



National Administration
"APELE ROMANE"



The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
Department of Waters, Forests and Fishery



The National Institute of Hydrology
and Water Management

WWF7 Europe Regional Process ROUNDTABLE 2.

Implementing EU Water Directives: tools
and methods to safeguard water and
aquatic environments



Roundtable Programme

- Rapporteur:

- * Mrs. Galina BALUSHEVA, Chief expert, Directorate Water Management, Ministry of Environment and Water, Bulgaria

- Speakers:

- * Mrs. Elena TUCHIU, Director of River Basin Management Plans and Schemes, National Administration "Apele Romane", Romania
 - * Implementation of water Directives in an EU Member State
- * Mr. Ylber Mirta, Head of Department for Waters, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, Macedonia
 - * Implementation of water Directives in a EU accession candidate country

- Discussions organised around 3 to 5 questions prepared by the rapporteur

Main outcomes and recommendations

Key messages of the presentation

- Steady improvement in the implementation of EU water directives in EU Member State and in EU accession candidate country.
- Key role national administrations to coordinate implementation process (including between different ministries in charge of different policies).
- Scientific background required to back up the water management planning process (from monitoring to programme of measures, modeling).
- WFD is focusing on mainly water quality aspect, but it should be implemented with quantitative aspects in mind.
- Need of strong political commitment to get the means necessary.
- River basin management plan is one of the main tools encompassing all the issues of water management and, as such, it should be as comprehensive as possible, linking all EU water directives in an operational manner.
- In EU accession candidate country, a good strategy is to implement EU water directives in pilot basin at a small scale.
 - Very little time to transpose all of the EU water directives (in the case study, it was mentioned that gaps needed to be bridged on the flood directive –no yet transposed).
 - Need of external support (both technical and financial)

Main outcomes and recommendations

Main conclusions of the group discussions

Three types of participants: EU-Member States, EU (pre-)accession candidate countries and non-EU countries (Egypt, Morocco)

On Difficulties in implementing EU Water Directives:

- * Integrating agriculture, industry, urban planning is key for IWRM

On Integrating interdependent directives:

- * *Integrating agriculture, industry, urban planning is key for Integrated Water Resources Management, but not always easy (coordination between different administrations at different levels),*
- * *Specific examples:*
 - * *It is harder to control diffuse pollution than point source pollution (so need to integrated emission directive, nitrate directive -and phosphorus),*
 - * *Integration of WFD/habitat/Natura 2000/renewable energy directives AND flood directive (maintaining/building dams for flood protection and protecting ecosystems),*
 - * *Specific centralization/decentralization contexts which can complicate implementation of a basin approach,*
 - * *Hard also is the shift from physical water indicators and aquatic ecosystem protection indicators.*

Main outcomes and recommendations

Main conclusions of the group discussions

On Specific challenges for EU New Member States/Acession candidate countries:

- *Little time to transpose directives (implement early and adjust along the way),*
- *Lack of financial resources,*
- *Young environmental institutions, harder coordination.*

On non-EU countries:

- *Egypt has experience to share on wastewater treatment reuse (and no EU regulations on that as pointed out by the EU Blueprint*
- *Morocco suggested that master plans be produced, encompassing both water and other environmental policies.*