

O.T3.2 FEEDBACK ANALYSIS AND LESSONS LEARNT FROM STAKEHOLDER TRAINING WORKSHOPS

WORK PACKAGE T3 - IMPLEMENTATION AND FEEDBACK -TOOLBOX VERIFICATION

ACTIVITY A.T3.2 STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK ANALYSIS OF INTEGRATED TOOLBOX (CC-ARP-CE)

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1. Introduction

The national stakeholder training workshops were set to discuss the efficiency and relevance of the Toolbox as a second loop of testing by the stakeholders [D.T3.2.2 - Stakeholder training workshops for integrated Toolbox (CC-ARP-CE) testing (feedback analysis)].

The concept for the national stakeholder training workshops (D.T3.2.1) was developed to define and align testing of the Toolbox by stakeholders in partner countries, so that results/feedbacks would be better comparable. The second Stakeholder Training Workshops took place in October and November 2021. The purpose of the Stakeholder training Workshop has been to gathering feedback on the Toolbox CC-ARP-CE, according to which, the Toolbox was further improved and upgraded.

To achieve synchronous results and feedback on specific topics, we prepared a concept of the workshops with a well-defined structure and topics for a discussion. This concept provided the PPs with a framework for preparing the workshops in their pilot areas. On this basis, the workshops were individually performed by the responsible PPs. The individual programme was based on the focal points of the activities in the pilot region.

The main content of this report is the analysis of the workshops with stakeholders.

1.1. How, when and where the stakeholder workshops took place?

157 Stakeholders took part in the eight planed workshops in the period from 19. October to 29. November 2021. This sample could be grouped into homogeneous groups of stakeholders depending on their responsibility in different relevant local, regional or national authorities; as only three workshops were attended by more than 20 people, such groups wouldn't been reported. Nevertheless participants could be specified in 85% of the total as:

Group #1: Research and Education	27%
Group #2: Officials of local authorities	23%
Group #3: Officials of regional and national authorities	39 %
Group #4: Others like NGO's and agricultural stakeholders	11%

Table 1: Workshop participation in the Pilot Actions.

	Pilot area	Workshop	Participants	Participants	Participants	Other	Group voting
		participants	Research &	Local	National & Participants		realized
			Education	Authorities	Regional		
					Authorities		
P 1	KamniskaBistrica, SLO	18	1	10	4	3	yes
P 2	Upper Lusita, D	9	3	4	2		no
Р3	Kamienna, PL	29	6	12	8	3	yes
P 4	Lower Silesia, PL	32	10	3	14	5	yes
P 5	Enza, IT	24					yes
Ρ6	Vienna Water, A	12	л	2	1	2	20
Р7	Waidhofen/Ybbs, A	15	4	2	4	5	110
P 8	Nagykunsagy, HU	20			20		yes
Р9	Dyje, CZ	12	12				yes
	Sum	157	36	31	52	14	133
	Percent of specif. number		27%	23%	39%	11%	
	Percent of total number						85%





Due to the limitations forced by COVID19 in-vivo-groups has been rather limited and supplemented and/or replaced by video meetings. Planned parallel secessions for discussing in small groups didn't take place. So most of the participants commonly have discussed all three chapter groups sequentially.

2. Questions asked at the Stakeholder Training Workshops

2.1. Flashlights

After a guided tour and answering the initial comprehensive questions of participants, stakeholders have been invited to assess the Toolbox and provide brief answers to the following questions. This was regarded shortly as a flash light more on emotional basis to give an expression of their inner attitude.

Potentially answering in four options: To select a value between 1 (worst value) and 4 (best value)!

- Yes, definitely (4)
- Yes, more or less (3)
- No, not so much/many (2)
- No, definitely not (1)
- a) Does the Toolbox <u>reach its goal</u> as an identification and decision support platform for issues + measures for stakeholders?
- b) Does the <u>functionality and usability</u> of all parts of the Toolbox convince the stakeholders?
- c) As regards the complexity of the Toolbox Do stakeholders see an <u>applicable instrument for enhancing</u> <u>the decision process?</u>
- d) Regarding <u>user expectations</u> Can stakeholder imagine using the Toolbox in their field of responsibility?
- e) How is the <u>user experience</u> Do stakeholders know, how to use the Toolbox and does it meet user expectations?
- f) What are the decision-making processes in the user's fields of responsibility do stakeholders think decision support systems enhance public acceptance of the results?
- g) Which water management Field of Action is the most relevant in your Pilot Area in aspect of Climate Change?
 - 1. fluvial flood risk management
 - 2. pluvial flood risk management
 - 3. groundwater management
 - 4. drinking water supply management
 - 5. irrigation water management
 - 6. water scarcity and drought risk management
 - 7. management of water-dependent ecosystems

Participants' answers to these single-choice questions shall be averaged for every PA workshop report.

2.2. Stakeholders' insights regarding the Toolbox

The answers to the following open questions will have to be condensed and reported by the facilitators.





- a) Regarding the representation of all relevant issues? Do the stakeholders find a measure quotation for their relevant <u>fields of action</u>?
- b) As regards the suitability of the suggested measures do the stakeholders identify with the Toolbox's approach to adapting landscape management in line with different <u>measures</u>?
- c) With regard to the problems and remarks concerning the procedure or selection of MEASURES <u>AHP</u> <u>Criteria ranking</u> - with regard to the usability of the AHP Criteria ranking tool - is it clear for users how to select the priorities/rank the criteria? Is it clear how to interpret the output?
- d) Usability of <u>climate indicators and scenarios</u>?

2.3. General questions about the Toolbox Group discussion

- e) What are the <u>expectations</u> What are the stakeholders hoping to gain?
- f) What are the <u>limitations</u> what stops stakeholders from providing information?
- g) What about the <u>usability</u> of the Toolbox within Your institution/authority/service? Do you know of institutions/persons that may have been interested in using the Toolbox?

2.4. General questions about needs and possibilities to update existing strategies or build new ones

In Group discussion 3 the general questions about needs and possibilities to update existing strategies or build new ones are discussed, such as:

- a) What strategies/policy documents related to water management in the Pilot Area are known to you?
- b) In which FofA is the greatest need to update / develop a strategy in aspect of Climate Change?
 - 1. fluvial flood risk (management)
 - 2. pluvial flood risk (management)
 - 3. groundwater management
 - 4. drinking water supply (management)
 - 5. irrigation water (management)
 - 6. water scarcity and drought risk (management)
 - 7. management of water-dependent ecosystems
 - 8. other fields
- c) Do you know institutions or people that may have been interested in update existing strategies related to water management using the Toolbox? What about your institution?
 - Not: Why?
 - Yes: Which ones?
- d) Is there a need to transfer findings from existing national or regional strategies to the local level?





3. Outcomes

3.1. Stakeholders' basic attitude towards the Toolbox

3.1.1. Flashlight rating for the Toolbox

The evaluation did not produce the hoped-for result. The number of participating partners was too low; the questions were only partially answered. On average, less than half of the participants voted.

The essential statements are:

- According to the stakeholders who voted, half of the Toolbox is completely as expected and half is more or less as expected (Fehler! Verweisquelle konnte nicht gefunden werden.)
- Half of the participants consider the Toolbox to be definitely suitable for supporting decisionmaking.
- Half would use the Toolbox, if possible, in their own area of responsibility.



Survey participation

Figure 1: Survey participants in the Pilot Actions.





Does the Toolbox reach its goal?



Figure 2: Does the Toolbox reach its goal as an identification and decision support platform for issues + measures for stakeholders?

Functionality & Usability







Does the Toolbox enhance the decision process?

Figure 4: Complexity of the Toolbox - Do stakeholders see an applicable instrument for enhancing the decision process?





User expectations - use of the Toolbox



Figure 5: User expectations - Can stakeholder imagine using the Toolbox in their field of responsibility?

User experience - knowledge on using the Toolbox



Figure 6: How is the user experience - Do stakeholders know, how to use the Toolbox and does it meet user expectations



Figure 7: What are the decision-making processes in the user's fields of responsibility - do stakeholders think decision support systems enhance public acceptance of the results?





Field of Action (FoAs)	relevant FoAs	PA1	PA2	PA3	PA4	Proportion of FoA
Fluvial flood risk	10	3		4	3	17%
Pluvial flood risk	18	5	1	7	5	31%
Groundwater management	3	1	1	0	1	5%
Drinking water supply	13	4		5	4	22%
Irrigation water	0	0		0	0	0%
Water scarcity and drought	5	2		1	2	8%
water-dependent ecosystems	7	2		3	2	12%
other fields	3	1		1	1	5%
sum	59	18	2	21	18	
% of specif. number		31%	3%	36%	31%	

Table 2: Which water management Field of Action is the most relevant in the Pilot Actions?

The most relevant Field of Action at stakeholder's view is pluvial flood risk followed by drinking water supply and fluvial flood risks. Nevertheless due the small number of votes the validity is rather low. Only a third of the participants of the workshops took part in the survey.

3.2. Stakeholders' insights regarding the Toolbox

3.2.1. Fields of action

The participants of the 2nd workshop indicated the following issues as the most impacted by climate change: pluvial flood risk management, fluvial flood risk management, drinking water supply, and drought and water scarcity risk management. The minor influence of climate change was noticed for such fields as: groundwater management, irrigation management.

Furthermore, the participants of the 2nd workshop indicated the need to undertake adaptations measures especially for the following FoA: pluvial flood risk management and drought and water scarcity risk management. The arguments were related to the impact of climate change on material losses, disturbance in municipal operating, increases in crops prices.

The main wishes for a future development are as follows: Better definition of Fields of Action and their relationship with Land use categories, with more detailed legends or an active User Guidance, better identification of measures in relation to the different institutional level of the user and clearer indication of the implementation level for the measure.

Measures have been considered interesting but not sufficiently targeted, hard to apply since implementation levels are really different and not clearly defined and declared. An effort to discriminate the measures in the catalogue according to the potential "applicant" and her/his actual possibilities for action could be beneficial. Probably, the different geomorphological and socio-economic contexts in CE makes hard to build a homogeneous and reliable catalogue.

As far as most of the recommended measures, especially related to forestry and water protection, are based on previous numerous studies and partially already implemented in some pilot areas.

3.2.2. Catalogue of measures

The participants of the 2nd workshop definitely assessed in a positive way the variety of adaptation activities, and the extensive list of adaptation measures in the catalogue. They positively assessed the function of the Toolbox tool used to indicate the proposed adaptation measures. The possibility of filtering from an extensive list of adaptation measures was assessed as added value by the categories such as fields





of action and land use. This element definitely facilitates the possibility of limiting the list of measures to the range that a specific user is interested in. A general comment was that measures could be described in more detail and some of the measures could be illustrated with a picture.

Measures should also be categorized with the parameter "level of implementation" (or similar concept), which indicates which institutional level is more appropriate to apply the measure (e.g. national, regional, local, single "enterprise"/"farmer", ...).

The stakeholders have looked into the catalogue of measures regarding their profession and interest and their findings are that some of the measures should be additionally added, e.g. measures in waterdependent ecosystems and nature based solution measures.

Regarding the individual issues the following feedback was provided on the fields of action groundwater management and pluvial flood risk management in forest areas:

- Some agricultural measures are being proposed, which don't fit for forest areas e.g. "Coarse seedbed preparation", for example, and "Conversion of arable land into grassland/ deciduous forest or short rotation plantations" doesn't seem to fit here either (note: In the catalogue of measures agreed by the PPs, the first measure is listed in the category "agriculture". There may have been a transfer error in the Toolbox.)
- Measure "Prohibition of chemical fertilizers and pesticides within water protection zones" is defined by law in Germany. This fact needs to be added in the catalogue of measures.

3.2.3. AHP Criteria ranking

After the introduction and guided tour of the Toolbox the participants found the applied evaluation process according to the AHP criteria understandable.

Ranking of measures with the AHP method is seen from a number of stakeholders as very complex and thus could be marked as an experts' tool. An inconsistent result is very easy to get which would be frustrating for non-experts. Even in case the tool is defined as an experts' tool, explanations of different contents would be useful (e.g. "TYPE", Criteria "Robustness" and "Complexity"). A simple ranking (e.g. asking "which are the most important criteria for you when choosing a measure? --> e.g. 1. Costs, 2. Multi-functionality etc.) would be sufficient for a non-experts' version.

3.2.4. Climate indicators and scenarios

Participants were very interested in the climate indicators. They saw them as an added value to the Toolbox and thought it was good to have these different data collected in one place. For easier visibility and usability the climate indicators should be divided into groups, e.g. temperature, participation. The selection of climate indicators needs to be explained. Users need a clear guidance which climate indicators to look at for which problem/issue.

The manual should include a more detailed description of the relevance of the climate indicators.

Finally, the wish was expressed to downscale the existing data for the use on local level.

3.3. General questions about the Toolbox

3.3.1. Expectations of the stakeholders

The participants were asked to answer the introductory question that started the discussion: "What are your expectations for a tool like the CC-ARP-CE Toolbox? What would you like to gain?"

The responses obtained showed a great interest in the content of the Toolbox. The results of the further discussion indicated that the expectations of the participants differed depending on the specific issues of their work and the scope of the impact. Nevertheless, the majority was very positive about the collection of a large number of results of the climate indices values for the near and far future over a large area.





Generally, the access to data on what conditions can be expected in the future was indicated as one of the most important in the experience of their current work.

The Toolbox, to be really used in daily operations, should be made "downloadable" and manageable at local level, or, otherwise, it should be clear who manages it, how data are treated and stored, which are the criteria and ways for implementation of the catalogue of measures by users, which different type of access is given to different users, and it should be possible to have different access to information loaded in the Toolbox by different users.

In general, the usability seems very good (precondition is the usability also after project end). The implementation of climate scenarios and indicators is very interesting and important. The testing of the range of possibilities is seen as very central. Additional measures should be inserted by planners, authorities, land users, water suppliers and the adequate umbrella associations respectively.

Numerous participants think that the provision of information and data to the Toolbox will not really be a problem, especially related to authorities, provided that the backflow of information is guaranteed.

Remarkable comments from other participants:

- It ought to be ensured that the focus group should select their own list and it should also be exported.
- Once the problem marked on the map is recorded, it cannot be moved, deleted, it can only be removed by the program.
- Stakeholders consider that it is important that ex-ante peer reviews of identified issues and actions are carried out by experts managing the online interface.
- The structure of the menu bar does not clearly follow the logical order of use, it would be useful to include into the system a short guide.

3.3.2. Limitations of the stakeholders

Some stakeholders did not express any reservations about the publicity of the data, as issues are generally public. However, they appreciate the use of usernames. The usernames would be necessary in case of setting up a web forum system for commenting on identified issues.

Some functions and tools in the Toolbox can only be used with expert knowledge. Although extensive information and functions are provided, they cannot be used and processed by stakeholders because the entry hurdle is too high and too much expert knowledge is required.

Also, the AHP method is viewed as too complicated, so that this function would not be used. A simpler functionality that can be understood without further guidance would be desirable. The tool will not be used with its current intention, where stakeholders have to identify and enter the problems themselves. Users from administrations (at least in PA2) will only add information that have been intensively discussed and are known to the public.

Other stakeholders feel limited by budget, workforce and General Data Protection Regulation.

To use it as a discussion platform by different institutional level, a certain degree of confidentiality should be guaranteed, that means that normal "citizens" should not have access to data uploaded by institutions, or at least not to every level of information.

Further stakeholders want to know how the Toolbox will be managed. Will it be open to the public or just reserved access?

Particularly limitations are seen in the level of detail and by some stakeholders being afraid of handling IT-issues.

3.3.3. Interests of the stakeholders

The main interest is to collect information or to publish their own proposals and coordinate them with the community. To put this into practice, such a system would have to be fully in the national language, installed and administered by their national institution and aligned with the General Data Protection Regulation. Given the usefulness of the tool, stakeholders were interested to know if and how the tool will work after the end of the project. It could be useful to add the possibility to download the data to the user's computer.





Users from administrations (at least in PA2) will only add information, which have been intensively discussed and are known to the public. The use of data and information for daily planning and decision making in water management and urban planning is the most crucial question of the participating stakeholders.

Summarizing, the subjects and functionality of the Toolbox correspond to the interests of the invited stakeholders (especially those dealing with water management). This could be used by them, however they have imposed tools at their work and the use of the Toolbox in official procedures is unlikely. Future practical application is only conceivable if active and wider stakeholder involvement can be achieved primarily through organised training courses.

3.3.4. Decision support systems and their use

The participants of the 2nd workshop consider the potential of the Toolbox as an instrument to facilitate decision-making processes. It was emphasized that the current complexity and usefulness of the Toolbox can help in the work, as its thematic scope corresponds to their daily work and their area of responsibility. Some of these decisions relate directly to water management and land use.

The tool should include examples of good practices in order to ensure knowledge shared among stakeholders and support them in the approach to climate change adaptation. This approach encourages communication among experts with different expertise to express their view on identified issues and to find common and improved recommendations.

According to the sight of stakeholders, the system should be supplemented by some specific cost estimation assigned to each measure.

Some stakeholder remarked a lack of involvement of ecosystem. In the tool FoA Management of waterdependent ecosystems, ecosystems are not covered to a large extent with the measures.

3.3.5. Usability of the Toolbox

The Toolbox provides multiple solutions for the user by providing different tools that are valuable for the adaption of the water management sector to climate change. Nevertheless, the usability of the Toolbox could be improved.

Additional guidance in the Toolbox (for example guidance on how to use the tools) would be helpful within the Toolbox and are more helpful than an extra user manual.

The tool could have the potential to be used widely, not only among institutions, but also among the general public who could report flood events themselves (e.g. information on houses that have been flooded is important for flood safety planning). However, this requires extensive communication of the framework conditions.

It would be useful to add an option to filter issues by Field of Action etc., since the map will become cluttered with numerous issues.

In general, the Toolbox is seen as an interesting instrument, which could be applied related to various aspects and fields of action. It provides a good overview of recommended measures based not only on new scientific findings but also partially on already realised best practices in different land uses. Therefore, this tool can be used as a well-founded argument and decision support tool for the implementation of certain measures. Also, the awareness raising and willingness to implement recommended measures by land users could increase. The pilot actions of TEACHER-CE are suitable as perfect showcases.

In addition to new issues, actions already taken at local level could be added.

Documentation on projects already implemented at municipality level could also be added.

In conclusion, further translation of the Toolbox seems necessary because of increased interests in this tool when provided in a local language version. The participants asked for a link to the Manual to be placed directly on the Toolbox CC-ARP-CE website and for information on how to download data (climate indicators).





3.4. General questions about needs and possibilities to update existing strategies or build new ones

3.4.1. Knowledge of existing strategy

Within the different workshops the main relevant national strategy documents were presented to the stakeholders. After their feedback they are familiar with the documents.

Particularly stakeholders are familiar with the following strategies: Water Framework Directive, National water management plan, flood risk management plans, protective water management concepts. In some countries there are additional internal guidelines for forest/agricultural management including management plans for mountain pastures.

Stakeholders from the scientific sector are usually less familiar with the current strategies than representatives of public authorities.

3.4.2. Water management areas requiring a strategy update

The conclusion of the discussions in several workshops is that there is a lack of cooperation and communication between the national and local level, when forming the strategies and applying the measures.

Currently, stakeholders in PA2 are interested especially in two fields of actions: pluvial flood risk management and groundwater management. However, an integrated concept for the adaption of the water management sector would be preferred.

From the following survey carried out on a group of local stakeholders of the highest importance from the point of view of climate change are the following fields of action: Pluvial flood, then Fluvial flood and Water Scarcity and Drought risk management. In conclusion the participants agreed to consider the Management of water-dependent ecosystems as an important FoA for the PA and for modernisation of the strategy.

3.4.3. Institutions interested in updating existing strategies

Several participants of the local and regional level see the need for a strategical concept that addresses the adaptation of the water management sector to climate change. An integrated approach bringing different fields of action together was considered as a desirable concept.

However, there is a lack of human and financial resources for the development and implementation of such a concept.

Other participants or their institutions respectively would be interested in using the Toolbox for updating existing strategies related to water management.

3.4.4. Dependence of local strategies on higher level ones

In large centralised organisations, such as the State Forests strategies are made on a national level as a rule. Therefore, their staff does not see the need to transfer strategies to the local level. They say that during the development of national strategies they were responsible for preparing data for them. Other participants did not have suggestions, claiming that the mentioned Environmental Program at the local level always refers to national strategies.

As measures are implemented at the local level, the establishment of concrete concepts at the local level is considered important.





3.5. Conclusions and Lessons Learned

The implementation of the Toolbox was embedded in a broad stakeholder process. 157 stakeholders took part in the eight planed workshops in the period from 19th October to 29th November 2021. In the course of the stakeholder training workshops, the Toolbox was presented and its use explained. Stakeholders had the opportunity of giving feedback and input directly at the workshop itself, but also for a set time-period afterwards, having gained experience in the use of the Toolbox themselves.

Additionally, the suitability of suggested measures was discussed. The identification of problem areas was undertaken in order to identify any shortcomings in knowledge of stakeholders, as well as the functionality and usability of the Toolbox.

After a guided tour of the Toolbox and answering the initial questions of participants, stakeholders were invited to assess the Toolbox to a number of quoted questions. This was regarded as a flashlight, basically a spontaneous expression of the respondent's inner attitude.

In this process, the results can be summarised as follows:

According to the stakeholders who voted, half of the Toolbox is completely as expected, half is more or less as expected; also half consider the Toolbox suitable in supporting decision-making.

Such a system would have to be fully in the national language, installed and administered by their national institution and aligned with the General Data Protection Regulation.

Future practical application is only conceivable if active and wider stakeholder involvement can be achieved, therefore we will enable access to the Toolbox also after the end of the project.

Currently, stakeholders are interested especially in two fields of actions:

Pluvial flood risk management and

Groundwater management

The toolbox is complex and requires knowledge of the processes to be mapped. The target groups have different requirements:

General overview

regional specification

local project-related detail

In this context, climate indicators are considered very important. The availability of a constantly growing data pool is seen as a key asset.

The Toolbox seems to be too complex for occasional use: this also argues for the establishment of an operator for long-term tasks.

The availability of different databases increases the likelihood of long-term use of the Toolbox. Participants or their institutions respectively would be interested in using the Toolbox for updating existing strategies related to water management.

In the case of regional and supra-regional issues, the Toolbox can provide a basis for decisions on the allocation of public funds.

The problems of lack of communication between different areas of responsibility, which were repeatedly expressed in the workshops, could be given a catalyst for better cooperation with the Toolbox.





3.6. Final Remarks and Findings from the author's point of view

Engaging stakeholders in a broad feedback loop is a crucial point for the introduction of the Toolbox on a broader basis to support technical decisions. Organising support for the decision which measure is an effective one, and for which threat, should be done in this way.

In addition to the detailed technical issues, however, the broad discussion revealed that improving communication between the different administrative levels is at least as important. The integration of new and unconventional research results also makes a decisive contribution to improving hazard prevention. The sad example of the flood in the summer of 2021 in northern Germany demonstrated in a drastic manner how a lack of communication, from warning facilities to local authorities, contributed to the scale of the disaster. There is an urgent need for better information distribution here, and not only in Germany.

Finally, I want to close with a shortcut from a summary of a Stakeholder workshop, in which I feel reflected the common sense of this task in a very appropriate manner:

The main opinion of the stakeholders was that the Toolbox is well structured, useable and user friendly. They liked the idea of gathered information about climate indicators and an option to have an overview of the issues in the selected area. Existing strategies are well known. However there is a considerable lack of cooperation and communication between national and local level. A formation of a water council or intermediate communication level was proposed.

Overall the workshop was successful and fun!