



THE WFD IMPLEMENTATION IN SPAIN: AN INDEPENDENT EVALUATION

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FUNDATION FOR A NEW WATER CULTURE

The WFD implementation in Spain implies **deep changes in the water policy:**

GOALS:

From a policy oriented to the supply and distribution of water resources to a policy oriented to achieve a good ecological state of all water bodies

CONCEPTUAL APPROACH:

From water as economic resource to water as multifunctional good
From management of exploitation systems to management of ecosystems

INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE:

Users' responsibility
Participated decision making processes
Integration of water policy requirement in the rest of policies

La FNCA has done an **active following up** of the whole process of elaboration and approbation of the WFD, and it has been **supporting actively** the application of the WFD

The FNCA's evaluation of the WFD implementation in Spain starts **from a clear perspective:**

Fully exploitation of the WFD potentialities for protecting, conserving and restoring water bodies and related ecosystems.

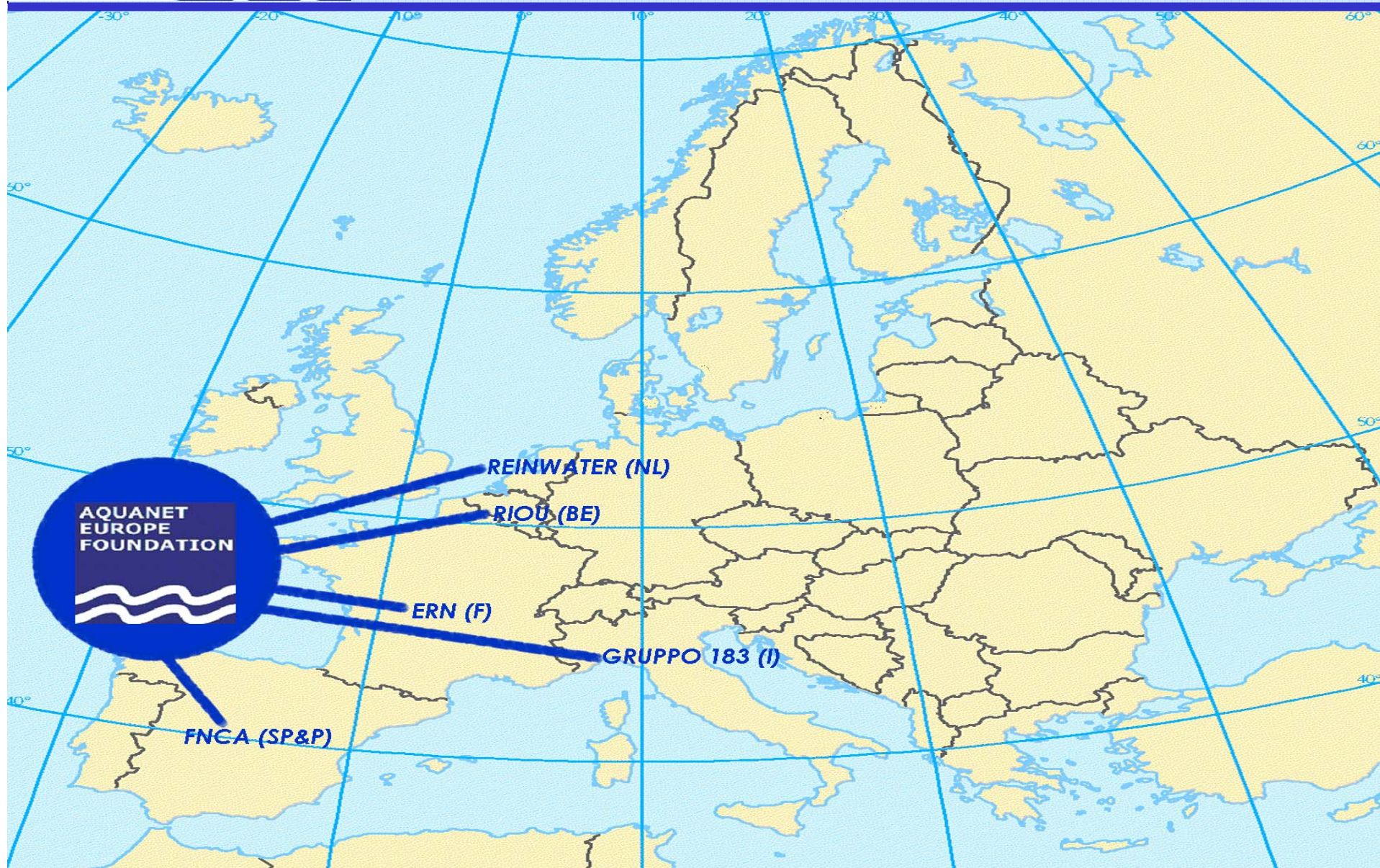
This means, the application of the most advanced interpretations of the WFD for guiding the WFD implementation process

Achievements will be closely related to the capacity of social and environmental agents, who defend this perspective, for participating in the decision making process.



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General Approach:

How is the WFD being implemented in Spain? *(works developed during 2005-2006)*

Vision

Qualitative assessment

Quality of information in RBD reports (Art 5, 6 & 7)

Integration of information for decision making

Double approach: thematic and territorial

Identification of (general and specific) gaps and good practices

Opportunities for institutional benchmarking

Ideas and proposals for improving the WFD implementation

Synthesis report

Research Design

(Feb.-June 2006)

Information Collection

(June-December 2006)

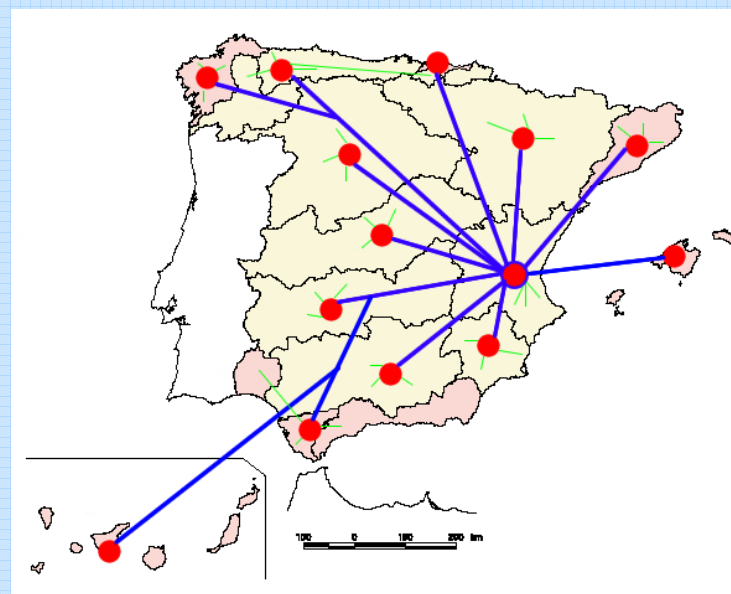
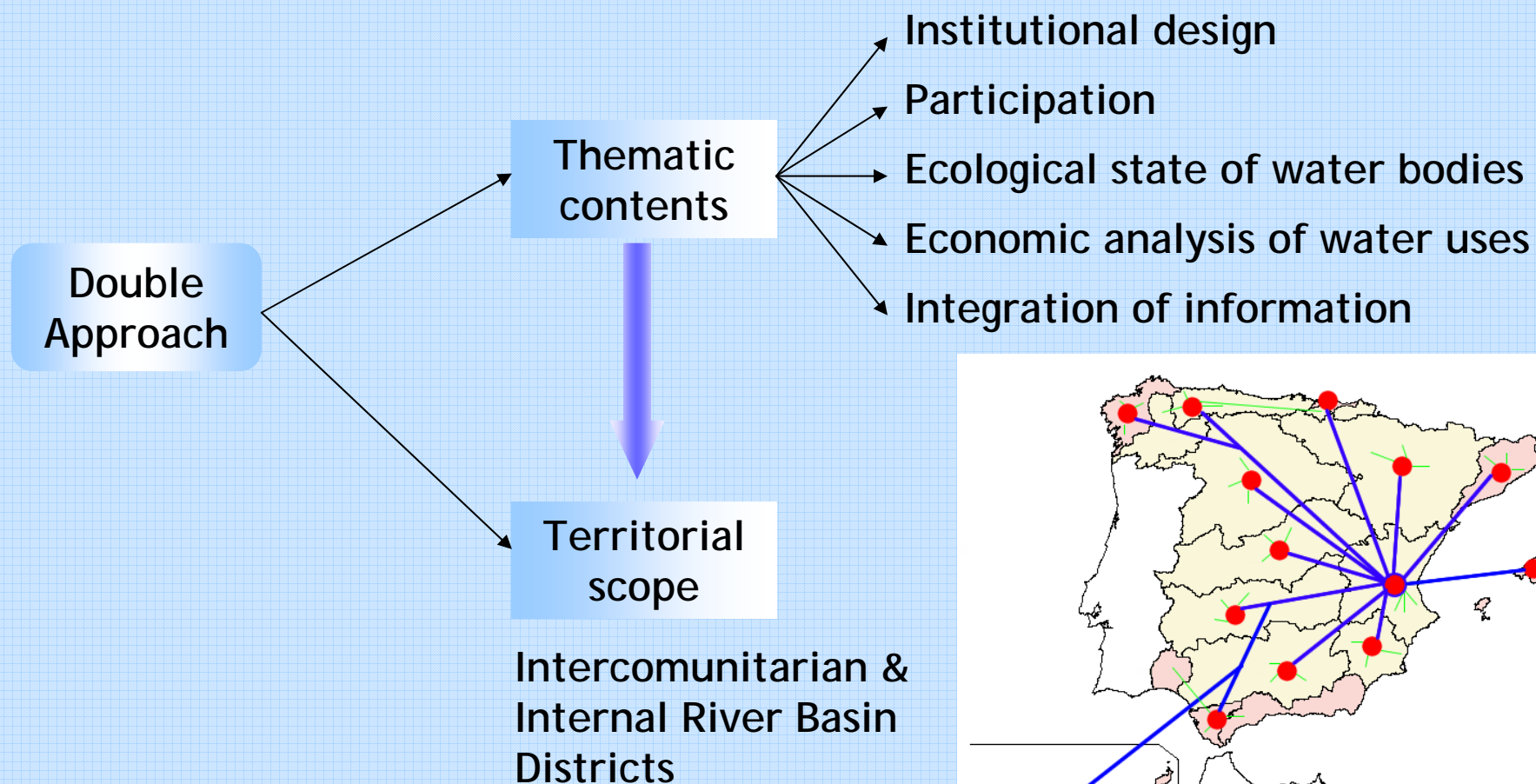
Report elaboration

(January-May 2007)

Report
presentation

(June 2007)

Methodological Approach



Thematic approach

Expert input and supervision for each thematic area

- Requirements of information for the project
- Conceptual support

Territorial approach

Network of FNCA territorial informants

- Filled in Questionnaires
- Reports

Sources of information: WFD Art 5 Reports; Interviews to RBD Authorities; Collaboration from NGOs; Books, journals, Internet, etc.

Identification of territorial informants

Questionnaire design

Questionnaire

Processing and Reporting

Synthesis Report

Technical Coordination



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INSTITUTIONAL DESIGN

Common and specific regulative aspects
Organizational impact of WFD in Water Institutions

PARTICIPATION

Availability of and accessibility to information
Communication & Consultation mechanisms
Design of participatory process for WFD implementation

ECOLOGICAL STATE OF WATER BODIES

Characterization of water bodies & identification of pressures and impacts
Information scale & quality

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

Meaningfulness of economic scale of analysis
Water uses economic analysis: information quality & scale
Cost recovery for water services: information quality & scale
Environmental & resource costs

INTEGRATION

Usefulness of information in WFD Art 5. reports for decision making and for participation
Ecological & economic territorial scale
Quality of information & opportunities of participation

RBD comparison; examples from RBD experiences

Gaps and opportunities of mutual learning



MAIN CONCLUSIONS

Important delays accumulated regarding institutional aspects and public participation

A REVIEW OF THE WATER LAW IS NEEDED for a correct and complete transposition of the WFD

An important effort in generating information has been done (Art. 5 reports)

Refining information -ecological state and economics- is needed (i.e. scale, reference conditions, costs issues)

Adaptation of information formats for participation processes

The main challenge: INTEGRATION

CHALLENGES AND PENDING TASKS IN THE FIELD OF INTEGRATION

Integration of the management of coastal and transition water bodies into
the river basin district

Integration of disciplines, approaches and experiences (hidrology, hydraulics, ecology, chemistry, edafology, agronomy, ingeniería, economics, sociological and juridical aspects) to work jointly in the implementation of the WDF with the best balance cost-effectiveness

Coordination and cooperation between different levels of administration and between different departments of each level of administration

CHALLENGES AND PENDING TASKS IN THE FIELD OF INTEGRATION

Achieving an effective level of **integration of users, social agents and civil society in the decision making processes**, in order to develop an effective **process of social learning**

Integration of the water policy strategies and requirements in the connected sectoral and territorial policies

Integration of different type of information at the meaningful scale (river basin, sub-basin, water body) for an effective ecosystemic management

*Thank you very much for your
attention*

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*Institutional aspects &
Public Participation*

ADAPTATION OF THE SPANISH JURIDICAL SYSTEM TO THE WFD

Officially done on 30th December 2003

SHORTCOMINGS:

Lack of enough debate in the procedure for approbation

Lack of completeness in several aspects of its content
(delayed to the future development of regulations, omissions)

Lack of correctness in the adaptation of aspects as the prevalence of
environmental objectives

A REVIEW OF THE WATER LAW IS NEEDED
-but has recently been ruled out by the government to be tackled in this
legislature

INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS

Every procedure for the WFD application shows an important delay:

Definition of River Basin Districts (partially done by Real Decree
125/2007)

Designation of Committee of Competent Authorities (partially done by
Real Decree 126/2007)

Procedures for dissemination and participation of interested parties and
the general public (partially done by the Real Decree 907/2007)

It is necessary an organizational and functional reform of the Water
Administration in order to adapt it to the new goals and principles of the
water policy

In general terms, a great effort is needed to make up for the lost time
regarding information dissemination and public participation



*Environmental state of
water bodies*

*as reflected at the Report
according to the WFD Article 5*

CARACTERIZATION OF SUPERFICIAL WATER AND GROUNDWATER BODIES

Unsatisfactory characterization of coastal water bodies

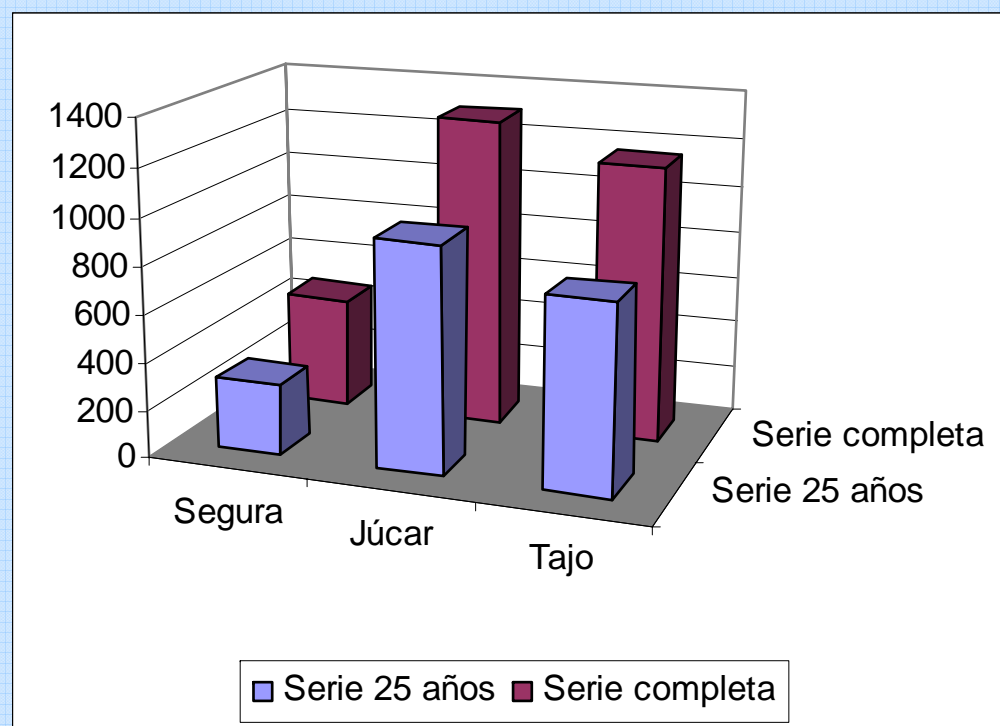
Incomplete identification of transition water bodies

The possibility of recovery of heavily modified water bodies
has not been assessed

Lack of quantitative disaggregation of estimations regarding
renewable resource, environmental volumes and available
resource in groundwater bodies

ESTIMATION OF WATER RESOURCES

- An overestimation of available resources is detected.
- Information presented at the district scale -not at river basin or sub-basin scale
- There is not reference to specific studies on environmental flows



REFERENCE CONDITIONS

In the most part of the River Basin Districts the process of identification of reference conditions is at its early stage

Problems in ecotypes without reference water bodies, and in heavily modified water bodies

River Basin District	Setting of reference conditions					
	River	Lake	Coastal	Transition	Reservoir (HMWB)	Artificial (HMWB)
Júcar	Blue	Red	Red	Red	Blue	Red
Ebro	Green	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Red
Tajo	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
Guadiana (incl. Tinto, Odiel y Piedras) ^a	Blue	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
Guadalquivir	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Green	n.a.
Norte	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
Duero	Green	Red	n.a.	n.a.	Red	Red
Segura ^b	Blue	Red	Yellow	Red	Red	Red
C. I. Cataluña	Blue	Blue	Yellow	Red	Blue	n.a.
C.I. Galicia Costa	Green	n.a.	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	n.a.
C. I. País Vasco	Blue	n.a.	Blue	Blue	Red	n.a.
C. I. Mediterránea Andaluza	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red

IMPRESS ANALYSIS

Lack of field work and lack of information (a main part of water bodies in “risk under study”)

Lack of adequate integration of pressures and impacts for evaluating risks

In the evaluation of impacts, only chemical aspects according to existing legislation has been considered

Economic Aspects

*as reflected at the Report according to
the WFD Article 5*





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Great effort for systematizing economic
information

Intention to cover all the territory and topics
required by the WFD



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COSTS

Incomplete definition of cost items
Detection of biased accountability practices
More transparency in water accounting systems is
needed



USES

Application of a traditional sectoral economic
approach

Lack of connection to IMPRESS analysis

Scale problems

IMPROVEMENT POSSIBILITIES

Conecting economic analysis to bio-physical
analysis (IMPRESS)

Increase the orientation of economic analysis to
the needs of planification

Developing economic information customised to
the needs of stakeholders and general public
(Economics for participation)