

CHALLENGES OF IMPLEMENTING WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

- RBMP (based on river basins) has certain tradition in the Czech Republic
- Key principles/new requirements:
 - full scale international co-operation
 - introduction of environmental objectives
 - public participation
- International and national aspects - map
- Need for changes to the previous planning system to ensure that the corresponding planning structures respond fully to WFD
- The task is to link the new requirements and approaches with the necessary existing elements
- New Water Act adopted - to come into force at the beginning 2002

- RBMP process is to be regarded as permanent. However, the first nine-year period will differ from the next six-year periods in the necessity to set up the process.
- In view of the steps within a planning period, there will be certain stages in the process, such as
 - Identification of objectives;
 - Proposal of relevant measures;
 - Wide discussions;
 - Approval and adoption of the plans, and
 - Implementation.
- RBM planning system at the national level may be regarded as consisting of the following elements:
 - Development of rules (legislative and technical set-up)
 - Establishment/preparation of implementing bodies
 - Implementation activities

Development of rules - documents

National water policy – although it seems to be an implicit requirement, it is common that there is a basic document for long-term period, such as 10 to 15 years, expressing:

- orientation of the water policy;
- obligation to protect and enhance water quality;
- support to sustainable development, and
- obligations stemming from bilateral or multilateral international agreements for large river basins

Secondary legislative and administrative tools in the water sector – the central water authorities should adopt relevant regulations specifying the planning process, roles of the appropriate bodies involved and any other details complementing provisions of the Water Act

Methodology for preparation of water planning documents, their adoption and approval – to unify contents, forms of the planning documents and steps to be undertaken. The activities should focus namely to:

- Objectives for the river basins
- Plans for river basins
- Adoption and modification of river basin management plans
- Development and adoption of programmes of measures

Implementing bodies

The central water authorities – to ensure co-ordination of the planning process and the establishment of the planning system. Principle of subsidiarity has to be taken into account

Water authorities (municipalities, districts and regions) – to define needs and to apply and implement programmes of measures

River boards – a co-ordination body under continuing discussion. It might be composed of representatives of elected administrative bodies, water and state authorities, technical institutions and users. It should create a forum for exchange of views between various partners involved including public and would help in resolving discrepancies between hydrological and administrative division.

Technical agency for river basin planning – a body under continuing discussion. It might gather and aggregate data and information needed as a background for overall RBM planning, coordinate the planning process, provide information to the central state and EU bodies, etc.

Technical administrators of river basins (River Basin Companies) – to directly prepare RBM plans respecting requirements and cooperating with other technical bodies involved (Land Reclamation Authority, Forest Management Authority, etc.) and largely to implement the plans and programmes of measures. These should also support, by technical expertise, the state water authorities in decision-making regarding authorisations and other decisions.

International bodies, international commissions – co-ordination of international co-operation - definite role has yet to be defined and developed. Principle of subsidiarity is to be taken into account and applied.

Public (users, NGOs, civil initiatives, general public, etc.) – their interests and requirements must be taken into account both in the preparation of the plans and in the adoption of the measures.

Implementation Activities

Preparation of the State policy – to be approved by the Government, horizon 10 to 15 years

Identification of the objectives in the main river basins and sub-basins – including specification of technical parameters

Discussion of comments and suggestions to the proposal of the objectives – should result in modification of the aims and their adoption

Preparation of the river basin plans – the most important and demanding stage of the planning process

Discussion of the river basin plans – to take into account both the technical (expert) and general comments

Expert revision of the river basin plans – to consider feasibility and potential alternatives

Adoption of RBMPs and of programmes of measures

Implementation of the programmes of measures