



Breakout Session 4

Water quality as a challenge for achieving SDG 6

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Breakout Session 4 – Water quality as a challenge for achieving SDG 6: Key challenges

- Kind of data needed for solving water problems?
- Reliable data on water quality lacking in many countries
- Unclear starting points for transformation
- Water is not well visible in organizational structures (weak lobby)
- Difficulty to involve stakeholders who will be affected
- Some decision-makers not interested in reliable data
- Outputs of research are not used

Breakout Session 4 – Water quality as a challenge for achieving SDG 6: Key opportunities

- Water quality is high on the current global agenda
- EU Commission pushing Germany to address nitrate issue
- Citizen science can raise awareness of environmental problems and mobilize support
- Bottom-up dialogue with stakeholders increases impact of research
- Easier methods to monitor water quality without sampling (e.g. remote sensing)
- Learning process through research process (even if models are not applied after a project)

Breakout Session 4 – Water quality as a challenge for achieving SDG 6: Recommendations

- Global standards for water quality data (global databases) needed
- Germany: stronger water lobby in governmental structure needed
- Involve national academies in data collection for global databases
- Involve and inform stakeholders at an early stage of applied research (including problem definition)
- Fundamental research: Present results at an early stage and establish dialogue with stakeholders
- Take human dimension into account (not just technical data generation)
- Make clear under what conditions a certain model can be applied