

## **Press release**

### ***Crossing Borders offers practical insight in cross-border cooperation***

*Accessible practical handbook on transboundary water management free for download*

Worldwide more and more organizations working in water management see the strategic importance of cross-border cooperation at regional level. Sometimes driven by international legislation, or sometimes as a result of identifying joint opportunities and benefits. Developing this form of cooperation is however still an area that needs some uncovering. The book *Crossing Borders. Creating and Managing Cross-border Regional Alliances* by Jan van der Molen and Hannah Ietswaart clearly describes how this cooperative process is initiated and clarifies further steps of implementation. This concisely written book can be [downloaded for free](#) at the website [www.crossingbordersacademy.org](http://www.crossingbordersacademy.org).

Developing successful cross-border cooperation is a complex process in which various diverging aspects are simultaneously in play. *Crossing Borders* is the very first book that addresses all these aspects in their mutual correlation. The book provides not only insight in the theoretical backgrounds of the subject, but also highlights the concrete, practical implementation. *Crossing Borders* is a book with a pleasant reading structure, that uses clear language and straightforward examples of the daily practices in water management, as well as a playful - carefully illustrated - animal storyline, making this complex subject accessible for everyone.

By providing a well-constructed balance between theory and strategies and tools for daily practice, *Crossing Borders* is a useful practical guidance for (future) managers of these cooperative processes and a delightful and concise learning book for students. For other interested parties the book provides a solid introduction to a topic that is being placed on the strategic agenda in more and more governmental organizations. Yet, cooperation across borders not only offers new perspectives for water management, but also for various other disciplines such as education, safety, energy, public transportation and wildlife conservation.

The authors deliberately chose to make this book available freely through the Internet for the whole world. This does not only ensure the broadest possible audience, but offers the interactive Crossing Borders Academy as a platform for interaction between international practitioners, scientists, students and other interested parties. On the website [www.crossingbordersacademy.org](http://www.crossingbordersacademy.org) opinions and questions can be exchanged and all involved can benefit from experiences and research by others.

The content of *Crossing Borders* is based on the Crossing Borders theory which was the final thesis by Jan van der Molen in 2011 when he promoted at the University of Twente in the Netherlands. The book is supplemented with examples from the broad practical experiences of both authors. Jan van der Molen and Hannah Ietswaart work for the Dutch water board Velt & Vecht, a regional governmental organization in the area of water management. They provide policy-oriented consultation in various cross-border cooperative processes, such as the Dutch-German future vision on management of the river Vecht.

### **More information**

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