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Report on roundtable 2: Experiences on the implementation of WFD principles and tools in EECA and Mediterranean partner countries.

Dr. Teodoro Estrela
Head of Water Planning Office
Júcar River Basin Authority (Spain)

Ms. Ozge Hande Sahtiyanci
Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs
(Turkey)

Cumali Kinaci (Turkey): WFD represents the high technical development of the EU Member States. Candidate states have to adapt to this technical level and to adapt legislation to comply with the WFD.

Ruzica Drmic (Croatia): WFD implementation in Croatia. 1st RBMP contains basic measures, River Basin Council was established and bi- and multilateral cooperation has been successfully started.

Nermin Cicek (Turkey)

- 25 Turkish river basins, difficult coordination with many stakeholders. Coordination board established, chairman: Minister of Forestry and Water Affairs.
- Some issues under the WFD are complex, even using the CIS Guidance Documents, Blueprint should solve this: Roadmap for Europe in the Future.
- Establishment of monitoring systems is one of the most important requirements to fulfill with the WFD.
- Regarding WFD implementation: 1) need to cooperate with Member States given that each country interprets the WFD accordingly to the national situation and 2) enforce relation between MS and Candidate States.

Interventions about:

- WFD implementation in transboundary basins:
Scheldt river basin, Lake Shodra
- Cooperation between river basin organisations:
Artois – Picardie Water Agency (France).
- Difficulties to approve some river basin
management plans in Spain
- Algeria, a non-EU Mediterranean experiences
(Administrations and Universities)
- Water Operator's Partnership in South-Eastern
Europe.

Arnould Lefebure (Belgium)

- Contribution of an International Commission to the effective WFD and PoM implementation
- In the International Scheldt Commission before the adoption of the RBMPs a Roof Report was written to guide all involved parties.
- Afterwards PoM has been developed by all partners. Comparison through a tool: Scheldt catalogue of measures - useful to analyse applied measures. Findings: flood is only part of RBMP, climate change or economical analysis have not been taken into account.

Arian Madhi and Djana Bejko (Albania)

- Implementation of WFD principles in transboundary basin: Shkodra Lake Protected Area, shared between Albania and Montenegro.
- Main objectives of cooperation: a) strategic multi-stakeholder approach, b) capacity building for key management institutions (technical support for management institutions, study visits, etc), c) cooperation between education institutions for awareness raising.

Arnoud Courtecuisse and Jean Schepman (France)

- Artois-Picardie River Basin Agency has several twinning agreements with foreign basins: Poland, Bulgaria, Armenia, Moldovia, etc
- Focus: how WFD principles and tools can be used by non-EU countries to strengthen water management
- Main WFD challenges found: technical aspects (delimitation of WBs, etc), implementation of measures involving stakeholders, economic analysis, public consultation, transboundary issues, financial scheme for the implementation of the RBMP, etc.

Isabel Gallego (Spain)

- Example of the difficulties to approve RBMP in Spain
- Most Spanish RBOs include territory of more than one Regional Autonomous Government.
- Regional governments have competences on environment, territory, etc. Competence conflicts between central and regional administrations.
- More dialogue administrations needed.

Abdellah Bouchedja (Algeria)

- Principles of National Water Policy in Algeria implemented in 1996 for 5 Algerian river basins. Resources in the North come mainly from surface and in Sahara region from groundwater.
- Doubling water resources, number of dams and desalination until 2030.
- Main principles of Water Policy are: unity of water resources, consultation, economy, ecology and universality.
- For each river basin there should be a plan, which it is elaborated by the agency and approved by the basin committee.

Ms. N. Baghli (University, Algeria)

- Need of interdisciplinary approach, importance of systemic modeling of the water resources, requires participation of several experts,
- Often absence of interdisciplinary cooperation and low information flows.
- Proposal of consultation scheme for all actors and interdisciplinary collaboration in IWRM.

Faraj El Awar, Water Operators Partnership Alliance

- Water Operators Partnership: non-profit partnerships between 2 or more water and sanitation operators. Main aim is capacity building
- The Secretariat is hosted and funded by UN HABITAT, guided by an international multi-stakeholder Steering Committee
- Regional WOPs platforms, e.g. South Eastern region – including most countries and civil society organisations
- Invitation to be involved: partnership is open to any interested operator in the region.

Atanaska Tuntova (Bulgaria)

- 4 river basin districts and first RBMPs have been adopted
- Bulgaria has a very ambitious objective: to reach the good status for about 60-70% of water bodies. All river basin districts are international
- Main Challenges: financing the implementation of the PoM.

Abdelhamid Aslikh (Morocco): axes of water strategy in Morocco: 1) water economy and valorisation of water, 2) solutions through surface and non-conventional water resources, 3) preservation and sanitation plan and industrial depollution, 4) adaptation to CC, water scarcity management plan, national plan against floods and 5) national water law

Arnould Lefebure (Belgium): protecting water resources and find new resources is what we are talking about.

Algeria: demand reduction of farmers. Demand fell after implementing recommendations of a Spanish expert.

Nermin Cicek: Take into account water quantity when talking about water management. In the Blueprint a balance between consumption and environment is desirable.

Ruzica Drmic: There is a need to learn from each other, to establish education, to exchange information and to use the potential of young people.

Cumali Kinaci: Interesting results especially regarding transboundary situations. When stakeholders come together optimum solutions can be produced, WFD has some unclear areas which need clarification and implementation examples should be given with the guidance documents.