

Eawag Seminar Invitation

Governing the Transformation of Water Governance towards more Sustainability

Speaker **Prof. Dr. Claudia Pahl-Wostl**
University of Osnabrück, Germany

When **November 8, 11.00 – 12.00 a.m.**

Where **Forum Chriesbach, room C20, Eawag Dübendorf**

Abstract Many water related problems can be attributed to governance failure at multiple levels of governance rather than to the resource base itself. This particularly worrying in the light of increasing uncertainties and increasing pressures on resources management due to global and climate change. At the same time our knowledge on water governance systems and conditions for success of water governance reform is still quite limited.

For a long time, research and policy have been dominated by the futile search for simplistic panaceas to solve complex water governance problems. Simple solutions rarely meet complex challenges. The seminar will introduce a diagnostic approach to identify governance failures and persistent sustainability problems but as well leverage points for transformative change. A diagnostic approach takes into account the complexity of multi-level governance systems in a systematic fashion and supports context-sensitive analysis and a transferability of insights among similar classes of problems and contexts. Results from empirical studies will illustrate potential and limitations of drawing general conclusions from comparative case study analyses. The seminar will emphasize the need to focus on processes of transformative change rather than idealized governance arrangements. An evolutionary approach will be introduced that conceptualizes governance of transformation as multi-level process of social and societal learning.