

“TAIEX ECRAN Multi-beneficiary Workshop on Actions Toward Good Status of the Water Framework Directive”

11 – 13 July 2016

ECRAN 62669

Institutions for Transboundary Management



This Project is funded by the European Union



Project implemented by Human Dynamics Consortium

Structure of the presentation

Implementing institutions

EC initiatives

Regional and local authorities

Technical Platform for Cooperation on the Environment

Institutional coordination in transboundary
management

Institutional coordination structure at EU

Priorities for institutional capacity development



This Project is funded by the European Union



Project implemented by Human Dynamics Consortium

The challenge of implementing the Water Framework Directive

Implementation of the European Union Framework Directive 2000/60/EC on water policy has made the appropriate competent authorities responsible for water management, in the MS, face problems connected with:

- the transposition of requirements of the WFD into the national legislation, including the legal acts in the environmental sector, in particular, **institutions responsible for the implementation and enforcement of law,**
- monitoring of both the implementation process alone as well as the implementation effects in the field of improving the status of water resources, in terms of both – their quantity and quality,
- appropriate solutions in water management planning and application of relevant techniques.



This Project is funded by the European Union



Project implemented by Human Dynamics Consortium

Implementing institutions

The key responsibility for ensuring effective implementation and enforcement of EU legislation lies with **national authorities** and very often at **regional** and **local** levels.

The goals of greater responsiveness are to build citizen **confidence in their administrations that EU environment laws are properly enforced.**



This Project is funded by the European Union



Project implemented by Human Dynamics Consortium

EC initiatives

The Communication proposes a number of initiatives:

- improving inspections and surveillance,
- criteria for how Member States should deal with citizen complaints,
- more access to justice in environmental matters, and -
- support for European networks of environmental professionals.



This Project is funded by the European Union



Project implemented by Human Dynamics Consortium

WFD institutional coordination (1)

The European Commission coordinates the implementation of the WFD

MS report directly to the Commission on the progress of implementation.

Each State must pass laws to achieve the results agreed to in the WFD.

Where river basins or hydrological units cross state boundaries, the affected member states must cooperate in the management of the resource.



This Project is funded by the European Union



Project implemented by Human Dynamics Consortium

WFD institutional coordination (2)

The WFD provides for the identification of **river basin districts** (RBDs) as administrative units for the purposes of WFD implementation. It is the responsibility of the member states to identify the river basins and assign them to respective districts. Smaller river basins can be combined with larger ones or joined to form individual RBDs.

Groundwaters that do not follow a particular river basin and coastal waters are assigned to the nearest or most appropriate RBD.



This Project is funded by the European Union



Project implemented by Human Dynamics Consortium

WFD institutional coordination (3)

- For basins that cover the territory of more than one member state, **international river basin districts** are assigned. The member states can ask the Commission to act as a facilitator in this process.
- Where RBDs extend beyond the territory of the EU, the concerned member states “shall endeavor” to establish **appropriate coordination** with the concerned non MS in order to achieve the objectives of the WFD.
- The institutional structures of the assigned competent authorities **vary widely** depending on the respective national capacities and organizational style of administration.



WFD institutional coordination (4)

For international RBDs, existing institutions established through international agreements can be assigned as competent authorities:

- the **Rhine River Basin** is divided into 9 river basin districts (some of which are transboundary), and the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine has been assigned as the authority to coordinate overall implementation of the WFD for the entire basin. To this end it has established a Coordinating Committee among the nine basin states, two of which are nonmembers of the European Union.
- In the **Oder River Basin**, which stretches across Germany, the Czech Republic, and Poland, the International Commission for the Protection of the River Oder (ICPO) coordinates the WFD implementation.

Regional and local authorities (1)

- Close cooperation between national authorities and the EC contributes to a better implementation.
- **Regional and local authorities** are also key players and co-operation with the Committee of the Regions is facilitated by a **Technical Platform for Cooperation on the Environment**.
- **Local and Regional Authorities and Environment** - crucial actors in environmental protection, as they are often responsible for rule-making and undertaking investments, and can have inspection and oversight functions.



Regional and local authorities (2)

- Local and regional authorities - partners within the governance structure for the implementation of EU environment law, through the **Committee of the Regions (CoR)**.
- The CoR opinion on the role of local and regional authorities in future environmental policy underlined the necessity of involving them in all phases of EU policy.



Challenge for institutional capacity development

The creation of an enabling environment, which supports the 'concerted action' of the variety of different, but mostly interdependent, stakeholders within a basin.



This Project is funded by the European Union



Project implemented by Human Dynamics Consortium

European Union Forum of Judges

- The **European Union Forum of Judges** for the Environment contributes to promote the enforcement of national, European and international environmental law by contributing to a better knowledge by judges of environmental law.



This Project is funded by the European Union



Project implemented by Human Dynamics Consortium

What is the Technical Platform for Cooperation on the Environment?

- The Technical Platform is a new forum set up by the Committee of the Regions' Commission for Environment, Climate Change and Energy (**ENVE**) and DG ENV aimed at fostering dialogue on local and regional problems and solutions in the application of EU environment law.
- It was launched by Commissioner Janez Potočnik and CoR Vice-President Mercedes Bresso on 5 December 2012.

The **objectives** of the Technical Platform are:

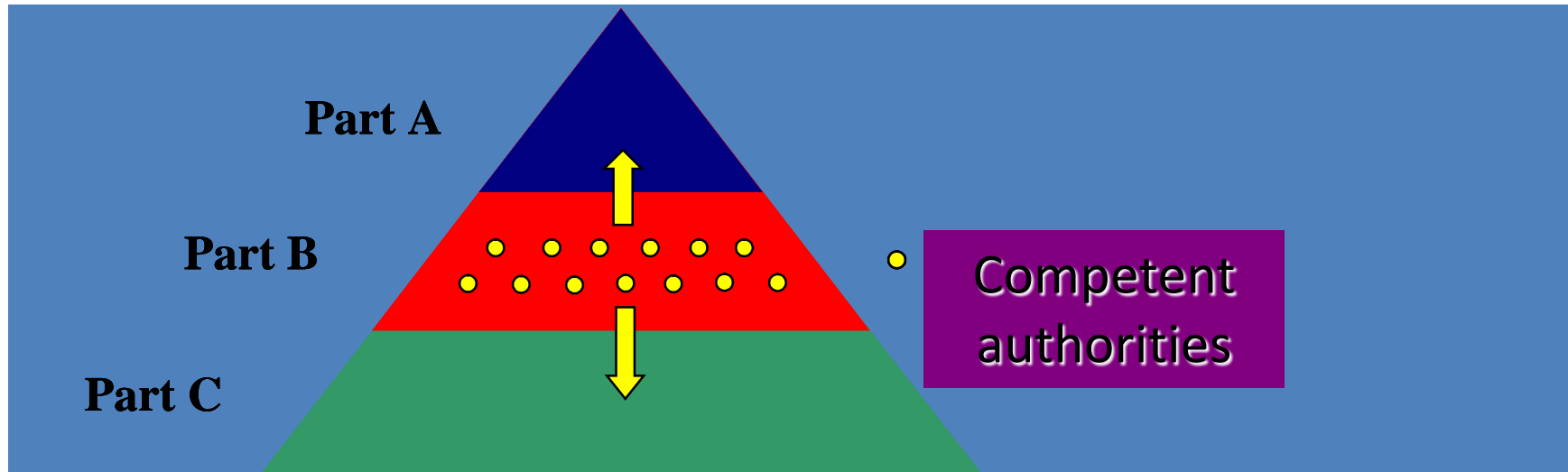
- to allow dialogue on implementation and exchange of best practices at a technical level;
- to facilitate a cooperation between local and regional environmental administrations and DG ENV and the CoR's ENVE Commission;
- to strengthen the cooperation between the CoR's ENVE commission and DG ENV;
- to provide technical input to the work of the CoR's ENVE commission.



This Project is funded by the European Union

Institutional coordination in transboundary management - example Danube RB

Structure of the Danube River District Management Plan



Part A – District (international) level

Part B – National level and/or internationally coordinated sub-basin level
for selected sub-basins (Tisza, Sava, Prut, Danube Delta)

Part C – Sub-basin/sub-unit level (Ex: Drina RB)



This Project is funded by the European Union

Institutional coordination structure at EU water and marine

- Directorate General Environment
- Water and Marine Director Meetings
- Common Implementation Strategy for Water Framework Directive
- Common Implementation Strategy for Marine Strategy Framework Directive
- Marine Strategy Coordination Group
- Coordination Group for Common

Implementation of the WFD



This Project is funded by the European Union

Informal Water and Marine Directors Meeting

- 2/year – organized by EU presidency
- 2 separate meetings for Water Directors and Marine Directors and one joint session
- The coordination between the two directives as well as the coordination with other related directives or policies
- Common issues and future joint or coordinated activities to be discussed and agreed and prepared by MSCG and SCG



Priorities for institutional capacity development

The capacity of water managers and policy-makers within transboundary basins needs to be developed:

- in terms of their knowledge of the most suitable techniques to support of cross-sectoral stakeholder participation in planning and public participation, and
- their ability to implement what can be very resource-intensive participatory activities.

Awareness raising, from the public to the political levels, needs to be improved if transboundary cooperative mechanisms are to be prioritized and sufficiently funded.



This Project is funded by the European Union



Project implemented by Human Dynamics Consortium

The need for adequate resources for those implementing the policy

Local and regional authorities are key to the delivery of environmental policy and achievement of tangible results

Effective application by the member states and regional and local authorities is still a major obstacle

Implementation often requires significant administrative and financial commitment and competence, as well as a political will

It is essential for the European Commission to have common instruments

A more holistic approach to resources is needed



This Project is funded by the European Union



Project implemented by Human Dynamics Consortium

Thank you!



This Project is funded by the European Union



Project implemented by Human Dynamics Consortium