Organizing water

To manage and govern water, people need to organize around water. This process of organizing is historically formed and often ambiguous and contested, so understanding these processes of organizing are essential to formulate meaningful interventions. Building further on shifts in paradigms this module examines how the organization of provision of water related services has changed. How does the rethinking of water link to rethinking organizations and the principles according to which these organizations operate? Shared part of module will introduce organizational types and principles, explain linkages between organizations and their institutional environments, and discuss organizational reforms processes including (de)centralization. After that students go into specific part tailored to their thematic track.

In the Water Hazards, Risks and Climate track students will examine changes in organization of mitigation and adaptation to water related hazards and risks at river basin level as well as in cities. Both (inter)government interventions as well as grassroots initiatives will be discussed.

In the Water and Health track students will examine changes in organization of provision of water supply and sanitation and what the implications are for service delivery to various groups of people. Both cases of formal water utilities as well as informal small-scale providers will be discussed.

In the Water, Food and Energy track students will examine changes in organization of irrigated agriculture with a specific focus on smallholder irrigation and transfer of management responsibilities to water user associations. Also new organizational arrangements for decentralized water-related energy production will be discussed.

In the Water Resources and Ecosystem Health track students will examine changes in organization of river basins for water resources development and how this interacts with attempts of nature conservation.

MSc in Water and Sustainable Development – track modules 2022-2023