



The EU's Water Framework Directive:

Lessons learnt from the Danube basin:

Ideas for India's Water Planning and Management

Background

Water Framework Directive sets 6 principles and broad guidelines

Approved in 2000

First planning cycle 2009-2015

Second planning cycle 2016-2021

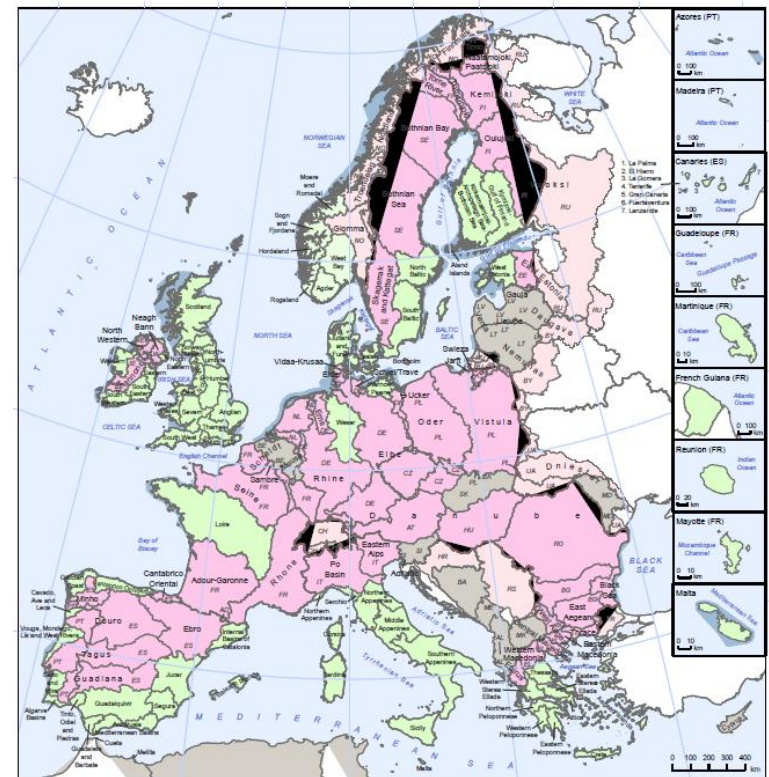
Covering 128 River Basin Districts

Different implementation approaches in Member States

1. River basin approach

Natural geographical and hydrological unit - instead of according to administrative or political boundaries

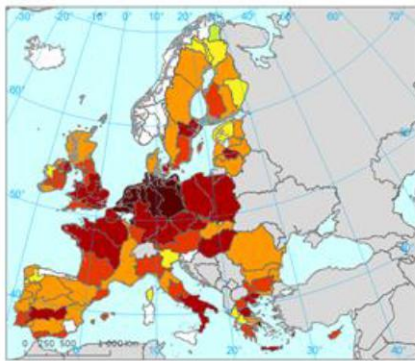
Previous positive experiences of the Danube, Maas, Schelde and Rhine river basins



2. Objectives - good status for all waters by a set deadline

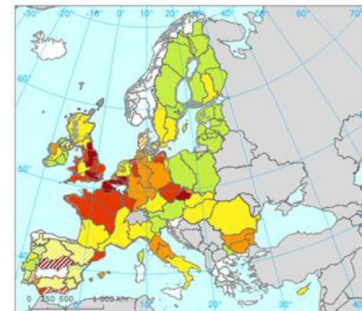
Protection of the aquatic ecology

Specific protection of unique and valuable habitats, protection of drinking water resources, and protection of bathing water



% of classified water bodies in less than good ecological status or potential
(left map: rivers and lakes, right map: transitional and coastal waters)

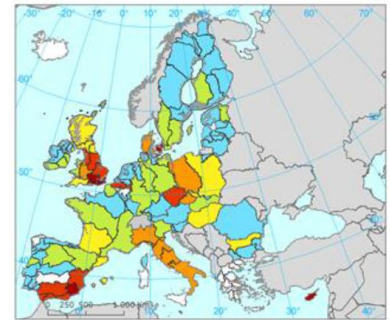
no data reported	<10 %	10-30 %	30-50 %	50-70 %	70-90 %	>=90 %
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% of classified groundwater bodies with poor chemical status

no data reported	30-50 %	>=90 %
<10 %	50-70 %	70-90 %
10-30 %	70-90 %	

RBDs with unknown area of groundwater bodies (count instead of area used) are hatched.



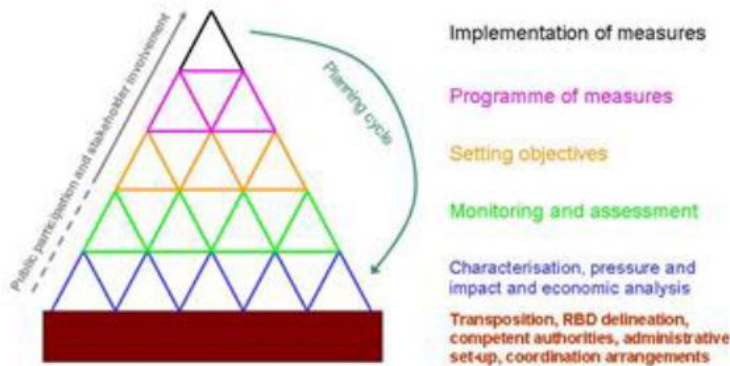
% of classified groundwater bodies with poor quantitative status

no data reported	10-20 %	>=50 %
0 %	20-30 %	
<10 %	30-50 %	

3. River basin management plan

Contains:

- a) river basin's characteristics,*
 - b) impact of human activity on the status of waters,*
 - c) estimation of the effect of existing legislation and the gap to meet objectives;*
 - d) and a set of measures designed to fill the gap.*
- Additional component: Economic analysis of water use*



4. Getting the prices right

- *Adequate water pricing acts as an incentive for the sustainable use of water resources*
- *Price reflects the true costs, including environmental and opportunity/resource costs*
- *Derogations are possible*

5. Public participation

- *Role of citizens and citizens' groups*
- *Decisions on the most appropriate measures to achieve the objectives will involve balancing the interests of various groups*
- *Transparency in the establishment of objectives, the imposition of measures, and the reporting of standards*
- *Through information and consultation or, if disagreement persists, through complaints procedures and courts*

6. Streamlining legislation

- *Rationalisation of the EU water legislation by replacing seven "old" directives*
- *To complement the WFD, the Floods Directive was adopted in 2007 to assess and map flood risks and hazards and to manage them by putting in place flood risk management plans (FRMPs)*

The Danube river basin approach

- *Catchment Area: 800.000 km² | 80 Mio. People | 19 Countries | Most international River Basin in the World*
- *Danube River Protection Convention (DRPC)*
- *ICPDR coordinates implementation of EU Water Framework Directive & EU Floods Directive on basin-wide level*
- *Participation of country experts and stakeholder representatives*

Danube River Basin



The Danube: Success factors

- *Shared legal framework for cooperation - WFD*
- *Forward-looking legislation comprising river basin management approach and public consultation requirements: holistic approach*
- *Broad spectrum of Expert Groups (EG) composed by country and stakeholder representatives*
- *A strong Secretariat with limited but efficient staff*
- *A comprehensive Danube River Basin Management Plan, including Programme of Measures and evaluation mechanisms for implementation.*



Further success factors:

**The EU's Common
Implementation Strategy for
the Water Framework Directive**

Why a common strategy?

- *Challenges widely shared by the Member States*
- *Demanding timetable*
- *Complexity of the text*
- *Diversity of possible solutions to scientific, technical and practical questions*
- *Ensure efficiency and transparency*

Objectives:

- *Coherence and comparability*
- *Common understanding and approach*
- *Joint efforts and activities*
- *Limit risks of bad application*
- *Share experience and information*
- *Develop guidance*

Water Directors
Steering of implementation process
Chair: Presidency, Co-chair: Commission

Strategic Co-ordination group
Co-ordination of work programme
Chair: Commission

Expert Advisory Forum
Priority Substances
Chair: Commission

Expert Advisory Forum
Groundwater
Chair: Commission

Expert Advisory Forum
Reporting
Chair: Commission

WG
Analysis of pressures and
impacts
Lead: UK ,Germany

WG
Reference conditions
inland surface waters
Lead: Sweden

WG
Typology, classification
TCwaters
Lead: UK, Spain, EEA

WG
Heavily modified water
bodies
Lead: Germany , UK

WG
Geographical Information
Systems
Lead: JRC Ispra

WG
Intercalibration
Lead: JRC Ispra

WG
Monitoring
Lead: Italy, EEA

WG
Economic analysis
Lead: France, COM

WG
Groundwater
Lead: Austria

WG
Best practice in river
basin planning
Lead: Spain

Stakeholders
NGO's, Expert
s, etc.





European Commission

Shared Information

Contact English (en)



EUROPA > European Commission > CIRCABC > env > wfd

WFD CIRCA: "Implementing the Water Framework Directive and the Floods Directive"

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The Library is the space where **contents** are stored, managed and shared.

9 folders and 6 files in this space.

Spaces

Title	Created Date	Actions
A - Help for CIRCA	12 September 2012 20:28	
B - Official documents	12 September 2012 20:22	
C - Water Directors	12 September 2012 20:30	
D - Strategic Co-ordination Group	12 September 2012 20:29	
F - Working Groups	12 September 2012 20:31	
G - Marine Strategy	3 September 2011 15:06	
H - Floods Action Programme	5 August 2011 15:08	
I - Water Scarcity and Droughts	6 July 2011 15:09	
J - 2012 Blueprint to strengthen cooperation between...	11 April 2012 15:13	

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Calendar of CIS Events 2012	3 December 2012 14:40	
Calendar of CIS Events 2013.doc	5 August 2013 15:23	
Calendar of CIS Events 2014	11 November 2014 14:46	
Calendar of CIS Events 2015	7 September 2015 16:19	
Calendar of CIS Events 2016	17 November 2015 11:09	
Schedule Bilaterals MS-Month vs 11.11.2013	11 November 2013 14:16	

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Published Guidance notes

Directive and the Floods Directive ▾

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Guidelines on Mixing Zones	11 February 2010 15:54	

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GD No 01 - WATECO - Policy Summary	6 February 2004 00:00	
GD No 03 - IMPRESS - Policy Summary	6 February 2004 00:00	
GD No 04 - HMWB - Policy Summary	6 February 2004 00:00	
GD No 06 - Inter-calibration - Policy Summary	6 February 2004 00:00	
GD No 07 - Monitoring - Policy Summary	6 February 2004 00:00	
GD No 09 - GIS - Policy Summary	6 February 2004 00:00	
GD No 10 - REFCOND - Policy Summary	6 February 2004 00:00	
GD No 23 - Eutrophication - Policy Summary	10 December 2009 00:00	
Guidance No 01 - Economics - WATECO	30 January 2004 00:00	
Guidance No 02 - Identification of water bodies	30 January 2004 00:00	
Guidance No 03 - pressures and impacts - IMPRESS	30 January 2004 00:00	
Guidance No 04 - heavily modified water bodies - HMWB	30 January 2004 00:00	
Guidance No 05 - characterisation of coastal waters - COAST	30 January 2004 00:00	
Guidance No 06 - inter-calibration	4 February 2004 00:00	
Guidance No 07 - Monitoring	4 February 2004 00:00	
Guidance No 08 - Public participation	4 February 2004 00:00	
Guidance No 09 - GIS	4 February 2004 00:00	
Guidance No 10 - references conditions inland waters	4 February 2004 00:00	
Guidance No 11 - Planning Process	4 February 2004 00:00	
Guidance No 12 - Wetlands (WG B)	16 March 2005 00:00	
Guidance No 13 - Classification of Ecological Status (WG A)	16 March 2005 00:00	
Guidance No 14 - Inter-calibration Process 2004-2006 (WG A)	22 August 2005 00:00	
Guidance No 14 - Inter-calibration Process 2008-2011 (WG A)	6 January 2011 00:00	
Guidance No 15 - Groundwater Monitoring (WG C)	26 March 2007 00:00	
Guidance No 16 - Groundwater in Drinking Water Protected Areas (WG C)	29 June 2007 00:00	
Guidance No 17 - Direct and indirect inputs in the light of the 2006/118/EC Directive	4 July 2007 00:00	
Guidance No 18 - Groundwater Status and Trend Assessment (WG C)	10 March 2009 00:00	
Guidance No 19 - Surface water chemical monitoring.pdf	23 February 2009 00:00	
Guidance No 20 - Exemptions to the environmental objectives	26 March 2009 00:00	
Guidance No 21 - Guidance for reporting under the WFD	31 March 2009 00:00	

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Lessons learnt

- Informal process steered at political level but with a strong technical development behind it common understanding
- Working groups to develop the work programme with clear deliverables and timetable
- Ownership: it is a joint process between the EU level and the MS
- Presidency rotation helps sharing the steering and involvement;
- Decision making by consensus
- Broad participation of stakeholders essential for successful water policy
- Platform to develop guidance and exchange of experiences; as a side effect, but very important, building of networks among experts across the EU, stimulating exchange of experiences on issues of common interest

Conclusion

- *Many possibilities for sharing lessons learnt with India*
- *Building an Indo-European Water Partnership with participation of Member States, Indian States, EU & national level actors*
- *First workshop will be on RBMP & Governance with participation from Indian national level and States: many more lessons learnt from the Danube and other Transboundary rivers*



Thank you for your attention.

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