

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF INTERNATIONAL RIVER BASINS PROJECT

EUROPEAID/131360/C/SER/MULTI



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Setting of Environmental Objectives



3rd RBMP Workshop

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Minsk, Belarus

Birgit Vogel

(Senior Non-Key Expert

on EU WFD)

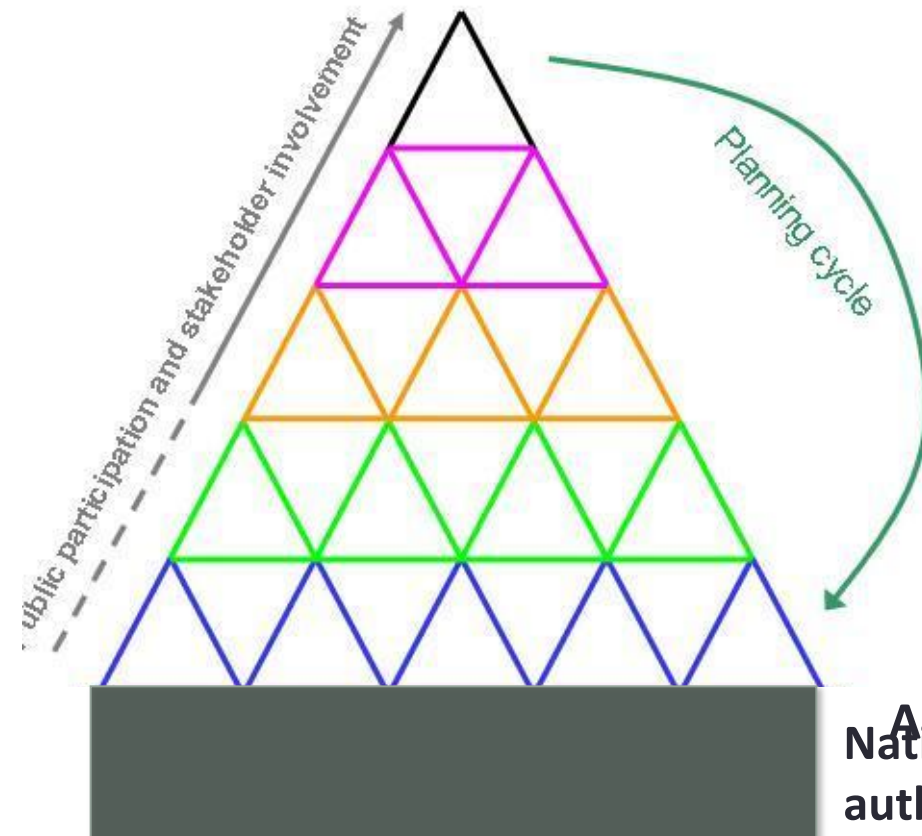
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Planning Process: WFD River Basins Management Plans



Implementation of Measures

Programme of Measures

Set Environmental Objectives

Monitoring and Status Assessment

Initial Characterisation, Baseline Assessment/Impact Analysis and Economic Analysis
National legislation; RBD delineation; competent authorities; administrative set-up; coordination

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Environmental WFD Objectives

- ⊙ Need to be addressed in each RBMP

In principle, Environmental Objectives aim for

- ⊙ At least good water status for all water bodies by 2015 (2027)
- ⊙ Prevent deterioration of water status
- ⊙ Ensure sustainable water use
- ⊙ Ensure specific requirements for protected areas



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What need to be 'set' towards Environmental Objectives ?

- ⊙ The **ACHIEVEMENT** of environmental objectives needs to be planned and set over the four WFD 6-Year Planning Cycles
- ⊙ Exemptions (WFD Art. 4) can be applied
 - ⊙ Justify **WHY** (i) environmental objectives can only be achieved with delay 4(4) or (ii) environmental objectives have to be set less stringent 4(5)

Setting of Environmental Objectives is crucial in combination with
developing the PoM

PoMs are based on the Environmental Objectives

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Basic principle to set Environmental Objectives

Water Bodies at

high status:

status to be ensured

good status:

status to be ensured

moderate status

poor status

bad status:

No Deterioration!



Achieve GOOD
water status



+

1. Ensure water status and prevent deterioration
2. Achieve water status and then prevent deterioration
3. Apply and justify exemptions according to Article 4

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What does this mean?

Water bodies with good or high water status:

- ⊙ Measures have to be set that ensure and maintain the existing status

Water bodies with moderate, poor or bad water status:

- ⊙ Measures have to be set to achieve (step-by-step) good water status

The RBMP outlines the achievement of the WFD environmental objectives

The Intercalibration exercise is the basis to approach environmental objectives



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EPIRB Project Guidance Document Environmental Objectives



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Content of Guidance Document – Environmental Objectives

- ⦿ Outline of the role of WFD 6-Year Planning Cycles
- ⦿ Explanation on Exemptions according to WFD Article 4
- ⦿ Outline how to set environmental objectives in the EPIRB pilot basins

The latter = Focus of this presentation



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Basis to set environmental objectives

Environmental Objectives (surface water & groundwater) are based on:

- ⊙ Pressure/Impact Analysis
- ⊙ Risk Assessment
- ⊙ Monitoring results – if available

1. Environmental Objectives need to be set for EACH water body !!

2. Align the Environmental Objectives to four 6-Year Planning Cycles
(Starting point = Year 2015; last planning phase until 2033)

3. Consider the exemptions according to WFD Article 4

For Non EU MS, Environmental Objectives need to be adapted to
the respective RBM legal/planning/implementation situations

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EPIRB project Proposal how to set Environmental Objectives

Water Bodies in high or good water status in 2015

Need the setting of environmental objectives and measures
to maintain water status over all planning cycles

Water Bodies that are (i) at risk to fail the EOs in 2015 or (ii) In moderate status in 2015

Need the setting of environmental objectives and measures within 1st Planning Cycle

- (i) to have WFD compliant status assessment in place by 2021
- (ii) to achieve good status by 2021

EPIRB project Proposal how to set Environmental Objectives

Water Bodies that are

- (i) at risk to fail the EOs in 2015 or
- (ii) In poor status in 2015

Need the setting of environmental objectives and measures within 1st Planning Cycle

- (i) to have WFD compliant status assessment in place within 1st Planning Cycle (by 2021)
- (ii) to achieve moderate status by 2021 and good status by 2027

Water Bodies that are

- (i) at risk to fail the EOs in 2015 or
- (ii) In bad status

Need the setting of environmental objectives and measures within 1st Planning Cycle

- (i) to have WFD compliant status assessment in place within 1st Planning Cycle (by 2021)
- (ii) to achieve moderate status by 2021; moderate or good status by 2027 and for sure good status by 2033

No deterioration of good status allowed at any time !

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How to achieve set Objectives ?

- ⊙ Develop a Programme of Measures and align specific measures to EOs
- ⊙ For planning consider all significant pressures and try to set measures
- ⊙ Consider relevant legislation that is in place which can contribute to achieve the environmental objectives set priorities
- ⊙ For EU MS other Directives contribute including
 - ⊙ UWWTD
 - ⊙ Nitrates Directive
 - ⊙ Groundwater Directive
 - ⊙ Priority Substances Directive etc.

Presentation and guidance on PoM development will follow

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Need to Consider Exemptions (WFD Article 4)

Options:

- ⊙ Extension of deadline beyond 2015 (Article 4(4))
- ⊙ Less stringent objectives (Article 4(5))
- ⊙ Implementation of new projects (Article 4(7))

Consider what improvements can be achieved by existing and new measures
before investing time on setting exemptions

CIS Guidance Document No. 20: Exemptions to the environmental objectives



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What to do when setting Exemptions ?

Apply comprehensive tests in a transparent way, why measures can only be implemented

- ① After the first planning cycle or
- ② Why less stringent environmental objectives will be applied



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What to do when setting Exemptions ?

Apply comprehensive tests if measures are

⊙ Technically infeasible

- ⊙ No technical solutions is known (4.(5))
- ⊙ Cause of adverse impacts unknown / not yet known (4(4))
- ⊙ Practical constraints of a technical nature (administrative constraint like permitting – 4(4))
- ⊙ Problem cannot be addressed because of lack of action by other countries (4(4))

⊙ Technical feasible but disproportionately expensive

- ⊙ Unfavourable balance of costs and benefits (4.(5) or 4(4))
- ⊙ Significant risk of unfavourable balance of costs and benefits
- ⊙ Disproportionate burdens (4(4))



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What to do when setting Exemptions ?

Apply comprehensive tests if measures are

- ⊙ **not feasible to be implemented in 1st cycle due to natural conditions**
 - ⊙ Ecological recovery time (4.(4))
 - ⊙ Groundwater status recovery time (4(4))

- ⊙ **Exemptions according to Article 4(7)**
 - ⊙ Development of new infrastructure
 - ⊙ Justify why water status can be deteriorated



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Discussion

- ⊙ Do you have questions on the overall approach ?
- ⊙ Do you think this approach is feasible to be implemented ?
- ⊙ Please provide proposals for revision
- ⊙ Discuss the timing of next steps



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THANK YOU!

