

provincie limburg





International cooperation on the River Meuse:

lessons learned

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Province of Limburg

- 1,1 mln residents
- 2209 km²
- Capital: Maastricht
- Borders 139 km to Belgium, 212 km to Germany, 113 km to the Netherlands
- River Meuse: 160 km (935 km; 250 km in NL)



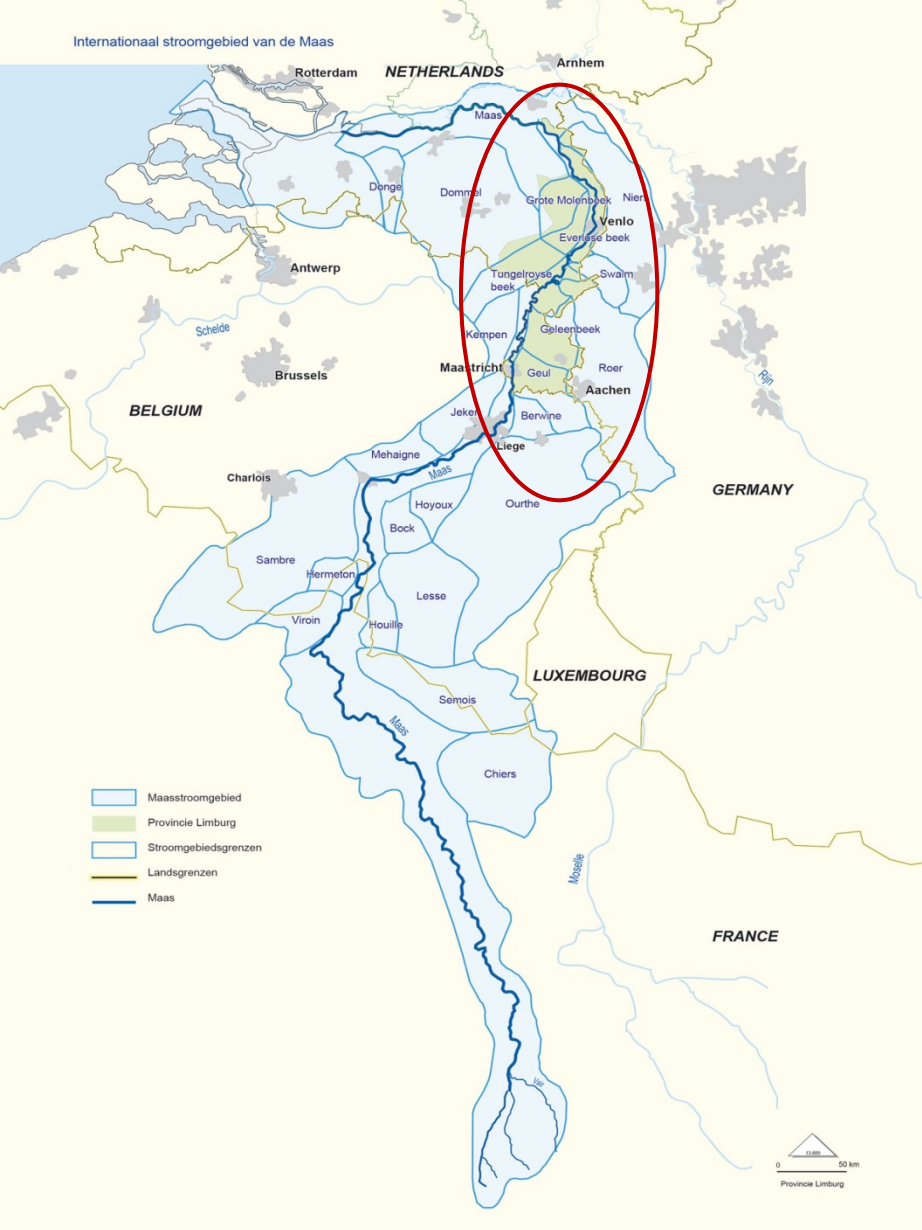
International cooperation: main issues

- Ecology: Natura 2000; biodiversity
- Economy: Accesibility (rail,road, waterway);
Chemics; Healthcare and Life Science: R&D:
high-education
- Maastricht candidate European Capital of
Culture 2018
- **Water management: WFD, flood risk >
Maas-Meuse**



Limburg within River Meuse basin





Major challenges

- Reducing flood risks
- Sufficient clean water
- Climate change
- Water quality

International cooperation River Meuse

- Cooperation in networks, e.g. FLAPP/AMICE/FloodWise
- Bilateral committee: e.g. VNBM concerning Border Meuse
- Structural forms of cooperation: e.g. IMC concerning WFD, Flood risk

➤ **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION: 2 examples**

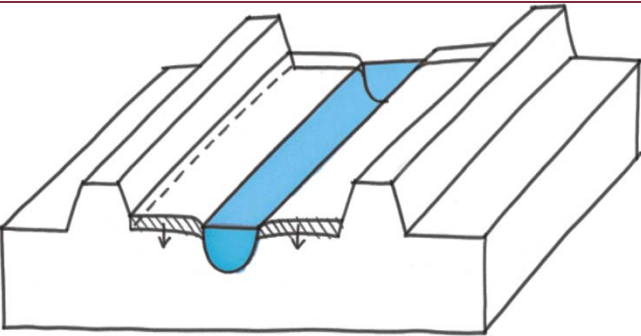




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Border Meuse



Economy

PPC-construction: 50 Million ton gravel

Safety

Deepening and widening of floodplain to reduce the flood risk level

Wetland restoration

**New areas for nature: 1600 ha
strengthening of Natura 2000 network**

Border Meuse in international context

- Project orientated
- Cooperation with Belgium-Flanders in Bilateral Committee Meuse
- Started with exchange of information
- To agreements
- Working on both sides of the river to deal with Climate Change



International Meuse Commission

- Coordination responsibilities for the implementation of WFD
- Coordination responsibilities for the implementation of the Directive on the assessment and management of flood risks
- Give advice and recommendations preventing and reduction water pollution (warning and alarmsystem)
- One Management Plan for the whole River Basin District



Main problems on water quality

- Agriculture
- Point en diffuse pollution
- Hydromorphology
- Groundwater bodies at risk



International Meuse Commission

- Know en understand each other
- From exchange of information via policy coordination, via agreements and treaty to jointly operational implementation
- Structural form of cooperation, based on Treaties (Treaty of Charleville-Mézières 1994 followed by Treaty of Gent 2002)

But

- Limited budget, limited to needs to the work of the commission
- Member States still responsible for implementation WFD



Lessons learned: stages of cooperation

- Networks with regard to common challenges
- Policy coordination
- Covenant
- Agreement
- Treaty
- Joint implementation
- Joint venture

Every cooperation has it's own characteristic.

Not a matter of right or wrong, but a matter of desirable or less desirable.



Lessons learned: do's and don'ts!

- Know each other well
- Learn about each other's interests, history, culture, tradition
- So be patient: structuring cooperation takes time.
- Understand and help each other
- Do not try to convince each other!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !!!
İLGİNİZ İÇİN TEŞEKKÜR EDERİZ !!!