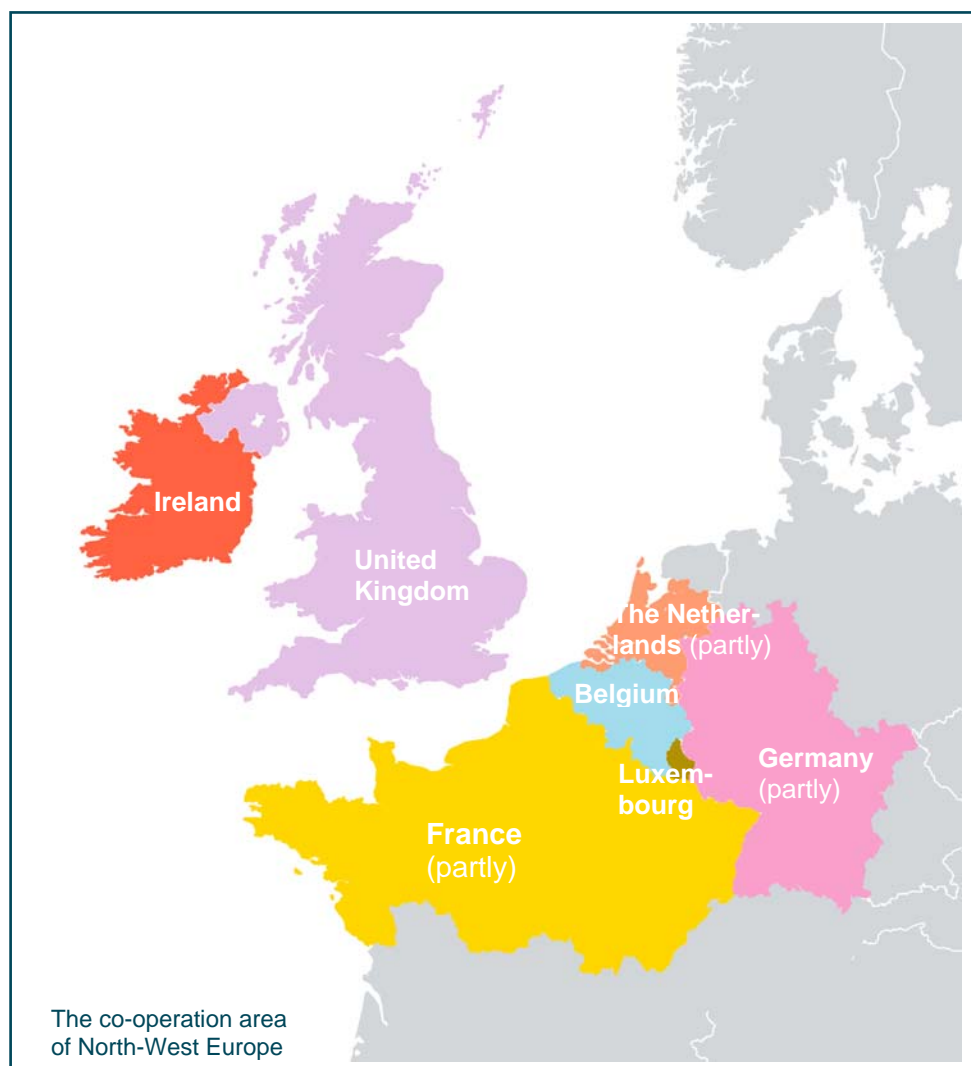


The Spatial Planning Systems of the INTERREG IIIB North West Europe (NWE) Member States

Per State and in Comparison



Introduction

Flood damage prevention as well as the ecological development within river corridors and basins can be regarded as an essential transnational task within the European territories. Projects for flood control and natural development often have resulted in contradictory or conflicting impacts on riverine environments. In many cases this was due to inadequate adaptation of spatial planning instruments at a national as well as at a transnational level.

New initiatives for long lasting flood prevention through spatial planning and urban development, integrating sectoral interests, are extremely necessary. The collaboration within the different fields will be taken very seriously in order to obtain the highest sustainable spatial development.

It will therefore be necessary to explore the spatial planning methodologies and planning instruments and EU-directives, national laws and policies in North West Europe with regard to their possibilities and problems related to water management and ecological aspects.

In this context the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP 1999) provides the political framework for the implementation of sectoral policies with spatial impacts. This jointly accepted document stimulates the co-operation of regional and local authorities across national boundaries by the execution of the INTERREG-Programs.

Comparing the targets of EU-WFD and issues addressed by ESDP on an equal level, it becomes clear logically that spatial planning may increase the chance of realizing both a transnational effective flood control and an ecologically sustainable development of river corridors.

The Management of the Project

The INTERREG IIIB project nofdp is initiated by the lead partner, the Hessian Ministry of Environment, Rural Development and Consumer Protection and the project co-ordination lies in the hand of the Darmstadt University of Technology, Section Engineering Hydrology and Water Resources Engineering.

The following province, institute and water boards are involved as project partner:

- Provincie Noord Brabant
- German Federal Institute of Hydrology
- Water board Aa en Maas
- Water board Brabantse Delta
- Water board de Dommel
- Water board Mümling

Royal Haskoning

In the framework of the INTERREG IIIB project nofdp (nature oriented flood damage prevention) Royal Haskoning was commissioned to investigate the spatial planning systems of the member states of the North West Europe area.

The NWE area of the INTERREG IIIB initiative includes the member states Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The co-operation area covers only partly France, Germany and The Netherlands.

The research includes the EU-directives, national laws and policies which should be seen as an important integrated parameter and valuable discipline of this INTERREG IIIB project.

This project results from a successful collaboration with the French company *Territoires, Sites et Cités, Bureau d'études d'urbanisme* and the English company *Land Use Consultant, environmental planning, design and management*.

The Approach of the Study

The study consists of two parts. The first part includes the spatial planning system of each member states which was analysed independently per state. The following three steps were chosen as an all-purpose approach for the part one:

- Desk research
- Further research including interviews at a national, regional and local level
- Analysis and elaboration step

Interviews were held in Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg and The Netherlands.

The first part pursues per state the same structure which allows an achievable comparison at a later stage, in part 2.

The main subjects to be worked out are highlighted as following:

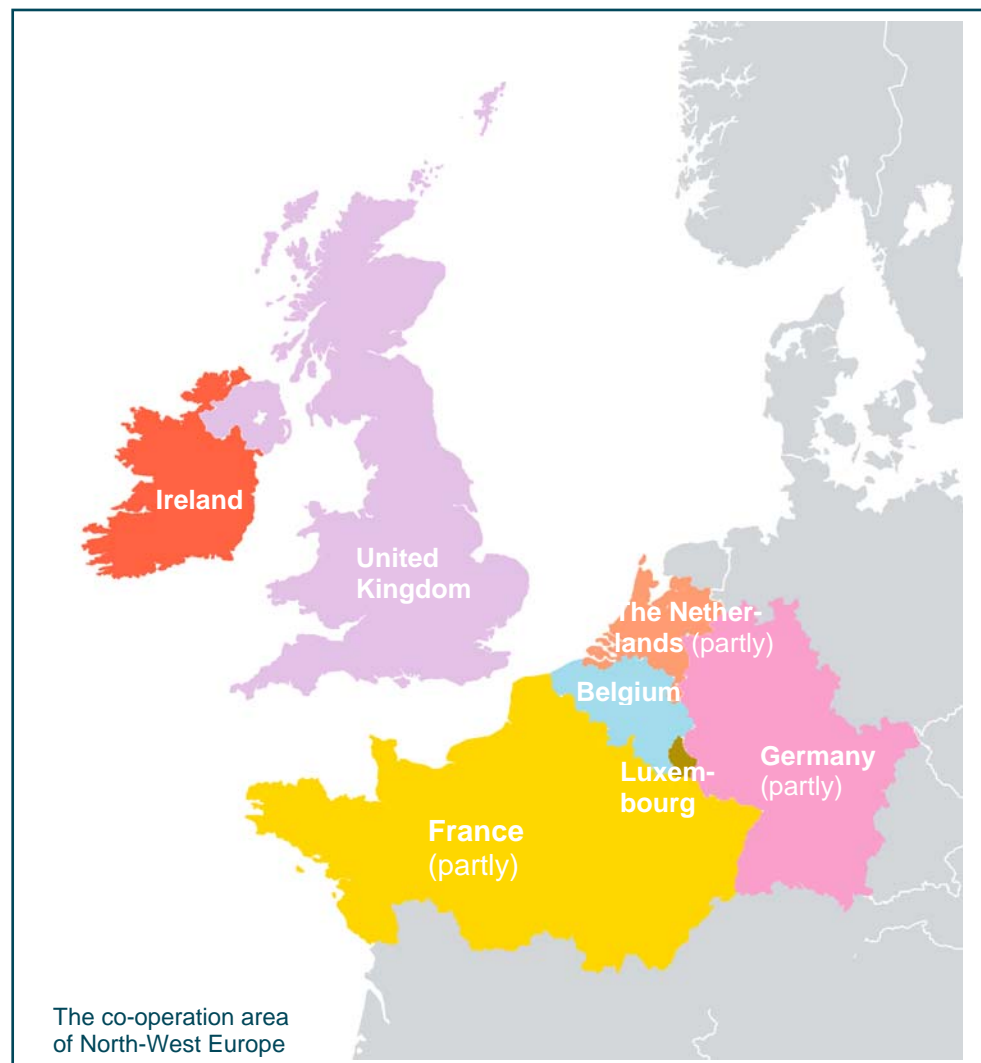
- General information of the relevant state
- Development of a scheme: spatial planning, water management, ecology
- Description of the spatial planning system per level, water management, water legislation and ecology
- Details of the six levels of the planning instruments: legislation, policy and other planning instruments
- Interviews and conclusion (where held) with regard to integral approach, co-operation of spatial planning and water management, co-operation beyond boundaries, EU-WFD and sustainable development, necessity of new tools and at least suggestions for the future

Based on the outcome of part one the second part includes the comparison of the spatial planning systems of the NWE member states. The following aspects were evaluated:

- Characteristics of the different states
- The structure of the national planning systems
- Levels of the spatial planning systems
- Fine-tuning between the levels
- Most important planning documents
- Relations between and integration of spatial planning, water and ecology
- Learning from each other and working together

Part 1

The Spatial Planning System per State



Contents

- The Spatial Planning System of Belgium
- The Spatial Planning System of France
- The Spatial Planning System of Germany
- The Spatial Planning System of Ireland
- The Spatial Planning System of Luxembourg
- The Spatial Planning System of The Netherlands
- The Spatial Planning System in the United Kingdom

Part 2

The Spatial Planning System in Comparison

