



Design for water governance learning



London was one of the governance learning event locations

Our research : designing, facilitating and participating in co-learning

Designing and running a series of governance learning events in Sweden, UK and Italy has been a key part of CADWAGO. Typical aims of these events have been to:

- develop understandings of policy and practices and contemporary issues of relevance to CADWAGO across Europe
- build relationships with some of those involved in European water policy and governance with mutual interests with CADWAGO and who were open to a co-learning process
- consider desirable and feasible futures for water governance in times of climate change and the actions required in a range of contexts
- engage in critical and constructive review of CADWAGO's plans and achievements

Design principles

- participatory design for learning to enable multiple perspectives on relevant issues to be understood
- building on the lessons from past and on-going research cases to create a forum and dialogue among researchers and stakeholders at different levels and scales
- designing an enabling environment for co-production of knowledge processes to emerge

Key findings

1. Focusing on trajectories (past, present and future) of water governance can provide a useful structure for inquiry both within and across events.
2. A design for learning process in the context of past and on-going case studies needs to take account of the nature of different stakeholdings and positions. Some participants inevitably have more at stake than others e.g. regarding livelihoods, ongoing research and needs for change. Different position-holders may also make various competing claims. A co-design and distributed design process can help recognize these different stakeholdings and position-holdings.
3. Different perspectives on water governance can be brought together in a learning process to gain a systemic view of what needs to change, how and who to involve. Systems tools and techniques can be used to help keep the process focused on systems of relevance to participants.

Insight for Europe

Insights from local, national and international levels of water governance in the context of climate change can be built on through co-learning, supported by appropriate design of events.