



# **EU Water Policy and Technical Principles of RBMPs in the EU**

**Capacity building workshop on River basin Management Planning and Governance**  
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# European Water Policy -legal context



- **Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)**

- Intercalibration Decision (2008/915/EC)
- Environmental Quality Standards 2008/105/EC)
- Priority Substances Directive (2013/39/EU)
- Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)

- **Extending the scope:**

- Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)
- Communication on Water Scarcity and Droughts Communication (2007)
- Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC)

## **Other Water related legislation :**

- Urban waste water treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)
- Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)
- Drinking water Directive (98/83/EC)
- Bathing water Directive (2006/7/EC)
- IPPC, Plant Protection Products, etc

# Some basics of the WFD



## Scope

- **Protecting all water bodies**, including transitional waters and coastal waters.
- **Covering all impacts** on waters.

## Objectives

- **Protect and enhance** fresh surface and ground waters, as well as coastal waters
- **No deterioration**
- Achievement of **good ecological and chemical** status by December 2015
- Special protection for drinking water resources

## Tools

- **RBMPs** and **PoM**
- 6 yearly cycle
- **Existing legislation**: nitrates, urban waste water, IPPC
- **Economic** instruments
- Public **participation**
- Transboundary **cooperation**
- **Polluter** pays principle and **economic incentives**



**The River Basin Concept  
– integrated river basin  
management**

# What is Good Status ?



Means meeting all environmental quality standards for chemicals set at EU level:

- 33 priority substances Directive 2008/105/EC
- 8 other substances previously regulated 76/464/EEC codified 2006/11/EC

Is an expression of the quality of the structure and functioning of aquatic ecosystems including: biological, hydromorphological and chemical elements

## **Good surface water status**

- Good chemical status + good ecological status

## **Good groundwater status**

- Good chemical status + good quantitative status

Means meeting all standards for chemicals:

- quality standards set at EU level: pesticides and nitrates
- threshold values: standards set at national level

Means ensuring a long-term balance between abstraction and recharge, protecting as well associated surface waters and ecosystems.

# Exemptions



- Art 4.4: the **extension of the deadline** (good status must be achieved by 2021 or 2027)
- Art 4.5: the achievement of **less stringent objectives under certain conditions**
- Art 4.6: **the temporary deterioration** of the status in case of **natural causes or "force majeure"** – severe floods, prolonged droughts, accidents
- Art 4.7: **new projects/modifications** to the physical characteristics of a surface water body or alterations to the level of bodies of groundwater, or failure to prevent status deterioration of a body of surface water

# WFD Timetable



Transposition into national law

**Dec 2003**

Administrative arrangements

Dec 2003

Environmental analysis:

Analysis of characteristics

Assessment of human impacts

Economic analysis of water use

Dec 2004

Monitoring programmes

Dec 2006

Public Participation starts

Dec 2006

Significant water management issues

Dec 2007

Draft river basin management plans

Dec 2008

**River basin management plans**

**Dec 2009**

**6Y**

Implementation report

End 2012

Measures implemented at the latest

Dec 2012

**Achievement of the objectives**

**Dec 2015**

**6Y**

**Adjustment**

**2021 till 2027**

**6Y**

## National and International River Basin Districts

Submissions in accordance with Article 3 of the Water Framework Directive

Version 22/03/2007

- National River Basin Districts<sup>(1)</sup> (within EU27)
- National River Basin Districts<sup>(1)</sup> (outside EU27)
- International River Basin Districts<sup>(2)</sup> (within EU27)
- International River Basin Districts<sup>(3)</sup> (outside EU27)
- Coastal Waters<sup>(4)</sup>
- RBD boundary
- Country border
- EU27 boundary

Map produced by WRc, UK on behalf of European Commission, DG Environment, March 2007.



## What

- ☐ Diversity of river basins
  - ☐ Many transboundary rivers
  - ☐ Flexibility and subsidiarity
- ❖ 110 different RBDs, 40 are international
  - ❖ >60 % of territory is international
  - ❖ RBD size between 1.000 and 800.000 km<sup>2</sup>

# Diversity of uses, aspirations, pressures and impacts





- **Diffuse pollution**
  - Agricultural and industrial activities
- **Point-source pollution**
  - Industrial and agricultural activities
- **Hydromorphological alterations**
  - Energy production, flood protection, inland navigation, agriculture
  - Grey infrastructure
- **Water over-abstraction**
  - Over-use
  - Illegal abstraction



## The WFD objective: Good water status by 2015

- Covers **all waters in the EU**
- Status considers ecological , chemical and quantitative aspects
- River **basin**-based management
- Coordination: transboundary and cross-sectorial
- **Programs of Measures** should cover the gap between the current situation and the good status
- Use of **economic instruments** to incentivize efficient use and raise funds for necessary investments
- The **Common** Implementation Strategy process

# What should be in a RBMP?

(as set out in WFD. annex VII)



1. **description of the characteristics** of the river basin district,
2. a summary of **significant pressures and impact of human activity** on the status of surface water and groundwater
3. **identification and mapping of protected areas as** required by Article 6 and Annex IV;
4. map of the **monitoring networks** and a presentation in map form of the results
5. a list of the **environmental objectives** established and of instances where use has been made of exemptions
6. a summary of the **economic analysis of water use**
7. a summary of the **programme(s) of measures**, including the ways in which the objectives shall be achieved;
8. a register of any more **detailed programmes** and management plans for the river basin district dealing with particular **sub-basins, sectors, issues or water types**, together with a summary of their contents;
9. a summary of the **public information and consultation** measures taken, their results and the changes to the plan made as a consequence;
10. a list of **competent authorities**
11. how to obtain the background documentation and the actual monitoring data

# What should be in a RBMP? (e.g. PoM)



## **Programme of measures including :**

- Making the link to work to **other legislation** such as the Urban waste water treatment Directive.
- **Controls of the abstraction** of surface and ground water, and controls over impoundments of fresh water
- Controls of **Point source pollution** and **Diffuse source pollution**
- Measures to ensure **hydro-morphological** conditions improve so that good status/potential is achieved

## **Water pricing :**

Article 9 of the WFD requires Member States to establish a **Water Pricing policy**, which :

1. Gives the **incentive to efficient use of water resources**, and thereby the achievements of the objectives of the WFD
2. Ensures an **adequate contribution of different water users**, disaggregated into at least industry, households. This shall take into account the polluter pays principle.
3. The Member States make **take into account the social, environmental and economic effects of the recovery, as well as the geographic, climatic conditions of the region(s) affected**.
4. Given water-use-activities, in accordance with established practices, **can be excluded from this provision, provided that it doesn't compromise the achievement of the Directive** and provided it is reasons are reported in the RBMP.



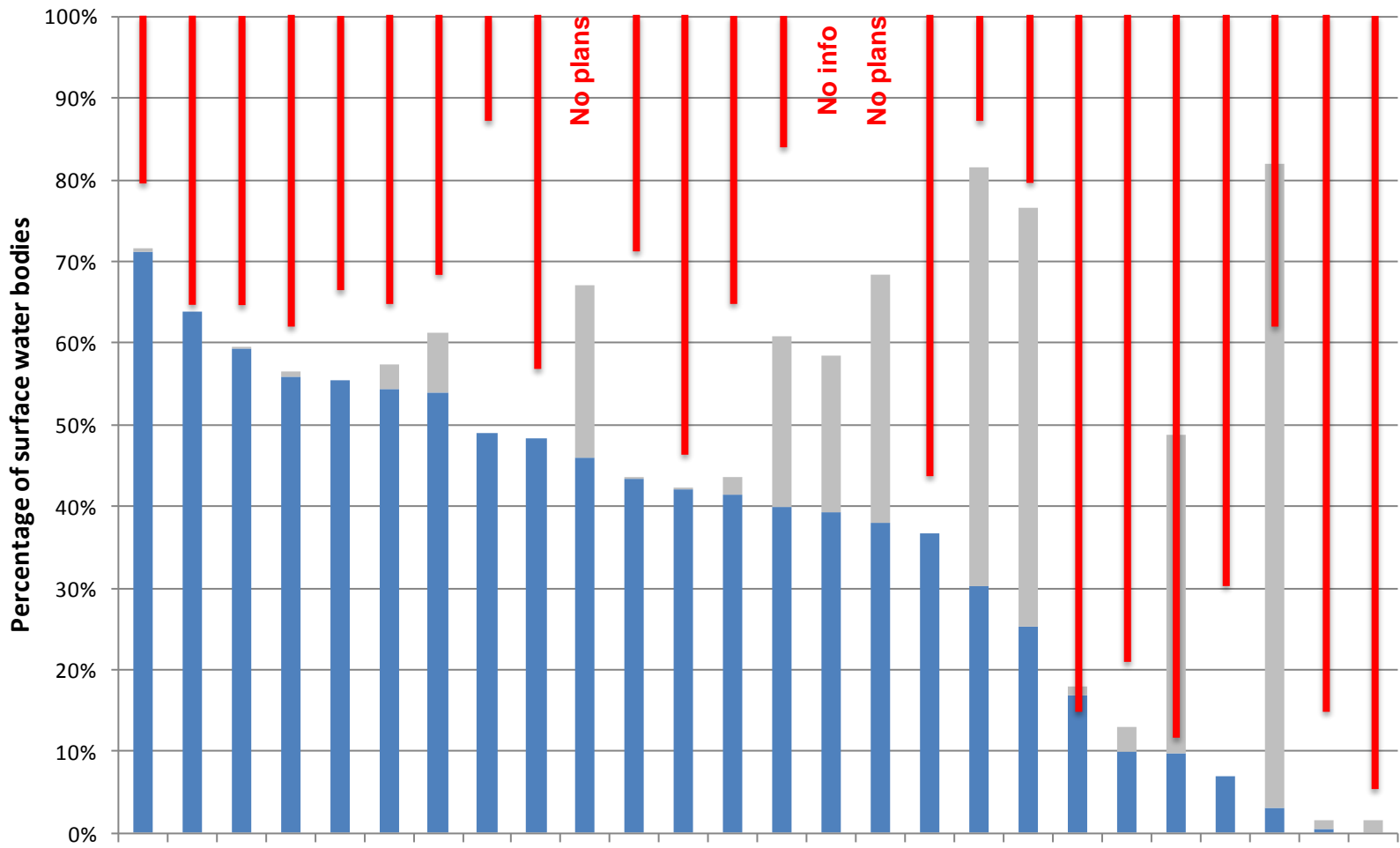
# Some key issues for a successful RBMP

1. A solid technical basis
2. An effective administrative set-up
3. International coordination that delivers
4. Integration: get the right balance
5. Smart use of economic incentives
6. Active public participation
7. Political support / ambition

# Status of European Waters 2009



- Good Ecological Status
- Unknown Ecological Status
- Exemptions



Source: EC - WFD Reporting



- Major efforts are done to implement WFD
- Classification of status is often not yet good enough, and therefore not a sufficient basis for taking the appropriate measures
- Programmes of measures are sometimes more intentions than a programme with clear commitment
- Most MS delay the achievement of good status until 2021 of 2027 for a significant part of their water bodies
- Costs of implementation vary per RBD and range from billions of € per RBD to several millions € per RBD

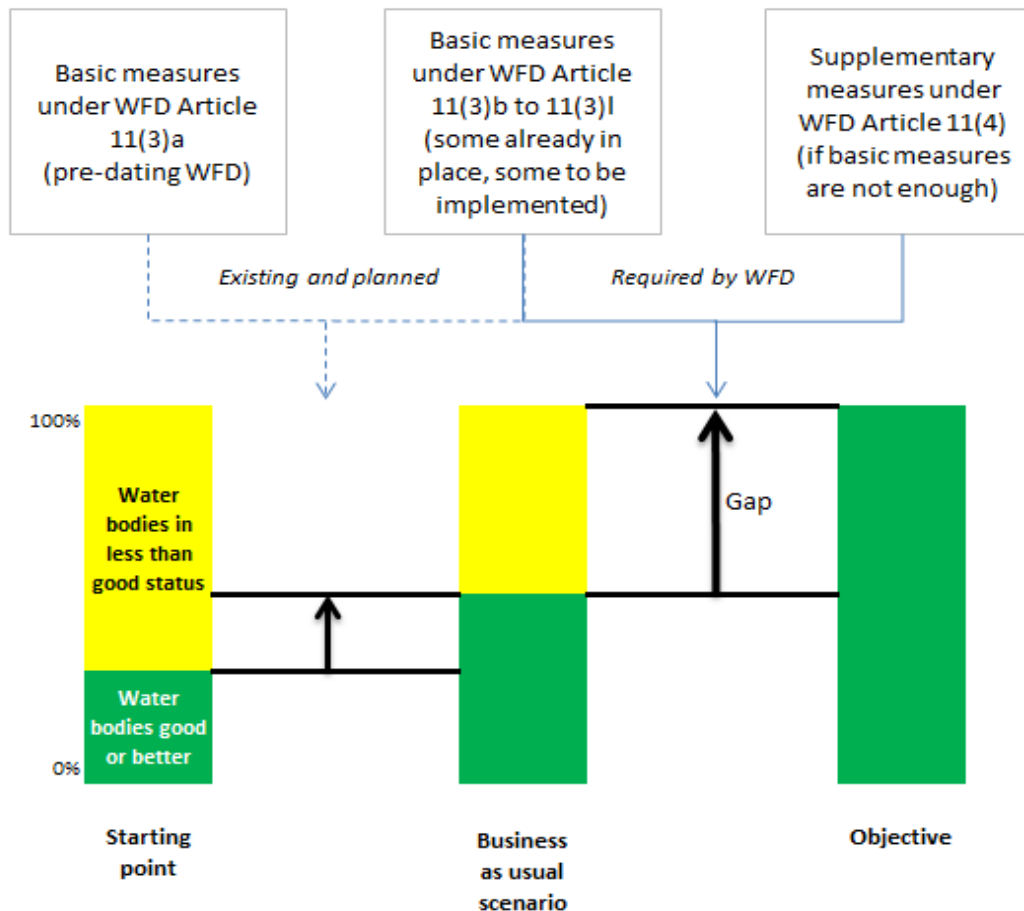


## RBMPs 2010-2015

- The WFD intervention logic not always followed
- Often insufficient monitoring and deficient analysis of pressures
- Frequent and non-transparent use of exemptions
- Programmes of measures not ambitious enough
- Insufficient investment and financing of measures
- Only partial application of cost recovery
- Expected improvement of the water status – less than 10%



# Failure of MS to follow the WFD logic



# Investment in Water Management

## Investment needs:

- Implementation of the Water Framework Directive, 1<sup>st</sup> cycle 2009-2015: **€300 billion**
- Construction, renewal and maintenance of urban water infrastructure: **€90 billion annually**
- R&D: **€9 billion**

 **Significant underinvestment in water**

## Ganga River Basin Management Plan

- ***Main goal:*** *To restore the wholesomeness of National River Ganga and her basin.*
- ***National concern*** *(80% lies within India and supports about 43% of India's population)*
- ***NRGB, additionally***
  - has a highly productive multi-aquifer system
  - Wetlands: There are many lakes, tanks, and marshes
  - Source of sediments
  - 3 different eco-regions: Himalayas, Gangetic plains and Delta region

## Water Framework Law

- Sets **governing principles** and institutional arrangements
- Includes **preservation of water quality** and has an important social oriented approach.
- **Content of River Basin Master Plan** not fully developed but requires Environment protection plan and a status report of the river basin should precede and feed the RB Master Plan
- **Promotes a series of measures** (i.e. rehabilitation of natural drainage system, disaster management, etc.)
- Requires to prepare a **perspective plan for sustainable development of water resources** ensuring water security by 2025 and 2050 for each district and state.

# GRBMP: Objectives



- ***Maintenance of Environmental flows*** to fulfil their geological, ecological, socio-economic and cultural functions, so then;
- ***Water quality*** shall be consistent
- Aquatic resources shall be used judiciously to ***enable sustainable development*** in the entire NRGB
- Existing, on-going and planned ***anthropogenic activities shall be reviewed*** for the overall health of the NRGB.

## Analysis and preparing GRBMP: Some recommendations (\*)

- *Determination of hydrological status*
- *Water resources plan for NRGB with emphasis on wetlands, forests and distributed groundwater and surface waters.*
- *Increase water use efficiency; resource preservation, connectivity, manage discharges, water in urban areas*
- *Ecological restoration, sustainable agriculture, basin protection against disasters, river hazards management geological safeguarding*
- *Environmental knowledge building and sensitization*
- *Implementation mechanism*
- *...*



**Thank you for your attention**

