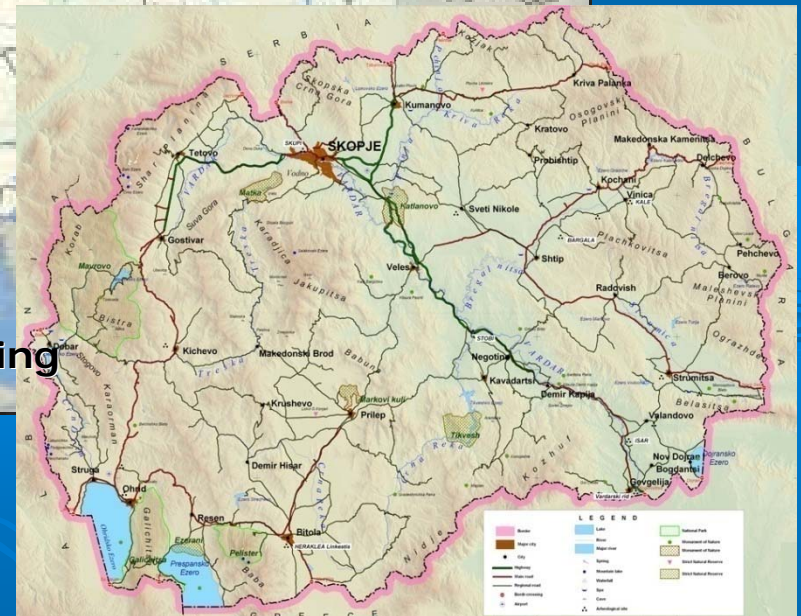


Water resources management in Republic of Macedonia – The new approach

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Legal framework

The Law on Waters is a framework for protection and sustainable management of water resources. It regulates issues concerning surface waters and ground waters.

- According to the **Law on Waters**, the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MoEPP) has the leading role in the water policies.
- EU-Water Directives (WFD) have been transposed in the Law on waters.

In addition the water issues are regulated by:

- Law on Environment
- The Law on Water Supply, Collection and Treatment of Waste Water
- The Law on Water Economies and
- Law on Water Users Associations.

Responsibilities and obligations in water management are shared by several ministries, MOEPP, MAFWE, MTC, MH

The main documents for water management

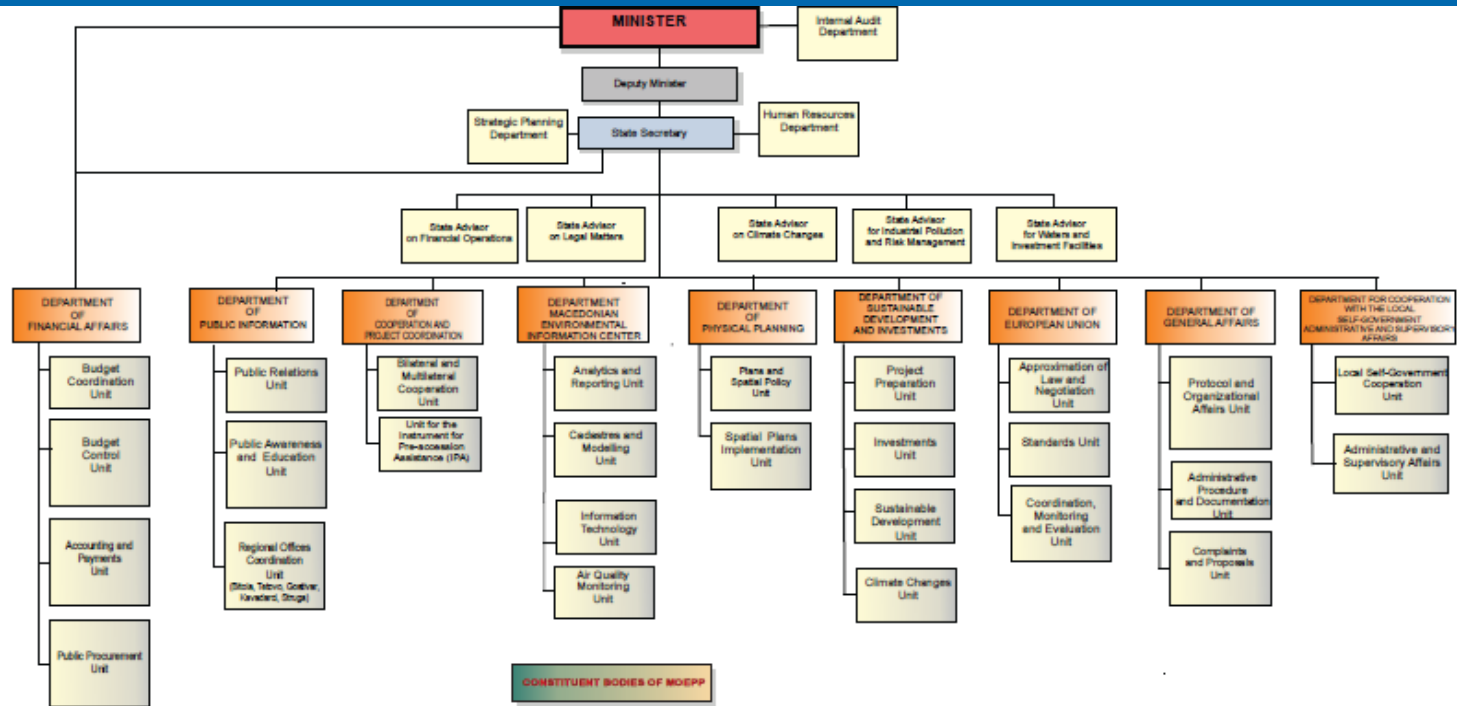
- National Strategy for Waters (adopted in 2012)
- Water Master Plan and
- River Basin Management Plans

Based on the Law on Waters:

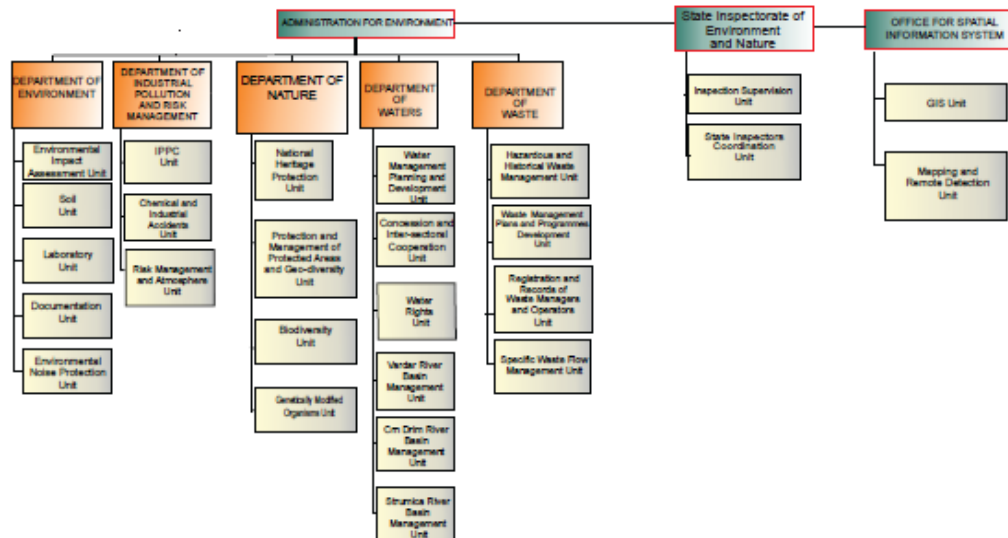
- National Council for waters (established in 2009)
- National Commission for Dams (established in 2012)
- Annual Programme for water management
- Annual Plan for maintenance of river beds



Ministry of environment and physical planning



CONSTITUENT BODIES OF MOEPP



The key requirements of the WFD

- The Water Framework Directive's (WFD) objective is to reach good ecological and good chemical status of the waters
- The WFD requires Integration of Water Resources Management (IWRM)
- The WFD defines the **River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs)** as a central planning document for reaching the environmental objectives
- **RBMPs** must be drawn up for each river basin;
however, larger river basins may be sub-divided into smaller units.
- International co-ordination is also required for those river basins that cross international boundaries.
- Central to each RBMP is a **Programme of Measures** to ensure that all waters achieve good water status.

RBMPs in Macedonian Law on Waters

Article 7

Water management shall be performed by river basin districts within hydrographical units delineated by watersheds of river basins, taking into account mutual linkage between surface and ground waters

Article 10

Management of transboundary river basins and transboundary waters shall be performed in accordance with this Law and in accordance with the international agreements ratified by the Republic of Macedonia

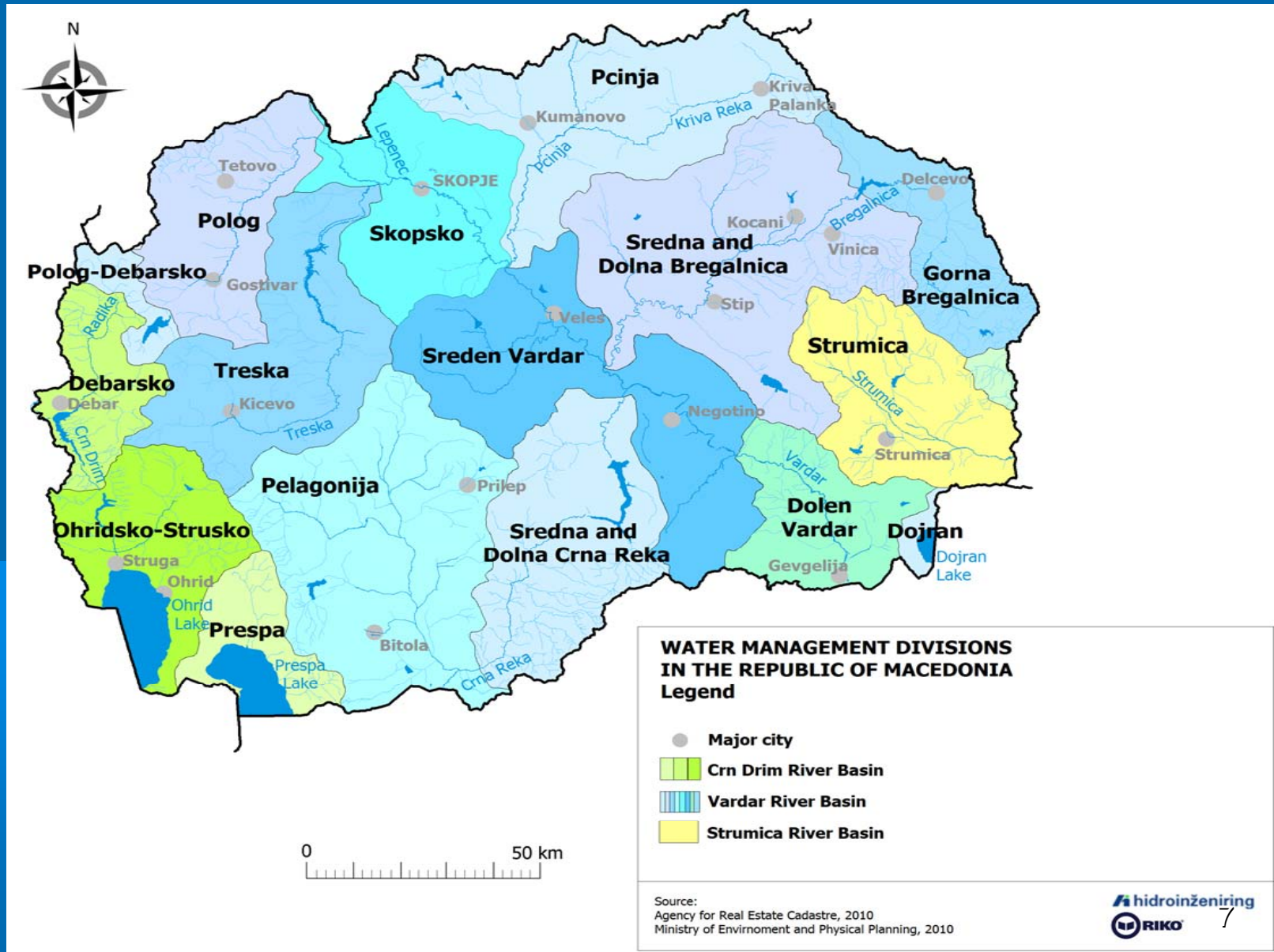
Article 66

River Basin Management Plans for a period of 6 years shall be prepared for each river basin. Upon a proposal made by the MoEPP, the Government of the RM shall adopt the River Basin Management Plans.

Article 73

The Government of the RM, at proposal of the MoEPP shall adopt a **Programme of measures** for achievement of the environmental objectives determined in the River Basin Management Plan.

Macedonia is a landlocked country (with land area of 24.856 km²), but has three natural lakes: Ohrid Lake, Prespa Lake and Dojran Lake.



Current Projects under MoEPP

Project "Integrated ecosystem in the Lake Prespa in Albania, Macedonia and Greece", supported by the GEF and UNDP. As part of this project is developed Plan for management of the Prespa Lake. Regarding this project in 2012 started the new Project for Implementation of the Management Plan for Prespa Lake Basin, funded by the Swiss govern.

Regional project to support "Drin Dialogue." Within this project a Memorandum of joint management of Drin basin between Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro and Greece, and will draw up Plans for management of the river Drin. (GEF, UNECE, GWP Med)

Regional Project "Protection and sustainable use of biodiversity in the territory of Lakes: Ohrid, Prespa and Shkodra." The project aims at improving enforcement agreements and management plans for keeping the biodiversity and sustainable management of Ohrid, Prespa and Shkodra Lake. (GIZ project)

In 2012 started with realization of the Project for management of river Bregalnica. The aim of the project is development of Management Plan for Bregalnica River Basin (Swiss Government, MoEPP and MAFWE)

IPA Projects

- TAIB 2009-Technical Assistance for strengthening the institutional capacities for approximation and implementation of environmental legislation in the area of water management. The aim of the project is development of RBMP for Vardar river.
- Study to define sensitive zones and agglomerations in accordance with the requirements of Water Framework Directive.
- Project “Development of a National Water tariff Study”. Technical assistance for establishment of economic and financial instrument for establishment of tariff system, including the polluter pays principles
- Technical assistance for Reforms in public utilities for water supply, collection and treatment of wastewater



International cooperation

A key driving force relevant for bilateral cooperation regarding transboundary waters is the EU Water Framework Directive, as well as the UNECE Water Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Helsinki Convention)

Macedonia is not a party to the Convention yet

Activities for ratification of the Convention:

- Participation in preparation of a Guidance for implementation of the Convention
- On 1 November 2013, in Skopje, UNECE and the MoEPP of the Republic of Macedonia organized a workshop on the Water Convention. The objective of the workshop was to promote better understanding of benefits of transboundary water cooperation and opportunities offered by the Water Convention

Key challenges in cross-border cooperation exist on transboundary waters, including the management of the Vardar River with Greece and the Drin River (Albania, Greece, Montenegro and Kosovo), Strumica river with Bulgaria...

Conclusions

- The most important part of legislation of the Republic of Macedonia in the field of water management is already established
- The transposition of most of the directives from the water sector has progressed with the adoption of the Law on Water.
- Responsibilities and obligations in water management are divided into several ministries, MOEPP, MAFWE, MTC, MH etc.
- Administrative capacities in the Water Sector are low at both national and local level and we should give special effort on training.
- There is also very small number of wastewater treatment plants in the Republic of Macedonia and this situation should be improved.
- In the Programme for Waters, main investment projects are construction of water supply and sewage systems.
- Cooperation with UN and EU institutions (DG Environment and European Environment Agency, UNECE, UNDP, GEF, GIZ, SECO ...) is in high level

Thank you!

