

Transboundary Cooperation Fact Sheets

November 2012

Part of "Comparative Study of Pressures and Measures in
the Major River Basin Management Plans"

Task 1 – Governance

Final Report

28 November 2012

This collection of fact sheets are part of a report has been prepared for DG Environment of the European Commission for Task 1 the *Comparative Study of Pressures and Measures in the Major River Basin Management Plans*. The fact sheets relate to Part V of [Task 1](#).

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The views expressed herein are those of the consultants alone and do not necessarily represent the official views of the European Commission. The information is based on prefilled questionnaires submitted to Member State representatives in the Strategic Coordination Group for validation. For some Member States no feedback was received (see Table 1, main overview report). Any potential errors in this document are unintentional, and corrections may be submitted to: ENV-WATER@ec.europa.eu

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Background:

In the context of the comparative study '*Pressures and Measures in the Major River Basin Management Plans*' launched 2011 by the European Commission's DG Environment - this fact sheet contributes to the development of an overview on international coordination mechanisms between countries sharing international river basins (Task 1b), as part of the Task 1 on governance. Task 1b aims at investigating the degree of international coordination and cooperation under the EU Water Framework Directive, and where possible make indications on their effectiveness, the coherence between national and international RBMPs as well as the additional value of international RBMPs.

Fact sheets are completed for a representative selection of international river basins. These international river/sub-river basins are allocated to the respective River Basin Districts that have been designated under EU WFD Article 3 and as part of the Task 1b work to four different categories. Specific sub-basins are referred to in cases where there are separate governance aspects to raise (i.e. bilateral agreements, conventions). The four categories describe different but characteristic international coordination mechanisms and roughly indicate respective degrees of cooperation. Some international basins have established cooperation agreements and are coordinated through relevant international bodies. The River Basin Districts that are coordinated through international river commissions have in most cases also developed international River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) according to the EU WFD. Many other river basins are less advanced regarding adoption of RBMPs but may still cooperate via international coordination mechanisms and coordinating bodies. Some basins have not yet established any cooperation framework at all. From this four categories have been pre-identified:

- Category 1: International river basins with an international agreement/convention & a River Basin Organisation & international River Basin Management Plan
- Category 2: International river basins with an international agreement & coordination body & no international River Basin Management Plan
- Category 3: International river basins with an international agreement & no coordination body & no international River Basin Management Plan
- Category 4: International river basins with no international agreement/convention & no coordination body & no international River Basin Management Plan

COOPERATION CATEGORY 1

Coordination mechanisms in the international Danube River Basin

1. Basic information on international river basins/sub-river basin - Danube

EU Member States sharing the basins: AT, BG, CZ, DE, HU, IT, PL, RO, SI, SK

Third countries sharing the basin: AL, BA, CH, HR, MD, ME, MK, RS, UA

River Basin Districts concerned: Danube

Key Sub-Basins in international river basin: Danube Delta, Prut, Sava, Tisza



Size of the total catchment area and national shares for each international river/sub-river basin (km², %), indicating division by country and the respective RBD.

Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	River Basin District (WFD Article 3.1)	Total Area of Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin (km ²)	EU Member States/Non EU Member States in International River Basin	National Area within International River Basin*	
				(km ²)	(%)
Danube	Danube	807.252	AL	126	<0,1
			AT	80,423	10,0
			BA	36.636	4,7
			BG	47.235	5,8
			CH	1.809	<1,0
			CZ	21.688	2,7
			DE	56.184	7,0
			HR	34.965	4,3
			HU	93.030	11,5
			IT	565	<0,1
			MD	12.834	1,5
			ME	7.300	0,9
			MK	109	<0,1
			PL	430	<0,1
			RO	238.506	29,6
			RS	81.335	10,1
			SI	16.422	2,0
SK	47.084	5,8			
UA	30.571	4,5			

Data Source: DRBM Plan 2010 and Danube River Basin Aanalysis 2004 (ICPDR).

2. Cooperation Framework

2a. International agreement or convention

Information requested: Title, date of agreement, countries not covered under agreement, brief description

1. Title:

English title: Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Danube River (Danube River Protection Convention)

German title: Übereinkommen über die Zusammenarbeit zum Schutz und der verträglichen Nutzung der Donau (Donauschutzübereinkommen)

2. Countries under Agreement: All countries that hold a river basin share > 2000 km². The countries are: AT, BG, CZ, DE, HU, RO, SI, SK, BA, HR, MD, ME, RS, UA. The EU is also a contracting party, due to the fact that countries outside the EU are parties.

3. Countries part of basin but not covered by agreement:

Countries that hold a river basin share < 2000 km² are not contracting parties according to the convention. However, these countries are involved via bilateral/multilateral cooperation with their neighbouring countries. The countries are: AL, CH, IT, MK, PL

4. Date and place of signing: 29 June 1994 (Sofia, BG)

5. Entry into force: 1998

6. Key objectives and content of convention/agreement:

The main objective of the Danube River Protection Convention (DRPC) is to ensure that surface waters and groundwater within the Danube River Basin are managed and used sustainably and equitably.

This involves:

- the conservation, improvement and rational use of surface waters and groundwater;
- preventive measures to control hazards originating from accidents involving floods, ice or hazardous substances;
- measures to reduce the pollution loads entering the Black Sea from sources in the Danube River Basin;

The signatories to the DRPC have agreed to **co-operate on fundamental water management** issues by taking "all appropriate legal, administrative and technical measures to at least maintain and where possible improve the current water quality and environmental conditions of the Danube river and of the waters in its catchment area, and to prevent and reduce as far as possible adverse impacts and changes occurring or likely to be caused."

7. Role of the EU WFD implementation in the international basin:

Since 2000 the implementation of the EU WFD is a declared highest priority of the contracting parties of the ICPDR (Resolution of the ICPDR Ordinary Meeting 2000 in Sofia). Another resolution has been adopted, that all contracting parties – including the Non EU Member States - ensure to make all efforts to arrive at a coordinated international River Basin Management Plan according to the requirements of the EU WFD.

To implement the WFD as a priority in the DRB has also been confirmed in the Danube Declaration that was signed in the frame of an ICPDR Ministerial Meeting on 13 December 2004 (Vienna).

The ICPDR Expert Groups adapted to this priority and accordingly organised the implementation of the EU WFD towards the development of an international Danube River Basin Management Plan according to the WFD requirements. All contracting parties have adopted the DRBM Plan in February 2010.

2b. Coordinating/Governing Body/River Basin Organisation

Information requested: Name(s) of Secretariat/Commission, location, working languages, website

1. Name(s):

International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)

Internationale Kommission zum Schutz der Donau (IKSD)

2. Operative since:

Fully operative since 1998

3. Location and address:

The Permanent Secretariat of the ICPDR is located in Vienna.

Vienna International Centre, Room D0412

Wagramer Strasse 5, A-1220 Vienna, Austria

Email: icpdr@unvienna.org

Telephone: +431 260 60 5738 Fax: +431 260 60 5895

4. Working Languages: English/German; Note: All meetings are held exclusively in English language, as well as all documents are exclusively written in English.

5. Website: www.icpdr.org

2c. Coordination structure

Information requested: Description of (i) organisational structure (ii) cooperation tasks (iii) expert groups (iv) regular meetings (v) number of staff (vi) webpage (vii) other issues

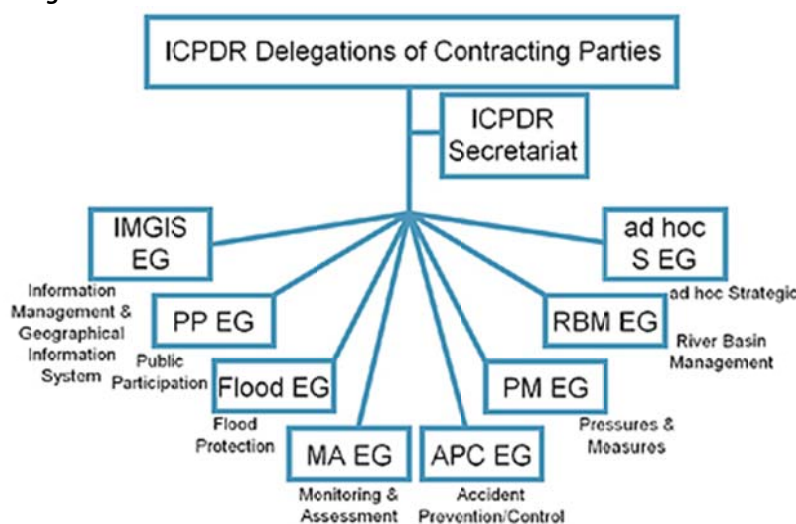
1. Organisational structure:

(i) Verbal description

The ICPDR is an international organisation. It meets twice a year: The Ordinary Meeting is held in Vienna in December, another meeting of Heads of Delegations is held in June in the country of the Presidency. The meetings comprise of delegations of contracting parties and observer organisations. Every contracting party has one Head of Delegation representing the country. For all decisions the achievement of consensus is sought. The ICPDR President chairs the meetings; ICPDR Presidency is passed on from one country to another in an alphabetical order every year.

In addition, much of the work of the ICPDR is done by Expert Groups (EG), which are panels of specialists from the ICPDR contracting parties and observers – usually civil servants of the relevant ministries, in some cases employees of NGOs or contracted agencies.

(ii) Organisational diagram



(iii) Key cooperation tasks

(i) Implementation of the Danube River Protection Convention (DRPC). It is both a forum to allow its contracting parties to coordinate the implementation of the DRPC and a platform to review the progress they make. The key objectives of the ICPDR include the following:

- Ensure sustainable water management
- Ensure conservation, improvement and rational use of surface waters and ground water
- Control pollution and reduce inputs of nutrients and hazardous substances
- Control floods and ice hazards.

(ii) Coordinated implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive since 2000. All countries cooperating under the DRPC decided to make all efforts to implement the Directive throughout the whole basin. The Non EU Member States also committed themselves to implement the WFD within the frame of the DRPC.

(iii) Facilitated cooperation between the Danube countries and the Black Sea region in issues requiring coordination, cooperates with other international organisations where appropriate, and addresses new challenges related to water management (e.g. climate change adaptation) as they emerge.

(iv) The ICPDR also serves as a coordination platform for the basin-wide implementation of the EU Floods Directive (EFD, Directive 2007/60/EC).

(v) Regarding the thematic topics the ICPDR cooperates on river basin management; monitoring and assessment; pressures and measures; databases and GIS; flood management and protection; accident pollution; hydromorphological alterations; climate changes and adaptation; public participation and consultation; strategic cooperation;

(vi) The ICPDR assesses the state of surface and ground waters in the Danube River Basin, also in Joint Danube Surveys; develops actions to conserve or improve these waters; collects information on the implementation and progress of these actions; and supports individual contracting parties or other relevant entities in the implementation efforts of these actions.

(vii) Facilitated cooperation between the Danube countries and the Black Sea region in issues requiring coordination, cooperates with other international organisations where appropriate, and addresses new challenges related to water management (e.g. climate change adaptation) as they emerge.

(iv) Working groups/Expert groups

The ICPDR has seven permanent Expert Groups (EG) and one ad hoc EG in place that are compiled of country representatives and that are respectively coordinated by a technical expert from the ICPDR Secretariat. The EGs all have Terms of Reference and mandates adopted by the Commission. They usually meet twice to three times a year.

The expert groups discuss issues related to their Terms of Reference and prepare reports and recommendations for coordinated action. The Expert Groups are (alphabetical order):

1. Flood Management EG
2. Information Management and Geographical Information Systems EG
3. Monitoring and Assessment EG
4. Pressures and Measures EG
5. Public Participation EG
6. River Basin Management EG
7. Ad-hoc Strategic Expert Group EG

In addition and on demand Task Groups (TG) can be established. Time- and target-limited task groups may also be established for specific tasks which not necessarily all countries are represented in. Those Task Groups include at the moment: Hydromorphology TG, Economics TG, Groundwater TG, Accident Pollution TG and Nutrient TG.

(v) Regular meetings

- The ICPDR meets twice a year (Ordinary Meeting in December; Standing Working Group Meeting in June);
- Technical Expert Groups meet 2 or 3 times a year;
- Task Groups meet on demand (1 – 3 times a year);
- Ad-hoc Strategic Expert Group meets on specific request by the ICPDR or its Standing Working Group.

(vi) Observers

The active involvement of the public is a core principle in sustainable water management for the ICPDR. This basic fact was recognised when the Danube River Protection Convention was developed and signed in 1994 ICPDR observer ships are granted according to agreed rules. As of today, 22 organisations hold observer ship status and cooperate actively with the ICPDR:

- Black Sea Commission (BSC)
- Central Dredging Association (CEDA)
- Danube Environmental Forum (DEF)
- Danube Commission (DC)
- Danube Tourist Commission (DIE DONAU)
- European Anglers Alliance (EAA)
- European Barge Union (EBU)
- European Water Association (EWA)
- Friends of Nature International (NFI)
- Global Water Partnership (GWP/CEE)
- International Association for Danube Research (IAD)
- International Association of Water Supply Companies in the Danube River Catchment Area (IAWD)
- International Hydrological Programme of the UNESCO (IHP/Danube)
- International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC)
- RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands
- Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)
- VGB PowerTech e.V. (VGB)
- via donau
- World Wide Fund for Nature – Danube-Carpathian Programme (WWF-DCP)
- Danube Parks
- Carpathian Convention
- Danube Competence Center (DCC)

(vii) Number of staff at the Secretariat

The current number of permanent staff of the ICPDR Secretariat is 8. In addition short-term project staff is employed.

If all national experts, delegates from observers and consultants are considered, there are more than 300 people working with and for the ICPDR.

(viii) Webpage. www.icpdr.org

2d. Other cooperation agreements if relevant

Information requested: Description of other national bilateral/multilateral agreements for transboundary coordination including country members

1. The following bilateral/multilateral agreements are in place besides the overall international agreement (list for each cooperating country):

Many of the contracting parties of the ICPDR cooperate with their respective neighbouring countries via bilateral/multilateral agreements that are sometimes performed via transboundary commissions.

Details are outlined in the respective national RBMPs according to the EU WFD.

- Agreement of 19 May 1992 (entered into force 1996) between the Republic of Poland and the Federal Republic of Germany is defined in the Agreement on the cooperation in the field of water management on the border waters of the two countries.
- Agreement of 21 March 1958 Agreement on water management on the border waters signed by the then - Government of the Polish People's Republic and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is still a valid base for the cooperation in the field on the Polish - Czech boundary.
- Agreement 12 December 1995 (entered into force in 1997) between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Czech Republic on the cooperation in the field of water management on the border waters.
- Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Slovak Republic on Cooperation on Transboundary Waters
 - Entered into force 1999
 - Implemented by the Czech-Slovak Commission for Transboundary Waters
- Agreement relating to the Regulation of the Management of Frontier waters between Hungary and Slovakia
 - Signed 1976 and entered into force 1978
 - Established a Joint Commission
- Agreement between the Government of Slovakia and the Government of Poland on the Management of Transboundary Waters
 - Signed 1997 and entered into force 1999
 - Implemented through the Polish-Slovakian Transboundary Waters Commission
- Agreement on the Water Management of Frontier waters between the Government of Slovakia and the Government of Ukraine.
 - Signed 1994 entered into force 1995
 - Implemented through the Slovak-Ukrainian Transboundary Water Commission
- Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Hungary and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on the Issues of Water Management
 - Signed 1994 and entered into force 1995
 - Established the permanent Hungarian-Slovenian Committee on Water Management
- 1999 Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on Protection against natural and civil disasters
- 1995 Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Hungary and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on Water Management Relation
 - Signed 1994 and entered into force 1995
 - Established a permanent Croatian-Hungarian Commission for Water Management
- Agreement between the Government of Romania and the Government of the Republic of Hungary on Cooperation for the Protection and the Sustainable Use of Transboundary Waters
 - Signed 2003 and entered into force 2004
 - Regulates the work of the Hydrotechnical Romanian-Hungarian Commission
 - Three Sub-commissions: (1) Water quality (2) Flood defence (3) Water management and hydrometeorology.
- Agreement between the Ministry of Environment and Water of Bulgaria and the Ministry of Environment of Romania for cooperation in the field of water resources management

- Signed in 2004 and entered into force 2005
- Three Working Groups: (1) River Basin Management, (2) the Danube, and (3) the Black Sea Basin
- Agreement between Romania and federal republic of Yugoslavia concerning the hydro-technical problems of the hydro-technical systems from the border or passed by the state border water courses
 - Signed and entered into force 1955
 - Regulates the work of the Hydro-technical Romanian-Serbian Commission
 - Three Sub-commissions : (1) Quality; (2) Hydrometeorology and water quantity Management; (3) Flood and ice defence .
 - Since 2010 started the negotiations of a new Agreement.
- Agreement between the Government of Romania and the Government of the Ukraine on Cooperation in the field of Transboundary waters Management,
 - Signed in 1997 and entered into force 1999;
 - Three Working Groups : (1) Working group for the Tisa river and its tributaries from the border area problems; (2) Working group for the Siret and Prut rivers and their tributaries from the border area problems; (3) Working group for the Danube river from the common border area problems.
- Agreement between the Government of Romania and the Government of the Republic of Moldova on Cooperation for the Protection and the Sustainable Use of Prut and Danube Waters
 - Signed and entered into force 2010
 - Regulates the work of the Intergovernmental Hydro-technical Commission
 - There will be 4 Sub-commissions: (1) Operation and maintenance of the Stanca-costesti Hydraulically Knot; (2) Flood and ice defence ; (3) Water Quantity Management and Hydrometeorology; (4) Water Quality Protection and Water Bodies Biodiversity;
- Austrian-Swiss Commission for the common use of the Upper Inn River
- Commission of the Regensburg Treaty with regard to the transboundary waters in the Danube basin
 - Between Germany and Austria
 - Signed 1987 and entered into force 1991
 - Established a permanent water commission
 - Includes inter alia an expert group on water management that addresses transboundary waters
- Treaty between the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the Republic of Austria on the arrangement of water management issues for transboundary waters
 - Signed 1967 and entered into force 1970
 - Implemented through the Austrian-Slovakian Transboundary Commission and the Austrian-Czech Transboundary Commission
- Agreement between the Hungarian People's Republic and the Republic of Austria concerning the Regulation of Water Economy Questions in the Frontier Region
 - Signed 1956 and entered into force 1959
 - Austrian-Hungarian Transboundary Commission
- Austrian-Slovenian Commission for the Mur
- Austrian Slovenian Commission for the Drau
- International Sava River Basin Commission (Comment Germany: Is missing here, but a formal agreement.)
 - Signed 2002
 - Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia
 - There is an MoU on the cooperation between the Sava Commission and the ICPDR.
- Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Hungary and the Government of Ukraine on the Issues of Water Management
 - Signed 1999 and entered into force 1999
 - Established the permanent Hungarian-Ukraine Committee on Water Management
- Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Hungary and the Government of Serbia and Montenegro on the Issues of Water Management
 - Signed 1956 and came into force (with former Yugoslavia)
 - The new agreement is under preparation
 - Established the permanent Hungarian-Yugoslavian/Serbian Committee on Water Management

2. Further related information

The countries of the Tisza River sub-basin cooperate internationally and developed a Tisza River Sub-Basin Management Plan. The same is valid for the Sava River Sub-Basin.

3. Key Areas of International Cooperation

3a. International River Basin Management Plan

WFD international River Basin Management Plan developed (Y/N)

The ICPDR developed an international RBMP according to the EU WFD that has been adopted by all ICPDR contracting parties in 2010.

RBMP download link

www.icpdr.org/icpdr-pages/danube_rbm_plan_ready.htm

3. The international 'Roof Level' is formally defined /delineated in relation to the national RBMP level as follows (i.e. catchment area size, other thresholds, etc.)

The Roof Level (international Part A) addresses water courses with catchment areas > 4,000 km². Other catchment areas and its rivers are addressed on the respective national levels. In addition important lakes >100 km², transitional and coastal waters and 11 transboundary groundwater bodies of basin-wide importance are addressed at Roof Level.

4. The national RBMP refers to the international RBMP as outlined below:

Austria: Austria developed one National Plan that covers all RBs including the national part of the RBD Danube, which was published in 2010
The Austrian National Plan mentions that the Danube is an international basin and lists the Danube Commission and administrative bodies in charge with coordination. Information is mentioned in the specific chapter on international coordination and in the additional background document on international and bilateral coordination, <http://wisa.lebensministerium.at/article/archive/29404>.

Bulgaria: The River Basin Management plan for the Danube district in Bulgaria was endorsed by the Minister of Environment and Water by order and was published in March 2010. The plan mentions that the Danube is an international basin. The data delivered to the DRBMP is a sub-set of the data used for the development of the national river basin management plan for the Danube district in Bulgaria.

Czech Republic: A national RBMP for the Danube RBD was published in December 2009:
The Czech plan describes two levels of the management plan for the Danube: Part A, which details the umbrella management issues of the transboundary basin, as well as the environmental goals that serve as a basis for the development of national level measures. Part B focuses on Czech specific management issues. The Plan mentions that steps were taken to ensure a clear link between Part A and Part B. Efforts at national level were used to feed into the development of the international plan. The Czech Plan also details the international coordination steps and meetings that took place in the development of the international plan.

Germany: Baden-Württemberg Danube RBMP – published November 2009
The Plan describes inter alia the international and bilateral coordination that took place. Reference is made to intercalibration of national methodologies for designating good status at the international level according to the WFD. Chapter 5 describes the supra-national environmental goals. Objectives at individual WB are based on international coordination and internationally set objectives.

Bavarian Danube RBMP – published December 2009

The Plan describes the portioning between Part A, international, and Part B. Part A focuses on supra-national management issues, which is coordinated by the Danube Commission. International coordination is described, which focused on results of monitoring, environmental objectives, PoMs and public participation. The Plan mentions that the international plan refers to the national or regional plans. It says that therefore the international plans do not provide conflicting information. The Plan mentions that coordination took place within the International Working Group. The international monitoring system is described in chapter 4. Chapter 7 mentions that the development of the PoMs was coordinated under the Danube Commission.

Poland	A national RBMP for the Danube was published in February 2011: The Polish National Plan mentions that international cooperation took place under the auspices of the International Danube Commission and outlines the Commission's objectives in the chapter on competent authorities (Chapter 13). No other references are found. There is no mention of a Part A plan.
Hungary	The Hungarian national plan for the Danube was published April 2010 Hungarian national plan mentions close cooperation among the MS in the development of the Danube plan. It describes the cooperation under the Danube Commission and lists the bilateral agreements with other MS and third-countries. The plan describes the international monitoring programmes and reference is made to the EU intercalibration exercise. Chapter 8.10 details the cooperation activities and cross-border problems. Reference is made to joint development of SWMIs and a PoMs, which lists actions at national level.
Romania	Romania developed one National Management Plan, as synthesis of the 11 RBMPs developed at the river basins/hydrographical spaces level, which was published in December 2009. The international Danube RBMP is mentioned in the Chapter 1 of the 11 River Basin Management Plans and the National Management Plan. Also, the chapter 1 covers the legal basis as well as the link between the levels of the management plan for the Danube: Part A, which details basin-wide/transboundary issues, mainly aiming SWMIs, management objectives and POM which have been, also integrated at the national level. Part B focuses on national specific management issues and part C on river basin/hydrographical spaces issues.
Slovenia	The Slovenian RBMP for the Danube (includes the Adriatic Sea) – no date on document. The international Danube RBMP is indirectly addressed in the national one under the Annex VI of the RBMP (Abstract on obligations from international agreements and treaties, related to water management), subchapter VI International commission for the protection of Danube River. The subchapter covers the legal basis as well as duties and tasks of the Commission. There is no legal link between the national RBMP and the Danube RBMP. No other thematic issues are mentioned in the national RBMP.
Slovakia	The Water Plan of Slovakia covers the national part of Danube River Basin District Plan and national part of Vistula River Basin District Plan. It also contains information that Slovakia participates also in the development of international – Danube river Basin District Plan, which deals with issues of Danube River basin wide relevance and is coordinated by ICPDR. The Water Plan of Slovakia was published in 2010.
5. The international RBMP includes country specific information (Y/N).	
The International Plan makes the following country specific references:	
General Information on relevant pressures according to MS	
Specific information pressure related to hydromorphological alterations, hydrological alterations, organic pollution surface waters (e.g. direct emissions of TOC, COD and BOD ₅ emissions, wastewater treatment) and water abstractions	
Pressures, status, measures and exemptions of GWBs of basin-wide importance	
Designation of HMWBs	
Ecological Status/potential	
GDP per capita for the Economic Analysis	
Characteristics of water services	
Baseline Scenario for Agriculture for nutrient reduction	
Potential reduction in nutrient pollution by 2015	
Number of river continuity interruptions in 2009&2015 and restoration measures expected	
Design of register for groundwater abstractions	
Application of exemptions	
<i>The information provided in the international RBMP is consistent with the national RBMP</i>	
Austria: Yes	
Bulgaria: Yes	
Czech Republic: N/A	
Germany: Yes	
Hungary: Yes	
Poland: N/A	
Romania: Yes	
Slovakia: Yes	

Slovenia: N/A

3b. Joint Activities

Information requested: Topics where joint development occurred, for example: SWMIs, monitoring, PoMs, objectives, public consultations, etc; Description of the process of joint cooperation for each activity.

1. Key international cooperation activities – general description

- Implementation of the EU Flood Directive as well as the orchestration of basin-wide flood protection measures;
- Danube-wide assessments in the course of a “Joint Danube Survey” and through the Transnational Monitoring Network (TNMN);
- Involvement in the EU Danube Strategy;
- Coordination to maintain an accident emergency warning system (AEWS) and risk spot inventories;
- Modelling of nutrient pollution loads that enter the Black Sea via the Danube;
- Efforts to define strict phosphate caps for laundry and dishwasher detergents;
- Technology exchange in areas such as the construction or modernisation of wastewater treatment plants;
- Maintenance of emission directories and GIS data management;
- Implementation of measures to address hydromorphological alterations, nutrient pollution, organic pollution and hazardous substance pollution;
- Dialogue with representatives from sectors affecting water such as hydropower, navigation or agriculture;
- Management of awareness raising campaigns such as the Danube Box, a teaching program for schools;
- Organisation of Danube Day, a public event;
- Exchange on environmental issues and collaboration in Danube sub-basins such as the Tisza, Prut, Sava or Danube Delta;

2. Description of detailed joint, basin-wide activities

2.1 WFD SWMIs (Y/N). If yes, describe:

Yes.

For surface waters, the following four Significant Water Management Issues according to the EU WFD have been identified in 2007 and are addressed in the international Danube RBMP:

- (i) Organic pollution
- (ii) Nutrient pollution
- (iii) Hazardous substances pollution
- (iv) Hydromorphological alteration

For groundwater, qualitative and quantitative aspects have been defined as SWMIs.

For the above SWMIs, the DRBM Plan identifies (i) joint basin-wide visions and management objectives, (ii) pressures and impacts on water bodies and (iii) a Joint Programme of Measures for each of them. Thematic maps illustrate the situation for each SWMI as of 2009 as well as the expected situation by 2015.

2.2 Coordinated/joint visions and objectives (Y/N)

Yes.

Joint visions and management objectives have been defined for each SWMI addressing the basin-wide scale. These are part of a Document on SWMIs (adopted 2007 at the ICPDR Ordinary Meeting) and the international RBMP 2009.

2.3 Coordinated/joint transboundary monitoring (Y/N)

Yes.

The ICPDR coordinates the Transnational Monitoring Network (TNMN). The TNMN fulfils the provisions of the DRPC and has been in operation since 1996. The TNMN has been adapted to the requirements of the EU WFD (Article 8) and serves the basin-wide assessment of water status. It addresses monitoring of surface water and groundwater including surveillance, operational and investigative monitoring.

In addition, the ICPDR undertakes Joint Danube Surveys every 6 years as part of the investigative monitoring.

Details on the TNMN can be found under: www.icpdr.org/icpdr-pages/tnmn.htm

2.4 Coordinated/shared databases and/or GIS (Y/N)

Yes. The ICPDR manages and shares its data via the

- Danube Information System (DANUBIS) and

- Danube Geographical Information System (DanubeGIS).

The latter is used to develop the international Danube RBMP. Countries upload the agreed and respective data into the system and ICPDR staff uses the information to develop the DRBM Plans (www.danubegis.org). Danube GIS is streamlined with EU WISE as far as possible. Complete interoperability has been discussed.

2.5 Coordinated/joint Programme of Measures (Y/N)

Yes, also due to the fact that several Non EU ICPDR parties are participating in implementing the WFD.

A Joint Programme of Measures has been developed for all SWMIs as part of the DRBM Plan 2009. The DRBMP Joint Programme of Measures addresses the basin-wide scale of the Danube River Basin and has been adopted in the frame of the DRB Ministerial Conference in 2010 (Vienna).

2.6 Coordinated/joint (financial) resources to support international cooperation (Y/N)

Yes, the ICPDR has joint financial resources.

2.6.a Basic concept of joint financial resources

The ICPDR has joint financial resources that mainly support the ICPDR Secretariat and its operation. Projects are not funded by budgets received from the contracting parties.

According to the Danube Protection Convention the Contracting Parties (except for the EU) contribute an equal share to the ICPDR. Some exceptions for selected contracting parties are currently applied for a transitional period.

In some cases, the ICPDR engages in projects that have separate sources of funding. These include projects funded by the European Union, the United Nations Development Program, GEF, individual member countries or private businesses through the public-private partnership "Business Friends of the Danube"

2.6.b Amount of joint financial resources

The total annual budget of the ICPDR is a little more than one million Euros.

2.6.c List of supported joint resources

Much of the ICPDR's work is done directly by Member Countries. Such contributions in staff and material are therefore also considerable, even though this does not show up in the ICPDR budget.

In kind contributions support e.g. the development/operation of databases and their management as well as the Joint Danube Survey.

2.6.d Country participation in joint meetings is supported (Y/N)

No.

The contracting parties themselves cover costs of participation in the Commission's and Expert bodies' work.

2.7 Coordinated/joint communication strategy and public participation activities (Y/N)

The ICPDR under its Expert Group for Public Participation performs joint public participation, consultation and communication activities. Stakeholder fora have been performed regarding the DRBM Plan.

A stakeholder analysis supported the identification of relevant stakeholders to be involved in the ICPDR basin-wide activities including the EU WFD. The ICPDR provided the DRBM Plan on their website for consultation and comment. Comments have been integrated and commented on.

2.8 Coordinated/joint approach to consider future water demand (WFD Annex III) (Y/N): No.

2.9 Coordinated/joint approach on setting exemptions (Y/N)

No. However, the international RBMP includes a chapter on exemptions according to the EU WFD that is based on national approaches. A respective map illustrates the findings.

3b. Coordinated/Joint Methodologies

Information requested: Areas in which joint methodologies were developed in relation to the issues listed under 3b. In addition, other joint methodologies should be added e.g. to designate HMWBs, to define good ecological status/potential, cost effectiveness of measures and or any other issues. Include brief description of the process of cooperation for each methodology

1. The following joint basin-wide methodologies have been developed:

- Joint approach on the designation of HMWBs in the Danube River mainstream
- Joint Danube Surveys are undertaken every 6 years to support common monitoring approaches
- Intercalibration exercise of the Eastern Continental GIG with support via ICPDR coordination platform
- Quality assurance and ring tests for water quality monitoring

Joint cooperation approaches:

- Joint Statement on Inland Navigation and Environmental Sustainability in the Danube River Basin" (2007)

2. The joint methodologies are formally adopted or agreed between the countries (Y/N).

No, the contracting parties have not formally adopted the methodologies.

However, the methods are agreed to certain degree. Joint methodologies are developed, discussed and agreed jointly in the technical Expert Groups

Example:

- The approach on joint HMWB designation of the Danube mainstream is part of the DRBM Plan that has been adopted by all countries.

3. The joint methodologies are continuously/practically applied in the frame of international cooperation leading to harmonised results (Y/N)

Yes, partly.

Examples:

- The joint designation on HMWB has been applied as part of the DRBM Plan
- Joint approach on navigation according to the Joint Statement on Navigation and Ecology taking into account WFD requirements. Yearly meetings are held to ensure the application of the joint approach and to improve if necessary.

4. The following challenges currently hinder the continuous/practical application of joint methodologies:

- Differences between various national approaches and methods resulting in different starting points for basin-wide harmonisation;
- Lack of harmonisation of results already on the bilateral and multilateral level;
- Conflict of interests between different water sectors;
- Lack of adequate financial resources to implement harmonised approaches via the national level.

5. Future development of joint methodologies is planned for the future (Y/N). If already know, list which ones.

Yes, joint approaches and methodologies are planned for further development:

- Exchange on a harmonised approach for the assessment of good ecological potential (draft document is currently discussed);
- Guiding principles on sustainable hydropower development in the DRB;
- Danube Climate Adaptation Strategy

4. International Coordination Successes and Challenges**4a. Changes from WFD implementation**

Information requested: Description of changes of international cooperation since WFD enforcement

1. Indicate if the enforcement of the EU WFD changed and improved joint cooperation (Y/N)

Yes.

2. Cooperation areas where changes/improvement occurred through WFD

- Common understanding of the objectives to be achieved on the basin-wide level and between the different contracting parties regarding WFD implementation;
- Common terminology;
- Development of an international RBMP outlining basin-wide issues that otherwise might not be identified and taken into account on the national level;
- Definition of SWMIs and related visions as well as management objectives;
- Development of a joint DanubeGIS to collect data for the DRBM Plan;
- Maps that illustrate the outcomes regarding the WFD requirements;
- Overview on the water status in the DRB (surface waters and groundwater);
- Improved joint monitoring network that also includes all biological quality elements;
- Agreement on a Joint Programme of Measures to improve water status;
- Development on common understanding beyond the current Joint PoM;
- Overall cooperation improvement and common understanding via joint actions on the implementation of WFD requirements beyond EU Member States (e.g. Danube Delta);

3. When did changes occur?

- 2004: Danube Basin Analysis

- 2006: Revised basin-wide monitoring network
- 2007: Identified basin-wide SWMIs
- 2009: international Danube RBMP
- 2010: Basin-wide adoption of DRBMP
- Future: 2012: Interim report (planned)

4b. Key Successes of coordination

Information requested: Description of cooperation successes, positive feedback loops, etc.

- International DRBM Plan 2009
- International sub-basin RBMPs (Tisza, Sava underway)
- Ministerial conferences
- Joint Danube Surveys
- Transnational Monitoring Network
- Involvement in the EU Danube Strategy
- Stakeholder Fora
- Joint Statement on Navigation and Ecology (2007)

4c. Key Obstacles and Challenges to International Coordination/Cooperation

Information requested: Areas where cooperation was not successful; Areas for improvement

- 1. Principle key obstacles to international coordination/cooperation (Y/N).** If yes, describe.
No.
However, it was expressed that the situation due to the economic crises is considered as a threat to financially support and enable international exchange although the will for cooperation is fully in place.
- 2. Current key challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to**
 - the past/current WFD planning cycle
 - Basin-wide implementation of economic WFD requirements;
 - Data collection regarding all WFD requirements; gaps still do exist;
 - Basin-wide identification of future infrastructure projects;
 - any other areas regarding water resources management
 - Climate change and adaptation: adaptation strategy to be developed;
 - Inter-sectoral cooperation toward sustainable hydropower development;
 - Ensure international cooperation despite current economic crises as well as regional political changes;
 - Lacking national capacities and skills to mobilise appropriate funding (e.g. EU);
- 3. Respective areas of improvement and indication if this is planned**
 - Improvement of DRBMP information and approaches by 2015;
 - Improvement of economic approaches on basin-wide scale;
 - Improvement of the list on future infrastructure projects;
 - Improved inter-sectoral cooperation (e.g. navigation, hydropower, etc.)
 - Basin-wide strategy on climate changes and adaptation;
 - Support capacity building and fund raising (e.g. via ICPDR Secretariat support in drafting project proposals);
 - Organisation of further targeted thematic workshops relevant for the international level.
 - Danube wide emission inventory of priority substances for 2008/105/EC "EQS" Directive
- 4. Expected challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to**
 - Next WFD planning cycle
See items above
 - any other areas regarding water resources management
 - Coordination of the implementation of the EU Flood Directive;
 - Coordination of the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive;
 - Harmonisation of activities and hydropower development in relation to the EU Directive on Renewable Energy Sources
 - Climate change adaptation
 - Inter-sectoral cooperation

5. Future in international cooperation - Next steps/View towards 2nd Planning cycle

5a. Areas of future cooperation

Information requested: Where work has already started for the next planning cycle; New Areas of international cooperation; Whether an international plan is foreseen

1. Outline if an international RBMP according to the EU WFD is foreseen.

If yes, by when (2015, 2021, 2027)

Yes, relevant updates of the RBMP are foreseen by 2015, 2021 and 2027.

2. First milestones that will be jointly aimed for regarding the future EU WFD implementation

International RBMPs will be developed every six years following the WFD requirements.

Next steps and milestones in the DRB:

2012: Interim report on the implementation Joint Programme of Measures

2012: Plan for public participation and consultation towards the DRBM Plan 2015

2012: Launch basin-wide data collection for the update of the Danube River Basin Analysis

2013: Update of the Danube River Basin Analysis including the Risk Assessment to achieve the environmental objectives by 2021

2014: Draft second DRBM Plan.

2015: Second DRBM Plan including the current status as well as a joint PoM to achieve the environmental objectives by 2021

3. If no international RBMP will be developed, briefly describe why this is the case.

4. Further future areas of international cooperation/coordination:

- In addition to the requirements of the WFD, the aims of the Danube River Protection Convention will be followed towards achievement;
- Cooperation within the EU Danube Strategy for the Danube Region;
- Climate change adaptation;
- Inter-sectoral cooperation;
- Coordinated implementation of other EU Directives (e.g. Flood Directive);
- Cooperation with other international river basin and organisations.

6. Additional Comments

7. Interviewed country and RBO representatives as well as other experts

Mr. Raimund Mair – Technical Expert for River Basin Management, ICPDR Secretariat.

Mr. Knut Beyer – German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

8. Sources and References

- Danube River Basin Management Plan 2009, ICPDR
- National RBMPs according to the EU WFD of the contracting parties to the ICPDR
- Second Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters, UNECE (2011)
- www.icpdr.org
- http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/participation/map_mc/map.htm
- http://files.inweb.gr/workshops/sub_basins/
- www.internationalwaterlaw.org/documents/intldocs/
- www.transboundarywaters.orst.edu/research/RBO/RBO_Euro.html
- www.riob.org/

Coordination Mechanisms in the International Elbe River Basin

1. Basic information on international river basins/sub-river basin - Elbe

EU Member States sharing the basins: AT, CZ, DE, PL

Third countries sharing the basin: --

River Basin Districts concerned: Elbe

Key Sub-Basins in international river basin:

Vitava, Saale, Havel, Mulde, Black Elster, Ohre

Management units in international river basin:

Upper Elbe, Middle Elbe, Lower Elbe



Size of the total catchment area and national shares for each international river/sub-river basin (km², %), indicating division by country and the respective RBD:

Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	River Basin District (WFD Article 3.1)	Total Area of Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	EU Member States/Non EU Member States in International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin
		(km ²)		(km ²)	(%)
Elbe	Elbe	150,823*	AT	921	0.6
			CZ	49,933	33.7
			DE	99,730*	65.5
				97,175**	64,4
			PL	239	0.2

Data Source: * International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe River Agreement; **DE BMU

2. Cooperation Framework

2a. International agreement or convention

Information requested: Title, date of agreement, countries not covered under agreement, brief description

1. Title:

The International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe River Agreement

2. Countries under Agreement:

Germany, Czech Republic

In accordance with the decision of the Council from 2 December 2005, the European Union is no longer a contracting party to the ICPER due to the fact that CZ and PL become EU members. (

3. Countries part of basin but not covered by agreement:

Austria and Poland (observers to the ICPER; full members to the ICPER International Coordination Group (ICG) to implement the EU WFD – see Item 2a(7) for more details)

4. Date and place of signing: Magdeburg, 8 October 1990

5. Entry into force: 13 August 1993 (A respective protocol enabled the ICPER's legal capacity)

6. Key objectives and content of agreement/convention:

Principal objectives of the ICPER Agreement are

- making the use of water possible, especially promoting the retrieval of drinking water via river bank infiltration and enabling the agriculture to utilise the water and the sediments,
- achieving the most natural ecosystem possible; one that can provide for healthy species population,
- permanent strategy to decrease the burden imposed on the North Sea by the Elbe River basin.

7. Role of WFD implementation in the international basin:

As of the year 2005 and related to the EU WFD enforcement, the four countries in the International District of the Elbe River Basin – the Czech Republic, Germany, Austria, and Poland – came to the agreement that, during the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, they will establish international coordination and cooperate under the ICPER. The International Coordination Group was established to address international cooperation within the context of WFD implementation and the implementation of the EU Flood Directive. . AT and PL are full members of the ICG and have the same level of mandate/voting as DE and CZ.

Under the guidance of the ICPER the Elbe RBMP has been developed including its respective components.

2b. Coordinating/Governing Body/River Basin Organisation

Information requested: Name(s) of Secretariat/Commission/RBO, location, working languages, website

1. Name(s):

International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe River (ICPER)

2. Operative since:

1990

3. Location and address:

Internationale Kommission zum Schutz der Elbe (IKSE)

Secretariat

PF 1647/1648

39006 Magdeburg, Germany

Tel.: +49 391 400 03-0, Fax: +49 391 400 03-11

E-mail: sekretariat@ikse-mkol.org

4. Working Languages:

Czech, German

5. Website:

www.ikse-mkol.org

2c. Coordination structure

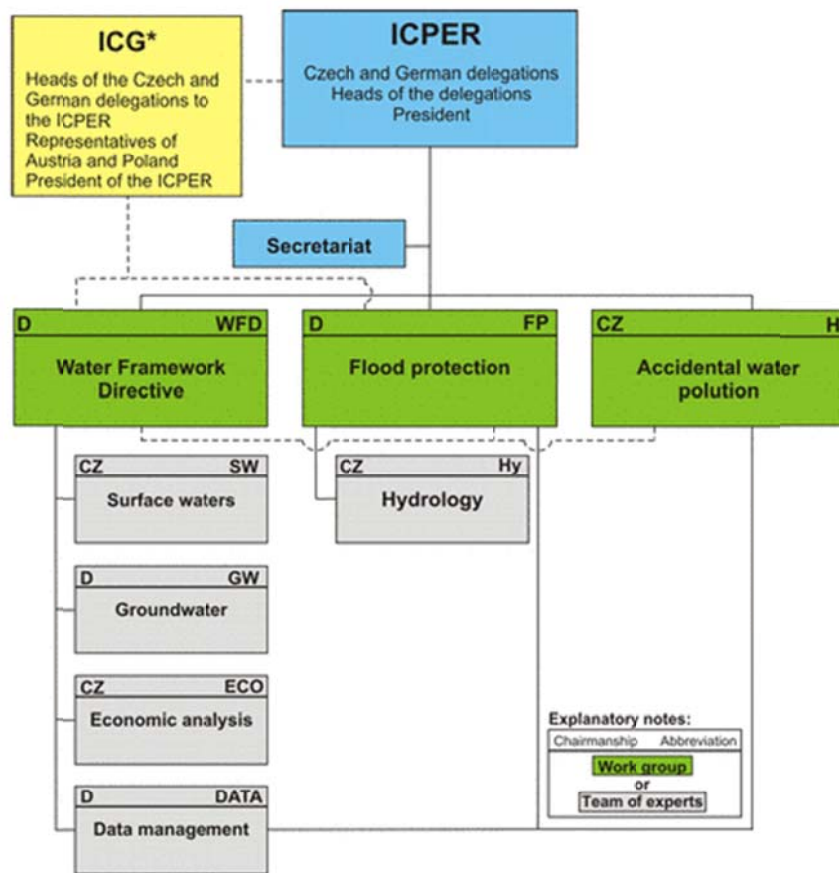
Information requested: Description of (i) organisational structure (ii) cooperation tasks (iii) expert groups (iv) regular meetings (v) number of staff (vi) webpage (vii) other issues

1. Organisational structure

(i) Verbal description

The ICPER is an international organisation. The ICPER prepares recommendations for the parties. The government agencies and scientific bodies of the Czech Republic, Germany, Poland and Austria are represented in the ICPER delegations and work groups. NGOs representatives participate as well as observers. The ICPER conferences and the meetings of the heads of the delegations of the contracting parties are, as a rule, held annually; the meetings of the work groups and expert teams are held two or three times a year. The ICPER Secretariat supports the ICPER and its work groups in the specialised, language, and organizational-technical issues.

(ii) Organisational diagram



* The International Coordination Group (ICG) solves the issues of international cooperation related to the implementations of the Water Framework Directive and the EU Flood Directive in the Elbe River basin.

(iii) Key cooperation tasks

Key cooperation tasks focus on the three groups of (i) the EU WFD implementation, (ii) Flood Protection and the implementation of the EU Flood Directive and (iii) Accidental water pollution.

Respective work groups are operational to implement the key cooperation tasks.

(iv) Expert groups

In September 2005, after considering the priorities, the new structure of the ICPER was approved. The structure consists of three work groups:

- Implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive in the Elbe River basin (WFD)
- Flood protection (FP)
- Accidental water pollution (H)

The activities of the WFD work group are supported by teams of experts:

- Surface waters (SW)
- Groundwater (GW)
- Economic analysis (ECO)
- Data management (DATA)

The activities of the FP work group are supported by a team of experts:

- Hydrology (HY)

Due to current challenges and tasks, three Ad-Hoc Groups are currently operative:

- Sediment management
- Water quantity management
- Surface water use by navigation (Elbe, Moldau). This Ad-Hoc group shall ensure sustainable navigation development ensuring environmental requirements

(v) Regular Meetings

The ICPER conferences and the meetings of the heads of the delegations are, as a rule, held annually:

- ICPER Plenary Meeting each year in October: All parties as well as Poland and Austria participate plus observers including the EU. Decision are met based on recommendations of the work groups;
- ICPER Head of Delegation Meeting each year in May: All parties as well as Poland and Austria participate.
- CZ, DE, PL and AT hold same mandate/voting level with regard to EU directives' implementation.
- The meetings of the working groups and expert teams are held two or three times a year. No fixed regulation is in place. Meetings take place according to the thematic demands and requirements.

(vi) Observers

- Austria
- Poland
- European Union (The EU was the ICPER signatory power until April 30, 2004, thus to the date of the accession of the Czech Republic to the EU on May 1, 2004. The EU now takes the status of an observer.)
- International Commissions for the Protection of the Rhine, Odra and Danube Rivers.
- NGOs

(vii) Number of staff

The current number of permanent staff of the ICPDR Secretariat is 8 (1 Director, 2 scientific staff members, 2 interpreters, 2 secretaries/assistants)

(viii) Webpage

www.ikse-mkol.org

(ix) Other issues

2d. Other cooperation agreements if relevant

Information requested: Description of other national bilateral/multilateral agreements for transboundary coordination including country members

1. The following bilateral/multilateral agreements are in place besides the overall international agreement

Besides the international cooperation within the framework of the *Convention on the International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe*, there are also other bilateral cooperation in the field of water management under separate agreements:

- Agreement of 19 May 1992 (entered into force 1996) between the Republic of Poland and the Federal Republic of Germany is defined in the Agreement on the cooperation in the field of water management on the border waters of the two countries.
- Agreement of 21 March 1958 Agreement on water management on the border waters signed by the then – Government of the Polish People’s Republic and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is still a valid base for the cooperation in the field on the Polish – Czech boundary.
- Agreement 12 December 1995 (entered into force in 1997) between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Czech Republic on the cooperation in the field of water management on the border waters.
- Treaty between the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the Republic of Austria on the Arrangement of Water Management Issues for Transboundary Waters
 - Signed in 1967 and entered into force in 1970
 - Implemented by the Czech-Austrian Commission for Transboundary Waters
 - This Austria-Czech Transboundary Water Commission addresses questions related to the WFD in its regular plenary meeting and in their expert meetings. Since 2001, 8 plenary meetings and 6 WFD working group meetings took place to discuss the WFD (2009 Document on International and Bilateral Coordination in Austria).

In addition, the Polish National Plan mentions the following multi-lateral agreement:

The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes done at Helsinki on 17 March 1992 03/18/1992 (Journal of Laws of 2003 No. 78, pos. 702) Information on ratification (Journal of Laws of 2003 No. 78, pos. 703)

3. Key Areas of International Cooperation

3a. International River Basin Management Plan

1. WFD international River Basin Management Plan developed (Y/N)

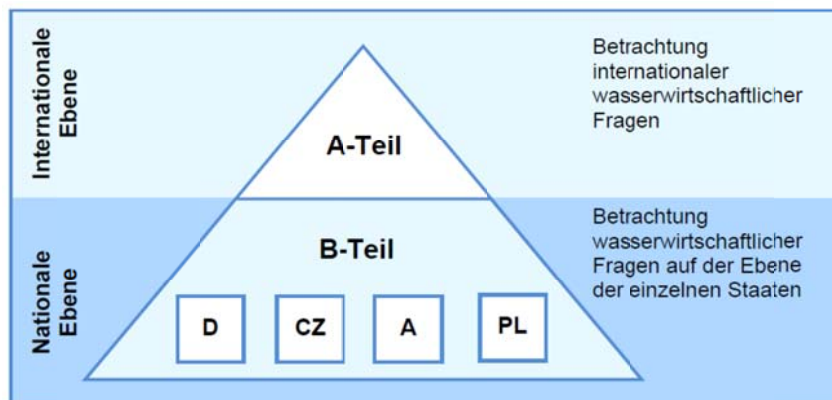
Yes, an international Elbe RBMP has been developed.

2. RBMP download link

http://www.ikse-mkol.org/uploads/media/IKSE-Internationaler__Bewirtschaftungsplan_Elbe-Teil_A-Endfassung_01.pdf

3. The international ‘Roof Level’ is formally defined /delineated in relation to the national RBMP level as follows (i.e. catchment area size, other thresholds, etc.):

The Roof Level of the international Elbe RBMP addresses all rivers that are also addressed at the respective national B Level (see Figure below) of the respective countries. However, Elbe RBMP maps illustrate rivers with catchment areas > 500 km² and a few agreed smaller rivers.



4. The national RBMP refers to the international RBMP as outlined below:

(List for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP)

Germany: The German National RBMP for the Elbe (covering the 10 German federal states in the German part of the Elbe basin) was published in November 2009. It has been established by the German River Basin Association Elbe, seated in Magdeburg:
The German RBMP mentions that the national plan focuses on non-transboundary water management issues and provides more detail on some issues compared to the international plan. The RBMP also mentions that the international plan summaries the main work that was carried out at German national level. The German RBMP also mentions that monitoring points in Germany are part of the “International Monitoring Programme Elbe”, which is coordinated with all countries of the international basin (p.57). Additionally, in chapter 5, the RBMP outlines that the establishment of national and internationally agreed regional/international environmental objectives is an important basis for the development of environmental objectives at water body level (p.99). Chapter 5.1 recalls the “regional” environmental goals as well as those specific to Germany. The implementation of the Sediment Management Concept is carried out by the international work group (see item 2c(iv) of this fact sheet. The German plan also mentions that the economic analysis, including the cost-effectiveness analysis of measures was carried out in coordination with the other Elbe countries in the context of the International Working Group “ECO” of the Elbe Commission. Methodologies and results were discussed and developed on a bi-annual basis (p.154). Finally, the German plan refers to the International Warning and Alarm Plan of the Elbe Commission in the context of measures to avoid direct pollution (chapter 7.8).

Czech Republic: The Czech National RBMP for the Elbe was published in February 2011:
The Czech RBMP describes two levels of the management plan for the Elbe: Part A, which details the umbrella management issues of the transboundary basin, as well as the environmental goals that serve as a basis for the development of national level measures. Part B focuses on Czech specific management issues. The Plan mentions that steps were taken to ensure a clear link between Part A and Part B. Efforts at national level were used to feed into the development of the international plan. The Czech Plan also details the international coordination steps and meetings that took place in the development of the international plan.

Austria: The Austrian RBMP covers all RBDs including the national part of the RBD Elbe and was published in 2010:
The Austrian RBMP mentions that the Elbe is an international basin and lists the Elbe Commission and administrative bodies in charge with coordination. Information is mentioned in the specific chapter on international coordination and in the additional background document on international and bilateral coordination, <http://wisa.lebensministerium.at/article/archive/29404>.

Poland: The Polish RBMP for the Elbe was published in February 2011:
The Polish RBMP mentions that international cooperation took place under the auspices of the International Elbe Commission and outlines the Commission’s objectives in the chapter on competent authorities (Chapter 13). It also mentions work under the ICPER International Coordination Group, indicating the different WFD relevant Working Groups. No other references are found. There is no mention of a Part A plan.

5. The international RBMP includes country specific information (Y/N). If ‘yes’ (=country specific information is provided), list if the information is consistent with the national RBMP.

Yes.

Country specific information in international RBMP

(Y/N plus short description of cross reference). List for each cooperating country)

The international plan gives information for all four countries cooperating within ICPER (Austria, Germany, Czech Republic, Poland) regarding:

- Characterization and delineation of water bodies
- Monitoring system
- Achieving Environmental Objectives of Groundwater bodies by 2015

- Exemptions

In addition, the International RBMP provides specific information on Germany and the Czech Republic regarding:

- Cost recovery of water services
- Setting water prices.

The information provided in the international RBMP is consistent with the national RBMP

(Y/N plus short description if needed) -) – list for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP

Germany: The information is consistent.

Czech Republic: ***SCG member input needed***

Austria: Consistency is assumed as the AT mentions the international cooperation under the ICPER in its national RBMP. The AT RBMP does not highlight detailed cross-reference to the Elbe RBMP in its national RBMP.

Poland: ***SCG member input needed***

3b. Coordinated/Joint Activities

Information requested: Topics where joint development occurred, for example: SWMIs, monitoring, PoMs, objectives, public consultations, etc; Description of the process of joint cooperation for each activity.

1. Key international cooperation activities – general description

Also see previous items including 2a (iii).

The below ICPER common timetable and work programme for the preparation of the International RBMP outlines in a systematic way on specific cooperation activities according to the EU WFD toward the final Elbe RBMP.

The contracting parties that are part of the ICPER prepared, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive, the analysis of the water management and economic situation within the Elbe River basin. The objective was to assess the achievement of the environmental objectives for the surface and ground water bodies. The work was based on the assessment of the impacts of human activities on the surface and ground water status. Heavily modified and artificial surface water bodies were preliminarily identified.

Deadline	Content
Common Timetable and Work Programme to be used during the preparation of the river basin management plan for the International District of the Elbe River Basin	
Dec. 22, 2006	Commencement of the Timetable and Work Programme amendment procedure
June 22, 2007	Closing of the Timetable and Work Programme amendment procedure
Sept.15, 2007	Evaluation of opinions and comments
Oct. 31, 2007	Approval, final wording, publishing
Interim overview of significant water management issues identified in the Elbe River basin	
Dec. 22, 2007	Commencement of the amendment procedure on the "significant water management issues within the International District the Elbe River basin"
June 22, 2008	Closing of the amendment procedure on "significant water management issues within the International District the Elbe River basin"
Sept. 1, 2008	Evaluation of opinions and comments
Oct. 15, 2008	Approval, final wording, publishing
Establishing the International Plan for the Elbe River Basin District, including the Programme of Measures	
Nov.15, 2008	Approval of the basin management plan draft at the ICPER level
Dec. 22, 2008	Commencement of the amendment procedure on the basin management plan draft (text version)
June 22, 2009	Closing of the amendment procedure on the basin management plan draft (text version)
Sept.1, 2009	Evaluation of opinions and comments
Nov.1, 2009	Preparation of the final wording of Part B of the basin management plan and programme of measures
Nov.1, 2009	Preparation of the final wording of Part A of the basin management plan and programme of measures
Dec. 22, 2009	Publishing the basin plan and programme of measures
March 22, 2010	Submitting the basin management plan and programme of measures to the European Commission

2. Description of detailed coordinated/joint, basin-wide activities

2.1 WFD SWMIs (Y/N). If yes, describe.

Yes.

Three SWMIs have been identified as part of the Elbe RBMP (Chapter 5.1):

- Hydromorphological alterations
- Significant pollution (nutrients, other substances)
- Water abstraction and diversion

In addition, further specification are provided below:

- Changes in hydromorphology for the benefit of river navigation, power generation, water retention, and flood protection
- Nutrients from agriculture and municipal sources of pollution,
- Some substances, for instance, heavy metals, chlorohydrocarbon from industrial sources of pollution, and old burdens,
- Atmospheric depositions of nitrogen and sulphur.

The following groundwater problems were identified:

- Nutrients, pesticides from agriculture
- Some substances, for instance, heavy metals from old burdens and mining activities (uranium and brown coal mining in the past)
- Atmospheric depositions of nitrogen and sulphur
- Extensive abstractions of groundwater in densely populated areas

2.2 Coordinated/joint visions and objectives (Y/N)

Yes.

For the agreed joint SWMIs (see above) management strategies to improve water status have been developed. This included the definition of basin-wide environmental objectives that have been/are

coordinated on the international level. The environmental objectives are fully compatible with the national level.

The environmental objectives for water abstraction as part of the Elbe RBMP 2009 were rather general. Currently the ICPER is addressing the environmental objectives regarding this SWMI in more detail within the Ad-Hoc work group for water quantity.

2.3 Coordinated/transboundary monitoring (Y/N)

Yes

To implement the common monitoring programme, the ICPER water quality monitoring network was established. The network consists of 17 monitoring profiles (5 of them in the Czech Republic and 12 in Germany). The existing facilities were modernised and new ones were installed. This was complemented by upgrading the laboratory instruments park and by developing the data processing system.

The first ICPER International Monitoring Programme was established in 1992 using 63 indicators. Since then, the ICPER has annually been setting forth more indicators to be monitored at the international level. Over 100 physical, chemical, and biological indicators were selected for 2006.

The International Monitoring Programme for 2007 was modified in accordance with the Water Framework Directive's requirements. The monitoring programmes were based on the joint concept for monitoring the surface waters status and the joint concept for monitoring the groundwater status in the International District of the Elbe River Basin. The programmes were approved in July 2006.

The different pieces of information on the programmes for monitoring the surface waters status and the groundwater status, that had been established in member states in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive before the end of 2006, were consolidated for the International District of the Elbe River Basin into one joint ICPER framework report, the 2007 Report, in accordance with Article 15, paragraph 2 of the Water Framework Directive. It reflects the Directive's requirements for surveillance monitoring in the Elbe River basin including the mouth sections of all Elbe tributaries whose basins are larger than 5.000 km² (Until 2006, there were only monitoring profiles on three tributaries – the Vltava, the Saale, and the Mulde rivers).

The monitoring programme, after 2007 is entitled the *International Programme for the Elbe River Monitoring*, lists the total number of 19 monitoring profiles (7 in the Czech Republic, 12 in Germany). 9 monitoring profiles (4 in the Czech Republic, 5 in Germany) are situated on the Elbe River, 10 profiles are located on the tributaries. The following profiles were assigned for the monitoring programme: the mouth of the Vltava, its tributary the Berounka, and the mouth of the Ohře in the Czech Republic and, in Germany, the mouth of the Black Elster, the Mulde, the Saale, its tributaries the Unstrut and the White Elster, the mouth of the Havel and its tributary the Spree.

The most important prerequisite for a unified interpretation of the values measured is their comparability. This comparability has been achieved at the international level in the ICPER framework and the tool being used is called Measures to Obtain Quality Analytic Results. These include the selection and the application of identical or comparable monitoring methods, inter-laboratory comparisons, and joint evaluation. The joint interpretation of the International Programme for Monitoring results is done via the Reports on the Elbe River Water Quality.

2.4 Coordinated/shared databases and/or GIS (Y/N)

Yes/No.

- Monitoring results are provided to and managed by the ICPER Secretariat as well as published in a respective report.
- To report on EU WFD related issues the DE database *Wasserblick* is used by the Elbe countries for reporting, statistical analysis and GIS illustrations. A respective agreement between DFF and the ICPER is in place.
- Currently a web-based system for the DE management unit of the Elbe is being developed. The system should store monitoring results of the DE monitoring stations and support national as well as international assessments. It was stated by the ICPER Secretariat, that it would be investigated if also the CZ monitoring data can be stored and analysed via this system.
- The ICPER Hydrology expert team prepared the statistics of low flows on the Elbe River, including its significant tributaries. The low-flow statistics processing was aimed at describing the current hydrological regime.

2.5 Coordinated/joint Programme of Measures (Y/N)

Yes/No

- There is no joint international PoM. The contracting parties of the ICPER are responsible for the respective

national PoMs and their implementation.

- However, according to chapter 7 of the International Plan, there are PoMs at national level as well as measures coordinated at international level that cover the umbrella environmental problems and environmental objectives.
- At international level, measures were developed that address the identified international SWMIs and aim to reduce the impact of hydromorphological changes, diffuse nutrient pollution, point source pollution water abstraction as well as alterations regarding sediment transport.
- Measures are followed up for implementation on the national level and coordination with the ICPER.
- The plan also mentions that international measures were not developed for the Austrian and Polish part of the Elbe.

2.6 Coordinated/joint (financial) resources to support international cooperation (Y/N). *If yes, describes basic concept of joint financial resources.*

Yes.

2.6.a Basic concept of joint financial resources

The ICPER is financed by the contributions from two Contracting Parties (DE and CZ). The budget is discussed and agreed once a year in the Plenary Meeting

Currently these contributions to the Commission's budget are divided as follows:

Federal Republic of Germany: 66,7 %

Czech Republic: 33,3 %.

2.6.b Amount of joint financial resources

The total annual budget of the ICPER is – at the moment - € 737.000.

2.6.c List of supported joint resources

- The joint financial resources support work related to the implementation of the EU WFD.

2.6.d Country participation in joint meetings is supported (Y/N)

No

2.7 Coordinated/joint communication strategy and public participation activities (Y/N)

Yes.

One of the instruments to inform and consult the public at the international level is publishing non-periodical line of ICPER information sheets that inform the concerned public on the results and on the implementation progress of the Water Framework Directive in the International District of the Elbe River Basin:

- The ICPER Information Sheet Nr. 1 of March 2005 summarizes the important results listed in the report on the analysis of the characteristics of the International District of the Elbe River Basin in accordance with Article 5 of the Water Framework Directive (also called 2005 Reports). The 2005 Report was introduced to the general public at the seminar that followed the 3rd International Conference of the Ministers of the Environment of the Member States Lying in the Elbe River Basin, held also in Dresden on March 3 and 4, 2005. 140 people from the Czech Republic, Germany, Austria, and Poland attended; most of them were the representatives of the state, cities and townships administrations, ecological bodies, and agricultural associations whose sphere of activities will be affected by the implementation of the Water Framework Directive. The seminar was divided into 5 programme blocks – Basic Information, Economic Analysis, Surface Waters, Groundwater, and Further Steps – Outlook and Strategy.
- The ICPER Information Sheet Nr. 2 of August 2007 summarizes the important pieces of information listed in the report on the water status monitoring programmes that had been established in the International District of the Elbe River Basin in accordance with Article 8 of the Water Framework Directive (also called 2007 Reports).
- The ICPER Information Sheet Nr. 3 of December 2009 summarizes the important issues of the International Elbe River Basin Management Plan for the period 2010 – 2015 that has been prepared in accordance with Article 13 of the Water Framework Directive.

There are workshops for the international stakeholder community to discuss the implementation of the WFD. E.g. the draft international RBMP had been discussed with the stakeholders in the so called Elbe-Forum in April 2009 in Usti nad Labem in the Czech Republic.

2.8 Coordinated/joint approach to consider future water demand (WFD Annex III)

No.

The ICPER Secretariat stated, that this item is difficult to be addressed. The issue has so far not been tackled. However, information related to water abstractions is collected.

2.9 Coordinated/joint approach on setting exemptions

The International Plan does not mention whether a joint approach was taken. It mentions on page 68 and 74 that details on reasons for exemption setting are found in the national RBMPs plans.

2.10 Other

The ICPER organized a work meeting of the representatives of the international early-warning headquarters and of the institutions responsible for the utilization of the Elbe Alarm Model in cases of major accidental water pollution. The main objectives included:

- evaluation of the model's testing operation
- exchange of practical experience and
- establishing closer contacts between the representatives of institutions that are involved in the International Warning and Emergency Plan for the Elbe River.

3c. Coordinated/Joint Methodologies

Information requested: Areas in which joint methodologies were developed in relation to the issues listed under 3b. In addition, other joint methodologies should be added e.g. to designate HMWBs, to define good ecological status/potential, cost effectiveness of measures and or any other issues. Include brief description of the process of cooperation for each methodology

1. The following joint basin-wide methodologies have been developed:

- With respect to setting environmental objectives, the international plan mentions that despite many similarities in methodologies, there are still national and regional differences, indicating that no common methodology to set environmental objectives in the national areas were developed.
- However, results are discussed and harmonized on the international Elbe level.
- It is not clear from the plan if cost-effectiveness methodology was common. It appears as though CZ and DE used separate methods.
- The economic analysis, including the cost-effectiveness analysis of measures was carried out in coordination with the other Elbe countries in the context of the International Working Group "ECO" of the Elbe Commission. Methodologies and results were discussed and developed on a bi-annual basis (p.154 of the German plan). No other specific details are provided.

2. The joint methodologies are formally adopted or agreed between the countries (Y/N).

No.

3. The joint methodologies are continuously/practically applied in the frame of international cooperation leading to harmonised results (Y/N)

No. However, the harmonisation of results for the international level is an important to ensure basin-wide comparability.

4. The following challenges currently hinder the continuous/practical application of joint methodologies:

One main challenge is the existence of different national methods (e.g. for status assessment) in each of the contracting parties.

5. Future development of joint methodologies is planned for the future (Y/N)

If already known, list which ones.

No, but further harmonisation of results is aimed for.

4. International Coordination Successes and Challenges

4a. Changes related WFD enforcement

Information requested: Description of changes of international cooperation since WFD enforcement

1. Indicate if the enforcement of the EU WFD changed and improved joint cooperation (Y/N)

Yes.

- The ICPER Secretariat states during the interview for this fact sheets, that the EU WFD improved cooperation. The key objectives of the ICPER aimed to improve water quality. The legal binding character of the EU WFD broadened the cooperation spectrum as well as it improved the quality of information on water status and other issues.
- New issues are addressed and new methods have been developed. Hydromorphological alterations have not been on the cooperation agenda of the ICPER before the EU WFD came into force.

- The enforcement of the WFD resulted in the establishment of a Coordination Group that includes Austria and Poland, which had previously not been a part of joint cooperation, as full members. However, the international plan states environmental objectives and measures were not developed in these two countries at the international level given their minor geographic contribution to the basin.
- 2. Cooperation areas where changes/improvement occurred through WFD**
- Overall international coordination under the ICPER
 - Common SWMIs in 2007 have been identified
 - Common Article 5 analysis in 2005 was developed
 - Update of monitoring network end of 2006 according to EU WFD
 - International BMP 2009
 - New issues are discussed within ICPER framework (e.g. hydromorphology, sediments, etc.)
- 3. When did changes occur?**
- See above

4b. Key Successes of coordination

Information requested: Description of cooperation successes, positive feedback loops, etc.

- Significant water quality improvement in the Elbe RBD since 1990 due to the reduction of point source pollution
- Action Plan Water Quality Elbe (before the EU WFD came into force)
- Action Plan on Flood Protection and planned report 2012 according to the EU Flood Directive
- Basin-wide recommendations regarding accident pollution
- International Warning and Alarm System
- Basin-wide characterisation of the discharge regime
- Implementation of the EU WFD and development of the international Elbe RBMP

4c. Key Obstacles and Challenges to International Coordination/Cooperation

Information requested: Areas where cooperation was not successful; Areas for improvement

- 1. Principle key obstacles to international coordination/cooperation (Y/N).** If yes, describe.
- No.
- The ICPER Secretariat stated that the international coordination works well within the ICPER framework.
 - Sometimes the coordination with the national level and its complexity poses a challenge.
- 2. Current key challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to**
- (a) the past/current WFD planning cycle
- The economic analysis according to the EU WFD was a challenge and considered difficult. A status quo was assessed but the international analysis comprises gaps.
 - Identification of international SWMIs was a challenge. Especially in relation to define joint reduction aims for nutrients and other chemical substances to achieve good status.
 - Identification of international measures and the estimation of their effect to reduce impacts.
- (b) any other areas regarding water resources management
- Climate Change Adaptation
 - Flood Protection
- 3. Respective areas of improvement and indication if this is planned**
- See previous items and the following one.
- 4. Expected challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to**
- (a) next WFD planning cycle
- Improvement of the economic analyses stays a challenge. Lessons learnt should be applied now.
 - Examination of the identified SWMI in order to analyse if additional SWMIs should be identified.
 - Nutrient pollution: The application of eth model MONERIS is currently considered for application in the Elbe RBD. A new ad-hoc work group may be introduced according to UCPER Secretariat information.
 - Response to proposed international measures via the national level would be a challenge.
- (b) any other areas regarding water resources management
- Climate Change Adaptation
 - Implementation of the EU Flood Directive

5. Future in international cooperation - Next steps/View towards 2nd WFD planning cycle

5a. Areas of future cooperation

Information requested: Where work has already started for the next planning cycle; New Areas of international cooperation; Whether an international plan is foreseen

1. Outline if an international RBMP according to the EU WFD is foreseen.

If yes, by when (2015, 2021, 2027)

Yes, the development of international Elbe RBMPs is foreseen for 2015, 2021 and 2027

2. First milestones that will be jointly aimed regarding the future EU WFD implementation

- The ICPER ICG follows an internal road map that is continuously adapted and updated.
- 2012: National reports on the PoM implementation will be available
- Beginning 2013: ICPER will elaborate an information sheet on the basin-wide SWMIs. This will be published based on the national PoM Reports.
- April 2013: A further Elbe-Forum will be organised. This forum will be used to present planned and already implemented measures. Further steps of the ICPER WFD implementation as well as the work/results of the AD-Hoc ICPER work groups will be presented. In addition the final report of the work group navigation will be available.
- 2014: Draft Elbe RBMP
- 2014: An Elbe-Forum will be organised. Updated SWMIs, the WFD Article 5 update and the flood protection maps will be presented. A respective Information Sheet will be available.
- 2015: Elbe RBMP 2015

3. If no international RBMP will be developed, briefly describe why this is the case.

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4. Further future areas of international cooperation/coordination:

- EU WFD implementation
- EU Flood Directive implementation
- Climate Change adaptation
- Monitoring networks and result harmonisation
- Continuation of the work of the ICPER work groups
- Examination of the Elbe Warning and Alert System towards further improvement.
- Improvement of the Elbe model on discharge times (Saale, Moldau)

6. Additional Comments

7. Interviewed country and RBO representatives as well as other experts

Mr. Pavel Knotek – Technical Expert at the ICPER Secretariat (responsibilities: coordination of the WFD work group, data management, economics work groups and the navigation Ad-Hoc group).

Mr. Knut Beyer – German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

8. Sources and References

- Elbe River Basin Management Plan 2009, ICPER
- National RBMPs according to the EU WFD of the contracting parties to the ICPER
- Second Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters, UNECE (2011)
- www.mkoo.pl
- http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/participation/map_mc/map.htm
- http://files.inweb.gr/workshops/sub_basins/
- www.internationalwaterlaw.org/documents/intldocs/
- www.transboundarywaters.orst.edu/research/RBO/RBO_Euro.html
- www.riob.org/

Coordination Mechanisms of the International Meuse River Basin

1. Basic information on international river basins/sub-river basin - Meuse

EU Member States sharing the basins: BE, DE, FR, LU, NL

Third countries sharing the basin: --

River Basin Districts concerned: Meuse,

Key Sub-Basins in international river basin:

Chiers, Semois, Lesse, Sambre, Ourthe, Amblève, Vesdre, Rur, Schwalm, Niers, Dommel, Mark



Size of the total catchment area and national shares for each international river/sub-river basin (km², %), indicating division by country and the respective RBD:

Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	River Basin District (WFD Article 3.1)	Total Area of Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	EU Member States/Non EU Member States in International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin
		(km ²)		(km ²)	(%)
Meuse-Maas	Meuse	34,364	BE-F	1,596	4.6
			BE-W	12,300	35.8
			DE	3,984	11.6
			FR	7,816	22.7
			FR-Sambre	1,103	3.2
			LU	65	0.2
			NL	7,500	21.8
	NL	7,278*	21.2		
	Sambre (FR)				

* Figure indicated within NL SCG member comment on the fact sheet.

Identified sub-basin/River Basin District

Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	River Basin District (WFD Article 3.1)	Total Area of Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	EU Member States/Non EU Member States in International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin
		(km ²)		(km ²)	(%)
Sambre	Sambre	2,740	FR	1,102	40.2
			BE	1,638	59.8

Note: Information on the international Sambre RBD (designated under WFD Article 3.1) is provided under Item 2a(8) of this fact sheet

2. Cooperation Framework

2a. International agreement or convention

Information requested: Title, date of agreement, countries not covered under agreement, brief description

1. Title:

International Meuse Agreement

2. Countries under Agreement:

France, Netherlands, Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium – Walloon, Flanders, Brussels Capital Region and the federal state.

3. Countries part of basin but not covered by agreement:

N/A

4. Date and place of signing:

3 December 2002, Ghent

5. Entry into force:

1 December 2006

6. Key objectives and content of agreement/convention:

The Contract parties aim to achieve integrated and sustainable water management in the Meuse, especially taking into account the multi-functionality of the water bodies.

The contract parties work together to:

- Implement the WFD to achieve the environmental goals and to especially coordinate the programmes of measures
- To develop a river basin management plan in line with the WFD
- To agree and coordinate measures to address flooding and droughts taking into account environmental aspects, spatial planning, landscape management and other areas such as agriculture and forestry as well as urban development.
- To coordinate preventative measures to address water pollution and to coordinate information.

7. Role of WFD implementation in the international basin:

The agreement makes provisions for international cooperation in the Meuse district with a view to the implementation of the WFD. The agreement widened the role of the International Meuse Commission by assigning to it the task of coordinating the activities of its contracting Parties in the implementation of the WFD – this was done to comply with Article 3 WFD. In particular, the Agreement stipulates that the International Meuse Commission has the remit of coordinating the elaboration of a single RBMP for the entire district. It also refers to the coordination of the Article 5 analysis, of the monitoring programmes and of the programmes of measures.

8. Other issues

International Sambre RBD:

- The Sambre is a left tributary of the Meuse River in northern France and Wallonia (BE)
- The Sambre River is 193 km long and holds a catchment area of 2,740 km².
- The Sambre RBD is located within the international Meuse RBD, according to the BE designation (WFD art 3.1).
- The international Sambre RBD is illustrated separately in the EU Map on international/national River Basin Districts due to a designation under the EU WFD Article 3.1 by FR.
- The French part of Sambre is managed by the Water Agency Artois-Picardie, the FR Meuse RBMP states that the Sambre RBD is actually a sub-basin of the Meuse international RBD.
- The international Meuse River Basin District is addressed and managed via the IMC. The Sambre sub-basin is considered as integral part of it. The International Meuse-Maas Commission stated that the Sambre has not been dealt separately within the Commission's framework.
- BE Wallonia refers to the Sambre basin as part of the international Meuse Basin in its WFD public participation report. There is no RBMP available yet. The draft RBMP is in the process of public consultation (11 June 2012 till 18 January 2013).
- When completing this fact sheet it has been investigated why the Sambre RBD has been designated separately although it is located within another international RBD (Meuse) in order to conclude on respective international coordination mechanisms. It remains unclear why the Sambre was designated as a separate RBD in France, seemingly due to the administrative borders, rather than hydrological boundaries.

Therefore, especially the FR SCG members are kindly asked for specification and validation of the above. In

addition, an indication may be given if the Sambre RBD is still seen as an individual (international) RBD or rather as part of the international Meuse RBD.

2b. Coordinating/Governing Body/River Basin Organisation

Information requested: Name(s) of Secretariat/Commission/RBO, location, working languages, website

1. Name(s):

International Meuse Commission (IMC), (before International Commission for the protection of the Meuse (ICPM))

2. Operative since:

2002 (1996)

3. Location and address:

International Meuse Commission
 Palais des Congres
 Esplanade de l'Europe 2
 B-4020 Liege, Belgium
 Telephone: +32 4 340 11 40, Fax: +32 4 349 00 83

4. Working Languages:

German, French, Dutch

5. Website:

www.meuse-maas.be

2c. Coordination structure

Information requested: Description of (i) organisational structure (ii) cooperation tasks (iii) expert groups (iv) regular meetings (v) number of staff (vi) webpage (vii) other issues

1. Organisational structure

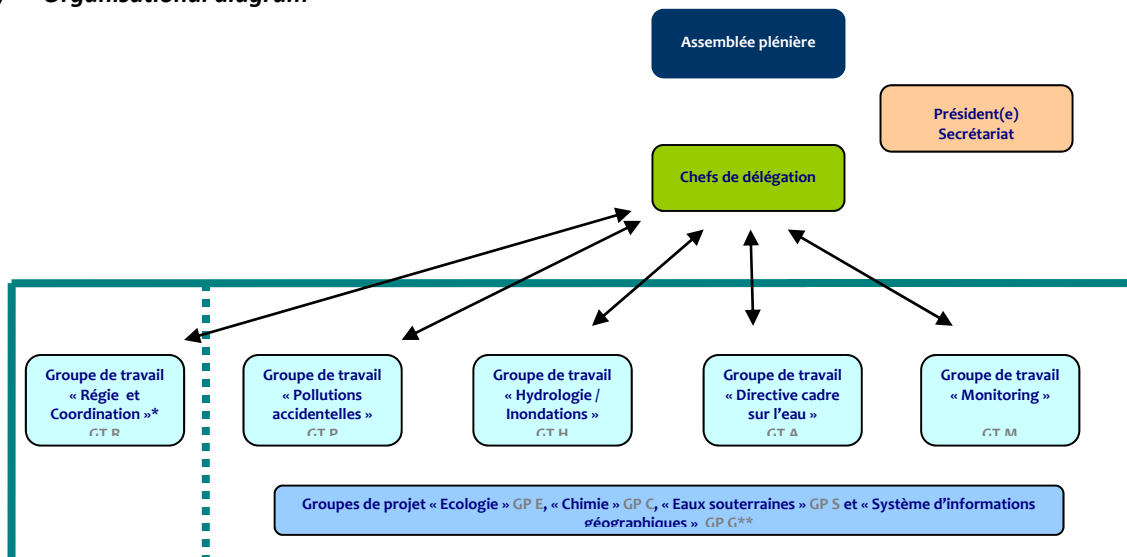
(i) Verbal description

The ICM is an international organisation.

The Commission meets at least once a year in a Plenary Meeting. Decisions are adopted at these meetings of the Commission, in which the delegations of all the Contracting Parties take part.

In addition, the technical work of the ICM is conducted in its working groups (see Item 2c(iv) for details

(ii) Organisational diagram



(iii) Key cooperation tasks

The Agreement lists the following tasks of the Commission (Article 4):

- Carrying out the analyses under Article 5 of the WFD such as characterisations of the Meuse, review of the environmental impact of human activity as well as an economic analysis of water use
- Monitoring Programme
- Programme of Measures

- Development of an international WFD RBMP or at least coordination between the contract parties when developing their own national plans.
- Characterisation of the Meuse
- Address flooding
- Coordinate the flooding-warn and alarm systems
- Maintain data on flooding
- Data exchange
- Develop documents related to Droughts and develop preventative measures
- Provide recommendations regarding accidental pollution to the contracting parties.

(iv) Expert groups

Several thematic Working Groups are in place under ICM framework:

- Working Group Regie/Coordination
- Working Group on Accidental Pollution
- Working Group on Hydrology and Floods
- Working Group Water Framework Directive
- Working Group Monitoring
- Working Group Ecology
- Project Group Chemical Substances
- Project Group Groundwater
- Project Group GIS

(v) Regular Meetings

The Commission meets once a year. The heads of delegations meet twice or three times a year.

Each working group meets several times a year. The meeting frequency depends on technical demand.

(vi) Observers

The ICM currently has the following observers:

- Secretary General of Benelux
- Union Wallonne des Entreprises (UWE)
- Inter-Environnement Wallonie (IEW)
- RIWA – Meuse-Maas
- Minaraad
- Aluseau

(vii) Number of staff

The current number of permanent staff of the ICM Secretariat is 3.

(viii) Webpage

www.meuse-maas.be

(ix) Other issues

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2d. Other cooperation agreements if relevant

Information requested: Description of other national bilateral/multilateral agreements for transboundary coordination including country members

1. The following bilateral/multilateral agreements are in place besides the overall international agreement

- The Flemish-Netherlands Bilateral Maas Commission
 - Coordinates work on the Grensmaas – a Natura 2000 nature protection area (Information from International Plan)
 - The tasks of the Flemish Dutch Bilateral Commission Maas include all related issues in terms of policy and management, including flood and drought management, water quality, conservation and development, monitoring and research, shipping and water infrastructure and legal affairs. The VNBM meets twice a year, alternately in Flanders and the Netherlands. Reference is made to a 1995 Meuse Discharge Treaty (Maasafvoeroverdrag) between the Netherlands and the Flemish Region – signed 17 January 1995 and entered into force in July 1996. (Information from the VNBM website <http://www.vnbm.eu/>).
- The bilateral coordination on themes such as groundwater and transboundary sub-basins of the Meuse. The bilateral agreement with Flanders takes place within four sub-basin committees. For the Meuse for the Dommel, Mark and Thornerbeek / Jeker / Voer (Information from Dutch Maas National Plan)
- Bilateral harmonisation between the Netherlands and the Walloon province in Belgium take place in the Walloon-Dutch Water Consultations (Information from <http://www.utrechtlawreview.org/index.php/ulr/article/viewFile/83/83>).
- Permanent Dutch-German Boundary Waters Commission
 - The Permanent Dutch-German Boundary Waters Commission was founded on the basis of the 1960 Border Treaty between the Netherlands and Germany. This commission meets once a year. The issues addressed by this commission relate to integrated water management of the 97 small cross-border watercourses in the Ems, Rhine and Meuse river basins. Important points of discussion include the details of the European Water Framework Directive, ecological recovery, flood risk management and muskrat control (Information from the Dutch Ministry of Transport's website).
- "Cooperation Agreement of 5 April 1995 between the Federal State, the Flemish Region, the Walloon Region and the Brussels Capital Region with regard to international environmental policy "

In addition, the Dutch National Plans refers to the following additional agreements:

- Oslo and Paris Commission (OSPAR)
- The International Maritime Organization (IMO).

2. Further related information

The 2005 Meuse Roof Report states: *"The single river basin management plan is mainly to address issues that were identified by all Parties as needing to be co-ordinated at the multilateral level of the Meuse Commission. Not all issues need such co-ordination; some of them may be entrusted to bilateral transboundary water commissions or working groups."*

3. Key Areas of International Cooperation

3a. International River Basin Management Plan

1. WFD international River Basin Management Plan developed (Y/N)

Yes

2. RBMP download link

http://www.meuse-maas.be/files/files/PLANS/pfpg_public_d_22_12_2009.pdf

3. The international 'Roof Level' is formally defined /delineated in relation to the national RBMP level as follows (i.e. catchment area size, other thresholds, etc.):

Pour répondre aux obligations visées aux articles 3, paragraphe 4 de la DCE (coordination par les Etats membres pour l'ensemble du DHI de tous les programmes de mesure en vue d'assurer la réalisation des objectifs environnementaux établis en vertu de l'article 4 de la DCE) et 13, paragraphe 2 (production d'un plan de gestion unique coordonné au niveau du DHI ou, en l'absence d'un tel plan, de plans de gestion couvrant chaque partie nationale ou régionale du DHI), de la DCE, les Etats et Régions dont le territoire fait partie du DHI Meuse ont décidé que la coordination internationale en exécution de la DCE se déroulerait au sein de la Commission internationale de la Meuse (CIM) et que le plan de gestion du DHI serait composé des plans de gestion nationaux et régionaux et d'une partie faîtière.

La partie faîtière du plan de gestion est orientée sur les questions importantes en matière de gestion de l'eau, présentant un intérêt commun et mises en lumière lors de l'établissement de l'état des lieux.

4. The national RBMP refers to the international RBMP as outlined below:

(List for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP)

Germany:	North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) has one Plan that covers all the RBs in its boundaries, including the Meuse – published in March 2010 The NRW RBMP (Chapter 1) explains the relation between the NRW Plan and the international RBMP. The International Plan focuses above all on management aspects which have to be coordinated necessarily on an international scale (e. g. classical pollution (by nutrients) and morphology of waters for migrating fish). Moreover it describes the environmental objectives for the whole basin as well as the contribution by NRW. The chapter on monitoring mentions there are international monitoring points located in the main water net; their location is decided in coordination with the other countries. Chapter 6 on current Status mentions that the Maas countries decided which substances to prioritize. Chapter 11 on Economic analysis on water use provides general information for the whole area of North Rhine-Westphalia, not just the part of Meuse basin.
France:	The RBMP elaborated by the Rhine-Meuse and Artois-Picardie Water Agencies covers multiple basin including the Meuse and the Sambre – uploaded on Eionet in March 2010 Chapter 1.1 describes international cooperation. Reference is made to the Treaty of Ghent in the International Commission of the Meuse. The Plan mentions that the Commission is particularly concerned with the coordination of objectives and exemptions. The international SWMIs for the basin are listed.
Belgium (FL):	The Belgian (FL) Regional Plan for the Maas was uploaded on CIRCA in October 2010 The Flemish Plan mentions that two levels of coordination are needed for the Meuse: International, addressed through the Treaty of Ghent, and internal, addressed through a coordination group. The Plan mentions that there is a need to review international state of water reports to support integrated water management. Also, the Plan mentions the need to coordinate methodologies for assessing flood risks and damages at international level when implementing the Floods Directive.
Belgium Walloon:	No Walloon Regional Plan was so far reported. Therefore, no cross-reference can be referred to.
Netherlands:	The Dutch National RBMP for the Meuse was published in December 2009. The Dutch National RBMP mentions coordination in analyzing the problems in the basin and developing measures to solve the problems. Reference is made to the overarching international RBMP, a summary of which is included in Annex A. The Plan mentions the establishment of the International Meuse Commission and its focus on the overarching international issues in the RBD. Chapter 3.7 focuses on the international harmonization of environmental objectives. Reference is made to intercalibration with respect to biological parameters. Chapter 4.5 focuses on the coordination of monitoring programmes. The Commission has created one overarching monitoring programme for surface and groundwater. Data was used to create maps regarding pesticides, nitrates and water quantity for the whole basin. For groundwater, the IMC made an inventory and comparison of monitoring networks and thresholds, but this had not yet led to the adaptation of monitoring networks. Chapter 6.3.13 mentions that improvements to the marine environment regarding environmentally hazardous substances can only be achieved through cooperation at international catchment level. Annex A summarizes the international plan and briefly describes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the work programme leading up the international RBMP• Mentions the 2007 joint report on monitoring• Lists the joint SWMIs• Describes the main environmental objectives and exemptions• Lists the pollutants relevant for the whole Basin• Mentions a "joint statement on measures (-scenarios)"
Luxembourg:	Luxembourg has one national RBMP that covers all the river basins in its boundaries, including the Meuse – published December 2009

The Chapter on Climate Adaptation Strategy (6.2) mentions international coordination with respect to flood risk management. Also, within the context of an Interreg project, an international advisory center for flooding was established in the International Moselle and Saar Commission. The Chapter on measures for public participation mentions (9) that a plenary session was held to coordinate work between the national level working groups/stakeholders (developing the catalogue of measures) and the International Meuse Commission.

5. The international RBMP includes country specific information (Y/N).

If 'yes' (=country specific information is provided), list if the information is consistent with the national RBMP.

Country specific information in international RBMP (Y/N plus short description of cross reference) – list for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP

The International Plan provides information for each Country regarding their public participation activities – see chapter 8.2. In the Annexes, the Plan provides country specific information pertaining to monitoring results and current status of WBs as well as status of BQEs. Annex 19 indicates for each country the number of WBs that will achieve good status by 2015 and the number of exemptions being sought. Annex 28 indicates which international and national measures will be implemented in each of the countries.

The information provided in the international RBMP is consistent with the national RBMP

(Y/N plus short description if needed) – list for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP
See item above.

The information provided in the international RBMP is consistent with the national RBMP

(Y/N plus short description if needed) – list for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP

Germany: Yes

France:

Belgium Flanders: Yes

Belgium Wallon:

Netherlands: Yes

Luxembourg: Yes

3b. Coordinated/Joint Activities

Information requested: Topics where joint development occurred, for example: SWMIs, monitoring, PoMs, objectives, public consultations, etc.; Description of the process of joint cooperation for each activity.

1. Key international cooperation activities – general description

The Agreement lists the following Tasks of the Commission (Article 4):

- Analysis of the characteristics of the Meuse
- A review of the impact of human activity on the status of surface waters and on groundwater
- Economic analysis of water use
- Monitoring Programme
- Programme of Measures
- Development of an international RBMP or at least coordination between the contract parties when developing their own national plans.
- Address flooding
- Coordinate the warning and alarm system for accidental release of chemicals
- Maintain data on flooding
- Data exchange
- Develop documents related to Droughts and develop preventative measures

2. Description of detailed coordinated/joint, basin-wide activities

2.1 WFD SWMIs (Y/N). If yes, describe:

Yes.

On the international Meuse RBMP the following SWMIs are identified:

- Hydromorphological Alterations
- Water quality – usual pollutants and others
- Water quantity – floods (prevention and protection against flooding) as well as drought and its sustainable management

- Groundwater (qualitative factors: pollution by nitrates and pesticides)

2.2 Coordinated/joint visions and objectives (Y/N)

Yes

Common fields of interest have been identified and the contracting parties agreed to cooperate on SWMIs identified jointly in the Meuse RBD. For migratory fish a master plan was adopted in 2011.

2.3 Coordinated/transboundary monitoring (Y/N)

Yes

Monitoring is performed in parallel and results are tested against each other towards basin-wide harmonisation. In 2011 the updated homogenous monitoring network was adopted by the commission. The biological monitoring network will be updated and included in the HMN in 2012.

The ICM coordinates the Homogeneous Monitoring Network (HMN) and the Warning and Alarm System for the Meuse (WASM). The purpose of the HMN is to assess the water quality of the Meuse and its main tributaries. The WASM focuses on accidental pollution

In 2011 the ICM adapted the HMN to align to the Contracting Parties' WFD monitoring networks.

2.4 Coordinated/shared databases and/or GIS (Y/N)

Yes.

Each contracting party gathers monitoring data. Results are provided to the ICM and presented in a respective report as well as in the international RBMP. Harmonisation of results is part of the continuous work of the IMC.

Shared databases include:

- GIS: Maps for the Meuse RBMP are developed by agencies of the Walloon region and presented on a cartographic website
- Shared database and software for the Scheldt and Meuse Warning and Alarm System (accidental pollution).

2.5 Coordinated/joint Programme of Measures

No.

The national PoMs are summarized on the international level, measures regarding SWMIs are coordinated. The ICM will coordinate a publication on the interim report on PoM implementation with the aim to finish it in June 2013. International reflections are aimed for.

2.6 Coordinated/joint (financial) resources to support international cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describes basic concept of joint financial resources.

Yes.

2.6.a Basic concept of joint financial resources

The ICM is financed by the contributions (fixed percentages) from the contracting parties. The budget is discussed and agreed once a year in the Plenary Meeting of the ICM.

2.6.b Amount of joint financial resources

The total annual budget of the ICPO is approximately 450.000 Euro/year.

Costs of cooperation are split among the Parties as follows:

- Germany: 14.5%
- Kingdom of Belgium: .5%
- Region Brussels: 4.5%
- Region Flanders: 5%
- Region Walloon: 30%
- France: 15%
- Luxembourg: 5%
- Netherlands 30%

2.6.c List of supported joint resources

The joint budget supports the work of the ICM Secretariat, its staff, and equipment and translation activities.

€ 250.000 for staff

€ 100.000 for translations activities

€ 100.000 for equipment

Other financial resources are available via other sources. E.g. Interreg projects undertaken by parties and members that contribute to international joint aims (AMICE on climate change issues).

2.6.d Country participation in joint meetings is supported (Y/N)

No.

2.7 Coordinated/joint communication strategy and public participation activities (Y/N)

Y

Each party of the IRBD Meuse has, as a Member State of the EU, the obligation to organise itself regarding the public information process.

The international ICM Roof Report and international Meuse RBMP according to the EU WFD was added to the national RBMP document of the Parties during the national public consultation rounds. Further, each Party sends its RBMPs to the other Parties' authorities for comments during the public consultation.

The ICM allows registered and recognised observers at its plenary and in its working groups where they may play an active role as expert or public voice. Most NGO's have an environmental scope.

The status report (2005) and the RBMP (2009) were made available to the public via the IMC-homepage. International Meuse Symposiums are organized by the IMC in regular intervals, also covering WFD issues.

2.8 Coordinated/joint approach to consider future water demand (WFD Annex III)

Water quantity and availability are treated in the working group Hydrology / Floods. Future water demand is one of the issues of the current joint R&D project AMICE, which refers to the whole Meuse basin. Several IMC parties are involved, not the IMC itself.

2.9 Coordinated/joint approach on setting exemptions

No.

3c. Coordinated/Joint Methodologies

Information requested: Areas in which joint methodologies were developed in relation to the issues listed under 3b. In addition, other joint methodologies should be added e.g. to designate HMWBs, to define good ecological status/potential, cost effectiveness of measures and or any other issues. Include brief description of the process of cooperation for each methodology

1. The following joint basin-wide methodologies have been developed (Y/N):

No.

- In principle, approaches are developed and applied nationally and results are harmonised on the international level.
- Methodologies are made transparent for full understanding. The Annex of the Meuse RBMP includes a description of different methods.

Key harmonisation has been undertaken regarding the following topics:

- Harmonisation of monitoring results.
- Types of water bodies as part of the 2005 Meuse Basin Analysis.
- To define the type of water bodies. Methodologies are national and there is a harmonised result

2. The joint methodologies are formally adopted or agreed between the countries (Y/N).

- 2005 Roof Report states that that a harmonized typology for the main course of the Meuse River was adopted as well as a harmonized methodology for identifying significant hydro-morphological pressures has been adopted.

3. The joint methodologies are continuously/practically applied in the frame of international cooperation leading to harmonised results (Y/N)

No.

4. The following challenges currently hinder the continuous/practical application of joint methodologies:

No detailed indications were given.

5. Future development of joint methodologies is planned for the future (Y/N)

If already known, list which ones.

Further harmonisation for the emission inventory and river loads for Meuse relevant substances

4. International Coordination Successes and Challenges

4a. Changes related WFD enforcement

Information requested: Description of changes of international cooperation since WFD enforcement

1. Indicate if the enforcement of the EU WFD changed and improved joint cooperation (Y/N)

Yes. During an interview with the ICM Secretariat, it was stated that the WFD very much improved cooperation and coordination on the international level due to its legally binding character. It was stated that the contracting parties to the ICM are more aware of the positive effects of international cooperation. However, added values of cooperation are obvious beyond EU WFD.

2. Cooperation areas where changes/improvement occurred through WFD

- Decrease of nutrients is due to WFD implementation.
- Information on ecological and biological issues improved through WFD.
- Information on hydromorphological alteration improved through WFD.
- 2005: Meuse Basin Analysis
- 2009: International Meuse RBMP

3. When did changes occur? See figures above

4b. Key Successes of coordination

Information requested: Description of cooperation successes, positive feedback loops, etc.

- Development of an international RBMP
- Atmosphere of cooperation is received constructive using the ICM as an effective facilitation platform
- National consciousness on added values for international level increased definitely

4c. Key Obstacles and Challenges to International Coordination/Cooperation

Information requested: Areas where cooperation was not successful; Areas for improvement

1. Principle key obstacles to international coordination/cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describe.

No key obstacles to cooperation can currently be identified.

2. Current key challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(c) the past/current WFD planning cycle

- Challenges regarding the identification of coordinated SWMIs.
- Heavy task to compile information for international RBMP in tight time frame. However, the discussions between the delegations were cooperative.
- The Walloon region was running slow and the national RBMP is not yet available (public consultation is currently running from 11 June 2012 to 18 January 2013. It is considered as a challenge to organise the international process in such a way that Walloon is in position can also agree on results of the international RBMP.

(d) any other areas regarding water resources management

- Climate Change Adaptation
- Flood management

3. Respective areas of improvement and indication if this is planned

See previous and below items.

4. Expected challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(a) next WFD planning cycle

- Further and overall coordination on WFD related issues.
- (b) any other areas regarding water resources management
- Climate changes and adaptation
 - Hydrological consequences for safety in relation to climate changes
 - Drought and scarcity issues, though not equally relevant for all IMC parties
 - Impacts (pressures and measures) on biological components and water status

5. Future in international cooperation - Next steps/View towards 2nd WFD planning cycle

5a. Areas of future cooperation

Information requested: Where work has already started for the next planning cycle; New Areas of international cooperation; Whether an international plan is foreseen

1. Outline if an international RBMP according to the EU WFD is foreseen.

If yes, by when (2015, 2021, 2027)

Yes, the development of international Meuse RBMPs is foreseen for 2015, 2021 and 2027.

2. First milestones that will be jointly aimed regarding the future EU WFD implementation

- Start second half of 2012 regarding the synthesis report on the PoMs from first WFD cycle on national level
- June 2013: An IMC-publication on the on the implementation of the PoM available
- End 2013 Updated Meuse Analysis Report and updated SWMIs
- End 2014: draft Meuse RBMP
- End 2015: final Meuse RBMP

3. If no international RBMP will be developed, briefly describe why this is the case. --

4. Further future areas of international cooperation/coordination:

- Climate Change issues (Interreg AMICE project results will be available mid-2013. Commission will consider using first results from the AMICE project for the Meuse RBMP).
- Drought issues
- Implementation of the EU Flood Directive and development of risk management plan for inundations by 2015.
- IMC relevant issues with regard to the Marine Framework Directive (MFD), e.g. nutrients.
- Ecological restoration and fish migration

6. Additional Comments

7. Interviewed country and RBO representatives as well as other experts

Mr. Willem Schreurs – Director of the International Meuse Commission

8. Sources and References

- Meuse Roof Report 2005
- Meuse River Basin Management Plan 2009, ICM
- National RBMPs according to the EU WFD of the contracting parties to the ICM
- Second Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters, UNECE (2011)
- www.meuse-maas.be
- http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/participation/map_mc/map.htm
- http://files.inweb.gr/workshops/sub_basins/
- www.internationalwaterlaw.org/documents/intldocs/
- www.transboundarywaters.orst.edu/research/RBO/RBO_Euro.html
- www.riob.org/

Coordination Mechanisms of the International Odra River Basin

1. Basic information on international river basins/sub-river basin – Oder/Odra

EU Member States sharing the basins: CZ, DE, PL

Third countries sharing the basin: --

River Basin Districts concerned:

Oder/Odra

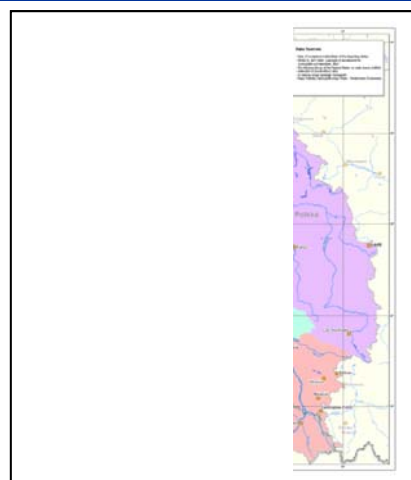
Key Sub-Basins in international river basin:

Lusatian Neisse, Opava, Olza, Warta (40% of the Odra discharge)

Key management units in international river basin:

Upper Oder, Middle Oder, Lower Oder,

Stettin Lagoon, Lusatian Neisse, Warta



Size of the total catchment area and national shares for each international river/sub-river basin (km², %), indicating division by country and the respective RBD:

Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	River Basin District (WFD Article 3.1)	Total Area of Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	EU Member States/Non EU Member States in International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin
		(km ²)		(km ²)	(%)
Oder	Odra	124,049	CZ	7,278	5.9
			DE	9,602	7.7
			PL	107,169	86.4

2. Cooperation Framework

2a. International agreement or convention

Information requested: Title, date of agreement, countries not covered under agreement, brief description

1. Title:

Convention on the International Commission for the Protection of the Oder

2. Countries under Agreement:

Germany, Poland, Czech Republic.

In accordance with the decision of the Council from 2 December 2005, the European Union is no longer a contracting party to the International Commission for the Protection of the Oder against Pollution (ICPO) due to the fact that CZ and PL become EU members. Due to this fact the entire Oder catchment area fell within the boundaries of the European Community and the EU role as the party in the Convention of the International Commission for the Protection of Oder against Pollution became unjustified. The Convention was amended accordingly. Changes have been approved in 2008.

3. Countries part of basin but not covered by agreement:

All countries sharing the Oder/Odra basin are covered under the Convention

4. Date and place of signing:

11 April 1996, Wroclaw

5. Entry into force:

26 April 1999

Convention amendment: Officially approved 2008 (Entry into force: 2011)

6. Key objectives and content of agreement/convention:

According to Article 1(2) of the convention the key aims are:

- a) to prevent the pollution of the Oder and the Baltic Sea by contaminants and to achieve a reduction in the pollution thereof;
- b) to achieve the most natural aquatic and littoral ecosystems possible with the corresponding species diversity;
- c) to permit utilisation of the Oder, in particular the production of drinking water from bank filtrate and the use of its water and sediments in agriculture;

Further aims have been added to the above point based on a ICPO resolution that was adopted in 2005 referring to implementation the EU WFD after its enforcement in 2000:

- d) Provide for precautions against the risk of flood damage and achieve a sustained reduction thereof; and
- e) Coordinate implementation of the Water Framework Directive in the Oder river basin.
- f) Coordinate implementation of the Flood Directive in the Oder river basin.

7. Role of WFD implementation in the international basin:

The implementation of the EU WFD is one of the key cooperation objectives in the ICPO. Respectively, in 2005 the ICPO adopted a resolution aiming for coordinated implementation of the Water Framework Directive in the Oder river basin.

8. Other issues

International Ucker RBD:

- The international Ucker RBD is illustrated in the EU Map on international/national Rive Basin Districts due to a designation under the EU WFD Article 3.1.
- The Ucker RBD is shared between DE and PL via the coastal area.
- The Ucker RBD is located within the international Oder RBD.
- The Ucker River is 98 km long and holds a catchment area of 2,200 km².
- When completing this fact sheet it has been investigated why the Ucker RBD has been designated although it is located within another international RBD (Oder) in order to conclude on respective international coordination mechanisms.

The following is concluded on a preliminary level and needs clarification by the respective SCG members:

- The international Oder River Basin District is managed via the ICPO according to six agreed sub-basins/management units: Upper Oder, Middle Oder, Lower Oder, Stettin Lagoon, Lusatian Neisse, and Warta.
- DE considers the Ucker as part of the Oder RBD under WFD Article 3.1.
- PL designated 10 river basins of national importance for its national RBMP (2 main river basins – Oder, Vistula - and 8 smaller ones including the Ucker).
- PL addressed the Ucker as an RBD and also with an individual RBMP. Therefore, it is assumed that PL reported the Ucker sub-basin as international RBD under WFD Article 3.1.
- The River Ucker flows on DE territory. The Ucker does not drain directly into the River Oder but into the *Kleines Haff*, which is part of the management unit Stettin Lagoon that again is connected with the Baltic Sea. However, the Ucker is connected with the Oder via the river Randow. The connectivity with the Oder river and the drainage into the Stettin Lagoon – that is shared between DE and PL – likely makes the Ucker an international sub-basin.
- Due to this fact that the Ucker drains into the Stettin Lagoon/Baltic Sea, it is assumed that PL did not consider the Ucker sub-basin as part of the Oder/Odra RBD but as a separate RBD when reporting according to WFD Article 3.1.
- DE states in its Article 3.1 Report to the EC that the Stettin Lagoon is allocated to the Oder RBD and is designated as coastal area. Therefore, the rivers draining into the Stettin Lagoon are seen as part of the RBD Oder.
- The above is clearly stated in the DE national RBMP for the international Oder management unit. The related statement and fact has been coordinated and agreed with PL as part of the national WFD Article 5 Report and is reflected accordingly as part of the DE national RBMP for the Oder RBD.
- The ICPO has been interviewed on the issue and stated that the topic Ucker RBD was discussed several times before 2006. Under the ICPO the Oder RBD is divided in six management units listed above. The Ucker is clearly seen as part of the management unit *Stettin Lagoon*. Therefore, the Ucker RBD is not

mentioned separately in the international Oder RBMP Plan.

The DE and PL SCG members are kindly asked for specification and validation of the above and to maybe indicate if the Ucker RBD is still seen as an individual international RBD or rather as part of the international Oder RBD.

German point of view: The Ucker is no separate international RBD, but a part of the international Oder RBD.

2b. Coordinating/Governing Body/River Basin Organisation

Information requested: Name(s) of Secretariat/Commission/RBO, location, working languages, website

1. Name(s):

International Commission for the Protection of the Odra River against Pollution

2. Operative since:

1999

3. Location and address:

Secretariat ICPO

ul. M. Curie-Skłodowskiej 1

50-381 Wrocław

Poland

Tel. +48 71/326-74-70, Fax +48 71/328-37-11

Mail: sekretariat@mkoo.pl

4. Working Languages: German, Polish, Czech

5. Website: www.mkoo.pl

2c. Coordination structure

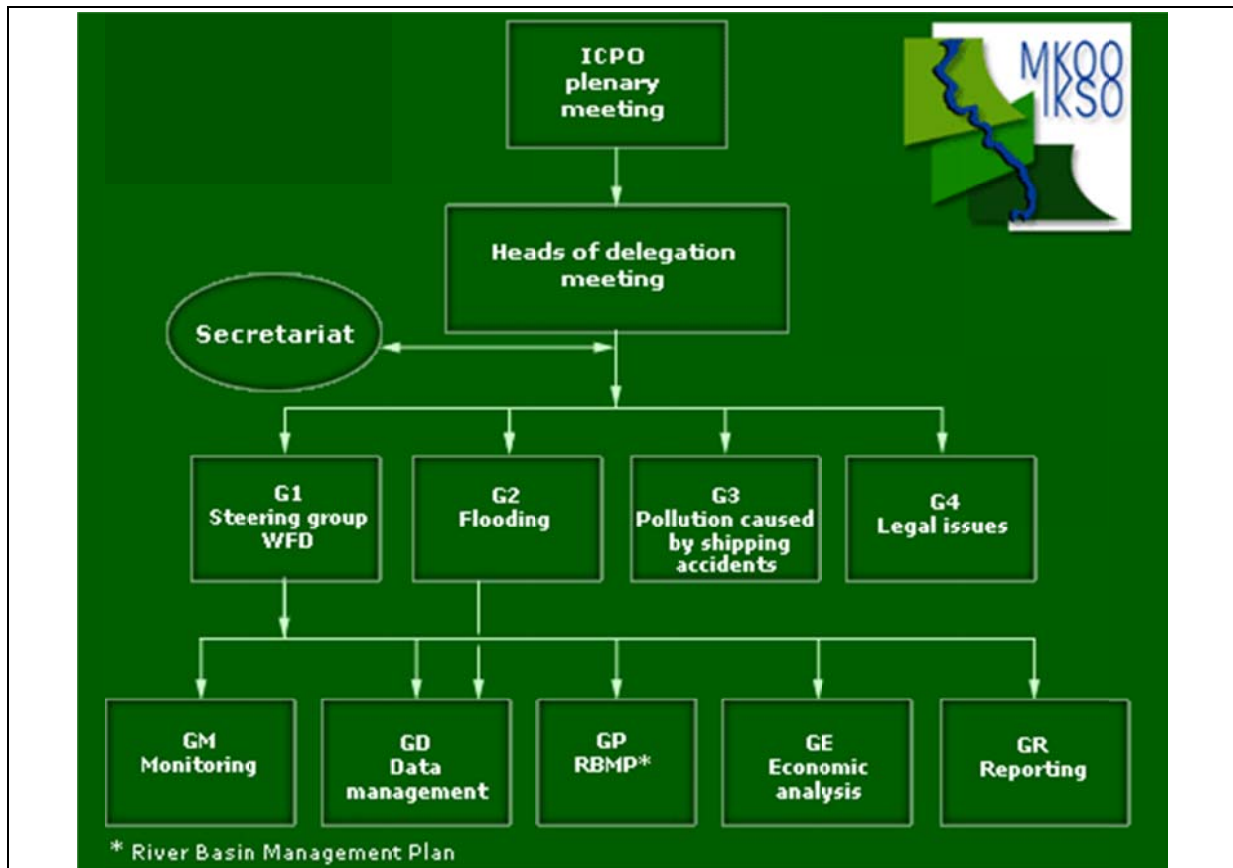
Information requested: Description of (i) organisational structure (ii) cooperation tasks (iii) expert groups (iv) regular meetings (v) number of staff (vi) webpage (vii) other issues

2. Organisational structure

(i) Verbal description

The ICPO is an international organisation. The Commission meets at least once a year (ICPO Plenary Meeting). Heads of Delegations meets once a year. Decisions are adopted at these meetings of the Commission, in which the delegations of all the Contracting Parties and observer organisations take part. In addition, the technical work of the ICPO is conducted in its working groups, which are composed of the experts appointed by each delegation. For the purpose of achieving specific objectives, the working groups draw up action programmes, which are submitted to the Contracting Parties as proposals and recommendations.

(ii) Organisational diagram



(iii) Key cooperation tasks

According to the Convention the International Commission on the Protection of the Oder shall aim for cooperation to:

- (a) prepare surveys of point sources of pollution, estimate water pollution from non-point sources and extrapolate both by sector and the main types of pollution;
- (b) propose limit values for the discharge of waste waters;
- (c) propose water quality objectives which take account of the intended use of the waters and the particular conditions for protection of the Baltic Sea and the aquatic and littoral ecosystems;
- (d) establish joint measurement and analysis programmes to demonstrate the quality and quantity of the waters and the quality of the sediments, to assess the state of the aquatic and littoral ecosystems and, where necessary, to evaluate the consequences of the water pollution, and to evaluate the results;
- (e) develop standardised methods for the classification of the waters;
- (f) analyse data and information necessary for the protection of the Oder, in particular with regard to hydrology and water resource management;
- (g) propose action programmes for the reduction of pollution, especially by contaminants from both municipal and industrial point sources and from nonpoint sources and other measures including the proposed timescale, cost estimate and possible funding arrangements;
- (h) propose safeguards to prevent and deal with unforeseen pollution incidents, and establish a uniform warning and alert system in the light of experience;
- (i) document the ecological importance of the various biotope elements, including the eco-morphology, and draft proposals for the maintenance, restoration and protection of aquatic and littoral ecosystems;
- (j) discuss planned and existing types of utilisation of the waters which may have important transboundary repercussions;
- (k) promote cooperation on scientific research projects and the exchange of information, in particular on the state of the art and modern technologies to prevent and reduce water pollution.

(iv) Working groups/Expert groups

9 working groups are in place under the cooperation framework of the ICPO:

- **Steering Group Water Framework Directive (G1):**

The main objective of the G1 is the coordination of the Water Framework Directive implementation.

- **Working Group “Flood” (G2):**

The main objective of the G2 is the coordination of the “Flood Directive” implementation .

- **Working Group “Accidental Pollution” (G3):**

The scope of the group’s activities includes updating the International Warning and Alert System as well as designing the International Contingency Plan for the Oder.

- **Working Group “Legal Issues” (G4):**

The G4 is responsible for legal interpretation of the ICPO Convention as well as the Rules of Procedure of the ICPO, or any potential additional procedures passed by the Commission.

- **Sub-working Group “Data Management” (GD):**

The priority of the GD group is to support all ICPO groups with data and GIS services. So far the group was responsible e.g. for the drawing up of maps of the International Odra River Basin District for the Water Framework Directive implementation.

- **Sub-working Group “Monitoring” (GM):**

The GM group is responsible for drawing up a monitoring system for the International Oder Catchment Area that is based on national monitoring points and national data.

- **Sub-working Group “Planning in Management of Waters/RBMP” (GP):**

The GP group has been assigned a task of identifying the significant water management issues for the International Oder Catchment Area.

- **Sub-working Group “Economic Analysis” (GE):**

The main objective of the GE group is to coordinate the exchange of data and information pertaining to economic issues within the area of water management in the International Oder Basin.

- **Sub-working Group “Reporting” (GR):**

The GR sub-working group was assigned a task of drawing up the structures of reports for the European Commission. Is not operative.

(v) Regular Meetings

The Commission meets at least once a year at the chairman's invitation for a plenary meeting at a place specified by him/her. The heads of the delegations meet once a year.

Each working group meets several times a year. The meeting frequency depends on technical demand.

(vi) Observers

Stakeholders can apply to the ICPO as observers following agreed procedures.

Currently 4 NGOs (BUND, WWF Germany, WWF Poland, Kammerunion Elbe/Oder) hold observership to the ICPO and mainly participate in the work groups G1 and G2.

(vii) Number of staff

The current number of permanent staff of the ICPO Secretariat is 8 (1 Director, 2 scientific employees, 1 secretary, 1 financial officer, 1 GIS specialist, 2 interpreters).

(viii) Webpage www.mkoo.pl

(ix) Other issues: --

2d. Other cooperation agreements if relevant

Information requested: Description of other national bilateral/multilateral agreements for transboundary coordination including country members

1. The following bilateral/multilateral agreements are in place besides the overall international agreement (list for each cooperating country):

Besides the international cooperation within the framework of the *Convention on the International Commission for the Protection of the Oder*, there are also other bilateral cooperation in the field of water management under separate agreements:

- Agreement of 19 May 1992 between the Republic of Poland and the Federal Republic of Germany on cooperation in the scope of transboundary water management (Dz. U. of 1997, No. 11),
- Agreement of 21 March 1958 between the Government of the Polish Peoples' Republic and the Government of the Czech Republic on transboundary water management,
- Agreement of 12 December 1995 between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Czech Republic on cooperation in the scope of transboundary water management (BGBl. 1997 Teil II).

In addition to the above mentioned bilateral agreements, the Polish National Plan also refers to the following multi-lateral agreements:

- Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North-East Atlantic, Irish and North Sea, 1992 (ASCOBANS) on 03.17.1992 01.18.1996 (Journal of Laws of 1999 No. 96, item. 1108, as amended. amended).
- The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat 1971 (Ramsar Convention) on 11.22.1972 03.22.1978 (Journal of Laws of 1978 No. 7, 24, as amended. D.)
- Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area 1992 (Helsinki Convention - HELCOM) on 04.09.1992 06.24.1999 (Journal of Laws of 2000 No 28, pos. 346)
- The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes done at Helsinki on 17 March 1992 03/18/1992 (Journal of Laws of 2003 No. 78, pos. 702) Information on ratification (Journal of Laws of 2003 No. 78, pos. 703)
- Helsinki Convention - HELCOM, Baltic Sea (Note: This Convention has direct implications to the work of the ICPO, i.a. nutrient reduction via its Baltic Sea Action Plan)

2. Further related information

3. Key Areas of International Cooperation

3a. International River Basin Management Plan

1. WFD international River Basin Management Plan developed (Y/n)

Yes, the ICPO developed an international RBMP according to the EU WFD.

2. RBMP download link

www.mkoo.pl/index.php?mid=17

3. ,The international 'Roof Level' is formally defined /delineated in relation to the national RBMP level as follows (i.e. catchment area size, other thresholds, etc.):

The Roof Level (international Part A) addresses watercourses with catchment areas > 500 km². Other rivers with catchment areas < 500 km² are only addressed on the international level in case of specific issues or pressures of basin-wide importance. Otherwise, respective details can be found in the national RBMPs.

4. The national RBMP refers to the international RBMP as outlined below:

(List for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP)

Germany: A national RBMP for the German part of the respective International Oder RBD has been developed by the German Federal Laender Brandenburg, Saxony, Mecklenburg-Western Pommerania (December 2009):

This RBMP states that it focuses mainly on water management issues that are not transboundary in nature. The plan constitutes that it complements the international plan (Part A) and points out that the international coordination is carried out within the ICPO.

Poland: A national RBMP for the respective RBD Oder was published in February 2011:

The Polish National Plan mentions that international cooperation took place under the auspices of the International Oder Commission and outlines the Commission's objectives in the chapter on competent authorities (Chapter 13). No other references are found. There is no mention of a Part A plan.

Czech Republic: A national RBMP for the respective Oder RBD was published in December 2009:

The Czech RBMP describes two levels of the management plan for Oder: Part A, which details the umbrella management issues of the transboundary basin, as well as the environmental goals that serve as a basis for the development of national level measures. Part B focuses on Czech specific management issues. The Plan mentions that steps were taken to ensure a clear link between Part A and Part B. Efforts at national level were used to feed into the development of the international plan. The Czech Plan also details the international coordination steps and meetings that took place in the development of the international plan.

5. The international RBMP includes country specific information (Y/N). Y

If 'yes' (=country specific information is provided), list if the information is consistent with the national RBMP.

Yes

Country specific information in international RBMP (Y/N plus short description of cross reference) – list for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP

- Each chapter of the International Plan provides country specific information for all three countries of Germany, Poland and Czech Republic.
- The international RBMP describes the following topics for each country: Delineation of water bodies; information on significant pressures; indication of nature protection areas; current status of waters; results of monitoring programmes; economic analyses; basic and supplementary national PoMs are summarized for the international level.

The information provided in the international RBMP is consistent with the national RBMP

(Y/N plus short description if needed) – list for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP

Germany: Yes. The information is consistent with the national plan. The same SWMIs are defined, the maps are the same in content and the measures included in the PoMs are the same.

Poland: N/A

Czech Republic: N/A

3b. Coordinated/Joint Activities

Information requested: Topics where joint development occurred, for example: SWMIs, monitoring, PoMs, objectives, public consultations, etc; Description of the process of joint cooperation for each activity.

1. Key international cooperation activities – general description

Key cooperation activities refer to the

- Implementation of the EU WFD
- Implementation of the EU Flood Directive
- Monitoring
- Accidental pollution
- Data management
- Economic issues
- Reporting

2. Description of detailed coordinated/joint, basin-wide activities

2.1 WFD SWMIs (Y/N). If yes, describe:

Yes, Three joint basin-wide SWMIs have been identified:

- Hydromorphological alterations of surface waters
 - Structural alterations of rivers
 - Continuity interruptions in rivers
- Significant point and diffuse pollution (nutrients and other pollutants)
- Reduction in natural flows due to water extraction

The international Oder RBMP refers to the above three SWMIs. As a follow-up to the Oder RBMP, a management strategy is currently under development to be finalised by the end of 2013. This strategy will address the above three SWMIs with relevant management steps and measures to achieve the WFD objectives in the Oder River Basin. Climate Change issues will be discussed too.

Other important water management issues (surface water/groundwater related) have been discussed jointly on the international level and required respective agreement. These important water management issues are managed on the regional and national level:

- Ecological improvement of small water bodies

- Re-connectivity of rivers
- Adaptation of sewage water management in line with the WFD
- Groundwater problems related to mining
- Groundwater extraction
- Groundwater pollution from nutrients and pesticides
- Flooding

In addition the protected areas - that have been listed according to WFD Article 6 – and the achievement of the environmental objectives have been considered as significant.

2.2 Coordinated/joint visions and objectives (Y/N)

No, but under development.

Joint general views have been developed for each of the identified SWMIs (Chapter II.5 of the International Oder RBMP): (i) Hydromorphological alterations, (ii) Significant point and diffuse pollution, and (iii) Reduction in natural flows due to water extraction.

2.3 Coordinated/transboundary monitoring (Y/N)

Yes.

A transboundary monitoring system is in place for the International Oder RBD that is based on national monitoring points and national data. Improvement need has been expressed during the interview with the ICPO. The countries cooperated to develop an international status report on monitoring for the European Commission in 2007.

In principle, eight monitoring stations are considered and assessed as transboundary. Each Oder country applies national monitoring methods and assessments. The monitoring results are communicated, shared and harmonised on the international level.

However, monitoring data are not always fully harmonised and may show differences. Therefore, the process of monitoring data/results harmonisation is currently being defined in more detail in order to improve consolidated basin-wide results.

2.4 Coordinated/shared databases and/or GIS (Y/N)

Yes.

The Working Group “Data Management” was responsible for drawing up of all Oder RBMP maps as well as it administers the ICPO GeoPortal. The implementation of the EU WFD improved the development of a joint database. Whereas, the Polish Agency for Water Management used to perform the data management for the Oder RBD in the past, a joint Oder database is currently being developed. The ICPO Secretariat is and will be in charge of managing and maintain this database. As of today, this database is fully operational for flood issues and other river basin management activities will follow.

2.5 Coordinated/joint Programme of Measures (Y/N)

No joint PoM is part of the Oder RBMP. The International Oder RBM Plan summarises and combines national measures on pages 79-86 as a so-called “Catalogue”. It is clearly indicated in the Oder RBMP that the national measures are not always the harmonized for the international level. It is highlighted that more details are found in the respective national plans.

As mentioned above, a follow-up strategy to the RBMP is currently discussed as well as being developed by end 2013 within the cooperation framework of the ICPO.

2.6 Coordinated/joint (financial) resources to support international cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describes basic concept of joint financial resources.

Yes.

2.6.a Basic concept of joint financial resources

The ICPO is financed by the contributions from three Contracting Parties (Convention Article 15) and by donations, grants and interest, as well as by funds from other sources. The budget is discussed and agreed once a year in the Plenary Meeting of the ICPO.

Currently these contributions to the Commission's budget are divided among the Contracting Parties as follows:

Federal Republic of Germany: 39,75 %

Republic of Poland: 39,75 %

Czech Republic: 20,50 %

2.6.b Amount of joint financial resources

The total annual budget of the ICPO is approximately 330.000 Euro/year.

2.6.c List of supported joint resources

The joint budget supports the work of the ICPO Secretariat, its staff and equipment. Joint technical projects are supported only upon agreement between the contracting parties as e.g. the work related to the implementation of the EU WFD.

Interpreters and respective translation services at ICPO meeting are covered by the joint ICPO budget.

At the moment the work of the ICPO is not supported by any other financial sources.

2.6.d Country participation in joint meetings is supported (Y/N)

No.

2.7 Coordinated/joint communication strategy and public participation activities

Yes, a coordinated communication approach was applied for the consultation of the international RBM Plan.

The ICPO website serves as a joint communication and public participation platform for the basin to collect public comments. In addition, 2 conferences took place addressing both the EU WFD and flood issues. A further is planned for 2015. In 2012, one workshop is planned regarding the topic of transboundary monitoring.

2.8 Coordinated/joint approach to consider future water demand (WFD Annex III)

No.

2.9 Coordinated/joint approach on setting exemptions

No.

The International RBMP mentions that exemptions were defined at the national level.

3c. Coordinated/Joint Methodologies

Information requested: Areas in which joint methodologies were developed in relation to the issues listed under 3b. In addition, other joint methodologies should be added e.g. to designate HMWBs, to define good ecological status/potential, cost effectiveness of measures and or any other issues. Include brief description of the process of cooperation for each methodology

1. The following joint basin-wide methodologies have been developed:

The goals of the Convention mention the development of basin-wide methodologies but the International Plan does not specify this. In each chapter, the international Oder RBMP references national methods and national websites where more information can be found. The ICPO framework served as platform to harmonise national results for the basin-wide level.

The ICPO Website mentions that the International Pilot Project of the Lusatian Neisse tested guidance documents concerning the following:

- pressure and impact assessment,
- setting up the referential conditions and class boundaries for ecological classification of surface water,
- monitoring.

2. The joint methodologies are formally adopted or agreed between the countries (Y/N).

No.

As mentioned above, national methodologies are currently applied and harmonised on the international level. However, the need for further work and improved approaches for basin-wide harmonisation is realised and intended for follow-up.

3. The joint methodologies are continuously/practically applied in the frame of international cooperation leading to harmonised results (Y/N)

No.

As mentioned above, national methodologies are currently applied and harmonised on the international level.

4. The following challenges currently hinder the continuous/practical application of joint methodologies:

No real hindrance was named or identified.

5. Future development of joint methodologies is planned for the future (Y/N)

If already known, list which ones.

Yes. Basin-wide harmonisation of monitoring results is foreseen in particular for the eight transboundary water bodies. This development should further reduce non-harmonised and differing results.

4. International Coordination Successes and Challenges

4a. Changes related WFD enforcement

Information requested: Description of changes of international cooperation since WFD enforcement

1. Indicate if the enforcement of the EU WFD changed and improved joint cooperation (Y/N)

Yes. During an interview with the ICPO Secretariat, it was stated that the WFD much improved cooperation and coordination on the international level. The enforcement of the EU WFD enhanced the use of a common terminology and understanding aiming for the same objectives on the basin-wide level. Although the will and ambition for international cooperation was always in place in the Oder RBD, the enforcement of the WFD enhanced the identification of basin-wide pressures/impact and supports the definition of respective joint strategies.

2. Cooperation areas where changes/improvement occurred through WFD

In general, the EU WFD improved cooperation regarding (i) monitoring, (ii) the preparation of common strategies on SWMIs (currently underway; expected by end 2013) and (iii) development of a database to be managed and maintained by the ICPO Secretariat.

- 2004: Report about the extent of the Odra River Basin District, competent authorities, the range of their competences as well as about international cooperation.
- 2005: Report on the characteristics of surface and ground waters of the catchment area as a result of human impact on the environment as well as economic analysis of water use.
- 2005: Report on "Recommendations on requirements of facilities handling hazardous substances in flood prone areas"
- 2007: Monitoring the implementation of the Flood protection action programme
- 2007: Report to the European Commission on monitoring for surface and groundwaters
- 2007: Report to the European Commission on SWMIs
- 2010: International Oder RBMP

3. When did changes occur?

See above

4b. Key Successes of coordination

Information requested: Description of cooperation successes, positive feedback loops, etc.

- WFD implementation and the development of an international Oder RBMP
- Joint Database to be managed and maintained by the ICPO Secretariat
- Knowledge transfer and exchange on implementation of Flood Directive
- Joint Preparation of public consultation conferences
- Effective Working Groups are in place with competent specialists from each contracting party to support the achievement of the basin-wide aims in the Oder RBD.

4c. Key Obstacles and Challenges to International Coordination/Cooperation

Information requested: Areas where cooperation was not successful; Areas for improvement

1. Principle key obstacles to international coordination/cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describe.

No key obstacles to cooperation can currently be identified.

2. Current key challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(e) the past/current WFD planning cycle

- The identification and management of transboundary groundwater bodies is considered as a challenge at the moment including the harmonisation of results. A methodological approach needs to be defined and agreed towards solutions. Currently methods are very different and need harmonisation. However, this challenge is not seen as a threat to international cooperation within the ICPO framework.
- Agreement on harmonised results for transboundary surface water bodies that are based on different methods.
- Parallel development of national and international RBMPs were considered as a challenge as sufficient vice-versa integration was difficult.
- Implementation of joint, basin-wide projects per se.
- Different languages of contracting parties. However, the ICPO serves as the important coordination

<p>platform to enable mutual information exchange and agreement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for translation of the language sometimes slow down implementation processes. <p>(f) any other areas regarding water resources management</p> <p>3. Respective areas of improvement and indication if this is planned</p> <p>See previous and below items.</p> <p>4. Expected challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to</p> <p>(c) next WFD planning cycle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrient management on a basin-wide scale • Identification of transboundary groundwater bodies and respective harmonisation of results • Parallel development of national and international RBMPs is still considered as a challenge. Lessons learnt from the first RBMP will be applied to ensure better harmonisation between the national RBMPs and the international Plan. Better integration on both levels is proposed and is aimed for by completing the international Oder RBMP a bit after the national Plans will be finalised. <p>(d) any other areas regarding water resources management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change Adaptation • Implementation of the EU Flood Directive on the basin-wide scale
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5. Future in international cooperation - Next steps/View towards 2nd WFD planning cycle

5a. Areas of future cooperation

Information requested: Where work has already started for the next planning cycle; New Areas of international cooperation; Whether an international plan is foreseen

<p>1. Outline if an international RBMP according to the EU WFD is foreseen.</p> <p>If yes, by when (2015, 2021, 2027)</p> <p>Yes, the development of international Oder RBMPs is foreseen for 2015, 2021 and 2027.</p> <p>2. First milestones that will be jointly aimed regarding the future EU WFD implementation</p> <p>End 2012: National reports on the PoM implementation will be available.</p> <p>June 2013: ICPO-publication on the implementation of the national PoMs</p> <p>End 2013: Strategic document regarding the identified SWMIs of the Oder RBMP.</p> <p>2014: Draft Oder RBMP 2015</p> <p>2015: Final Oder RBMP</p> <p>3. If no international RBMP will be developed, briefly describe why this is the case.</p> <p>--</p> <p>4. Further future areas of international cooperation/coordination:</p> <p>Implementation of the EU Flood Directive</p>

6. Additional Comments

7. Interviewed country and RBO representatives as well as other experts

<p>Mr. Piotr Baranski - Director of the ICPO Secretariat</p> <p>Ms Magdalena Stanecka - ICPO Secretariat</p>
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8. Sources and References

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oder River Basin Management Plan 2010, ICPO • National RBMPs according to the EU WFD of the contracting parties to the ICPO • Second Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters, UNECE (2011) • www.mkoo.pl • http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/participation/map_mc/map.htm • http://files.inweb.gr/workshops/sub_basins/ • www.internationalwaterlaw.org/documents/intldocs/ • www.transboundarywaters.orst.edu/research/RBO/RBO_Euro.html • www.riob.org/

Coordination Mechanisms of the International Rhine River Basin

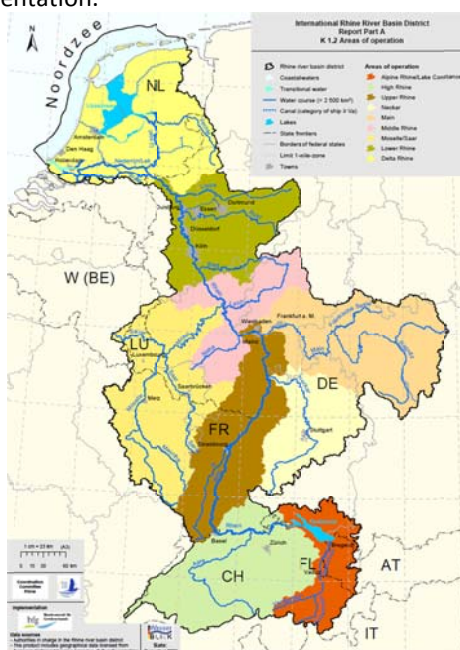
1. Basic information on international river basins/sub-river basin - Rhine

EU Member States sharing the basin: AT, BE (Wallonia), DE, FR, IT, LU, NL

Third countries sharing the basin: CH, LI

River Basin Districts concerned: Rhine

Key Sub-Basins in international river basin: The Rhine river basin holds nine – mostly international – areas of operation, all depending on geographical characteristics. The main stream Rhine and its tributaries have been divided into nine areas of mostly cross-border operation: Alpine Rhine/Lake Constance, High Rhine, Upper Rhine, Middle Rhine, Lower Rhine, Delta Rhine, Neckar, Main and Moselle-Saar. In these areas of operation the different countries and German Länder involved or the regions concerned coordinate relevant questions relating to especially WFD implementation.



Size of the total catchment area and national shares for each international river/sub-river basin (km², %), indicating division by country and the respective RBD:

Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	River Basin District (WFD Article 3.1)	Total Area of Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin (km ²)	EU Member States/Non EU Member States in International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin
				(km ²)	(%)
Rhine	Rhine	197,100	AT	2,370	1.2
			BE	750	<1
			CH	27,930	14
			DE	105,670	54
			FR	23,830	121
			IT	60	<1
			LI	160	<1
			LU	2,530	1
			NL	33,800	17

Data source: ICPDR

2. Cooperation Framework

2a. International agreement or convention

Information requested: Title, date of agreement, countries not covered under agreement, brief description

1. Title:

Convention on the Protection of the Rhine

Before the Rhine Convention, which was signed 1999, the Treaty of Bern (1963) was in place as cooperation basis in the Rhine River Basin. The ICPR is one of the oldest European river commissions with over 60 years of experience.

2. Countries under Agreement:

France, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Switzerland and the European Union

3. Countries part of basin but not covered by agreement:

Austria, Belgium, Italy, Liechtenstein

4. Date and place of signing:

12 April 1999, Bern

5. Entry into force:

1 January 2003

6. Key objectives and content of agreement/convention:

1. Sustainable development of the Rhine ecosystem;
2. Rhine water shall continue to be apt for drinking water production;
3. The quality of Rhine sediments is to be improved such that dredged material may be deposited without causing any environmental harm;
4. Holistic flood prevention and protection taking into account ecological requirements;
5. Relief of the North Sea.

The development of the Rhine ecosystem is following the overall environmental concept of sustainability and integrates [ecological](#), [economic](#) and social issues.

7. Role of WFD implementation in the international basin:

The 'Programme 2020' of the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR) fully addresses the aspects of the EU WFD and of adequate Swiss water policy in the Rhine River Basin. The present working structure of the ICPR is aligned to appropriately implement the Convention on the Protection of the Rhine and to coordinate the implementation of the European Directives in the international Rhine River Basin District. As the Rhine Convention only covers the main stream, i.e. the Rhine itself, the ICPR established a parallel working structure to involve all states in the basin. In the meantime there is only one working structure covering ICPR contracting parties and the other basin countries, governed by two rules of procedure.

The ICPR also holds an Action Plan on Floods that will be merged with the implementation of the European Flood Directive.

The ICPR coordinates some aspects of the implementation of the Eel Regulation on basin level.

8. Other issues

The international Mosellele-Saar sub-basin is coordinated under the International Commissions for the Protection of the Mosellele and for the Protection of the-Saar (IKSMS; www.iksms-cipms.org). LU, FR and DE are cooperating in this framework since 1961. The Belgium Walloon Region cooperates, but is not a contracting party. The Mosellele-Saar sub-basin shows a catchment area of 28.286 km².

In addition the International Commission for the Protection of Lake Constance (IKGB) is in place and relevant for cooperation in the Rhine River Basin.

2b. Coordinating/Governing Body/River Basin Organisation

Information requested: Name(s) of Secretariat/Commission/RBO, location, working languages, website

1. Name(s):

Internationale Kommission zum Schutz des Rheins – ISK
Commission Internationale pour la Protection du Rhin – CIPR
Internationale Commissie ter Bescherming van de Rijn - ICBR
International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine - ICPR

2. Operative since:

1950 (informal)
1964 the Secretariat in Koblenz started to be operative.

3. Location and address:

Kaiserin-Augusta-Anlagen 15, D - 56068 Koblenz, Germany
Telephone: +49-(0)261-94252-0
Fax: +49-(0)261-94252-52
Email: sekretariat@iksr.de

4. Working Languages:

Dutch, French, German
English is mentioned as another language in the rules of procedures for the ICPR and it is used for almost all publications.

5. Website:

www.iksr.org

2c. Coordination structure

Information requested: Description of (i) organisational structure (ii) cooperation tasks (iii) expert groups (iv) regular meetings (v) number of staff (vi) webpage (vii) other issues

Organisational structure

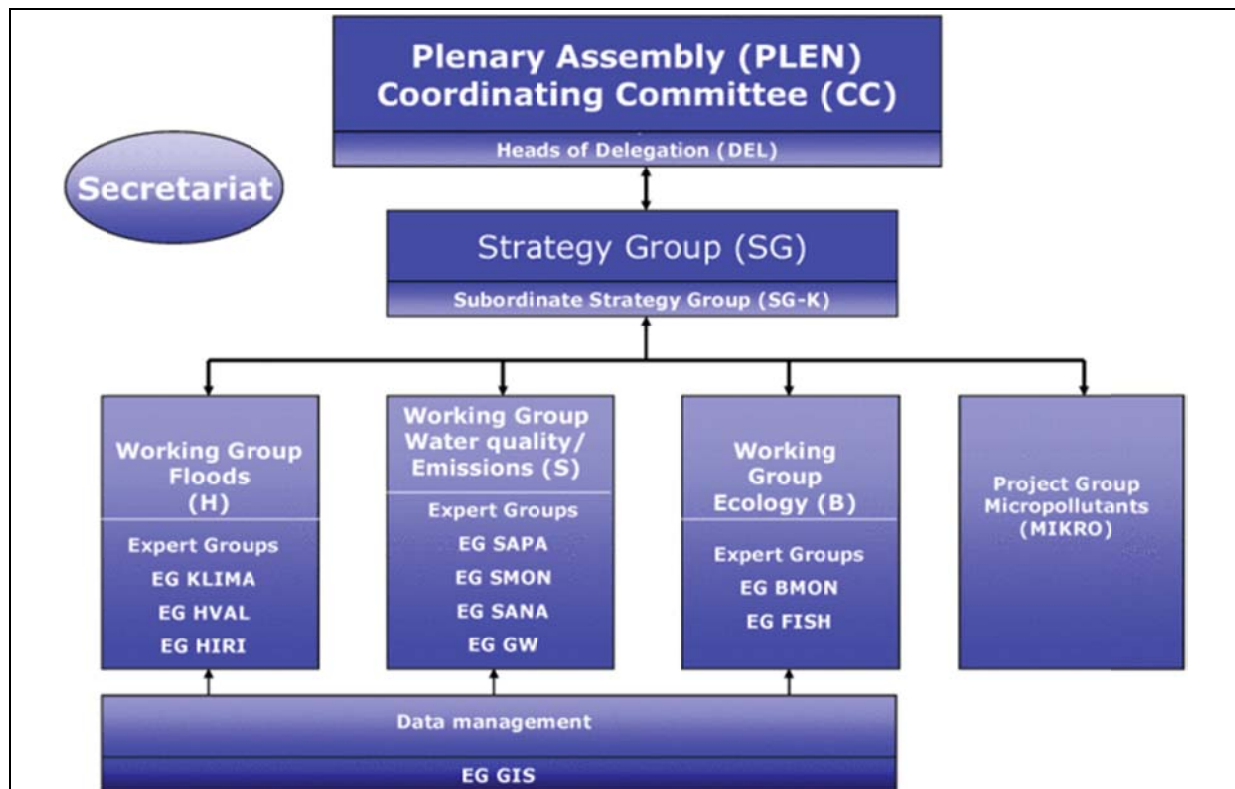
i. Verbal description

The ICPR is an international organisation. The Plenary Assembly of the ICPR takes place once every year together with the Coordination Committee Rhine (established to coordinate EU water directives issues with all basin countries). Decisions taken in the Plenary Assembly have the status of recommendations to the countries.

Conferences of Rhine Ministers decide in more or less regular intervals on important political issues. Their decisions are important guidance for the Governments concerned. (Comment Germany: The decisions are not legally binding, the same situation as in the other int. river basin commissions on EU level. "Binding" from a political point of view, certainly yes, but "binding" is not the right term.)

Technical questions are dealt with in working and expert or project groups with permanent or fixed-term mandates and passed on to the Strategy Group (head of delegations) preparing inter alia the Plenary Assembly. Challenges related to water quality and emissions, groundwater, ecology and floods as well as warning and alarming procedures are discussed within those groups. Expert groups support the working groups.

ii. Organisational diagram



iii. Key cooperation tasks

- a. Implementation of the Rhine Protection Convention and its objectives.
- b. As decided by the last Conference of Rhine Ministers in October 2007 (Bonn) key challenges of the ICPR include:
 - to draft a common strategy in order to adequately meet the challenge of micro-pollutions (certain pharmaceuticals, household chemicals, etc.,
 - to draft an „Overall strategy for sediment management of the Rhine”,
 - within the timely implementation of the Action Plan on Floods and taking into account effects of climate change, to look into all realistic possibilities of creating additional retention areas aimed at reducing extreme water levels and flood damage, (balance 1995 – 2010 of the action plan implementation will be adopted in July 2012)
 - jointly develop adapting strategies for water management in the Rhine watershed in order to be able to cope with the challenges of climate change (literature study and Study of Scenarios for the Discharge Pattern of the Rhine have been finalised, discussions on adaptation strategy are on-going).
 - A “Master Plan Migratory Fish Rhine” was drafted in 2009; the first steps to implement by 2015 include upstream and downstream fish migration into the Rhine system through partly opening the floodgates of the Haringvliet and to construct a fish passage at the Strasbourg barrage. Construction at the dam Gerstheim will be initiated before 2015.
- c. Aim for the achievement of the tasks of the Programme on the Sustainable Development of the Rhine – Rhine 2020. Core parts of Rhine 2020 are:
 - the implementation of Rhine habitat patch connectivity,
 - Salmon 2020 (get the flagship species back to Basel),
 - the improvement of flood mitigation by implementing the Action Plan on Floods,
 - the indispensable further improvement of water quality,
 - ground water protection and
 - The continuous surveillance of the state of the Rhine and further improvement of water quality continue to be an essential part of ICPR work.
- d. Coordinated implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive since 2000.
 - Coordinated implementation of the EU Floods Directive since 2007

iv. Working groups/Expert groups

Under the framework of the ICPR, 3 Working Groups are in place under which several Expert Groups are operative. Further, one Project Group is in place. Details are provided below:

Working Group H on Floods:

WG KLIMA – Expert Group on climate and hydrological situation (Group is inactive for the moment, will be revitalised if needed.).

WG HVAL - Expert Group on validation (Proving the effectiveness of measures for the reduction of extreme flood levels downstream the impounded river section).

WG HIRI – Expert Group on Flood Risks

Working Group S on Water Quality and Emissions:

WG SAPA – Expert Group on Warning and Alarm System Rhine

WG SMON – Expert Group on Monitoring

WG SANA – Expert Group on Analytics

WG Groundwater – Expert Group on Groundwater

Working Group B on Ecology:

WG BMON – Expert Group on Biological Quality Components

WG FISH – Expert Group on Fish Fauna

Project Group S Micropollutants

Expert Group Geographical Information Systems

v. Regular Meetings

Meetings of the ICPR take place at three different levels: (i) Commission, (ii) strategic and (iii) working level. Whereas the Commission meets once a year within a plenary meeting, the strategic level meets on working and HOD level twice or three times a year and working group meetings take place more often. As a general rule these meetings take place three times a year. However, depending on different demands/requirements, meeting may take place in lower and higher frequencies.

vi. Observers

The ICPR states that the following may be recognised as observers to the Commission:

- States, which are interested in the Commission's work. Respective observers are: Belgium (Service public de Wallonie - DGARNE), Liechtenstein (Amt für Umweltschutz), Austria (Lebensministerium). [Intergovernmental organisations](#) whose work is related to the Convention. Respective observers are: International Scheldt Commission; Oslo and Paris Commission; International Commissions for the Protection of the Moselle and Saar; Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine; Lake Constance Commission.
- [Non governmental organisations](#), as far as their areas of interest or tasks are concerned. Respective observers are: Hochwassernotgemeinschaft Rhein; Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Internationalen Wasserwerke im Rheineinzugsgebiet; Arbeitsgemeinschaft Renaturierung des Hochrheins; Arbeitsgemeinschaft Revitalisierung Alpenrhein/Bodensee; Rheinkolleg; European Union of National Associations of Water Suppliers and Waste Water Services; Alsace Nature; Conseil Européen de l'Industrie Chimique (CEFIC); DWA Deutsche Vereinigung für Wasserwirtschaft, Abwasser und Abfall e.V.; VGB Power Tech e.V.; AK Wasser im BBU; Verband Deutscher Sportfischer e.V.

vii. Number of staff

13 members of staff are employed at the ICPR Secretariat (Executive Secretary, 1 Assistant Manager, 3 Secretariat Staff, 3 Scientific Staff, 5 staff members as translators/interpreters)

viii. Webpage

www.iksr.org

ix. Other issues

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2d. Other cooperation agreements if relevant

Information requested: Description of other national bilateral/multilateral agreements for transboundary ordination including country members

General remark: the listing of “other cooperation agreements” should be seen in the context that not every agreement has the same impact on the preparation of the roof reports for the WFD art 5 analysis, the monitoring programme and the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP). Also see the explanation concerning roof A reports and part-B reports given in paragraph 3a.3.

1. The following bilateral/multilateral agreements are in place besides the overall international agreement (list for each cooperating country):

- The Convention on the protection of the Rhine against Chloride Pollution (1967 Chlorides Convention and the related 1991 protocol on this issue).
 - With the 1999 Rhine Convention the Chemical Convention (1976), another treaty of the Rhine countries, went out of force.
- The Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine
 - Formally constituted in 1815
 - Legal foundation is the Revised Convention for Navigation on the Rhine – the Mannheim Document – of 17 October 1868
 - Promotes the development of close cooperation with the other international organisation working in the field of European transport policy and with NGOs active in the field of inland navigation.
 - <http://www.ccr-zkr.org/>
- International Commission for the Hydrology of the Rhine Basin (CHR)
 - Founded in 1970 on the advice of UNESCO
 - Since 1975 the work has been carried under the framework of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) of the UNESCO
 - Member States are Switzerland, Austria, Germany, France, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands
 - Mission and tasks: expansion of the knowledge of the hydrology in the Rhine basin; making a contribution to the solution of cross-border problems
 - www.chr-khr.org
- [The Convention for the Protection of the marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic](#) (the ‘OSPAR Convention’)
 - Founded in 1992 as a successor of the OSLO and PARIS Conventions. Contracting Parties are Belgium, Denmark, the European Community, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Luxembourg and Switzerland.
 - Mission and tasks: cooperate to protect the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic . The focus is on prevention of dumping in the marine environment, controlling pollution from land based sources and the offshore industry, on biodiversity and ecosystems and non-polluting human activities that can adversely affect the sea.
 - <http://www.ospar.org>
- The Trilateral Wadden Consultation between Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands is also relevant for the implementation of the WFD focuses on the protection of the Wadden Sea.
 - The fundamental principle of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Policy, as worded in the declaration of Esbjerg in 1991, is 'the realization, as far as possible, of a natural and sustainable ecosystem, in which natural processes can take place in an undisrupted manner'. The principle concerns the protection of the tidal region, salt marshes, beaches and dunes.
 - The first Trilateral Governmental Conferences between Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands concerning the protection of the Wadden Sea was held in The Hague in 1978. This conference signified the official start of cooperation, upon which the formal foundation is the Joint Declaration for the Protection of the Wadden Sea. This declaration was signed during the Third Wadden Sea Conference in Copenhagen in 1982. The ministers for nature and environmental issues get together once every three years. The purpose of these conferences is to gear each country's Wadden policy to the others.
 - According to the Joint Declaration, the Wadden Sea countries declare their intention to coordinate their activities and measures to implement a number of international legal instruments in the field of natural environmental protection, amongst others the Ramsar Convention and the EC Bird Directive,

for a comprehensive protection of the Wadden Sea region as a whole, including its flora and fauna. The EC Habitat Directive was added in 1992.

- In 1987, a Joint Wadden Sea Secretariat (CWSS) was established, with its primary task to support, initiate, facilitate and coordinate the activities of the collaboration.
 - The permanent Dutch-German commission for the border waters (Ems Commission) drew up a joint plan of action, in agreement with the Trilateral Wadden Sea Plan, for management of the waters and nature in this area.
 - <http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org>
 - (Information from <http://www.ecomare.nl/en/ecomare-encyclopedie/rules/international-wadden-sea-policy/trilateral-cooperation/>)
 - The International Rhine Regulation (Internationale Rheinregulierung)
 - Between Austria and Switzerland
 - Three treaties: 1892, 1924, and 1954 allowing for different construction projects to regulate the Rhine River between Illmündung and Lake Constance (Bodensee)
 - <http://www.rheinregulierung.at>
 - The International Alpine Rhine Commission
 - Graubünden and St. Gallen (Switzerland), Liechtenstein and Vorarlberg (Austria)
 - Considered a platform to exchange information, discuss and plan water related measures in the Alpenrhein region.
 - <http://www.alpenrhein.net>
 - Treaty between Liechtenstein and Austria
 - “Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the Principality of Liechtenstein on the establishment of common principles for the regulation of the Rhine from the Swiss-Liechtenstein border to the mouth of the Ill River, and on the rules of derivation Liechtenstein inland waters on Liechtenstein and Austrian territory and about the resulting related regulation of Spirsgrabens, the Frick and the ash pit”
 - Signed and entered into force 1931
 - The Convention between the Swiss Federal Council and the Government of the French Republic on the Protection of Geneva Lake Against Pollution
 - Signed 1962 and entered into force in 1963
 - Established the International Commission for the Protection of the Waters in the Geneva Lake (CIPEL)
 - 1977 Agreement between France and Switzerland concerning the Intervention of Bodies in charge of Fighting against Accidental Water Pollution by Hydrocarbons or Other Substances Capable of Altering the Water
 - Agreement between the State of Geneva and Haute-Savoie (FR) on the use, protection, recharge and monitoring of Franco-Swiss Genevese groundwater
 - Originally signed in 1978 but a new agreement was signed in 2007 and entered into force January 2008 for the next 30 years
 - Agreement of Lake Constance against Pollution
 - Established the International Commission for the Protection of Lake Constance
 - Agreement between Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Austria and Switzerland
 - Signed 1960 and entered into force 1961
 - Convention between Switzerland and Italy concerning the Protection of Italo-Swiss Waters against Pollution
 - Established the International Commission for the Protection of Italo-Swiss Waters
 - Signed in 1972 and entered into force 1973
 - The Protocol between the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the French Republic on the constitution of the International Commission for the Protection of the Saar against pollution and the Protocol between the Federal Republic of Germany and the French Republic and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg on the constitution of the International Commission for the Protection of the Moselle against pollution
 - The International Commissions for the Protection of the Moselle and Saar against Pollution (ICPMS) have one common working structure.
 - Signed in 1961 and entered into force 1962
- * The permanent Dutch-German commission for the small border waters

2. Further related information

3. Key Areas of International Cooperation

3a. International River Basin Management Plan

1. WFD international River Basin Management Plan developed (Y/N)

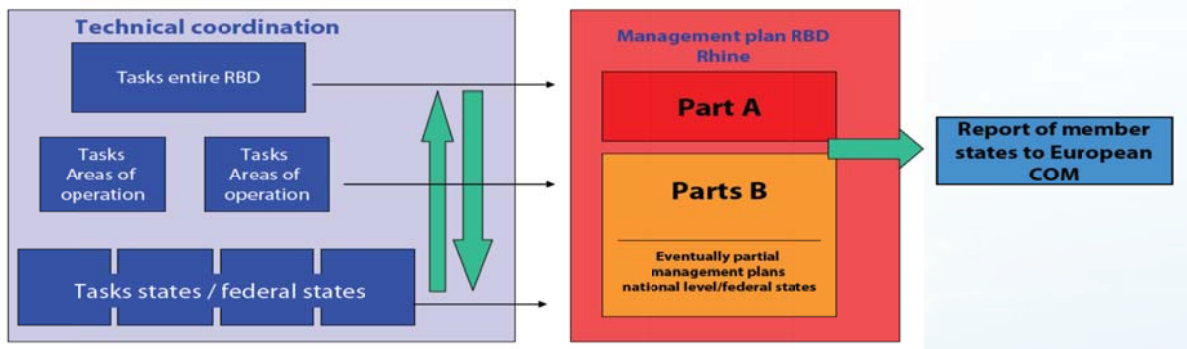
Yes, the ICPR developed an international RBMP according to the EU WFD.

2. RBMP download link

www.iksr.org/index.php?id=240&L=3

3. The international 'Roof Level' is formally defined /delineated in relation to the national RBMP level as follows (i.e. catchment area size, other thresholds, etc.):

For nearly all of the nine mostly international operation areas mentioned above the states/regions concerned have also established RBMP or coordinated chapter texts. For the preparation of the WFD art 5 analysis, the monitoring programme and the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP), the whole of the international river basin district Rhine (see map in paragraph 1) has been divided in 9 areas of operation. Some of these areas of operation cover an international part of the Rhine district (may or may not be the area of an international sub river basin commission as e.g. for the Mosellele-Saar), some cover a national part only. For the international coordination of the implementation of the WFD a so called roof report approach was followed focussing on water management issues relevant for the whole of the Rhine district and targeted to the main stream of the river Rhine including the important tributaries with catchment areas > 2500 km². The inter-relation among the roof report, the multinational and national working areas / B-reports is clearly described in both the WFD art 5 analysis and RBMP roof reports for the whole of the Rhine district (see figure below for a schematic overview)



The overriding part (roof report) of the RBMP for the Rhine River Basin District (Part A) was drafted jointly by the representatives of all states concerned within the ICPR and the Coordination Committee and the secretariat of the ICPR.

4. The B-reports are reports for the nine – mostly international – areas of operation (<http://www.iksr.org/index.php?id=298&L=3>):

1. Alpenrhein (Austria, Liechtenstein, Germany, Switzerland)
 2. High Rhine (pdf High Rhine – German version: DE-BW and Switzerland)
 3. Upper Rhine (pdf Upper Rhine – German and french version: DE-BW and France)
 4. Neckar (pdf Neckar – German version: DE-BW)
 5. Main (pdf Main- German version: DE-BY, DE-TH, DE-HE)
 6. Middle Rhine (pdf – German version: DE-HE, DE-RP)
 7. Moselle-/Saar (pdf – German and french version: France, DE-SA, DE-RP, Luxemburg, BE-Wallonie)
 8. Niederrhein (pdf – German version: DE-NRW)
 9. Delta-Rhine (pdf – German and Dutch version: NL, DE-NRW and DE-NI)
- (List for each cooperating country that developed B-reports))

The B-reports are outlined below:

(List for each cooperating country that developed B-reports))

Austria: Austria only has one National Plan that covers all RBs including the national part of the RBD Rhine, which was published in 2010:

The Austrian National Plan mentions that the Rhine is an international basin and lists the Rhine Commission and administrative bodies in charge with coordination. Information is mentioned in the specific chapter on international coordination and in the additional background document on international and bilateral coordination, <http://wisa.lebensministerium.at/article/archive/29404>.

Germany:

The 8 German federal states have established 8 federal RBMP. Due to the nine ICPR areas of operation (see above) there is not one German RBMP for the German part of the international Rhine Basin, because that would have caused an additional coordination level. Technical issues are coordinated in the national River Basin Community (FGG Rhein).

North Rhine-Westphalia has one plan that covers all the RBs in its boundaries, including the Rhine – published March 2010

The NRW plan (Chapter 1) explains the relation between the NRW Plan and the international RBMP. The International Plan focuses above all on management aspects which have to be coordinated necessarily on an international scale (e. g. classical pollution (by nutrients) and morphology of waters for migrating fish). Moreover it mentions that the international plan focuses on classical pollution (e.g. through nutrients) and morphology of waters for migrating fish. The chapter on monitoring mentions there are NRW international monitoring points located in the main water net (Hauptgewässernetz); their location is decided in coordination with the other countries. Chapter 6 on current status mentions that the Rhine countries decided which substances to prioritize. Chapter 11 on economic analysis on water use provides general information for the whole of the Rhine, not just Germany.

Baden-Wuerttemberg Alpine Rhine – Lake Constance, High Rhine, Upper Rhine, Neckar and Main plans – published November 2009

The plans describe inter alia the international and bilateral coordination that took place. Reference is made to the ongoing intercalibration of national methodologies for designating good status at the international level (Comment Germany: If there is no link to a document, the reference to a page makes no sense.). Chapter 5 describes the supra-national environmental goals. Objectives at individual WB are based on international coordination and internationally set objectives. Chapter 7.13 mentions that there is an International Warning and Alarm Plan, details of which can be found in the international plan. Measures were developed within the Rhine Commission as well as other action programmes (chapter8).

Saarland Rhine Plan – December 2009

Chapter 7 on measures to address priority substances makes a reference to the Moselle and Saar Commissions – regular meetings to discuss the issue. Reference is made to the International Warn and Alarm Plan of the Moselle-Saar Commissions. No reference is made to an international plan.

Thuringia Rhine Plan – published November 2009

Reference is made to the umbrella international plan Part A with respect to the Article 5 report, the Article 8 report on Monitoring. Coordination under the Rhine Commission is described. Part A covers supra-national management aspects like SWMIs and environmental objectives, which serve as the basis for national PoMs. Part B should provide detailed information on national SWMIs as well as other issues. Chapter 5.5 mentions that environmental objectives for individual WBs are based on the internationally agreed upon environmental objectives found in Part A. The International Warn and Alarm Plan for the Rhine is described as well.

Rhineland-Palatinate Rhine RBMP – published March 2010

Chapter 2.3 describes the international coordination of the Rhine. The international plan is mentioned and includes the internationally coordinated SWMIS, the Monitoring programs, Environmental Objectives, the PoMs, and public participation. Reference is made to the International Warn and Alarm Plan.

Hessian Rhine Plan - published 2009

Reference is made to an international plan and national/regional ones. The international plan was developed under the Rhine Commission. The Plan mentions that priority substances were agreed by the Rhine Commission as well as norms for environmental quality elements. The International Warn and Alarm Plan is also referenced.

Bavaria Rhine RBMPs – published December 2009

The Plan describes the portioning between Part A, international, and Part B/C. Part A focuses on supra-national management issues, which is coordinated by the Rhine Commission. International coordination is described, which focused on results of monitoring, environmental objectives, PoMs and public participation. The Plan mentions that the international plan refers to the national or regional plans. It says that therefore the

France:	<p>international plans do not provide conflicting information. The Plan mentions that coordination (Comment Germany: Intercalibration is a WFD term with a fixed meaning. In the international river basin commissions no intercalibration of ecological status in the sense of the WFD took place, coordination and – as far as possible – comparison of national methodologies, yes.) took place within the international Working Groups. The international monitoring system is described in chapter 4. Chapter 7 mentions that the development of the PoMs was coordinated under the Rhine Commission. Annex 1 details the international coordination of the Alpine Rhine/Lake Constance in a separate document that was published October 2009.</p> <p>The French RBMP for the Rhine – published November 2009</p> <p>Reference is made to international coordination under the Rhine Commission. The plan mentions a Part A, the so-called umbrella international plan that covers the main Rhine river and its major tributaries, and Part B, which correspond to the 9 sub-districts of which two are located partly on French territory. The French “blueprint” is intended to supply information for Part A and B and conversely the international obligations should be reflected in the blueprint. Chapter 4 explains that SWMIs were identified through national and international coordination. Additionally, the issue of migrating fish and the implementation of fish ladders were integrated into the PoMs, which was subject to consultation at the international level.</p>
Belgium Wallonia	<p>The Wallonia Regional RBMP is not yet available</p> <p>Public consultation on dRBMPs from 11 June 2012 till 18 January 2013 (French version on http://spw.wallonie.be/dce/spip.php?article5 and German version on http://spw.wallonie.be/dce/spip.php?article16)</p>
Netherlands	<p>Dutch National RBMP for the Rhine Delta was published in December 2009</p> <p>The Dutch National Plan mentions coordination in analysing the problems in the basin and developing measures to solve the problems. Reference is made to the overarching international RBMP, a summary of which is included in Annex A. The Plan mentions the establishment of the International Rhine Commission and its focus on the overarching international issues in the RBD. Supra-national SWMIs were established and coordination was undertaken for the designation of HMWBs and AWBs and for the application of exemptions. Chapter 3.7 focuses on the international harmonization of environmental objectives. Reference is made to intercalibration with respect to biological parameters. Chapter 4.5 focuses on the coordination of monitoring programmes. The Commission has created one overarching monitoring programme for surface and groundwater. Data was used to create maps regarding pesticides, nitrates and water quantity for the whole basin. For groundwater, the Rhine Commission made an inventory and comparison of monitoring networks and thresholds, but this had not led to the adaptation of monitoring networks. Chapter 6.3.13 mentions that improvements to the marine environment regarding environmentally hazardous substances can only be achieved through cooperation at international catchment level. Annex A summarizes the international plan and briefly describes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the work programme leading up the international RBMP • Mentions the 2007 joint report on monitoring • Lists the joint SWMIs • Describes the main environmental objectives and exemptions • Lists the pollutants relevant for the whole Basin • Additional measures to reduce discharges of priority substances
Luxembourg	<p>Luxembourg developed one national RBMP that covers all the river basins in its boundaries, including the Rhine – published December 2009</p> <p>The Chapter on Climate Adaptation Strategy (6.2) mentions international coordination with respect to flood risk management. Also, within the context of an Interreg project, an international advisory center for flooding was established in the International Moselle and Saar Commission. Additionally, the Rhine Commission is carrying out a study on climate change trends and their impact on the water regime of the Rhine river and its main tributaries. The Chapter on measures for public participation mentions (9) that a plenary session was held to coordinate work between the national level working</p>

groups/stakeholders (developing the catalogue of measures) and the International Rhine Commission.

Italy It appears there is no Italian national RBMP for the Rhine

5. The B reports with a multinational nature (Y/N).

If 'yes' (=country specific information is provided), list if the information is consistent with the national RBMP.

Country specific information in so called B-reports (Y/N plus short description of cross reference) P

The **International Rhine RBMP** provides (whole basin, established by the ICPR) specific national information for Germany, France, the Netherlands, Austria and Luxembourg regarding the designation of good ecological status and ecological potential.

The International Rhine Plan provides specific national information for Austria, Switzerland, Germany, France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Netherlands regarding

- emissions from agriculture, sewage plants and industry
- Measures in the PoMs
- Maps showing the whole Rhine with country boundaries:
 - Typology of waters
 - Nature protection areas
 - Monitoring network
 - BQEs
 - Chemical status of surface waters
 - Quantitative status of groundwaters
 - Chemical status of groundwaters

Concerning the nine operation areas there are plans for most of them, e.g.:

The **International Delta Rhine Plan** covers the Netherlands and Germany. The Plan provides specific national information on:

- Monitoring system
- Ecological Status
- Pressures
- Point and diffuse pollution sources
- Development of the PoMs
- Supplemental Measures
- PoMs
- Public Participation

The **International Mosellele-Saar** Plan provides specific national information for France, Germany and Luxembourg regarding

- water abstraction
- number of dams
- environmental and resource costs.

For France, Germany, Luxembourg and Belgium:

- the methodology for cost recovery
- public participation measures
- Chemical Status
- Ecological Status
- Achieving good status by 2015 of surface waters and groundwaters

Measures to reduce nutrient and pesticide pollution in ground and surface waters. **The information provided in the international RBMP is consistent with the national RBMP**

(Y/N plus short description if needed) -) – list for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP

Austria: N/A

Belgium: N/A

Germany: Yes

France N/A

Italy: N/A

Netherlands Yes, the information in the B-report and the relevant part of the roof-report is consistent.

This is due to the fact that an iterative approach has been followed between the preparation of both the roof report and the respective B-report.

Luxembourg: Yes.

3b. Coordinated/Joint Activities

Information requested: Topics where joint development occurred, for example: SWMIs, monitoring, PoMs, objectives, public consultations, etc; Description of the process of joint cooperation for each activity.

1. Key international cooperation activities – general description

See item 2c, bullet (iii) Key cooperation tasks.

2. Description of detailed coordinated/joint, basin-wide activities

2.1 WFD SWMIs (Y/N). If yes, describe:

Yes.

Significant Water Management Issues (SWMI) are entitled major water management issues in the international RBMP for the Rhine. The major water management issues for the entire RBD are the recurrent theme of Part A of the management plan. The management issues have been defined in the RBMP according to Article 5 WFD from 18 March 2005 drafted for the IRBD Rhine.

The four major water management issues are:

- . Restoration of biological river continuity, increased habitat diversity;
- . Reduction of diffuse inputs interfering with surface water and of groundwater (nutrients, pesticides, metals, dangerous substances from historical contamination and others);
- . Further reduction of classical pollution of industrial and municipal origins;
- . Harmonisation of water uses (navigation, energy production, flood protection, regional land and use planning and others) with environmental objectives;

2.2 Coordinated/joint visions and objectives in place (Y/N)?

Yes. A master plan migrating fish has been established with regard to the first management issue on river continuity and habitats. With regard to nutrients a joint analysis has been conducted in compiling the information from national models. 17 % reduction is mentioned in the plan. The Rhine RBMP includes information and an analysis on human activities and stresses regarding each major water management issue. Other joint visions and objectives have not been developed or defined in detail for other major water management issues. However, expected improvement of ecological and chemical water status by 2015 is part of the international RBMP.

2.3 Coordinated/transboundary monitoring (Y/N)

Yes.

A joint monitoring programme is in place since the beginning of the 1960s and has been adapted to the requirement of the EU WFD (2008). The monitoring programmes contribute to gain a coherent and comprehensive survey of the state of waters in the Rhine RBD. The programmes are applicable since end 2006.

Details are provided in the international Rhine RBMP and the [Report on the Coordination of Surveillance Monitoring Programmes in the Rhine River Basin District \(part A\)](#).

2.4 Coordinated/shared databases and/or GIS

Yes.

In former times a database of the Federal Hydrology Institute (Bundesanstalt für Gewässerkunde (BfG)) has been operative for the IKS. In a follow-up the German *Wasserblick* (also managed by the BfG) has been used to collect international data to support the implementation of the EU WFD for the RBD Rhine. Respective maps are elaborated using these datasets. Data are exchanged accordingly among the cooperating countries.

2.5 Coordinated/Joint Programme of Measures (Y/N)

No, not one international joint programme.

Chapter 7.1 of the international RBMP – according to Annex VII WFD - summarises the Programme of Measures of the EU states respectively the federal states/regions in order to solve major management problems in the IRBD Rhine within the time period 2010-2015. The summary refers to each of the four major water management issues and is internationally agreed by the cooperating countries.

A cross reference is made that most EU MS or federal states/regions include non-binding outlook on measures being aimed at to progressively achieve the required EU WFD environmental objectives. This would also affect the international level and improvements on the Rhine basin-wide scale.

It needs to be outlined, that the international RBMP of the Rhine lists programmes that have been established within the international Rhine cooperation to support the PoM implementation: Rhine 2020, Programme for

Lake Constance Lake Trout, Habitat Connectivity.

Further, links to the relevant national RBMP are included in the management plan.

2.6 Coordinated/joint (financial) resources to support international cooperation (Y/N).

Yes.

2.6.a Basic concept of joint financial resources

The ICPR has joint financial resources that mainly support the ICPR Secretariat (staff and operation). Projects are partly funded by extra budgetary contributions received from the contracting parties. The Contracting Parties contribute based on an agreed share to the ICPR.

2.6.b Amount of joint financial resources

1,2 million Euro at the moment.

2.6.c List of supported joint resources

Secretariat and its operation.

When applicable, joint project in the Rhine RBD are financed via other resources (e.g. Rhine Atlas).

2.6.d Country participation in joint meetings is supported (Y/N)

No.

2.7 Coordinated/joint communication strategy and public participation activities (Y/N)

In the Rhine River Basin, the public is informed at national and international level. Hearings have been organised by the member states respectively the federal states/regions. Details are part of each national RBMP.

At the international Rhine level, information is disseminated via the ICPR website. Information on the Rhine RBD, the WFD and links to the national hearings is provided as well as all relevant reports can be downloaded. Comments have been provided on the international RBMP by several observers/stakeholders. Aspects that were addressed by NGOs on the RBMP have been explained in more detail or worded in more precise terms in the RBMP where required.

At the international Rhine level relevant observers are represented in working groups and the plenary assembly/coordination committee. They can fully participate in discussion and present their issues.

The NGOs expressed that they do agree with the consultation approach that was applied for the development of the Rhine RBM Plan and that this procedure should be applied during the 2nd WFD cycle as well. The same approach should be applied for the international implementation of the EU Flood Directive.

2.8 Coordinated/joint approach to consider future water demand (WFD Annex III)

No.

2.9 Coordinated/joint approach on setting exemptions

Yes, see text in RBMP roof report

3c. Coordinated/Joint Methodologies

Information requested: Areas in which joint methodologies were developed in relation to the issues listed under 3b. In addition, other joint methodologies should be added e.g. to designate HMWBs, to define good ecological status/potential, cost effectiveness of measures and or any other issues. Include brief description of the process of cooperation for each methodology

1. The following joint basin-wide methodologies have been developed:

In general, EU states respectively the federal states/regions that cooperate within the ICPR framework have developed national methods to achieve the EU WFD objectives.

No joint basin-wide methodologies are currently applied within the Rhine RBD. However, results (e.g. regarding monitoring) are harmonised in a coordinated way and presented accordingly.

2. The joint methodologies are formally adopted or agreed between the countries (Y/N).

No joint methodologies are formally adopted or agreed.

However, for monitoring a joint network/programme according to EU WFD requirements has been developed and is operative. Sampling and assessment is based on national methods. Results are examined to be coherent for the basin-wide level.

3. The joint methodologies are continuously/practically applied in the frame of international cooperation leading to harmonised results (Y/N)

No and see above.

4. The following challenges currently hinder the continuous/practical application of joint methodologies:

- An obvious reason that has been reported is that EU states respectively the federal states/regions that cooperate under the framework of the ICPR have developed their individual national methods. The development of one basin-wide methodologies for various issues (e.g. water status assessment do not seem feasible at the moment). As mentioned above, the harmonisation of results as well as assessments is performed in principle).
- Joint methodologies are difficult to be agreed upon due to national legal facts related to methods and implementation of water management, also in the past before the WFD, and with regard to implementation of the related national PoM.
- The identification of transboundary groundwater bodies and the implementation of respective measures on the basin-wide level have been identified as a challenge.

5. Future development of joint methodologies is planned for the future (Y/N)

If already known, list which ones.

Need for improvement is realised. However, no specific steps have been taken so far. An expert group on analytical quality control has been established.

Concerning the inventory of emissions of nutrients and specific chemicals (results are included in our roof reports) will be updated taking into account the approach described in CIS guidance 28 on emission inventories,

4. International Coordination Successes and Challenges

4a. Changes related WFD enforcement

Information requested: Description of changes of international cooperation since WFD enforcement

1. Indicate if the enforcement of the EU WFD changed and improved joint cooperation (Y/N)

Both: Yes and No:

Yes:

- It was stated, that the legally binding character of the EU WFD helped the improvement of the implementation of water management issues on the basin-wide level and strongly improved/intensified international cooperation per se. In fact, it was stated that more cooperation areas are now covered under the Rhine basin cooperation.
- The EU WFD significantly supported the improvement of a common understanding on environmental objectives, their joint achievement on the international level and respective technical terminology as well as trust building.
- The EU WFD helps to improve cooperation with countries that are not contracting parties to the Rhine Protection Convention as same objectives are being aimed for.

No:

- Implementation and coordination issues currently focus a lot on the EU WFD and EU Flood Directive. Other water management issues need to be tackled more again in the future to ensure a good balance between political ambition in the whole basin and the achievement of EU legal requirement. (Comment Germany: This view is not completely shared. The ICPR has discussed sediment management, is discussing micropollutants and climate change and also river continuity and habitat issues beyond the WFD. Therefore it is not true that the work is only on EU Directives. It is true that before the EU water directives work of the ICPR had been much more politically driven, also important for the non EU ICPR members. But times have of course changed and that has to be taken into account.)

2. Cooperation areas where changes/improvement occurred through WFD

- Common understanding of the objectives to be achieved on the basin-wide level regarding WFD implementation
- Development of an international RBMP
- Definition of major water management issues and common approaches with regard to some of them
- Maps that illustrate the outcomes regarding the WFD requirements
- Overview on the water status in the Rhine River Basin (surface waters and groundwater)
- Improved joint monitoring network that also includes the biological quality elements
- Summary of PoMs towards harmonisation
- Improved on common understanding and harmonisation of results

3. When did changes occur?

Before the WFD came into force, international cooperation already took place in the Rhine Basin for 50 years providing a solid coordination basis. However, the EU WFD further improved international cooperation as soon as it came into force. Improvement was demonstrated with the publication of the international Rhine EU WFD Article 5 Report (2004) and the international Rhine RBMP (2009). In summary:

- 2004: Rhine Article 5 Report
- 2006: Revised basin-wide monitoring network
- 2009: international Rhine RBMP

4b. Key Successes of coordination

Information requested: Description of cooperation successes, positive feedback loops, etc.

- Due to the good co-operation of all states and to the implementation of the Rhine Action Programme, water quality and the biological state of the Rhine and of many of its tributaries have distinctly improved.
- The implementation of the EU WFD further contributes to this improvement.
- Today, 96 % of the population are connected to a wastewater treatment plant. Many big industrial plants have their own wastewater treatment plant.
- The number of animal and plant species has increased. At present, 63 fish species live in the Rhine. In particular, and since 2006, salmon, sea trout and eel as well as other migratory fish may migrate from the North Sea as far upstream as Strasbourg.
- Floodplains have been reactivated. Oxbow lakes have been reconnected with the Rhine and tributaries, in many smaller sections, the river bank structures have been ecologically improved.
- Considerable efforts have been undertaken to reduce negative impacts of flood events. Among others, additional flood retention areas have been created. Since 1995, almost all flood prevention measures are planned to be achieved by 2005 have been implemented at costs of some 4.5 billion Euro.

4c. Key Obstacles and Challenges to International Coordination/Cooperation

Information requested: Areas where cooperation was not successful; Areas for improvement

1. Principle key obstacles to international coordination/cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describe.

No principle obstacles do exist at the moment.

However, financial background for implementation of measures on the basin-wide level is of concern (e.g. to fully restore river continuity for fish migration). This issue is not seen as a threat to cooperation in the Rhine Basin.

2. Current key challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(a) the past/current WFD planning cycle

- The coordination of different levels and speed in WFD implementation was considered as a challenge to ensure adequate interrelation between the national and international level/RBMPs.
- Parallel development of national and international RBMPs was considered as a challenge regarding adequate integration of international issues into the national RBMPs and vice versa. Respective improvement is needed for the 2nd WFD implementation cycle to ensure effective international coordination and interlinked integration of issues in the national as well as international RBMP

(b) any other areas regarding water resources management

- Climate Change Adaptation
- Establishment of stronger focus on the Rhine wetlands, their restoration and implementation of flood protection measures.

3. Respective areas of improvement and indication if this is planned

- Improvement of Rhine RBMP information by 2015
- Better alignment and improved coordination between the national and international RBMPs
- Effective implementation and harmonisation of PoMs on the international level as well as ensured funding.

4. Expected challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(a) next WFD planning cycle

- Organisational challenge for WFD implementation on the international Rhine level will be similar in comparison to the 1st WFD implementation cycle. However, the lessons learnt will be applied.
- Challenge of implementing identified measures and to achieve the EU WFD objectives.
- Challenge regarding the rather new water management topic on Micropollutants. A respective strategy

will be developed for the Rhine Basin.

- Also nanoparticles and microplastics as a new challenge might be considered. Any other areas regarding water resources management
- Implementation of the EU Flood Directive based on the previous Rhine Flood Action Plan
- Challenge of climate change adaptation although the theme is advancing well in the Rhine River Basin.

5. Future in international cooperation - Next steps/View towards 2nd WFD planning cycle

5a. Areas of future cooperation

Information requested: Where work has already started for the next planning cycle; New Areas of international cooperation; Whether an international plan is foreseen

1. Outline if an international RBMP according to the EU WFD is foreseen.

If yes, by when (2015, 2021, 2027)

Yes, international Rhine RBMPs are foreseen for 2015, 2021 and 2027.

2. First milestones that will be jointly aimed regarding the future EU WFD implementation

Relevant activities towards the Rhine RBMP 2015 have already started. Milestones are:

Beginning 2013: Publication for the public on implemented measures in the RBD (combination of the Rhine 2020 Programme and the WFD requirements)

End 2013: Updated Rhine Analysis Report

2014: Draft Rhine RBMP

2015: Second Rhine RBMP

3. If no international RBMP will be developed, briefly describe why this is the case.

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4. Further future areas of international cooperation/coordination:

- Climate Change Adaptation
- Flood protection and management
- Drought and water shortage
- Micropollutants

6. Additional Comments

7. Interviewed country and RBO representatives as well as other experts

Mr. Ben van de Wetering – General Director of the ICPR

Ms Anne Schulte Wülwer Leidig – Assistant Manager of the ICPR

Ms Heide Jekel – Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

8. Sources and References

- Rhine River Basin Management Plan 2009, ICPR
- National RBMPs according to the EU WFD of the contracting parties to the ICPR
- Second Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters, UNECE (2011)
- www.icpr.org
- http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/participation/map_mc/map.htm
- http://files.inweb.gr/workshops/sub_basins/
- www.internationalwaterlaw.org/documents/intldocs/
- www.transboundarywaters.orst.edu/research/RBO/RBO_Euro.html
- www.riob.org/

Coordination Mechanisms of the International Ems River Basin

1. Basic information on international river basins/sub-river basin - Ems

EU Member States sharing the basin: DE, NL

Third countries sharing the basin: --

River Basin Districts concerned: Ems

Key Sub-Basins in international river basin:



Size of the total catchment area and national shares for each international river/sub-river basin (km², %), indicating division by country and the respective RBD:

Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	River Basin District (WFD Article 3.1)	Total Area of Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	EU Member States/Non EU Member States in International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin
		(km ²)		(km ²)	(%)
Ems	Ems	17.802 ¹	DE	15,008	84
			NL	2,312	13
			DE/NL (Ems-Dollart) ²	482	3

¹ Coastline + 1 sea mile

² The area of the Ems-Dollart Estuary is considered important regarding transboundary cooperation for both Germany as well as for the Netherlands, because the border between DE and NL is not clearly defined.

2. Cooperation Framework

2a. International agreement or convention

Information requested: Title, date of agreement, countries not covered under agreement, brief description

1. Title:

The agreement for international cooperation is not based on a specifically named agreement but is anchored in a Ministerial correspondence of both countries.

2. Countries under Agreement: NL and DE

3. Countries part of basin but not covered by agreement: ---

4. Date and place of signing:

2002 (EU WFD) and 2009 (EU Flood Directive)

No place of signing as part of Ministerial correspondence.

5. Entry into force: 2002 and 2009

6. Key objectives and content of agreement/convention:

The Ministers responsible for protection of the waters in the Ems basin in Germany and the Netherlands have decided to draw up a common international RBMP for the Ems RBD. With that in mind, a work structure was implemented by ministerial correspondence, supported by the Ems Secretariat. The international cooperation between the Netherlands and Germany then takes place within special international fora.

7. Role of WFD implementation in the international basin:

The implementation of the WFD takes a key role in the international Ems River Basin District.

2b. Coordinating/Governing Body/River Basin Organisation

Information requested: Name(s) of Secretariat/Commission/RBO, location, working languages, website

1. Name(s):

Ems Secretariat

2. Operative since:

13.10.2002

3. Location and address:

Haselünner Str. 78, 49716 Meppen, Germany

Tel.+49 5931 406

4. Working Languages:

German, Dutch

5. Website:

www.ems-eems.de and www.ems-eems.nl

2c. Coordination structure

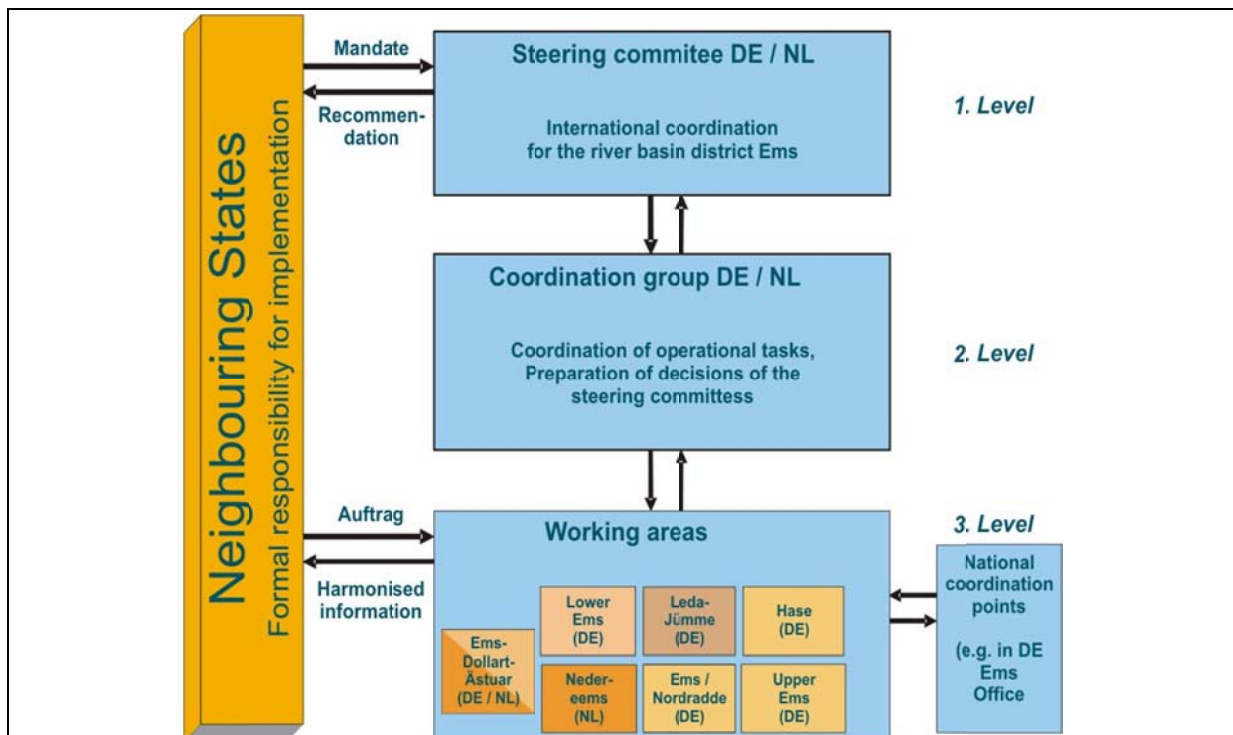
Information requested: Description of (i) organisational structure (ii) cooperation tasks (iii) expert groups (iv) regular meetings (v) number of staff (vi) webpage (vii) other issues

1. Organisational structure**(i) Verbal description**

The international cooperation between the Netherlands and Germany takes place within special international fora. At the first level, the 'International Steering Group Ems' (ISE) is responsible for overall harmonisation and general progress of work. In this forum, the fundamental decisions on collaboration by representatives of the responsible Ministries are taken.

At the second level, experts from the Netherlands, from North Rhine-Westphalia and Lower Saxony work within the 'International Coordination Group Ems' (ICE). This forum implements the underlying decisions of the ISE, and arrives at specific agreements on joint implementation of the required operational tasks. Working groups are in place according to thematic demand and tackle various themes of the EU WFD and technically support the International Coordination Group Ems.

(ii) Organisational diagram



(iii) Key cooperation tasks

Overall harmonisation and general progress in the implementation of the EU WFD and EU Flood Directive. Specific agreements on joint implementation of the required operational tasks from WFD and FD. Work on various themes of WFD and FD.

(iv) Expert groups

Experts from the Netherlands, from North Rhine-Westphalia and Lower Saxony work within the 'International Coordination Group Ems' (ICE).

Working groups tackle the various themes of the EU WFD to support the ICE. The ICE as required calls the working groups into life. The working groups do not have a permanent character. Currently also a working group on fish migration is operational.

(v) Regular Meetings

- International Steering Group Ems' (ISE): One meeting per year.
- International Coordination Group Ems (ICE) meets approximately 2-3 times per year
- The working groups meet on a variable basis and several times per year.

(vi) Observers

There is no formal mechanism in place for observerships. However, observers do participate in meetings as demanded.

(vii) Number of staff

The current number of permanent staff of the Ems Secretariat is 2.

(viii) Webpage

www.ems-eems.de and www.ems-eems.nl

(ix) Other issues

The Ems itself and its tributaries are neither crossing nor forming borders between NL and DE. However, the countries share one joint water body in the Ems-Dollart Estuary, into which rivers from both countries discharge making the Ems an international river basin. Due to this fact, international cooperation and agreement is seen essential.

For the Ems-Dollart area, that includes both German and Dutch territories, and in which the actual course of the border is disputed, Germany and the Netherlands have agreed to also harmonise the tasks of the EU WFD in this area with the responsible Permanent German-Dutch Boundary Water Commission, Subcommittee "G". The actual processing is undertaken in the Ems-Dollart area through the working group 'Water Quality' of the Subcommittee. Many members of the German and Dutch delegation of subcommittee "G" are also represented in the ICE.

2d. Other cooperation agreements if relevant

Information requested: Description of other national bilateral/multilateral agreements for transboundary coordination including country members

1. The following bilateral/multilateral agreements are in place besides the overall international agreement (list for each cooperating country):

The following agreements are in place:

- Administrative arrangement between North Rhine-Westphalia and Lower Saxony according to article 3 WFD
- Ems Dollart Treaty 1960 between DE – NL; supplementary agreement 1962, dealing with natural resources; 1996 Ems-Dollart-Environmental Protocol
 - *The Environmental Protocol to the Ems-Dollart Treaty regulates the cooperation on water and nature protection issues in the Ems Estuary. Signed 1996 and entered into force in 1998*
- The Permanent Dutch-German Boundary Waters Commission (Permanente Nederlands-Duitse Grenswaterencommissie) was founded on the basis of the 1960 Border Treaty between the Netherlands and Germany.
 - This commission meets once a year. The issues addressed by this commission relate to *integrated* water management of the 97 small cross-border watercourses in the Ems, Rhine and Meuse river basins. Important points of discussion include the details of the European Water Framework Directive, ecological recovery, flood risk management and muskrat control (Information from the Dutch Ministry of Transport's website). Commission has several regional working groups.
- The Trilateral Wadden Consultation between Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands is also relevant for the implementation of the WFD focuses on the protection of the Wadden Sea.
 - The fundamental principle of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Policy, as worded in the declaration of Esbjerg in 1991, is 'the realization, as far as possible, of a natural and sustainable ecosystem, in which natural processes can take place in an undisrupted manner'. The principle concerns the protection of the tidal region, salt marshes, beaches and dunes.
 - The first Trilateral Governmental Conferences between Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands concerning the protection of the Wadden Sea was held in The Hague in 1978. This conference signified the official start of cooperation, upon which the formal foundation is the Joint Declaration for the Protection of the Wadden Sea. This declaration was signed during the Third Wadden Sea Conference in Copenhagen in 1982. The ministers for nature and environmental issues get together once every three years. The purpose of these conferences is to gear each country's Wadden policy to the others.
 - According to the Joint Declaration, the Wadden Sea countries declare their intention to coordinate their activities and measures to implement a number of international legal instruments in the field of natural environmental protection, amongst others the Ramsar Convention and the EC Bird Directive, for a comprehensive protection of the Wadden Sea region as a whole, including its flora and fauna. The EC Habitat Directive was added in 1992.
 - In 1987, a Joint Wadden Sea Secretariat (CWSS) was established, with its primary task to support, initiate, facilitate and coordinate the activities of the collaboration.
 - The permanent Dutch-German commission for the border waters (Ems Commission) drew up a joint plan of action, in agreement with the Trilateral Wadden Sea Plan, for management of the waters and nature in this area.
 - <http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org>
 - (Information from <http://www.ecomare.nl/en/ecomare-encyclopedie/rules/international-wadden-sea-policy/trilateral-cooperation/>)

2. Further related information: --

3. Key Areas of International Cooperation

3a. International River Basin Management Plan

1. WFD international River Basin Management Plan developed (Y/N)

Yes, an international EMS RBMP according to the EU WFD has been developed.

2. RBMP download link

Overview: www.ems-eems.de/dokumente-arbeitsergebnisse/

3. ,The international ‘Roof Level’ is formally defined /delineated in relation to the national RBMP level as follows (i.e. catchment area size, other thresholds, etc.):

- The Roof Level of the Ems RBMP considers each water body that is addressed on the national B Level.
- However, international agreement is not met on water body level, but regional issues are identified for international importance and dealt with.
- The Ems itself and its tributaries are not crossing or forming any country borders except one artificial canal (Haren Rütenbrock Kanal). However, the countries share one important joint water body: the Ems-Dollart Estuary into which rivers from both cooperating countries are discharging. The border delineation in the Ems-Dollart Estuary is unclear (also see above). The shared Ems-Dollart Estuary makes the Ems an international RBD in which international cooperation is undertaken and seen essential.

4. The national RBMP refers to the international RBMP as outlined below:

Germany: NRW (North Rhine-Westphalia) has one Plan that covers all the RBs in its boundaries, including the Ems – published March 2010

The NRW plan mentions that its national Plan is expanded by the international Ems RBMP. The International Plan describes the environmental objectives for the whole basin as well as the contribution by NRW. The NRW RBMP mentions that international plan focuses on classical pollution (e.g. through nutrients), morphology of waters and fish migration. The chapter on monitoring mentions there are international monitoring points located in the main water net; their location is decided in coordination with the other countries. Chapter 6 on current Status mentions that the Ems countries through the Commission decided which substances to prioritize. Chapter 11 on economic analysis on water use provides general information for the whole of the Ems, not just Germany.

Lower Saxony’s contribution to the RBMP – published December 2009

The plan states that there are two levels of management: international (Part A) and national/regional from Lower Saxony, North-Rhine Westphalia and the Netherlands. Part A focuses on the status of water, environmental objectives of surface and groundwaters, exemptions, transboundary nature protection areas and the programme of measures. The plan mentions that the contribution of Lower Saxony to the Ems was integrated into the international plan. The LS plan indicates that the maps for the eco-regions and the typology for surface waters, as well as for all groundwaters, nature protection areas and monitoring systems, are found in the international plan. Reference is made to refer to the international plan for more information regarding the SWMIs and human pressures on water. Chapter 5.2 outlines the SWMIs and the international goals.

Netherlands: The Dutch National RBMP for the Ems was published in December 2009

The Dutch National Plan mentions coordination in analyzing the problems in the basin and developing measures to solve the problems. Reference is made to the overarching international RBMP, a summary of which is included in Annex A. The Plan mentions the establishment of the International Ems Secretariat and its focus on the overarching international issues in the RBD. Chapter 3.7 focuses on the international harmonization of environmental objectives. Reference is made to intercalibration with respect to biological parameters. Chapter 4.5 focuses on the coordination of monitoring programmes. The Commission has created one overarching monitoring programme for surface and groundwater. Data was used to create maps regarding pesticides, nitrates and water quantity for the whole basin. For groundwater, an inventory and comparison of monitoring networks and thresholds, but this had not yet led to the adaptation of monitoring networks. Chapter 6.3.13 mentions that improvements to the marine environment regarding environmentally hazardous substances can only be achieved through cooperation at international catchment level. Annex A summarizes the international plan and briefly describes:

- The work programme leading up the international RBMP
- Mentions the 2007 joint report on monitoring
- Lists the joint SWMIs
- Describes the main environmental objectives and exemptions
- Lists the pollutants relevant for the whole Basin

- Mentions at because of the scientific uncertainties that exist about the relationship between nutrients and ecological quality elements, no additional measures are proposed on top of existing programmes. Measures are taken at international level for hydromorphology and fish passages.

5. The international RBMP includes country specific information (Y/N).

If 'yes' (=country specific information is provided), list if the information is consistent with the national RBMP.

Yes, the international plan provides specific information for Germany and the Netherlands for the following topics:

- Typology of waters
- Reference conditions
- HMWBs and AWBs
- Pressures
- Nature Protection Areas
- Monitoring system and results
- Economic analysis including cost recovery and cost benefit analysis of measures
- Programme of Measures including
 - Water Pricing
 - Abstraction
 - Groundwater pollution
 - Direct Discharge into groundwaters
 - Drinking water
 - Priority substances
 - Coastal zones
 - Supplementary measures
 - Measures for WBs not expected to reach good status

The information provided in the international RBMP is consistent with the national RBMP

(Y/N plus short description if needed) -) – list for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP

Germany: Yes

Netherlands: Yes

3b. Coordinated/Joint Activities

Information requested: Topics where joint development occurred, for example: SWMIs, monitoring, PoMs, objectives, public consultations, etc.; Description of the process of joint cooperation for each activity.

1. Key international cooperation activities – general description

Key cooperation areas focus on

- EU WFD implementation
- Study on river continuity and fish migration
- Nutrient management (MONERIS application)
- Intercalibration (Comment Germany: Is WFD intercalibration or comparability of methods meant?) of methods in the Ems-Dollart area is considered as essential cooperation activity
- Harmonisation on various water management issues on the coastal area
- Designation of HMWBs and AWBs (one joint method was applied)
- Implementation of the Flood Directive
- Climate Change Adaptation

2. Description of detailed coordinated/joint, basin-wide activities

2.1 WFD SWMIs (Y/N). If yes, describe:

Yes.

The following SWMIs have been identified:

- Point and diffuse pollution
- Hydromorphological alterations
- River continuity

2.2 Coordinated/joint visions and objectives /Y/N)

Yes.

- Reduction of eutrophication in coastal and inland water bodies

- Reduction point and diffuse pollution
- Reduction of salination effects in the sub-unit Ems South and on the national level
- Reduction of the turbidity of the Tideems
- Improvement of river morphology
- Improvement of biological river continuity
- Protection of groundwater from pollution

2.3 Coordinated/transboundary monitoring (Y/N)

Yes, but only in the Ems-Dollart area. Not all quality elements are covered.

2.4 Coordinated/shared databases and/or GIS (Y/N)

Yes, Data are managed via the German Wasserblick platform (www.wasserblick.net).

2.5 Coordinated/joint Programme of Measures (Y/N)

Yes. There is a permanent mutual information exchange on national PoMs that are harmonized on the international level. Respective approaches relate to the SWMIs and are discussed in the working groups.

2.6 Coordinated/joint (financial) resources to support international cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describes basic concept of joint financial resources.

Yes

The Ems Secretariat is mainly financed by Germany:

The German contribution is paid by 2 Länder:

- North Rhine-Westphalia: 30%
- Lower Saxony: 70 %

The Netherlands contribution is € 100.000 for the period 2010-2013 (€ 25.000 per year)

Further, NL informally financed the development of the Ems RBMP 2009 and will also finance the RBMP 2015.

NL also financially supports the implementation of the EU Flood Directive.

2.6.a Basic concept of joint financial resources

No

2.6.b Amount of joint financial resources

No indication.

2.6.c List of supported joint resources

--

2.6.d Country participation in joint meetings is supported (Y/N)

Yes, indirectly. Circulating process to organise meetings and workshops. No participation reimbursement.

2.7 Coordinated/joint communication strategy and public participation activities

Yes, a coordinated communication approach was applied for the consultation of the international RBMP. The Ems website served as a joint communication and public participation platform. Public hearings were undertaken regarding the EMS RBMP 2009 between December 2008 and June 2009.

2.8 Coordinated/joint approach to consider future water demand (WFD Annex III)

No

2.9 Coordinated/joint approach on setting exemptions

No

3c. Coordinated/Joint Methodologies

Information requested: Areas in which joint methodologies were developed in relation to the issues listed under 3b. In addition, other joint methodologies should be added e.g. to designate HMWBs, to define good ecological status/potential, cost effectiveness of measures and or any other issues. Include brief description of the process of cooperation for each methodology

1. The following joint basin-wide methodologies have been developed:

No, joint basin-wide methodologies are developed for Ems RBD in general. However, harmonised approaches are applied for various topic including

- HMWB designation.
- Jointly agreed thresholds are considered essential for the shared Ems-Dollart water body to support reduction of nutrients.
- The Intercalibration process is considered as essential.

- 2. The joint methodologies are formally adopted or agreed between the countries (Y/N)**
No.
- 3. The joint methodologies are continuously/practically applied in the frame of international cooperation leading to harmonised results (Y/N)**
No.
- 4. The following challenges currently hinder the continuous/practical application of joint methodologies:**
No. As mentioned above, national methodologies are currently applied and harmonised on the international level.
- 5. Future development of joint methodologies is planned for the future (Y/N)**
Yes.
- Joint objectives will be developed for SWMIs regarding basin-wide impact. An international background document is intended to be developed.
 - Joint fact and solution finding on Hydromorphological alterations caused by navigation.
 - Development of an integrated management plan for the Ems estuaries and other basin-wide topics.

4. International Coordination Successes and Challenges

4a. Changes related WFD enforcement

Information requested: Description of changes of international cooperation since WFD enforcement

- 1. Indicate if the enforcement of the EU WFD changed and improved joint cooperation (Y/N)**
Yes, the WFD enhance international cooperation in the Ems RBD.
- 2. Cooperation areas where changes/improvement occurred through WFD**
- General improvement of the international cooperation between Netherlands and Germany.
 - Improvement of international agreement on water management issues.
- 3. When did changes occur?**
2000: WFD enforcement
2005: Ems Basin Analysis
2009: Ems RBMP

4b. Key Successes of coordination

Information requested: Description of cooperation successes, positive feedback loops, etc.

- WFD implementation
- Development of an international Ems RBMP Plan including all components (monitoring results, objectives, economic analysis, summary of national PoMs and international measures)
- Coherent results are available on the international level
- Knowledge transfer and exchange on implementation of EU Flood Directive
- Joint Preparation of public consultation
- Effective Working Groups are in place

4c. Key Obstacles and Challenges to International Coordination/Cooperation

Information requested: Areas where cooperation was not successful; Areas for improvement

- 1. Principle key obstacles to international coordination/cooperation (Y/N).** If yes, describe.
No key obstacles can be identified at the moment. However, certain challenges can be named.
- 2. Current key challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to**
- (a) the past/current WFD planning cycle
- Identification of SWMIs
 - Harmonisation of results on various requirements of the EU WFD
- (b) any other areas regarding water resources management
--
- 3. Respective areas of improvement and indication if this is planned**
See items above and below.
- 4. Expected challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to**

- (a) next WFD planning cycle
- Reduction of eutrophication in coastal waters
 - Reduction of pollution into coastal waters
 - Improvement of ecological river continuity is seen as significant
 - any other areas regarding water resources management
 - Climate Change adaptation
 - Implementation of the Flood Directive

5. Future in international cooperation - Next steps/View towards 2nd WFD planning cycle

5a. Areas of future cooperation

Information requested: Where work has already started for the next planning cycle; New Areas of international cooperation; Whether an international plan is foreseen

1. **Outline if an international RBMP according to the EU WFD is foreseen.**
If yes, by when (2015, 2021, 2027)
Yes, the development of international Ems RBMPs is foreseen for 2015, 2021 and 2027.
2. **First milestones that will be jointly aimed regarding the future EU WFD implementation**
 - Development of an Ems Background Document on Nutrients
 - Development of an Ems Background Document on river continuity and fish migration
 - Interim report on PoM implementation
 - Update of the Ems Basin Analysis
 - 2014: Draft Ems RBMP
 - 2015: Final Ems RBMP
3. **If no international RBMP will be developed, briefly describe why this is the case.**
--
4. **Further future areas of international cooperation/coordination:**
 - Climate Change Adaptation
 - Implementation EU Flood Directive

6. Additional Comments

7. Interviewed country and RBO representatives as well as other experts

Mr. Josef Schwanken – Ems Secretariat

8. Sources and References

- Ems River Basin Management Plan 2009
- National RBMPs according to the EU WFD between the cooperating countries
- Second Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters, UNECE (2011)
- www.ems-eems.de
- http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/participation/map_mc/map.htm
- http://files.inweb.gr/workshops/sub_basins/
- www.internationalwaterlaw.org/documents/intldocs/
- www.transboundarywaters.orst.edu/research/RBO/RBO_Euro.html
- www.riob.org/

Coordination Mechanisms of the International Scheldt River Basin

1. Basic information on international river basins/sub-river basin - Scheldt

EU Member States sharing the basins: BE* (Federal government and governments of the Flemish Region, Walloon Region and Brussels Capital Region), FR, NL

Third countries sharing the basin: --

River Basin Districts concerned: Scheldt

Key Sub-Basins in international river basin*:

*Since 1993, Belgium is a Federal country with 7 entities each of them with specific and exclusive competences. Thus, exclusive competence concerning water has been attributed to the 3 regions: Walloon Region (W), Flemish Region (VL) and Brussels capital Region (BR). Yet Marine water and therefore coastal waters have been attributed to another entity: Belgium Federal (B). Therefore, the International district of the Scheldt as well as the International Scheldt Commission account 6 parties, F, B, W, VL, BR, NL, all of them with having the same state rights.



Size of the total catchment area and national shares for each international river/sub-river basin (km², %), indicating division by country and the respective RBD:

Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	River Basin District (WFD Article 3.1)	Total Area of Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	EU Member States/Non EU Member States in International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin
		(km ²)		(km ²)	(%)
Scheldt	Scheldt	36,416*	BE-W	3,770	10.4
			BE-BR	161	0.4
			BE-VL	11,991	32.9
			FR	18,486	50.8
			NL	2,008	5.5

* This figure of the total area includes the coastal areas that add up to the River Basin District area.

Separated area figures:

- Total surface Scheldt River Basin: 22,116 km²

- Total surface Scheldt River Basin District: 36,416 km²

2. Cooperation Framework

2a. International agreement or convention

Information requested: Title, date of agreement, countries not covered under agreement, brief description

1. Title:

Treaty of Charleville-Mézières

In 1994, the governments of the French Republic, the Walloon Region, the Flemish Region, the Brussels Capital Region and the Kingdom of the Netherlands signed the Treaty on the protection of the Scheldt and set up an International Commission for the Protection of the Scheldt (ICPS). On 11th May 1995, the ICPS starts its activities.

Treaty of Ghent

On 3rd December 2002, a new Scheldt Treaty, the International Scheldt agreement was signed in Ghent. According to the policy objectives of the Ministerial Declaration of Liège, in 2001, one of the main goals of this treaty is to meet the effective obligation of multilaterally coordination within the International Scheldt hydrographical district (doubling its surface competence in comparison with the Scheldt river basin). This treaty requires also a multilateral coordination concerning the management of risks due to floods and droughts.

Upon signing the new Scheldt Treaty, the Kingdom of Belgium became the sixth treaty party of the International Scheldt Commission (the Belgian coastal waters being part of the Scheldt district and falling within Federal Belgian jurisdiction).

2. Countries under Agreement:

France, Belgium (Walloon, Flemish and Brussels regions), Belgian Federal Government, and the Netherlands

3. Countries part of basin but not covered by agreement:

N/A

4. Date and place of signing:

Ghent, 3 December 2002

5. Entry into force:

01.12.2005**

** The international agreement of the Scheldt came officially into force in 2005, yet practically the works began immediately after the signature within the international agreement of the protection of the Scheldt (1st and previous treaty).

6. Key objectives and content of agreement/convention:

The objective of International Scheldt Commission (ISC) under the Ghent Treaty is the cooperation between the riparian states and regions of the Scheldt river basin district, to achieve a transboundary, sustainable and integrated water management of International Scheldt River Basin District.

Its objectives are – amongst others - to:

- align the individual performance by the riparian states and regions of their obligations, imposed in the European Water Framework Directive.
- draw a single international part of the management plan for the International Scheldt River Basin District, under the Water Framework Directive and now the European floods directive.
- debate about the precautions and protection measures to prevent or mitigate effects of drought and flood.
- further develop a district wide early warning system in case of accidental water pollution (Acquis or the first treaty in 1994) .
- set up an international homogeneous monitoring network of the Scheldt (Acquis of the first treaty in 1994) and extending it to the main transboundary watercourses, within the WFD requirements.

7. Role of WFD implementation in the international basin:

See previous item 6.

The Ghent Treaty focuses on the international and coordinated implementation of the EU WFD between the contracting parties. Actually, the International Scheldt Commission and its international coordination of the water policy of its contracting parties, begun with a first action programme in 1998, working together closer and further within the international requirements of the WFD. The work of the ISC has been supported by the Interreg project Scaldit and now ScaldWIN.

2b. Coordinating/Governing Body/River Basin Organisation

Information requested: Name(s) of Secretariat/Commission/RBO, location, working languages, website

1. Name(s):

International Scheldt Commission (ICS)

2. Operative since:

1995***

*** From 1995 until 2002, it has been operated under the name of the 1st agreement, the International Commission for the Protection of the Scheldt.

3. Location and address:

ISC - Secretariat

Italiëlei 124

Antwerp 2000

Belgium

E-mail: sec@isc-cie.org

Telephone: +32 3 206 06 80

Fax: +32 3 206 06 81

4. Working Languages:

French, Dutch

5. Website:

www.isc-cie.org

2c. Coordination structure

Information requested: Description of (i) organisational structure (ii) cooperation tasks (iii) expert groups (iv) regular meetings (v) number of staff (vi) webpage (vii) other issues

1. Organisational structure

(i) Verbal description

The ISC's goal is to establish cooperation among riparian states and regions of the Scheldt, in order to achieve durable and integrated water management of the Scheldt international river basin district. It wishes to reach this objective by:

- aligning the individual performance by the riparian states and regions of their obligations, imposed in the European Water Framework Directive.
- drawing a single international part of the management plan for the International Scheldt River Basin District, under the Water Framework Directive and now the European floods directive.
- debating about the precautions and protection measures to prevent or mitigate effects of drought and flood.
- further developing a district wide early warning system in case of accidental water pollution (Acquis or the first treaty in 1994) .
- setting up an international homogeneous monitoring network of the Scheldt (Acquis of the first treaty in 1994) and extending it to the main transboundary watercourses, within the WFD requirements.

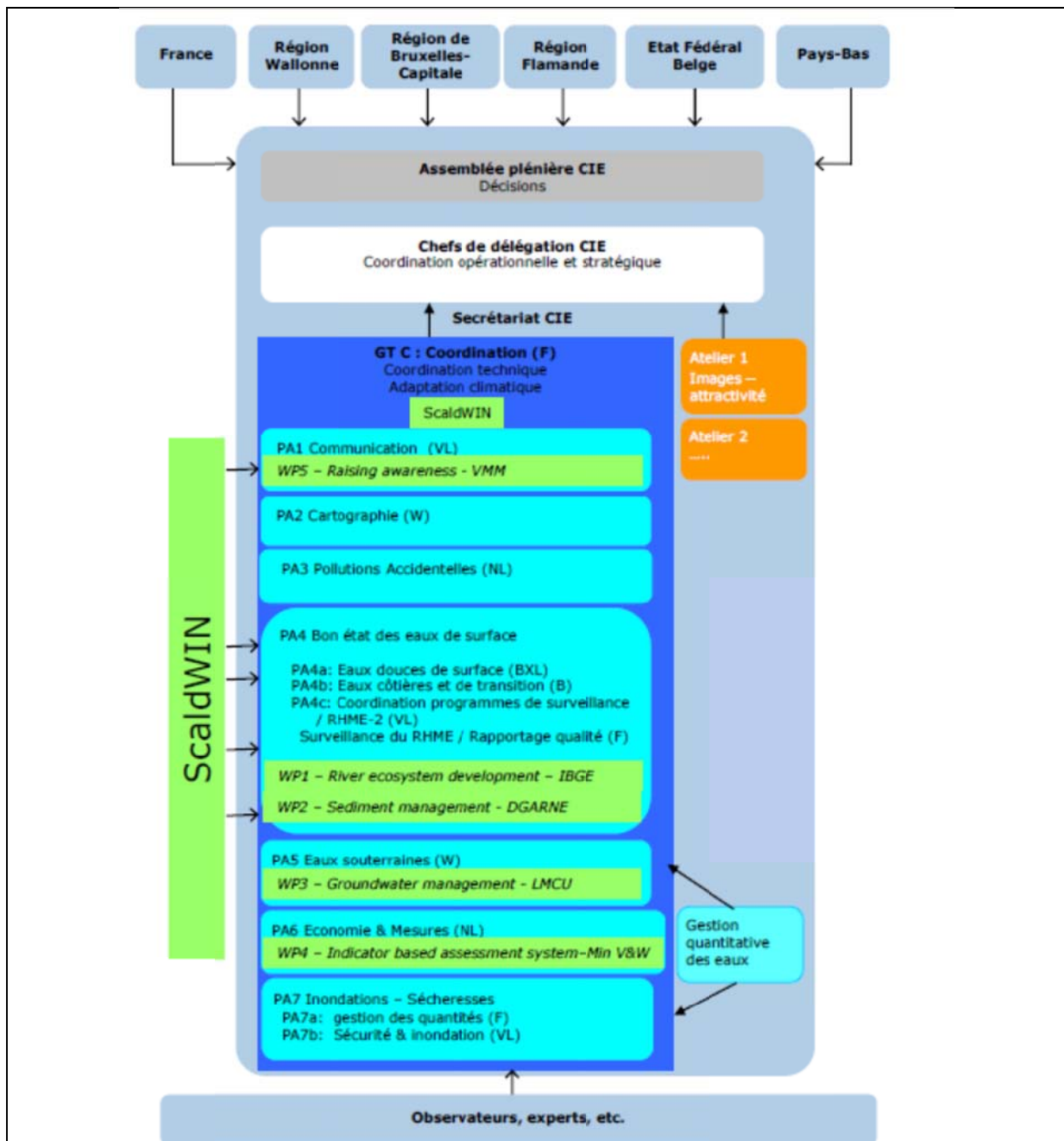
The Commission is made up of delegations of the Contracting Parties. Each Contracting Party appoints maximum 8 delegates, one of them being a delegation leader.

Each Contracting Party chairs the Commission alternately for a period of 2 years as defined in paragraph 8 of the Rules and Financial Regulations. The chairing Contracting Party designates the chair of the Commission out of its own delegation. During the Commission's meetings, the Chairperson does not act as a spokesperson of his/her delegation.

The Commission meets usually once a year upon the Chairperson's convocation, but also at the request of at least two delegations. The Commission can hold some of its meetings on a ministerial level.

The Commission formulates its advice and recommendations and takes its decisions by unanimous vote. The Commission's Rules and Financial Regulations, as well as their budget, are adopted in the presence of all delegations.

(ii) Organisational diagram



(iii) Key cooperation tasks

The ISC's tasks can be summarised into six main points:

- It makes sure the riparian states and regions can mutually and multilaterally harmonise the implementation of their obligations imposed by the Water Framework Directive.
- It implements the international coordination of the EU Floods directive as well as the mitigation of the effects in case of drought.
- It implements an early transboundary alert and alarm systems for accidental pollutions.
- It re-enforces the exchange of information and of opinions on water policy.
- It implements a homogenous monitoring network on the Scheldt and the main transboundary watercourses.
- It encourages scientific research, cooperates with other international organisations and draws up annual reports.

(iv) Expert groups

There are 7 working groups:

- Coordination
- Communication

- Cartography
- Accidental pollution surface water (fresh, transitional and coastal water) - Monitoring
- Groundwater
- Cost effectiveness analysis
- Floods – Droughts (Water quantity management; protection & floods)

(v) Regular Meetings

The commission meets once a year upon the Chairperson' convocation but also at the request of at least two delegations.

Working Groups meet several times a year according to the need in general 4 times a year.

(vi) Observers

The Treaty of Ghent stipulates that, besides the official delegations of the Treaty Parties, other authorities are admitted to be part of the Commission under the status of observer.

The Commission can acknowledge as an observer:

- The European Community
- The intergovernmental organisations whose activities are linked to the Treaty
- The non-governmental organisations, provided there is common ground between their interests or tasks and those of the Treaty

Observers include:

- European Community, Directorate-General Environment
- International Meuse Commission
- Non-Governmental Organisations: In order to be recognised, the NGO must submit a written request to the ISC. One of the implications of the NGO's recognition as an observer is that it can participate in the public part of the plenary meetings, and in a special meeting with the delegation leaders organised for that purpose.
 - Bond Beter Leefmilieu
 - Cefic
 - Conseil Scientifique de l'Environnement Nord Pas de Calais (CSENPC)
 - Environnement et Développement Alternatif (EDA)
 - Escaut Sans Frontières / Grenzeloze Schelde
 - Escaut Vivant
 - Eurométaux
 - Green Belgium
 - Inter-Environnement Wallonie
 - SAR Minaraad
 - Nord Nature
 - Union Wallonne des Entreprises
 - WWF
 - Zeeuwse Milieufederatie

(vii) Number of staff at the Secretariat

Overall the ICS Secretariat consists of 5 staff members (1 ES, 1 Deputy, 2 Secretaries, 1 Translator)

(viii) Webpage: www.isc-cie.org

(ix) Other issues:

The ISC is working together with the International Meuse Commission on the early warning system for accidental pollution. The procedure and common software of the digital warning system has been jointly developed and is hosted by the same external consultant. Meetings of both expert groups on accidental pollution and annual workshops for the operators of the Central Warning Stations are held together since 2008. Development and hosting costs are shared on a 50/50 basis

2d. Other cooperation agreements if relevant

Information requested: Description of other national bilateral/multilateral agreements for transboundary coordination including country members

1. The following bilateral/multilateral agreements are in place besides the overall international agreement (list for each cooperating country):

- Article 4§5 of the Ghent Treaty mentions that bilateral affairs are discussed by the appropriate bilateral mechanisms.
- Formal agreements:

- Flemish – Dutch Scheldt Commission (<http://vnsc.eu/english/>) :
- Bilateral Scheldt treaties between FL and NL concerning navigation, safety, accessibility of Port of Antwerp, nature preservation, : <http://pro.vnsc.eu/scheldeverdragen-en-memoranda/>
- Bilateral agreement between VL and NL on construction of new large sea sluices at Terneuzen for access to seaport of Genth.
- Ministerial protocols on digital exchange of data on flow rates of transboundary rivers (F-WAL, F-VL, WAL-VL, FL-NL)
- Agreements between VL and NL for co-operation on water management of small transboundary waterways.
- Bilateral harmonisation between the Netherlands and the Walloon province in Belgium take place in the Walloon-Dutch Water Consultations (Information from <http://www.utrechtlawreview.org/index.php/ulr/article/viewFile/83/83>).
- "Cooperation Agreement of 5 April 1995 between the Federal State, the Flemish Region, the Walloon Region and the Brussels Capital Region with regard to international environmental policy "
- Agreement between the Flemish Region and the Netherlands for policy and management related to the deepening, shipping safety and nature of the Scheldt estuary
 - Signed 21 December 2005
 - Administered by the Flemish Dutch Scheldt Commission
 - The Flemish/Dutch Scheldt commission (VNSC) is aimed at the development of the Scheldt estuary as "a multifunctional estuarine water system that is used for human needs in a sustainable manner".
 - In order to carry out specific tasks and assignments, the VNSC has set up a number of temporary and permanent working groups.
 - The achievement of maximum security against flooding, the promotion of optimal accessibility of the Scheldt docks and the preservation of a healthy and dynamic ecosystem are among the VNSC's main tasks.
 - Website: <http://vnsc.eu>

In addition, the Dutch National Plans refers to the following additional agreements:

- Oslo and Paris Commission (OSPAR)
- The International Maritime Organization (IMO).

The International Scheldt RBM Plan mentions:

- Transboundary Basin Committee "Creeks and Polder" between the Netherlands and the Flemish Region on issues specific to the territories.

2. Further related information

A large number of exchange of data of monitoring and management between the Belgian regions on administrative level as well as between F, W and VL concerning groundwater resources is in place Chapter 2.4 of the International Plan focuses on bilateral cooperation. It mentions that international coordination within the CIE is complemented by bilateral coordination, reported within the ICE, to "ensure greater consistency in the border district of the" Scheldt. Bilateral coordination covers the following aspects of the implementation of the Framework Directive on "Water:

- Environmental objectives and programs of measures: exchange between all parties regarding the masses of "border water surface and groundwater (see Chapters. 4 and 5) to allow greater continuity between the masses of" water border;
- Biological monitoring: common campaigns of samples of "biological quality elements were performed. Each Party according to its own method, followed by "a comparison of results obtained indices based on diatoms and macroinvertebrates were thus compared between the Flemish and Walloon regions, and between France and the Flemish Region.
- Supervision, state, chemical, ecological, and impact: bilateral consultations were held on the monitoring programs, the "chemical state and the problems associated with certain substances such as" eutrophication or pollution specific port. Here are the main examples:
 - regular consultations between France, the Walloon and the Flemish Region on the "transboundary aquifer carboniferous limestone;
 - meetings between Franco-Flemish and Walloon French-related monitoring programs and comparing states of water between the two Parties;
 - exchanges between Belgium and the Netherlands on issues of "nitrogen in the Dutch coastal North Sea;
 - Projects modelling nutrient inputs in the Belgian North Sea and the "data exchange in the context of the project TIMOTHY;

- cooperation between the Netherlands and the Flemish Region, in the presence of Federal Belgium, on the "Impact Assessment on the Belgo-Dutch coastal waters, following the steps provided above and on the" state "of progress" chemical status and definition of new standards for specific substances to "Scheldt in coastal waters and transition;
- consultation between Flanders-Netherlands on substances posing problems and reduction measures

3. Key Areas of International Cooperation

3a. International River Basin Management Plan

1. WFD international River Basin Management Plan developed (Y/N)

Yes (in French and Dutch; no English version)

2. RBMP download link

www.isc-cie.com/members/docs/documents/19920.pdf

3. ,The international 'Roof Level' is formally defined /delineated in relation to the national RBMP level as follows (i.e. catchment area size, other thresholds, etc.):

All water bodies are addressed as a whole. There is no threshold delineation from the national level.

4. The national RBMP refers to the international RBMP as outlined below:

(List for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP)

France: **The Artois-Picardie RBMP covers multiple basin including the Scheldt – uploaded on Eionet in March 2010**

Chapter 1.1 describes international cooperation. Reference is made to the Treaty of Ghent and International Scheldt Commission. The Plan mentions that the Commission is particularly concerned with the coordination of objectives and exemptions. The international SWMIs for the basin are listed.

Netherlands: **The Dutch National RBMP for the Scheldt was published in December 2009**

The Dutch National Plan mentions coordination in analysing the problems in the basin and developing measures to solve the problems. Reference is made to the overarching international RBMP, a summary of which is included in Annex A. The Plan mentions the establishment of the International Scheldt Commission and its focus on the overarching international issues in the RBD. Chapter 3.7 focuses on the international harmonization of environmental objectives. Reference is made to intercalibration with respect to biological parameters. Chapter 4.5 focuses on the coordination of monitoring programmes. The Commission has created one overarching monitoring programme for surface and groundwater. Data was used to create maps regarding pesticides, nitrates and water quantity for the whole basin. For groundwater, the Commission made an inventory and comparison of monitoring networks and thresholds, but this had not yet led to the adaptation of monitoring networks. Chapter 6.3.13 mentions that improvements to the marine environment regarding environmentally hazardous substances can only be achieved through cooperation at international catchment level. Annex A summarizes the international plan and briefly describes:

- the work programme leading up the international RBMP
- Mentions the 2007 joint report on monitoring
- Lists the joint SWMIs
- Describes the main environmental objectives and exemptions
- Lists the pollutants relevant for the whole Basin
- Mentions a bilateral coordination of measures with Flanders regarding transboundary pollution

Belgium FL: **The Belgian (FL) National Plan for the Scheldt was uploaded on CIRCA in October 2010**

The Flemish Plan mentions that two levels of coordination are needed: International, addressed through the Treaty of Ghent, and internal, addressed through a coordination group. The Plan mentions that there is a need to review international state of water reports to support integrated water management. Also, the Plan mentions the need to coordinate methodologies for assessing flood risks and damages at international level when implementing the Floods Directive.

Belgium

Walloon: **No Walloon National RBMP is yet available.**

Belgium**Brussels:**

No RBMP for Belgium capital area available yet. Public consultations were performed. The RBMP for Belgian Coastal Waters was published in December 2009. There is a separate RBMP focusing on coastal waters that, according to CIRCA, was developed by the Federal Government. Reference is made to international coordination in the context of the Scheldt Commission – that the Commission is a platform to exchange data and review comparability of plans. The Plan also mentions international coordination with respect to monitoring priority pollutants and the implementation of measures to address these pollutants. The Plan shows the international cooperation complicated harmonization due to differences in methodologies. The chapter on Programme of Measures refers also to upstream international measures.

5. The international RBMP includes country specific information (Y/N).**Yes**

The International Plan provides specific information for France, Belgium Flanders, Belgium Walloon, Brussels and the Netherlands.

The Plan provides information regarding:

- Criteria to designated HMWBs
- % of HMWBs and AWBs
- Results of Monitoring networks and improvements in WB Status
- Methodologies to assess the chemical status of groundwater bodies
- Ecological Status of rivers in 2007 and of coastal waters in 2006
- Evaluation of the presence of priority substances
- Achieving good status in groundwaters by 2015 and exemptions

The information provided in the international RBMP is consistent with the national RBMP

(Y/N plus short description if needed) -) – list for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP

France:

Belgium Flanders: Yes

Belgium Wallone: ---

Belgium Brussels: ---

Netherlands: Yes

3b. Coordinated/Joint Activities

Information requested: Topics where joint development occurred, for example: SWMIs, monitoring, PoMs, objectives, public consultations, etc.; Description of the process of joint cooperation for each activity.

1. Key international cooperation activities – general description

The Scheldt covers several cooperation activities. Key activities are the implementation of the EU WFD.

Two important Interreg Projects /SCALDIT and SCALDWIN – see below for details) significantly supported joint cooperation activities.

From 2002-2006, the SCALDIT Interreg project (From Collective Testing to a Transnational Analysis of the International River Basin District of the Scheldt as a Basis for a Transnational Integrated Water Management for a Cleaner and Safer Scheldt), led by the Flemish Environment Agency, involved six partners from three Member States. The project's objective was to prepare the implementation of the Water Framework Directive in the Scheldt (Escaut) river basin district.

The partners, who cover the whole transnational river basin, carried out: i) a transnational analysis of the characteristics of the Scheldt river basin district; ii) a review of the impact of human activities on the status of surface water and groundwater; iii) an economic analysis of water use in the international river basin district of the Scheldt. The outcomes of the project served as the basis for the international river basin management plan for the Scheldt. The project was used to test the Common Implementation Strategy guidance documents prepared by the European Commission in relation to the WFD.

Building on the knowledge and experience acquired in the course of the Scaldit project, a new cross-border cooperation project called ScaldWIN was prepared in 2008. This Interreg IVB project was approved on 5th December 2008 by the Interreg IVB Steering Committee.

The ScaldWIN project is a cooperation project involving 8 partners: the Vlaamse Milieumaatschappij (VMM), Leefmilieu Brussel (previously BIM), Direction générale opérationnelle Agriculture, Ressources naturelles et Environnement de la Région wallonne (DGRNE), Direction générale de l'Environnement, de l'Aménagement

et du Logement Nord- Pas-de-Calais (DREAL), Lille Métropole Communauté Urbaine (LMCU), Waterschap Scheldestromen), the Province of Zeeland and the DG Water of the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment. VMM acts as Lead Partner.

Cooperation within the ScaldWIN project deals with ecological restoration, focusing particularly on fish migration, cross-border monitoring and modelling of sediment loads, monitoring and modelling of 2 cross-border aquifers, the development of a joint set of (economic) indicators and information dissemination.

2. Description of detailed coordinated/joint, basin-wide activities

2.1 WFD SWMIs (Y/N). If yes, describe:

Yes.

From the results of the Scheldt WFD Art. 5 surveys, seven important water management issues or challenges for the Scheldt IRBD were derived. As far as possible and relevant, the actions or measures responding jointly to the important water management issues related to the district's future have been mutually coordinated within the Scheldt RBMP. The important water management issues or challenges addressed in the International Scheldt RBMP are:

I. Surface water quality, hydro-morphological alterations and sediments;

- Insufficient surface water quality,
- Major hydromorphological alterations,
- Excess sediment and insufficient sediment quality.

II. Groundwater vulnerability: quality & quantitative status;

III. Scheldt-specific pollutants;

IV. Economic analysis: cost-effective programmes of measures;

- Exchange of information to draw up cost-effective programmes of measures;

V. Flood and drought prevention management;

VI. Good governance: co-operate to contribute to a sustainable development of the Scheldt IRBD,

VII. Data comparability and joint evaluation: co-ordination of environmental objectives.

2.2 Coordinated/joint visions and objectives (Y/N):

Yes.

Joint objectives have been developed and agreed for each of the seven important water management issues. These are part of the Scheldt RBMP.

2.3 Coordinated/transboundary monitoring (Y/N)

Yes.

The ISC-CIE coordinates the Homogeneous Monitoring Network Scheldt (HMS) since 1998 and the Warning and Alarm System for the Scheldt (WASS) since 1999. The Homogeneous Monitoring Network checks 38 parameters of the Scheldt water using 14 sampling points. The purpose of the monitoring network is to assess the effects of the SAP and adjust the programme if required. The WASS focuses on accidental pollution

In 2010 the ISC adapted the HMS to align to the Contracting Parties' WFD monitoring networks. The so-called HMS 2 with a progressive synchronisation of all sampling/parameters. Major changes include:

- Existing sampling locations (14) remain; extended with 22 locations;
- Existing parameters remain; extended with water hardness and dissolved organic carbon;
- Biological parameters: diatoms, macro-invertebrate and fish;
- Frequency: (i) physical-chemical parameters sustaining biology: monthly; (ii) other parameters: according to WFD monitoring frequency or more frequent (some parties).



2.4 Coordinated/shared databases and/or GIS (Y/N)

Y/N

Data are shared within the Scheldt cooperation framework and countries take different responsibilities regarding this task. Shared databases include:

- GIS: Maps for the Scheldt RBMP are developed by agencies of the Walloon region.
- Shared database on (grouped) measures, effects and economic data (costs) at the ISC Secretariat (result of the Interreg SCALDIT project). This database will be further developed to enable comparison of measures on (a) selected item(s) wherefore there are sufficient detailed data available (starting with measures regarding Nitrogen reduction)

Shared database and software for the Scheldt and Meuse Alarm System (Early Warning System).

2.5 Coordinated/joint Programme of Measures

No joint/transboundary Programme of Measures is in place.

In principle, PoMs are elaborated on the national level but reflected upon on the international level towards effective coordination.

A joint Catalogue of Measures is developed on the international level to guide each of the Member States in selecting appropriate measures for each economic sector. The CoM at: <http://mrc.isc-cie.com/> will be further developed and updated.

Within the Interreg IVB ScaldWIN project, a number of WFD measures are being executed in a transboundary context (river restoration, sediment management, groundwater management, communication).

2.6 Coordinated/joint (financial) resources to support international cooperation (Y/N).

If yes, describes basic concept of joint financial resources.

Yes.

2.6.1 Basic concept of joint financial resources

A formal key has been defined for respective financial country contributions within the Scheldt cooperation framework.

Royaume de Belgique :	0,5 %
Région de Bruxelles-Capitale :	5 %
Région Flamande :	37,5 %
Région Wallonne :	10 %
République Française :	40 %
Royaume des Pays-Bas :	7 %

2.6.2 Amount of joint financial resources

€ 404.000€ (2012)

2.6.3 List of supported joint resources

The Commission's Secretariat staff and operational costs of the Commission are financially supported.

No major projects, research and implementation issues are financed. Smaller technical support s.a. developing software for early warning system and catalogue of measures are directly financed by the commission.

2.6.4 Country participation in joint meetings is supported (Y/N)

No, apart from the plenary meeting hosted successively by one of the party

2.7 Coordinated/joint communication strategy and public participation activities

Each party of the IRBD Scheldt has, as a Member State of the EU, the obligation to organise itself regarding the public information process.

The international ISC Roof Report was added to the national RBMP document of each Party during the national public consultation rounds. Further, each Party sends its RBMPs to the other Parties' authorities for comments during the public consultation.

The ISC allows registered and recognised observers at its plenary and in its working groups where they may play an active role as expert or public voice. There is a yearly consultation meeting between the heads of delegation and the NGO (observers). Most NGO's have an environmental scope.

2.8 Coordinated/joint approach to consider future water demand (WFD Annex III)

Partially (total district not covered). Water quantity and availability treated in the project Group on Ground Water and Project Group on Quantity (drought)

2.9 Coordinated/joint approach on setting exemptions (WFD Article 4)

Partially (bilateral level).

A district-wide guideline (see Annex to the international Scheldt RBMP) for comparing objectives and exemptions on transboundary water bodies has been worked out for bilateral co-ordination. The use of it has not been generalized so there are still gaps on a part of transboundary water bodies. .

The guidelines will be further fine-tuned and used where needed.

2.10 Others

The international cooperation on flood issues in the Scheldt IRBD comprises:

(i) determining the conditions for a joint approach, (ii) the exchange of hydrometric-hydrological data, (iii) exchange of information on high water, and (iv) co-ordination regarding the application of the Flood Directive 2007/60/EC. Bilateral agreements on hydrometric-hydrological data exchange (format and method of data exchange) have been signed between neighbouring Parties.

3c. Coordinated/Joint Methodologies

Information requested: Areas in which joint methodologies were developed in relation to the issues listed under 3b. In addition, other joint methodologies should be added e.g. to designate HMWBs, to define good ecological status/potential, cost effectiveness of measures and or any other issues. Include brief description of the process of cooperation for each methodology

1. The following joint basin-wide methodologies have been developed:

- The co-ordination within the ISC on Drought Issues concerns the following items: (i) reaching a joint vision on challenges; (ii) to elaborate a common methodology for a water balance at district level between water uses and water resources (groundwater); (iii) data exchange and joint analysis; and (iv) exchange of knowledge and experience.
- Each party used different criteria to delineate water bodies.
- With respect to typology and reference conditions, all parties applied system B as put forward in the Directive. A common typology was developed for rivers, transitional waters and for coastal waters. No common typology was necessary for lakes as there are no transboundary lakes.
- The parties used different descriptors to designate HMWBs, but this did not result in essential differences in the final designation.

2. The joint methodologies are formally adopted or agreed between the countries (Y/N).

Only joint methodology is used in the common monitoring network. No joint methodologies are formally adopted so far. However, international coordination to harmonise data and results is taking place.

3. The joint methodologies are continuously/practically applied in the frame of international cooperation leading to harmonised results (Y/N)

No. However, international coordination for harmonisation is taking place continuously.

4. The following challenges currently hinder the continuous/practical application of joint methodologies:

The cooperating Scheldt Basin countries developed individual national methodologies. A full adaptation to one basin-wide method seems difficult at the moment. However, countries are cooperating well on the

harmonisation of results.

5. Future development of joint methodologies is planned for the future (Y/N)

If already known, list which ones.

The harmonisation of results will be continued in future taking fully into account the individual national methods.

4. International Coordination Successes and Challenges

4a. Changes related WFD enforcement

Information requested: Description of changes of international cooperation since WFD enforcement

1. Indicate if the enforcement of the EU WFD changed and improved joint cooperation (Y/N)

Yes.

- Cooperation and its quality clearly improved due the enforcement of the EU WFD. The Scheldt Commission immediately took an action to anticipate to the EU WFD (Ministerial Conference 1998 at Middelburg, NL / M. Conference Liège, W, 2001). This resulted in the development and enforcement of the Ghent Treaty (2002) that focuses on the EU WFD implementation on the international level.
- It was stated that the legally binding character of the WFD and its objective improved the common understanding on environmental objectives as well as on how to achieve those for the international level.

2. Cooperation areas where changes/improvement occurred through WFD

- Ghent Treaty 2002 came into force due to the EU WFD
- International Scheldt RBMP 2009 according to the EU WFD
- Common SWMIs in 2007 according to the EU WFD
- Common Article 5 Analysis according to the EU WFD - Roof Report 2005
- Update of Homogeneous Monitoring Network in 2010

3. When did changes occur?

ISC anticipated on the WFD (Middelburg 1998...) to enable an immediately start with the WFD enforcement. Related aims were defined in a Blueprint (Liège 2001) straight away and the new related Ghent Treaty came into force for international Scheldt basin cooperation. The co-ordination related to the WFD immediately started with the signature of the Ghent Treaty.

4b. Key Successes of coordination

Information requested: Description of cooperation successes, positive feedback loops, etc.

- Joint Monitoring Network
- Joint important water management issue for the basin-wide scale
- International RBM Plan according to the EU WFD (roof report)
- Early Warning System for the entire Scheldt River Basin
- The success of the co-ordination of the WFD within the ISC eased the decision to entrust the commission with the co-ordination of the Flood Risk Directive.

4c. Key Obstacles and Challenges to International Coordination/Cooperation

Information requested: Areas where cooperation was not successful; Areas for improvement

1. Principle key obstacles to international coordination/cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describe.

Parallel time plans to develop (i) national RBMPs and (ii) to the Scheldt Roof report was a big challenge as it was difficult to coordinate the information flow consecutively.

Improvement on this is planned for 2nd WFD cycle and the development of the 2nd Scheldt RBMP. Effective coordination of the international RBM issues and national RBMPs is aimed for.

2. Current key challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(c) the past/current WFD planning cycle

According to the 2005 Roof Report, the coordination at district and ISC level encountered a number of challenges relating to the development of separate methods for WFD implementation. Coordination was much more complex due to the need to attune the methods. A lot of time was spent comparing methodologies without leading immediately to the harmonization of methods. When attuning the methods, the greatest challenge was integrating the different approaches and methods developed by the parties. For two years, the

parties exchanged information in order to understand the different approaches and to make sure they all contributed to a coherent analysis.

Another challenge was the availability of figures and data. Data available to the parties could often not be compared, either because they had been generated in a different manner or because they were not available on the same geographic scale, to the same level of detail or in the same format.

However, the situation was already improved for the development of the 2009 Scheldt RBMP and further improvements will be undertaken by 2015.

(d) any other areas regarding water resources management

3. Respective areas of improvement and indication if this is planned

Fish migration: master plan fish (programmed, feasibility has to be first investigated)

4. Expected challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(b) next WFD planning cycle

- It will be a challenge to close gaps and achieve WFD objectives.
- Improvement of coordination between the national and international level.
- Challenges will soon be outlined within the Scheldt Commission framework.

(c) any other areas regarding water resources management

- Climate change adaptation
- Implementation of the EU Flood Protection Directive

5. Future in international cooperation - Next steps/View towards 2nd WFD planning cycle

5a. Areas of future cooperation

Information requested: Where work has already started for the next planning cycle; New Areas of international cooperation; Whether an international plan is foreseen

1. Outline if an international RBMP according to the EU WFD is foreseen.

If yes, by when (2015, 2021, 2027)

Yes, a roof report. By 2015, 2021 and 2027.

2. First milestones that will be jointly aimed regarding the future EU WFD implementation

2014 Draft international Scheldt RBMP

2015 International Scheldt RBMP

3. If no international RBMP will be developed, briefly describe why this is the case.

--

4. Further future areas of international cooperation/coordination:

The ISC workplan for 2011-2015 foresees the following co-ordination tasks:

• **Programmes of Measures (PoM):**

- Exchange of information between parties on the implementation progress of the PoM;
- Workshop on cost-effectiveness analysis & economic indicators (ScaldWIN);
- Update of the database of measures (catalogue of measures);
- Use of the catalogue as an instrument for comparison and co-ordination;
- • WFD – improvement of biodiversity & fish migration: ‘

• **ISC/WFD - coordination monitoring programme:**

- Start and development new Homogenous Monitoring Network Scheldt (HMS 2);
- Reporting annual results HMW-2, (2013: global results for actualisation of the WFD Art. 5 status report)

• **WFD – bilateral and trilateral co-ordination of transboundary watercourses and amendments of the reading grid with the guidance criteria**

• **Warning and Alarm System Scheldt (WASS):**

- Emergency exercise;
- Yearly workshop with operators warning centres;
- Database of notifications;

• **EU Flood Directive: co-ordination**

- Knowledge on interaction between flood from coastal waters and rivers;
- Definition of significant risk and significant increase of risk;
- Maps;
- Flow data of transboundary watercourses;
- Emergency exercise

• **Drought: co-ordination**

- Flow data and water balances at low flow;

• **Communication: international week of the Scheldt (2-yearly); 2013**

• **Co-ordination between working groups on freshwater surface water, coastal & transitional water, monitoring and groundwater.**

In addition, due to the success of the SCALDIT-project (funded by Interreg), the partners introduced a new Interreg IVB NWE project in the Scheldt International River Basin District. This project aims at finding the best available measures to improve surface water, sediments and groundwater.

The project aims to carry out the following activities:

- 1) Implementation and monitoring of a number of transnational river ecosystem development measures and the elaboration of a transnational inventory on priority fish migration barriers;
- 2) Transboundary monitoring of sediment loads in order to feed a sediment delivery model and the construction of a sediment pond;
- 3) Transboundary monitoring and modelling of 2 transboundary groundwater systems as a basis for a joint declaration on transboundary groundwater management;
- 4) Development of a common set of indicators on the level of the Scheldt IRBD to assess the execution of programmes of measures, including costs, effects and benefits of measures; and
- 5) Dissemination of information on transboundary integrated water management in the Scheldt IRBD by means of events, website, newsletters, information packages.

As for Scaldit, the ScaldWIN-actions are executed in close co-operation with the ISC; the working plan of the ISC being a joint programme of both ScaldWIN & ISC.

6. Additional Comments

7. Interviewed country and RBO representatives as well as other experts

Jean Pauwels, Deputy Executive Secretary of the ICS.

8. Sources and References

- Scheldt River Basin Management Plan 2009, ICS
 - National RBMPs according to the EU WFD of the contracting parties to the ICS
 - Second Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters, UNECE (2011)
 - www.isc-cie.org
 - http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/participation/map_mc/map.htm
 - http://files.inweb.gr/workshops/sub_basins/
 - www.internationalwaterlaw.org/documents/intldocs/
 - www.transboundarywaters.orst.edu/research/RBO/RBO_Euro.html
 - www.riob.org/
- Related weblinks:
- France - http://www.artois-picardie.eaufrance.fr/IMG/pdf/programme_de_mesures_1ere_partie.pdf
(adopted 16.10.2009) :
- Belgium:
- http://www.health.belgium.be/eportal/Environment/Inspectionandenvironmentalrigh/Environmentalrights/PublicConsultations/OpenbareRaadplegingoverhetontw/15960585_FR?ssSourceSiteId=&&fodnlang=fr :
07.12.2009
- Flemish region :
- <http://www.integraalwaterbeleid.be/nl/stroomgebiedbeheerplannen/maatregelenprogramma/Maatregelenprogramma%20voor%20Vlaanderen.pdf/view> (08.10.2010) Brussels Capital Region :
- http://documentation.bruxellesenvironnement.be/documents/Plan_eau_PrM_propositionFev2011.PDF?langtpe=2060 (adoption foreseen mid 2012 or earlier)
- Walloon Region : http://environnement.wallonie.be/directive_eau/pg_menu/pgb.asp?Menu=2 (adoption foreseen end 2012)
- The Netherlands : http://www.helpdeskwater.nl/onderwerpen/wetgeving-beleid/kaderrichtlijn-water/uitvoering/nationaal/item_27248/: 27.11.2009

Coordination Mechanisms of the International UK-IE River Basins

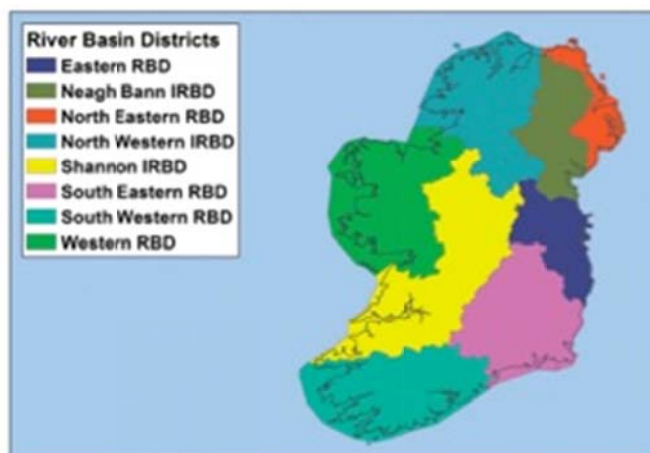
1. Basic information on international river basins/sub-river basin - xxx

EU Member States sharing the basins: Ireland and the UK

Third countries sharing the basin: ---

River Basin Districts concerned: Neagh Bann, North Western, Shannon

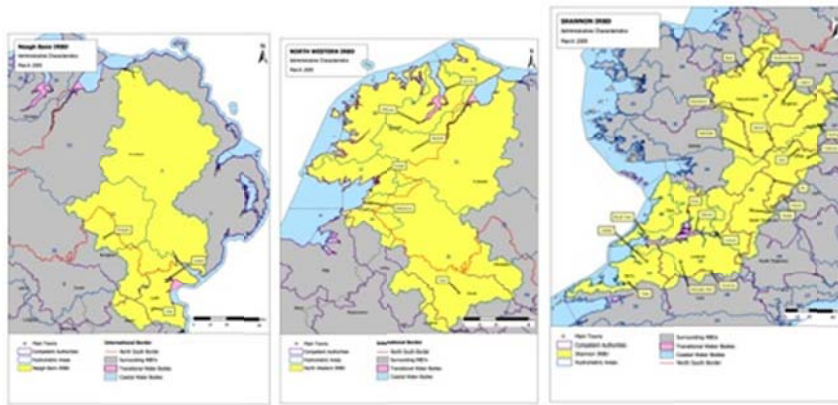
Key Sub-Basins in international river basin:



Map of UK-IE River Basin Districts

Size of the total catchment area and national shares for each international river/sub-river basin (km², %), indicating division by country and the respective RBD:

Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	River Basin District (WFD Article 3.1)	Total Area of Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	EU Member States/Non EU Member States in International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin
		(km ²)		(km ²)	(%)
Neagh Bann		8,127	UK	6,125	75.4
			IE	2,002	24.6
International rivser of the North Western RBD		12,300	UK	4,900	39.8
			IE	7,400	60.2
Foyle (sub-basin North Western)		2,919	UK	2,012	68.9
			IE	907	31.1
Erne (sub-basin North Western)		4,338	UK	1,902	43.8
			IE	2,436	56.2
Shannon		17,963	IE UK	6	<1
			UK IE	17,957	>99



2. Cooperation Framework

2a. International agreement or convention

Information requested: Title, date of agreement, countries not covered under agreement, brief description

1. Title:

Coordination operates through the IRBDs of which there are 3 are managed through the Joint North South WFD Coordination Group. This group is a practical working group; formalised agreements are made through the North South Joint Ministerial Council – no specific agreement is made for water as a whole but cooperation is clear and well organised through each of the 3 IRBDs through this coordination body.

Consultation on these arrangements was undertaken through a shared document;

'Managing Our Shared Waters' (2003)

Not a formal agreement as such but a shared document with a joint ministerial foreword and joint publication of a consultation document.

Joint North/South Coordination on International River Basin Districts and Administrative Arrangements for Implementation of the EC Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC).

There are joint ministerial meetings held regularly to which unresolved issues would be raised.

2. Countries under Agreement: IE UK

3. Countries part of basin but not covered by agreement: --

4. Date and place of signing:

Joint Ministerial Signatures on Public Consultation document in March 2003

5. Entry into force:

thereafter

6. Key objectives and content of agreement/convention:

The shared consultation document covers the administrative and technical arrangements shared and divided by the two administrations (UK, IE). The main feature is the establishment of a joint coordination group on EU WFD implementation and the participation of technical staff from each administration in the various technical sub groups for each basin in the RBD.

7. Role of WFD implementation in the international basin:

The EU WFD was the key driver for the establishment of joint working relations. In the Shannon RBD for example, only marginal groundwater sources affect the international aspect of the basin; wherein lower levels of cooperation exist primarily as this is needs driven, referred to as a 'watching brief', though participation at meetings and information exchange is evident. The Shannon is still an IRBD with a published document in 2010 to this effect.

2b. Coordinating/Governing Body/River Basin Organisation

Information requested: Name(s) of Secretariat/Commission/RBO, location, working languages, website

1. Name(s):

North South WFD Coordination Group

2. Operative since: 2003

3. Location and address:

Meetings are held regularly in different locations but usually rotate between Belfast and Dublin (joint

coordination group; sub groups).

4. Working Languages: English

5. Website:

There is no website for the coordination group though meetings are minuted and available via departmental websites in both administrations.

<http://www.northsouthministerialcouncil.org>

<http://www.wfdireland.ie/>

<http://www.environ.ie/en/Environment/Water/WaterQuality/WaterFrameworkDirective/>

<http://www.epa.ie/whatwedo/wfd/>

http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/protect_the_environment/water/water_framework_directive_.htm

2c. Coordination structure

Information requested: Description of (i) organisational structure (ii) cooperation tasks (iii) expert groups (iv) regular meetings (v) number of staff (vi) webpage (vii) other issues

1. Organisational structure

(i) Verbal description

There are on average 15 members of the joint coordination group which is co-chaired by a member of each administration. Other representatives are drawn from the Competent Authorities, both national bodies and local authorities – especially the lead authorities for each IRBD; such as Donegal for the NW IRBD.

(ii) Organogram

There is no hierarchical structure and therefore no organogram.

In principle, quarterly meetings are held with two co-chairs from each MS

(iii) Key cooperation tasks

- Cooperation on the development of national and international RBMPs;
- Local management issues;
- Strategic environmental assessment;
- Identifying opportunities for joint funding through for example Interreg projects on transboundary issues. For example the NS SHARE project on cooperation led by Donegal County Council in the NWIRBD on behalf of each of the three international RBDs.
- There are also two transboundary organisations for tackling specific issues on inland waters and on the two large transboundary loughs – Waterways Ireland, and the Loughs Agency (Carlingford and Foyle). These bodies have specific duties in line with the IRBDs.

(iv) Expert groups

In Ireland The Department of the Environment and Local Government established a WFD Co-ordination Group to co-ordinate and promote, at national level, implementation of the Directive. The participants in the group included officials of relevant Government Departments, their related technical agencies and local authorities. The main mechanism for coordination between experts during the development of the river basin management plans however, was the National Technical Coordination Group and its' sub groups, for example on groundwater. At the national level UK officials are invited as observers. The same process is established for the North of Ireland as organised by the Environment Agency (N Ireland).

Experts from Ireland, Northern Ireland and the UK also meet regularly through the UK Technical Advisory Group.

(v) Regular Meetings

Meetings of the North South Coordination Group are held quarterly or more frequently if required, rotating typically between Dublin and Belfast.

At more senior levels ministerial coordination takes place through the North South Ministerial Council.

In addition to Sectoral and Plenary formats, the North South Ministerial Council also meets in Institutional format, with the Northern Ireland Executive represented by the First Minister and deputy First Minister and the Irish Government represented by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. In this format, the NSMC considers institutional and cross-sectoral issues, including in relation to the EU.

The Plenary format involves the Northern Ireland Executive led by the First Minister and deputy First Minister and the Irish Government led by the Taoiseach. The task of the Plenary is to take an overview of co-operation

on the island and of the North South institutions. These meetings are held quarterly; to which water issues may be raised if pertinent.

(vi) Observers

3rd parties may be invited to joint meetings of the North South WFD Coordination Group for example to provide technical updates on specific areas but formal observers are not seen to be required. Technical input is the key purpose of these observers. Observers from other administrations are also invited to national technical meetings (i.e. IE officials attending meetings with UK officials and vice versa)

(vii) Number of staff

There is no staffed Secretariat. However, meetings take place to which each MS contributes with relevant staff. On average 15 national staff members participate in meetings, though the group welcomes additional input regularly, as well as invites specific project groups dependant on the agenda and issues of the day.

(viii) Webpage

There is no formal or permanent staffing – the group is pooled from existing national bodies. No website exists, though meetings are clearly documented and available in minuted form from administrative authorities, such as at <http://www.environ.ie/en/Environment/NorthSouthUnit/>

(ix) Other issues

Coordination activity has been the subject of successful EU Interreg projects though now that this has finished, there may be less technical input specifically into transboundary issues; beyond that many EU WFD implementation issues are taking place at national level and within RBDs.

2d. Other cooperation agreements if relevant

Information requested: Description of other national bilateral/multilateral agreements for transboundary coordination including country members

1. The following bilateral/multilateral agreements are in place besides the overall international agreement (list for each cooperating country):

The North/South Ministerial Council (NSMC) was established on Thursday 2 December 1999 on the entry into force of the British Irish Agreement, which was signed by the British and Irish Governments, as part of the Good Friday, or Belfast, Agreement on 10 April, 1998.

2. Further related information

This was given legal effect in Ireland by the British-Irish Agreement Act 1999 (No. 1 of 1999), as amended.

3. Key Areas of International Cooperation

3a. International River Basin Management Plan

1. WFD international River Basin Management Plan developed (Y/N)

Yes, three international RBMP in the form of a high level strategy document have been developed for the international North Western IRBD, the Neagh Bann IRBD and Shannon IRBD.

Each international RBMP highlights all three international RBD shared between UK and IE (North Western IRBD; Neagh Bann IRBD; Shannon IRBD) Each has an overview, coordination issues, time schedule on WFD implementation, water status of shared water bodies, objectives for shared water bodies (surface waters, groundwater), measures for implementation, future coordination issues)

2. RBMP download link

www.wfdireland.ie: The document store contains each of the 3 RBMPs for Ireland.

http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/north_western_rbp: link to the North Western RBMP for Northern Ireland.

http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/neagh_bann_rbp: link to the Neagh Bann RBMP for Northern Ireland.

Both links above for the Northern Ireland RBMPs include links to the relevant 'Roof Level' document – "Working Together".

3. The international 'Roof Level' is formally defined /delineated in relation to the national RBMP level as follows (i.e. catchment area size, other thresholds, etc.):

All water bodies are addressed.

4. The national RBMP refers to the international RBMP as outlined below:

Each of the national plans make specific reference to and align with each of the IRBDs

5. The international RBMP includes country specific information (Y/N).

Yes.

For each international RBD, there is country specific information, published within each of the 3 international RBD plans. These are led by a designated lead local authority.

Country specific information in international RBMP Y

Country UK: There is detailed information on the breakdown of territorial waters and characterization of water bodies.

Country IE: as above

The information provided in the international RBMP is consistent with the national RBMP

(Y/N plus short description if needed) -) – list for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP

Y in both cases, RBMPs are consistent with and based around the IRBMP.

If relevant, list any inconsistencies/open issues stated during interviews with country representatives or found during other investigations:

Whilst national plans are driven by the international IRBDs this is a more theoretical approach in the Shannon, where Ireland is essentially responsible with clear lines of communication to the UK.

3b. Coordinated/Joint Activities

Information requested: Topics where joint development occurred, for example: SWMIs, monitoring, PoMs, objectives, public consultations, etc; Description of the process of joint cooperation for each activity.

1. Key international cooperation activities – general description

- Cooperation on the development of national and international RBMPs;
- Local management issues;
- Strategic environmental assessment;
- Ongoing cooperation on the ground between NIEA and EPA on, for example, monitoring;
- Identifying opportunities for joint funding through for example Interreg projects on transboundary issues. For example the NS SHARE project on cooperation led by Donegal County Council in the NWIRBD on behalf of each of the 3 IRBDs.
- There are also two transboundary organisations for tackling specific issues on inland waters and on the two large transboundary loughs – Waterways Ireland, and the Loughs Agency (Carlingford and Foyle). These bodies have specific duties in line with the IRBDs.

2. Description of detailed coordinated/joint, basin-wide activities

2.1 WFD SWMIs (Y/N). If yes, describe.

Yes. The establishment of the Loughs Agency to deal with specific water management issues pertaining to two water bodies is the clearest evidence of progress and cooperation on tackling SWMIs. Not always directly related to the WFD but a clear and significant contribution.

The Loughs Agency operates in the Foyle and Carlingford Loughs.

Significant Water Management Issues were also discussed with interest groups and county councils and at a series of public consultation events in 2007 and 2008. Draft plan public consultation events were held between December 2008 and June 2009 including the following public meetings:

Date	Location Venue	River Basin District
5 May 2009	Cavan Cavan Crystal Hotel	Neagh Bann, North Western & Shannon
7 May 2009	Ballybay Ballybay Wetlands Centre	Neagh Bann & North Western
12 May 2009	Dundalk Fairways Hotel	Neagh Bann & North Western

Significant Water Management Issues background documents:

- Dangerous Substances Usage 'Bottom-up study' – Background Report
- Freshwater Morphology POMS Study - Progress Update in support of SWMI Report
- Abstraction Pressure Assessment - Background document to the Water matters Report
- Groundwater risk from Urban Pressures - Background document to the Water matters Report
- Urban Pressures – Background document to the Water matters Report
- Groundwater risk from Diffuse Mobile Organics (Pesticides) - Background document to the Water matters Report
- Forest and Water - Support Document to Water Matters Report
- Onsite Waste Water Treatment Systems – Background document to the Water matters Reports
- Municipal & Industrial Regulation (discharges) - Progress Update in support of the SWMI Report
- Marine Morphology Progress Update in support of the SWMI Report
- Heavily Modified Water Bodies & Artificial Water Bodies - Progress Update in support of the SWMI Report.

- All available at www.wfdireland.ie

2.2 Coordinated/joint visions and objectives (Y/N):

Yes.

Joint objectives are set through the RBMPs.

2.3 Coordinated/transboundary monitoring (Y/N)

Yes.

Transboundary monitoring is coordinated through the lead authority; exchange and planning is almost continual and new shared methodologies for monitoring have and are being developed, such as for hydromorphological assessment.

2.4 Coordinated/shared databases and/or GIS (Y/N)

Yes.

There is clear and quantified methodological exchange – some differing methodologies pertain around geographical scales, and data availability. Specific research projects have been established to explore these issues with reporting and monitoring being sustained through technical advisory groups.

The establishment of an island wide mapping programme for river basins is highlighted as a key success.

2.5 Coordinated/joint Programme of Measures (Y/N)

Yes.

Joint measures are developed and agreed through the international RBMPs together.

2.6 Coordinated/joint (financial) resources to support international cooperation (Y/N).

Both the DECLG and the DOENI provided matching funding through the INTERREG Programme for the NS Share project which developed the RBMPs for the NW and Neagh-Bann IRBDs.

2.7 If yes, describes basic concept of joint financial resources.

2.7.1 Basic concept of joint financial resources: -- INTERREG Programme

2.7.2 Amount of joint financial resources:--

2.7.3 List of supported joint resources:--

2.7.4 Country participation in joint meetings is supported (Y/N)

Yes, through in kind contribution of staff and in-house resources.

2.8 Coordinated/joint communication strategy and public participation activities (Y/N)

Yes - There have been public participation as well as stakeholder participation and information events held in both areas during the development of the plans.

Coordinated/joint approach to consider future water demand (WFD Annex III)

2.9 Coordinated/joint approach on setting exemptions

At present information and influence is exchanged as opposed to formally adopted and agreed joint approaches to setting exemptions.

If relevant, list any inconsistencies/open issues stated during interviews with country representatives or found during other investigations:

Biological assessments and the setting of licences for water use in the Loughs was an issue that arose where challenges have been encountered. The Loughs Agency is a transboundary organisation established to clarify joint positions on windfarms and shellfishing for example. Contentions can still arise understandably on competing water uses and regulatory approaches in the busy waterways of Carlingford and Foyle.

3c. Coordinated/Joint Methodologies

Information requested: Areas in which joint methodologies were developed in relation to the issues listed under 3b. In addition, other joint methodologies should be added e.g. to designate HMWBs, to define good ecological status/potential, cost effectiveness of measures and or any other issues. Include brief description of the process of cooperation for each methodology

1. The following joint basin-wide methodologies have been developed:

The methodology for hydromorphological monitoring is the key outcome of developed shared methodologies; an outcome of the Interreg project NS SHARE.

2. The joint methodologies are formally adopted or agreed between the countries (Y/N).

No.

There is no formal agreement on joint methodologies, and issues persist in other monitoring methodologies, such as biological assessment. However, harmonisation of results are aimed for.

3. The joint methodologies are continuously/practically applied in the frame of international cooperation leading to harmonised results (Y/N)

Harmonisation of results takes place continuously. In this respect, practical and operational application is evident and harmonised results have been presented through the GIS outputs.

4. The following challenges currently hinder the continuous/practical application of joint methodologies:

Different regulatory approaches in some areas can hinder some aspects of developing joint methodologies. Moreover the Northern Irish authorities must also consider the consistency of approaches with other UK administrations such as Defra and SEPA and not just look to reconcile methodological issues with approaches in IE.

5. Future development of joint methodologies is planned for the future (Y/N)

Based on experience during development of the first cycle plans, the authorities in both jurisdictions expect to continue to share experiences and best practices during the second and subsequent cycles of river basin management planning.

4. International Coordination Successes and Challenges

4a. Changes related WFD enforcement

Information requested: Description of changes of international cooperation since WFD enforcement

1. Indicate if the enforcement of the EU WFD changed and improved joint cooperation (Y/N)

Yes.

The WFD is seen as a key driver of an international approach in each of the 3 IRBDs.

2. Cooperation areas where changes/improvement occurred through WFD

Shared and joint characterisation of water bodies through mapping and technical exchange are seen as key areas.

When did changes occur?

As of the date on international cooperation and according to the WFD milestones.

4b. Key Successes of coordination

Information requested: Description of cooperation successes, positive feedback loops, etc.

Key successes raised during interviews were in particular the success of shared approaches to GIS tool development as well as the benefits of specific shared resources developed through the EU Interreg Project. This also laid the foundation for follow on work. The North South Coordination Group itself is also highlighted as a key area of success in establishing good communications and a platform for wider technical and policy exchange.

4c. Key Obstacles and Challenges to International Coordination/Cooperation

Information requested: Areas where cooperation was not successful; Areas for improvement

1. Principle key obstacles to international coordination/cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describe.

No.

2. Current key challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(e) the past/current WFD planning cycle

The Irish Government is establishing a new national utility to be called Irish Water. An Implementation Plan for the establishment of Irish Water is close to completion and while there will be changes to governance arrangements in IE, these will not impact on the coordination structures that have been developed with NI.

(f) any other areas regarding water resources management

In the past consultation has taken place at different times which has created delays in signing off amendments.

3. Respective areas of improvement and indication if this is planned

Again Irish Water may offer an opportunity to stream line and improve communications.

4. Expected challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(d) next WFD planning cycle

As above
(e) any other areas regarding water resources management

5. Future in international cooperation - Next steps/View towards 2nd WFD planning cycle

5a. Areas of future cooperation

Information requested: Where work has already started for the next planning cycle; New Areas of international cooperation; Whether an international plan is foreseen

1. Outline if an international RBMP according to the EU WFD is foreseen.

If yes, by when (2015, 2021, 2027)

RBMPs were variously published in 2009 and 2010 and set out agreed PoMs – this is set to continue in second and third cycle plans, these are seen as international RBMPs already

2. First milestones that will be jointly aimed regarding the future EU WFD implementation

Internal discussions are underway in both jurisdictions to finalise preparations for the second cycle of river basin management planning and these will be discussed at the next meeting of the NS WFD Group in September 2012.

3. If no international RBMP will be developed, briefly describe why this is the case.

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4. Further future areas of international cooperation/coordination:

The authorities in both jurisdictions are exploring the potential for closer coordination of implementation of the Bathing Water Directive.

6. Additional Comments

The forthcoming national water authority in Ireland may pose opportunities for improved coordination between the authorities in IE and UK (Northern Ireland).

7. Interviewed country and RBO representatives as well as other experts

Tony McNally Donegal County Council, and former coordinator of NS SHARE
Stuart Wightman Head of Water policy, DRD, Northern Ireland
Damian Allen, Principal, Water Quality Section, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government

8. Sources and References

Shannon IRBD - <http://www.wfdireland.ie/NW> IRBD - <http://www.wfdireland.ie/NB> IRBD - <http://www.wfdireland.ie/>
<http://www.northsouthministerialcouncil.org/>
<http://www.wfdireland.ie/>
<http://www.environ.ie/en/Environment/Water/WaterQuality/WaterFrameworkDirective/>
<http://www.epa.ie/whatwedo/wfd/>
[http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/protect_the_environment/water/water_framework_directive .htm](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/protect_the_environment/water/water_framework_directive.htm)
Managing our Shared Waters, 2003
Murphy, Katie and Glasgow, Grace 2009 North–South coordination in Ireland’s international river basin districts. *Biology and Environment: Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* **109B**, 139–50. DOI: 10.3318/BIOE.2009.109.3.139

COOPERATION CATEGORY 2

Coordination Mechanisms of the International ES-PT River Basins

1. Basic information on international river basins/sub-river basins between ES and PT

EU Member States sharing the basins: Spain, Portugal

Third countries sharing the basin: ---

River Basin Districts concerned:

Douro, Guadiana, Minho, Tagus



Size of the total catchment area and national shares for each international river/sub-river basin, indicating division by country and the respective RBD:

Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	Total Area of Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin (km ²)	EU Member States/Non EU Member States in International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin km ² (%)	International RBD to which International River Basin belongs
Duero/Douro	97,715	Spain	78,859 (80.7)	Douro
		Portugal	18,855 (19.3)	
Guadiana	67,052	Spain	55,454 (82.72)	Guadiana
		Portugal	11,598 (17.3)	
Miño/Minho	17,080	Spain	16,226 (95.0)	Minho
		Portugal	854 (5.0)	
Lima/Limia	2,506	Spain	1,326 (52.9)	Minho
		Portugal	1,180 (47.1)	
Tajo/Tejo	71,187	Spain	55,772 (78.3)	Tagus
		Portugal	15,415 (21.7)	

Maps of River Basin Districts shared between Spain and Portugal:



Guadiana



Douro/Douro



Mino/Minho



Lima/Limia



Tajo/Tejo

2. Cooperation Framework

2a. International agreement or convention

Information requested: Title, date of agreement, countries not covered under agreement, brief description

1. Title:

Albufeira Agreement - Agreement for cooperation in the protection and sustainable exploitation of water resources (effective for all listed international basins)

2. Countries under Agreement:

ES, PT

3. Countries part of basin but not covered by agreement:

--

4. Date and place of signing: 1998

Description: The Albufeira Agreement aims to improve the cooperation between Portugal and Spain, in order to encourage the sustainable use of shared watercourses and, maintain and improve the ecological status of shared water bodies.

5. Entry into force:

1998 (issues regarding river flows revised in 2006/2008)

6. Key objectives and content of agreement/convention:

Institutional Regime (Articles 20 and 23), Exchange of Information (Articles 5, 6 and 7 and Annex I), Transboundary Impacts (Articles 8 and 9 and Annex II), Quality and Pollution (Articles 13 y 14), Water Uses (Article 15), Exceptional Situations (Articles 17, 18 y 19), Flow Regime (Article 16, Additional Protocol and Annex)

7. Role of WFD implementation in international basins:

The Agreement was negotiated in parallel to the development of the EU WFD. Although not directly shaped by the WFD, most of its spirit can be found in the Agreement. Moreover, several members on the negotiation team of both Spain and Portugal also participated in the development of the WFD.

Now, the WFD orientates the Commission in charge of the Agreement to steer efforts toward the development of an international RBMP.

2b. Coordinating/Governing Body/River Basin Organisation

Information requested: Name(s) of Secretariat/Commission, location, working languages, website

1. Name(s):

Two coordination bodies are in place:

- Commission **for the Development and Application of the Agreement (CADC)**: Since 2008, the creation of the Permanent Technical Secretariat (PTS) has been agreed by both parties but due to several issues, including the current public budget crisis, the PTS is currently not operational.
- **Conference of the Parties**: Formed by Ministers from both countries. Meetings take place annually following technical plenary meetings.

2. Operative since:

1998; 2008

3. Location and address:

The yet to be implemented Permanent Technical Secretariat (PTS) will be supported by:

- (i) Spanish Technical Secretariat under the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment (MAGRAMA, ex-MARMA)
- (ii) Portuguese Technical Secretariat presided by the Foreign Ministry, the vice president coming from the Ministry of Environment, and supported by Spatial Planning and Regional Development.

4. Working Languages:

Spanish/Portuguese

5. Website:

www.cadc-albufeira.org

2c. Coordination structure

Information requested: Description of (i) organisational structure (ii) cooperation tasks (iii) expert groups (iv) regular meetings, (v) number of staff, (vi) webpage (vii) other issues.

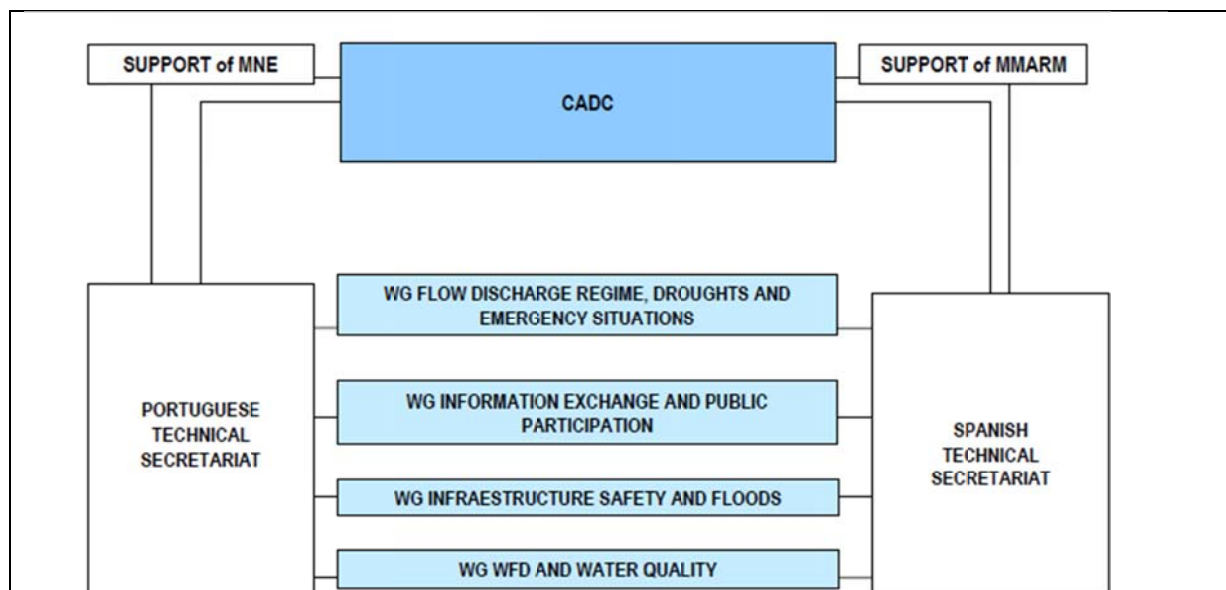
1. Organisational structure:

(i) Verbal description:

The CADC is a bilateral body headed in Spain by a president and Vice President from the Environment Ministry and in Portugal the CADC is presided over by a President from the Foreign Ministry and a Vice President from the Environment Ministry. Technical support staff assist largely in the transfer and collation of data and in preparing plenary meetings ahead of the annual Conference of the Parties in which agreed actions are discussed.

The headquarters of the Permanent Technical Secretariat (PTS) of the CADC is to rotate every two years between Madrid and Lisbon. The PTS's objectives are to (i) provide technical, administrative and promotional support to the CADC, (ii) define methodologies for developing international RBMPs by 2015, (iii) consolidate bases for bi-national public participation processes

(ii) Organisational diagram:



(iii) Key cooperation tasks

- Flow Discharge regime, Droughts and Emergency Situations
- Information Exchange and Public Participation
- Infrastructure Safety and Flood
- EU WFD and Water Quality

(iv) Expert groups

Four technical working groups are currently in place. These include the Working Group on:

- Flow Discharge regime, Droughts and Emergency Situations
- Information Exchange and Public Participation
- Infrastructure Safety and Floods
- EU WFD and Water Quality

(v) Regular meetings

- Regular technical meetings of the Working Groups
- Regular Conferences of the Parties
- Plenary Sessions twice a year and Conference of the Parties annually to conclude on agreements

(vi) Number of staff:

8 staff members, 4 from each country including each one coordinator and technical staff

(vii) Observers: Advisors may also be present and technical consultants

(viii) Webpage: www.cadc-albufeira.org

(ix) Other issues:

The Permanent Technical Secretariat (PTS) is not yet in place. In Portugal responsibility is shifting from the Water Institute (INAG) to the new environmental protection agency (APA)

2d. Other cooperation agreements if relevant

Information requested: Description of (i) other national bilateral/multilateral agreements for transboundary coordination including country members, (ii) organisational approach, (iii) involved authorities, (iv) meetings

1. The following bilateral/multilateral agreements are in place besides the overall international agreement (list for each cooperating country):

Longstanding agreements on water date back to 1864 and the Treaty of Lisbon of which the CADDC is the most recent and comprehensive. The first specific river agreement between the parties was the 1927 Convention on the Regulation of the Hydroelectric Utilisation of the International Part of the River Douro.

2. Further related information

1864 Treaty of Lisbon

<http://paginas.fe.up.pt/~rmaia/Artigos/Portuguese-spanish%20river%20basins.pdf>

3. Key Areas of International Cooperation

3a. International River Basin Management Plan

1. WFD international River Basin Management Plan developed (Y/N)

No

Only if an international RBMP has been developed, the below items need to be completed:

2. RBMP download link

--

3. The international RBMP is formally defined/delineated in relation to the national RBMP as follows (i.e. catchment area size, other thresholds, etc.):

--

4. The national RBMP refers to the implementation of international cooperation and coordination mechanisms:

(List for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP)

--

5. The international RBMP includes country specific information (Y/N).

If 'yes' (=country specific information is provided), list if the information is consistent with the national RBMP.

The Agreement (no RBMP) has allowed the development of a common database on river flows fed by both countries, after official validation of data. This exchange of information can be done weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually. It has also been a platform to improve the relationship between the two countries with respect to water management.

Country specific information in international RBMP (Y/N plus short description of cross reference) – list for each cooperating country

--

The information provided in the international RBMP is consistent with the national RBMP

--

3b. Coordinated/Joint Activities

Information requested: Topics where joint development occurred, for example: SWMIs, monitoring, PoMs, objectives, public consultations, etc.; Description of the process of joint cooperation for each activity.

No international RBMP has been developed so far although it is a declared joint objective to develop international RBMPs by 2015; So far no SWMIs have been identified but there are key areas of cooperation:

1 Key international cooperation activities – general description

Flow Discharge regime, Droughts and Emergency Situations

- Creation of a common database on historical flow discharges
- Control of flow discharge regime
- Establishment of a new flow discharge regime
- Criteria harmonisation of Drought Indicator Systems

Information Exchange and Public Participation

- Joint use of EC CIRCA platform
- Data exchange
- Exchange of river basin management plan reports
- Elaboration of joint annual reports on Flow Discharges Regimes and Water Quality
- Development and maintenance of a joint webpage
- Organisation of technical sessions on public participation

Infrastructure Safety and Flood

- Exchange of information on infrastructure with possible transboundary impacts
- Coordination of emergency plan implementation with shared alert systems (e.g. Portugal has access to the Spanish monitoring system)
- Promotion of joint flood studies

EU WFD and Water Quality

- Exchange of information on WFD implementation

- Harmonisation of Geographic Information Systems
- Development of common cartography for boundary and transboundary water bodies
- Exchange of information on water quality
- Establishment of reaction mechanisms against pollution accidents

2 Description of detailed coordinated/joint activities:

2.1 WFD SWMIs (Y/N). If yes, describe.

Yes/No:

No SWMIs have been identified. However, the above joint cooperation activities are defined.

2.2 Coordinated/joint visions and objectives (Y/N):

Yes/No

Both countries have delayed the development of an international RBMP by one year.

2.3 Coordinated/transboundary monitoring

No.

Information is exchanged rather than carried out in concert

2.4 Coordinated/shared databases and/or GIS

Yes/No.

GIS information is exchanged although methodological differences persist

2.5 Coordinated/joint Programme of Measures

No.

PoMs are carried out within national boundaries and are not internationally coordinated.

2.6 Coordinated/joint (financial) resources to support international cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describes basic concept of joint financial resources.

No.

2.6.a Basic concept of joint financial resources:--

2.6.b Amount of joint financial resources: --

2.6.c List of supported joint resources:--

2.6.d Country participation in joint meetings is supported (Y/N) in kind staff attendance is the main form of financing coordination: No.

2.7 Coordinated/joint communication strategy and public participation activities (Y/N)

No.

Consultation is carried out separately only at the national level. No international consultations were undertaken so far.

2.8 Coordinated/joint approach to consider future water demand (WFD Annex III)

No.

However, this is expected in 2013 in preparation for 2015 and is hoped to be prepared through plenary meetings of the CADC.

2.9 Coordinated/joint approach on setting exemptions

Again this is an ambition for 2013.

Comment:

Flow regime issues are the priority and both countries have delayed further coordinated activities until 2013.

3c. Coordinated/Joint Methodologies

Information requested: Areas in which joint methodologies were developed in relation to the issues listed under 3b. In addition, other joint methodologies should be added e.g. to designate HMWBs, to define good ecological status/potential, cost effectiveness of measures and or any other issues. Include brief description of the process of cooperation for each methodology

1. The following joint methodologies have been developed

Flow regimes hold quantified objectives for the international level; but differing methodologies exist.

2. The joint methodologies are formally adopted/agreed between the countries (Y/N)

No.

3. The joint methodologies are continuously/practically applied in the frame of international cooperation leading to harmonised results (Y/N)

Not clear.

4. The following challenges currently hinder the continuous/practical application of joint methodologies:

The new institutional arrangements may hinder the good cooperation that has existed at the technical level to date in the exchange of information and setting of quantified targets for flows.

5. Future development of joint methodologies is planned for the future (Y/N).

If already known, list which ones.

A common general protocol exists for several scenarii; however a common operational protocol guide has yet to be developed for the pressing issues of the transboundary sector (100km from the border, following the water course). There has been a proposal for such a document but it has not been developed.

Comment:

Again institutional changes in both countries have left uncertainties in identifying future common approaches and formal methodological synergies.

4. International Coordination Successes and Challenges

4a. Changes from WFD implementation

Information requested: Description of changes of international cooperation since WFD enforcement

1. Indicate if the enforcement of the EU WFD changed and improved joint cooperation (Y/N)

The Agreement was negotiated in parallel to the EU WFD so the Directive did not improve cooperation per se but fed some of the discussion around the agreement. The future development of a WFD international River Basin Management Plan is expected to improve joint cooperation but is also going to be the product of improved joint cooperation. Both countries recognise the value and the approach of the WFD in driving an RB approach.

2. Cooperation areas where changes/improvement occurred through WFD: tbc

3. When did changes occur?: tbc

Comment: Public Consultation does not always happen at the same time making amendments potentially time consuming and the cause of delays to implementation.

4b. Key Successes of coordination

Information requested: Description of cooperation successes, positive feedback loops, etc.

The key success highlighted is trust between the parties; The CADC is seen as a good example of trust and information exchange has led to better outcomes for both parties. The current drought situation in both countries is seen as an example of how improved trust has led to more effective measures being taken by both.

4c. Key Obstacles and Challenges to International Coordination/Cooperation

Information requested: Areas where cooperation was not successful; Areas for improvement

1. Principle key obstacles to international coordination/cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describe.

Historical relationships between the two parties have been cited as a source of a lack of trust. For water management, Spain holds a larger share of catchment area than PT and controls the upstream sections of the rivers in the Agreement. Therefore, the establishment of trust with PT was key to cooperation. This seems to have been achieved, according to both parties.

2. Current key challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(g) the past/current WFD planning cycle

The current WFD RBMPs have yet to be approved and therefore the development of an international plan is hindered by this delay.

(h) any other areas regarding water resources management

- Water quantity and its management is the major issue in the Agreement and one basin in particular is contentious (Guadiana). This river starts in Spain, enters Portugal and ends up as the border between countries. Water allocation for both countries is still a matter to be resolved.
- In the case of breaches, only had-hoc solutions have been developed to date, based on negotiations. No operational protocol exists as to how to proceed in practice.

3. Respective areas of improvement and indication if this is planned

- Having a permanent management body (Permanent Technical Secretariat –PTS which is approved but not set up).
- Having access to funding and a specific budget (linked to establishment of PTS) - the holding of legal status for the current managing Commission.

4. Expected challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(f) Next WFD planning cycle

Both countries envisage delays in their preparatory activities of at least a year.

(g) any other areas regarding water resources management

Bridges and other infrastructure planning and their impact on waters has become another area of challenge in cooperation

5. Future in international cooperation - Next steps/View towards 2nd Planning cycle

5a. Areas of future cooperation

Information requested: Where work has already started for the next planning cycle; New Areas of international cooperation; Whether an international plan is foreseen

1. Outline if the development of an international RBMP according to the EU WFD is foreseen

If so, by when (2015, 2021, 2027)

An international RBMP is foreseen but the date will first depend on the approval of all the related RBMPs at national level. Again delays have been highlighted and accepted in both countries.

Some clarity from the SCG on this issue would be helpful

2. First milestones that will be jointly aimed for regarding the future EU WFD implementation

Plenary meetings are planned for later this year and there is also a Conference of the Parties expected to discuss these issues in the Autumn

3. If no international RBMP will be developed, briefly describe why this is the case

Uncertainty is evident across the board and in part reflects financial constraints but also the practical constraints arising from the degree of institutional changes

4. Further future areas of international cooperation/coordination

Further work is expected to be prioritised in flow regimes and in infrastructure planning.

6. Additional Comments

Both countries have new administrations and whilst the legislation requires commitments to the CADC the service level to be applied in both countries remains very difficult to ascertain at this point in time

7. Interviewed country and RBO representatives as well as other experts

Mr Fernando Octavio de Toledo was interviewed. He was formerly Spain's representative at the Commission for the Development and Application of the Agreement. He is a civil servant at the Direccion General del Agua of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment (MAGRAMA). foctavio@magrama.es

Manuela Falcao, Adviser to the Former Portuguese President of the Commission, and current representative of the Foreign Ministry.

Anna Tejado, Water Institute (INAG) worked on information exchange and environmental impact assessment as part of the technical team supporting the CADC. She will move to the new environmental protection agency APA

8. Sources and References

Albufeira Agreement 1998.

Reunion Plenaria de la Comission para la Aplicacion y Desarrollo del Convenio; 19 July 2010, Lisbon

<http://paginas.fe.up.pt/~rmaia/Artigos/Portuguese-spanish%20river%20basins.pdf>

Coordination Mechanisms of the International ES-FR-AD River Basins

1. Basic information on international river basins/sub-river basins between ES and FR

EU Member States sharing the basins: Spain, France

Third countries sharing the basin: Andorra

River Basin Districts concerned:

Adour Garonne, Cantabrico Oriental, Ebro, Rhone, Catalonia, Rhone

Key international sub-basins:

Garonne: Nive, Nivelle, Bidasoa sub-basins

Ebro: Segre sub-basin



Size of the total catchment area and national shares for each international river/sub-river basin, indicating division by country and the respective RBD:

Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	Total Area of Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	EU Member States/Non EU Member States in International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin	International RBD to which International River Basin belongs
			km ² (%)	
Garonne	80.677	Spain	555 (1%)	Cantabrico Oriental
		France	80.122 (99%)	Adour Garonne
Nive	1.033	Spain	121 (19%)	Cantabrico Oriental
		France	912 (81%)	Adour Garonne
Nivelle	374	Spain	70 (12%)	Cantabrico Oriental
		France	304 (88%)	Adour Garonne
Bidasoa	710	Spain	689 (97%)	Cantabrico Oriental
		France	21 (3%)	Adour Garonne
Ebro	86.473	Spain	85.534 (99%)	Ebro/Catalonia
		France	474 (1%)	Rhone
Segre	19.690	Spain	18.750 (99%)	Ebro/Catalonia
		France	474 (<1%)	Rhone-Mediterranee
		Andorra	466 (<1%)	Third Country



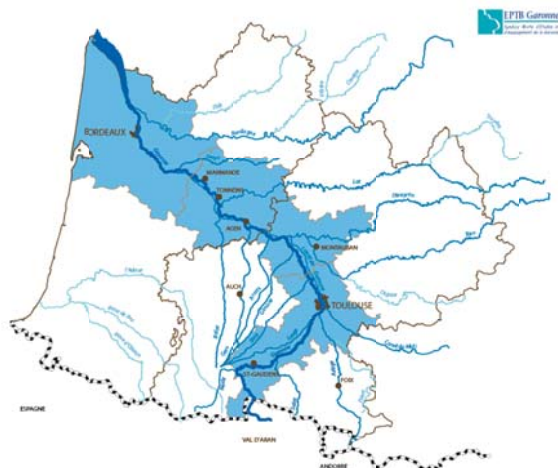
Maps 1 and 2: The French and Spanish River basin districts.

Source: *Ministero de Agricultura, Alimentacion y Medio Ambiente ; Direction régionale et interdépartementale de l'environnement et de l'énergie Ile-de-France*

'R, the Ebro also part of

Map 3: The international river basins shared between France and Spain

Source : <http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/>



Map 4 : The Garonne basin

Source : EBTP Garonne, Syndicat Mixte d'Etudes et d'Aménagement de la Garonne

Note: The Garonne is connected with the Rhone via the Canal du Midi and the Canal du Rhone à Sète. This forms an important basic information to this fact sheet as it connects FR part of the river Segre with the Ebro river:

The Canal du Midi is a 241 km long canal in France that connects the Garonne to the Etang de Thau on the Mediterranean Sea. The aim of its construction was to create a shortcut between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea. Moreover, the Canal du Midi is linked to the Rhône by the "Canal du Rhône à Sète" which connects the Etang de Thau to the Rhône River. "Les voies navigables de France", a French navigation authority, is responsible for the management of these canals. The Canal du Rhône is currently modernized within the framework of the "Rhône plan", a project, which began in 2007 and will end in 2013. This project is funded by the Languedoc-Roussillon region, which invested 30 million Euros. Since 2007, there is a "Schéma d'Aménagement et de Gestion de l'Eau" (SAGE) of the Etang de Thau basin. An inventory of the Canal du Midi and the Canal du Rhône was made in 2009 within the framework of the SAGE.



Map 5: Connection between the Garonne, the Rhône, the Canal du Midi and the Canal du Rhône à Sète

Source : Syndicat mixte du bassin the Thau.



Maps 6 and 7: The Ebro river basin and its Segre sub-basin. The river Segre is a tributary of the Ebro River and makes it an international river basin shared between ES, FR and AD. The river Segre is connected to the Rhone River Basin via the Canal du Midi and Canal de Rhône à Sète.

2. Cooperation Framework

2a. International agreement or convention

Information requested: Title, date of agreement, countries not covered under agreement, brief description

1. Title:

Garonne river basin: Protocole d'accord de coopération pour la vallée de la Garonne

Nivelle, Bidasoa river basins: Historic agreement: The Toulouse agreement signed in February 2006 established a coordinating committee including the Prefect of the Midi-Pyrénées and the Spanish Hydrographic Confederations for the management of the Nivelle, Nive and Bidasoa basins.

In the case of the Nivelle and Bidasoa basins, the **GURATRANS** project, "**Gestion Locale et Participative des Rivières Transfrontalières des Pyrénées Atlantiques**" will start in June 2012.

Nive river basin: In the case of the Nive river basin, there is a river contract managed by the Syndicat Mixte du Bassin Versant de la Nive (French side) signed in 2001. No transboundary component is integrated into this river contract. No new international agreement is foreseen.

Segre river basin (as part of the Ebro RBD): Contrat de rivière du Sègre en Cerdagne

Note : There is no international agreement for the Ebro river but only its international river Segre.

2. Countries under Agreement:

France and Spain

3. Countries part of basin but not covered by agreement: --

4. Date and place of signing:

Garonne basin: 16/06/2000 in Vielha revised in March 2012

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: GURATRANS project : June 2012

Segre: First agreement in January 2008. First revision: in Saillagouse.

5. Entry into force:

Garonne basin: 16/06/2000 and March 2012

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: GURATRANS project : 2012 – 2014

Segre: 6 October 2010

6. Key objectives and content of agreement/convention:

Garonne basin:

The "Syndicat Mixte d'Etude et d'Aménagement de la Garonne" (SMEAG), the "Generalitat de Catalogne" and the "Conselh Generau d'Aran" agree to exchange their knowledge, to enhance stakeholders participation, and to develop the technical and administrative means to carry out coordinated management.

In March 2012, the agreement was revised to integrate an action plan, which will be reviewed on an annual basis. The action plan focuses on:

The development of coordinated work on the issue of managing the flow variations

The coordination of the French and Spanish management plans within the framework of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)

The development of a coordinated plan for the maintenance of the Garonne river bed and banks

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: The objectives of the GURATRANS project are to coordinate actions of the relevant authorities within the framework of the WFD.

This project has been developed within the framework of the "Schéma D'Aménagement et de Gestion des Eaux Côtiers Basques" ("SAGE Côtiers Basques") in which a transboundary component is integrated.

Segre basin:

One of the main objectives of the contract 2010 -2012 is to increase this participation of the Spanish authorities in order to develop a shared Programme of Measures. Actually, the French basin contract accounts 6 axes:

Drinking water supply / sanitation;

Water quality management;

Flood risk management;

Improvement of riverine hydromorphology and biological functions;

Restoration of aquatic ecosystems and hydraulic heritage;

Coordination, animation of the RBMP.

7. Role of WFD implementation in international basins:

Garonne basin: The French and Spanish governments did not create individual international River Basin Districts according to the EU WFD because of the small size of the sections of the shared river basins.

Therefore no obligation is seen to produce an international RBMP document. However, in February 2006, the French and Spanish governments signed an administrative arrangement in order to organize cooperation on transboundary rivers, alligned to the EU WFD.

Nivelle, (Nive), Bidasoa basins: The EU WFD drove the work on the development of a joint document on the inventory of the three transboundary river basins (Nivelle, Bidasoa and Nive). The joint document will be developed in 2012 through an international working group that involves members of the “Conférence Atlantique Transpyrénées”, the French and Spanish Water Agencies.

Note: The “Conférence Atlantique Transpyrénées” is a coordinating organization created in 2007 within the framework of the Toulouse agreement. It involves the Basque government, the Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa, the General Council of Pyrenees-Atlantique, and the Regional Council of Aquitaine. Their objective is to deal with the transboundary issues that the inhabitants of the two countries may have.

Segre: WFD objectives have been integrated in the RBMP through the revision process, which occurred in 2010. This revised version of the RBMP emphasizes: ecosystem restoration measures, farmers organization in irrigation management, economic issues around water management.

2b. Coordinating/Governing Body/River Basin Organisation

Information requested: Name(s) of Secretariat/Commission, location, working languages, website

1. Name(s):

Garonne basin: Syndicat Mixte d’Etude et d’Aménagement de la Garonne (SMEAG)

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: Communauté de Communes Sud Pays Basque

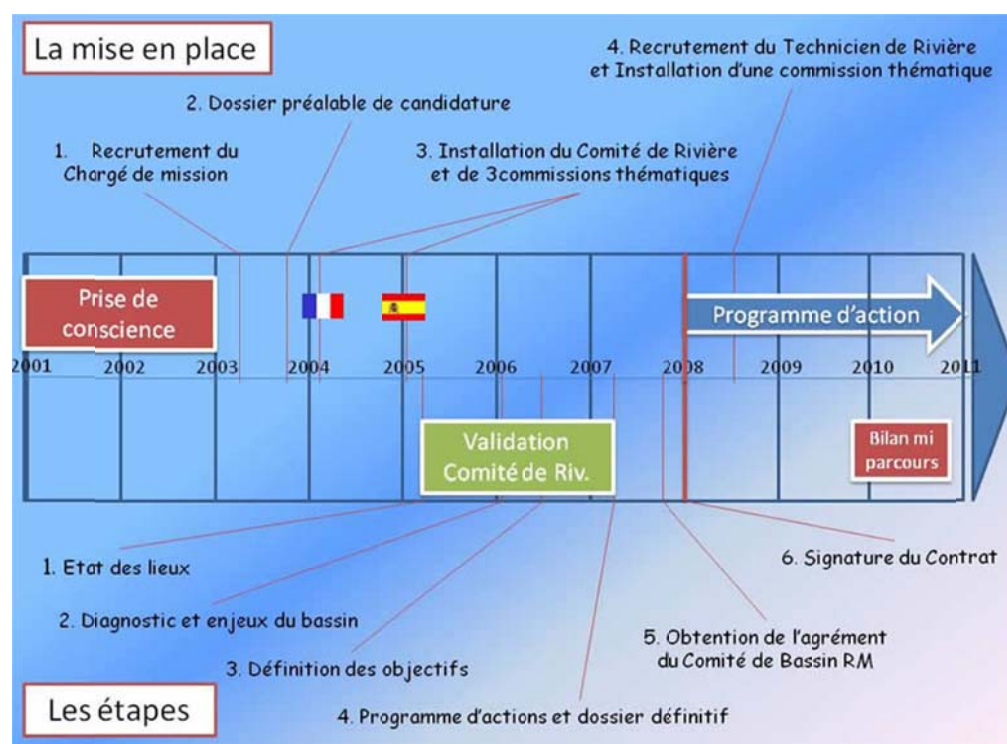
Segre: Comité de Rivière Transfrontalier du Sègre.

2. Operative since:

Garonne basin: 1983

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: 2005

Segre: 2004



3. Location and address:

Garonne basin: Syndicat Mixte d’Etude et d’Aménagement de la Garonne (SMEAG)

61 rue Pierre Cazeneuve

31 200 TOULOUSE

0033 (0)5 62 72 76 00

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: Communauté de Communes Sud Pays-Basque

5-7 rue Putillenea

64122 URRUGNE

Communauté de communes Pyrénées – Cerdagne

1 place del Roser

66800 Saillagouse

0033(0)4 68 04 15 47

4. Working Languages:

Garonne basin: French, Spanish, Catalan

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: French, Spanish, Basque

Segre: French and Spanish

5. Website:

Garonne basin: <http://www.eptb-garonne.fr>

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: <http://www.cc-sudpaysbasque.com/qui-sommes-nous.html>

Segre: www.pyrenees-cerdagne.fr/c_riviere/Organisation.htm

2c. Coordination structure

Information requested: Description of (i) organisational structure (ii) cooperation tasks (iii) expert groups (iv) regular meetings, (v) number of staff, (vi) webpage (vii) other issues.

1. Organisational structure:

(i) Verbal description

Garonne basin:

On French side, the SMEAG is in partnership with the “Agence de l’Eau Adour Garonne”, the “DIREN Midi-Pyrénées”, EDF and the “Conseil Général de la Haute Garonne”. On Spanish side, the Department of the Environment of the “Generalitat de Catalogne” is responsible for the preparation and the execution of environmental policy in Catalonia. The “Agència Catalana de l’Aigua” depends on the Department of the Environment and participates in the development of water planning for inter-community basins within the “Confederacion del Ebro Hidrografica”. The “Conselh Generau d’Aran” is responsible for the special protection areas that are located on the territory of the Val d’Aran.

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins:

Partners involved:

- Communauté de Communes Sud Pays Basque,
- Conseil Général des Pyrénées Atlantiques,
- Communauté Autonome Basque
- Fundacion Centro de Recursos Ambientales de Navarra

Segre:

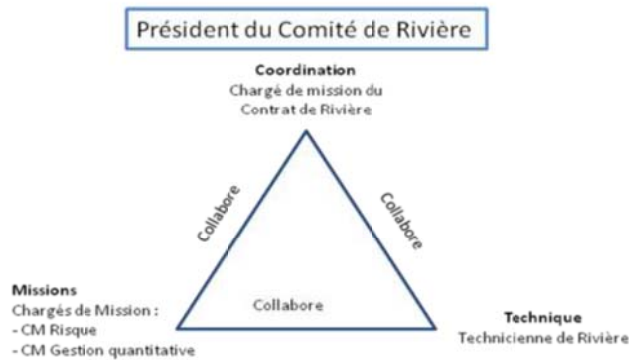
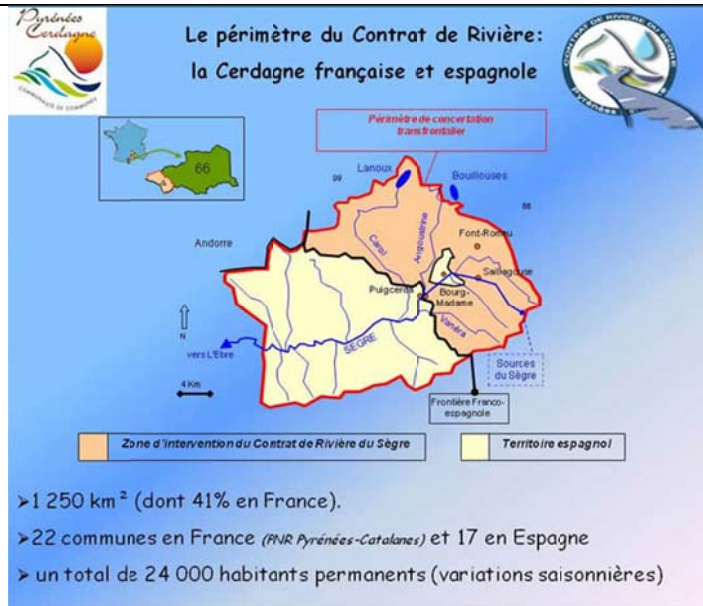
The coordination structure is the “communauté de communes « Pyrénées – Cerdagne » in France. The “Conseil Comarcal de la Cerdanya” is involved in the FR basin committee and is theoretically in charge of coordinating the river contract on Spanish side. Nevertheless the Spanish water committee never met. One of the main objective of the contract 2010 -2012 is to increase this participation of the Spanish authorities in order to build a shared programme of measures.

(ii) Organisation diagram

Garonne basin: Not Specified

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: Not Specified

Segre:



(iii) Key cooperation tasks

Garonne basin:

- The development of a coordinated work on the issue of managing the flow variations
- The coordination of the French and Spanish management plans within the framework of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)
- The development of a coordinated plan for the maintenance of the Garonne river beds and banks

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins:


Coordination of actions, establishing common objectives, sharing data

Segre:

Missions and coordination activities are decided by the river basin Committee.

The river basin Committee is organised through 4 commissions:

Organisation du Comité de Rivière :

			
Président: François Licciardi			
Bureau: M. Fortuny M. Carrera M. Lequien M. Mone M. Autones M. Marty M. Barnole M. Patau M. Dominguez			
Commission « ALIMENTATION EAU POTABLE et ASSAINISSEMENT » - M. Peytavi (SIVM Carol) - M. Autones (SIVM Segre) - Le PNR - M. Imbern (Ebr) - M. Abel (Belgaire) - M. Jourdan (Estivar) - La Mise - L'Agence de l'Eau - M. Marty (Dorres) - M. Gil (Dorres) - M. Will (Targassonne)	Commission « RESSOURCE en EAU et QUALITE » - M. Hoffer (EDF) - M. Fossey (Forêt Pyrénéenne) - Le PNR - FDPPMA 66 - ONEMA - La MISE - L'Agence de l'Eau - M. Gil (Dorres) - M. Barnole (ASA) - M. De Maury (CDA) - M. Bauré (Chambre d'Agriculture) - M. De Pastors - M. Will (Targassonne)	Commission « PROTECTION et VALORISATION des MILIEUX AQUATIQUES » - FDPPMA 66 - L'ONEMA - Le PNR - M. Staal (Asso. « les efforts de la pluvette ») - L'Agence de l'Eau - Le RTM - M. Komaroff - Mme Gaches - M. Carrera - CRPF - M. Will (Targassonne) - M. Pesqué (Saillogouse)	Commission « GESTION et SUIVI de la RESSOURCE SEGRE » : - MISE - DIREN - ONEMA - ADASIA - FDPPMA 66 - L'Agence de l'Eau - Conseil Général - Conseil Régional - Comarca - Communauté de Communes « Pyrénées-Cerdagne » & - Les membres spécifiques à chaque sous-bassin (ASA, AAPPMA, syndicats d'eau et d'assainissement, communes concernées, socioprofessionnels...)

(iv) Expert groups

Garonne basin: Not specified

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: Not specified

Segres:

- Drinking water supply / sanitation
- Water quality and quantity management;
- Protection and restoration of aquatic ecosystems
- Management of Sègre Ressource

(v) Regular meetings

Garonne basin: Likely, there will be regular meetings to review the agreement on an annual basis.

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: Not Specified

Segres: regular meetings depending on demand

(vi) Number of staff

Garonne basin: Not specified

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: Not specified

Segre: Three staff members

(vii) Observers

Garonne basin: Not specified

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: Not specified

Segre: Not specified

(viii) Webpage

Garonne basin: <http://www.eptb-garonne.fr/pages/dossier-coope.php>

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: There is no website yet.

Segre: www.pyrenees-cerdagne.fr/c_riviere/Contexte.html

(ix) Other issues

Garonne basin: The administrative and legal frameworks are different between France and Spain. There is a willingness to create an international structure to ease the sharing of funds.

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: Not specified

Segre: Some difficulties' in coordinating administrative boundaries and water basin limits are highlighted in

2d. Other cooperation agreements if relevant

Information requested: Description of other national bilateral/multilateral agreements for transboundary coordination including country members

1. The following bilateral/multilateral agreements are in place besides the overall international agreement (list for each cooperating country):

Garonne basin: Interreg project IIIA « La vallée de la Garonne, un territoire transfrontalier »
 First agreement signed in June 2000 in Vielha between the SMEAG, the “Generalitat de Catalogne” and the “Conselh Generau d’Aran”
 Entry into force: 30/11/2002

2. Further related information

Garonne basin: The project period was 2003 – 2007. The financial means of the project have enabled the achievement of two objectives :

Objective 1. A better understanding of the Garonne and information exchange

Measure 1. Gathering and linking the knowledge

Measure 2. Thematic studies

Measure 3. Adaptation of tools for monitoring water flows

Objective 2. Enhancing and protecting the Garonne in the context of sustainable development

Measure 1. Management of river ecosystems

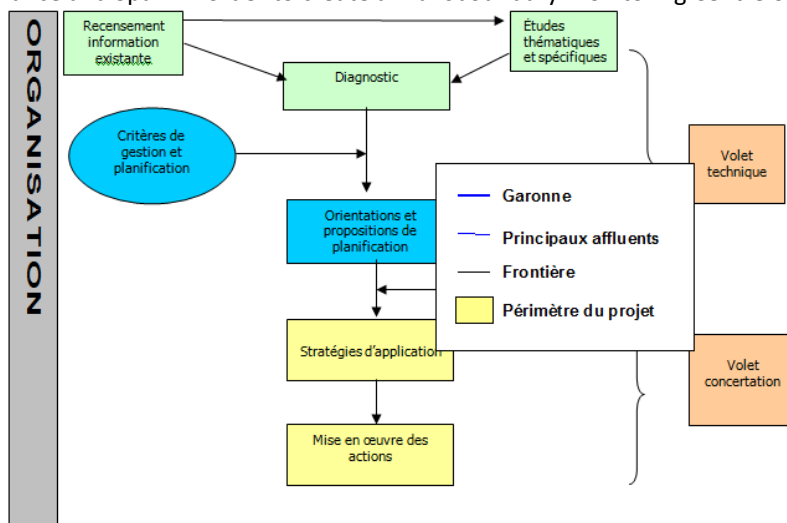
Measure 2. Developing civil society networks in the Garonne

SMEAG led the Interreg Project.

Three working groups of partners’ representatives were created to work on resource, natural environment and society issues. One working group worked on one thematic issue. Each working group developed a working methodology used for implementation. The methodology was split into two sections:

- One technical section
- One consultation section

Cooperation was used in each of these sections. In the technical section, the knowledge on the river was shared between France and Spain in order to create a Transboundary Monitoring Centre of the Garonne.



3. Key Areas of International Cooperation

3a. International River Basin Management Plan

1. WFD international River Basin Management Plan developed (Y/N)

Garonne basin: No international RBMP has been developed.

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: No international RBMP has been developed.

Segre: No international RBMP has been developed.

Only if an international RBMP has been developed, the below items need to be completed:

2. RBMP download link

--

3. The international RBMP is formally defined/delineated in relation to the national RBMP as follows (i.e. catchment area size, other thresholds, etc.): --

4. The national RBMP refers to implementation of international cooperation and coordination mechanisms (List for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP): --

5. The international RBMP includes country specific information (Y/N).

If 'yes' (=country specific information is provided), list if the information is consistent with the national RBMP.

Country specific information in international RBMP (Y/N plus short description of cross reference) – list for each cooperating country:--

The information provided in the international RBMP is consistent with the national RBMP

(Y/N plus short description if needed) -) – list for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP

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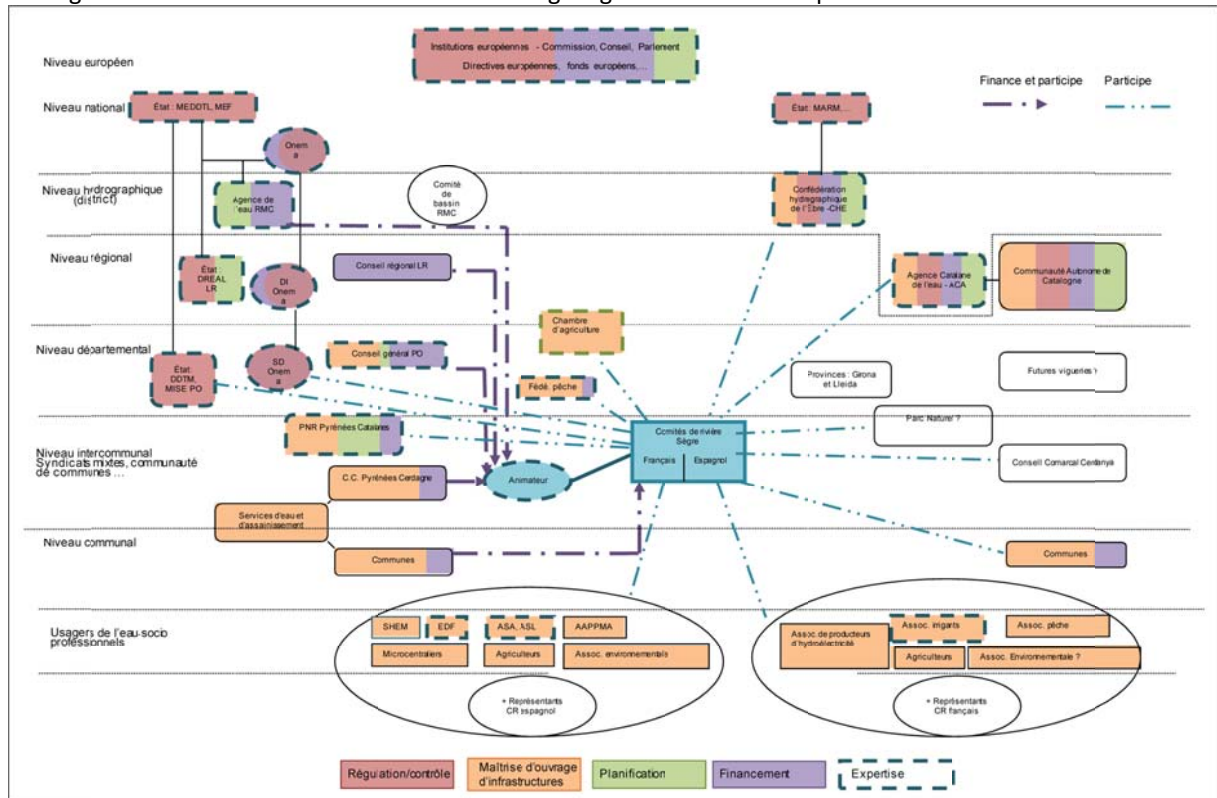
3b. Coordinated/Joint Activities

Information requested: Topics where joint development occurred, for example: SWMIs, monitoring, PoMs, objectives, public consultations, etc; Description of the process of joint cooperation for each activity.

1 Key international cooperation activities – general description

Garonne basin: Joint objectives, joint monitoring and shared databases, joint communication

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: Providing coherence between objectives, measures and knowledge on water management of the two river basins. The following diagram shows the cooperation level between ES and FR.



Source: Maury-Richard, 2011, *The difficulty of managing water in a cross-border region: the Franco-Spanish case*

2 Description of detailed coordinated/joint activities:

2.1 WFD SWMIs (Y/N). If yes, describe.

Garonne basin: Yes.

The major issues identified in the revised agreement (March 2012) are :

- A coordinated work on the issue of managing the flow variations
- A coordinated work for the maintenance of the Garonne river bed and banks
- The coordination of the French and Spanish management plans within the framework of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: Not specified.

Segre: n.a.

2.2 Coordinated/joint visions and objectives:

Garonne basin: Yes

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: Yes.

Segre: Y/N. Joint vision seems difficult to build. Common objectives in terms of water quality are easier to implement than joint vision in terms of water quantity allocation between both countries.

2.3 Coordinated/transboundary monitoring

Garonne basin: Yes

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: Not specified.

2.4 Coordinated/shared databases and/or GIS

Garonne basin: Yes. Data sharing and the development of a monitoring centre have been implemented since 2004 within the framework of the interreg project.

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: Yes.

Segre: n.a.

2.5 Coordinated/joint Programme of Measures

Garonne basin: Yes.

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: Not specified.

Segre: No.

The first joint activities to improve water quality were supported by both sides (water treatment plan of Carol), but the water quantity issues and share of water volume between both countries is more difficult to be achieved. Moreover administrative overload induced by transboundary measures challenge some local stakeholders to build common initiatives.

2.6 Coordinated/joint (financial) resources to support international cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describes basic concept of joint financial resources.

2.6.a *Basic concept of joint financial resources:--*

2.6.b *Amount of joint financial resources*

Garonne basin: The interreg project III A "La vallée de la Garonne, un territoire transfrontalier » helped to provide financial resources enabling to implement the objectives of the agreement.

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: 65 % from ERDF, 35 % from the Communauté de Communes Sud Pays Basques, the Communauté Autonome Basque and FUNDACIÓN CENTRO DE RECURSOS AMBIENTALES DE NAVARRA

2.6.c *List of supported joint resources*

Garonne basin: The table below gives the amount of joint financial resources. The total cost of the interreg project was 2 million euros including 1 million euros from the ERDF.

	Coût total	FEDER	Contreparties
Projet Global	2 047 698	982 688	345 546
Généralité de Catalogne	786 789	382 418	-
Conseil Général du Val d'Aran	123 424	61 712	-
Sméag	1 137 485	538 558	345 546

2.6.d Country participation in joint meetings is supported (Y/N): --

2.7 Coordinated/joint communication strategy and public participation activities

Garonne basin: Yes. A coordinated communication strategy is particularly developed between the SMEAG and the "Conseil General d'Aran"

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: Not specified

Segre: n.a.

2.8 Coordinated/joint approach to consider future water demand (WFD Annex III)

Garonne basin: Not specified

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: Not specified

Segre: n.a.

2.9 Coordinated/joint approach on setting exemptions

Garonne basin: Not specified

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: Not specified

Segre: n.a.

3c. Coordinated/Joint Methodologies

Information requested: Areas in which joint methodologies were developed in relation to the issues listed under 3b. In addition, other joint methodologies should be added e.g. to designate HMWBs, to define good ecological status/potential, cost effectiveness of measures and or any other issues. Include brief description of the process of cooperation for each methodology

1. The following joint methodologies have been developed

Garonne basin: Under the Interreg project (see 2d.2), joint methodologies were developed by the working groups of the project (involving partners' representatives) to work on the two objectives of the project: the development of a monitoring centre and the issue of protecting the Garonne. Cooperation was used in each of these sections.

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: Not specified

Segre: The process followed the methodology of the French river basin contract. In this process transboundary issues have been introduced through inviting Spanish stakeholders to participate in the FR Water Committee.

The contract revision process in 2010 included interviews with Spanish stakeholders to raise their comments.

2. The joint methodologies are formally adopted/agreed between the countries (Y/N)

Garonne basin: Yes.

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: Yes.

Segre: n.a.

3. The joint methodologies are continuously/practically applied in the frame of international cooperation leading to harmonised results (Y/N)

Garonne basin: Yes.

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: Not specified

Segre: n.a.

4. The following challenges currently hinder the continuous/practical application of joint methodologies:

Garonne basin: --

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: --

Segre Consell Comarcal de Cerdanya does not have the same competences in terms of water management and river restoration as the Communauté de communes Pyrénées Cerdagne. The confederation Hydrographica del Ebro keeps most of the skills in terms of water management and is relatively reluctant to transfer local competences to the Consell Comarcal de Cerdanya. Thus the French authority does not have interlocutor with similar skills and power to develop common program of measures.

5. Future development of joint methodologies is planned for the future (Y/N).

If already known, list which ones.

Garonne basin: Not specified.

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: Not specified.

Segre Yes.

The revision process of the contract emphasizes the need of increasing transboundary methods. Main transboundary issues have been highlighted. Stakeholder involvement has been proposed ("Groupement Europeen de cooperation territorial"); Operational measures on quantitative issues and river continuity were discussed.

4. International Coordination Successes and Challenges

4a. Changes related to WFD enforcement

Information requested: Description of changes of international cooperation since WFD enforcement

1. Indicate if the enforcement of the EU WFD changed and improved joint cooperation (Y/N)

Garonne basin: Within the framework of the EU WFD, French and Spanish Governments signed in 2006 an administrative arrangement in order to organize cooperation on transboundary rivers.

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: Yes, through the Guratrans project.

Segre: Yes, The contract revision process has fully taken into account the EU WFD.

Significant issues have been added: river flow continuity, collective water withdrawal management, ecosystem restoration plan. The involvement of transboundary stakeholders to participate in each water management meeting is emphasized.

2. Cooperation areas where changes/improvement occurred through WFD

Garonne basin: The coordination of actions of the relevant authorities

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: The coordination of actions of the relevant authorities

When did changes occur?

Garonne basin: 2006

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: With the entry in force of the Guratrans project.

Segre In 2010 during the mid term revision process of the river contract.

4b. Key Successes of coordination

Information requested: Description of cooperation successes, positive feedback loops, etc.

Increased and intensified international cooperation

4c. Key Obstacles and Challenges to International Coordination/Cooperation

Information requested: Areas where cooperation was not successful; Areas for improvement

1. Principle key obstacles to international coordination/cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describe.

Garonne basin: The administrative and legal frameworks are different between France and Spain, which may partly slow down the cooperation.

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: Not Clear – additional comments from SCG would be helpful

Segre: Consell Comarcal de Cerdanya does not have the same competences in terms of water management and river restoration than the Communauté de communes Pyrénées Cerdagne.

The confederation Hydrographica del Ebro keeps most of the skills in terms of water management and is relatively reluctant to transfer local competences to the Consell Comarcal de Cerdanya.

Drought issues remain and provide difficulties to develop drought management plans, and water right reallocation.

2. Current key challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(i) the past/current WFD planning cycle

Increasing transboundary partnership, structures and measures implementation might go beyond the WFD cycle deadline of 2015.

Garonne basin: Not specified

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: Not specified

Segre: Both, water agencies (FR Agence de l'eau Rhone Méditerranée and ES Confederacion Hydrograophica del Ebro) and regional council (CG 66 and Generalitat de Catalunya) have met to discuss joint financing of measures as part of the future joint programme of measures lead by GECT.

(j) any other areas regarding water resources management

Garonne basin: Regarding the management of the flow variations, there is a French management plan since 2004 (Spain is only an invited member). In 2012, the management plan is reviewed. There is a study on the way to integrate Spain into the management plan. The partners will work on the possibility of a flow release from the Val d'Aran.

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: Not specified

3. Respective areas of improvement and indication if this is planned

Garonne basin: Not specified

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: Not specified

Segre: Not specified

4. Expected challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(h) Next WFD planning cycle

Garonne basin: Not specified

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: Not specified

Segre: Not specified

(i) any other areas regarding water resources management

Garonne basin: Not specified

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: Not specified

Segre: Not specified

5. Future in international cooperation - Next steps/View towards 2nd WFD planning cycle

5a. Areas of future cooperation

Information requested: Where work has already started for the next planning cycle; New Areas of international cooperation; Whether an international plan is foreseen

1. Outline if the development of an international RBMP according to the EU WFD is foreseen

If so, by when (2015, 2021, 2027)

Garonne basin: No

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins: No

The basin considered too small to develop an international RBMP. A local river basin management plan under the frame of the "French river contract" is considered sufficient.

2. First milestones that will be jointly aimed for regarding the future EU WFD implementation

--

3. If no international RBMP will be developed, briefly describe why this is the case

The basin is considered too small to develop an international RBMP. A local river basin management plan under the frame of the "French river contract" is currently considered as sufficient.

4. Further future areas of international cooperation/coordination:

Garonne basin: There is a willingness to create an international structure to make the sharing of funds easier.

6. Additional Comments

7. Interviewed country and RBO representatives as well as other experts

Garonne basin:

Mme Fabienne Sans

Syndicat Mixte d'Etudes et d'Aménagement de la Garonne

05 62 72 76 00

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins:

Maëva Le Barbu

Communauté de Commune Sud Pays Basque

05 59 48 30 85

Caroline SARRADE

Conseil des Elus du Pays Basque

Conseil Général des Pyrénées Atlantiques

caroline.sarrade@cg64.fr

8. Sources and References

Garonne basin:

http://www.garona-i-garonne.com/Actions_81_3_3.php?pk_langue=3&id_page=81

<http://www.garona-i-garonne.com/uploads/documents/interreg171207-versiofr.pdf>

http://www.eptb-garonne.fr/pages/dossier-coope_interreg.php

Nivelle, Bidasoa basins:

http://www.haute-garonne.gouv.fr/automne_modules_files/pmedia/public/r29587_23_5_intervention_-_confe769rence_atlantique_transpyre769ne769es.pdf

Segre:

- www.pyrenees-cerdagne.fr/c_riviere/Contexte.html
- <http://gesteau.eaufrance.fr/document/contrat-de-rivi%C3%A8re-du-s%C3%A8gre-en-cerdagne-strat%C3%A9gie-et-perspectives-apr%C3%A8s-le-bilan-%C3%A0-mi-parco>
- <http://articulo.revues.org/1736>
- www.pyrenees-cerdagne.fr/WD150AWP/WD150Awp.exe/CTX_1500-4-ULvlruEQay/accueil/SYNC_1643307375?WD_ACTION_=MENU&ID=M34

Coordination Mechanisms of the International EL-AL-MK River Basins

1. Basic information on international river basins/sub-river basins between EL, AL, MK

EU Member States sharing the basins: EL

(eventually Third Countries)

Third countries sharing the basins: AL, MK

River Basin Districts concerned:

Epirus, Western Macedonia

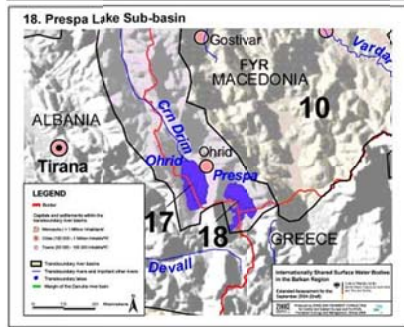
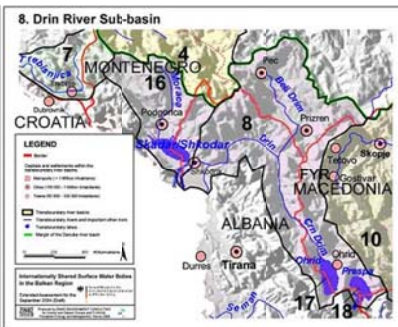


Size of the total catchment area and national shares for each international river/sub-river basin, indicating division by country and the respective RBD:

Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	Total Area of Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	EU Member States/Non EU Member States in International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin	International RBD to which International River Basin belongs
	(km ²)		km ² (%)	
Basins with Agreement and Coordinating Body				
Lake Prespa Sub-basin (part of Drin basin)	1.519	EL	290.7 (33%)	Western Macedonia
		AL	262.5 (13%)	
		MK	971.8 (54%)	
Basins with Agreement and no Coordinating Body				
Aoos/Vjosa	6.519	EL	2.154 (33,04%)	Epirus & Western Macedonia
		AL	4.365 (66,96%)	

Sources for area/size:

- Perennou, C., Gletsos, M., Chauvelon, P., Crivelli, A., DeCoursey, M., Dokulil, M., Grillas, P., Grovel, R. and Sandoz, A. (2009). Development of a Transboundary Monitoring System for the Prespa Park Area, Aghios Germanos (http://www.spp.gr/spp/fullstudy_vol1.pdf).



2. Cooperation Framework

2a. International agreement or convention

Information requested: Title, date of agreement, countries not covered under agreement, brief description

1. Title:

Lakes Prespa: *“Declaration on the Creation of the Transboundary Prespa Park and Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Lakes and their Surroundings”*.

In 2010, a new agreement concerning the *“protection and sustainable development of the Prespa Park”* was signed by all three countries and the EU, to create a standing, formal coordination body; this agreement, however, is not in force yet (GR and MK Parliament ratifications are still pending); nevertheless, as the EU has approved the agreement and Albania is already bound by it without ratification, the 2010 agreement is covered in this sheet, as such a duly signed international agreement creates legal obligations even before ratification, and is already in the present status more binding than the 2002 declaration. Additionally, the coordination body established through the 2002 declaration (the PPCC, see below) is rendered obsolete with the 2010 declaration, and did not meet in three years.

Drin Basin: *“Memorandum of Understanding for the Management of the Extended Transboundary Drin Basin”* (“Shared Vision”)

Aoos/Vjosa: 2003 *“Agreement between the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of the Republic of Albania on the establishment of the permanent Greek - Albanian commission on transboundary freshwater issues”* under the 2003 *“Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation in the field of environmental protection between the two countries”*, concerning, beside the Aoos/Vjosa, also the Drinos river and the Prespa lake.

2. Countries under Agreement:

Lakes Prespa: EL, AL, MK, EU.

Drin Basin: EL, AL, MK, Kosovo, Montenegro.

Aoos/Vjosa: EL, AL

3. Countries part of basin but not covered by agreement:

None

4. Date and place of signing:

Lakes Prespa: 2.2.2010/Pyli, Greece

Drin Basin: 25.11.2011/Tirana

Aoos/Vjosa: 3.4.2003/Athens

5. Entry into force:

Lakes Prespa: Officially, not yet; the agreement was published in the Official Journal of the European Union on the 4.10.2011, however.

Drin Basin: Same day (not through a ratification process neither).

Aoos/Vjosa: 25. 10. 2005, when Greece completed ratification process, which is not required under Albanian law.

6. Key objectives and content of agreement/convention:

Lakes Prespa: According to the agreement, the Parties shall “cooperate in order to ensure an integrated protection of the ecosystem and the sustainable development of the Prespa Park Area, including the development of integrated river basin management plans, according to international and European Union standards”; to reach these end, the parties shall take the necessary measures and apply best available techniques to (among others):

- manage prudently the water quality and quantity of the Prespa Lakes giving special attention to the water level of both lakes;
- prevent, control and reduce pollution of the waters in the Prespa Lakes Area;
- ensure, promote and control the prudent use of natural resources and the sustainable development of the Prespa Park Area.

Drin Basin: Promotion of joint action for the coordinated integrated management of the shared water resources in the Drin Basin, as a means to safeguard and restore the ecosystems and services they provide, and to support sustainable development of the region.

Aoos/Vjosa: Establishment of a permanent Greek - Albanian Commission on transboundary freshwater issues.

7. Role of WFD implementation in international basins:

Lakes Prespa: WFD implementation and obligations are frequently mentioned in the 2010 agreement, and the whole document is based on the water management principles established by the WFD.

Drin Basin: No direct role.
Aos/Vjosa: No direct role.

2b. Coordinating/Governing Body/River Basin Organisation

Information requested: Name(s) of Secretariat/Commission, location, working languages, website

1. Name(s):

Lakes Prespa: Prespa Park Management Committee (PMCC)

The former Prespa Park Coordination Committee (PPCC) is now an obsolete body awaiting entry into force of the 2010 Agreement.

Drin Basin: informal "Drin Core Group" (DCG), as a forum for coordination among the riparian parties (the DCG was not established through the MoU, but in the course of the "Consultation Process on Integrated Management of the extended Drin River" (the "Drin Dialogue"), which started in 2008 in Tirana; at the end of the process, the Shared Vision/the MoU was created). The DCG will be used to coordinate the next steps, such as the establishment of institutionalized working mechanisms; it is therefore described here as "the coordinating body".

Aos/Vjosa: permanent Greek - Albanian commission on transboundary freshwater issues.

2. Operative since:

Lakes Prespa: not operational yet (no first meeting took place yet).

Drin Basin: 2006.

Aos/Vjosa: April 2008.

3. Location and address:

Lakes Prespa: The PPCC Secretariat was seated at the SPP office in Agios Germanos, Greece. The PPMC will be seated for the first 4 years of its operation at the Greek National Park Management Body's offices in Agios Germanos.

Drin Basin: No permanent address.

Aos/Vjosa: No permanent address.

4. Working Languages:

Lakes Prespa: English.

Drin Basin: No information.

Aos/Vjosa: English, Greek, Albanian.

5. Website:

Lakes Prespa: No website.

Drin Basin: No website.

Aos/Vjosa: No website.

2c. Coordination structure

Information requested: Description of (i) organisational structure (ii) cooperation tasks (iii) expert groups (iv) regular meetings, (v) number of staff, (vi) webpage (vii) other issues.

1. Organisational structure:

(i) Verbal description

Lakes Prespa: The PPMC is the new coordination body established under the 2010 agreement, in order to ensure effectiveness in the achievement of the objectives and commitments specified in the agreement. The (now obsolete) PPCC was established in 2001 after by the Prime Minister's Declaration of 2000, to create an informal body to coordinate and guide future measures, activities and projects carried out in the Prespa Park region.

Drin Basin: The DCG was established to coordinate the Drin Dialogue, a process with the aim of looking into the many competing interests and challenges the Riparians are facing, and starting/coordinating an integrated management process.

Aos/Vjosa: The permanent Greek - Albanian commission on transboundary freshwater issues (short: the commission) is established with the purpose of foster cooperation in the field of protection of transboundary watercourses and lakes between EL and AL.

(ii) Organisational diagram:

Lakes Prespa: single 13-members body.

Drin Basin: single body.

Aos/Vjosa: single 18-members body

(iii) Key cooperation tasks

Lakes Prespa: Not exclusively project-based cooperation, but a permanent system of dialogue, exchange of information and decision-making for issues of joint concern. Specifically, the functions of the PPMC are (among others):

- To monitor and coordinate the activities carried out for the protection and sustainable development of the Prespa Park Area;
- To identify and recommend to the parties and other interested actors next steps and necessary actions, measures and activities for the implementation of this agreement, and invite them to cooperate, to coordinate and carry out joint projects;
- To facilitate the coordination of planning and activities with transboundary relevance by local protected area management bodies in the three States involved;

Drin Basin: main (and only) forum for coordination/cooperation of transboundary water management issues in the Drin Basin.

Aoos/Vjosa: The key tasks of the commission are:

- To collect, compile and evaluate data provided by the parties, in order to identify pollution sources, and to draw up inventories and exchange information on the pollution sources.
- To define joint water - quality objectives and criteria and to propose relevant measures in order to achieve these objectives concerning the water quality.
- To serve as a forum for the exchange of information on existing and planned uses of water and related installations that are likely to have a transboundary impact or to have an adverse effect on the quality of freshwaters.
- To discuss and evaluate proposals relating to the hydraulic works the parties might decide to carry out in collaboration with each other and supervise their application.
- To organise the cooperation and promote the establishment of national networks for monitoring of the water quality.
- To serve as an instance for the exchange of information between the parties on water policy issues.
- To study proposals for the exchange of practical experience and technical knowledge in the field of freshwater, including exchange of hydrological and meteorological data and transfer of experience on water monitoring.
- To promote collaboration between the competent national authorities of the parties.

(iv) Expert groups

Lakes Prespa: A number of working groups are foreseen, including a working group on water management.

Drin Basin: None.

Aoos/Vjosa: sub-commission may be established; until now, one sub-commission without obvious thematic focus was established.

(v) Regular meetings

Lakes Prespa: twice a year.

Drin Basin: irregular (since 2008, five meetings took place).

Aoos/Vjosa: once a year.

(vi) Number of staff

Lakes Prespa: staff of the secretariat are three people; members of the PPM: 13.

The PPCC has ten members (3 from each respective country, representing the central governments (Ministries of the Environment), local governments and non-governmental organisations, plus the permanent observer from RAMSAR/MedWet)

Drin Basin: no permanent staff; members are representatives from the competent ministries of the five parties, the Lake Prespa PPCC, the Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee, the Lake Skadar-Shkoder Commission, UNECE, GWP-Med, MIO-ECSDE.

Aoos/Vjosa: no permanent staff; members are 18, nine from each country.

(vii) Observers

Lakes Prespa: two permanent observers (Medwet and the Ohrid Committee);

Drin Basin: no information.

Aoos/Vjosa: no permanent observers, but technical experts may be consulted/invited.

(viii) Webpage

Lakes Prespa: no webpage.

Drin Basin: no webpage.

Aoos/Vjosa: no webpage

(ix) Other issues

-

2d. Other cooperation agreements if relevant

Information requested: Description of other national bilateral/multilateral agreements for transboundary coordination including country members

1. The following bilateral/multilateral agreements are in place besides the overall international agreement (list for each cooperating country):

MK/AL: The Agreement for the Protection and Sustainable Development of Lake Ohrid and its Watershed establishes the Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee (2005).

2. Further related information

-

3. Key Areas of International Cooperation

3a. International River Basin Management Plan

1. WFD international River Basin Management Plan developed (Y/N)

Lakes Prespa: N

Drin Basin: N

Aoos/Vjosa: N

Only if an international RBMP has been developed, the below items need to be completed:

2. RBMP download link

--

3. The international RBMP is formally defined/delineated in relation to the national RBMP as follows (i.e. catchment area size, other thresholds, etc.):

--

4. The national RBMP refers to implementation of international cooperation and coordination mechanisms (List for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP):

--

5. The international RBMP includes country specific information (Y/N).

If 'yes' (=country specific information is provided), list if the information is consistent with the national RBMP.

Country specific information in international RBMP (Y/N plus short description of cross reference) – list for each cooperating country

--

The information provided in the international RBMP is consistent with the national RBMP

(Y/N plus short description if needed) -) – list for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP

--

3b. Coordinated/Joint Activities

Information requested: Topics where joint development occurred, for example: SWMIs, monitoring, PoMs, objectives, public consultations, etc; Description of the process of joint cooperation for each activity.

1 Key international cooperation activities – general description

Lakes Prespa: The PPMC has not met yet, but will focus on a variety of cooperation activities, as outlined in box 2c above.

The (now not operational) PPCC discussed mainly issues which concern Prespa and its residents, and planned projects that focus on the well-balanced protection and environmentally friendly development of the basin as a whole; the major cooperation activity was the joint UNDP-GEF project “Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Prespa Basin in Albania, MK and Greece”, with the main objectives of (according to <http://www.spp.gr>):

1. Protection of ecosystems through effective land use planning, management of protected areas and integrated management of water resources.
2. Awareness- raising and greater understanding of the ecological values of the area.
3. Creation of a favorable environment for the sustainable development of the region with appropriate policies, incentives and opportunities, and coordination between sectors.
4. Building of mechanisms for transboundary collaboration through the strengthening of the Coordination Committee and Secretariat; and exploring the possibility of instituting a permanent trilateral committee.

Several coordinated research projects have been implemented as well, as assessed in the RENA activity scheme (e. g. the UNDP project “Reducing the impact of agriculture in the Prespa Park region”, or the project “Sustainable Management of the international waters Prespa Lake”, funded by NATO).

Drin Basin: the Drin Dialogue led to the signing of the MoU/the Shared Vision; under the MoU, no activity has yet started.

Coordinated research projects have been implemented as well, as assessed in the RENA activity scheme (e. g. *"Improving regional co-operation for the transboundary management of shared natural resources in South Eastern Europe"*, funded by UNEP).

Aoos/Vjosa: coordination of water-related transboundary issues, as outlined in box 2c above.

ALL countries/all RBD: the countries being part of the river basins treated in this sheet furthermore cooperate in the framework of the RENA-project (Regional Environmental Network for Accession), together with the other countries of the Balkan region, and Turkey. The aim of RENA is mainly to prepare the national administrations in the field of the environment for future EU accession (see also "notes"-box at the end of the sheet).

2 Description of detailed coordinated/joint activities:

2.1 WFD SWMIs (Y/N). If yes, describe.

Lakes Prespa: N

Drin Basin: N

Aoos/Vjosa: N

2.2 Coordinated/joint visions and objectives:

Lakes Prespa: Y

Strategic action Plan in 2002, Strategic action programme in the context of the GEF project in 2010.

Drin Basin: N

Aoos/Vjosa: N

2.3 Coordinated/transboundary monitoring

Lakes Prespa: Y

A transboundary environmental monitoring systems is being developed (to mainly monitor water, biodiversity, land-use, vegetation/habitats, forests, socio-economics, and fish)

Drin Basin: N

Aoos/Vjosa: N

2.4 Coordinated/shared databases and/or GIS

Lakes Prespa: Not yet.

Database under development in the context of the transboundary monitoring system

Drin Basin: N

Aoos/Vjosa: N

2.5 Coordinated/joint Programme of Measures

Lakes Prespa: N (there is a joint data base on measures, but it is part of the new Coordination Committee work to decide the continuity of gathering information and how it will be available for the public)

Drin Basin: N

Aoos/Vjosa: N

2.6 Coordinated/joint (financial) resources to support international cooperation (Y/N).

Prespa Lakes: Y

Other basins: N

If yes, describes basic concept of joint financial resources.

2.6.a Basic concept of joint financial resources

Prespa lakes: The Prespa Park Management Committee will be financed by regular annual contributions of the Parties and from other sources.

2.6.b Amount of joint financial resources

Not indicated

2.6.c List of supported joint resources

Not indicated

2.6.d Country participation in joint meetings is supported (Y/N)

The country on whose territory the meetings take place is responsible for the financing of the meetings.

2.7 Coordinated/joint communication strategy and public participation activities

Lakes Prespa: N

Drin Basin: N

Aoos/Vjosa: N

2.8 Coordinated/joint approach to consider future water demand (WFD Annex III)

Lakes Prespa: N

Drin Basin: N

Aoos/Vjosa: N

2.9 Coordinated/joint approach on setting exemptions

Lakes Prespa: N

Drin Basin: N

Aoos/Vjosa: N

3c. Coordinated/Joint Methodologies

Information requested: Areas in which joint methodologies were developed in relation to the issues listed under 3b. In addition, other joint methodologies should be added e.g. to designate HMWBs, to define good ecological status/potential, cost effectiveness of measures and or any other issues. Include brief description of the process of cooperation for each methodology

1. The following joint methodologies have been developed

Lakes Prespa: N

Drin Basin: N

Aoos/Vjosa: N

2. The joint methodologies are formally adopted/agreed between the countries (Y/N)

-

3. The joint methodologies are continuously/practically applied in the frame of international cooperation leading to harmonised results (Y/N)

-

4. The following challenges currently hinder the continuous/practical application of joint methodologies:

-

5. Future development of joint methodologies is planned for the future (Y/N).

If already known, list which ones.

Lakes Prespa: Y

The new 2010 agreement also aims at exploring “appropriate management methods for the sustainable use and protection of the Prespa Lakes water and freshwater ecosystems, as requested by the Declaration of the Prime Ministers of 2 February 2000, and in accordance with the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC and related Directives”. As such, it can be assumed that consistent methodologies will be established.

Drin Basin: Y

The MoU established Integrated Water Resources Management as a short-term “no regret” measures; part of this will be the management of the basin/of the sub-basins according to the WFD standards; monitoring programmes are also mentioned. As a medium-term measures, additionally a harmonized Drin Basin Water Monitoring Program is foreseen.

Aoos/Vjosa: Y (partly)

The *Agreement between the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of the Republic of Albania on the establishment of the permanent Greek - Albanian commission on transboundary freshwater issues* includes the goals of organising the cooperation and promotion of “the establishment of national networks for monitoring of the water quality”, and “to exchange hydrological and meteorological data and transfer of experience on water monitoring”.

4. International Coordination Successes and Challenges

4a. Changes related to WFD enforcement

Information requested: Description of changes of international cooperation since WFD enforcement

1. Indicate if the enforcement of the EU WFD changed and improved joint cooperation (Y/N)

Lake Prespa: Not directly.

Drin Basin: Not directly.

Aoos/Vjosa: Not directly.

It has to be remarked, however, that the prospect of joining the EU provides great incentives for the non-members to align their water management legislature with EU/WFD requirements. This, of course, includes the international management of transboundary river basins. Furthermore, as the WFD introduces a wholly new understanding of how to approach water management in general, it has to be stated that the enforcement/implementation of the WFD did change and improved also the transboundary/international cooperation, to a certain degree, also in accession countries.

2. Cooperation areas where changes/improvement occurred through WFD

-

3. When did changes occur?

-

4b. Key Successes of coordination

Information requested: Description of cooperation successes, positive feedback loops, etc.

Lake Prespa: Most importantly, the 2010 agreement was reached.

During the past work of the PPCC, the views of the participating countries converged, and mutual trust was created. This led to more consensuses on questions regarding water management that would have been impossible to discuss before the PPCC was established.

Additionally, many local bodies/communities collaborate in programmes and projects, most notably the above-mentioned UNDP-GEF project.

Drin Basin: the Drin Dialogue and the MoU mark the first successful period of coordination between the five riparians; its continuation has to be seen as a great success in itself.

Aoos/Vjosa: first successes were the two meetings held by the commission, and one meeting of the sub-commission.

4c. Key Obstacles and Challenges to International Coordination/Cooperation

Information requested: Areas where cooperation was not successful; Areas for improvement

1. Principle key obstacles to international coordination/cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describe.

Lake Prespa: Y

The PPCC's work was hindered by the lack of formal state commitment for the content and structure of the trilateral collaboration, which is indispensable for decision-making.

Additionally, on all sides, the responsibilities are extremely fragmented, with many ministries, institutions and organizations both governmental and nongovernmental involved in water resources management.

This led to inefficiencies, but also to difficulties concerning data exchange and information flow both nationally (i. e. between different agencies of the same state) and transboundary level.

Also, the different stage of European integration of the 3 countries concerned creates a different sense of urgency and obligation with regard to WFD implementation.

Drin Basin: Y

Fragmentation of responsibilities in the participating countries, general weak water management legislature, and no experience in transboundary coordination of water resources; information sharing between parties difficult/complicated.

Aoos/Vjosa: Y

The overall process is very slow. In AL, management plans for two other RBD are developed at the moment; Aoos/Vjosa is not imperative presently.

2. Current key challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(a) the past/current WFD planning cycle

Lake Prespa: Ratification of the 2010 Agreement.

Drin Basin: -

Aoos/Vjosa: -

(b) any other areas regarding water resources management

Lake Prespa: Ratification of the 2010 Agreement.

Drin Basin: realization of short-term objectives outlines in the MoU, being:

- Elaboration of coordination enhancement mechanism.

- Enhancement of the knowledge base concerning Drin Basin.

- Improvement of information exchange.

- Enhancement of coordination in the field of flood risk management.

- Institutional strengthening in the field of Integrated Water Resource Management.
 - Strengthening of stakeholder participation.
- Aoos/Vjosa: continuation of the cooperation, actual implementation of the goals foreseen in the agreement.

3. Respective areas of improvement and indication if this is planned

Lake Prespa: Through the 2010 Agreement, various activities will be undertaken:

- Development of a joint strategy.
- Implementation of measures both for the protection of the natural environment and to foster human activities in the region such as farming, fishing, tourism and infrastructure development.
- Establish Integrated Water Management structures and procedures.
- Development of plans for integrated management of the transboundary water basin, as directed under the European Water Framework Directive and the formation of a specialist-working group to effectively move forward on this critical issue.

Drin Basin: see question above (identified challenges and planned actions are the same in this case).

Aoos/Vjosa: after several years of no action, the commission finally met in 2008 for the first time; now the coordination/meetings need to be continued, which remains to be seen.

4. Expected challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

- Next WFD planning cycle
-
- any other areas regarding water resources management-

5. Future in international cooperation - Next steps/View towards 2nd WFD planning cycle

5a. Areas of future cooperation

Information requested: Where work has already started for the next planning cycle; New Areas of international cooperation; Whether an international plan is foreseen

1. Outline if the development of an international RBMP according to the EU WFD is foreseen

If so, by when (2015, 2021, 2027)

Lake Prespa: Y

(date unknown, dependent of the ratification of the new agreement; a project for the management plan of Prespa Park is at the begging phase, donor KfW).

Drin Basin: Y (after 2016)

Aoos/Vjosa: ?

One source stated that the implementation of a joint management plan is foreseen; no further information could be found, however.

2. First milestones that will be jointly aimed for regarding the future EU WFD implementation

Lake Prespa: Ratification of the 2010 agreement, accession of MK to the EU.

Drin Basin: no milestones identified.

Aoos/Vjosa: no milestones identified.

3. If no international RBMP will be developed, briefly describe why this is the case

Aoos/Vjosa: situation in Greece with regard to national RBMPs difficult (EL is lagging behind); AL is a third country, so the development of an international RBMP lies in the far future.

4. Further future areas of international cooperation/coordination:

Lake Prespa: Through the 2010 Agreement, various activities will be undertaken:

- Development of a joint strategy.
- Implementation of measures both for the protection of the natural environment and to foster human activities in the region such as farming, fishing, tourism and infrastructure development.
- Establish Integrated Water Management structures and procedures.
- Development of plans for integrated management of the transboundary water basin, as directed under the European Water Framework Directive and the formation of a specialist-working group to effectively move forward on this critical issue.

Drin Basin: realization of medium-term objectives outlines in the MoU, being:

- Consensus on key transboundary management priorities.
- Preparation of a comprehensive water balance for the whole basin.
- Establishment of a harmonized Drin Basin Water Monitoring Program.
- Information Management System.
- Establishment of basin-wide cooperative management on the basis of a formal agreement among the parties.

Aoos/Vjosa: the objectives/functions outlines in box 2c can still be regarded as goals for future cooperation, as none of these objectives/functions is implemented presently.

6. Additional Comments

The countries being part of the Drin River Basin furthermore cooperate in the framework of the RENA-project (Regional Environmental Network for Accession), together with the other countries of the Balkan region, and Turkey. The aim of RENA is mainly to create a forum of officials from the candidate and potential candidate countries to exchange experience on issues of transboundary relevance including transposition, implementation and enforcement of EU legislation on water quality and management, and secondly, to strengthen cooperation on issues of transboundary importance through the development of best practice documents and/or carrying out pilot projects, which build capacity for water protection.

The target institutions and beneficiaries are the Ministries of Environment and Ministries of Water Management in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244), Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey, as well as other stakeholders, acting in water sector in relevant countries.

7. Interviewed country and RBO representatives as well as other experts

27.3: Alexander Zinke, Zinke Environment Consulting

28.3: Emirjeta Adhami, UNDP Climate Change Programme, Technical Assistant

29.3: Vivi Roumeliotou, Society for the Protection of Prespa

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Mylopolus, Y. A./Kolokytha, E. G. 2008: Integrated water management in shared water resources: The EU Water Framework Directive implementation in Greece, in: *Physics and Chemistry of the Earth* 33 (2008) 347-353.

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(<http://www.cae.utexas.edu/prof/mckinney/ce397/Topics/Drin/Drin%282012%29.pdf>).

Regional Environmental Network for Accession (RENA): <http://www.renaneetwork.org/>

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Society for the Protection of Prespa (<http://www.spp.gr/>).

The Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (<http://www.medwet.org/>).

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Transboundary Waters Information Exchange Network for the Eastern Europe: [Watersee.net](http://watersee.net)

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(<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=26343>).

Coordination Mechanisms of the International IT-FR-CH River Basins

1. Basic information on international river basins/sub-river basins between IT, FR, CH

EU Member States sharing the basins: IT, FR

(eventually Third Countries)

Third countries sharing the basins: CH

River Basin Districts concerned: Po



Size of the total catchment area and national shares for each international river/sub-river basin, indicating division by country and the respective RBD:

Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	Total Area of Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin (km ²)	EU Member States/Non EU Member States in International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin km ² (%)	International RBD to which International River Basin belongs
Basins with Agreement and Coordinating Body				
Po	74,173 ^{°°} 73.997 ^{**}	IT	70,153 ^{°°} (94,8%) 70.277 [°] [71.057 Km ² *] 69.979 ^{**} 70.000 ^{****}	Po
		FR	173 ^{°°} (0,2%) 230 ^{****}	
		CH	3.847 ^{°°} (5,2%) 4118 ^{****}	
Sub-basins of PO:				
Ticino/Lago Maggiore	6.599 ^{**} , ^{****} 6.386 ^{***}	IT	2.821 ^{**} 3.326 ^{***} 3.229 ^{****} (48,9%)	Po
		CH	3.060 ^{***} 3.370 ^{****} (51,1%)	
Adda/Lake Como	7.927 ^{**}	IT	7.448 ^{**} (94%) 7.451 ^{****}	Po
		CH	479 ^{**} (6%) 475 ^{****}	

^{°°} Figures according to the data of the European Environment Agency (EU WFD River Basin Districts)

*according to the web page of the Po authority (<http://www.adbpo.it/on-multi/ADBPO/Home/IlbacinodelPo.html>)

** figures from the Po management plan (version 24 Feb 2010)

***acc. to http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lago_Maggiore

****acc. To UNECE Second assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters

**** according to the document (Elementi per definire un quadro di riferimento per rafforzare e approfondire le relazioni di cooperazione tra Italia e Confederazione Svizzera in materia di gestione delle acque transfrontaliere del bacino del Ticino anche in attuazione della dichiarazione congiunta del 13 settembre 2007. See also point 8 of this task sheet) sent by the Po authority upon request by the project

***** http://www.feem-project.net/water2adapt/files/w2a_factsheet_adda_ita.pdf

www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/wise-river-basin-districts-rbds

[°]www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/wise-river-basin-districts-rbds



Figure: Map of the Po (and the Isonzo/Soča) catchment (from the UNECE second assessment under the Convention on the protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International lakes)

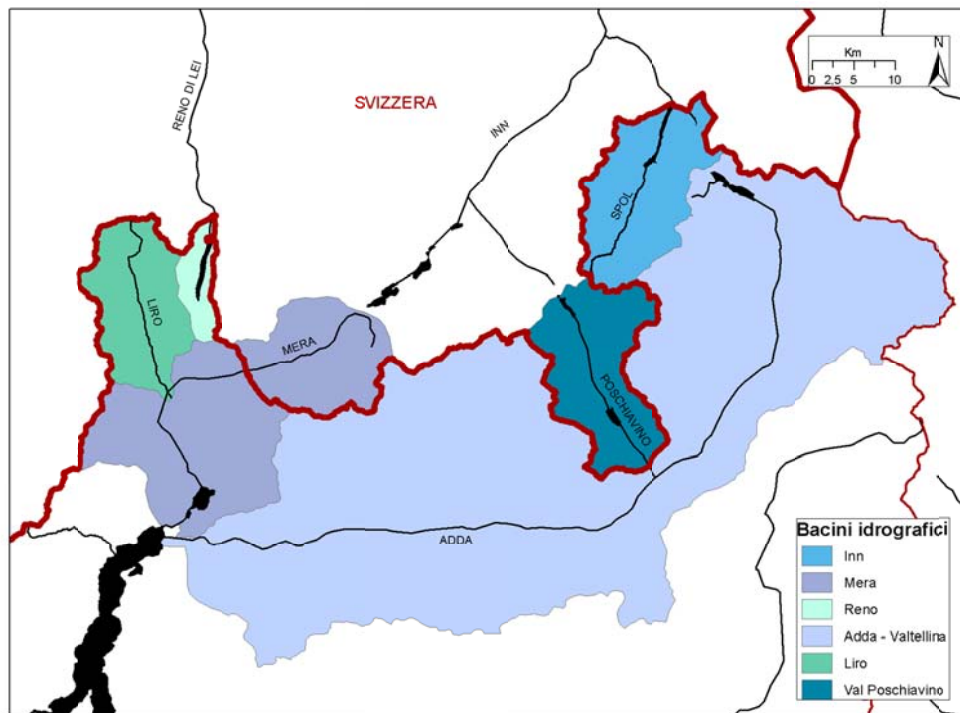


Figure: Map of the Adda catchment (from the web page of the Interreg Project ECOIDRO http://www.ecoidro.net/it_IT/home/bacini/poschiavino)

2. Cooperation Framework

2a. International agreement or convention

Information requested: Title, date of agreement, countries not covered under agreement, brief description

1. Title:

Convenzione per la protezione delle acque italo-svizzere dell'inquinamento (Convention for the protection of Italian-Swiss waters against pollution)

2. Countries under Agreement:

Italy, Switzerland

3. Countries part of basin but not covered by agreement:

France*

4. Date and place of signing:

20 april 1972

5. Entry into force:

26 June 1973 (approved by the Swiss federal Convention, August 1978 ratified by the Italy)

6. Key objectives and content of agreement/convention:

- 1) Examine all problems related to pollution and all other changes to the Swiss-Italian waterways;
- 2) Organize and ensure the necessary research to determine the origin, the nature of and the scale of pollution, and to make use of the results of this research;
- 3) Propose to the contracting governments measures to take to treat existing pollution and to prevent all future pollution.

Source: http://transboundarywater.geo.orst.edu/research/RBO/RBO_Euro.html

7. Role of WFD implementation in international basins:

The convention mentioned above covers selected aspects of water management that are also part of the WFD but no adaptation/amendments due to WFD implementation were made. On the Italian side the situation is complex with regard to implementation of WFD and other water management obligations at the national and international scale; there are shared responsibilities of basin authorities, regions and numerous other players (ministries, sectors, municipalities,). The Po basin authority and the Regions belonging to the district are responsible for the Management Plan Note: The role of the Commission is clear as it is based on an international agreement (see point 2c below) and it also cover issues of paramount interest for the implementation of the WFD

* There seems to be no agreement on water resource management at basin scale with France (information received from the Po authority by mail), the respective part of the Po catchment is very small and upstream, alpine character in a good status.

2b. Coordinating/Governing Body/River Basin Organisation

Information requested: Name(s) of Secretariat/Commission, location, working languages, website

1. Name(s):

CIPAIS (Commissione Internazionale per la Protezione delle Acque Italo-Svizzere)

2. Operative since:

1974

3. Location and address:

Via Principe Amedeo 17, 10123, Torino, Italia

4. Working Languages:

Italian

5. Website:

<http://www.cipais.org>

2c. Coordination structure

Information requested: Description of (i) organisational structure (ii) cooperation tasks (iii) expert groups (iv) regular meetings, (v) number of staff, (vi) webpage (vii) other issues.

1. Organisational structure:

(i) Verbal description

The commission investigates all problems related to pollution or any other alteration of the water status in the Lake Maggiore, the Lake Lugano and in all water courses that build or cross the Italian-Swiss border*. These water courses are explicitly named in the convention: Dovenia (VS-I), Melazza (Ti-I), Giona (Ti-I), Tresa (Ti-I), Breggia (Ti-I), Mera (Gr-I), Poschiavino (Gr-I), Spöl (Gr-I).

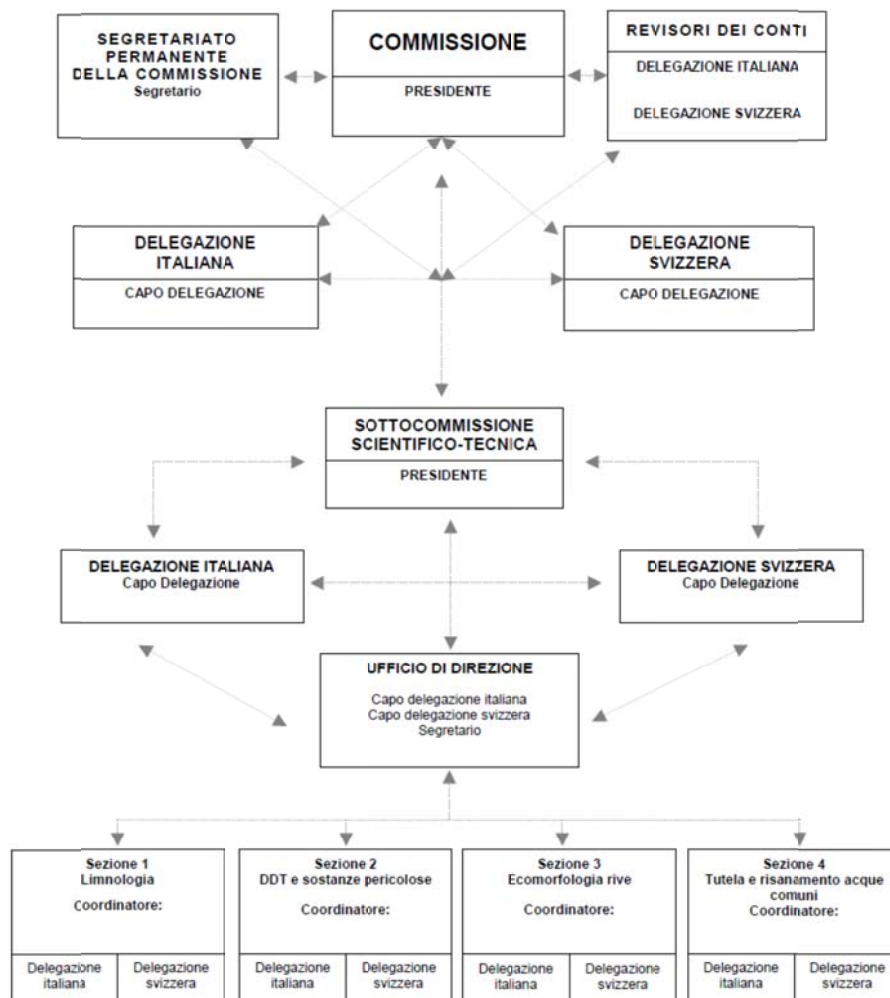
(ii) Organisational diagram

The commission consists of two delegations which represent the respective administrative authorities at the state level as well as at the regional/cantonal level. For Italy the national administrations (Ministry of Internal Affairs, Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Infrastructures) and the regions Lombardia and Piemonte are represented in the commission and for Switzerland representatives of the ministries at the state level (ufficio federale dell'ambiente/federal office for the environment, Dipartimento federale affari esteri/federal department of foreign affairs) and of the cantons Ticino, Vallese and Grigioni participate. In total the Italian delegations consist of 7 and Switzerland of 6 delegates (13 members). The Swiss delegation has a secretariat hosted by the administration of the canton Ticino. The Commission has a Secretariat currently hosted in Piedmont Region. The Permanent Secretariat is proposed by each Delegation for a period of 5.5 year (<http://www.cipais.org/html/commissione.asp>). The heads of delegation alternate for the presidency of the commission in biennial rotation.

The secretary of the commission is responsible for administration and accounting. For auditing/controlling each of the countries nominates one auditor.

A sub-commission for scientific and technical tasks consists of 32 members (16 selected by each country). The sub-commission is divided into 3 thematic and one coordinating group, with a total of 8 experts each (4 by country).

ORGANIGRAMMA



(iii) Key cooperation tasks

- Investigate each water quality problem (pollution or other alterations) of the Italian-Swiss waters***
- Organise or commission any research to identify the sources and nature of pollution and their importance. *, *** Evaluate data from these research activities. ***
- Prepare an annual financial plan for the research activities and submit it for approval by the respective governments*, ***
- Propose to the contracting parties any measures deemed necessary to reduce or eliminate existing and to prevent any future pollution. *, ***
- Propose to the contracting government a regulation to ensure the "cleanliness" ("purezza"**) of the Swiss-Italian waters. ***

*According to the Po management plan (see point 8.1 of this task sheet)

**high status is a different technical term

***according to the secretary of the CIPAIS, via email

(iv) Expert groups

- technical and scientific sub-commission

- 3 thematic groups (Limnology, DDT and hazardous substances, ecomorphology of rivers)
- 1 coordinating group (protection and rehabilitation of the common waters)

(v) Regular meetings

- meetings of the directorate (different frequencies, depending on the relevant topics): from 3 to 6 meetings per year
- 1 annual meeting for each thematic group
- at least 1 annual meeting for the technical and scientific sub-commission
- (at least) annual general assembly

(vi) Number of staff

1 secretary full time for organisation and administration

(vii) Observers

None

(viii) Webpage

www.cipais.org

(ix) Other issues:--

If relevant, list any inconsistencies/open issues stated during interviews with country representatives or found during other investigations:

The CIPAIS commission, the international commission for the regulation of the Lake Maggiore (Verbano) and the Lake Lugano (Ceresio) are mentioned* as competent authorities for international cooperation in the Po basin. On the other hand only the CIPAIS and its tasks are mentioned under chapter “17 List of competent authorities” of the Po Management Plan. The CIPAIS is described as a “body of coordination for all aspects of pollution or any other alteration” of shared watercourses and lakes. However, the knowledge and the work of the CIPAIS may feed into the establishment of the River Basin Management Plan and specific tasks of the WFD implementation may be in line with the tasks of the commission.

Swiss interviewees indicate that cooperation with neighbouring EU-MS in matters of WFD implementation should preferably take place in the frame of already existing bilateral entities. From the Swiss point of view there was so far no necessity to put WFD specific issues on the agenda of the commission. Representatives say that there is so far no influence of WFD implementation on Swiss interests.

*Document “Chap1_Governance_Itb” from WISE

2d. Other cooperation agreements if relevant

Information requested: Description of other national bilateral/multilateral agreements for transboundary coordination including country members

1. The following bilateral/multilateral agreements are in place besides the overall international agreement (list for each cooperating country):

Italy-Switzerland – state level

- a) Agreement between Switzerland and Italia concerning the concession for hydropower use of the (river) Reno di Lei, signed 18 June 1949, entry into force 23 April 1955
- b) Convention of 17 September 1955 concerning the regulation of the Lake Lugano, entry into force 15 February 1958
- c) Convention of 27 may 1957 between Switzerland and Italy concerning the hydropower use of the river Spoel, entry into force 18 April 1959
- d) Agreement between the federal council of Switzerland and the Italian government for common initiatives to combat water pollution, 13 November 1985, entry into force 26 December 1990
- e) Convention between the Swiss confederation and the republic of Italy for fisheries in the Italian Swiss waters, 18 march 1986, entry into force 1 April 1989
- f) Convention between Switzerland and Italy concerning a regulation of navigation on the Lake Maggiore and the Lake Lugano, 2 December 1992, entry into force 1 june 1997
- g) Memorandum of understanding between the federal department for environment, transport, energy and communication of the Swiss confederation and the ministry for economic development, the ministry of environment, land and sea, entry into force 5 march 2012 (concerns guaranties for the origin of renewable energy)

In addition Italy and Switzerland are currently cooperating to establish a bilateral organism for the integrated management of Lake Maggiore and the implementation of the EU floods directive (2007/60/EC).*

Italy France – regional level

There is a regional committee concerning the flood management of the Moncenisio (Mont Cenis) reservoir.

2. Further related information

All these Italian-Swiss bilateral agreements mentioned above have been developed for the various water uses in a step-by-step procedure. They anticipated to some extent the intentions of the EU water framework and the floods directive. In Italy there are considerations concerning harmonisation and joint reporting for various agreements and conventions, also with regard to the UNECE conventions and the convention on the protection and use of transboundary water courses and international lakes (ratified by both Italy and Switzerland) *.

* according to the document (Elementi per definire un quadro di riferimento per rafforzare e approfondire le relazioni di cooperazione tra Italia e Confederazione Svizzera in materia di gestione delle acque transfrontaliere del bacino del Ticino anche in attuazione della dichiarazione congiunta del 13 settembre 2007. See also point 8 of this task sheet)

3. Key Areas of International Cooperation

3a. International River Basin Management Plan

1. WFD international River Basin Management Plan developed (Y/N)

No international RBMP has been developed.

Only if an international RBMP has been developed, the below items need to be completed:

2. RBMP download link

3. The international RBMP is formally defined/delineated in relation to the national RBMP as follows

(i.e. catchment area size, other thresholds, etc.)

4. The national RBMP refers to implementation of international cooperation and coordination mechanisms

(List for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP):

5. The international RBMP includes country specific information (Y/N).

If 'yes' (=country specific information is provided), list if the information is consistent with the national RBMP.

Country specific information in international RBMP (Y/N plus short description of cross reference) – list for each cooperating country

The information provided in the international RBMP is consistent with the national RBMP

(Y/N plus short description if needed) – list for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP

3b. Coordinated/Joint Activities

Information requested: Topics where joint development occurred, for example: SWMIs, monitoring, PoMs, objectives, public consultations, etc; Description of the process of joint cooperation for each activity.

1 Key international cooperation activities – general description

Italy and Switzerland cooperate in any field of water management of the water bodies under the convention (point 2a). However, this cooperation started long before WFD existed and does neither cover all WFD related issues nor does it use the WFD processes and terminology explicitly. The selection of topics for the bilateral cooperation over time is demand driven and research/knowledge oriented. The demand and the priorities are subject to agreement between the contracting parties.

2 Description of detailed coordinated/joint activities:

2.1 WFD SWMIs (Y/N). If yes, describe.

There is e.g. no decision on common SWMI in the sense of WFD, nevertheless parties try to compromise on the most important issues for research and remediation on a yearly basis and to secure funding for the planned projects.

2.2 Coordinated/jointvisions and objectives: No

2.3 Coordinated/transboundary monitoring: No

Certain aspects of transboundary monitoring can be understood as a coordinated activity. Each contracting party is responsible for the monitoring on one of the two big lakes irrespective of the countries territory. E.g. Switzerland monitors certain parameters in the Lake Lugano while Italy does the same for the Lake Maggiore. There is no joint budget or activity but coordination of different separated obligations for the contracting parties (e.g. interlaboratory test to ensure comparability of the monitoring results).

2.4 Coordinated/shared databases and/or GIS: No

2.5 Coordinated/jointProgramme of Measures: No

There is no joint programme of measures as such, but jointly developed measures/projects may be considered according to the recommendations of the CIP AIS in some locations. Some of them would need coordination at the state level (e.g. flood protection/retention basin management for the Lake Maggiore) others are coordinated at the municipal level (e.g. some Swiss villages negotiate with the Italian municipality of Chiavenna a joint wastewater treatment).

2.6 Coordinated/joint(financial) resources to support international cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describes basic concept of joint financial resources.

Yes. The CIP AIS submits an annual financial plan for approval to each of the contracting governments.

2.6.a Basic concept of joint financial resources

There are no joint financial resources but a coordinated request for a budget to finance the planned activities of the delegations of each of the countries.

2.6.b Amount of joint financial resources

2.6.c List of supported joint resources

2.6.d Country participation in joint meetings is supported (Y/N)

2.7 Coordinated/jointcommunication strategy and public participation activities

The CIP AIS runs a website (see link above)

2.8 Coordinated/jointapproach to consider future water demand (WFD Annex III)

2.9 Coordinated/jointapproach on setting exemptions

3c. Coordinated/Joint Methodologies

Information requested: Areas in which joint methodologies were developed in relation to the issues listed under 3b. In addition, other joint methodologies should be added e.g. to designate HMWBs, to define good ecological status/potential, cost effectiveness of measures and or any other issues. Include brief description of the process of cooperation for each methodology

1. The following joint methodologies have been developed

--

2. The joint methodologies are formally adopted/agreed between the countries (Y/N)

The Po authority applied System B for the water body delineation and decided to adopt the methodology for the ecoregions developed for France by the French "Centre national du Machinisme Agricole, du Gènie Rural,

des Eaux et des Forêts (CEMAGREF)" (Wasson et al., 2006, 2007).

Source: Po management Plan pp46 – Water Body Delineation

3. The joint methodologies are continuously/practically applied in the frame of international cooperation leading to harmonised results (Y/N)

--

4. The following challenges currently hinder the continuous/practical application of joint methodologies:

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5. Future development of joint methodologies is planned for the future (Y/N).

If already known, list which ones.

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4. International Coordination Successes and Challenges

4a. Changes related to WFD enforcement

Information requested: Description of changes of international cooperation since WFD enforcement

1. Indicate if the enforcement of the EU WFD changed and improved joint cooperation (Y/N)

No changes have been reported.

2. Cooperation areas where changes/improvement occurred through WFD

--

3. When did changes occur?

--

4b. Key Successes of coordination

Information requested: Description of cooperation successes, positive feedback loops, etc.

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4c. Key Obstacles and Challenges to International Coordination/Cooperation

Information requested: Areas where cooperation was not successful; Areas for improvement

1. Principle key obstacles to international coordination/cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describe.

From the Italian point of view, the French catchment share is regarded as neglectable and therefore, international cooperation is considered secondary or covered by other agreements (There is a regional committee concerning the flood management of the Moncenisio (Mont Cenis) reservoir).

2. Current key challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(c) the past/current WFD planning cycle

Key challenges are the issues of harmonisation of a number of bilateral agreements (see item 2d) and the EU Directive 2000/60/EC and 2007/60/EC.

(d) any other areas regarding water resources management

--

3. Respective areas of improvement and indication if this is planned

Improved harmonisation

4. Expected challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(c) Next WFD planning cycle

Key challenges are the issues of harmonisation of a number of bilateral agreements (see item 2d) and the EU Directive 2000/60/EC and 2007/60/EC.

(d) any other areas regarding water resources management

--

5. Future in international cooperation -Next steps/View towards 2nd WFD planning cycle

5a. Areas of future cooperation

Information requested: Where work has already started for the next planning cycle; New Areas of international cooperation; Whether an international plan is foreseen

1. Outline if the development of an international RBMP according to the EU WFD is foreseen

If so, by when (2015, 2021, 2027)

Italy and Switzerland are currently cooperating to establish a bilateral mechanism for the integrated management of Lake Maggiore and the implementation of the EU Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)

2. First milestones that will be jointly aimed for regarding the future EU WFD implementation

--

3. If no international RBMP will be developed, briefly describe why this is the case

--

4. Further future areas of international cooperation/coordination:

--

6. Additional Comments

Switzerland has the general strategy to rely on existing institutions for international cooperation in the field of water management/implementation of the EU-WFD. Switzerland has commissions for transboundary waters in place with almost all neighbouring countries. If new topics arise during the implementation of the WFD in EU-MS, the existing Swiss commissions take these topics on board. In some cases it was deemed necessary to amend the tasks of existing commissions (e.g. Lake Geneva and Alpenrhein).

In other cases where Switzerland does not see any significant influence on Swiss waters, the processes are observed.

E.g. for the development of the Eastern Alps Management Plan, Italy has included Switzerland in the consultation process.

For the Po management Plan it was not necessary to establish a WFD specific working group within the common Swiss-Italian CIP AIS commission. The competent institution for the Po RBMP in Italy is the Po river basin authority and they keep Switzerland in the information loop. However, Switzerland is integrated in the consultation process, observes the implementation and has reserved the right to intervene if, in the course of the implementation of measures Swiss territory or waters would be affected.

7. Interviewed country and RBO representatives as well as other experts

- 1) Jean-Philippe Houriet, Bundesamt für Umwelt BAFU, Abteilung Wasser, Ch
- 2) Hugo Aschwanden Bundesamt für Umwelt BAFU, Sektion Gewässerbewirtschaftung, Ch
- 3) Beatrice Bertolo, Po river basin authority
- 4) Claudia Vezzani, Po river basin authority
- 5) Giuseppe Amadore, secretary of the CIP AIS commission, hosted by the regional government of Piedmont, Torino, It
- 6) Remo Fehr, Amt für Natur und Umwelt Graubünden, CH

8. Sources andReferences

- 1) The Po River Basin management Plan, Version 2010_03_15, main document 146pages, identifier:PDG_PO_ELABORATO0_23032010.DOC
- 2) "Chap1_Governance_Itb.pdf" for the Padan district from WISE
- 3) Elementi per definire un quadro di riferimento per rafforzare e approfondire le relazioni di cooperazione tra Italia e Confederazione Svizzera in materia di gestione delle acque transfrontaliere del bacino del Ticino anche in attuazione della dichiarazione congiunta del 13 settembre 2007., Elements for the definition of a reference frame to strengthen the cooperative relations between Italy and Switzerland in the field of transboundary water management of the Ticino catchment; implementation of the joint declaration of 13 September 2007; This document was made available by the Po authority to the project
- 4) Web sites (selection of the most important)
 - a) <http://www.cipais.org/>
 - b) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Po_\(river\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Po_(river))

- c) http://transboundarywater.geo.orst.edu/research/RBO/RBO_Euro.html
- d) <http://www.riob.org/IMG/pdf/Bortone.pdf>
- e) http://waterwiki.net/index.php/Facing_Water_Challenges_in_the_Po_River_Basin,_Italy:A_WWDR3_Case_Study
- f) <http://www.adbpo.it/on-multi/ADBPO/Home.html>
- g) <http://www3.ti.ch/index.php>
- h) http://www.minambiente.it/home_it/index.html?lang=it
- i) <http://www.esteri.it/>
- j) <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=26343>
- k) <http://rod.eionet.europa.eu/instruments/184>
- l) <http://www.addaconsorzio.it/Adda/index.asp?Disp=idrometro>

Coordination Mechanisms of the International IT-SI River Basins

1. Basic information on international river basins/sub-river basins between IT, SI

EU Member States sharing the basins: IT, SI

Third countries sharing the basin: ---

River Basin Districts concerned:

Eastern Alps, Adriatic



Size of the total catchment area and national shares for each international river/sub-river basin, indicating division by country and the respective RBD:

Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	Total Area of Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin (km ²)	EU Member States/Non EU Member States in International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin km ² (%)	International RBD to which International River Basin belongs
Basins with Agreement and no Coordinating Body				
Isonzo/Soca	3,400	IT	1,133 (33.3%) 1.150*	Eastern Alps
		SI	2,267 (66.7%) 2.250*	Adriatic

*acc. to UNECE Second assessment on transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters and web page of the basin authority <http://www.adbve.it/Documenti/isonzo2.htm>



Figure 1: Map of the Eastern Alps catchment (taken from the strategic environmental assessment of the corresponding River Basin Management Plan, page 74, Italian title of the document PIANO DI GESTIONE DEI BACINI IDROGRAFICI DELLE ALPI ORIENTALI Valutazione Ambientale Strategica ai sensi della Direttiva 42/2001/CE RAPPORTO AMBIENTALE 18/09/09)

2. Cooperation Framework

2a. International agreement or convention

Information requested: Title, date of agreement, countries not covered under agreement, brief description

1. Title:

Accordi/Trattato di Osimo (article 2, recepiti dalla L.14 marzo 1977 n° 73)
(http://www.libertaciviliimmigrazione.interno.it/dipim/site/it/dipartimento/direzioni_centrali/diritti_civili/areavii/)
(on July 7/8 1992 Slovenia entered in the agreement instead of the former Yougoslavia.)

2. Countries under Agreement:

Italy, Slovenia

3. Countries part of basin but not covered by agreement:

--

4. Date and place of signing:

10 November 1975, Osimo (Ancona province)

5. Entry into force:

Transposed into Italian law in may 1977 (L 14 maggio 1977 n.73)

6. Key objectives and content of agreement/convention:

Initially before all quantitative management for hydropower and irrigation in the Isonzo and Levante catchments.
Later different new objectives have been taken on board.

7. Role of WFD implementation in international basins: --

2b. Coordinating/Governing Body/River Basin Organisation

Information requested: Name(s) of Secretariat/Commission, location, working languages, website

1. Name(s):

Commissione mista permanente per l'idroeconomia
translated as: Permanent Italian-Slovenian Commission for Water Management

2. Operative since:

1975

3. Location and address:

The Italian part of the commission is established within the foreign ministry.

4. Working Languages:

English

5. Website: --

2c. Coordination structure

Information requested: Description of (i) organisational structure (ii) cooperation tasks (iii) expert groups (iv) regular meetings, (v) number of staff, (vi) webpage (vii) other issues.

1. Organisational structure:

(i) Verbal description

Delegates of various Administrations and stakeholders are represented in the commission

- a) for the Italian side e.g. High level representatives from the foreign ministry (Head of the Italian Delegation), Ministry of Internal Affairs (Prefect of Gorizia), Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Infrastructures, Upper Adriatic River Basin Authority, ISPRA, Friul Venezia Giulia Region, Province of Gorizia etc.;
- b) for the Slovenian side the president, the secretary is usually high level state officials, while the delegates for sub-commissions are technical experts from different stakeholders.

However, the structure of the Permanent Italian-Slovenian Commission for Water Management is not constant but adapted according to the needs and emerging issues.

(ii) Organisational diagram

Not available

(iii) Key cooperation tasks*

- Quantitative management hydropower/irrigation
- Mitigation of detrimental effects of hydro-peaking (Sottosella, Aiba, Salcano)
- Transboundary pollution (especially in the Corno and the Idria and mercury in the Idrizza)
- Recent/New infrastructure projects (hydropower Doblar 2, Plave 2, pumping station Avce)
- Establishment/reactivation of a working group for data exchange between municipalities
- First Italian Slovenian Isonzo-Soča, Levante Common Management Plan by 2015 following a Ministers Joint Declaration of 2009
- Establishment of a (joint) monitoring network by 2015; (for selected issues of interest; before all quantitative measurements at the border profile)

(iv) Expert groups

No permanent specific working groups but ad hoc task forces.

(v) Regular meetings

The commission convenes twice a year (art. 3 of the treaty)**. In practice the official meeting of the Commission takes place once a year, while exchanges at technical level take place according to the agreement and decisions made by the Commission in the plenary meetings

(vi) Number of staff

No permanent staff, but delegates/representatives of different institutions and stakeholders.

(vii) Observers

(viii) Webpage

Not available

(ix) Other issues

--

*Compilation of all information from Italian, Slovenian documents and interviews.

** Strategic environmental assessment of the eastern Alps River Basin Management Plan, page 74

2d. Other cooperation agreements if relevant

Information requested: Description of other national bilateral/multilateral agreements for transboundary coordination including country members

1. The following bilateral/multilateral agreements are in place besides the overall international agreement (list for each cooperating country): --

2. Further related information

There is an entity called "comitato di coordinamento interministeriale Italo-Sloveno"

3. Key Areas of International Cooperation

3a. International River Basin Management Plan

1. WFD international River Basin Management Plan developed (Y/N)

No

Only if an international RBMP has been developed, the below items need to be completed:

2. RBMP download link: - -

3. The international RBMP is formally defined/delineated in relation to the national RBMP as follows (i.e. catchment area size, other thresholds, etc.):

4. The national RBMPs refer to implementation of international cooperation and coordination mechanisms (List for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP): -

Slovenia:

For the Slovenian side chapter 1.1.2 of the national River Basin Management Plan refers to on-going international and bilateral activities; there is also a list/table on international and bilateral treaties.

Italy:

Both, in the general part of the Italian eastern Alps Management plan (e.g. chapter 1 governance and chapter III.1.5 transboundary consultation) as well as in the specific part for the Isonzo/Soča (e.g. chapter 2.3.2 on abstractions from surface waters, chapter 5.2. on env. Objectives and 6.10.1. on supplementary measures) are referring to the bilateral activities of the responsible commission.

5. The international RBMP includes country specific information (Y/N).

If 'yes' (=country specific information is provided), list if the information is consistent with the national RBMP.

Country specific information in international RBMP (Y/N plus short description of cross reference) – list for each cooperating country

The information provided in the international RBMP is consistent with the national RBMP

(Y/N plus short description if needed) -) – list for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP:

--

3b. Coordinated/Joint Activities

Information requested: Topics where joint development occurred, for example: SWMIs, monitoring, PoMs, objectives, public consultations, etc.; Description of the process of joint cooperation for each activity.

1 Key international cooperation activities – general description

Cooperation concerned so far the obligations of the treaty of Osimo only. Specific WFD related cooperation has been subject of discussions in the frame of the activities of the Permanent Italian-Slovenian Commission for Water Management.

2 Description of detailed coordinated/joint activities:

2.1 WFD SWMIs (Y/N). *If yes, describe.* No

2.2 Coordinated/joint visions and objectives: No

2.3 Coordinated/transboundary monitoring: No

2.4 Coordinated/shared databases and/or GIS: No

2.5 Coordinated/joint Programme of Measures

Formally the consultation and information exchange has been integrated as “supplementary measure” in the River Basin Management Plan (at the subdistrict level) of the river basin district of Eastern Alps. It is the objective of such measures to “verify and harmonise the measures taken by each state in order to establish a reference framework that has more homogeneity and mutual coordination at the basin scale.”*

2.6 Coordinated/joint (financial) resources to support international cooperation (Y/N).

If yes, describe basic concept of joint financial resources.

There are no joint financial resources; each country finances its activities in the joint commission.

2.6.a Basic concept of joint financial resources: --

2.6.b Amount of joint financial resources: --

2.6.c List of supported joint resources: --

2.6.d Country participation in joint meetings is supported (Y/N): --

2.7 Coordinated/joint communication strategy and public participation activities: No

2.8 Coordinated/joint approach to consider future water demand (WFD Annex III): No

2.9 Coordinated/joint approach on setting exemptions: No

*Translated from the document *Chap1_Governance_Ita* (see point 8 document 4 of this fact sheet)

3c. Coordinated/Joint Methodologies

Information requested: Areas in which joint methodologies were developed in relation to the issues listed under 3b. In addition, other joint methodologies should be added e.g. to designate HMWBs, to define good ecological status/potential, cost effectiveness of measures and or any other issues. Include brief description of the process of cooperation for each methodology

1. The following joint methodologies have been developed

No joint methodologies have been developed

2. The joint methodologies are formally adopted/agreed between the countries (Y/N)

3. The joint methodologies are continuously/practically applied in the frame of international cooperation leading to harmonised results (Y/N)

4. The following challenges currently hinder the continuous/practical application of joint methodologies:

5. Future development of joint methodologies is planned for the future (Y/N).

If already known, list which ones.

4. International Coordination Successes and Challenges

4a. Changes related to WFD enforcement

Information requested: Description of changes of international cooperation since WFD enforcement

1. Indicate if the enforcement of the EU WFD changed and improved joint cooperation (Y/N)

WFD has been considered as a topic in the agenda of the Commission since 2001

WFD implementation has led to a number of formal and informal meetings during the drafting period for the plan.

A trans-boundary consultation was carried out in the context of the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the first river basin management plan the RBMPs of Eastern Alps adopted in February 2010 (see Part III, Chapter V paragraph III.1.5 of the plan.

In 2009 the Ministries of Foreign Affairs from Italy and Slovenia signed a Joint declaration on cooperation on various matters, including the commitment to develop a common and/or harmonised river basin management plan by 2015 (Committee of Ministers in Ljubljana, 9 November 2009).

In 2010 (14 of April) the WFD-RBMP Expert Group recognized that the first step for establishing a common RBMP by December 2015 and for a comparison between the current separate RBMP of 2009 will be a common understanding and comparability on assessment methods on water status and, therefore, that the starting point shall be exchange of information on assessment methods and water quality status of water bodies on the basis of available data. So it was decided to exchange information on regulations and methods regarding water monitoring and assessment of status for surface and groundwater bodies.

2. Cooperation areas where changes/improvement occurred through WFD

Interviewees indicated that

- An Intensification of communication, starting from exchanges of information on water monitoring methodologies and results for assessment of the status of water bodies and
- A wider scope of topics, an enlarged spectrum of the water management issues under discussion

3. When did changes occur?

This is an ongoing process (see point 1, above)

4b. Key Successes of coordination

Information requested: Description of cooperation successes, positive feedback loops, etc.

--

4c. Key Obstacles and Challenges to International Coordination/Cooperation

Information requested: Areas where cooperation was not successful; Areas for improvement

1. Principle key obstacles to international coordination/cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describe.

So far it is only mentioned that time constraints have prevented the development of a common/international management plan for the Isonzo and Levante (see point 6 of this fact sheet) catchment. This was stated at the session of the Permanent Italian-Slovenian Commission for Water Management on 25 march 2009.*

2. Current key challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(e) the past/current WFD planning cycle

Consistent data sets and measurement results, e.g. for runoff at the border profile (Slovenia-Italy) of the Isonzo.

(f) any other areas regarding water resources management

--

3. Respective areas of improvement and indication if this is planned

--See previous paragraph 3 (improved coordination and possibly common RBMP in 2015)

--See also Supplementary Measures of the RBD Eastern Alps (Isonzo, par. 6.10.1, 6.10.8; Levante, par. 6.10.1, 6.10.8; Annex n. 7, par. 1.7).

4. Expected challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(a) Next WFD planning cycle

--

(b) any other areas regarding water resources management

--

* Source see point 8 document 3 of this fact sheet: strategic environmental assessment of the eastern Alps River Basin Management Plan.5. **Future in international cooperation - Next steps/View towards 2nd WFD planning cycle**

5a. Areas of future cooperation

Information requested: Where work has already started for the next planning cycle; New Areas of international cooperation; Whether an international plan is foreseen

1. Outline if the development of an international RBMP according to the EU WFD is foreseen

Due to the dominant transboundary character of the Isonzo/Soča catchment it is the aim to develop a common RBMP. This did not occur by 2009 due to time constraints, but IT and SI intend to develop such a Plan by 2015. Currently, the joint Commission, through their respective delegations, is proceeding with the identification of specific working groups in order to compare the monitoring and classification methods and exchange on relevant information.

Shortly these working groups will assess data concerning classification of water bodies; in case of significant discrepancies, will discuss in detail and decide on the need of a technical meeting for in depth joint assessment.

2. First milestones that will be jointly aimed for regarding the future EU WFD implementation

- In the frame of the joint commission for hydro-economy the parties have agreed to identify "fundamental topics" (-) concerning the quantitative and qualitative aspects of surface-, ground- and coastal waters.
- Meetings are taking place/being prepared for the definition of the fundamental topics and the modalities for the possible establishment of joint databases.

Source: The eastern Alps management Plan Part III; chapter III.1.5.1.

3. If no international RBMP will be developed, briefly describe why this is the case

There is different information on the intensity of and the commitment to the planned coordination and harmonisation for the Isonzo and Levante RBMP. While in some documents one "common RBMP" is mentioned, other documents call it harmonisation of national plans. Currently it is subject of on-going discussions to find agreement on the most appropriate and efficient level of integration, coordination and harmonisation of the planning process.

4. Further future areas of international cooperation/coordination:

- Quantitative Management for hydropower and irrigation (so far one main task of the joint hydroeconomic commission)
- Agreement on key water management issues
- Exchanges of information and data on water status assessment

Source: The eastern Alps management Plan Part III; chapter III.1.5.1.

6. Additional Comments

The River Basin Management Plan of the eastern Alps mentions also the Levante region/catchment as being of transboundary relevance. The treaty of Osimo (mentioned under point 2 of this fact sheet) applies to the Levante region too.

The total area of the Levante is 381km². It is situated south of the Isonzo catchment at the Adriatic sea and extends to the east beyond the Slovenian border for about 50km²*. It is characterised by a complex carstic geology (Carst of Trieste and Gorizia) with a corresponding hydrology; there is no continuous surface water/river draining the area. The main river is the Timavo (Reka) with a source in Slovenia. After 55km the river infiltrates and follows a subsurface flow for 40km and reappears near the river mouth at the Adriatic sea.

* source: RBMPan Eastern Alps, document name (taken from the web page of the river basin authority):

0_Relazione_Generale_Parte_I_2010_02_24 page 29

Remark:

The remaining transboundary issues of the eastern Alps catchment have been integrated as a concluding remark under point 6 of the fact sheet for the Adige river.

7. Interviewed country and RBO representatives as well as other experts

- 1) Andrea Braidot, authority of the upper Adriatic river basins (Autorità di bacino dei fiumi dell'Alto Adriatico)
- 2) Aleš Bizjak, Inštitut za vode Republike Slovenije (Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia), SI

8. Sources and References

- 1) The eastern Alps Management Plan:
 - 0_Relazione generale Parte Part I - III_2010_02_24
 - 13_PG_isonzo_2010_02_24
 - 14_PG_levante_2010_02_24
- 2) Rapporto sintetico sui possibili aspetti transfrontalieri del piano di gestione dei bacini idrografici delle Alpi orientali., 2009 (download from WISA-the Austrian water Information System.)
- 3) strategic environmental assessment of the eastern Alps River Basin Management Plan, page 74, Italian title of the document PIANO DI GESTIONE DEI BACINI IDROGRAFICI DELLE ALPI ORIENTALI Valutazione Ambientale Strategica ai sensi della Direttiva 42/2001/CE RAPPORTO AMBIENTALE 18/09/09)
- 4) Document: Chap1_Governance_Ita, download from WISE

Coordination Mechanisms of the International FR-IT-CH River Basins

1. Basic information on international river basins/sub-river basins between FR, CH, IT

EU Member States sharing the basins: FR IT

Third countries sharing the basin: CH

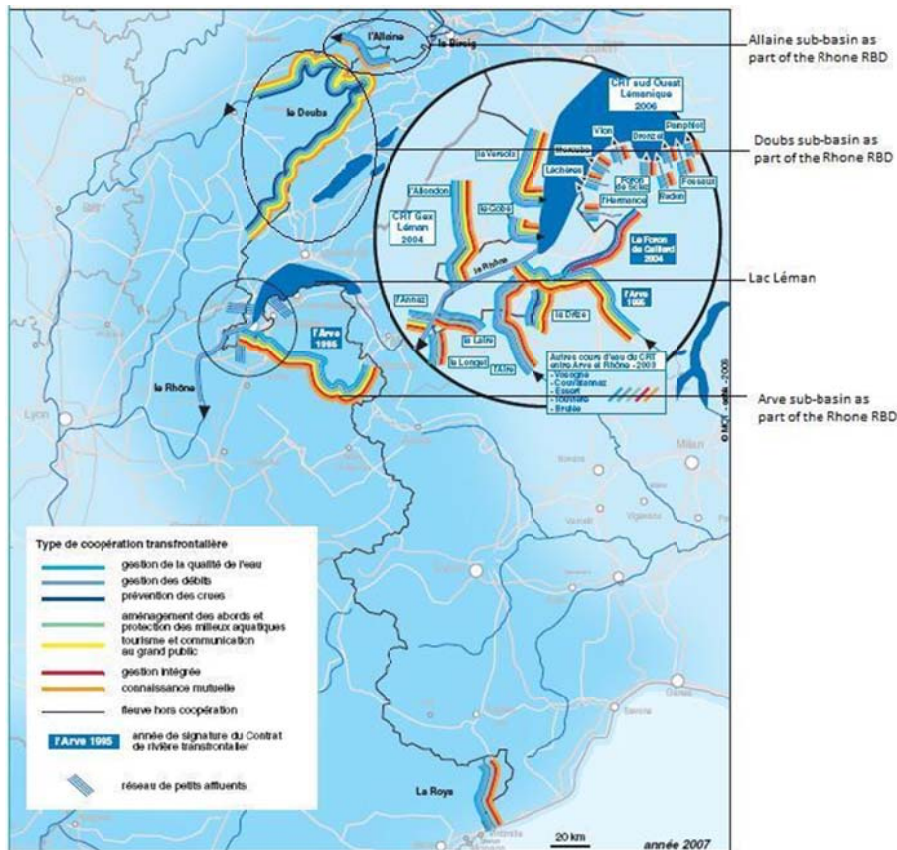
River Basin Districts concerned:

Rhone



Size of the total catchment area and national shares for each international river/sub-river basin, indicating division by country and the respective RBD:

Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	Total Area of Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin (km ²)	EU Member States/Non EU Member States in International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin km ² (%)	International RBD to which International River Basin belongs
Basins with Agreement and Coordinating Body				
Rhone	97.789	FR	90.000(92%)	Rhone
		CH	7.739 (7,9%)	
		IT	50 (<1%)	
Allaine	1120	FR	798 (71%)	Rhone
		CH	322 (29%)	
Doubs	7.500	FR	7.500 (97.3)	Rhone
		CH	210 (2.7%)	
Arve	2.060	FR	1.660 (80.6%)	Rhone
		CH	400 (19.4)	
Leman	5.82	FR	234 (40%)	Rhone
		CH	348.4 (60%)	



Map of the international river basins/sub-river basins shared between France and Switzerland

Source : <http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/>

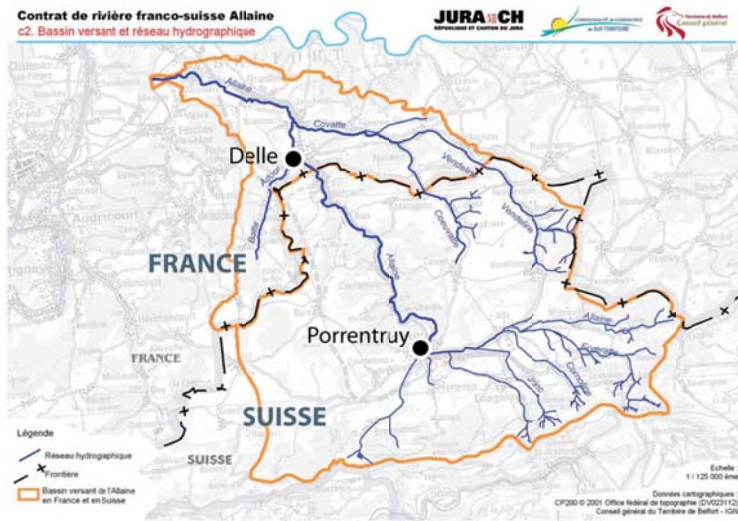
The Doubs river is 453 km long: 23 km are shared between France and Switzerland. In Switzerland the River crosses three cantons: Jura, Bern, Neuchâtel.



LE TERRITOIRE DE PROJET : LE BASSIN VERSANT DU DOUBS FRANCO-SUISSE



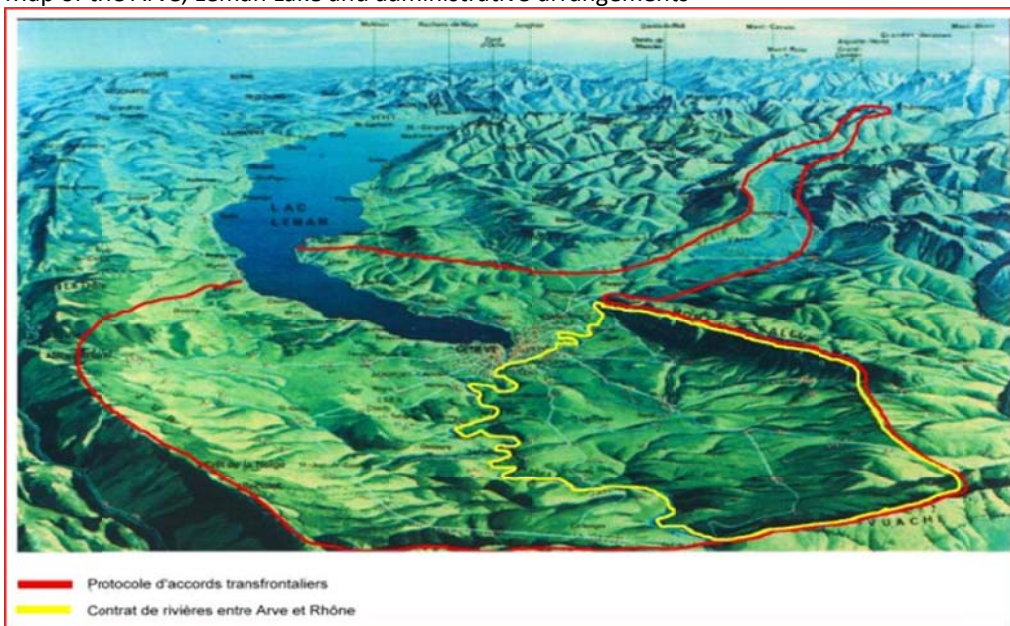
Maps of the Doubs Sub-Basin.



Map of the Allaine Sub-Basin.



Map of the Arve, Lemman Lake and administrative arrangements



2. Cooperation Framework

2a. International agreement or convention

Information requested: Title, date of agreement, countries not covered under agreement, brief description

1. Title:

Allaine sub-basin: River contract Allaine

Doubs sub-basin: Historic agreements on Doubs River between France and Switzerland were dealing with:

- Water management rules for hydroelectricity (1969)

-Transboundary Commission for fishing (1991)

In February 2008, Following the Article 3-5 of the WFD a specific administrative agreement has been signed between France and Switzerland to coordinate objectives in water management. This agreement leads to the establishment of a “consultation group”.

Arve Leman:Trans-boundary river contract between Arve and Rhone: Programme Interreg III A Cooperation France-Suisse

2. Countries under Agreement:

Allaine sub-basin: France and Switzerland

Doubs sub-basin: France and Switzerland

Arve Leman: FR CH

3. Countries part of basin but not covered by agreement: --

4. Date and place of signing:

Allaine sub-basin: 18 June 2010

Doubs sub-basin: 11 February 2008 and 18 January 2012

Arve Leman: October 2003

5. Entry into force:

Allaine sub-basin: 2010-2015

Doubs sub-basin: 11 February 2008 and 18 January 2012

Arve Leman: October 2003

6. Key objectives and content of agreement/convention:

Allaine sub-basin:

Part A : Superficial and underground water quality restoration

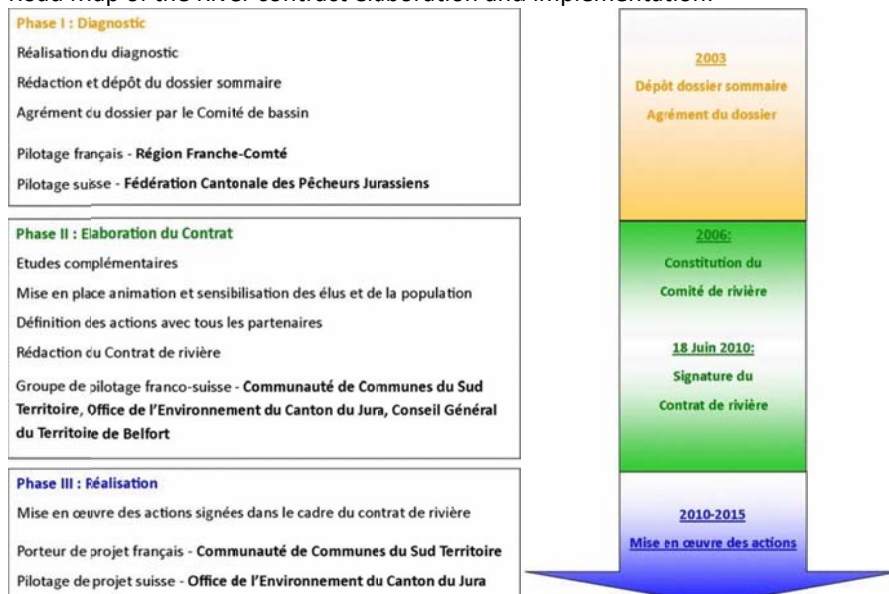
Part B1 : Rivers and ecological status restoration

Part B2 : Flood risk knowledge and management

Part B3 : Drinking water supply protection

Part C : Coordination, animation, follow up and achievement of the contract

Road Map of the River contract elaboration and implementation:



Doubs sub-basin: Water and aquatic environment quality improvement by improving knowledge and defining general framework for measures federating French and Swiss stakeholders. Main objectives are :

- I) To develop studies on flow management and hydrological regime
- II) To improve physico-chemical quality (by improving knowledge of pollutions and treatment plan)
- III) To improve river hydromorphology (restoration of the banks and river continuity restoration)

Arve Leman:

The trans-boundary river contract ended in 2010. Currently the parties do not carry out common activities on the ground but are very active coordinating the development of a future common project, probably around a biological corridor.

River contract led by the Community of Genevan Municipalities and including, among others, the Rhones-Alpes Region, the Geneva canton and Haute-Savoie. It concerns 9 rivers located in the French-Geneva's basin bordered by the Arve and the Rhone.

The objective of the contract is to undertake actions to globally revitalize the river ecosystems with the aim of improving water quality to ensure multiple uses reduce pollution sources and ensure a sufficient water quantity. The general objective is in line with the WFD objective of reaching good ecological status.

The specific objectives of trans-boundary cooperation are the followings:

- Reestablish and preserve water quality;
- Preserve and enhance the natural environment;
- Management, awareness-raising, evaluation.

7. Role of WFD implementation in international basins:

Allaine sub-basin: Likely, the EU WFD induced the first agreement on an administrative agreement in 2010.

Doubs sub-basin: The EU WFD induced the first agreement on an administrative agreement in 2008.

Arve Leman: not specified

2b. Coordinating/Governing Body/River Basin Organisation

Information requested: Name(s) of Secretariat/Commission, location, working languages, website

1. Name(s):

Allaine sub-basin: Transboundary Basin Committee.

Doubs sub-basin:

Consultation group on the administrative agreement of 2008

Under the supervision of France: Regional office of environments Ministry, régional council

CH: Federal office of environment + cantons.

Arve Leman: Community of Genevan municipalities (project lead)

2. Operative since:

Allaine sub-basin: September 2005

Doubs sub-basin: February 2008

Arve Leman: December 26th 1995

3. Location and address:

Allaine sub-basin: Same than the coordination structures

FR: Communauté de Communes du Sud Territoire ; Contrat de rivière Allaine

6, rue de l'Arc - BP 7

90600 Grandvillars

Tél. ++33 (0)3 84 23 57 83

Fax ++33 (0)3 84 27 87 96

E-mail : laurence.leroy@cc-sud-territoire.fr

Melle Laurence LE ROY: Chargée de mission

CH :

Office de l'Environnement de la République et Canton du Jura

Les Champs-Fallats

CH-2882 Sainte-Ursanne

Tél. ++41 (0)32 420 48 05

Fax ++41 (0)32 420 48 01

E-mail : denis.moritz@jura.ch

Mr Denis MORITZ

Arve Leman:

Site d'Archamps – Bat ATHENA
74160 ARCHAMPS

4. Working Languages:

French

5. Website:

Allaine sub-basin: www.allaine.info

Doubs sub-basin: There is no website yet.

Framework and members of the working group:

www.doubs.equipement.gouv.fr/validation-entre-les-deux-etats-d-a1248.html

Arve Leman: <http://WWW.cc-genevois.fr/>

2c. Coordination structure

Information requested: Description of (i) organisational structure (ii) cooperation tasks (iii) expert groups (iv) regular meetings, (v) number of staff, (vi) webpage (vii) other issues.

1. Organisational structure:

(i) Verbal description

Allaine sub-basin: The international River Committee meet once a year and is composed of main water stakeholders of the basin.

Doubs sub-basin: Two transboundary working groups (Hydroelectricity water quality/ecosystem) are under the supervision of the consultation group. All are composed by representatives of stakeholders from both countries.

The structure is coordinated by the official group and the technical group.

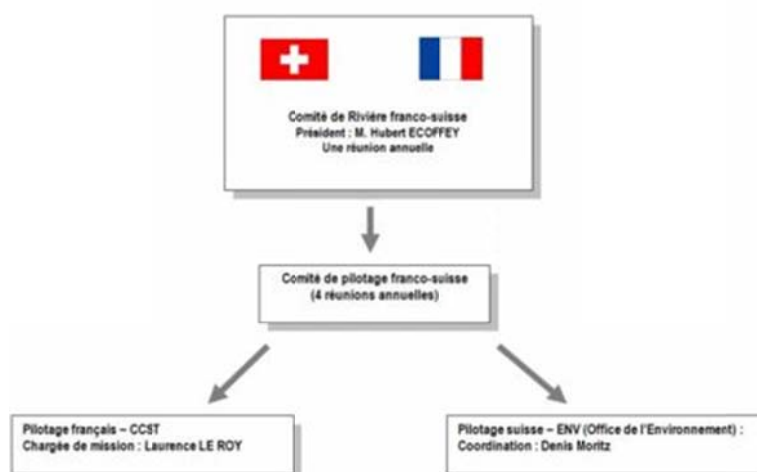
Stakeholders are the one in charge of EU WFD implementation.

Arve Leman: The implementation of the contract is ensured by the following bodies:

- River Committee: created on April 30th, 1999, it includes 33 French members, 21 Suisse members and it is led by the President of the Community of Genevan Municipalities. The committee is in charge of the “river contract” procedure;
- Technical steering committee: it is nominated by the River Committee and groups 33 members in charge of defining the contract objectives and supervising the preparation of the final report;
- Four Commissions in charge of the studies: water quality and management, hydraulics and minimum summer flows (“*soutien d’été*”), landscape and nature, communication.

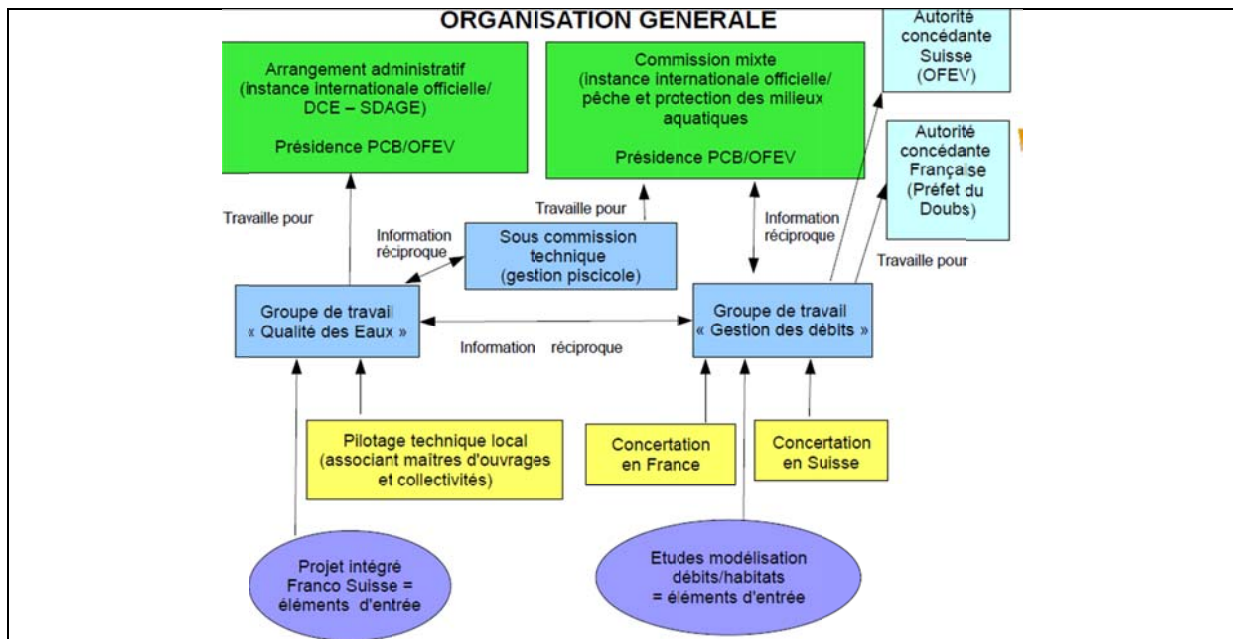
(ii) Organisational diagram:

Allaine sub-basin:



The steering committee meets around four times a year and is in charge of piloting activities of both FR and CH pilot projects.

Doubs sub-basin:



Source: DREAL Franche Comté, 2011

Switzerland :

- Environment Swiss Federal Office
- Energy Swiss Federal Office for Energy
- Agriculture Swiss Federal Office
- Environment Cantonal office of Jura
- Energy and Environment Cantonal service of Neuchatel
- Wildlife, forest and nature service – Republic and Neuchatel canton
- Water and Waste Cantonal Office of Berne
- Fisher Cantonal Federation of Jura
- Regional natural Park of Doubs Association

France :

- Doubs department prefect – Territory Departmental Direction of Doubs
- Environment, Development and Housing Regional Direction of Franche-Comté
- Environment, Development and Housing Regional Direction of Rhône-Méditerranée Basin
- Water Agency of Rhône-Mediterranée-Corse – Interregional delegation Bourgogne-Franche-Comté
- Fishing and Aquatic Environment Protection Departmental Federation of Doubs
- General Council of Doubs
- Regional Council of Franche-Comté
- Basin Territorial Public Establishment of Saône-Doubs
- Doubs Deputy
- Doubs Senator
- “Horloger” region

Arve Leman: not available

(iii) Key cooperation tasks

Allaine sub-basin: International cooperation has been required at each step of the process: shared diagnosis, elaboration of the river Committee and steering Committee, SWMI definition, elaboration of the programme of measures and implementation.

Doubs sub-basin: Share data and knowledge, establish common objectives, develop a shared Program of Measures on FR, CH and transboundary issues.

Arve Leman: not specified

(iv) Expert groups

Allaine sub-basin: for each measure requiring specific knowledge (Communication,

hydromorphology...)

Doubs sub-basin: 2 working groups are in place since 2011 due to a large fishes stocks degradation in 2010:

- Water quantity/hydroelectricity group in charge of designing new management rules of hydroelectricity plan. Works are under progress.
- Water quality and ecosystems group. This transboundary group has met for the first time in Mai 2011. A steering agreement has been signed by the group members in 18 January 2012, detailing issues, fixing common objectives, and tasks to achieve on each side of the border.

Arve Leman: Commission of water quality and management, Commission of hydraulics and minimum summer flows ("*soutien d'étiage*"), Commission of landscape and nature, Commission of communication

(v) Regular meetings

Allaine sub-basin: Y (4 per year for the international steering comitee)

Doubs sub-basin: The working groups meet once a semester.

The technical group that are operative within the working groups meets once every two months.

Arve Leman:

(vi) Number of staff

Allaine sub-basin: 1,5 (1 FR animator + 0,5 CH (Part time)

Doubs sub-basin: No specific staff.

Arve Leman: not specified

(vii) Observers: --

(viii) Webpage

Allaine sub-basin: www.allaine.info

Doubs sub-basin: There is no website yet.

Framework and members of the working group:

www.doubs.equipement.gouv.fr/validation-entre-les-deux-etats-d-a1248.html

Arve Leman: http://www.cc-genevois.fr/pdf/presentation_generale.pdf

http://www.cncd.fr/frontoffice/bdd-projet.asp?projet_id=57555

(ix) Other issues

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2d. Other cooperation agreements if relevant

Information requested: Description of other national bilateral/multilateral agreements for transboundary coordination including country members

1. The following bilateral/multilateral agreements are in place besides the overall international agreement (list for each cooperating country):

Allaine sub-basin: No other agreement in place. A Local River basin management plan (SAGE) is under reflexion. It will include the Allaine basin, but is actually at an early stage;

Doubs sub-basin:

- Three Hydroelectricity plans were built on the Doubs river which obeys to the common water regulation from 1969, which does not suite any more (under revision in the hydroelectricity working group)
- A Franco-Swiss Agreement on fishing, of the 29 of July 1991, instituted by the transboundary commission.
- Another important project of transboundary Natural park is under construction. It would be composed of 2 regional parks on each side answering to each legislation. A common transboundary steering commission would supervise both structures. The previous water management bodies will present regularly their project and objectives to the steering commission.

Arve Leman:

2. Further related information

Allaine sub-basin: No further related information

Doubs sub-basin: Switzerland is not part of European Union but its federal laws lead to the protection of water resources close to WFD objectives.

Arve Leman:

3. Key Areas of International Cooperation

3a. International River Basin Management Plan

1. WFD international River Basin Management Plan developed (Y/N)

Allaine sub-basin: No international RBMP has been developed.

The international river contract tool is older than the WFD in France. The River Contract follows nevertheless similar approaches/methodologies, objectives and tools as the EU WFD but at a more local scale. Moreover all French river contracts should be compatible to the RBMP. A specific work has been carried to assess this correspondence in 2009.

Doubs sub-basin: No international RBMP has been developed.

Arve Leman: The general objective of the contract is to reach good ecological status in the concerned rivers. Under this framework, about a hundred actions are planned; actions undertaken in the two countries are coordinated by the steering committee and the technical commissions.

Only if an international RBMP has been developed, the below items need to be completed:

2. RBMP download link

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3. The international RBMP is formally defined/delineated in relation to the national RBMP as follows (i.e. catchment area size, other thresholds, etc.):

4. The national RBMP refers to implementation of international cooperation and coordination mechanisms

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5. The international RBMP includes country specific information (Y/N).

If 'yes' (=country specific information is provided), list if the information is consistent with the national RBMP.

Country specific information in international RBMP (Y/N plus short description of cross reference) – list for each cooperating country

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The information provided in the international RBMP is consistent with the national RBMP

(Y/N plus short description if needed) -) – list for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP

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3b. Coordinated/Joint Activities

Information requested: Topics where joint development occurred, for example: SWMIs, monitoring, PoMs, objectives, public consultations, etc; Description of the process of joint cooperation for each activity.

1 Key international cooperation activities – general description

Allaine sub-basin: Joint assessments, joint SWMIs, objectives definition, Programme of Measures , joint Communication

Doubs sub-basin: Providing coherence between objectives, measures and knowledge on water management of the Doubs River.

Arve Leman:

2 Description of detailed coordinated/joint activities:

2.1 WFD SWMIs (Y/N). If yes, describe.

Allaine sub-basin: Yes.

SWMIs are identified but not under the EU WFD.

Doubs sub-basin: Yes.

The framework agreement of January 2012 stress the main issues of the river and if there are more Swiss, French or shared issues (See following table)

Thèmes	Enjeux	Localisation		
		Suisse	France	Trans-frontalier
Régime hydrologique du Doubs	Gestion des éclusées			X
Qualité physico-chimique de l'eau	Réduction des flux de micropolluants industriels	X	X	
	Pollution des sédiments dans les retenues			X
	Sites et sols pollués			
	Réduction de la pollution liée à l'assainissement collectif	X		
	Réduction de la pollution liée à l'assainissement individuel		X	
	Réduction de la pollution liée à l'agriculture		X	
Qualité physique des cours d'eau	Franchissabilité des seuils			X
	Accessibilité piscicole des affluents			
	Restauration physique du Doubs	"Boucle"		
	Restauration des habitats dans les affluents			

Tableau de synthèse des enjeux

X : nécessitant des investigations complémentaires.

Priorité : **forte**, **moyenne**, **faible**

Source: Common vision of main issues of the Doubs basin and share of responsibilities

Arve Leman:

2.2 Coordinated/joint visions and objectives (Y/N):

Allaine sub-basin: Yes.

Shared objectives of the FR & CH River Contract.

Doubs sub-basin: Yes.

Objectives are in place for each issues, main measures have been identified. Technical work is currently provided to make them more operational.

Arve Leman: Objective A: reestablish and preserve water quality

Specific objectives:

- Reduce pollution from domestic sources;
- Reduce pollution from agricultural sources;
- Reduce pollution brought by run-off water;
- Control and minimize industrial risk.

Objective B: preserve and enhance the natural environment

Specific objectives:

- Protection of people and goods in areas at risk (management of run-off water and fight against flood events);
- Implementation of a global, trans-boundary water resource management;
- Restoration of surface water bodies and living environments;

- Landscape and tourism enhancement of the river basins (trans-boundary hiking trails, common road signs).

Objective C: management, awareness raising and evaluation

Specific objectives:

- Information and awareness raising among the public;
- Ensure follow-up and maintenance activities aimed at granting the long-term global quality of water courses.

2.3 Coordinated/transboundary monitoring (Y/N)

Allaine sub-basin: Not actually, but this is the objective of one measure

Doubs sub-basin: No.

However, results are shared.

Arve Leman:

2.4 Coordinated/shared databases and/or GIS (Y/N)

Allaine sub-basin: Not actually but the French animator will have special training to build and manage such data base

Shared GIS as part of the River Contract.

Doubs sub-basin: Yes.

Data are shared between FR and CH while working on the Program of Measures.

2.5 Coordinated/joint Programme of Measures

Y/N.

Allaine sub-basin: Coordinated PoM as part of the River Contract.

Doubs sub-basin: In progress, but each measure remains under the management and finance of one country

Arve Leman: Under each objective (and specific objective) a number of actions are planned separately in each country

2.6 Coordinated/joint (financial) resources to support international cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describes basic concept of joint financial resources.

Allaine sub-basin: Joint resources for the shared measures 1,4 Millions € among the 32 Millions in total

2.6.a *Basic concept of joint financial resources*

Y/N.

Allaine sub-basin: Each country finance measures on his side of the border + joint activities (14 M€ for France, 17 M€ for Switzerland)

Doubs sub-basin: At the moment there is no financial resources shared to finance measure in the neighbouring country. Each country finances its measures responding to the common objectives. However, meetings are financed jointly.

Arve Leman: The launch of the trans-boundary river contract was supported by the Project funded by the EU under the Interreg III A Programme – Trans-boundary cooperation France Suisse

After 2010, each side has managed their own resources with some trans-boundary financing (rare).

2.6.b *Amount of joint financial resources: -- Allaine sub-basin*: 1,4 Millions €

Total budget for Interreg III A Programme – Trans-boundary cooperation France Suisse: 21 M€

Today, cooperation continues to support coordination and prepare future common action in the field.

The canton provides for the management on the Swiss side and in France, a collection of subsidies are mobilised from the Water agency; the Region and department.

2.6.c *List of supported joint resources: -- Allaine sub-basin*: Communication, hydromorphological diagnosis, data base

2.6.d *Country participation in joint meetings is supported (Y/N): Allaine sub-basin*: Yes. Doubs sub-basin: Yes

2.7 Coordinated/joint communication strategy and public participation activities (Y/N)

Y/N

Allaine sub-basin: Yes.

Coordinated communication as part of the River Contract: common web site, exhibitions, manifestation.

Doubs sub-basin: Common press communication and local communication by each partners

Arve Yes – joint actions are planned under Objective C, specific objective on information and awareness raising

2.8 Coordinated/joint approach to consider future water demand (WFD Annex III)

Allaine sub-basin: No

Doubs sub-basin: No

2.9 Coordinated/joint approach on setting exemptions

Allaine sub-basin: No

Doubs sub-basin: No

3c. Coordinated/Joint Methodologies

Information requested: Areas in which joint methodologies were developed in relation to the issues listed under 3b. In addition, other joint methodologies should be added e.g. to designate HMWBs, to define good ecological status/potential, cost effectiveness of measures and or any other issues. Include brief description of the process of cooperation for each methodology

1. The following joint methodologies have been developed

Allaine sub-basin: Identification and assessment of SWMIs, definition of objectives, identification of a Programme of Measures

Doubs sub-basin: The framework agreement present the common methodology of the Working group Quality on Ecosystems: State of the art, SWMI, Objectives, Measures

Arve Leman: Joint methodologies are not specified in the available documents; the only mention to common definition is the definition of good ecological status, set in accordance with the WFD definition

2. The joint methodologies are formally adopted/agreed between the countries (Y/N)

Allaine sub-basin: Yes.

Doubs sub-basin: Yes.

3. The joint methodologies are continuously/practically applied in the frame of international cooperation leading to harmonised results (Y/N)

Allaine sub-basin: Yes.

Doubs sub-basin: Yes.

4. The following challenges currently hinder the continuous/practical application of joint methodologies:

Allaine sub-basin: --

Doubs sub-basin: The different water legislation (WFD does not apply on Switzerland) and long administrative process in Swiss services.

5. Future development of joint methodologies is planned for the future (Y/N).

If already known, list which ones.

Allaine sub-basin: No

Doubs sub-basin: No

4. International Coordination Successes and Challenges

4a. Changes related to WFD enforcement

Information requested: Description of changes of international cooperation since WFD enforcement

1. Indicate if the enforcement of the EU WFD changed and improved joint cooperation (Y/N)

Allaine sub-basin: No specific enforcement, process was already launched before WFD implementation. Swiss water law was already existing and ambitious on several issues (agri-environmental subsidies, sediment management...)

Doubs sub-basin: The EU WFD has induced the transboundary consultation group and cooperation agreement of 2008. Implementation has been stressed and raised again at political level due to fish mortality of 2010.

2. Cooperation areas where changes/improvement occurred through WFD

Allaine sub-basin: No change in cooperation areas, just light adjustment to make river contract compatible to RBMP

Doubs sub-basin: Larger cooperation agreement including water quality and ecosystem issues.

3. When did changes occur?

Allaine sub-basin : --

Doubs sub-basin: 2008.

4b. Key Successes of coordination

Information requested: Description of cooperation successes, positive feedback loops, etc.

Allaine sub-basin: International cooperation mechanism in general to be effectively operative on common water management issues.

Doubs sub-basin: The commitment and the involvement of the two countries induce the working group emergence in 2008 (WFD implementation). Nevertheless, effectiveness of cooperation started after political commitment due to high fishes mortality of 2010.

4c. Key Obstacles and Challenges to International Coordination/Cooperation

Information requested: Areas where cooperation was not successful; Areas for improvement

1. Principle key obstacles to international coordination/cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describe.

Allaine sub-basin:

- Lack of human resources on Swiss side (Office de l'environnement)
- Lack of competences in water management of the Swiss environmental office. (mainly owned by each local municipality without transfer to larger organism)
- No implementation of CAP measures (Agri environmental measures) on Swiss farmers cultivating land on French side...and vice versa

Doubs sub-basin: Difference in water Governance bodies on each side:

One FR integrated authority (Regional office for environment) while three CH authorities are operative (fauna, water and energy).

Long CH administrative protocol on canton/federal management levels.

However, objectives of water and environmental policies are comparable and similar.

Arve Leman: ex post evaluation was not available or recorded in interviews

2. Current key challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(g) the past/current WFD planning cycle

Allaine sub-basin:

- Lack of human resources on Swiss side (Office de l'environnement)
- Lack of competences in water management of the Swiss environmental office. (mainly owned by each local municipality without transfer to larger organism)

Doubs sub-basin: The governing bodies and working groups were recently created. The challenge is to make them effective in operation and to ensure regular meetings.

(h) any other areas regarding water resources management

3. Respective areas of improvement and indication if this is planned

Allaine sub-basin: Adjustments of the Jura Canton Water law were under discussion last year, without concretisation...

Doubs sub-basin: See above.

4. Expected challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(c) Next WFD planning cycle

Allaine sub-basin: Not foreseen by interviewed persons

Doubs sub-basin: Not foreseen by interviewed persons

(d) any other areas regarding water resources management

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5. Future in international cooperation - Next steps/View towards 2nd WFD planning cycle

5a. Areas of future cooperation

Information requested: Where work has already started for the next planning cycle; New Areas of international cooperation; Whether an international plan is foreseen

1. Outline if the development of an international RBMP according to the EU WFD is foreseen

If so, by when (2015, 2021, 2027)

Allaine sub-basin: Not foreseen by those interviewed.

Doubs sub-basin: No.

Cooperation in steering commission and working groups seems sufficient.

In the Arve what is currently underway are efforts to ensure that the French SAGE and Swiss SPAGE are

coherent on both sides of the border

2. First milestones that will be jointly aimed for regarding the future EU WFD implementation

Allaine sub-basin: A midterm evaluation is planned for end 2012

Doubs sub-basin: --

3. If no international RBMP will be developed, briefly describe why this is the case

Allaine sub-basin: No need of specific international RBMP on such small scale river. Implementing the current river contract could be sufficient.

Doubs sub-basin: --

4. Further future areas of international cooperation/coordination:

Allaine sub-basin: --

Doubs sub-basin: The governing bodies and working groups were recently created. The challenge is to make them effective in operation and to ensure regular meetings.

In the Arve there is also discussion regarding the development of wildlife corridors and further shared operational management tools.

6. Additional Comments

7. Interviewed country and RBO representatives as well as other experts

Allaine sub-basin: Laurence Leroy, in charge of the River contract in the Communauté de Communes du Sud Territoire

Doubs sub-basin: Jean-Yves OLIVIER: Adjoint au chef du service biodiversité, eau, paysages DREAL Franche-Comté

Arve Leman: Mrs Solenne Verbrughe, CC Genève

8. Sources and References

Allaine sub-basin: www.allaine.info/contrat-riviere/organisation-franco-suisse.htm

Contrat de rivière de l'Allaine, Etat des lieux, Diagnostic, Enjeux et objectifs, 2010

Contrat de rivière de l'Allaine, Programme d'actions, 2010

Contrat de rivière de l'Allaine, Atlas Cartographique, 2010

Contrat de rivière de l'Allaine, Document contractuel, 2010

Doubs sub-basin:

- Arrangement visant la consultation de la Suisse dans le cadre de l'application de la DCE par la France dans le bassin versant du Doubs et les bassins mineurs le jouxtant, 11 Feb 2008
- DOUBS FRANCO-SUISSE, HIERARCHISATION DES ENJEUX EN TERMES DE GESTION DES COURS D'EAU, Jan 2012
- PROJET INTEGRE DOUBS FRANCO-SUISSE, Etat des lieux / diagnostic du bassin versant, EPTB Saone Doubs, May 2011
- Groupe de travail Binational pour l'amélioration de la qualité des eaux et des milieux aquatiques du Doubs Franco Suisse, composition du groupe de travail, Janv 2012
- Groupe de travail Binational pour l'amélioration de la qualité des eaux et des milieux aquatiques du Doubs Franco Suisse, Mandat du groupe de travail, Janv 2012
- Groupe de travail Binational pour l'amélioration de la qualité des eaux et des milieux aquatiques du Doubs Franco Suisse, Document Cadre pour le Doubs Franco Suisse, Janv 2012

Arve-Leman

<http://www.riviere-arve.org/>

http://www.eaumontagne.org/site/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=40&lang=fr

<http://etat.geneve.ch>

Coordination Mechanisms of the International LV-EE River Basins

1. Basic information on international river basins/sub-river basins between IE and UK

EU Member States sharing the basins: EE, LV

Third countries sharing the basin: -

River Basin Districts concerned:

Gauja



Size of the total catchment area and national shares for each international river/sub-river basin, indicating division by country and the respective RBD:

Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	Total Area of Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin ¹	EU Member States/Non EU Member States in International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin District ¹	International RBD to which International River Basin belongs
	(km ²)		km ² (%)	
Basins with Agreement and no Coordinating Body				
Gauja/Koiva	14.349	LV	13.051 (91%) ²	Gauja
		EE	1.335 (9%) ³	

2. Cooperation Framework

2a. International agreement or convention

Information requested: Title, date of agreement, countries not covered under agreement, brief description

1. Title:

Agreement between the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Estonia on co-operation for protection and sustainable use of trans-boundary water courses

2. Countries under Agreement:

Latvia and Estonia

3. Countries part of basin but not covered by agreement: --

4. Date and place of signing:

24 October, 2003 in Palanga, Lithuania

5. Entry into force:

Upon signing of the Parties

6. Key objectives and content of agreement/convention:

Goal of the agreement is to cooperate in order to protect and provide sustainable use of transboundary water

¹ The RBMPs do not specify the catchment area of single basins. Therefore, the area of the whole RBD is given.

² Total area of the Gauja RBD according to the national RBMP.

³ Total areas of the Koiva river basin district according to the national Art 5 Report. It includes two water bodies that do not belong to the Koiva river basin, but belong to the Koiva RBD.

courses and to establish and manage international river basin district. The parties shall co-operate on the management of an international river basin district – Gauja / Koiva.

7. Role of WFD implementation in international basins:

The WFD is mentioned in the preamble of the Agreement, stating that both Parties are *implementing* the requirements of the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC in the transboundary context

2b. Coordinating/Governing Body/River Basin Organisation

Information requested: Name(s) of Secretariat/Commission, location, working languages, website

1. Name(s):

The Working Group on cooperation for establishing and managing of international river basin district Gauja/Koiva shall be established for the implementation of the provisions of this Agreement.

There is no permanent Secretariat in place.

2. Operative since:

The first meeting was held on 24 March, 2004 in Riga

3. Location and address:

The working group meetings are held in different locations.

4. Working Languages:

English or Russian

5. Website:

Does not exist

2c. Coordination structure

Information requested: Description of (i) organisational structure (ii) cooperation tasks (iii) expert groups (iv) regular meetings, (v) number of staff, (vi) webpage (vii) other issues.

1. Organisational structure:

(i) Verbal description

The coordination is managed by nominated chairpersons:

For Latvia: Mr. R. Bebris, Director of the Environmental Protection Department, Ministry of the Environment. Due to change of the position and merging of ministries, since 2011 Mr. Bebris is Deputy Director of the same department, Ministry of the Environmental Protection and Regional Development. He is also Water Director for implementation of WFD.

For Estonia: Mr. Harry Liiv, Deputy State Secretary on Environmental Management, Estonian Ministry of the Environment, has been acting as counterpart and chairmen. In practice, Rene Reisner, Water department, has coordinated the work.

(ii) Organisational diagram

There is no organisational diagram.

(iii) Key cooperation tasks

- To set-up the water quality targets and to agree on basic typology and classification of water bodies of the international river basin district;
- To co-ordinate the programs designated to monitor the respective international river basin district and shall harmonise the methods of laboratory analysis;
- To exchange the information and data necessary for co-operation on establishing and managing of international river basin district Gauja/Koiva.

(iv) Expert groups

There is no fixed expert group established. The main cooperation feature is communication between individual experts working for development of the national river basin management plans.

(v) Regular meetings

For implementation of the Agreement mainly ad-hoc meetings are set-up when the need for information exchange is initiated by one or another party. Additionally the cooperation on water management is also discussed within the meetings of the senior officials of the three Baltic States. They are held in average twice per year.

(vi) Number of staff

No special staff.

(vii) Observers

n.a.

(viii) Webpage

n.a.

(ix) Other issues

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Comment:

In practice cooperation is rather informal, expert based and do not follow the procedures of the signed agreement in detail.

2d. Other cooperation agreements if relevant

Information requested: Description of other national bilateral/multilateral agreements for transboundary coordination including country members

1. The following bilateral/multilateral agreements are in place besides the overall international agreement (list for each cooperating country):

There is also the agreement between the Government of Estonia, Government of Latvia and Government of Lithuania on cooperation in the field of the environment signed on 4 June 2010.

2. Further related information

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3. Key Areas of International Cooperation

3a. International River Basin Management Plan

1. WFD international River Basin Management Plan developed (Y/N)

No, international RBMP has been developed.

Only if an international RBMP has been developed, the below items need to be completed:

2. RBMP download link

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3. The international RBMP is formally defined/delineated in relation to the national RBMP as follows (i.e. catchment area size, other thresholds, etc.):

--

4. The national RBMP refers to implementation of international cooperation and coordination mechanisms (List for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP): ---

5. The international RBMP includes country specific information (Y/N).

If 'yes' (=country specific information is provided), list if the information is consistent with the national RBMP. Country specific information in international RBMP (Y/N plus short description of cross reference) – list for each cooperating country

The information provided in the international RBMP is consistent with the national RBMP

(Y/N plus short description if needed) -) – list for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP

3b. Coordinated/Joint Activities

Information requested: Topics where joint development occurred, for example: SWMIs, monitoring, PoMs, objectives, public consultations, etc; Description of the process of joint cooperation for each activity.

1 Key international cooperation activities – general description

In the first RBMP period, the countries were rather working individually on the national level. Information exchange was held in the frame of different seminars. Individual experts working on single issues also communicated on the progress in the implementation of the WFD. However, the joint activities were not possible due to time and resource constraints.

2 Description of detailed coordinated/joint activities:

2.1 WFD SWMIs (Y/N). If yes, describe.

No.

2.2 Coordinated/joint visions and objectives:

No

2.3 Coordinated/transboundary monitoring (Y/N)

No

2.4 Coordinated/shared databases and/or GIS (Y/N)

No

2.5 Coordinated/joint Programme of Measures (Y/N)

No

2.6 Coordinated/joint (financial) resources to support international cooperation (Y/N). *If yes, describes basic concept of joint financial resources.*

No

2.6.a Basic concept of joint financial resources: --

2.6.b Amount of joint financial resources: --

2.6.c List of supported joint resources: --

2.6.d Country participation in joint meetings is supported (Y/N): --

2.7 Coordinated/joint communication strategy and public participation activities

No

2.8 Coordinated/joint approach to consider future water demand (WFD Annex III)

No

2.9 Coordinated/joint approach on setting exemptions

No

3c. Coordinated/Joint Methodologies

Information requested: Areas in which joint methodologies were developed in relation to the issues listed under 3b. In addition, other joint methodologies should be added e.g. to designate HMWBs, to define good ecological status/potential, cost effectiveness of measures and or any other issues. Include brief description of the process of cooperation for each methodology

1. The following joint methodologies have been developed

No.

2. The joint methodologies are formally adopted/agreed between the countries (Y/N)

No.

3. The joint methodologies are continuously/practically applied in the frame of international cooperation leading to harmonised results (Y/N)

No.

4. The following challenges currently hinder the continuous/practical application of joint methodologies:

n.a.

5. Future development of joint methodologies is planned for the future (Y/N).

If already known, list which ones.

No

4. International Coordination Successes and Challenges

4a. Changes related to WFD enforcement

Information requested: Description of changes of international cooperation since WFD enforcement

1. Indicate if the enforcement of the EU WFD changed and improved joint cooperation (Y/N)

Yes.

2. Cooperation areas where changes/improvement occurred through WFD

The main changes so far have been on expert level, direct contacts and communications. Before the WFD, the communications between countries on water management were not as intense and structured.

3. When did changes occur?

It has occurred gradually with the implementation of the WFD.

4b. Key Successes of coordination

Information requested: Description of cooperation successes, positive feedback loops, etc.

- In the first period the coordination only focused on the information exchange (monitoring, typology and reference conditions, quality classification, pollution loads, preparation of the Article 5 Report, etc.) and no detailed coordination of all issues took place. Therefore there successes are still limited.
- Harmonisation - ultimate goal of the cooperation - was not yet achieved.
- The cooperation approach on the development of an international RBMP has been used as example to prepare the similar bilateral agreements with regard to implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.
- So far, no international RBMP has been developed.

4c. Key Obstacles and Challenges to International Coordination/Cooperation

Information requested: Areas where cooperation was not successful; Areas for improvement

1. Principle key obstacles to international coordination/cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describe.

The key obstacle regarding international cooperation and to develop an international RBMP was the lack of human resources to coordinate activities.

Also the countries were not sure how the national approach would be developed and appropriate approaches had to be newly developed. Therefore, the planning teams were rather focused on development of the national RBMP in the given time frame.

2. Current key challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(a) the past/current WFD planning cycle

Limited staff resources for the international coordination activities.

(b) any other areas regarding water resources management:

--

3. Respective areas of improvement and indication if this is planned

In the second RBMP cycle it is foreseen to harmonise the methodologies on the identification of pressures, impacts and to discuss on the potential measures. It is also planned to internationally review typology and classification. For that a joint cross-border cooperation project for Gauja/Koiva is implemented in 2012-2013.

4. Expected challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(a) Next WFD planning cycle

It is still uncertain how flexible the cooperating countries will be to change their already established national methodologies. However, harmonisation is aimed for.

(b) any other areas regarding water resources management: --

5. Future in international cooperation - Next steps/View towards 2nd WFD planning cycle

5a. Areas of future cooperation

Information requested: Where work has already started for the next planning cycle; New Areas of international cooperation; Whether an international plan is foreseen

1. Outline if the development of an international RBMP according to the EU WFD is foreseen

If so, by when (2015, 2021, 2027)

There is no official commitment to develop an international RBMP by 2015 and beyond, yet.

2. First milestones that will be jointly aimed for regarding the future EU WFD implementation

The cooperation project on components of a joint international river basin management plan is implemented in 2012-2013. The focus is on harmonisation of the typology, classification, assessment of pressures and impacts. Also joint public participation activities will be performed.

3. If no international RBMP will be developed, briefly describe why this is the case

Decision is not made, but there is a cooperation project which can make the foundation for developing joint international RBMP

4. Further future areas of international cooperation/coordination:

Definition of areas of international cooperation is underway within the cross border cooperation project.

6. Additional Comments

7. Interviewed country and RBO representatives as well as other experts

Latvia, Mr. Rolands Bebris, Ministry of the Environmental Protection and Regional Development

8. Sources and References

- *The text of the Agreement between the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Estonia on co-operation for protection and sustainable use of trans-boundary watercourses.*
- LVĢMC (2009) *Gaujas baseina apgabala apsaimniekošanas plāns 2010-2015.gadam* [the LV RBMP for the RBD]
- - Koiva river basin district management plan (2010). [the EE RBMP for the RBD]

Coordination Mechanisms of the International EE-LV-RU River Basins

1. Basic information on international river basins/sub-river basins between EE, LV and RU

EU Member States sharing the basins: Estland, Latvia

Third countries sharing the basin: Turkey

River Basin Districts concerned: East Aegean, Black Sea



Size of the total catchment area and national shares for each international river/sub-river basin, indicating division by country and the respective RBD:

Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	Total Area of Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin (km ²)	EU Member States/Non EU Member States in International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin km ² (%)	International RBD to which International River Basin belongs
Basins with Agreement and Coordinating Body				
Narva	56.200	EE	17.000 (30%)	East Estonia
		LV	3.100 (6%)	Daugava ?
		RU	36.100 (64%)	Third Country
Lake Peipsi	995		??	
			??	



Source: UNECE Second Assessment Report of transboundary waters.

2. Cooperation Framework

2a. International agreement or convention

Information requested: Title, date of agreement, countries not covered under agreement, brief description

1. Title:

EE, RU: Agreement between in Protection and Rational Use of Transboundary Waters (Lake Peipsi/Chudkoe, Lake Lämmijärv/Teoploye and Lake Pihkva/Pskovskoye, Narva River, Narva Reservoir) and Agreement between the Government of EE and the Government of RU concerning the Conservation and Use of Fishing Stocks in Lake Peipsi/Chudkoe, Lake Lämmijärv/Teoploye and Lake Pihkva/Pskovskoye; EE, LV: Agreement between the Ministry of Environment of LV and EE on Cooperation in the Protection and Sustainable Use of Transboundary Water Bodies

2. Countries under Agreement:

EE and RU

3. Countries part of basin but not covered by agreement:

4. Date and place of signing:

1997

1994

2003

6. Key objectives and content of agreement/convention:

7. Role of WFD implementation in international basins:

2b. Coordinating/Governing Body/River Basin Organisation

Information requested: Name(s) of Secretariat/Commission, location, working languages, website

1. Name(s):

Estonian-Russian Joint Commission on the Protection and Sustainable Use of Transboundary Waters

2. Operative since:

3. Location and address:

4. Working Languages:

5. Website:

2c. Coordination structure

Information requested: Description of (i) organisational structure (ii) cooperation tasks (iii) expert groups (iv) regular meetings, (v) number of staff, (vi) webpage (vii) other issues.

1. Organisational structure:

(i) *Verbal description*

(ii) *Organogram*

(iii) *Key cooperation tasks*

(iv) *Expert groups*

(v) *Regular meetings*

(vi) *Number of staff*

(vii) *Observers*

(viii) *Webpage*

(ix) *Other issues*

If relevant, list any inconsistencies/open issues stated during interviews with country representatives or found during other investigations:

2d. Other cooperation agreements if relevant

Information requested: Description of other national bilateral/multilateral agreements for transboundary coordination including country members

1. The following bilateral/multilateral agreements are in place besides the overall international agreement (list for each cooperating country):

2. Further related information

3. Key Areas of International Cooperation

3a. International River Basin Management Plan

1. WFD international River Basin Management Plan developed (Y/N)

Only if an international RBMP has been developed, the below items need to be completed:

2. RBMP download link

3. The international RBMP is formally defined/delineated in relation to the national RBMP as follows (i.e. catchment area size, other thresholds, etc.):

4. The national RBMP refers to implementation of international cooperation and coordination mechanisms (List for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP):

Country A:

Country B:

Etc.

5. The international RBMP includes country specific information (Y/N).

If 'yes' (=country specific information is provided), list if the information is consistent with the national RBMP.

Country specific information in international RBMP (Y/N plus short description of cross reference) – list for each cooperating country

Country A:

Country B:

etc.

The information provided in the international RBMP is consistent with the national RBMP

(Y/N plus short description if needed) -) – list for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP

Country A:

Country B:

etc.

3b. Coordinated/Joint Activities

Information requested: Topics where joint development occurred, for example: SWMIs, monitoring, PoMs, objectives, public consultations, etc; Description of the process of joint cooperation for each activity.

1 Key international cooperation activities – general description

2 Description of detailed coordinated/joint activities:

2.1 WFD SWMIs (Y/N). *If yes, describe.*

2.2 Coordinated/joint visions and objectives:

2.3 Coordinated/transboundary monitoring

2.4 Coordinated/shared databases and/or GIS

2.5 Coordinated/joint Programme of Measures

2.6 Coordinated/joint (financial) resources to support international cooperation (Y/N). *If yes, describes basic concept of joint financial resources.*

2.6.a *Basic concept of joint financial resources*

2.6.b *Amount of joint financial resources*

2.6.c *List of supported joint resources*

2.6.d *Country participation in joint meetings is supported (Y/N)*

2.7 Coordinated/joint communication strategy and public participation activities

2.8 Coordinated/joint approach to consider future water demand (WFD Annex III)

2.9 Coordinated/joint approach on setting exemptions

If relevant, list any inconsistencies/open issues stated during interviews with country representatives or found during other investigations:

3c. Coordinated/Joint Methodologies

Information requested: Areas in which joint methodologies were developed in relation to the issues listed under 3b. In addition, other joint methodologies should be added e.g. to designate HMWBs, to define good ecological status/potential, cost effectiveness of measures and or any other issues. Include brief description of the process of cooperation for each methodology

- 1. The following joint methodologies have been developed
- 2. The joint methodologies are formally adopted/agreed between the countries (Y/N)
- 3. The joint methodologies are continuously/practically applied in the frame of international cooperation leading to harmonised results (Y/N)
- 4. The following challenges currently hinder the continuous/practical application of joint methodologies:
- 5. Future development of joint methodologies is planned for the future (Y/N).
If already known, list which ones.

If relevant, list any inconsistencies/open issues stated during interviews with country representatives or found during other investigations:

4. International Coordination Successes and Challenges

4a. Changes related to WFD enforcement

Information requested: Description of changes of international cooperation since WFD enforcement

- 1. Indicate if the enforcement of the EU WFD changed and improved joint cooperation (Y/N)
- 2. Cooperation areas where changes/improvement occurred through WFD
- 3. When did changes occur?

If relevant, list any inconsistencies/open issues stated during interviews with country representatives or found during other investigations:

4b. Key Successes of coordination

Information requested: Description of cooperation successes, positive feedback loops, etc.

If relevant, list any inconsistencies/open issues stated during interviews with country representatives or found during other investigations:

4c. Key Obstacles and Challenges to International Coordination/Cooperation

Information requested: Areas where cooperation was not successful; Areas for improvement

1. Principle key obstacles to international coordination/cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describe.

2. Current key challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(c) the past/current WFD planning cycle

(d) any other areas regarding water resources management

3. Respective areas of improvement and indication if this is planned

4. Expected challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(c) Next WFD planning cycle

(d) any other areas regarding water resources management

If relevant, list any inconsistencies/open issues stated during interviews with country representatives or found during other investigations:

5. Future in international cooperation - Next steps/View towards 2nd WFD planning cycle

5a. Areas of future cooperation

Information requested: Where work has already started for the next planning cycle; New Areas of international cooperation; Whether an international plan is foreseen

1. Outline if the development of an international RBMP according to the EU WFD is foreseen

If so, by when (2015, 2021, 2027)

2. First milestones that will be jointly aimed for regarding the future EU WFD implementation

3. If no international RBMP will be developed, briefly describe why this is the case

4. Further future areas of international cooperation/coordination:

If relevant, list any inconsistencies/open issues stated during interviews with country representatives or found during other investigations:

6. Additional Comments

To be completed

7. Interviewed country and RBO representatives as well as other experts

To be completed:

8. Sources and References

To be completed

Coordination Mechanisms of the International FI-NO River Basins

1. Basic information on international river basins/sub-river basins between FI , NO (and RU)

EU Member States sharing the basins: Finland

Third countries sharing the basin: Russia, Norway

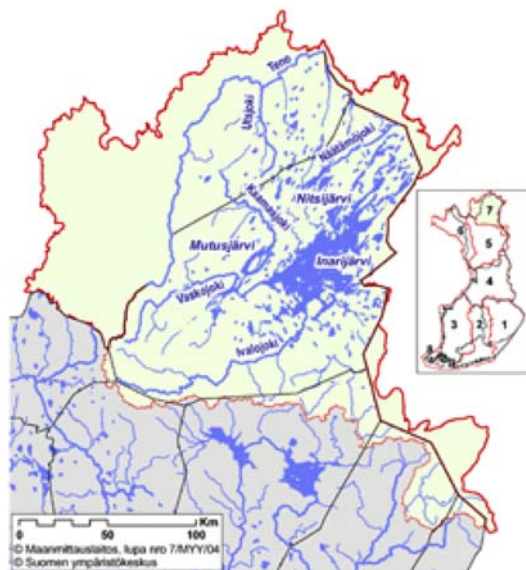
River Basin Districts concerned: Teno, Näätämöjoki, Paatsjoki

Size of the total catchment area and national shares for each international river/sub-river basin, indicating division by country and the respective RBD:

Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	River Basin District	Total Area of Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	EU Member States/Non EU Member States in International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin
		(km ²)		km ² (%)
Pasvik/Paatsjoki	Teno, Näätämöjoki, Paatsjoki	14 512	Finland	14 492 (99,9)
			Russia	2 (0,01)*
			Norway	19 (0,1)
Naatamo	Teno, Näätämöjoki, Paatsjoki	2.907	Finland	2.354 (79,5)
			Norway	553 (20,5)
Teno/Tana	Teno, Näätämöjoki, Paatsjoki	16.386	Finland	5.133 (69,0)
			Norway	11.314 (31,0)

Source: http://www.rajavesikomissio.fi/transboundary_watercourses_in_finland_FIN.pdf

* The Russian share in this river basin is only 0,01%. Therefore, this basin is included in the FI-NO fact sheet as international coordination is ongoing between these two countries.



2. Cooperation Framework

2a. International agreement or convention

Information requested: Title, date of agreement, countries not covered under agreement, brief description

1. Title:

Agreement between Finland and Norway on a Finnish-Norwegian Transboundary Water Commission

2. Countries under Agreement:

FI, NO

3. Countries part of basin but not covered by agreement:

RU (Paatsjoki River)

4. Date and place of signing:

5.11.1980

5. Entry into force:

1981

6. Key objectives and content of agreement/convention:

The Agreement applies to rivers that form part of the border between Finland and Norway as well as to the lakes, rivers and streams that cross the national boundary line between Finland and Norway. The Agreement also applies to watercourses of which the transboundary waters form a part as regards measures that might cause damage or detrimental impacts in the transboundary waters.

Purpose of the Agreement is to preserve the unique natural conditions of transboundary waters and the environment of those waters and to safeguard the interests of the residents of the transboundary region in particular as regards the use of transboundary waters.

The Commission has an advisory role. It submits proposals and motions and issues statements on matters related to water management. Many actions need preparatory work, for example, monitoring of the state of the environment and activities influencing the catchments, as well as hearing experts before (recommendations) decisions can be made by the Commission.

7. Role of WFD implementation in international basins:

Finland shares several transboundary water bodies with Sweden, Norway and Russia. According to the EU's Water Framework Directive (WFD), Finland has two International River Basins: Tornio-Muonionjoki water bodies with Sweden; and Tenojoki, Näätämöjoki and Paatsjoki water bodies with Norway and Russia. The Oulu-IIjoki and also Vuoksi River Basins are limited to Russia, and the measures required by the WFD are promoted in cooperation with Russia. Finland's and the former Soviet Union's frontier guards have done a lot of work compiling a list of all transboundary watercourses between Finland and the former Soviet Union. The Joint Finnish-Russian Commission approved the list in 1971. There are 20 watercourses and 448 lakes, rivers, ponds and streams. The largest river basins along the common border are those of the Vuoksi and Paatsjoki.

8. Additional comment:

Finland and Norway has ongoing negotiations on an agreement to assign the river basins of Tana, Neiden and Pasvik to an international river basin district. The agreement shall ensure that both states meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive Art. 3 and Art. 11. Norway and Finland expect that a final agreement will enter into force within the first half of 2013. Both states would like to note that there has already been established a cooperation between the river basin district authority in Finnmark and in Lapland. The regional authorities aim to coordinate ongoing processes for these river basins."

2b. Coordinating/Governing Body/River Basin Organisation

Information requested: Name(s) of Secretariat/Commission, location, working languages, website

1. Name(s):

The Finnish-Norwegian Transboundary Water Commission

2. Operative since:

1981

3. Location and address:

Visiting address: Hallituskatu 5, FIN - 96500 Rovaniemi
Postal address: P.O. Box 8060, FIN - 96101 Rovaniemi
E-mail address: service.organisation@ymparisto.fi [kirjaamo LAP]

Director **Matti Hepola**,

The Finnish chair of the Commission

Tel.int.+358 295 037 319

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Tel. int. 47 789 50300

Fax int. 47 789 50370

Address: Statens hus, N-9800 Vadso

Environmental Chief **Bente Christiansen**

The Norwegian chair of the Commission

E-mail: bente.christiansen@fylkesmannen.no

4. Working Languages:

Finnish/Norwegian

5. Website:

www.environment.fi > [Lapland](#) > [International cooper...](#) > [Transboundary water ...](#) > Finnish-Norwegian Transboundary Water Commission

2c. Coordination structure

Information requested: Description of (i) organisational structure (ii) cooperation tasks (iii) expert groups (iv) regular meetings, (v) number of staff, (vi) webpage (vii) other issues.

1. Organisational structure:

i. Verbal description:

The FI-NO Commission has three representatives from Finland and three from Norway, appointed by their respective Governments. Of the three representatives for each country one is experienced in the field of water administration and one familiar with the conditions in the border region.

The Commission has secretariats in both countries, the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Lapland Finland, and the County Governor of Finnmark in Norway. The Commission meets at least once a year. It has been practice to invite Russian water authority as an observer to the meetings when Pasvik area issues are on the table.

The Commission has an advisory role. It's recommendations are an important tool in the management of the transboundary watercourses. It submits proposals and motions and issues statements on matters related to water management. Many actions need preparatory work, for example, monitoring of the state of the environment and activities influencing the catchments. Hearing of experts will be usually organized before the Commission gives recommendations.

ii. Number of staff:

vi) Webpage:

www.environment.fi > [Lapland](#) > [International cooper...](#) > [Transboundary water ...](#)

vii) Other issues:

2d. Other cooperation agreements if relevant

Information requested: Description of (i) other national bilateral/multilateral agreements for transboundary

coordination including country members, (ii) organisational approach, (iii) involved authorities, (iv) meetings

Agreement of the regulation of Lake Inari (Finland – Norway – Russia)

Contact: Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment Lapland

Telephone: +358 29 503 7000

3. Key Areas of International Cooperation

3a. International River Basin Management Plan

1. WFD international River Basin Management Plan developed (Y/N): No

Only if an international RBMP has been developed, the below items need to be completed:

2. RBMP download link:--

3. The international RBMP is formally defined/delineated in relation to the national RBMP as follows (i.e. catchment area size, other thresholds, etc.): --

4. The national RBMP refers to the implementation of international cooperation and coordination mechanisms:

--

5. The international RBMP includes country specific information (Y/N).

If 'yes' (=country specific information is provided), list if the information is consistent with the national RBMP.

Country specific information in international RBMP (Y/N plus short description of cross reference) – list for each cooperating country: --

The information provided in the international RBMP is consistent with the national RBMP --

3b. Coordinated/Joint Activities

Information requested: Topics where joint development occurred, for example: SWMIs, monitoring, PoMs, objectives, public consultations, etc.; Description of the process of joint cooperation for each activity.

1 Key international cooperation activities – general description

To preserve the unique natural conditions of transboundary waters and the environment of those waters and to safeguard the interests of the residents of the transboundary region in particular as regards the use of transboundary waters.

2 Description of detailed coordinated/joint activities:

The FI-NO Transboundary Water Commission has prepared Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) plans based on the multiple use of the catchment areas of each of the three rivers (River Teno 2006, River Näätämöjoki 1992, River Paatsjoki 1997). As part of the Paatsjoki catchment area is located in Russia, the Russian authorities have also participated in the planning process.

During years 2002–2006, the Lapland Regional Environment Centre, Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate and County Governor in Finnmark carried out a project named *Preservation of the River Tenojoki as a salmon river in its natural state – environmental work, ecological condition and monitoring*. Report 'Ecological State of the River Tenojoki' was published in 2006.

ELY-Centre for Lapland has co-operated with Norwegian authority (Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate, NVE) during the preliminary flood risk assessment (PFRA) related to implementation of EU Directive on Floods. During PFRA it has been held meetings and ELY-Centre for Lapland has informed actively NVE about the situation of PFRA in Finland. Report of PFRA in Tana River basin has been written in co-operation with NVE.

Common ongoing projects related to water management:

Developing of authority cooperation in Tenojoki River valley 2011-2013:

Trilateral Cooperation on Environment challenges in the Joint Border Area 2012-2014

2.1 WFD SWMIs (Y/N). *If yes, describe.* Yes/No:

Yes/No. Mitigation harmful effects caused by road construction (migration barriers for fish) and water regulation; Pollution-nutrient loading control; Alien species and fish diseases, especially *Gyrodactylus salaris* – parasite.

2.2 Coordinated/joint visions and objectives (Y/N):

Yes/No. The common objectives in the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) plans is to preserve the quality and sustainable use of the river basin while promoting prepared local livelihoods and the Sámi culture, by carefully integrating the various uses of the river basin. Local ownership of the plan has been a fundamental element of the planning process.

The main objective of the Tana river project was to identify natural and man-made obstacles to salmon movement, and to identify relevant measures to ensure strong salmon stocks in the river.

The Pasvik programme aimed to coordinate environmental monitoring in the Norwegian, Finnish and Russian parts of the Pasvik area. In this respect the main objective was to survey emissions and to ensure reliable, comparable and accessible monitoring data across the borders.

2.3 Coordinated/transboundary monitoring

Yes/No: In the River Paatsjoki area common unofficial harmonised monitoring programme of FI-NO-RU was commissioned in 2007. The programme encompasses the monitoring of terrestrial ecosystems, air quality, deposition loading, water quality and aquatic ecosystems. The first joint report of the three nations on the state of the environment and associated changes was published in 2007 ([State of the Environment in the Norwegian, Finnish and Russian Border Area](#)). Further information of monitoring program and reports in the web: www.pasvikmonitoring.org.

In the River Teno basin common water quality monitoring has been carried out since 1988. Last common report was published 2002. During the year 2012 common monitoring program will be updated.

2.3 Coordinated/shared databases and/or GIS

Yes/No.

2.4 Coordinated/joint Programme of Measures

No

2.5 Coordinated/joint (financial) resources to support international cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describes basic concept of joint financial resources.

No

2.5.a Basic concept of joint financial resources:--

2.5.b

2.5.c Amount of joint financial resources: --

2.5.d List of supported joint resources:--

2.5.e Country participation in joint meetings is supported (Y/N) in kind staff attendance is the main form of financing coordination: No.

2.6 Coordinated/joint communication strategy and public participation activities (Y/N)

2.7 Coordinated/joint approach to consider future water demand (WFD Annex III)

2.8 Coordinated/joint approach on setting exemptions

Comment: Negotiations to adopt an agreement to fulfil the WFD demands related to international river basin district between Finland and Norway are going.

3c. Coordinated/Joint Methodologies

Information requested: Areas in which joint methodologies were developed in relation to the issues listed under 3b. In addition, other joint methodologies should be added e.g. to designate HMWBs, to define good ecological status/potential, cost effectiveness of measures and or any other issues. Include brief description of the process of cooperation for each methodology

1. The following joint methodologies have been developed

www.pasvikmonitoring.org

2. The joint methodologies are formally adopted/agreed between the countries (Y/N)

N

3. The joint methodologies are continuously/practically applied in the frame of international cooperation leading to harmonised results (Y/N)

4. The following challenges currently hinder the continuous/practical application of joint methodologies:

5. Future development of joint methodologies is planned for the future (Y/N).

4. International Coordination Successes and Challenges

4a. Changes from WFD implementation

Information requested: Description of changes of international cooperation since WFD enforcement

1. Indicate if the enforcement of the EU WFD changed and improved joint cooperation (Y/N) Cooperation areas where changes/improvement occurred through WFD:
2. When did changes occur?:

4b. Key Successes of coordination

Information requested: Description of cooperation successes, positive feedback loops, etc.

Transboundary cooperation has long tradition in the area. Transboundary Water Commission, Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) plans, common monitoring program and common projects have created strong base for cooperation and network of actors.

4c. Key Obstacles and Challenges to International Coordination/Cooperation

Information requested: Areas where cooperation was not successful; Areas for improvement

1. Principle key obstacles to international coordination/cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describe.
2. Current key challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to
3. Respective areas of improvement and indication if this is planned
4. Expected challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

5. Future in international cooperation - Next steps/View towards 2nd Planning cycle

5a. Areas of future cooperation

Information requested: Where work has already started for the next planning cycle; New Areas of international cooperation; Whether an international plan is foreseen

1. Outline if the development of an international RBMP according to the EU WFD is foreseen
If so, by when (2015, 2021, 2027)
2. First milestones that will be jointly aimed for regarding the future EU WFD implementation
3. If no international RBMP will be developed, briefly describe why this is the case
4. Further future areas of international cooperation/coordination

To strengthen the cooperation between FI-NO-SWE implementing the WFD in the North Calotte Region, unofficial trilateral working group was established in year 2011. Water authorities in North Calotte area (SWE Norrbotten, FI Lapland, NO Finnmark, Troms, Nordland) and representatives from national level and FI-SWE BRC have yearly meeting where countries can discuss the development of their RBMPs and PoMs, and assess how international coordination and harmonisation are progressing.

6. Additional Comments

7. Interviewed country and RBO representatives as well as other experts

8. Sources and References

<http://www.ymparisto.fi/default.asp?contentid=398939&lan=fi&clan=en>
assessment in Tana River basin
www.pasvikmonitoring.org
http://finnmark.miljostatus.no/msf_frontpage.aspx?m=1072

Size of the total catchment area and national shares for each international river/sub-river basin, indicating division by country and the respective RBD:

Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	River Basin District	Total Area of Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin (km ²)	EU Member States/Non EU Member States in International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin
				km ² (%)
Oulujoki	Oulujoki-Iijoki	22 841	Finland	22 509 (98,5)
			Russia	332 (1,5)
Kemijoki	Kemijoki	51 127	Finland	49 467 (96,8)
			Russia	1 633 (3,1)
			Norway	27 (0,1)
Koutajoki	Oulujoki-Iijoki	18 800	Finland	4 915 (26,1)
			Russia	13 885 (73,9)
Kem (Viena)	Oulujoki-Iijoki	27 700	Finland	1 297(4,7)
			Russia	26 403 (95,3)
Jänisjoki	Vuoksi	3 861	Finland	1 988 (51,5)
			Russia	1 872 (48,5)
Kiteenjoki-Tohmajoki	Vuoksi	1 595	Finland	760 (47,6)
			Russia	835 (52,4)
Hiitolanjoki	Vuoksi	1 415	Finland	1 029 (72,7)
			Russia	386 (27,3)
Vuoksi	Vuoksi	68 501	Finland	52 697 (76,9)
			Russia	15 805 (23,1)
Juustilanjoki	Vuoksi	296	Finland	178 (60,3)
			Russia	118 (39,7)
Saimaa Canal	Vuoksi	174	Finland	112 (64,5)
			Russia	62 (32,5)
Hounijoki	Vuoksi	622	Finland	370 (59,5)
			Russia	252 (40,5)
Tervajoki	Vuoksi	204	Finland	108 (52,9)
			Russia	96 (47,1)
Vilajoki	Vuoksi	344	Finland	252 (73,4)
			Russia	92 (26,6)
Kaltonjoki (Santajoki)	Vuoksi	187	Finland	122 (65,2)
			Russia	65 (34,8)
Urpalanjoki	Vuoksi	557	Finland	467 (83,8)
			Russia	90 (16,2)
Vaalimaanjoki	Vuoksi	245	Finland	239 (97,4)
			Russia	6 (2,6)
Tuloma/Tuulomajoki	Teno, Näätämöjoki, Paatsjoki	25 800	Finland	3 241 (12,6)
			Russia	22 559 (87,4)

Source: http://www.rajaviesikomisio.fi/transboundary_watercourses_in_finland_FIN.pdf

2. Cooperation Framework

2a. International agreement or convention

Information requested: Title, date of agreement, countries not covered under agreement, brief description

1. Title:

Agreement between the Republic of Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic Concerning Frontier Water Courses;

b) 2. Countries under Agreement:

FI, RU

3. Countries part of basin but not covered by agreement:

—

4. Date and place of signing:

24.4.1964

5. Entry into force:

1965

6. Key objectives and content of agreement/convention:

The Agreement of Frontier Water courses cover all the water bodies, which cross Finland's eastern border, and also all sectors involving surface water management. The articles contained in the agreement prohibit watercourses from being altered or polluted, and there are also provisions for keeping main fairways open. Furthermore, its provisions also cover water quality monitoring and it also sets forth general prescriptions regarding indemnities in the event of damage caused by either party.

7. Role of WFD implementation in international basins:

Finland shares several transboundary water bodies with Sweden, Norway and Russia. According to the EU's Water Framework Directive (WFD), Finland has two International River Basins: Tornio-Muonionjoki water bodies with Sweden; and Tenojoki, Näätämöjoki and Paatsjoki water bodies with Norway and Russia. The Oulu-Iijoki and also Vuoksi River Basins are limited to Russia, and the measures required by the WFD are promoted in cooperation with Russia. Finland's and the former Soviet Union's frontier guards have done a lot of work compiling a list of all transboundary watercourses between Finland and the former Soviet Union. The Joint Finnish-Russian Commission approved the list in 1971. There are 20 watercourses and 448 lakes, rivers, ponds and streams. The largest river basins along the common border are those of the Vuoksi and Paatsjoki.

8. Additional comment:

2b. Coordinating/Governing Body/River Basin Organisation

Information requested: Name(s) of Secretariat/Commission, location, working languages, website

1. Name(s):

The Joint Finnish-Russian Commission on the Utilization of Frontier Waters

2. Operative since:

1965

3. Location and address:

Mr. **Timo Kotkasaari**, Director General,
Chairman of the Finnish party of the Commission
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, P.O. Box 30,
GOVERNMENT, FINLAND

Phone number: +358 (0)9 1603 9692

Fax: +358 (0)9 160 52417

E-mail: timo.kotkasaari@mmm.fi

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E-mail: kati.pritsi@ymparisto.fi
www.environment.fi/syke

4. Working Languages:

Finnish/Russian

5. Website:

http://www.rajavesikomissio.fi/eng1_agreement_and_background.htm

2c. Coordination structure

Information requested: Description of (i) organisational structure (ii) cooperation tasks (iii) expert groups (iv) regular meetings, (v) number of staff, (vi) webpage (vii) other issues.

1. Organisational structure:

(i) Verbal description:

Both sides appoint three members and their deputy members. The members and deputy members represent central and district levels of administration whose remits cover natural resources and the environment, foreign affairs, fisheries, the frontier guard and energy companies. Each party appoints a chairman and provides the Commission with experts and secretaries.

ii) The Joint Finnish-Russian Commission on the Utilization of Frontier Waters deals with undertakings that may have a bearing on transboundary watercourses. The Commission handles all kinds of measures which may have a transboundary impact and it also supervises and monitors the transboundary watercourses. Contracting parties can empower the Commission with a mandate to arbitrate on an agreement or give an advisory opinion. Decisions are made unanimously and are binding on both sides. If the Commission cannot reach mutual understanding it conveys the issue to the government of both parties. So far this has not yet occurred. The Commission usually issues a statement to the national authorities when a case is under deliberation.

iii) The practical work of the Commission is mainly carried out by its permanent working groups according to the annual working plan. The working groups of the Commission are

- 1) the integrated water management group
- 2) the water protection group
- 3) the frontier guards group, and
- 4) the chairmens group. Each expert group holds meetings regularly.

iv) The reports provided by each group are discussed and accepted at the annual meeting. The annual meeting of the Commission is the formal decision-making body. The reports the meeting contain a lot of information (usually some 20 annexes). These reports are distributed to the relevant authorities and stakeholders, and they are also given to members of public on request. The Commission also handles the initiatives made by NGOs and citizens.

v) Number of staff:

vi) Webpage:

http://www.rajavesikomissio.fi/eng1_agreement_and_background.htm

vii) Other issues:

2d. Other cooperation agreements if relevant

Information requested: Description of (i) other national bilateral/multilateral agreements for transboundary coordination including country members, (ii) organisational approach, (iii) involved authorities, (iv) meetings

Agreement between Finland and Russia of regulation of Lake Saimaa and River Vuoksi

(Saimaan ja Vuoksen juoksutussäännöstä tehty sopimus, SopS 91/1991).

Law of implementation 1331/1991 ("Laki Neuvostoliiton kanssa Saimaan ja Vuoksen juoksutussäännöstä tehdyn sopimuksen eräiden määräysten hyväksymisestä sekä sopimuksen soveltamisesta (1331/1991)")

Contact: Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment Southeast Finland

Telephone: +358 29 502 9000

Agreement of the regulation of Lake Inari (Finland – Norway – Russia)

Contact: Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment Lapland

Telephone: +358 29 503 7000

3. Key Areas of International Cooperation

3a. International River Basin Management Plan

1. WFD international River Basin Management Plan developed (Y/N): No

Only if an international RBMP has been developed, the below items need to be completed:

2. RBMP download link:--

3. The international RBMP is formally defined/delineated in relation to the national RBMP as follows (i.e. catchment area size, other thresholds, etc.): --

4. The national RBMP refers to the implementation of international cooperation and coordination mechanisms:

--

5. The international RBMP includes country specific information (Y/N).

If 'yes' (=country specific information is provided), list if the information is consistent with the national RBMP.

Country specific information in international RBMP (Y/N plus short description of cross reference) – list for each cooperating country: --

The information provided in the international RBMP is consistent with the national RBMP --

3b. Coordinated/Joint Activities

Information requested: Topics where joint development occurred, for example: SWMIs, monitoring, PoMs, objectives, public consultations, etc.; Description of the process of joint cooperation for each activity.

1 Key international cooperation activities – general description

2 Description of detailed coordinated/joint activities:

2.1 WFD SWMIs (Y/N). If yes, describe. Yes/No:

No

2.2 Coordinated/joint visions and objectives (Y/N):

Yes: The Agreement of Frontier Water courses prohibit watercourses from being altered or polluted, and there are also provisions for keeping main fairways open

2.3 Coordinated/transboundary monitoring

Yes: As most transboundary waters in north are almost in a natural state, the joint monitoring has been focused in the south part of the river basins which is exposed to waste water loading from communities and industrial plants. These rivers are the Vuoksi, Hiitolanjoki, Rakkolanjoki and the Saimaa Canal.

The joint monitoring programme was revised in 1994. Monitoring frequency was increased and some parameters were added. At present the annual programme includes the rivers flowing into Lake Ladoga (Vuoksi, Hiitolanjoki) and into the Bay of Vyborg in the Gulf of Finland (Rakkolanjoki, Urpalanjoki and the Saimaa Canal). The monitoring reports can nowadays be examined comparatively, which greatly facilitates water protection work. Since 1995 it has been possible to implement most of the recommendations on monitoring contained in the ECE Water Convention.

2.3 Coordinated/shared databases and/or GIS

Yes/No.

2.4 Coordinated/joint Programme of Measures

No

2.5 Coordinated/joint (financial) resources to support international cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describes basic concept of joint financial resources. unclear

2.5.a Basic concept of joint financial resources:--

2.5.b

2.5.c Amount of joint financial resources: --

2.5.d List of supported joint resources:--

2.5.e Country participation in joint meetings is supported (Y/N) in kind staff attendance is the main form of financing coordination: No.

2.6 Coordinated/joint communication strategy and public participation activities (Y/N)

2.7 Coordinated/joint approach to consider future water demand (WFD Annex III)

2.8 Coordinated/joint approach on setting exemptions

3c. Coordinated/Joint Methodologies

Information requested: Areas in which joint methodologies were developed in relation to the issues listed under 3b. In addition, other joint methodologies should be added e.g. to designate HMWBs, to define good ecological status/potential, cost effectiveness of measures and or any other issues. Include brief description of the process of cooperation for each methodology

1. The following joint methodologies have been developed
2. The joint methodologies are formally adopted/agreed between the countries (Y/N)
N
3. The joint methodologies are continuously/practically applied in the frame of international cooperation leading to harmonised results (Y/N)
4. The following challenges currently hinder the continuous/practical application of joint methodologies:
5. Future development of joint methodologies is planned for the future (Y/N).

Comment: FI-RU: Parties have common understanding on monitoring parameters (physical and chemical). Field operations and laboratory analysis are intercalibrated. However, common methodology to monitor ecological status doesn't exist.

4. International Coordination Successes and Challenges

4a. Changes from WFD implementation

Information requested: Description of changes of international cooperation since WFD enforcement

1. Indicate if the enforcement of the EU WFD changed and improved joint cooperation (Y/N) Cooperation areas where changes/improvement occurred through WFD:
2. When did changes occur?:

Comment: Cooperation has long history and has become established.

4b. Key Successes of coordination

Information requested: Description of cooperation successes, positive feedback loops, etc.

Transboundary cooperation has been going already 50 years. Cooperation and data exchange concerning information on e.g. water quality and pressures has guaranteed confidential and mutually supportive relationships between parties.

4c. Key Obstacles and Challenges to International Coordination/Cooperation

Information requested: Areas where cooperation was not successful; Areas for improvement

1. Principle key obstacles to international coordination/cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describe.
2. Current key challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to
3. Respective areas of improvement and indication if this is planned
4. Expected challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

5. Future in international cooperation - Next steps/View towards 2nd Planning cycle

5a. Areas of future cooperation

Information requested: Where work has already started for the next planning cycle; New Areas of international cooperation; Whether an international plan is foreseen

1. Outline if the development of an international RBMP according to the EU WFD is foreseen
If so, by when (2015, 2021, 2027)
2. First milestones that will be jointly aimed for regarding the future EU WFD implementation
3. If no international RBMP will be developed, briefly describe why this is the case
4. Further future areas of international cooperation/coordination
Existing transboundary cooperation is seen sufficient base to protect transboundary watercourses between Finland and Russia and it ensures appropriate coordination between countries. If there is need, Finland and Russia can execute common projects to improve water status. One example RIFCI-project financed by EU's ENPI-program is on going.

6. Additional Comments

7. Interviewed country and RBO representatives as well as other experts

8. Sources and References

http://www.rajavesikomissio.fi/eng1_agreement_and_background.htm

<http://www.ymparisto.fi/default.asp?node=9130&lan=fi>

<http://www.ymparisto.fi/download.asp?contentid=133003&lan=fi> The preliminary flood risk assessment in Tana River basin

Coordination Mechanisms of the International SE-FI-NO River Basins

1. Basic information on international river basins/sub-river basins between FI, SE and NO, DK

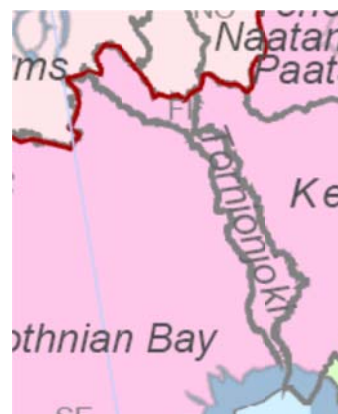
EU Member States sharing the basins: FI, SE

(eventually Third Countries)

Third countries sharing the basin: NO

River Basin Districts concerned:

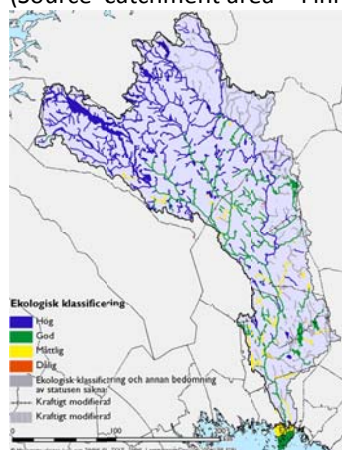
Tornionjoki(FI), Bottenviken(SE), Troms(NO)



Size of the total catchment area and national shares for each international river/sub-river basin, indicating division by country and the respective RBD:

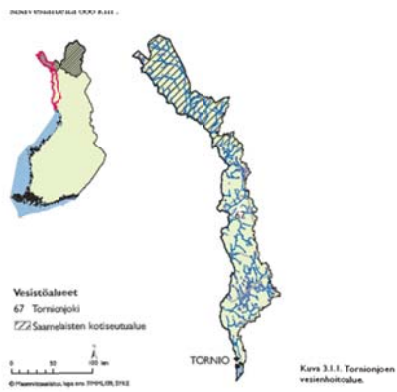
Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	Total Area of Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	EU Member States/Non EU Member States in International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin	International RBD to which International River Basin belongs
	(km ²)		km ² (%)	
Basins with Agreement and no Coordinating Body				
Torneälven, Tornionjoki	40,264 km ²	SE	25.393 (63%)	Tornionjoki/Bothnian Bay
		FI	14.587 (36%)	
		NO	284 (1%)	

(Source catchment area - Finnish RBMP.)



- Map of the ecological classification (Source : Bothnian Bay RBMP , Sweden.)
- Map from SE-FI Border Bommission (<http://www.fsgk.se/FSGK.htm>)

c) Map of the river basin of Torneälven from webpage of the Swedish Water authorities/Vattenmyndigheterna.
<http://www.vattenmyndigheterna.se/Sv/bottenviken/vattnet-i-distriktet/vatten-over-granserna/Pages/default.aspx>



d) Overview map of the Tornionjoki RBD, RBMP Tornionjoen vesienhoitoalue 2009, page 17



e) Map of the Bothnian Bay RBD, including the Swedish part of the Torneälvens river basin, example map of surface waters where eutrophication is deemed an environmental problem.
 (page 13, Programme of Measures)

2. Cooperation Framework

2a. International agreement or convention

Information requested: Title, date of agreement, countries not covered under agreement, brief description

1. Title:

Convention between Norway and Sweden on Certain Questions relating to the Law on Watercourses (Swedish-Norwegian Waterrights Convention), 11 May 1929 Act (2010:898).

A Memorandum of Understanding between SE-NO for the implementation of the WFD was signed in 2008.

Rajajokisopimus Suomen ja Ruotsin välillä / Frontier Rivers Agreement between Finland and Sweden (91/2010) Act (2010:897) on the border river agreement between Sweden and Finland, issued July 1, 2010 / Regulation on transboundary river agreement between Sweden and Finland, issued 01/07/2010.

Sweden:

Law (1929:404) about the validity in Sweden of the Swedish-Norwegian water law convention of 11 May 1929 (informal translation) / Lagen (1929:404) om giltighet här i riket av svensk-norska vattenrättskonventionen av den 11 maj 1929.

Law (1929:405) including certain regulations about the implementation in Sweden of the Swedish-Norwegian Waterrights Convention of 11 May 1929. Act (2010:898.)

Act on the Implementation of the provisions of a legislative nature of the frontier river agreement between Finland and Sweden, on the application of the agreement and repealing certain law (722/2010)

2. Countries under Agreement:

SE and NO

FI and SE

3. Countries part of basin but not covered by agreement:

4. Date and place of signing:

Revised agreement signed 11.11.2009.

5. Entry into force:

01.10.2010

6. Key objectives and content of agreement/convention:

Article 2, paragraph 1 & 2 :

1. The purpose of the agreement is to:

- a) secure the possibilities for both parties in the river basin district to a reasonable use of the border river in a way that favours the interests of the border region
- b) prevent floods and environmental accidents
- c) coordinate the programmes, plans and measures in the river basin district which are needed to achieve the goals set for water quality and sustainable use of the water, taking into consideration international commitments and the Community Law both parties are bound to, as well as;
- d) in other ways promote cooperation between the parties in water and fisheries issues.

2. Particular emphasis is placed on :

- a) to achieve common quality objectives for surface and groundwater
- b) nature protection, protection of cultural heritage and environmental protection,
- c) sustainable use of water resources, as well as;
- d) protection and sustainable use of fisheries stocks.

Specific tasks: the respective authorities shall cooperate with the aim to establish common plans and programmes of measures, establish quality objectives as far as possible, prevent flood damage, monitoring of the border river areas.

Article 8, establishes the Finnish-Swedish Border river Commission (Finsk-svenska gränsälvscommissionen), an intergovernmental cooperation body. The Agreement gives the Commission the necessary legal powers to fulfil its duties", and sets out the composition of the board, rotating presidency (yearly) and experts to be appointed.

7. Role of WFD implementation in international basins:

WFD implementation is one key international agreement listed in the recitals, and hence the key basis for the agreement.

2b. Coordinating/Governing Body/River Basin Organisation

Information requested: Name(s) of Secretariat/Commission, location, working languages, website

1. Name(s):

Finnish-Swedish Border River Commission (BRC)/ **Finsk-svenska gränsälvskommissionen**

(FSGK)/Suomalaisruotsalainen rajajokikomissio (SRRJK):

Postal address : Box 125, SE-953 23 Haparanda / PL 2, FI-954 01 Tornio

Visitors address : Storgatan 92A, Haparanda / Storgatan 92 A, Haaparanta, Ruotsi

Telephone: +46 922 616 80

Fax: +46 922 130 02

E-mail: info@fsgk.se info@srrjk.fi

Webpage :www.fsgk.se www.srrjk.fi

The formal competent authority for the relevant Swedish part of the river basin (Bothnian Bay RBD/Bottenviken) is:

Vattenmyndigheten Bottenviken

Länsstyrelsen i Norrbottens län

Postadress: S-971 86 Luleå

Besöksadress: Stationsgatan 5

Telefon: +46-920-960 00

E-post: vattenmyndigheten.norbotten@lansstyrelsen.se

Director: Mr.Bo Sundström

Webpage: www.vattenmyndigheterna.se/Bottenviken

The formal competent authority for the relevant Finnish part of the river basin (Tornionjoki RBD) is :

Lapin elinkeino-, liikenne ja ympäristökeskus

Käyntiosoite: Hallituskatu 5 C, Rovaniemi

Postiosoite: PL 8060, 96101 Rovaniemi

Tel: +358 29 503 7000 :

Fax. +358 16 310 340

kirjaamo.lappi@ely-keskus.fi

Ylitarkastaja Pekka Räinen, puh. +358 29 503 7517

Hydrobiologi Petri Liljaniemi, puh. +358 29 503 7423 Yhteyshenkilöiden sähköpostiosoitteet:

etunimi.sukunimi@ely-keskus.fi.

2. Operative since:

01.10.2010 (replaced the previous Commission with the same name)

3. Location and address:

See above

4. Working Languages:

Swedish/Finnish (NB. the Finnish RBMP includes also a summary in a Sami language)

5. Website

<http://www.fsgk.se/>

<http://www.srrjk.fi/>

2c. Coordination structure

Information requested: Description of (i) organisational structure (ii) cooperation tasks (iii) expert groups (iv) regular meetings, (v) number of staff, (vi) webpage (vii) other issues.

1. Organisational structure:

(i) Verbal description

The Finnish-Swedish Frontier River Commission was established in 1972. On 1 October 2010 a new Swedish-Finnish frontier river agreement entered into force, resulting in the establishment of the new Frontier River Commission (FRC). The FRC's role as a cooperation authority gained further emphasis when the issue of water permits was transferred from the FRC to national authorities.

The FRC's main task is to promote water-related cooperation between Finland and Sweden. The FRC also develops environmental cooperation in the border river area and performs duties based on the EU's water-related directives.

The purpose of the frontier river agreement is to secure the two countries' opportunities for the equitable use of the border rivers in a manner promoting the interests of the border region.

The FRC has the right to adopt or reject plans or programmes concerning the Torne River Basin District. The FRC must provide information about current issues related to the district. The FRC has the right to issue statements or appeal against permits if the measures involved have an impact on the border rivers or the status of coastal waters. The FRC also has the right to take initiatives and give statements in water related issues.

In addition the FRC has to follow the implementation of the frontier river agreement and permit practices.

The FRC's office is located in Haparanda.

The responsibilities are established in articles 10 and 11 of the agreement (Swedish version) :

<http://www.lagboken.se/files/SFS/2010/100897.PDF>

(ii) Organisational diagram: .

The Commission has 6 members, each party shall select three delegates, of which one for the relevant authority responsible for water management, one from a local authority in the area. For each delegate one or more deputies shall be selected.

Chairmanship rotates between the states on an annual basis.

Each party appoints maximum 3 experts to assist the Commission, and the Commission can also invite other experts.

No organisational diagram found.

(iii) Key cooperation tasks:

- Implementation of the EU WFD
- Implementation of the EU Flood Directive
- Fisheries management
- Nature and cultural heritage protection and prevention of environmental accidents

(iv) Expert groups:

There are no expert groups but meetings between relevant coordinators and experts from the cooperating countries.

(v) Regular meetings:

The Commission met 8 times in 2011. It is noted that the new Border River Commission is still in the start-up phase.

(vi) Number of staff:

3 staff

(vii) Observers:

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(viii) Webpage:

<http://www.fsgk.se/>

<http://www.srrjk.fi/>

(ix) Other issues:

The formal competent authorities in FI and SE meet and are in contact regularly.

2d. Other cooperation agreements if relevant

Information requested: Description of other national bilateral/multilateral agreements for transboundary coordination including country members

1. The following bilateral/multilateral agreements are in place besides the overall international agreement (list for each cooperating country):

The Frontier river agreement, also refers to the following agreements in addition to the WFD :

- The 1992 convention on transboundary rivers and its protocol on water and health(UN-ECE Water convention),
- The 1992 convention on the protection of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea (HELCOM)
- UN Convention of the Law of the sea of 1982(UNCLOS), article 66,
- The 1992 Convention on Biological diversity (UNCBD)

2. Further related information

3. Key Areas of International Cooperation

3a. International River Basin Management Plan

1. WFD international River Basin Management Plan developed (Y/N)

No international RBMP has been developed for the 2009-2015 cycle. The two national management plans each include a common jointly produced summary.

Only if an international RBMP has been developed, the below items need to be completed:

2. RBMP download link -

--

3. The international RBMP is formally defined/delineated in relation to the national RBMP as follows (i.e. catchment area size, other thresholds, etc.): -

--

4. The national RBMP refers to implementation of international cooperation and coordination mechanisms (List for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP):

--

5. The international RBMP includes country specific information (Y/N).

If 'yes' (=country specific information is provided), list if the information is consistent with the national RBMP.

Country specific information in international RBMP (Y/N plus short description of cross reference) – list for each cooperating country

--

The information provided in the international RBMP is consistent with the national RBMP

(Y/N plus short description if needed) -) – list for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP

--.

3b. Coordinated/Joint Activities

Information requested: Topics where joint development occurred, for example: SWMIs, monitoring, PoMs, objectives, public consultations, etc.; Description of the process of joint cooperation for each activity.

1 Key international cooperation activities – general description:

- Ensure the possibilities for both parties in the river basin district to a reasonable use of the border river in a way that favours the interests of the border region
Prevent floods and environmental accidents
- Coordinate the programmes, plans and measures in the river basin district which are needed to achieve the goals set for water quality and sustainable use of the water, taking into consideration international commitments and the Community Law both parties are bound to, as well as;
- In other ways promote cooperation between the parties in water and fisheries issues.

2 Description of detailed coordinated/joint activities:

2.1 WFD SWMIs (Y/N). If yes, describe.

Yes, a 2001 report entitled "The Torne River - status and pressures

Partly, key joint challenges are stated to be (according to the Torne River brochure):

- Nutrient and suspended solids load in southern coastal waters of the district
- Holiday homes and load in scattered settlement areas
- Forest and peatland drainage, regulation and construction of water bodies
- Migration obstacles and watercourses cleared for timber floating
- Management costs: water resources management measures are expensive
- Flood risks

Climate change

Common typology for rivers and lakes.

Joint SE-FI coordinated classification of water status in a number of WB in Torne river.

2.2 Coordinated/joint visions and objectives (Y/N):

Yes, joint environmental objectives for common water bodies

2.3 Coordinated/transboundary monitoring:

Yes, to some degree in parts of the river.

2.4 Coordinated/shared databases and/or GIS (Y/N):

Yes, GIS coordinated delineation of common waterbodies, common ecological map data

2.5 Coordinated/joint Programme of Measures (Y/N):

No, but some joint measures on :

- Assessments of the ecological and chemical status of water bodies continue in both countries.
- The joint Finnish-Swedish TRIWA III project aims to prevent the impacts of forestry on water bodies.
- Coordinated flood risk mapping in the lower part of the river.

2.6 Coordinated/joint (financial) resources to support international cooperation (Y/N)

If yes, describes basic concept of joint financial resources.

Yes. The Border Commission is according to the agreement financially supported with equal shares from Finland and Sweden.

Basic concept of joint financial resources

2.6.a Amount of joint financial resources -

2 500 000 SEK. (Annual budgetin 2011) In 2011 Finland has supported the Commission with additional 145 000 SEK.

2.6.b List of supported joint resources -

--

2.6.c Country participation in joint meetings is supported (Y/N)

Yes

2.7 Coordinated/joint communication strategy and public participation activities (Y/N)

Yes. A voluntary "Water parliament" (Water Board) has been set up for the Torne river in 2007, and it meets at least once every year. Participants are the relevant authorities, interested organisations, businesses, and the public from both sides of the border. This is a forum for information exchange and cooperation regarding water issues between authorities, the Frontier River Commission, local authorities, interest organisations like for instance village associations and anglers associations. There is also a working group which meets more frequently. No coordinated communication strategy has been produced, although consultation is frequent between the RBC and the two competent authorities in these matters.

2.8 Coordinated/joint approach to consider future water demand (WFD Annex III) (Y/N)No

2.9 Coordinated/joint approach on setting exemptions (Y/N)

No. Not in first cycle, but is discussed for the present second cycle.

Establishment of environmental objectives, and use of exemptions is not part of the remit of the Frontier River Commission, but establishment of plans, programmes and measures to achieve them are.

3c. Coordinated/Joint Methodologies

Information requested: Areas in which joint methodologies were developed in relation to the issues listed under 3b. In addition, other joint methodologies should be added e.g. to designate HMWBs, to define good ecological status/potential, cost effectiveness of measures and or any other issues. Include brief description of the process of cooperation for each methodology

1. The following joint methodologies have been developed:

- A proposal for a shared monitoring programme for ecological status and typology for surface waters was developed in a project called TRIWA I(2003-2006). These seem not to have been approved or implemented.
- Methods for classification of ecological status were jointly evaluated in the TRIWAII project.(2006-2008)

2. The joint methodologies are formally adopted/agreed between the countries (Y/N)

No

3. The joint methodologies are continuously/practically applied in the frame of international cooperation leading to harmonised results (Y/N):

Yes/No. To some degree the designation of water bodies and classification of status of shared water bodies have been done jointly.

4. The following challenges currently hinder the continuous/practical application of joint methodologies:

--The two countries have different criteria of sizes of water bodies to be considered under the WFD, which leads to large differences in the number of water bodies on the different side of the border. In the 2nd cycle FI has changed criteria of sizes of water bodies to be considered and more smaller water bodies will be designated.

5. Future development of joint methodologies is planned for the future (Y/N). If already known, list which ones.

Yes. Chemical status assessment will be harmonized in the 2nd cycle using same EQS and matrix for harmful substances e.g. mercury. Common project to harmonize chemical status assessment on the coastal area is going on. The project is mainly financed by BRC.

4. International Coordination Successes and Challenges

4a. Changes related to WFD enforcement

Information requested: Description of changes of international cooperation since WFD enforcement

1. Indicate if the enforcement of the EU WFD changed and improved joint cooperation (Y/N)

Yes. Cooperation existed prior to the WFD, but a new Convention was agreed to fulfill the requirements of the WFD.

2. Cooperation areas where changes/improvement occurred through WFD

Stronger focus on water quality issues. More systematic planning activities to reach water quality goals.

3. When did changes occur?

From 2005 onwards between the competent authorities. The new Convention was signed 2010.

4b. Key Successes of coordination

Information requested: Description of cooperation successes, positive feedback loops, etc.

- Finnish-Swedish cooperation has a long history in the river basin of the River Torne. From 1972 the water permits required in the area were issued by the Finnish-Swedish Border River Commission, a transboundary authority operating in the area, but since 2010 water and environmental permits have been issued by each country's national authorities.
- Visible results of Finnish-Swedish cooperation include the shared wastewater treatment facilities of Haparanda-Tornio and Karesuvanto-Karesuando.
- Studies on the status of the River Torne river basin as well as flood assessments and fisheries studies concerning the district have been and will be conducted between the neighbouring countries. The year 2007 saw the establishment of the voluntary " Water Parliament" to serve as a cooperation and discussion forum for the River Torne area. It meets at least once a year and has operated under the Finnish-Swedish Border River Commission since autumn 2011.
- Finland and Sweden have carried out cooperation in different projects related to water resources management since the 1990s, with the Lapland Regional Environment Centre (today the Centre for

Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Lapland) and the County Administrative Board of Norrbotten. The two agencies have had main responsibility for the projects. In 2003–2006 uniform typologies for rivers and lakes in the River Torne catchment basin were developed under such a transboundary project. A joint surface water monitoring programme was also created in this context. In 2006-2008 the project 'Management of an International River Basin District – Torne River' was directed more towards actual management in order to increase cooperation and exchange of information between authorities and other actors in the region by building a suggestion for a management procedure for IRBD. The latest cooperation project 'Forestry impact and water management in Torne International River Basin' is linked to implementation of PoMs. (Source: Torne river border Commission leaflet)

4c. Key Obstacles and Challenges to International Coordination/Cooperation

Information requested: Areas where cooperation was not successful; Areas for improvement

1. Principle key obstacles to international coordination/cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describe.

Yes

Current key challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(a) the past/current WFD planning cycle

Somewhat different timetables for the preparation of RBMP made the development of a shared RBMP difficult or not possible (source Bothnian Bay RBMP). According to the Swedish authorities, no shared plan was necessary since there are no significant environmental problems in the basin and most water bodies are in high or good status.

(b) any other areas regarding water resources management

Coordinated implementation of measures can be difficult since the two states have differences in legislation, public financing, government organisation and administration, etc.

2. Respective areas of improvement and indication if this is planned -

Continued cooperation on all relevant issues, as status classification, monitoring, EQS, etc.

3. Expected challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(a) Next WFD planning cycle

- -- See above

(b) any other areas regarding water resources management

--Lack of public funding of measures.

5. Future in international cooperation - Next steps/View towards 2nd WFD planning cycle

5a. Areas of future cooperation

Information requested: Where work has already started for the next planning cycle; New Areas of international cooperation; Whether an international plan is foreseen

1. Outline if the development of an international RBMP according to the EU WFD is foreseen

If so, by when (2015, 2021, 2027)

Not clear if a shared international RBMP is foreseen.

2. First milestones that will be jointly aimed for regarding the future EU WFD implementation

3. If no international RBMP will be developed, briefly describe why this is the case

See items above. Possibilities to develop international RBMP is under discussion.

4. Further future areas of international cooperation/coordination:

.To strengthen the cooperation between the three countries implementing the WFD in the North Calotte Region, unofficial trilateral working group was established in year 2011. Water authorities in North Calotte area (SWE Norrbotten, FI Lapland, NO Finnmark, Troms, Nordland) and representatives from national level and FI-SWE FRC have an annual meeting where countries can discuss the development of their RBMPs and PoMs, and assess how international coordination and harmonisation are progressing.

6. Additional Comments

7. Interviewed country and RBO representatives as well as other experts

8. Sources and References

- Miljöbalken /Swedish Environmental Code.
 - Lag om gränsälvsoverenskommelse mellan Sverige och Finland; SFS 2010:897 (<http://www.notisum.se/rnp/sls/sfs/20100897.pdf>)
 - Leaflet from the Finnish Swedish Border river commission" THE RIVER TORNE Flowing free and full of vitality" available in English, Swedish, Finnish, Sami and
 - Webpage of the Finnish-Swedish Border River Commission (www.fsgk.se)
 - Annual Report 2011 , Finnish-Swedish Border river Commission " (Finsk-svenska gränsälvskommissionens verksamhetsberättelse för år 2011)
 - Tornionjoki RBMP 2015 "Tornionjoen vesienhoitoalueen vesienhoitosuunnitelma vuoteen 2015
 - Webpages of the Swedish Water authorities (www.vattenmyndigheterna.se)
 - Webpages of the Finnish Water Management (www.ymparisto.fi/vesienhoito)
 - Bothnian Bay River basin Management Plan and Programme of Measures, 2009.
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Coordination Mechanisms of the International SE-NO River Basins

1. Basic information on international river basins/sub-river basins between SE and NO

EU Member States sharing the basins: SE

(eventually Third Countries)

Third countries sharing the basin: NO

River Basin Districts concerned:

Bothnian Bay (SE1), Bothnian Sea (SE2), Skagerrak and Kattegat (SE5)

Glomma (NO)/SENO5101 (SE part managed as part of SE2 and 5), Trondelag (NO)

/SENO1102 (SE part managed as part of SE2), Nordland (NO)/SENO1103 (SE part managed as part of SE1), Troms (NO)/SENO1104 (SE part managed as part of SE1)

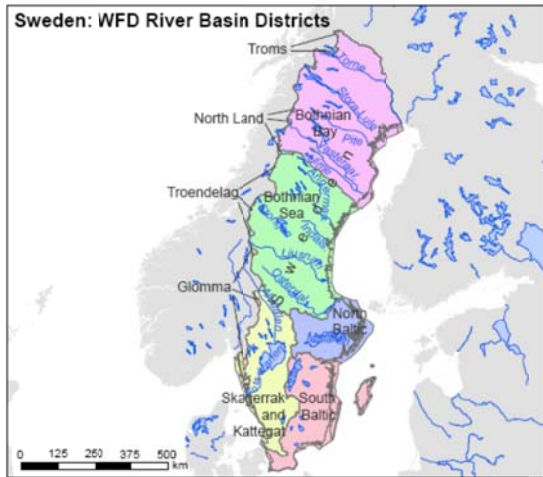


Size of the total catchment area and national shares for each international river/sub-river basin, indicating division by country and the respective RBD:

Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	Total Area of Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin (km ²)	EU Member States/Non EU Member States in International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin		International RBD to which International River Basin belongs
			km ²	%	
Basins with Agreement and Coordinating Body					
Signaldalselva	1.517	SE	1.471	97	Troms
		NO	46	3	
Malselvvassdraget - Malangen	6.983	NO	6.774	97	Troms
		SE	209	3	
Skjomavassdraget	1.596	SE	1.436	90	Nordland
		NO	160	10	
Luleälven	25.264	SE	758	3	Bothnian Bay
		NO	24.506	97	
Umeälven	26.829	SE	268	1	Bothnian Bay
		NO	26.561	99	
Piteälven	11.299	NO	113	1	Bothnian Bay
		SE	11.186	99	
Angermanälven	31.946	NO	1.597	5	Bothnian Sea
		SE	30.349	95	
Indalsälven	26.916	NO	2.153	8	Bothnian Sea
		SE	24.763	92	
Dalälven	29.308	NO	1.465	5	Bothnian Sea
		SE	27.843	95	

Hellemovassdraget	1.559	SE	1.543	99	Nordland
		NO	16	1	
Kobbelva	966	SE	956	99	Nordland
		NO	10	1	
Fagerbakkvassdraget	1.022	SE	1.002	98	Nordland
		NO	20	2	
Saltelva	1.980	SE	1.861	94	Nordland
		NO	119	6	
Ranavassdraget	4.497	SE	4.227	94	Nordland
		NO	270	6	
Rossaga	2.752	SE	2.559	93	Nordland
		NO	193	7	
Vefsna	4.569	SE	4.021	88	Nordland
		NO	548	12	
Verdalsvassdraget	1.697	SE	1.595	94	Troendelag Counties
		NO	102	6	
Stjordalsvassdraget	2.277	SE	2.231	98	Troendelag Counties
		NO	46	2	
Nidelva	3.661	SE	3.368	92	Troendelag Counties
		NO	293	8	
Glomma	43.021	SE	42.591	99	Glomma
		NO	430	1	
Klarälven - Trysil - Göta alv - Vänern Göta (including the Sub- basins Norsälven- Byälven- Upperudälven)	51.169	SE	8.187	16	Skagerrak and Kattegat
		NO	42.982	84	
Haldenvassdraget/Enn ingsdal	2.513	SE	1.935	77	Glomma
		NO	578	23	
Strömsan (Sub-basin of Haldenvassdraget)	257	SE	5	2	Skagerrak and Kattegat
		NO	252	98	

Please note that for most part of the border a mountain range forms the border, and although there are 33 river basins crossing the border, most of these are to the majority in one country, with 7% or less of the surfaced in the other country. 19 rivers lead from Sweden to Norway, and 14 from Norway to Sweden. The largest river basins are included in this table.

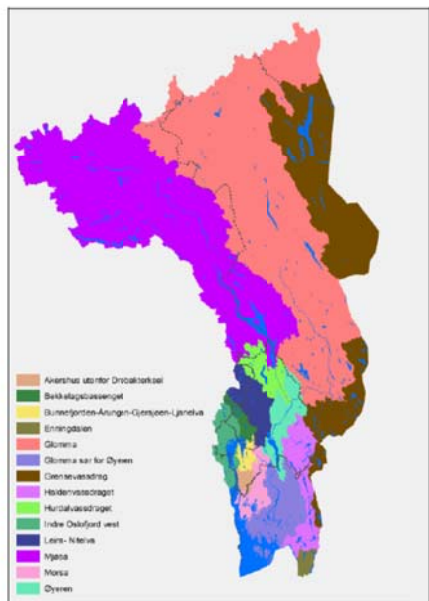
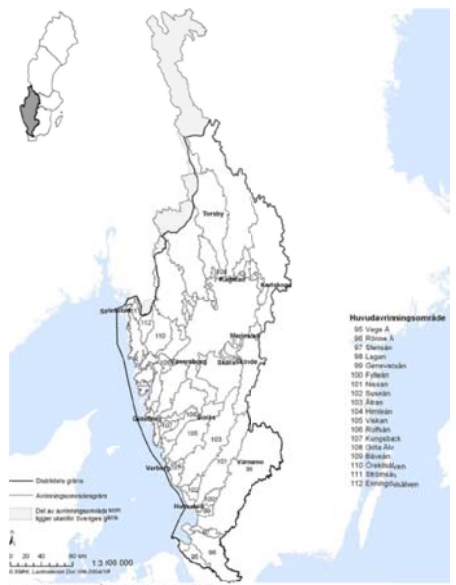


a) Maps of the Bothnian Bay and Sea RBDs : Bothnian Bay RBMP, page 16. Bothnian sea RBMP, p 29.



Karta 2.1: Vattendistriktets avgränsning och dess hushållsvattensområden. Länga kusten finns det ett antal mindre kustavvattningsområden som inte anges med namn och nummer i kartan.

Karta 3: Vattendistriktets avgränsning och dess hushållsvattensområden.



Figur 3: Kart over vannregion Glomma Indre Oslofjord med endelig inndeling av vannområder.

b) Map of Skagerrak and Kattegat RBD/Västerhavet, RBMP page 27. Map of Glomma RBMP, page 25 with transboundary rivers in brown.

2. Cooperation Framework

2a. International agreement or convention

Information requested: Title, date of agreement, countries not covered under agreement, brief description

1. Title:

Convention between Norway and Sweden on Certain Questions relating to the Law on Watercourses (Swedish-Norwegian Waterrights Convention), 11 May 1929 Act (2010:898).

A Memorandum of Understanding between SE-NO for the implementation of the WFD was signed in 2008.

Sweden:

Law (1929:404) about the validity in Sweden of the Swedish-Norwegian water law convention of 11 May 1929 (informal translation)./ Lagen (1929:404) om giltighet här i riket av svensk-norska vattenrättskonventionen av den 11 maj 1929.

Law (1929:405) with certain regulations about the implementation in this country[SE] of the Swedish-Norwegian Water Law Convention of 11 May 1929./Lag (1929:405) med vissa föreskrifter angående tillämpningen här i riket av svensk-norska vattenrättskonventionen av den 11 Maj 1929, *as amended until 2011*.

2. Countries under Agreement:

NO and SE

3. Countries part of basin but not covered by agreement: FI

4. Date and place of signing:

11 May 1929.

5. Entry into force:

20 December 1929

6. Key objectives and content of agreement/convention:

The convention (1929:404) relates mainly to the regulation of different water uses/activities (such as hydropower, floating of timber, navigation) and the application by of laws in the respective countries. The convention also sets out that a Commission can be established to resolve specific issues.

7. Role of WFD implementation in international basins:

WFD implementation is not referred to in the two instruments, other than implicitly through links in Law 1929:405 to the Environmental Code. Relevance for WFD not clear.

2b. Coordinating/Governing Body/River Basin Organisation

Information requested: Name(s) of Secretariat/Commission, location, working languages, website

1. Name(s):

The coordinating bodies are the River Basin District Authorities on the Swedish and Norwegian side of the border, respectively.

Norway: "Water District Authorities" (vannregionmyndigheter - appointed County Councils).

Sweden: "Water Authorities" (vattenmyndigheter - at the County Administration Offices).

Border crossing river basins are handled in cooperation between the relevant RBD authorities on each side of the border. This means that 5 RBD authorities are involved from the Norwegian side, and 3 from the Swedish side. Example: Along the southern part of the border, the cooperation is handled by the Glomma authority on the Norwegian side, and the Västerhavet authority on the Swedish side.

2. Operative since:

Norway: The water regulation (vannforskriften) entered into force in 2007. (Some organisational changes due to a national reorganisation of responsibilities at County level from 2010).--

Sweden: The water management regulation (Vattenförvaltningsförordningen) entered into force in 2004, <http://www.notisum.se/rnp/sls/lag/20040660.htm>.

3. Location and address:

For Norway see: <http://www.vannportalen.no/enkel.aspx?m=35082>

Østfold fylkeskommune/Vannregionmyndighet Glomma

Postboks 220, N - 1702 Sarpsborg, Norway

Sør-Trøndelag fylkeskommune/Vannregionmyndighet Trøndelag
Postboks 2350 Sluppen, N - 7004 Trondheim, Norway
Nordland fylkeskommune/Vannregionmyndighet Nordland
Fylkeshuset, N - 8048 Bodø, Norway

Troms fylkeskommune/Vannregionmyndighet Troms
Postboks 6600, N - 9296 Tromsø

For Sweden see: <http://www.vattenmyndigheterna.se/Sv/Pages/default.aspx>

- Bottenvikens vattendistrikt, Besöksadress: Stationsgatan 5, Postadress: 971 86 Luleå Sverige

- Bottenhavets vattendistrikt, <http://www.vattenmyndigheterna.se/SV/BOTTENHAVET/Pages/default.aspx>
Besöksadress: Nybrogatan 15, Postadress: 871 86 Härnösand, Sverige

- Västerhavets vattendistrikt, <http://www.vattenmyndigheterna.se/Sv/vasterhavet/Pages/default.aspx>
Besöksadress: Ekelundsgatan 1, Postadress: 403 40 Göteborg, Sverige

4. Working Languages:

Norwegian and Swedish are compatible Scandinavian languages, in reality dialects of the same language, thus posing little difficulty for the operational coordination.

5. Website

Norway: www.vannportalen.no

Sweden: <http://www.vattenmyndigheterna.se/Sv/Pages/default.aspx>

2c. Coordination structure

Information requested: Description of (i) organisational structure (ii) cooperation tasks (iii) expert groups (iv) regular meetings, (v) number of staff, (vi) webpage (vii) other issues.

1. Organisational structure:

(i) Verbal description

Border crossing river basins are handled in cooperation between the relevant RBD authorities on each side of the border. This means that 5 RBD authorities are involved from the Norwegian side, and 3 from the Swedish side. Example: Along the southern part of the border, the cooperation is handled by the Glomma authority on the Norwegian side, and the Västerhavet authority on the Swedish side.

(ii) Organisational diagram: .

--

(iii) Key cooperation tasks:

Reach agreement on:

- Characterization
- Classification
- Environmental objectives

Coordination of:

- Monitoring programme
- Programme of measures
- Public participation
- Consultation processes.

(iv) Expert groups:

Consulted with the 8 RBD authorities involved

(v) Regular meetings:

Consulted with the 8 RBD authorities involved

I Enningdalsävens vattenvårdsförbund är det regelbundna möten

(vi) Number of staff:

Would have to be consulted with the 8 RBD authorities involved

(vii)

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(viii) Webpage:

For Norway see: <http://www.vannportalen.no/enkel.aspx?m=35082>

Gemensamt:

<http://www.eningdalselven.com/natur.html>

Sverige:

<http://www.viss.lansstyrelsen.se/Waters.aspx?waterEUID=SE620565-131931>

<http://www.vattenmyndigheterna.se/Sv/Pages/default.aspx>

(ix) Other issues:

2d. Other cooperation agreements if relevant

Information requested: Description of other national bilateral/multilateral agreements for transboundary coordination including country members

1. The following bilateral/multilateral agreements are in place besides the overall international agreement (list for each cooperating country):

--Mutual project to secure ecological connectivity and allow for the migration of the relict "Vänernlax" salmon in Trysilälva-Vänern.

2. Further related information

www.lansstyrelsen.se/varmland/Sv/miljo-och-klimat/vatten-och-vattenanvandning/vanerlaxens-fri-gang/Pages/default.aspx

3. Key Areas of International Cooperation

3a. International River Basin Management Plan

1. WFD international River Basin Management Plan developed (Y/N)

No international RBMPs have been developed for the 2009-2015 cycle.

The reason for the above is that Norway as a Non EU MS follows a different timetable for transposition of the EU Water Framework Directive. The Norwegian water management was under development during the first management cycle and it has not been possible to achieve full coordination across the border. It should be added that there is essentially no need for specific management measures in transboundary river basins between Sweden and Norway, as the water bodies are largely assessed with good water status and there is also a very limited pressures/impacts in these catchment areas.

There is an ongoing international coordination work between Sweden and Norway in order to clarify both the geographical areas, water body classification, survey work and the preparation of management plans and programs. This work also includes consultation processes between the two countries.

Only if an international RBMP has been developed, the below items need to be completed:

2. RBMP download link -

--

3. The international RBMP is formally defined/delineated in relation to the national RBMP as follows

(i.e. catchment area size, other thresholds, etc.): -

--

4. The national RBMP refers to implementation of international cooperation and coordination mechanisms

(List for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP):

Sweden :

Bothnian Bay (SE1) : The RBMP recognises that some rivers are shared with Norway, and refers to some meetings between authorities. Some reference to transfer of parasites in Salmon in connection with Norway.

Bothnian Sea (SE2) : RBMP says that the Bothnian Bay also has three international river basins (Glomma, Nordland, Trondelagsfylkene). Reference to about 10 meetings with Norway.

Skagerrak and Kattegat (SE5): There are three transboundary rivers (Enningdals älven, Glomma and Göta älv) but does not mention cooperation with Norway. Reference to about 10 meetings with Norway.

Norway :

Glomma (NO): Includes special sections on transboundary Rivers Enningdalsvassdraget, and Femund-/Trysilvassdraget med Røgden.

Trondelag (NO): Reference to two transboundary rivers, and mentions some cooperation on monitoring, as

well as meetings with SE authorities.

Nordland (NO): Chapter on Transboundary rivers. Refers to different risk assessment on different sides of the border, but also cooperation to deal with this.

Troms (NO): The Royal resolution adopting the plan, points out the lack of coordination with Sweden. (p.10) Explains Nordic cooperation, and lists international agreements. (TBC if the only transboundary rivers in this RBD discharges to the Torne river, see other fact sheet.)

5. The international RBMP includes country specific information (Y/N).

If 'yes' (=country specific information is provided), list if the information is consistent with the national RBMP.

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Country specific information in international RBMP (Y/N plus short description of cross reference) – list for each cooperating country

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The information provided in the international RBMP is consistent with the national RBMP

(Y/N plus short description if needed) -) – list for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP

--.

3b. Coordinated/Joint Activities

Information requested: Topics where joint development occurred, for example: SWMIs, monitoring, PoMs, objectives, public consultations, etc.; Description of the process of joint cooperation for each activity.

1 Key international cooperation activities – general description:

A number of joint meetings have been held, but not much information has been found. It appears there are some fields of cooperation, not covering all WFD relevant aspects though.

Norway will be implementing the first cycle of WFD full scale RBM-planning, synchronised with the second cycle in Sweden. The ambition is to have a completely coordinated management of the border crossing river basins in place for the 2015 RBM plans.

2 Description of detailed coordinated/joint activities:

2.1 WFD SWMIs (Y/N). If yes, describe.

Y/N, not yet fully developed. Exchange is taking place between SE and NO.

Intended for the 2010-2015 planning cycle (see draft note on cooperation in Norwegian-Swedish bordercrossing waters (2012).

2.2 Coordinated/joint visions and objectives (Y/N):

Y/N, not yet fully developed. Exchange is taking place between SE and NO.

Intended for the 2010-2015 planning cycle (see draft note on cooperation in Norwegian-Swedish bordercrossing waters (2012).

2.3 Coordinated/transboundary monitoring:

Y/N, not yet fully developed. Exchange is taking place between SE and NO.

Intended for the 2010-2015 planning cycle (see draft note on cooperation in Norwegian-Swedish bordercrossing waters (2012). Implementation and financing of the monitoring will be the obligation of the respective state on the respective side of the border.

2.4 Coordinated/shared databases and/or GIS (Y/N):

No, not yet.

Intended for the 2010-2015 planning cycle (see draft note on cooperation in Norwegian-Swedish bordercrossing waters (2012).

2.5 Coordinated/joint Programme of Measures (Y/N):

No, not yet.

Intended for the 2010-2015 planning cycle (see draft note on cooperation in Norwegian-Swedish bordercrossing waters (2012). Implementation and financing of the measures will be the obligation of the respective state on the respective side of the border.

2.6 Coordinated/joint (financial) resources to support international cooperation (Y/N)

Financial resources will be the obligation of the respective state on the respective side of the border.

Basic concept of joint financial resources

2.6.a Amount of joint financial resources -

(Would have to be consulted with the 8 RBD authorities involved).

2.6.b List of supported joint resources -

(Would have to be consulted with the 8 RBD authorities involved).

2.6.c Country participation in joint meetings is supported (Y/N)

Y

2.7 Coordinated/joint communication strategy and public participation activities (Y/N)

(Would have to be consulted with the 8 RBD authorities involved).

2.8 Coordinated/joint approach to consider future water demand (WFD Annex III) (Y/N)

(Would have to be consulted with the 8 RBD authorities involved).

2.9 Coordinated/joint approach on setting exemptions (Y/N)

(Would have to be consulted with the 8 RBD authorities involved).

3c. Coordinated/Joint Methodologies

Information requested: Areas in which joint methodologies were developed in relation to the issues listed under 3b. In addition, other joint methodologies should be added e.g. to designate HMWBs, to define good ecological status/potential, cost effectiveness of measures and or any other issues. Include brief description of the process of cooperation for each methodology

1. The following joint methodologies have been developed:

According to an informal note on future coordination (found on the internet) it is foreseen that for border crossing river basins, methodologies of the downstream state shall be applied in case of any differences.

2. The joint methodologies are formally adopted/agreed between the countries (Y/N)

See draft note on cooperation in Norwegian-Swedish bordercrossing waters - 2012

See also the Nordic cooperation aiming to harmonize methodologies in the implementation of the Water Framework Directive in the Nordic countries, including a series of annual workshops:

<http://www.vannportalen.no/enkel.aspx?m=59821&amid=2956148>

3. The joint methodologies are continuously/practically applied in the frame of international cooperation leading to harmonised results (Y/N):

See draft note on cooperation in Norwegian-Swedish bordercrossing waters - 2012

See also the Nordic cooperation aiming to harmonize methodologies in the implementation of the Water Framework Directive in the Nordic countries, including a series of annual workshops:

<http://www.vannportalen.no/enkel.aspx?m=59821&amid=2956148>

4. The following challenges currently hinder the continuous/practical application of joint methodologies:

See draft note on cooperation in Norwegian-Swedish bordercrossing waters - 2012

See also the Nordic cooperation aiming to harmonize methodologies in the implementation of the Water Framework Directive in the Nordic countries, including a series of annual workshops:

<http://www.vannportalen.no/enkel.aspx?m=59821&amid=2956148>

5. Future development of joint methodologies is planned for the future (Y/N). If already known, list which ones.

See draft note on cooperation in Norwegian-Swedish bordercrossing waters - 2012

See also the Nordic cooperation aiming to harmonize methodologies in the implementation of the Water Framework Directive in the Nordic countries, including a series of annual workshops:

<http://www.vannportalen.no/enkel.aspx?m=59821&amid=2956148>

4. International Coordination Successes and Challenges

4a. Changes related to WFD enforcement

Information requested: Description of changes of international cooperation since WFD enforcement

1. Indicate if the enforcement of the EU WFD changed and improved joint cooperation (Y/N)

- There appears to have been coordination between the countries since 1929, and it appears as if there has been some changes in the cooperation as a result of the WFD, however due to the different deadlines for the implementation of the Directive in Norway, and the fact that RBMP were only developed for pilot areas in the 9 Norwegian districts, full coordination mechanisms have not yet been developed. The Swedish RBMPs however mention that there are regular meetings between the relevant authorities and that the coordination is set to be improved to meet EU requirements.

Norway will be implementing the first cycle of WFD full scale RBM-planning, synchronized with the second

cycle in Sweden. The ambition is to have a completely coordinated management of the border crossing river basins in place for the 2015 RBM plans.

2. **Cooperation areas where changes/improvement occurred through WFD**

--

3. **When did changes occur?**

4b. Key Successes of coordination

Information requested: Description of cooperation successes, positive feedback loops, etc.

www.enningdalselven.com/aktuellt.html

4c. Key Obstacles and Challenges to International Coordination/Cooperation

Information requested: Areas where cooperation was not successful; Areas for improvement

1. **Principle key obstacles to international coordination/cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describe.**

Current key challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(a) *the past/current WFD planning cycle*

Key reason for the lack of WFD cooperation was stated at the Nordic Competent Authority meeting, held in Stockholm 6.4.2011, to be the delayed implementation in Norway (following the EEA agreed timetable) compared to Sweden (EU timetable).

2. **Respective areas of improvement and indication if this is planned: --**

3. **Expected challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to**

(a) *Next WFD planning cycle*

Norway will be implementing the first cycle of WFD full scale RBM-Planning, synchronised with the second cycle in Sweden. The ambition is to have a completely coordinated management of the border crossing river basins in place for the 2015 RBM plans.

(b) *any other areas regarding water resources management*

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5. Future in international cooperation - Next steps/View towards 2nd WFD planning cycle

5a. Areas of future cooperation

Information requested: Where work has already started for the next planning cycle; New Areas of international cooperation; Whether an international plan is foreseen

1. **Outline if the development of an international RBMP according to the EU WFD is foreseen**

If so, by when (2015, 2021, 2027)

See draft note on cooperation in Norwegian-Swedish bordercrossing waters - 2012

2. **First milestones that will be jointly aimed for regarding the future EU WFD implementation**

See draft note on cooperation in Norwegian-Swedish bordercrossing waters - 2012

3. **If no international RBMP will be developed, briefly describe why this is the case**

See draft note on cooperation in Norwegian-Swedish bordercrossing waters - 2012

4. **Further future areas of international cooperation/coordination:**

See items above

Reach agreement on:

- Characterization
- Classification
- Environmental objectives

Coordination of:

- Monitoring programme
- Programme of measures
- Public participation
- Consultation processes.

6. Additional Comments

7. Interviewed country and RBO representatives as well as other experts

NO: Anders Iversen, Lars Stalberg
SE: Anneli Harlén

8. Sources and References

- Miljöbalken /Swedish Environmental Code. (1998:808)
- Webpages of the Swedish Water authorities (www.vattenmyndigheterna.se)
- Bothnian Bay River basin Management Plan and Programme of Measures, 2009.
- Bothnian Sea RBMP, 2009
- Skagerrak and Kattegat RBMP, 2009.
- RBMPs for Glomma, Trondelag, Nordlan and Troms(NO)
- Informal draft note on cooperation in Norwegian-Swedish bordercrossing waters (2012) found on the internet "Gränsvatten Norge och Sverige - Strategi för internationellt samarbete" prepared by the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water management (Sweden) and the Norwegian Directorate for nature Management (Norway) .

Coordination Mechanisms of the International PL-MD-UA River Basins

1. Basic information on international river basins/sub-river basins between PL, MD and UA

EU Member States sharing the basins: Poland
 Third countries sharing the basin: Ukraine, Moldova
 River Basin Districts concerned: Dniester



Size of the total catchment area and national shares for each international river/sub-river basin, indicating division by country and the respective RBD:

Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	Total Area of Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	EU Member States/Non EU Member States in International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin	International RBD to which International River Basin belongs
	(km ²)		km ² (%)	
Dniester/Dnistr/Ni stru	68.627 (72.000*) 72.236**	PL	232 (0,3%) 226**	unknown
		UA	52.700 ** (73%)	
		MD	19.400 ** (26,7%)	

* according to "Transboundary Water Management: Principles and Practice", Anton Earle, Anders Jägerskog, Joakim Öjendal

** UNECE Second assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters, 2011

THE DNIESTER RIVER BASIN



Map 1: The Dniester river basin (source: <http://dniester.org>)



Map 2: Overview of river basin districts on Polish territory.
 River basin districts with regional water management boards (RZGW) jurisdiction areas



Map 3: Hydrological and administrative units in Poland.

2. Cooperation Framework

2a. International agreement or convention

Information requested: Title, date of agreement, countries not covered under agreement, brief description

1. Title:

1. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of Ukraine on the joint management and protection of the cross-border waters

2. Countries under Agreement:

Moldova and Ukraine

3. Countries part of basin but not covered by agreement:

Poland

4. Date and place of signing:

1994

5. Entry into force:

1994

6. Key objectives and content of agreement/convention:

The Agreement is a principal document, which regulates joint management of the Dniester River basin, requests revision and upgrade in accordance with modern principles.

Five regulations compliment the 1994 Agreement. Three of them, i.e. the Regulation of Ukrainian-Moldovan cooperation on flood protection in the cross-border watercourses and inner waterbodies, the Regulation of Ukrainian-Moldovan cooperation on water-ecological monitoring and water quality control, and the Regulation on measures at dangerous and emergency pollution of the cross-border waters.

7. Role of WFD implementation in international basins:

The bilateral Agreement Between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Moldova regarding the Joint Use and Protection of Border Waters was signed in 1994 and a Meeting of Plenipotentiaries was instituted as a cooperative mechanism. The Agreement and its institutional mechanism is in need of revision and modernization, especially taking into account modern principles of Integrated Water Resource Management and the need to develop public participation in decision making. As both Ukraine and Moldova aim to become members of the European Union, the EU Water Framework Directive is considered important as a guideline for future developments (source webpage of the Dniester Commission <http://dniester.org>).

- Ukraine and Moldova have expressed interest in WFD compliant water management;
- Poland developed a national WFD River Basin Management Plan for the Dniester Basin, which seems not to mention any technical/applied bi- or multilateral cooperation despite listing respective bilateral agreements;
- The PL Dniester RBMP can be downloaded from <http://www.rdw.org.pl/materialy-metodyki-i-opracowania.html>;

2b. Coordinating/Governing Body/River Basin Organisation

Information requested: Name(s) of Secretariat/Commission, location, working languages, website

1. Name(s):

Dniester Commission between MD and UA (Remark: PL is not part of this Commission)

2. Operative since:

1995

3. Location and address:

No permanent address.

Contact points include:

UNECE / Regional Advisor on Environment Palais des Nations, Geneva 1211, Switzerland

OCE / National Project Officer Striletska Str., 16, Kyiv 01034, Ukraine

UNEP Regional Office for Europe / Coordinator ENVSEC in Eastern Europe 11-13 ch. des Anemones, Geneva 1219, Switzerland

4. Working Languages:

English, MD, Russian

5. **Website:** <http://dniester.org>

2c. Coordination structure

Information requested: Description of (i) organisational structure (ii) cooperation tasks (iii) expert groups (iv) regular meetings, (v) number of staff, (vi) webpage (vii) other issues.

1. Organisational structure:

(i) Verbal description

During Soviet times, the Dniester river basin was managed as one system, but since 1991 Moldova and Ukraine have been managing their respective parts of the river separately. A bilateral "Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of Ukraine on the Joint Use and Protection of the Cross-Border Waters" was signed in 1994. A Meeting of Plenipotentiaries was instituted as a cooperative mechanism to implement the 1994 Agreement. A mechanism for work of the Institute of the Plenipotentiaries is described in articles 15-18 of the Agreement. Some relevant documents are available in [Russian](#).

(ii) Organogram

An organogram does not exist.

(iii) Key cooperation tasks

- Several cooperation activities are undertaken and planned between MD and UA (also see <http://dniester.org>).

According to Article 3 of the 1994 Agreement, the contracting parties shall:

- Ensure that all hydroengineering, water protection and flood control facilities associated with the cross-border water systems are maintained in proper technical condition;
- Agree on the operation regime for these hydroengineering facilities and planned water protection and management actions, and work together to address financial issues associated with the priority actions;
- Inform each other about the implementation of water protection and management actions that are perceived to have effect on composition and properties of cross-border waters, notify each other about accidents and emergency situations, and hold joint consultations on these issues;
- Ensure that the hydrometeorological observations in the cross-border sections are carried out in a systematic manner;
- Jointly develop plans for integrated management and protection of water resources or water balances that take account of actual quality of cross-border waters;
- If and where necessary, take joint actions to manage and protect water resources;
- Cooperate in developing methods and techniques designed to prevent water pollution and adverse impacts on water resources, and ensure their sustainable management;
- Take measures required to maintain the appropriate water levels in water bodies in order to ensure the optimal regime for drinking water supplies, fisheries and ecosystem's biodiversity conservation purposes;
- Assess the state of biological resources, establish the agreed upon management regime and harvesting limits for stocks available in water bodies within an area under the jurisdiction of Contracting Parties.
- No international cooperation issues regarding water management are known for all countries (including Poland) sharing the Dniester river basin.

(iv) Expert groups

In the frame of the 1994 Agreement and of several Dniester projects, meetings between experts take place on a regular level to discuss on issues of joint water management in the international Dniester river basin.

(v) Regular meetings

- 17 December 2008 in Chernovtsy: A meeting on establishment of the Council of the Dniester River Basin was held. Forty participants took part in the meeting.
- Meetings of experts and country representatives in the frame of several Dniester river basin projects.

(vi) Number of staff

No specific staff.

(vii) Observers: --

(viii) Webpage

<http://dniester.org>

(ix) Other issues:--

2d. Other cooperation agreements if relevant

Information requested: Description of other national bilateral/multilateral agreements for transboundary coordination including country members

1. The following bilateral/multilateral agreements are in place besides the overall international agreement (list for each cooperating country):

- Poland – Ukraine (signed in 1996)
Agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of Poland on Cooperation in the Field of Water Management in Frontier Waters. The Ukrainian-Polish Commission acts in accordance with the Agreement.
- Poland – Ukraine (signed in 2004)
Agreement on Cooperation between the State Department of Ecology and Natural Resources in the Lviv region, Ukraine, and the Podkarpatskiy Provincial Water Inspectorate for Environmental Protection in Rzeszów, Poland.

International:

- Convention on the protection and use of transboundary watercourses and international lakes (Helsinki, 1992)
- Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (London, 1999)
- Protocol on civil liability and compensation for damage caused by the transboundary effects of industrial accidents on transboundary waters to the 1992 Helsinki Convention (Kiev, 2003)
- Convention on environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context (EIA Convention, 1991)
- Convention on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters (Aarhus, 1998)
- Framework Convention on the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians (the Carpathian Convention, signed in Kiev in 2003)
- Convention on the transboundary effects of industrial accidents (Helsinki, 1992)
- UN Convention on the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (New-York, 1997)

2. Further related information

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3. Key Areas of International Cooperation

3a. International River Basin Management Plan

1. WFD international River Basin Management Plan developed (Y/N)

No international RBMP has so far been developed

Only if an international RBMP has been developed, the below items need to be completed:

2. RBMPs download link

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3. The international RBMP is formally defined/delineated in relation to the national RBMPs as follows (i.e. catchment area size, other thresholds, etc.):

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4. The national RBMP refers to implementation of international cooperation and coordination mechanisms (List for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMPs):

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5. The international RBMP includes country specific information (Y/N).

If 'yes' (=country specific information is provided), list if the information is consistent with the national RBMPs. **Country specific information in international RBMPs** (Y/N plus short description of cross reference) – list for each cooperating country

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The information provided in the international RBMP is consistent with the national RBMPs

(Y/N plus short description if needed) – list for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMPs

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3b. Coordinated/Joint Activities

Information requested: Topics where joint development occurred, for example: SWMIs, monitoring, PoMs, objectives, public consultations, etc; Description of the process of joint cooperation for each activity.

1 Key international cooperation activities – general description

- Establishment of the joint information management system.
- Flood management
- Climate changes
- During 2004–2005, the OSCE and the UNECE implemented a project that resulted in a “Transboundary Diagnostic Study for the Dniester River Basin” and established a network of stakeholders (Dniester I).
- The project “Action Programme to Improve Transboundary Cooperation and Sustainable Management of the Dniester River Basin” (Dniester-II, 2006-2007) was based on the results of the Dniester-I. The Dniester II was supported by the Swedish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and is part of the [ENVSEC](#) initiative. The project was implemented by OSCE and UNECE in collaboration with authorities and NGOs in Moldova and Ukraine.
- A project “Transboundary cooperation and sustainable management in the Dniester River basin: Phase III – Implementation of the Action Programme” (Dniester-III) started in 2009 with the support of the Swedish and Finnish governments. The Dniester-III project is implemented by OSCE, UNECE and UNEP in close collaboration with authorities and NGOs from Moldova and Ukraine. The aim of the project is to improve cooperation between Moldova and Ukraine on joint management of the Dniester River basin.

2 Description of detailed coordinated/joint activities:

2.1 WFD SWMIs (Y/N). If yes, describe.

Y/N. The cooperating countries follow the 1994 Agreement and established common water management issues and goals.

2.2 Coordinated/joint visions and objectives:

Y/N. The cooperating countries follow the 1994 Agreement and define general common water management activities.

2.3 Coordinated/transboundary monitoring

No.

2.4 Coordinated/shared databases and/or GIS

Y/N. Under current establishment to be shared between MD and UA.

The development of the structure and content of a pilot Geographical Information System (GIS) on the Dniester River Basin as the information basis for water management is supported in an Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) project. Ukraine, Moldova and partly Transnistria but not Poland are cooperating under this Initiative on a number of different topics. (source <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=27433>)

2.5 Coordinated/joint Programme of Measures

No.

2.6 Coordinated/joint (financial) resources to support international cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describes basic concept of joint financial resources.

Y/N. In the framework of several international projects certain joint financial resources do exist.

2.6.a Basic concept of joint financial resources: --

2.6.b Amount of joint financial resources: --

2.6.c List of supported joint resources: --

2.6.d Country participation in joint meetings is supported (Y/N): --

2.7 Coordinated/joint communication strategy and public participation activities

Y/N. Joint website on transboundary cooperation in the Dniester River Basin.

2.8 Coordinated/joint approach to consider future water demand (WFD Annex III)

No.

2.9 Coordinated/joint approach on setting exemptions

No.

3c. Coordinated/Joint Methodologies

Information requested: Areas in which joint methodologies were developed in relation to the issues listed under 3b. In addition, other joint methodologies should be added e.g. to designate HMWBs, to define good ecological status/potential, cost effectiveness of measures and or any other issues. Include brief description of the process of cooperation for each methodology

1. The following joint methodologies have been developed

No joint methodologies have been developed yet.

2. The joint methodologies are formally adopted/agreed between the countries (Y/N)

No.

3. The joint methodologies are continuously/practically applied in the frame of international cooperation leading to harmonised results (Y/N)

No.

4. The following challenges currently hinder the continuous/practical application of joint methodologies:

No.

5. Future development of joint methodologies is planned for the future (Y/N).

Unclear.

4. International Coordination Successes and Challenges

4a. Changes related to WFD enforcement

Information requested: Description of changes of international cooperation since WFD enforcement

1. Indicate if the enforcement of the EU WFD changed and improved joint cooperation (Y/N)

Y/N.

2. Cooperation areas where changes/improvement occurred through WFD

EU WFD implementation was declared of interest between the countries and certain principles are considered in the cooperation framework between MD and UA. However, PL is not part of the cooperation framework and no factual exchange on WFD implementation has taken place yet. Therefore, no areas of changes/improvement due to the EU WFD can be listed here.

3. When did changes occur?

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4b. Key Successes of coordination

Information requested: Description of cooperation successes, positive feedback loops, etc.

- International cooperation in the basin between UA and MD.

4c. Key Obstacles and Challenges to International Coordination/Cooperation

Information requested: Areas where cooperation was not successful; Areas for improvement

1. Principle key obstacles to international coordination/cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describe.

- Cooperation between *all* three countries (MD, UA and PL) sharing the Dniester river basin.
- So far, no active international cooperation is on-going between PL and the non EU MS of MD and UA

2. Current key challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(a) *the past/current WFD planning cycle*

- The key sharing countries of the Dniester river basin (97,7%) are Non EU Member States and have no legal obligation to implement the EU WFD. Although the two countries have expressed interest in WFD compliant water management, the implementation seems to be a challenge.
- The Polish share of the basin (0,3%) seems to be too small to justify an active role of Poland in transboundary water management of the Dniester. All existing cooperation takes place between Ukraine and Moldova; in some cases Transnistria is involved on a project basis.
- In Poland, the area of the Dniester river basin is represented by the river Strwiąża. The total length of surface water bodies in the Dniester basin in Poland is 128 km (35 km out of these are 'natural water bodies' the rest is considered as heavily modified water bodies).

(b) *any other areas regarding water resources management*

--

3. Respective areas of improvement and indication if this is planned

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4. Expected challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(a) Next WFD planning cycle

- As the WFD is considered important by UA and MD, taking into account the general principles of the EU WFD in cooperation seems a challenge
- Mutual exchange on EU WFD implementation between all basin sharing countries (MD, UA and PL);
- So far, future implementation steps are not defined yet;

(b) any other areas regarding water resources management

The 1994 Agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Moldova and its institutional mechanism is in need of revision and modernization, especially taking into account modern principles of Integrated Water Resource Management and the need to develop public participation in decision making.

5. Future in international cooperation - Next steps/View towards 2nd WFD planning cycle

5a. Areas of future cooperation

Information requested: Where work has already started for the next planning cycle; New Areas of international cooperation; Whether an international plan is foreseen

1. Outline if the development of an international RBMP according to the EU WFD is foreseen

If so, by when (2015, 2021, 2027)

There is no official commitment to develop international RBMPs yet.

2. First milestones that will be jointly aimed for regarding the future EU WFD implementation

No milestones are defined yet.

3. If no international RBMP will be developed, briefly describe why this is the case

See previous items of this fact sheet. Key reason seems to be the fact that the two states of UA and MD – holding a river basin share of 97,7 % - are non EU Member States without legally binding obligation to implement the EU WFD.

4. Further future areas of international cooperation/coordination:

Tackle challenges from existing cooperation of international water resources management in the Dniester Basin.

6. Additional Comments

7. Interviewed country and RBO representatives as well as other experts

8. Sources and References

- Transboundary Water Management: Principles and Practice, Anton Earle, Anders Jägerskog, Joakim Öjendal
- International river basin management under the EU Water Framework Directive: An assessment of cooperation and water quality in the Baltic Sea Drainage Basin, Susanna Nilsson (susanna@kth.se); International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
- Plan gospodarowania wodami na obszarze dorzecza Dniestru, River Basin Management Plan for the Dniester
- UNECE Second assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters, 2011
- <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=27433>
- <http://dniester.org/contacts/>

COOPERATION CATEGORY 3

Coordination Mechanisms of the International LT-LV River Basins

1. Basic information on international river basins/sub-river basins between LT and LV

EU Member States sharing the basins: LT, LV

(eventually Third Countries)

Third countries sharing the basin: ---

River Basin Districts concerned:

Lielupe, Venta



Size of the total catchment area and national shares for each international river/sub-river basin, indicating division by country and the respective RBD:

Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	Total Area of Shared International River Basin District ¹ /Sub River Basin (km ²)	EU Member States/Non EU Member States in International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin Districts ⁴ km ² (%)	International RBD to which International River Basin belongs
Basins with Agreement and no Coordinating Body				
Lielupe	17,800	LT	8,951 (50.3%) ⁵	Lielupe
		LV	8,849 (49.7%) ⁶	
Venta	11,692	LT	5,185 (44.3%) ⁷	Venta
		LV	6,507 (55.7%) ⁸	

⁴ Latvian River Basin District Management plans do not specify the catchment area of single basins. Therefore, the area of the whole RBD is given.

⁵ Total area of the Lithuanian part of the Lielupe RBD is based on information in the national RBMPS.

⁶ The Lielupe river originates in Latvia as a confluence of two rivers - Musa and Memele/ Nemunelis. The river basin management plan has been prepared not on the sub-basin level but on the level of the whole Lielupe basin district. This is total area of the Latvian part of the Lielupe RBD according to the national RBMPS.

⁷ Total area of the Latvian part of the Venta RBD is based on information in the national RBMPS.

⁸ The Venta RBD on Lithuania's part covers 3 river basins, the total area of the Lithuanian Venta RBD is provided (according to the RBMPS).

2. Cooperation Framework

2a. International agreement or convention

Information requested: Title, date of agreement, countries not covered under agreement, brief description

1. Title:

Technical Protocol between the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of the environment of the republic of Latvia on Cooperation in Managing the International River Basin Districts

2. Countries under Agreement:

Latvia and Lithuania

3. Countries part of basin but not covered by agreement: -

4. Date and place of signing:

24 October, 2003 in Palanga, Lithuania

5. Entry into force:

Upon signing of the Parties

6. Key objectives and content of agreement/convention:

The objective of the agreement is to cooperate in establishing and managing international river basin districts in the following basic fields:

- Establishment of working groups for implementation of common actions agreed;
- Setting up goals and elaboration of cooperation programmes to facilitate achieving good surface and groundwater status;
- Information exchange, data, maps;
- Harmonisation of characterisation (typology) of water bodies and water status classification;
- Organisation of transboundary water monitoring;
- Coordination of programme of measures;
- Coordination of activities with the aim of producing a single international river basin management plan according to the EU WFD for each international river basin district.

7. Role of WFD implementation in international basins:

The WFD is mentioned in the preamble of the Technical Protocol. It says that the Parties are *Implementing* the requirements of the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council 2000/60/EC of 23 October 2000. Establishing a Framework for Community Action in the Field of Water Policy in the trans-boundary context.

2b. Coordinating/Governing Body/River Basin Organisation

Information requested: Name(s) of Secretariat/Commission, location, working languages, website

1. Name(s):

Parties shall establish Working groups and nominate chairmen. Chairmen of both Parties established the Rules of Procedures of working groups.

2. Operative since:

The first meeting was held on 05.03.2004 in Riga.

3. Location and address:

The working group meetings are held in different locations.

4. Working Languages:

English or Russian

5. Website: No website exists.

2c. Coordination structure

Information requested: Description of (i) organisational structure (ii) cooperation tasks (iii) expert groups (iv) regular meetings, (v) number of staff, (vi) webpage (vii) other issues.

1. Organisational structure:

(i) Verbal description

The coordination is lead by the nominated chairpersons:

For Latvia: Mr. R.Bebris, Director of the Environmental Protection Department, Ministry of the Environment. Due to change of the position and merging of ministries, since 2011 Mr. Bebris is Deputy Director of the same department, Ministry of the Environmental Protection and Regional Development. He is also Water Director for implementation of WFD.

For Lithuania: Mrs. A.Margariene, Director, Basin Management and Pollution Prevention Department, Environmental Protection Agency. However, recently, Mr. Mindaugas Gudas has been in charge of the river basin management planning including cooperation with neighbouring country.

(ii) Organogram

An organogram does not exist.

(iii) Key cooperation tasks

The key cooperation issues are listed in the Technical Protocol (see 2.a). The important focus is on exchange of information, monitoring and harmonisation of activities.

(iv) Expert groups

Special expert groups have not been set up, a lot of communication and information exchange takes place directly between individual experts. Some ad-hoc groups have been set-up, e.g. on typology. Within this exchange frame experts mainly presented on national approaches with the initial aim to harmonise approaches and results. However, in practice the steps on harmonisation have not been undertaken fully.

(v) Regular meetings

According to the Technical Protocol the meeting shall be held upon request of the Parties. In practice mainly ad-hoc meetings are set-up when the need for information exchange is initiated by one or another party. Additionally the cooperation on water management is also discussed within the meetings of the senior officials of the three Baltic States. They are held on average twice a year.

(vi) Number of staff

No specific staff.

(vii) Observers

n.a.

(viii) Webpage

n.a.

(ix) Other issues

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2d. Other cooperation agreements if relevant

Information requested: Description of other national bilateral/multilateral agreements for transboundary coordination including country members

1. The following bilateral/multilateral agreements are in place besides the overall international agreement (list for each cooperating country):

The agreement between the Government of Estonia, Government of Latvia and Government of Lithuania on cooperation in the field of the environment signed.

2. Further related information: --

3. Key Areas of International Cooperation

3a. International River Basin Management Plan

1. WFD international River Basin Management Plan developed (Y/N)

No international RBMPs have been developed

Only if an international RBMP has been developed, the below items need to be completed:

2. RBMPs download link

--

3. The international RBMP is formally defined/delineated in relation to the national RBMPs as follows (i.e. catchment area size, other thresholds, etc.):

--

4. The national RBMP refers to implementation of international cooperation and coordination mechanisms (List for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMPs):

--

5. The international RBMP includes country specific information (Y/N).

If 'yes' (=country specific information is provided), list if the information is consistent with the national RBMPs. Country specific information in international RBMPs (Y/N plus short description of cross reference) – list for each cooperating country: --

The information provided in the international RBMP is consistent with the national RBMPs
(Y/N plus short description if needed) -) – list for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMPs

--

3b. Coordinated/Joint Activities

Information requested: Topics where joint development occurred, for example: SWMIs, monitoring, PoMs, objectives, public consultations, etc; Description of the process of joint cooperation for each activity.

1 Key international cooperation activities – general description

In the first EU WFD cycle, the countries were rather working individually. Information exchange was held in the frame of different seminars. Individual experts working on single issues also communicated on the progress in the implementation of the WFD. However, the joint activities were not possible due to time, capacity and resources constraints. Cooperation between Latvia and Lithuania on water management issues was also ongoing outside the official agreement and its procedures. Local municipalities, NGOs have been implementing cross-border activities, which indirectly supported the implementation of the WFD.

2 Description of detailed coordinated/joint activities:

2.1 WFD SWMIs (Y/N). If yes, describe.

No, because the development of the first river basin management plans was done following different schedules. Only information exchange was facilitated.

2.2 Coordinated/joint visions and objectives:

No, because the development of the first river basin management plans was done following different schedules. Only information exchange was facilitated.

2.3 Coordinated/transboundary monitoring

No, because the development of the first river basin management plans was done following different schedules. Only information exchange was facilitated. Between Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Agency and Lithuanian Environmental Protection Agency info exchange on hydrology has been organized.

2.4 Coordinated/shared databases and/or GIS

No, because the development of the first river basin management plans was done following different schedules. Only information exchange was facilitated.

2.5 Coordinated/joint Programme of Measures

No, because the development of the first river basin management plans was done following different schedules. Only information exchange was facilitated. Some meetings were held to exchange information on supplementary measures.

2.6 Coordinated/joint (financial) resources to support international cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describes basic concept of joint financial resources.

No.

2.6.a Basic concept of joint financial resources: --

2.6.b Amount of joint financial resources: --

2.6.c List of supported joint resources: --

2.6.d Country participation in joint meetings is supported (Y/N): --

2.7 Coordinated/joint communication strategy and public participation activities

No, because the development of the first river basin management plans was done following different schedules. Only information exchange was facilitated.

2.8 Coordinated/joint approach to consider future water demand (WFD Annex III)

No, this issue was not followed up.

2.9 Coordinated/joint approach on setting exemptions

No, because the development of the first river basin management plans was done following different schedules. Only information exchange was facilitated.

3c. Coordinated/Joint Methodologies

Information requested: Areas in which joint methodologies were developed in relation to the issues listed under 3b. In addition, other joint methodologies should be added e.g. to designate HMWBs, to define good ecological status/potential, cost effectiveness of measures and or any other issues. Include brief description of the process of cooperation for each methodology

1. The following joint methodologies have been developed

No.

There were different attempts to start method harmonisation via events and meetings.

However, many challenges were faced in the practice and as of today no joint methodology is agreed and therefore an issue for the second WFD cycle.

2. The joint methodologies are formally adopted/agreed between the countries (Y/N)

No

3. The joint methodologies are continuously/practically applied in the frame of international cooperation leading to harmonised results (Y/N)

No

4. The following challenges currently hinder the continuous/practical application of joint methodologies:

No

5. Future development of joint methodologies is planned for the future (Y/N).

If already known, list which ones.

Currently, there is no strong political commitment for the development of the joint methodologies, however the need has been recognised.

4. International Coordination Successes and Challenges

4a. Changes related to WFD enforcement

Information requested: Description of changes of international cooperation since WFD enforcement

1. Indicate if the enforcement of the EU WFD changed and improved joint cooperation (Y/N)

Yes.

2. Cooperation areas where changes/improvement occurred through WFD

The intercalibration exercise was one of the first closer cooperation. It also showed that experience is lacking, insufficient capacity, difference in the legal and enforcement system

3. When did changes occur?

The cooperation was promoted when the Technical Protocol was assigned between the countries. Also the fact that both countries became EU Member States had an impact on the need to communicate and have more frequent communications.

4b. Key Successes of coordination

Information requested: Description of cooperation successes, positive feedback loops, etc.

- The cooperation approach to prepare international RBMPs has been used as example to prepare the similar bilateral agreements with regard to implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

4c. Key Obstacles and Challenges to International Coordination/Cooperation

Information requested: Areas where cooperation was not successful; Areas for improvement

1. Principle key obstacles to international coordination/cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describe.

Lack of resources (staff for coordinating activities); Despite of the common time schedule for implementation of the WFD, the factual speed of implementation in practice was different between the countries and caused a coordination challenge on the international level. The competent authority developed the RBMP in Latvia while in Lithuania the national RBMP was developed by contracted services. Due to delays in public tendering, the competent authorities had problems to coordinate the practical development of the international RBMPs.

2. Current key challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(e) the past/current WFD planning cycle

- To harmonise the classification system of the water status, to prevent that water status assessments show different results in transboundary/shared water bodies.
- Overall knowledge is still not sufficient on different WFD aspects, thus the cooperation might be still challenging also for the 2nd period.

(f) any other areas regarding water resources management

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3. Respective areas of improvement and indication if this is planned

Classification of the status of the water bodies

4. Expected challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(c) Next WFD planning cycle

- The Programme of Measures and its international harmonisation could be challenging.
- Also agreement on common environmental objectives.
- Development of international RBMPs was initially intended.

(d) any other areas regarding water resources management

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5. Future in international cooperation - Next steps/View towards 2nd WFD planning cycle

5a. Areas of future cooperation

Information requested: Where work has already started for the next planning cycle; New Areas of international cooperation; Whether an international plan is foreseen

1. Outline if the development of an international RBMP according to the EU WFD is foreseen

If so, by when (2015, 2021, 2027)

There is no official commitment to develop international RBMPs, yet.

2. First milestones that will be jointly aimed for regarding the future EU WFD implementation

The cooperation project on components on the river basin management planning for Venta river is implemented in 2011-2012. During the project first draft international RBMPs shall be drafted for Venta river. Also joint public participation activities will be performed as well.

3. If no international RBMP will be developed, briefly describe why this is the case

Probably it will not be feasible due to lack of the financing. Also Latvian CA considers subcontracting for this task.

4. Further future areas of international cooperation/coordination:

Tackle challenges from first WFD implementation cycle

6. Additional Comments

7. Interviewed country and RBO representatives as well as other experts

Latvia, Mr. Rolands Bebris, Ministry of the Environmental Protection and Regional Development

8. Sources and References

- The text of Technical Protocol between the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of the environment of the republic of Lithuania on Cooperation in Managing the International River Basin Districts
- LVĢMC (2009) *Ventas baseina apgabala apsaimniekošanas plāns 2010-2015.gadam* [the LV Venta RBMP approved by the Order Nr. 143 of the Minister of the Environment of the Republic of Latvia on 06.05.2010.]
- LVĢMC (2009) *Lielupes baseina apgabala apsaimniekošanas plāns 2010-2015.gadam* [the LV Lielupe RBMP approved by the Order Nr. 143 of the Minister of the Environment of the Republic of Latvia on 06.05.2010]
- Venta River Basin District Management Plan, approved by Resolution No. 1617 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 17 November 2010
- - Lielupe River Basin District Management Plan, approved by Resolution No. 1618 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 17 November 2010.

Coordination Mechanisms of the International LT-LV-RU-BY River Basins

1. Basic information on international river basins/sub-river basins between LT, LV, PL and Third Countries

EU Member States sharing the basins: LT, LV, PL

Third countries sharing the basins: RU, BY

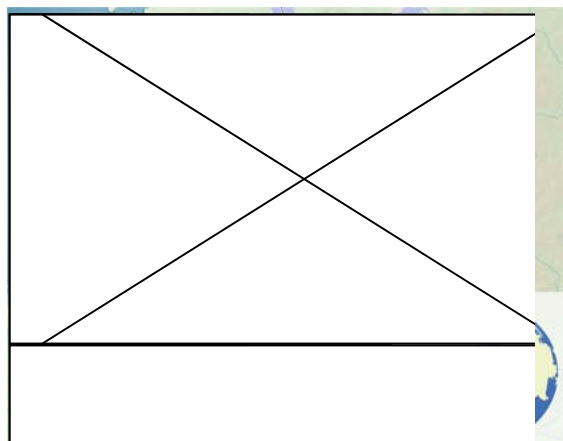
River Basin Districts concerned:

Daugava, Nemunas



Size of the total catchment area and national shares for each international river/sub-river basin, indicating division by country and the respective RBD:

Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	Total Area of Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	EU Member States/Non EU Member States in International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin	International RBD to which International River Basin belongs
	(km ²)		km ² (%)	
Basins with Agreement and Coordinating Body				
Daugava/Sapadnaja Dwina	82,824	LT	1,862 (2,2%)	Daugava
		LV	27,077 (32,7%)	
		RU, BY	53,884 (65,1%)	
Basins with Agreement and no Coordinating Body				
Nemunas/Nieman/Neman/Nyoman	98,000	LT	50,048 (51%)	Nemunas
		PL	2,009 (2%)	
		BY, RU	45,943 (47%)	
Neris/Wilia	25,100	LT	13,849 (55%)	Nemunas
		BY	11,251 (45%)	



2. Cooperation Framework

2a. International agreement or convention

Information requested: Title, date of agreement, countries not covered under agreement, brief description

1. Title:

Lithuania-Russian Federation and Lithuania – Belarus.

As indicated in the Nemunas RBDMP, while implementing the provisions of the WFD on coordination of actions in managing transboundary water bodies with the neighbouring countries, Lithuania initiated preparation of an agreement between the governments of the Russian Federation, Belarus and Lithuania on cooperation in the use and protection of water bodies within the Nemunas River Basin District. This draft has been drawn up, but not signed yet. The only change required in the draft is the clause allowing the European Union to be a Contracting Party. On 27 June 2006 the Council adopted a decision mandating the Commission to negotiate the agreement on behalf of the EU and in particular, to include such provision. Negotiations are currently ongoing.

Cooperation in the field of the protection of the environment (including water bodies) with Belarus and the Russian Federation has been effective for a number of years on the basis of cooperation agreements signed by the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania with the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Republic of Belarus and with the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation. In addition, a working group for the monitoring of transboundary surface water bodies and groundwater bodies under the Commission on Environmental Protection of the Board on Long-term Cooperation of Lithuanian-Russian Regional and Local Authorities has been set up to address monitoring water bodies and identification of pollution sources.

The following agreements on inter-institutional cooperation has been signed between the Kaliningrad Region of the Russian Federation and Belarus:

- a) Agreement between the Environmental Protection Agency, Lithuanian Hydrometeorological Service under the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania and the federal state institution Kaliningrad Hydrometeorological and Environmental Monitoring Centre of the Russian Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring on cooperation in the field of monitoring and exchange of data on the status of transboundary surface water bodies, signed on 21 October 2003.
- b) Technical Protocol between the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus on cooperation in the field of monitoring and exchange of data on the status of transboundary surface water bodies, signed by the Ministers of the Environment of both countries on 10 April 2008.

2. Countries under Agreement:

Lithuania-Russian Federation and Lithuania - Belarus

3. Countries part of basin but not covered by agreement:

-

4. Date and place of signing:

21 October 2003, Vilnius

And 10 April 2008, Minsk

5. Entry into force:

2003 and 2008

6. Key objectives and content of agreement/convention:

Implementation of the provisions of the above-listed inter-institutional agreements includes exchange of information on the monitoring of water bodies situated in the border zone and data on parameters indicative of physico-chemical quality elements and pollution of water bodies, joint sampling in transboundary surface water bodies situated in the border zone and inter-laboratory comparative tests. Also projects have been established to ensure the exchange of information and experience in the development of RBD management plans with representatives of various Belarusian institutions.

Lithuania – Russia (Kaliningrad region): work is progressing on the extension of the Agreement of 2003 to include the Curonian Lagoon and the Baltic Sea as areas for joint work.

7. Role of WFD implementation in international basins:

Cooperation on WFD implementation is part of the agenda of joint projects and meetings.

2b. Coordinating/Governing Body/River Basin Organisation*Information requested: Name(s) of Secretariat/Commission, location, working languages, website***1. Name(s):**

No specific international governing body

2. Operative since:

-

3. Location and address:

-

4. Working Languages:

Lithuanian and Russian

5. Website:

-

2c. Coordination structure*Information requested: Description of (i) organisational structure (ii) cooperation tasks (iii) expert groups (iv) regular meetings, (v) number of staff, (vi) webpage (vii) other issues.***1. Organisational structure:****(i) Verbal description**

Lithuania – Belarus and Lithuania – Kaliningrad region: expert working groups are the main bodies implementing the agreements.

In addition, for cooperation with Russia (Kaliningrad region) there is the Commission on Environmental Protection of the Board on Long-term Cooperation of Lithuanian-Russian Regional and Local Authorities.

(ii) Organisational diagram

-

(iii) Key cooperation tasks

Mainly exchange of information on the monitoring of water bodies situated in the border zone and data on parameters indicative of physico-chemical quality elements and pollution of water bodies, joint sampling in transboundary surface water bodies situated in the border zone and inter-laboratory comparative tests.

(iv) Expert groups

There are the following sub-groups under the Lithuania –Belarus agreement:

- surface waters
- monitoring and accidents
- protected areas and fisheries
- biodiversity
- regional cooperation
- waste management

The following group is relevant for water resources management under the Commission on Environmental Protection of the Board on Long-term Cooperation of Lithuanian-Russian Regional and Local Authorities:

- working group for the monitoring of transboundary surface water bodies and groundwater bodies.

(v) Regular meetings

No regular meetings are undertaken.

(vi) Number of staff

-

(vii) Observers

-

(viii) Webpage

-

(ix) Other issues

-

2d. Other cooperation agreements if relevant

Information requested: Description of other national bilateral/multilateral agreements for transboundary coordination including country members

1. The following bilateral/multilateral agreements are in place besides the overall international agreement

No other agreements than mentioned above are in place.

2. Further related information

-

3. Key Areas of International Cooperation

3a. International River Basin Management Plan

1. WFD international River Basin Management Plan developed (Y/N)

No international RBMP has been developed.

Only if an international RBMP has been developed, the below items need to be completed:

2. RBMP download link

-

3. The international RBMP is formally defined/delineated in relation to the national RBMP as follows

(i.e. catchment area size, other thresholds, etc.):

-

4. The national RBMP refers to implementation of international cooperation and coordination mechanisms

(List for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP):

-

5. The international RBMP includes country specific information (Y/N).

If 'yes' (=country specific information is provided), list if the information is consistent with the national RBMP.

Country specific information in international RBMP (Y/N plus short description of cross reference) – list for each cooperating country

-

The information provided in the international RBMP is consistent with the national RBMP

(Y/N plus short description if needed) – list for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP

-

3b. Coordinated/Joint Activities

Information requested: Topics where joint development occurred, for example: SWMIs, monitoring, PoMs, objectives, public consultations, etc; Description of the process of joint cooperation for each activity.

1 Key international cooperation activities – general description

The only cooperation activities are meetings of experts from the Kaliningrad region and Belarus to exchange information on the monitoring of water bodies situated in the border zone (Neris with Belarus and Nemunas with Russia) and data on parameters indicative of physico-chemical quality elements and pollution of water bodies and joint sampling in transboundary surface water bodies situated in the border zone.

Also there are a few joint transboundary projects going on with Belarus. For example, in the framework of the UNECE Water Convention programme “Pilot Project on River Basin Management and Climate Change Adaptation in the NEMAN River Basin”. It aims at “promoting cooperation to adapt to climate change in transboundary basins” in implementing the Water Convention and the EU Water Framework Directive under conditions of a changing climate and to support UNECE countries in their efforts to develop adaptation strategies and measures by promoting cooperation on adaptation in transboundary basins.

Lithuania – Russia (Kaliningrad region): work is progressing on the extension of the Agreement of 2003 to include Curonian Lagoon and the Baltic Sea for joint work.

2 Description of detailed coordinated/joint activities:

2.1 WFD SWMIs (Y/N). If yes, describe.

No

2.2 Coordinated/joint visions and objectives:

No

2.3 Coordinated/transboundary monitoring

Yes/No.

To some extent. There is an exchange of information on the monitoring of water bodies situated in the border zone and data on parameters indicative of physico-chemical quality elements and pollution of water bodies and joint sampling in transboundary surface water bodies situated in the border zone.

2.4 Coordinated/shared databases and/or GIS

No.

2.5 Coordinated/joint Programme of Measures

No.

2.6 Coordinated/joint (financial) resources to support international cooperation (Y/N). *If yes, describes basic concept of joint financial resources.*

No.

2.6.a Basic concept of joint financial resources

2.6.b Amount of joint financial resources

2.6.c List of supported joint resources

2.6.d Country participation in joint meetings is supported (Y/N)

2.7 Coordinated/joint communication strategy and public participation activities

No.

2.8 Coordinated/joint approach to consider future water demand (WFD Annex III)

No.

2.9 Coordinated/joint approach on setting exemptions

No.

3c. Coordinated/Joint Methodologies

Information requested: Areas in which joint methodologies were developed in relation to the issues listed under 3b. In addition, other joint methodologies should be added e.g. to designate HMWBs, to define good ecological status/potential, cost effectiveness of measures and or any other issues. Include brief description of the process of cooperation for each methodology

1. The following joint methodologies have been developed

Development of a coordinated approach to monitoring is being discussed during meetings. There are joint samplings and joint discussions of the results. Also there is a work on intercalibration going on.

2. The joint methodologies are formally adopted/agreed between the countries (Y/N)

No.

3. The joint methodologies are continuously/practically applied in the frame of international cooperation leading to harmonised results (Y/N)

No.

4. The following challenges currently hinder the continuous/practical application of joint methodologies:

-

5. Future development of joint methodologies is planned for the future (Y/N).

If already known, list which ones.

Nothing official yet. Experts are discussing that future work on water status coordination is needed.

4. International Coordination Successes and Challenges

4a. Changes related to WFD enforcement

Information requested: Description of changes of international cooperation since WFD enforcement

1. Indicate if the enforcement of the EU WFD changed and improved joint cooperation (Y/N)

Enforcement of the WFD has improved cooperation to some extent with Belarus and Kaliningrad region, but only on expert level.

2. Cooperation areas where changes/improvement occurred through WFD

Joint monitoring.

3. When did changes occur?

No considerable change. Improvement in expert level cooperation can be identified.

4b. Key Successes of coordination

Information requested: Description of cooperation successes, positive feedback loops, etc.

Improvement in expert level cooperation

4c. Key Obstacles and Challenges to International Coordination/Cooperation

Information requested: Areas where cooperation was not successful; Areas for improvement

1. Principle key obstacles to international coordination/cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describe.

Political. Russian opposition to the EU being a contracting party.

2. Current key challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(g) the past/current WFD planning cycle

Political.

(h) any other areas regarding water resources management

-

3. Respective areas of improvement and indication if this is planned

Not known.

4. Expected challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(e) Next WFD planning cycle

Political situation with Russian Federation and Belarus.

(f) any other areas regarding water resources management

--

5. Future in international cooperation - Next steps/View towards 2nd WFD planning cycle

5a. Areas of future cooperation

Information requested: Where work has already started for the next planning cycle; New Areas of international cooperation; Whether an international plan is foreseen

1. Outline if the development of an international RBMP according to the EU WFD is foreseen

If so, by when (2015, 2021, 2027)

No international RBMP is foreseen

2. First milestones that will be jointly aimed for regarding the future EU WFD implementation

-

3. If no international RBMP will be developed, briefly describe why this is the case

Belarus and the Russian Federation are the third countries, which are less interested in the international RBMP development at senior political levels. There is interest amongst experts and practitioners however.

4. Further future areas of international cooperation/coordination:

No known.

6. Additional Comments

7. Interviewed country and RBO representatives as well as other experts

Martynas Pankauskas, Head of RBM unit, Department of Environment Quality Assessment, Environmental Protection Agency of Lithuania.

Audronė Pumputytė, Head of Water Status Assessment unit, Department of Environment Quality Assessment, Environmental Protection Agency of Lithuania.

Ligita Vaičiūnienė, Head of EU and International Relations unit, Department of Economy and International Relations, Ministry of Environment of Lithuania.

8. Sources and References

Nemunas RBMP: <http://vanduo.gamta.lt/files/Nemunas%20river%20management%20plan.pdf>

Technical Protocol between the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus on cooperation in the field of monitoring and exchange of data on the status of transboundary surface water bodies, signed by the Ministers of the Environment of both countries on 10 April 2008: <http://www.am.lt/VI/files/0.290812001216718135.pdf>

Coordination Mechanisms of the International BG-TR River Basins

1. Basic information on international river basins/sub-river basins between BG and TR

EU Member States sharing the basins: Bulgaria

Third countries sharing the basin: Turkey

River Basin Districts concerned:

Black Sea



Size of the total catchment area and national shares for each international river/sub-river basin, indicating division by country and the respective RBD:

Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	Total Area of Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	EU Member States/Non EU Member States in International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin	International RBD to which International River Basin belongs
	(km ²)		km ² (%)	
Basins with Agreement and Coordinating Body				
Rezovska/Mutludere	738	BG	183 (24,8%)	East Aegean/Black Sea
		TR	555 (75.2%)	Third Country
Veleka	995	BG	792 (80%)	East Aegean/Black Sea
		TR	203 (20%)	Third Country



Map: Veleka River basin
RezovskaRiver basin



Map :

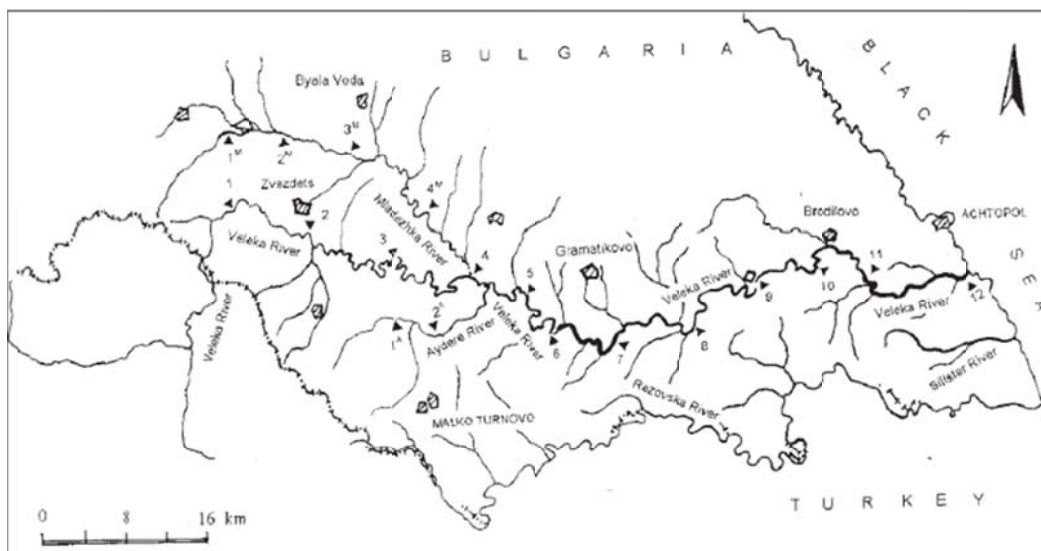


Fig. 1. Map of the Veleka River drainage basin and the sites at the time of investigation.

2. Cooperation Framework

2a. International agreement or convention

Information requested: Title, date of agreement, countries not covered under agreement, brief description

Joint declaration of the Minister of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Minister of Forestry and Water Affairs of the Republic of Turkey on cooperation in the field of water resources, signed on 20 March, 2012 in Ankara, Turkey.

Areas of cooperation:

- 1) Management in a sustainable manner and preserve water resources on the respective territories of transboundary river basins, enhance cooperation through regular exchange of information concerning qualitative and quantitative data of water resources, experience and know-how.
- 2) Cooperation in the coordination of river basin management plans in accordance with the principles and recommendations set by the relevant national legislation of each Party and related international obligations.
- 3) Coordination and cooperation for implementation a single joint flood risk management plan or separate but coordinated plans for each of the transboundary river basins.

The joint declaration is in place but so far there is no legally binding bilateral agreement to strictly regulate transboundary water issues in the WFD context between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey in place yet. The Joint Declaration is the firm step towards the establishment of such cooperation undertaken by Bulgaria in March 2012 (Joint declaration of the Minister of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Minister of Forestry and Water Affairs of the Republic of Turkey on cooperation in the field of water resources was signed). The scope of the Declaration is described shortly above and in 2d. Expert Meetings for implementation of the provisions in the Declaration are envisaged to take place regularly.

2b. Coordinating/Governing Body/River Basin Organisation

Information requested: Name(s) of Secretariat/Commission, location, working languages, website

1. Name(s):

There is not established Coordinating/Governing Body/River Basin Organisation.

2. Operative since: --

3. Location and address: --

4. Working Languages: --

5. Website: --

2c. Coordination structure

Information requested: Description of (i) organisational structure (ii) cooperation tasks (iii) expert groups (iv) regular meetings, (v) number of staff, (vi) webpage (vii) other issues.

1. Organisational structure:

(i) Verbal description

--

(ii) Organogram

--

(iii) Key cooperation tasks

--

(iv) Expert groups

The First meeting of the expert working group under the Joint declaration signed on 20.03.2012 was held on 09 May, 2012 in Plovdiv, Bulgaria During the meeting were discussed the legal organization of the water management in the both countries and basic information about the international river basins. The second meeting is envisaged to be held in Turkey in 2012.

(v) Regular meetings

--

(vi) Number of staff

--

(vii) Observers

--

(viii) Webpage

--

(ix) Other issues

--

2d. Other cooperation agreements if relevant

Information requested: Description of other national bilateral/multilateral agreements for transboundary coordination including country members

1. The following bilateral/multilateral agreements are in place besides the overall international agreement (list for each cooperating country):

Joint declaration of the Minister of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Minister of Forestry and Water Affairs of the Republic of Turkey on cooperation in the field of water resources, signed on 20 March, 2012 in Ankara, Turkey.

Areas of cooperation:

- Management in a sustainable manner and preserve water resources on the respective territories of transboundary river basins, enhance cooperation through regular exchange of information concerning qualitative and quantitative data of water resources, experience and know-how.
- Cooperation in the coordination of river basin management plans in accordance with the principles and recommendations set by the relevant national legislation of each Party and related international obligations.
- Coordination and cooperation for implementation a single joint flood risk management plan or separate but coordinated plans for each of the transboundary river basins.
- Maritsa/Evros/Meriç, Arda/Ardaş and Tundzha/Tundja/Tunca: Rivers: The Agreement between the Republic of Turkey and the People's Republic of Bulgaria concerning Cooperation in the Use of the Waters of Rivers Flowing through the Territory of Both Countries established a Joint Commission authorized to settle any disputes which might have arisen (1968)
- Maritsa/Evros/Meriç, Arda/Ardaş and Tundzha/Tundja/Tunca: Rivers Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria on Long Term Economic,
- Technical, Industrial and Scientific Cooperation (1975)
- Tundzha/Tundja/Tunca River: Agreement on Assistance and Cooperation in the Field of Water for Reducing the Negative Effects of the Drought of 1993 (1993).
- Maritsa/Evros/Meriç River: Protocol signed between the General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works of Turkey and the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology of Bulgaria for the installation, operation and maintenance of a flow observation telemetry station on the Maritsa River in Svilengrad, Bulgaria (2002).

2. Further related information

--

3. Key Areas of International Cooperation

3a. International River Basin Management Plan

1. WFD international River Basin Management Plan developed (Y/N)

No

Only if an international RBMP has been developed, the below items need to be completed:

2. RBMP download link

--

3. The international RBMP is formally defined/delineated in relation to the national RBMP as follows (i.e. catchment area size, other thresholds, etc.):

--

4. The national RBMP refers to implementation of international cooperation and coordination mechanisms (List for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP):

--

5. The international RBMP includes country specific information (Y/N).

If 'yes' (=country specific information is provided), list if the information is consistent with the national RBMP.

Country specific information in international RBMP (Y/N plus short description of cross reference) – list for each cooperating country

--

The information provided in the international RBMP is consistent with the national RBMP

(Y/N plus short description if needed) -) – list for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP:--

3b. Coordinated/Joint Activities

Information requested: Topics where joint development occurred, for example: SWMIs, monitoring, PoMs, objectives, public consultations, etc; Description of the process of joint cooperation for each activity.

1 Key international cooperation activities – general description

--

2 Description of detailed coordinated/joint activities:

2.1 WFD SWMIs (Y/N). *If yes, describe.*

--

2.2 Coordinated/joint visions and objectives:

--

2.3 Coordinated/transboundary monitoring

--

2.4 Coordinated/shared databases and/or GIS

--

2.5 Coordinated/joint Programme of Measures

--

2.6 Coordinated/joint (financial) resources to support international cooperation (Y/N). *If yes, describes basic concept of joint financial resources.*

2.6.a *Basic concept of joint financial resources*

--

2.6.b *Amount of joint financial resources*

--

2.6.c *List of supported joint resources*

--

2.6.d *Country participation in joint meetings is supported (Y/N)*

--

2.7 Coordinated/joint communication strategy and public participation activities

--

2.8 Coordinated/joint approach to consider future water demand (WFD Annex III)

--

2.9 Coordinated/joint approach on setting exemptions

--

3c. Coordinated/Joint Methodologies

Information requested: Areas in which joint methodologies were developed in relation to the issues listed under 3b. In addition, other joint methodologies should be added e.g. to designate HMWBs, to define good ecological status/potential, cost effectiveness of measures and or any other issues. Include brief description of the process of cooperation for each methodology

1. The following joint methodologies have been developed

--

2. The joint methodologies are formally adopted/agreed between the countries (Y/N)

--

3. The joint methodologies are continuously/practically applied in the frame of international cooperation leading to harmonised results (Y/N)

--

4. The following challenges currently hinder the continuous/practical application of joint methodologies:

--

5. Future development of joint methodologies is planned for the future (Y/N).

If already known, list which ones.

--

4. International Coordination Successes and Challenges

4a. Changes related to WFD enforcement

Information requested: Description of changes of international cooperation since WFD enforcement

1. Indicate if the enforcement of the EU WFD changed and improved joint cooperation (Y/N): --
2. Cooperation areas where changes/improvement occurred through WFD: --
3. When did changes occur? :--

4b. Key Successes of coordination

Information requested: Description of cooperation successes, positive feedback loops, etc.

Joint Declaration

4c. Key Obstacles and Challenges to International Coordination/Cooperation

Information requested: Areas where cooperation was not successful; Areas for improvement

1. Principle key obstacles to international coordination/cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describe.
--
2. Current key challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to
 - (i) the past/current WFD planning cycle
-
 - (j) any other areas regarding water resources management
--
3. Respective areas of improvement and indication if this is planned
--
4. Expected challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to
 - (g) Next WFD planning cycle
--
 - (h) any other areas regarding water resources management
--

5. Future in international cooperation - Next steps/View towards 2nd WFD planning cycle

5a. Areas of future cooperation

Information requested: Where work has already started for the next planning cycle; New Areas of international cooperation; Whether an international plan is foreseen

1. Outline if the development of an international RBMP according to the EU WFD is foreseen
If so, by when (2015, 2021, 2027)
The process of cooperation under the Joint Declaration is in initial stage. Still there is no agreement and timetable for development of an international RBMP.
2. First milestones that will be jointly aimed for regarding the future EU WFD implementation
Exchange of information concerning qualitative and quantitative data of water resources, experience and know-how.
3. If no international RBMP will be developed, briefly describe why this is the case
--
4. Further future areas of international cooperation/coordination:
As described in section 2d.

6. Additional Comments

--

7. Interviewed country and RBO representatives as well as other experts

BG Ministry of Environment and Water, Bulgarian Black Sea Basin Directorate

8. Sources and References

Coordination Mechanisms of the International EL-BG River Basins

1. Basic information on international river basins/sub-river basins between EL, BG

EU Member States sharing the basins: EL, BG

(eventually Third Countries)

Third countries sharing the basin: MK, Serbia

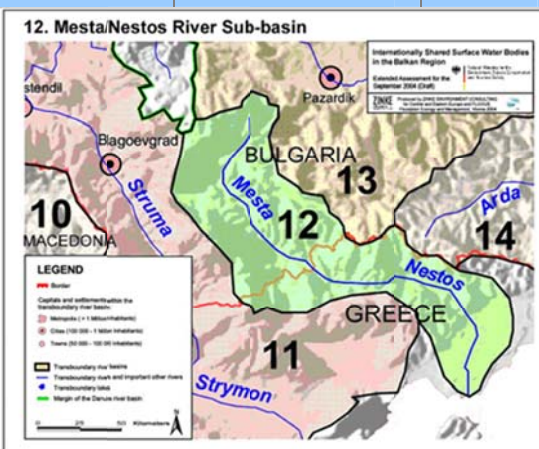
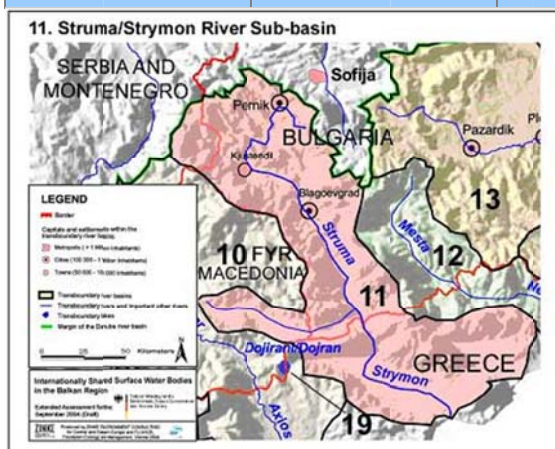
River Basin Districts concerned:

West Aegean



Size of the total catchment area and national shares for each international river/sub-river basin, indicating division by country and the respective RBD:

Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	Total Area of Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin (km ²)	EU Member States/Non EU Member States in International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin	International RBD to which International River Basin belongs
			km ² (%)	
Basins with Agreement and no Coordinating Body				
Mesta/Nestos	5,613	EL	2,843 (51%)	West Aegean
		BG	2,770 (49%)	
Struma/Strymonas	18.078	EL	7,281 (40%)	West Aegean
		BG	10,797 (60%)	
		MK	unknown	
		Serbia	unknown	



2. Cooperation Framework

2a. International agreement or convention

Information requested: Title, date of agreement, countries not covered under agreement, brief description

1. Title:

Greece-Bulgaria: In the last decades (since 1964), there have been several agreements between EL and BG regarding the use of transboundary waters (see box 2d for details) of all shared rivers; one agreement was even specifically targeting the Mesta/Nestos river (see below); all of these agreements, however are not in force anymore, or have never established permanent working conditions or organizations/boards.

According to the sources, all of these agreements have been replaced in 2010 by the *“Joint Declaration of the Minister of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change of the Hellenic Republic on Understanding and Cooperation in the Field of Use of Water Resources on the respective Territories of the shared River Basins between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Hellenic Republic signed on July 27th 2010”* (short: Joint Declaration).

The rest of the sheet will focus on this Joint Declaration (if not otherwise noted).

Struma/Strymonas: No bilateral agreement for Struma/Strymonas between EL and BG.

Mesta/Nestos: *“Agreement between the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria for the waters of river Nestos”* (signed in 1995, not operational and replaced by 2010 Joint Declaration).

2. Countries under Agreement:

Greece and Bulgaria.

3. Countries part of basin but not covered by agreement:

Struma/Strymonas: MK, Serbia

Mesta/Nestos: -

4. Date and place of signing:

2010; Athens

5. Entry into force:

2010.

6. Key objectives and content of agreement/convention:

Greece-Bulgaria: The Joint Declaration applies to all transboundary EL/BG rivers, including subsidiaries (e.g. Erythropotamos, Tountza, Xoriatorema etc.); the JD replaces old and not-working agreements, and represents *“a new beginning”* in EL-BG cooperation on transboundary waters. The declaration is not very specific in its content, except for the establishment of a joint *“Expert Working Group on Cooperation on Water and Environment”* (see below).

Mesta/Nestos: The agreement on the waters of the Nestos/Mesta regulated that 29% of the water discharge each year is to be used exclusively by Greece (lower riparian), and installed a *“HydroEconomy Committee”* to supervise the agreement. Furthermore, it entailed a concrete obligation for the exchange of information on the quality of waters as well as on works (under construction or planned), which might affect the natural flow and, the quality of the waters.

7. Role of WFD implementation in international basins:

Cooperation on WFD implementation of WFD is part of the JD and agenda of the Expert Working Group on Cooperation on Water and Environment.

2b. Coordinating/Governing Body/River Basin Organisation

Information requested: Name(s) of Secretariat/Commission, location, working languages, website

1. Name(s):

Greece-Bulgaria: Expert Working Group on Cooperation on Water and Environment (“Expert WG”).

Struma/Strymonas: No international river commission was formed in the case of Struma/Strymonas.

Nestos/Mesta: Hellenic-Bulgarian Hydroeconomy Committee (HBHC); not operational (did actually not start to meet/work, due to “technical misunderstandings”).

2. Operative since:

Expert WG: 2010

HBHC: no session yet.

3. Location and address:

Expert WG: no permanent address

HBHC: no permanent address

4. Working Languages:

No information.

5. Website:

No website.

2c. Coordination structure

Information requested: Description of (i) organisational structure (ii) cooperation tasks (iii) expert groups (iv) regular meetings, (v) number of staff, (vi) webpage (vii) other issues.

1. Organisational structure:

(i) Verbal description

Greece-Bulgaria: The Expert WG is the coordination body established by the Joint Declaration of 2010, with the goal of EL-BG coordination in the field of the use of shared water resources.

(ii) Organisational diagram

Single body.

(iii) Key cooperation tasks

No exact information.

(iv) Expert groups

On the second meeting, the instalment of three expert groups has been planned:

- Water pricing issues.
- Legislative and administrative issues.
- Technical data and information sharing.

(v) Regular meetings

Twice a year.

(vi) Number of staff

No permanent staff; number of members unknown.

(vii) Observers

No information.

(viii) Webpage

No website.

(ix) Other issues

No.

2d. Other cooperation agreements if relevant

Information requested: Description of other national bilateral/multilateral agreements for transboundary coordination including country members

1. The following bilateral/multilateral agreements are in place besides the overall international agreement (list for each cooperating country):

- GR-BG agreement on co-operation for the use of watercourses flowing through the two countries (Legislative Decree 4393/1964), and several protocols (see 2d).
- → Objectives of the Legislative Decree 4393/1964 were to ensure a) the use of waters in a way achieving benefit for both countries, b) the prevention of floods c) good neighborly cooperation between the competent authorities of the two countries.
- Second Protocol of the GR-BG agreement about the regulation of economic questions and development of the economic co-operation between the two countries (Legislative Decree 4393/1964, OG 193/A/4-11-64);
- Agreement between GR and BG concerning the formation of a GR-BG committee for the cooperation in the field of electric energy and the use of the waters of the rivers crossing both countries (Sofia, 1971) (in force since 12/7/1971 L. 366/1976 (OG 160/A/25-6-1976);
- Agreement between GR and BG on scientific and technical cooperation (Athens, 16.11.1973) (L. 366/1976 (OG 160/A/25-6-1976);
- Process Verbal of the 3rd Session of the permanent common GR-BG Committee on Hydro -economy and Electricity "about the determination of the natural flowing of the hydrological basin of Nestos\Mesta river" (OG 105/A/1980);
- Protocol for the Joint GR-BG Technical Working Group and Environment Group (approved on 14.3.1990)
- GR-BG agreement for the regulation of the Nestos river water (Sofia 22.12.1995) (Law 2402/1996, OG 98/A/4-6-1996);
- Protocol of the Meeting of the Joint GR-BG Committee of Experts for the preparation of a common proposal to the EU for the monitoring and control of water quality and quantity of the transboundary rivers Evros, Nestos and Strymonas.

2. Further related information

--

3. Key Areas of International Cooperation

3a. International River Basin Management Plan

1. WFD international River Basin Management Plan developed (Y/N)

All EL-BG River Basins: N

Only if an international RBMP has been developed, the below items need to be completed:

2. RBMP download link

--

3. The international RBMP is formally defined/delineated in relation to the national RBMP as follows (i.e. catchment area size, other thresholds, etc.):

--

4. The national RBMP refers to implementation of international cooperation and coordination mechanisms (List for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP):

--

5. The international RBMP includes country specific information (Y/N).

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The information provided in the international RBMP is consistent with the national RBMP

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3b. Coordinated/Joint Activities

Information requested: Topics where joint development occurred, for example: SWMIs, monitoring, PoMs, objectives, public consultations, etc; Description of the process of joint cooperation for each activity.

1 Key international cooperation activities – general description

All EL-BG River Basins: The only cooperation activities at the moment are the meetings of the Expert WG (met twice already, in May and October 2011); yet, mostly the different views on topics concerning both parties have been exchanged (see below for the topics).

2 Description of detailed coordinated/joint activities:

2.1 WFD SWMIs (Y/N). If yes, describe.

NO

2.2 Coordinated/joint visions and objectives:

No

2.3 Coordinated/transboundary monitoring

Yes

A shared monitoring network in the transboundary rivers is envisioned (also with regard to flood prevention).

2.4 Coordinated/shared databases and/or GIS

No

2.5 Coordinated/joint Programme of Measures

No

2.6 Coordinated/joint (financial) resources to support international cooperation (Y/N). N

If yes, describes basic concept of joint financial resources.

2.6.a Basic concept of joint financial resources

2.6.b Amount of joint financial resources

2.6.c List of supported joint resources

2.6.d Country participation in joint meetings is supported (Y/N)

2.7 Coordinated/joint communication strategy and public participation activities

No

2.8 Coordinated/joint approach to consider future water demand (WFD Annex III)

No

2.9 Coordinated/joint approach on setting exemptions

NO

3c. Coordinated/Joint Methodologies

Information requested: Areas in which joint methodologies were developed in relation to the issues listed under 3b. In addition, other joint methodologies should be added e.g. to designate HMWBs, to define good ecological status/potential, cost effectiveness of measures and or any other issues. Include brief description of the process of cooperation for each methodology

1. The following joint methodologies have been developed

All EL-BG River Basins: None; the development of a coordinated approach to monitoring was discussed on the second meeting of the Expert WG.

2. The joint methodologies are formally adopted/agreed between the countries (Y/N)

No

3. The joint methodologies are continuously/practically applied in the frame of international cooperation leading to harmonised results (Y/N)

No

4. The following challenges currently hinder the continuous/practical application of joint methodologies:

Not developed yet.

5. Future development of joint methodologies is planned for the future (Y/N).

If already known, list which ones.

Yes (the development of a coordinated approach to monitoring was discussed on the second meeting of the Expert WG).

4. International Coordination Successes and Challenges

4a. Changes related to WFD enforcement

Information requested: Description of changes of international cooperation since WFD enforcement

1. Indicate if the enforcement of the EU WFD changed and improved joint cooperation (Y/N)

All EL-BG River Basins: As the WFD introduces a wholly new understanding of how to approach water management in general, it has to be stated that the enforcement/implementation of the WFD did change and improved also the transboundary/international cooperation, to a certain degree.

2. Cooperation areas where changes/improvement occurred through WFD

Very specific information is not available. However, the planned cooperation in the field of monitoring, and the establishment of the Expert Group on Water Pricing (see above) can be seen as an indirect reaction to WFD obligations.

3. When did changes occur?

The above-mentioned changes are envisaged, and did not take place yet.

4b. Key Successes of coordination

Information requested: Description of cooperation successes, positive feedback loops, etc.

All EL-BG River Basins: The shared use of transboundary river water between Greece and Bulgaria was subject to negotiation for decades; at least a "new beginning" has been reached now (i. E. the will to cooperate is existing at the moment).

4c. Key Obstacles and Challenges to International Coordination/Cooperation

Information requested: Areas where cooperation was not successful; Areas for improvement

1. Principle key obstacles to international coordination/cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describe.

All EL-BG River Basins: Y

The quite low impact of the transboundary cooperation is, according to sources, "due to the political importance attached to the issues related to transboundary rivers by both sides".

Lack of information sharing.

Additionally, according to Mylopolus/ Kolokytha 2008: "*administrative shortcomings provoke a lot of problems. There are many ministries, institutions and organizations both governmental and non-governmental involved in water resources management. Each of them has its own goals and objectives and concentrates specifically on one or more aspects of water resources management, ignoring in the process some other fundamental issues*".

2. Current key challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(a) the past/current WFD planning cycle

All EL-BG River Basins:

- Transboundary pollution: Solid waste disposal on the BG side causes water pollution and environmental problems on the GR side, especially in cases of heavy precipitation; it has to be noted, however, that pollution happens not only in the Bulgarian part of the RBD.

(b) any other areas regarding water resources management

-

3. Respective areas of improvement and indication if this is planned

No indication of planned improvement

4. Expected challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(a) Next WFD planning cycle

- Most importantly, the continuation of the cooperation through the Expert WG, and actually implementing all proposals and common plans; then, it can be seen how a closer coordination may be realized in the second or third management cycle.

(b) any other areas regarding water resources management

- Most importantly, the continuation of the cooperation through the Expert WG, and actually implementing all proposals and common plans.

5. Future in international cooperation - Next steps/View towards 2nd WFD planning cycle
5a. Areas of future cooperation
<i>Information requested: Where work has already started for the next planning cycle; New Areas of international cooperation; Whether an international plan is foreseen</i>
<p>1. Outline if the development of an international RBMP according to the EU WFD is foreseen If so, by when (2015, 2021, 2027)</p> <p>N</p> <p>2. First milestones that will be jointly aimed for regarding the future EU WFD implementation Monitoring and information sharing is the first step.</p> <p>3. If no international RBMP will be developed, briefly describe why this is the case Cooperation just started; furthermore, on the Greek side, the national RBMP is not yet finished.</p> <p>4. Further future areas of international cooperation/coordination: Flood defence (prevention (according to the Floods Directive)).</p>
6. Additional Comments
<p>First meeting of the Sub working group between Greece and Bulgaria on technical data in Kavala, Greece 26.04.2012y. Discussed issues: transboundary surface water (SW) and groundwater (GW); typology of the SW – methodological issues; pressures and impacts; monitoring; preliminary flood risk assessment (PFRA) in the transboundary river basins (TRB) ; methodology/criteria for the PFRA; types of floods in the TRB; methodological issues for the identification of the areas with potential significant flood risks.</p>
7. Interviewed country and RBO representatives as well as other experts
<p>27.3: Alexander Zinke, Zinke Environment Consulting 29.3: Vasso Tsiaoussi, Greek Biotope/Wetland Centre 29.3: Vivi Roumeliotou, Society for the Protection of Prespa</p>
8. Sources and References
<p>Greek National Legislation (1996) Law 2402/1996: the bilateral agreement between Greece and Bulgaria for the waters of the Nestos River.</p> <p>International Network of Water-Environment Centres for the Balkans (INWEB): (http://files.inweb.gr/workshops/sub_basins/12_Nestos.html).</p> <p>Joint Expert Working Group on Cooperation on Water and Environment 2011: Minutes of the second meeting on 12th October 2011, Sofia.</p> <p>Kampragou, E./Eleftheriadou, E./Mylopolus, Y. A. 2006: Implementing Equitable Water Allocation in Transboundary Catchments: The Case of River Nestos/Mesta, in: Water Resource Management (2007) 21:909–918.</p> <p>Mimikou, M. A. (undated): FLAPP POLICY WORKING GROUP - Regional case study on Evros region (http://www.flapp.org).</p> <p>Mousmouti, M. (undated): Hellenic-Bulgarian Bilateral Agreements for the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses (www.nomosphysics.org.gr).</p> <p>Mylopoulos, Y.A., E. Eleftheriadou, E.Kampragou (undated): The transboundary catchment of River Nestos and the bilateral agreement between Greece and Bulgaria (http://www.feem-web.it/transcat_conf/conf_papers/Eleftheriadou.pdf).</p> <p>Mylopolus, Y. A./Kolokytha, E./Vagiona, D./Kampragou, E./ Eleftheriadou, E. 2008: Hydrodiplomacy in Practice: Transboundary Water Management in northern Greece, in: Global NEST Journal, Vol 10, No 3, pp 287-294.</p> <p>Mylopolus, Y. A./Kolokytha, E. G. 2008: Integrated water management in shared water resources: The EU Water Framework Directive implementation in Greece, in: Physics and Chemistry of the Earth 33 (2008) 347–353.</p> <p>Papadimos K. D. 2004: Development of an Inventory of Internationally Shared Surface Waters in South-Eastern Europe (http://files.inweb.gr/workshops/presentations_pdf/surface/Papadimos.pdf).</p> <p>Transboundary Waters Information Exchange Network for the Eastern Europe: Watersee.net (http://www.watersee.net/strumastrymon-river.html and http://www.watersee.net/mestanestos-river.html).</p> <p>UNECE (eds.) 2011: Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters (http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=26343).</p>

Coordination Mechanisms of the International DE-DK River Basins

1. Basic information on international river basins/sub-river basins between DE, DK

EU Member States sharing the basin: DE, DK

(eventually Third Countries)

Third countries sharing the basin: ---

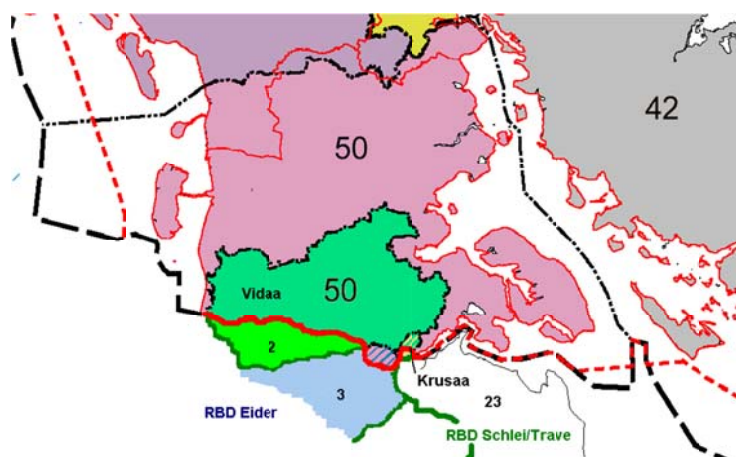
River Basin Districts concerned:

Eider, Schlei-Trave (DE) / Vidaa-Krusaa (DK)



Size of the total catchment area and national shares for each international river/sub-river basin, indicating division by country and the respective RBD:

Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	Total Area of Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin (km ²)	EU Member States/Non EU Member States in International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin km ² (%)	International RBD to which International River Basin belongs
Basins with Agreement and no Coordinating Body				
Vidaa/Wiedau (Rudboel Soe/Ruttebülller See)	1,343	DE	261 (19%)	Eider
		DK	1,081 (81%)	Vidaa/Krusaa
Jardelund Groeft/Jardelunder Graben Bongsieler Kanal	742	DE	732 (99%)	Eider
		DK	10 (1%)	Vidaa/Krusaa
Krusaa/Krusau	21	DE	6 (26%)	Schlei / Trave
		DK	15 (74%)	Vidaa/Krusaa



Map of the Vidaa/Wiedau and Krusaa/Krusau catchment areas (Ministry of Environment, Schleswig Holstein)
(Note: Map is not fully correct. A small amendment to the geographic coverage of the Danish part of the international RBD was made by 1 January 2007 where also amendments to the geographic coverage of other Danish RBDs were

2. Cooperation Framework

2a. International agreement or convention

Information requested: Title, date of agreement, countries not covered under agreement, brief description

1. Title:

Joint Declaration on the coordination of the management of the basins of the transboundary Vidå/Wiedau, Kruså/Krusau, Meden Å/Meynau and Jardelund Grøft/Jardelunder Graben rivers between the Danish Ministry of the Environment and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany

2. Countries under Agreement:

DE and DK

3. Countries part of basin but not covered by agreement: none

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4. Date and place of signing:

26.01.2005

5. Entry into force:

26.01.2005

6. Key objectives and content of agreement/convention: see the joint declaration

- Transboundary coordination and cooperation as required by the EU WFD
- The competent authorities and signatories of the joint declaration should coordinate their management of the basins of the transboundary rivers Vidå/Wiedau, Kruså/Krusau, Meden Å/Meynau and Jardelund Grøft/Jardelunder Graben in accordance with their national provisions.
 - Requirements to be coordinated are:
 - Analysis and review (WFD Article 5)
 - Monitoring programmes (WFD Article 8)
 - PoMs (WFD Article 11)
 - RBMPs (WFD Article 13)
 - Timetables and work programmes, interim overview on SWMIs, measures for consulting and informing the public (WFD Article 14)
 - Reporting to the EC (WFD Article 15)
- The competent authorities may reach additional agreements that regulate the close cooperation, in particular with regard to information exchange, timetables and work programmes.
- The scope of the cooperation has been widened by also aiming for the implementation of the EU Flood Directive.

7. Role of WFD implementation in international basins: see the joint declaration

The enforcement of the EU WFD brought the Joint Statement on Cooperation between DE and DK into life and is the centre piece of international cooperation.

2b. Coordinating/Governing Body/River Basin Organisation

Information requested: Name(s) of Secretariat/Commission, location, working languages, website

1. Name(s):

Responsibilities and activities are coordinated by the below agencies. There is no joint body in place for cooperation but a respective coordination mechanism (see items below) ensures cooperation:

DK:

Danish Ministry of the Environment

Nature Agency

Sorsigvej 35

DK - 6760 Ribe

Head of department: Mr. Harley Bundgaard Madsen

Team coordinator: Mr. Tom Knudsen

DE:

Ministerium für Landwirtschaft, Umwelt und ländliche Räume

Mercatorstraße 3, DE 24106 Kiel, Germany
Dr. Hans-Dieter Grett

2. Operative since:

01.01.2000 respectively 01.01.2007 (date of when the tasks and staff personal were taken over by the Danish Ministry of the Environment from the former county administration)

3. Location and address:

See above

4. Working Languages:

English/German/Danish

5. Website

www.wasser.sh

www.nst.dk

2c. Coordination structure

Information requested: Description of (i) organisational structure (ii) cooperation tasks (iii) expert groups (iv) regular meetings, (v) number of staff, (vi) webpage (vii) other issues.

1. Organisational structure:

(i) Verbal description

- The cooperation in the addressed international river basin is based on a joint statement but no coordinating body is in place.
- However, an agreed coordination mechanism between DE and DK ensures cooperation.
- Experts and coordinators of two countries meet several times a year to exchange information on WFD implementation, to harmonise water management issues on the transboundary level.
- Additional information for DK:
 - No formal structure but set up in such a way that decision making is possible.
 - Besides DK Ministry the municipalities are in charge to work on WFD implementation along the sharing borders. So cooperation is legally binding.
 - National legislation holds that international issues are responsibility of DK government.
 - Municipalities advise the Ministry to compile the RBMP.
 - 3 Danish municipalities in DK along the border.
 - 10 – 15 representatives from Ministry and 3 from municipalities participate in the cooperation process.

(ii) Organisational diagram: No detailed structure with TOR, but ad hoc working groups between the 2 ministries and relevant authorities.

There is no organogram.

(iii) Key cooperation tasks:

- Implementation of the EU WFD
- Implementation of the EU Floods Directive (above mentioned agreement has been accordingly adapted in 2010)

(iv) Expert groups:

There are no expert groups but meetings between relevant coordinators and experts from the cooperating countries.

(v) Regular meetings:

2 thematic meetings/year. Technical information is exchanged during this meeting.

1 Measure Meeting/year: Information on the Programme of Measures is exchanged.

The number of participants varies but can be up to 16.

(vi) Number of staff:

The number of participants at meetings varies but can be up to 16.

(vii) Observers: on ad hoc basis, except for the Head of departments from the two ministries, DE and DK

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(viii) Webpage:

www.wasser.sh

www.nst.dk

(ix) Other issues:

- Cooperation and participation in several joint INTERREG projects concerning cross-border water management issues. E.g.:
 - Groundwater monitoring and risk management in Schleswig-Holstein and South Jutland (INTERREG II 2000-2002),
 - BurVal - Groundwater resources in Buried Valleys in Schleswig-Holstein and South Jutland (INTERREG IIIB 2004-2006),
 - CLIWAT - Climate change and effects on Groundwater management (INTERREG IV B 2008-2012), Coordinated planning and management of watercourse and wetland nature restoration in the Krusaa river Valley (INTERREG IIIA 2004-2006),
 - Effect of climate change on the water management of rivers and flood risks on the west coast in Schleswig-Holstein and South Jutland (a.o. River Vidaa) (INTERREG IVA 2010-2012),

2d. Other cooperation agreements if relevant

Information requested: Description of other national bilateral/multilateral agreements for transboundary coordination including country members

1. The following bilateral/multilateral agreements are in place besides the overall international agreement (list for each cooperating country):

- Supplement to the Joint Statement between DE and DK to also implement the EU Flood Directive.
- Bilateral Commission on municipality level in order to agree on transboundary issues
- Trilateral cooperation on the protection of the Wadden Sea (OSPAR, HELCOM)

2. Further related information

3. Key Areas of International Cooperation

3a. International River Basin Management Plan

1. WFD international River Basin Management Plan developed (Y/N)

No, DE and DK have produced RBMPs covering those parts of the international RBMP falling within their respective territories in accordance with the joint declaration.

Only if an international RBMP has been developed, the below items need to be completed:

2. RBMP download link -

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3. The international RBMP is formally defined/delineated in relation to the national RBMP as follows

(i.e. catchment area size, other thresholds, etc.): -

--

4. The national RBMP refers to implementation of international cooperation and coordination mechanisms

(List for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP):

--

5. The international RBMP includes country specific information (Y/N).

If 'yes' (=country specific information is provided), list if the information is consistent with the national RBMP.

Country specific information in international RBMP (Y/N plus short description of cross reference) – list for each cooperating country

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The information provided in the international RBMP is consistent with the national RBMP

(Y/N plus short description if needed) -) – list for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP

3b. Coordinated/Joint Activities

Information requested: Topics where joint development occurred, for example: SWMIs, monitoring, PoMs, objectives, public consultations, etc.; Description of the process of joint cooperation for each activity.

1 Key international cooperation activities – general description:

International cooperation and information exchange on

- measures to improve water status,
- specific water management issues,
- nutrient reduction due to diffuse agricultural sources.

2 Description of detailed coordinated/joint activities:

2.1 WFD SWMIs (Y/N). If yes, describe.

Y/N - specific important water management issues are coordinated:

Krusau-Krusaa:

- Hydromorphological alterations/Re-naturation measures/river continuity
- Diffuse pollution from agriculture (respective measures are planned and discussed; joint thresholds are agreed between DE and DK)
- Groundwater

Wiedau-Vidaa: HMWB und artificial

- Heavily Modified Water Bodies and their management
- Groundwater
- Water abstraction
- Diffuse pollution from agriculture
- Biodiversity protection

2.2 Coordinated/joint visions and objectives (Y/N):

Y. Coordination and agreement on AWB and HMWB designations in particular in the transboundary water bodies. The country with the larger share decides upon designation

2.3 Coordinated/transboundary monitoring:

Y. Coordination on the location of monitoring sites in the transboundary water bodies.

2.4 Coordinated/shared databases and/or GIS (Y/N):

N. --

2.5 Coordinated/joint Programme of Measures (Y/N):

Measures are coordinated in the transboundary water bodies. Not many measures are proposed for the Wiedau-Vidaa due to the fact that most WBs are artificial or heavily modified.

2.6 Coordinated/joint (financial) resources to support international cooperation (Y/N)

If yes, describes basic concept of joint financial resources.

No.

2.6.a Basic concept of joint financial resources

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2.6.b Amount of joint financial resources -

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2.6.c List of supported joint resources -

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2.6.d Country participation in joint meetings is supported (Y/N)

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2.7 Coordinated/joint communication strategy and public participation activities (Y/N)

No. National websites for information are available (see above).

DK translated a summary version of the national RBMP into English for national public consultation. DK also provided an English translation of their summary RBMP to DE.

DE informed the public respectively via its public consultation process.

2.8 Coordinated/joint approach to consider future water demand (WFD Annex III) (Y/N)

No

2.9 Coordinated/joint approach on setting exemptions (Y/N)

No

3c. Coordinated/Joint Methodologies

Information requested: Areas in which joint methodologies were developed in relation to the issues listed under 3b. In addition, other joint methodologies should be added e.g. to designate HMWBs, to define good ecological status/potential, cost effectiveness of measures and or any other issues. Include brief description of the process of cooperation for each methodology

1. The following joint methodologies have been developed:

National methods are discussed jointly for result harmonisation. Improvement for harmonisation is foreseen in the next WFD implementation cycle.

2. The joint methodologies are formally adopted/agreed between the countries (Y/N)

No.

3. The joint methodologies are continuously/practically applied in the frame of international cooperation leading to harmonised results (Y/N):

--

4. The following challenges currently hinder the continuous/practical application of joint methodologies:

--

5. Future development of joint methodologies is planned for the future (Y/N). If already known, list which ones.

Improvement for harmonisation of methods and monitoring results is envisaged.

4. International Coordination Successes and Challenges

4a. Changes related to WFD enforcement

Information requested: Description of changes of international cooperation since WFD enforcement

1. Indicate if the enforcement of the EU WFD changed and improved joint cooperation (Y/N)

- The Joint Statement for the two international river basins came into life because of the enforcement of the EU WFD.
- Cooperation improvement has clearly taken place.

2. Cooperation areas where changes/improvement occurred through WFD

- Intensify exchange of information for transboundary cooperation
- Exchange on agricultural diffuse pollution
- Harmonisation of results and approaches

3. When did changes occur?

2003 and 2005 when the Joint Statement was drafted and agreed.

4b. Key Successes of coordination

Information requested: Description of cooperation successes, positive feedback loops, etc.

- Sufficient and very ambitious international cooperation
- Implementation of DE-DK Interreg Projects
- Harmonisation of national measures for the international level
- Differences on approaches and results between DE and DK decreased
- Increase of common understanding of issues in each countries regarding the transboundary water bodies and pro-active will to find joint solutions
- Joint learning regarding renaturation measures

4c. Key Obstacles and Challenges to International Coordination/Cooperation

Information requested: Areas where cooperation was not successful; Areas for improvement

1. Principle key obstacles to international coordination/cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describe.

No principle obstacles can be identified.

Current key challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(a) the past/current WFD planning cycle

- Delays in DK WFD implementation due to national political changes posed a challenge
- Harmonisation of results and methods
- Joint implementation of the EC CIS guidance (Note: It was mentioned during the interview that an update on the CIS guidance regarding harmonisation would be appreciated as it would enhance transboundary cooperation regarding common approaches.)

(b) any other areas regarding water resources management

No other water management issues are currently identified.

2. Respective areas of improvement and indication if this is planned -

3. Expected challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(c) Next WFD planning cycle

- Similar challenges as during the first WFD cycle are expected
- Harmonisation of national PoMs
- Further harmonisation of methods and results including GES

(d) any other areas regarding water resources management

- Ensure synergies between all water related EU Directives and their implementation (WFD, Flood, Marine, Flora-Fauna-Habitat, etc.)

5. Future in international cooperation - Next steps/View towards 2nd WFD planning cycle

5a. Areas of future cooperation

Information requested: Where work has already started for the next planning cycle; New Areas of international cooperation; Whether an international plan is foreseen

1. Outline if the development of an international RBMP according to the EU WFD is foreseen

If so, by when (2015, 2021, 2027)

No, individual international RBMP is foreseen. The DK national RBMP and the DE Schlei/Trave respectively Eider RBMP will include issues regarding the addressed international river basins.

2. First milestones that will be jointly aimed for regarding the future EU WFD implementation

2012: Interim overview in PoM implementation in DE and DK

3. If no international RBMP will be developed, briefly describe why this is the case

See items above

4. Further future areas of international cooperation/coordination:

See items above

6. Additional Comments

7. Interviewed country and RBO representatives as well as other experts

DK: Mr. Tom Knudsen
Danish Ministry of the Environment
Nature Agency
Sorsigvej 35, DK - 6760 Ribe

DE: Dr. Hans-Dieter Grett
Ministerium für Landwirtschaft, Umwelt und ländliche Räume
Mercatorstraße 3
DE 24106 Kiel

8. Sources and References

- Joint Declaration on the coordination of the management of the basins of the transboundary Vidå/Wiedau, Kruså/Krusau, Meden Å/Meyнау and Jardelund Grøft/Jardelunder Graben rivers between the Danish Ministry of the Environment and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany, 2005
- Supplement Letter to the Joint Statement of the DE Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety to the DK Minister for the Environment with regard to the European Flood Directive, 2010
- www.wasser.sh
- www.nst.dk
- DE national RBMPs
- Documents on the various Interreg Projects

Coordination Mechanisms of the International PL-SK-CZ-LT-BY-UA River Basins

1. Basic information on international river basins/sub-river basins between PL/Third Countries – Pregola and Vistula

EU Member States sharing the basins: PL, SK, CZ, LT

Third countries sharing the basins: BY, UA

River Basin Districts concerned: Pregola, Vistula
(sub-basins Bug, Poprad and Dunajec)



Size of the total catchment area and national shares for each international river/sub-river basin, indicating division by country and the respective RBD:

Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	Total Area of Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin (km ²)	EU Member States/Non EU Member States in International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin km ² (%)	International RBD to which International River Basin belongs
Vistula	194.424*** (193.347*)	PL	168.699 (87%) 168.303*	Vistula
		SK	1.957 (1%) 2.012*	
		CZ	8*	
		UA, BY	23.768(12%) 23.025*	
Bug (Vistula sub-basin)	39.420 41.005***	PL	19.284 (49%) 19.400***	Vistula
		BY, UA	20.136 (51%) 21.605***	
Poprad ¹ (Vistula sub-basin)	2.077*	PL	483 (23%)	Vistula
		SK	1.594 (77%)	
Dunajec (Vistula sub-basin) ¹	4.727*	PL	4.369 (92%)	Vistula
		SK	358 (8%)	
Pregola**	14.783* 14.685***	PL	7.648* 7.520***	Vistula*
		LT	83* 65***	
		RU**	7.052* 7.100***	

¹UNECE second assessment, chapter 8 page 395, see point 8.2. of this fact sheet

*source: International river basin management under the EU Water Framework Directive: An assessment of cooperation and water quality in the Baltic Sea Drainage Basin, Susanna Nilsson

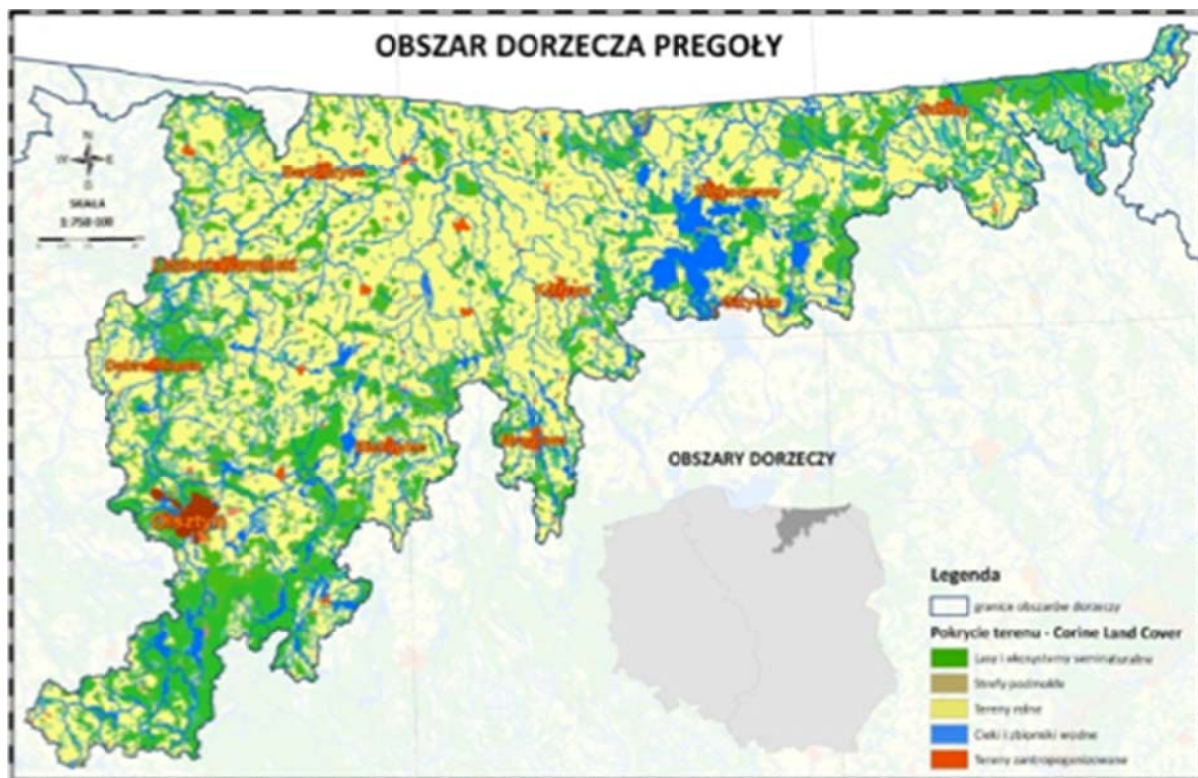
***Pregola has not been integrated in the Poland_Third_country_RU task sheet as it has been attributed as international river to the international RBD Vistula (according to the IASA study International river basin management under the EU Water Framework Directive: An assessment of cooperation and water quality in the Baltic Sea Drainage Basin, Susanna Nilsson (see point 8.1 of this fact sheet)
 ***UNECE second assessment, chapter 8 page 391, 393 and 398, see point 8.2. of this fact sheet (For the Pregola the original data source is Environmental Protection Agency, Lithuania; National Water Management Authority, Poland; Hydrological study, Baltic Region, Volume 4, Gidrometeoizdat, 196. For the Bug the original data sources are: Water Research Institute, Bratislava; National Water Management Authority, Poland; Ukraine.)*



Map 1: overview of river basin districts on Polish territory



Map 2: Hydrological and administrative units in Poland



Map 3: Pregola catchment area.

2. Cooperation Framework

2a. International agreement or convention

Information requested: Title, date of agreement, countries not covered under agreement, brief description

1. Title:

Pregola – Vistula:

Currently, there is no single international agreement or convention covering all the basins (Vistula and Pregola) and sub-basins of concern for this fact sheet, but a number of older bilateral agreements (see point 2b and 2d.1 of this fact sheet).

However, international cooperation is taking place based on several bilateral and multilateral agreements. Further, a single agreement to be signed between the riparian countries for international cooperation on the protection and sustainable development between the countries of the **Vistula river basin** is called for, covering both surface water and groundwater, and providing a basis for the protection, preservation and management of water, biological resources and aquatic ecosystems.

In addition, in the frame of EU INTERREG IIIA/TACIS neighbourhood program, three projects have been realized between the three countries of Poland-Belarus-Ukraine concerning the development of infrastructure within the **Bug river basin**. Several donors, entities and institutions including the EU are supporting these trilateral projects dedicated to the establishment of a coordinated water policy for the Bug river catchment (entitled: 'Legal conditions for the creation and operation international river commissions'). In 2008, the work focused on the "Development of a Polish-Belarusian-Ukrainian water policy in the Bug River Basin" (Neighbourhood Programme of the European Regional Development Fund and the TACIS/CBC fund).

The national PL Vistula RBMP under the section on multilateral agreements refers to these projects as an international agreement (ratified 2007: Wspólny projekt „Budowa polsko-białorusko- ukraińskiej polityki wodnej w zlewni Bugu” na lata 2007-2009; translation: The joint project "Development of the Polish-Belarusian-Ukrainian water policy in the catchment of the River Bug," for 2007-2009).*

2. Countries under Agreement:

No single international agreement is in place For bilateral agreements see point 2d.1

3. Countries part of basin but not covered by agreement:

n.a.

4. Date and place of signing:

Preparatory project for the river Bug: 18.-20.10.2006

5. Entry into force:

Preparatory project for the river Bug: 1.9.2007

6. Key objectives and content of agreement/convention:Bug (Vistula sub-basin):

The general objective is to strengthen transboundary Polish-Belarusian-Ukrainian institutional cooperation in water resources management, especially through establishment of an International Commission (ref. INB Newsletter, Dec 2008-Jan 2009, No. 17). Poland and Ukraine also actively cooperate in the elaboration of the River Basin management Plan for the Bug River.**

7. Role of WFD implementation in international basins:**Vistula:**Dunajec and Poprad (Vistula sub-basins)

Under the Slovak-Polish Transboundary Commission, corresponding working groups are in place. One of the groups is dedicated to WFD specific issues (for details of this bilateral cooperation see point 2d.1 of this fact sheet).

*source RBMP Vistula / Plan gospodarowania wodami na obszarze dorzecza wisly / RBMP for the Vistula, 2011, page 250

**source: see 8.6 of this fact sheet

2b. Coordinating/Governing Body/River Basin Organisation

Information requested: Name(s) of Secretariat/Commission, location, working languages, website

1. Name(s):Vistula:

There is no coordinating body covering the whole basin, and a coherent legal framework for transboundary cooperation is lacking. A single agreement to be signed between the riparian countries for cooperation on the protection and sustainable development of the Vistula basin is called for, covering both surface water and groundwater, and providing for the protection, preservation and management of water, biological resources and aquatic ecosystems.* For bilateral agreements see point 2d.1 of this fact sheet.

However, PL and SK cooperate via a transboundary commission and a corresponding working group dedicated for WFD specific issues (for details of this bilateral cooperation see point 2d.1 of this fact sheet)

Bug (Vistula sub-basin):

In 2006, Ukraine established a Basin Council for water resources management. Still it was noted, that the existence of such a body in only one river basin sharing country would be insufficient regarding the transboundary context. It is noted in the UNECE report* that a trilateral agreement for the Bug river basin and the establishment of a transboundary council or commission seems important.

Nevertheless, the RBMP of the Vistula mentions a EU INTERREG IIIA/TACIS neighbourhood program that is based trilateral cooperation for the time period from 2007-2009 as part of their bilateral/multilateral agreement section (see point 1 of this fact sheet).

Dunajec and Poprad (Vistula sub-basins):

Cooperation on transboundary waters is realized through the Slovak-Poland Transboundary Commission and three subsidiary working groups, on the basis of the 1997 agreement. The WFD Working Group was established later.*

Pregola:

There is no coordinating body covering the whole basin nor a coherent legal framework for transboundary cooperation is lacking. Several bilateral multilateral agreements between the basin-sharing countries are in place (see item 2d of this fact sheet).

2. Operative since:

Bug (Vistula sub-basin): 2007

Dunajec and Poprad (Vistula sub-basins): 1997

3. Location and address: SK: Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic

4. Working Languages: Slovak/Polish

5. Website: --

A report by the IASA** states for both the Vistula and Pregola river basins:

- Treaties exist but no dedicated commission;
- Not all riparian countries are signatories ;
- WFD specific issues are not explicitly addressed in the treaties ;
- No ambitions to develop an international RBMP and no shared methodologies exist / are known ;
- Bilateral, transboundary cooperation on water management issues does exist ;

*UNECE second assessment, chapter 8 page 391, see point 8.2. of this fact sheet, 2011

** International river basin management under the EU Water Framework Directive: An assessment of cooperation and water quality in the Baltic Sea Drainage Basin, Susanna Nilsson (susanna@kth.se); International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, 2006.

2c. Coordination structure

Information requested: Description of (i) organisational structure (ii) cooperation tasks (iii) expert groups (iv) regular meetings, (v) number of staff, (vi) webpage (vii) other issues.

1. Organisational structure:

(i) Verbal description

As no single international agreement is in place for neither the Vistula nor Pregola river basins is in place, no organisational cooperation mechanism(structure can be outlined.

(ii) Organisational diagram

--

(iii) Key cooperation tasks

- Transboundary water management in the Bug sub-basin
- Transboundary water management in the Dunajec and Poprad sub-basins (flood, hydrology, water supply, drainage, water quality monitoring, WFD implementation and accidental warning)

(iv) Expert groups

Dunajec and Poprad (Vistula sub-basins):

The activities of the Polish-Slovak Commission for Transboundary Waters are allocated to four working groups:

- WG for cooperation in the field of flood control of transboundary watercourses, water supply, drainage projects in frontier areas of planning and hydrogeology (called Group R),
- WG for cooperation in the field of hydrology (known as the Group HYP)
- WG for the protection of waters against pollution (called Group OPZ),
- WG on ensuring the implementation of the WFD resulting from the European Union.

(v) Regular meetings: 2 per year

(vi) Number of staff: Based on the rules, there are 5 national representatives per WG

(vii) Observers: n.a.

Webpage:

http://www.vuvh.sk/rsv2/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=63&Itemid=73&lang=sk

<http://plusk.eu/sk/>

(viii)

(ix) Other issues: --

2d. Other cooperation agreements if relevant

Information requested: Description of other national bilateral/multilateral agreements for transboundary coordination including country members

The following bilateral/multilateral agreements are in place besides the overall international agreement (list for each cooperating country):

Bilateral agreements/treaties:*, **

- **Poland-Slovakia** (signed in 1997, entry into force 1999)
The Agreement between the Government of Slovakia and the Government of Poland on the Management of Transboundary Waters is implemented through the Polish-Slovakian Transboundary **Waters Commission**.
- **Poland-Ukraine** (signed in 1996)
Agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of Poland on Cooperation in the Field of Water Management in **Frontier Waters**. The Ukrainian-Polish Commission acts in accordance with the Agreement.
- **Poland-Ukraine** (signed in 2004)
Agreement on Cooperation between the State Department of Ecology and Natural Resources in the Lviv

region, Ukraine, and the Podkarpatskiy Provincial Water Inspectorate for Environmental Protection in Rzeszów, Poland.

- **Poland-Ukraine** (signed in 2006)
Agreement on cooperation between the **Bug** Basin Water Resources Management Authority of Ukraine and the Regional Water Management Authority of Warsaw in Poland.
- **Former USSR (BY, (LT), RU, UA), PL** (signed 1964, entry into force 1965, concerns nowadays Nemen/Nemunas, Pregel/Pregula and Vistula basin – ***
Agreement between the Government of the Polish People's Republic and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Concerning the Use of Water Resources in Frontier Waters
- Agreement between **Poland and the (former) USSR** concerning the regime on the Soviet-Polish state frontier, 1948****
- **Poland-Russia (1992)**
Agreement between the Government of the Republic (Poland) and the Government of Federation on cooperation in the north-eastern provinces of the Republic of Poland and Kaliningrad Oblast (Region) of the Russian Federation (only relating to environmental protection and monitoring of transboundary coastal waters)*****
- **Poland-Lithuania (signed in 2005)**
- **Poland-Lithuania (signed in 1992)******

- **Polish-Belarus (signed 2003)**
The Agreement on Cooperation between the Hydrometeorology Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus and the Institute of Hydrometeorology and Water Resources of Poland ensures regular exchange of hydrometeorology data and joint hydrometeorology activities.
- **Poland-Belarus** (under negotiation)
- **Poland Belarus** (signed 1992)*****
Porozumienie między MOŚZNiL RP a Paostwowym Komitetem Republiki Białorusi do spraw Ekologii o współpracy w dziedzinie ochrony środowiska (approximate translation 'between the Polish Ministry of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources and Forestry and the Republic of Belarus State Committee for Ecology of cooperation in environmental protection')

Multilateral agreements:

- The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes done at Helsinki on 17 March 1992 ((Dz. U. z 2003 r. Nr 78, poz. 702) Ratification: (Dz. U. z 2003 r. Nr 78, poz. 703)) *
- Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (Helsinki Convention). Signature 1974, entry into force 1980** (obviously several amendments in e.g. 1996, 2003)

2. Further related information

The Polish-Ukrainian Transboundary Water Commission facilitates the implementation of the bilateral agreement on cooperation in the field of water management in frontier waters, signed in 1996. In addition, the Plenipotentiaries of Belarus and Ukraine act as a joint body under the bilateral agreement concerning joint use and protection of transboundary waters, signed 2001. These joint institutions coordinate the work of the ad hoc working groups, including those on planning the use of border waters and flood protection**.

*<http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/water/meetings/SeminarMA/Gruszecki.pdf>

**source: UNECE second assessment, chapter 8 page 393, see point 8.2. of this fact sheet

***according to the Swieza RBMP the agreement is also applicable for the Swieza but not mentioned in the RBMP for the Jarft

****source see point 8.3 of this fact sheet

*****source see point 8.5 of this fact sheet

3. Key Areas of International Cooperation

3a. International River Basin Management Plan

1. WFD international River Basin Management Plan developed (Y/N)

No international RBMPs have been developed for both the Vistula nor Pregola river basins.

Only if an international RBMP has been developed, the below items need to be completed:

2. RBMP download link

The national PL RBMPs can be downloaded under:

<http://www.rdw.org.pl/materialy-metodyki-i-opracowania.html>

3. The international RBMP is formally defined/delineated in relation to the national RBMP as follows

(i.e. catchment area size, other thresholds, etc.):--

4. The national RBMP refers to implementation of international cooperation and coordination mechanisms

(List for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP): --

5. The international RBMP includes country specific information (Y/N).

If 'yes' (=country specific information is provided), list if the information is consistent with the national RBMP.

Country specific information in international RBMP (Y/N plus short description of cross reference) – list for each cooperating country: ---

The information provided in the international RBMP is consistent with the national RBMP

(Y/N plus short description if needed) – list for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP

--

3b. Coordinated/Joint Activities

Information requested: Topics where joint development occurred, for example: SWMIs, monitoring, PoMs, objectives, public consultations, etc.; Description of the process of joint cooperation for each activity.

1 Key international cooperation activities – general description

No key cooperation issues are outline for the entire Vistula and/or Pregola river basins. However, other activities in sub-basins of the Vistula basin are undertaken:

- Transboundary water management in the Bug sub-basin
- Transboundary water management in the Dunajec and Poprad sub-basins (flood, hydrology, water supply, drainage, pollution, WFD implementation)

2 Description of detailed coordinated/joint activities:

2.1 WFD SWMIs (Y/N). If yes, describe.

No.

2.2 Coordinated/joint visions and objectives (Y/N):

No.

2.3 Coordinated/transboundary monitoring (Y/N)

Y/N

Poland and Ukraine:

Poland and Ukraine have established a coordinated monitoring program. Coordination takes place concerning bilaterally agreed indicators and information exchange in the frame of the meetings of the Polish-Ukrainian transboundary water commission.*

Poland and Slovakia:

Recently agreed transboundary actions between Slovakia and Poland include, in general, joint measurements, data harmonisation, data exchange and experience exchange, and joint projects.

Joint monitoring of water quantity and quality is carried out several times per year. Data are also reported to the Slovak-Poland Transboundary Commission. *

2.4 Coordinated/shared databases and/or GIS (Y/N)

Yes, data and GIS (project PLUSK, finalized 2011)

2.5 Coordinated/joint Programme of Measures (Y/N)

No

2.6 Coordinated/joint (financial) resources to support international cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describes basic concept of joint financial resources.

No

- 2.6.a Basic concept of joint financial resources: No
- 2.6.b Amount of joint financial resources: None
- 2.6.c List of supported joint resources: None
- 2.6.d Country participation in joint meetings is supported (Y/N): by national budgets

2.7 Coordinated/joint communication strategy and public participation activities (Y/N)

The two countries invite each other to relevant public participation meetings.

2.8 Coordinated/joint approach to consider future water demand (WFD Annex III) (Y/N)

Not yet.

2.9 Coordinated/joint approach on setting exemptions (Y/N)

Not yet

**source: UNECE second assessment, chapter 8 page 393 and 398, see point 8.2. of this fact sheet*

3. Key Areas of International Cooperation

3c. Coordinated/Joint Methodologies

Information requested: Areas in which joint methodologies were developed in relation to the issues listed under 3b. In addition, other joint methodologies should be added e.g. to designate HMWBs, to define good ecological status/potential, cost effectiveness of measures and or any other issues. Include brief description of the process of cooperation for each methodology

1. The following joint methodologies have been developed

Monitoring of water quality, hydrological monitoring

2. The joint methodologies are formally adopted/agreed between the countries (Y/N)

Monitoring of water quality, hydrological monitoring

3. The joint methodologies are continuously/practically applied in the frame of international cooperation leading to harmonised results (Y/N)

Yes

4. The following challenges currently hinder the continuous/practical application of joint methodologies:

None

5. Future development of joint methodologies is planned for the future (Y/N).

Planned to be discussed

4. International Coordination Successes and Challenges

4a. Changes related to WFD enforcement

Information requested: Description of changes of international cooperation since WFD enforcement

1. Indicate if the enforcement of the EU WFD changed and improved joint cooperation (Y/N)

Yes

For the sub-basins Dunajec and Poprad a working group on ensuring the implementation of the EU WFD was brought into life.

2. Cooperation areas where changes/improvement occurred through WFD

Status of water bodies, measures, data base and GIS, start of cooperation concerning geothermal groundwater projects

3. When did changes occur?

2004

4b. Key Successes of coordination

Information requested: Description of cooperation successes, positive feedback loops, etc.

Harmonisation of assessment of boundary water bodies

International cooperation in the area of water management per se.

4c. Key Obstacles and Challenges to International Coordination/Cooperation

Information requested: Areas where cooperation was not successful; Areas for improvement

1. Principle key obstacles to international coordination/cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describe.

Bug (Vistula sub-basin): PL-BY-UA *

Due to the socio-economic transition in all three countries, there have been reforms in the administrative and legal systems including in the environmental policy sector. In this respect, the status reports indicate a number of remaining difficulties impeding the efficient trans-boundary cooperation and management of the Bug River basin. These are mainly institutional, organizational and legal issues such as:

- Lack of cooperation in the field of nature conservation between the three countries;
- Different political systems and socioeconomic developments;
- Different nature protection legislation and policies (i.e. EU policies in Poland);
- Different approaches to nature conservation (in Poland focus on Natura 2000);
- Difficulties in crossing the border between Poland-Belarus and Poland-Ukraine (time consuming and costly visa requirements);
- Lack of comprehensive databases and data management; absence of data on water supply, water protection and reproduction of water resources in all three countries;
- Lack of funding options for trilateral cooperation in the field of nature protection;
- Different degrees of commitment of central authorities to transboundary cooperation in the field of nature protection;
- Lack of capacity and resources within the public administration and NGOs.
- Lack of mechanism for sharing responsibilities in the field of river basin management;
- Lack of coordination and coherence in decision-making;
- Lack of comprehensive management mechanism and planning

2. Current key challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(a) the past/current WFD planning cycle

District-Basin-wide WFD coordination and implementation

Harmonisation

(b) Any other areas regarding water resources management

see above 4c(1)

3. Respective areas of improvement and indication if this is planned

- Exchange information on Programme of measures realisation
- Cooperation on Analytical report development
- Cooperation on review of RBM plan

4. Expected challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(a) Next WFD planning cycle

See above

(b) any other areas regarding water resources management

see above 4c(1)

* source: see point 8(6) of this fact fact sheet.

5. Future in international cooperation - Next steps/View towards 2nd WFD planning cycle

5a. Areas of future cooperation

Information requested: Where work has already started for the next planning cycle; New Areas of international cooperation; Whether an international plan is foreseen

1. Outline if the development of an international RBMP according to the EU WFD is foreseen

If so, by when (2015, 2021, 2027)

Dunajec and Poprad (Vistula sub-basins), Poland and Slovakia:

Project PLUSK has been finalized

2. First milestones that will be jointly aimed for regarding the future EU WFD implementation

- 2012: Launch basin-wide data collection for the update of the Poprad/Dunajec River Basin Analysis
- 2013: Update of the Analysis including the Risk Assessment to achieve the environmental objectives by 2021
- 2014: Draft second DRBM Plan.
- 2015: Second Poprad/Dunajec River Basin Plan including the current status as well as a joint PoM to achieve the environmental objectives by 2021

3. If no international RBMP will be developed, briefly describe why this is the case

The next RBMP has not yet been discussed

4. Further future areas of international cooperation/coordination:

Harmonisation of the assessment of boundary water bodies

**UNECE Second assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters, page 398*

6. Additional Comments

- 1) *The Wisła basin district includes, apart from the Wisła river basin situated in the territory of the Republic of Poland, also the river basins of **Ślupia, Łupawa, Łeba (≠Łaba/Elbe), Reda** and the **other rivers flowing directly into to the Baltic Sea** to the east of Ślupia estuary, and to the Wisła Lagoon (<http://www.rdw.org.pl/river-basin-districts.html>)*
- 2) *The "IASA report"* states for the Vistula:*
 - *A treaty exists but no dedicated commission*
 - *not all riparian countries are signatories*
 - *WFD specific issues are not explicitly addressed in the treaty*
 - *No ambitions to develop an international RBMP and no shared methodologies exist / are known*
 - *Bilateral, transboundary cooperation on water management issues does exist*
- 3) *In the framework of the State Target Ecological Programme of Monitoring the Environment, Ukraine plans to optimize the monitoring network for surface waters, and to establish a Center for Monitoring of Transboundary Watercourses.*
- 4) *The Bug is connected via artificial water courses (Dnieper-Bug Canal) and the Narew river with the Dnieper and the Nemunas/Neman basin.*
- 5) *The "IASA report"* states for the Pregola*:*
 - *a treaty exists but no dedicated commission*
 - *not all riparian countries are signatories*
 - *WFD specific issues are not explicitly addressed in the treaty*
 - *No ambitions to develop an international RBMP and no shared methodologies exist / are known*
 - *Bilateral, transboundary cooperation on water management issues does exist*

Although the analysis of the IASA report (see point 8.1 of this fact sheet) mentions the Vistula and the Pregola cases only, it can be assumed that the same conditions apply for the Jarft and the Swieza too. However, in the Jarft River Basin Management Plan no bilateral agreements are mentioned. The Swieza River Basin Management Plan mentions the Polish-Russian agreement (see point 2.d.1 of this fact sheet) as applicable bilateral treaty.

**source: see point 8.1 of this fact sheet*

7. Interviewed country and RBO representatives as well as other experts

8. Sources and References

- 1) International river basin management under the EU Water Framework Directive: An assessment of cooperation and water quality in the Baltic Sea Drainage Basin, Susanna Nilsson (susanna@kth.se); International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, 2006.
- 2) UNECE Second assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters, 2011
- 3) International river basins in the Baltic Sea Region, Project part-financed by the European Union (European Regional Development Fund) within the BSR INTERREG III B Programme; February 2006 By Susanna Nilsson, Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Department of Land and Water Resources Engineering (susanna@kth.se) <http://www.baltex-research.eu/material/downloads/riverbasins.pdf>
- 4) http://www.mos.gov.pl/artykul/1761_archiwum/4944_.html
- 5) Plan gospodarowania wodami na obszarze dorzecza wisly / RBMP for the Vistula, 2011
- 6) The Bug River Corridor in the Pan European Ecological Network A Feasibility Study BBI-Matra Project 2006/015, Wageningen International

Coordination Mechanisms of International the PL-RU River Basins

1. Basic information on international river basins/sub-river basins between PL/Third Countries (RU) – Swieza, Jarft

EU Member States sharing the basins: PL

Third countries sharing the basins: RU

River Basin Districts concerned: Swieza, Jarft

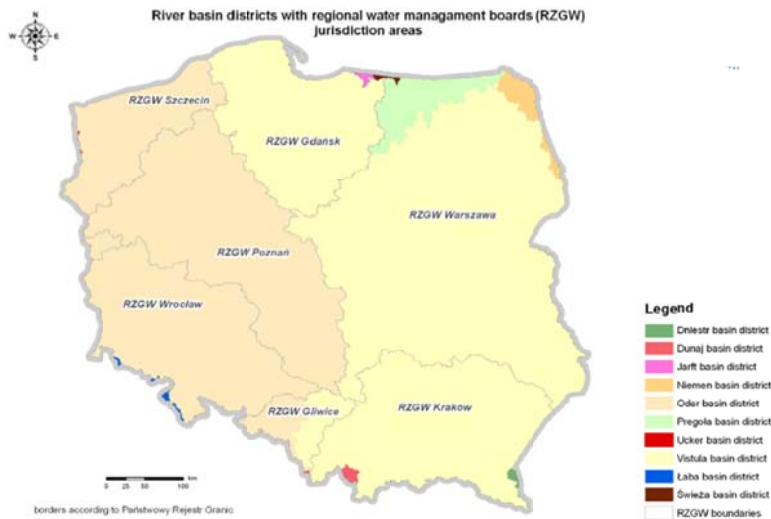


Size of the total catchment area and national shares for each international river/sub-river basin, indicating division by country and the respective RBD:

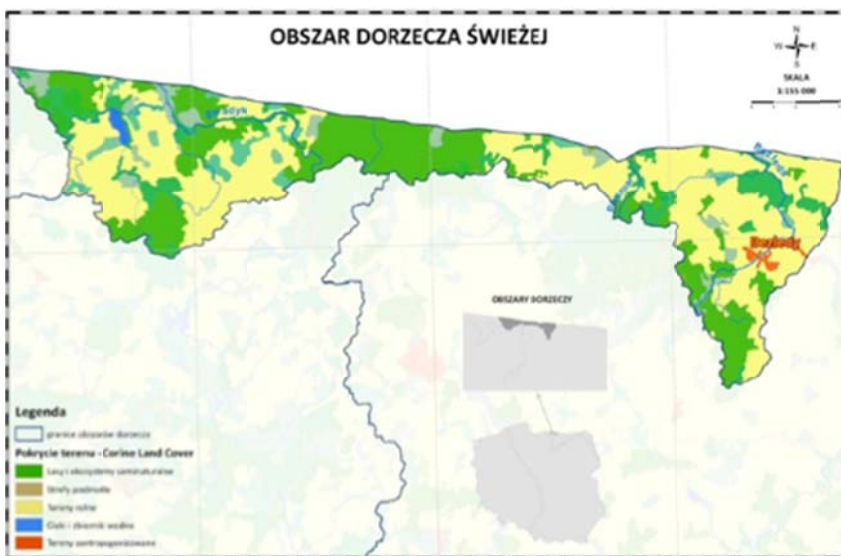
Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	Total Area of Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin (km ²)	EU Member States/Non EU Member States in International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin km ² (%)	International RBD to which International River Basin belongs
Basins with Agreement and no Coordinating Body				
Swieza	1.189	PL	162 (14%)	Swieza
		RU	1.027(86%)	
Jarft	327	PL	201 (60%)	Jarft
		RU	117 (40%)	



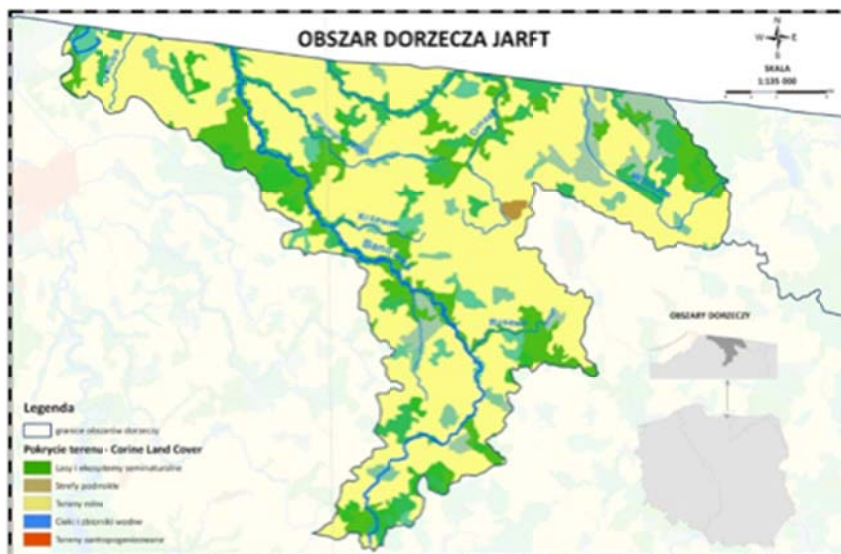
Map 1: overview of river basin districts on Polish territory



Map 2: Hydrological and administrative units in Poland



Map 3: Catchment area of the Świeża (source: River Basin Management Plan for the Świeża)



Map 4: Catchment area of the Jarft (source: River Basin Management Plan for the Jarft)

2. Cooperation Framework

2a. International agreement or convention

Information requested: Title, date of agreement, countries not covered under agreement, brief description

1. Title:

- Agreement between the Government of the Republic (Poland) and the Government of Federation on cooperation in the north-eastern provinces of the Republic of Poland and Kaliningrad Oblast (Region) of the Russian Federation (relating to environmental protection and monitoring of transboundary coastal waters). Although this agreement is only mentioned in the RBMP for the Vistula and not in the RBMP for the Swieza and the Jarft it is assumed that these agreements apply to these rivers as well.
- Former bilateral transboundary cooperation agreements date back to 1964 and 1948 (see item 2d of this fact sheet).

2. Countries under Agreement:

PL and RU

3. Countries part of basin but not covered by agreement:

--

4. Date and place of signing:

n.a.

5. Entry into force:

22 May 1992

6. Key objectives and content of agreement/convention:

The overarching 1992 agreement between PL and RU includes water issues among other cooperation tasks (e.g border relations). Several cooperation tasks have been discussed on a regional level during round table meetings.

7. Role of WFD implementation in international basins:

Assumed not to be directly addressed.

2b. Coordinating/Governing Body/River Basin Organisation

Information requested: Name(s) of Secretariat/Commission, location, working languages, website

1. Name(s):

No coordinating body is in place.

2. Operative since:

--

3. Location and address:

--

4. Working Languages:

--

5. Website:

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2c. Coordination structure

Information requested: Description of (i) organisational structure (ii) cooperation tasks (iii) expert groups (iv) regular meetings, (v) number of staff, (vi) webpage (vii) other issues.

1. Organisational structure:

(i) Verbal description

PL and RU cooperate with the 1992 Agreement. However, no detailed outlined on water management cooperation issues were found. This includes any structure of cooperation/coordination mechanism.

(ii) Organisational Structure

--

(iii) Key cooperation tasks

No information was found.

(iv) Expert groups: --

(v) **Regular meetings**

--

(vi) **Number of staff**

--

(vii) **Observers**

--

(viii) **Webpage**

--

(ix) **Other issues**

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2d. Other cooperation agreements if relevant

Information requested: Description of other national bilateral/multilateral agreements for transboundary coordination including country members

1 The following bilateral/multilateral agreements are in place besides the overall international agreement (list for each cooperating country):

Bilateral agreement Poland former USSR*:

- The agreement of the Government and the Government of the USSR People's Republic on water management on transboundary waters (Porozumienie Rządu PRL i Rządu ZSRR o gospodarce wodnej na wodach granicznych **17.07.1964** (Dz. U. z 1965 r. Nr 12, poz. 78, z późn. zm.)
Remark: This bilateral agreement is explicitly mentioned in the polish River Basin Management Plans for the Pregola and the Swieza but not for the Jarft.
- Agreement between **Poland and the USSR** concerning the regime on the Soviet-Polish state frontier, 1948***

Multilateral agreements:

- The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes done at Helsinki on 17 March 1992 ((Dz. U. z 2003 r. Nr 78, poz. 702) Ratification: (Dz. U. z 2003 r. Nr 78, poz. 703)) *
- Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (Helsinki Convention). Signature 1974, entry into force 1980*

2. Further related information

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*source: Swieza management Plan (see point 8.2 of this fact sheet) p135

**source: UNECE Second assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters, 2011

***source see point 8.5 of this fact sheet

****source 8.6 of this fact sheet

3. Key Areas of International Cooperation

3a. International River Basin Management Plan

1. WFD international River Basin Management Plan developed (Y/N)

- No international RBMP has been developed for the rivers of concern.
- It seems that the EU WFD is currently no specific subject regarding international cooperation with Russia although PL identified both the Swieza and Jarft have been identified as international RBDs under WFD Article 3.1.
- PL developed national RBMPs for the Swieza and Jarft. However, no factual cooperation and coordination activities regarding water management are mentioned in these RBMPs.

Only if an international RBMP has been developed, the below items need to be completed:

2. RBMP download link

- The national PL RBMP on the Swieza and Jarft can be downloaded under:
www.rdw.org.pl/materialy-metodyki-i-opracowania.html

3. The international RBMP is formally defined/delineated in relation to the national RBMP as follows (i.e. catchment area size, other thresholds, etc.):

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4. The national RBMP refers to implementation of international cooperation and coordination mechanisms
(List for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP):

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5. The international RBMP includes country specific information (Y/N).

If 'yes' (=country specific information is provided), list if the information is consistent with the national RBMP.

Country specific information in international RBMP (Y/N plus short description of cross reference) – list for each cooperating country

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The information provided in the international RBMP is consistent with the national RBMP

(Y/N plus short description if needed) -) – list for each cooperating country that developed a national RBMP

--

3b. Coordinated/Joint Activities

Information requested: Topics where joint development occurred, for example: SWMIs, monitoring, PoMs, objectives, public consultations, etc.; Description of the process of joint cooperation for each activity.

1 Key international cooperation activities – general description

National Polish RBMPs have been developed for both international RBDs of the Swieza and Jarft. However, both RBMPs mention the Federation of Russia only in the context of international and bilateral agreements but not in a thematic water management context. Therefore and as of date, no factual international cooperation activities between PL and RU in relation to the EU WFD implementation can be listed under this fact sheet item

2 Description of detailed coordinated/joint activities:

2.1 WFD SWMIs (Y/N). If yes, describe.

No

2.2 Coordinated/joint visions and objectives (Y/N)

No

2.3 Coordinated/transboundary monitoring (Y/N)

No

2.4 Coordinated/shared databases and/or GIS (Y/N)

No

2.5 Coordinated/joint Programme of Measures (Y/N)

No

2.6 Coordinated/joint (financial) resources to support international cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describes basic concept of joint financial resources.

No

2.6.a Basic concept of joint financial resources

2.6.b Amount of joint financial resources

2.6.c List of supported joint resources

2.6.d Country participation in joint meetings is supported (Y/N)

2.7 Coordinated/joint communication strategy and public participation activities (Y/N): No

2.8 Coordinated/joint approach to consider future water demand (WFD Annex III) (Y/N): No

2.9 Coordinated/joint approach on setting exemptions (Y/N): No

3c. Coordinated/Joint Methodologies

Information requested: Areas in which joint methodologies were developed in relation to the issues listed under 3b. In addition, other joint methodologies should be added e.g. to designate HMWBs, to define good ecological status/potential, cost effectiveness of measures and or any other issues. Include brief description of the process of cooperation for each methodology

1. The following joint methodologies have been developed

No information available.

2. The joint methodologies are formally adopted/agreed between the countries (Y/N)

No information available.

3. The joint methodologies are continuously/practically applied in the frame of international cooperation leading to harmonised results (Y/N)

No information available.

4. The following challenges currently hinder the continuous/practical application of joint methodologies:

No information available.

5. Future development of joint methodologies is planned for the future (Y/N).

If already known, list which ones.

No information available.

4. International Coordination Successes and Challenges

4a. Changes related to WFD enforcement

Information requested: Description of changes of international cooperation since WFD enforcement

1. Indicate if the enforcement of the EU WFD changed and improved joint cooperation (Y/N)

No. International cooperation agreements (see above) have developed independently from and prior to the WFD enforcement. No respective revision of the agreements seems to be undertaken and it is not clear at this stage if international cooperation between PL and RU is aligned to the WFD.

2. Cooperation areas where changes/improvement occurred through WFD

--

3. When did changes occur?

--

4b. Key Successes of coordination

Information requested: Description of cooperation successes, positive feedback loops, etc.

--

4c. Key Obstacles and Challenges to International Coordination/Cooperation

Information requested: Areas where cooperation was not successful; Areas for improvement

4. Principle key obstacles to international coordination/cooperation (Y/N). If yes, describe.

5. Current key challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(c) the past/current WFD planning cycle

No international RBMP has been developed.

(d) any other areas regarding water resources management

6. Respective areas of improvement and indication if this is planned

7. Expected challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(c) Next WFD planning cycle

(d) any other areas regarding water resources management

5. Future in international cooperation - Next steps/View towards 2nd WFD planning cycle

5a. Areas of future cooperation

Information requested: Where work has already started for the next planning cycle; New Areas of international cooperation; Whether an international plan is foreseen

1. **Outline if the development of an international RBMP according to the EU WFD is foreseen**
If so, by when (2015, 2021, 2027)
2. **First milestones that will be jointly aimed for regarding the future EU WFD implementation**
3. **If no international RBMP will be developed, briefly describe why this is the case**
4. **Further future areas of international cooperation/coordination:**

6. Additional Comments

7. Interviewed country and RBO representatives as well as other experts

No interviews (state 2012 04 17)

8. Sources and References

- 1) International river basin management under the EU Water Framework Directive: An assessment of cooperation and water quality in the Baltic Sea Drainage Basin, Susanna Nilsson (susanna@kth.se); International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
- 2) Plan gospodarowania wodami na obszarze dorzecza Świeżej / River Basin Management Plan for the Swieza basin
- 3) UNECE Second assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters, 2011
- 4) plan-gospodarowania-wodami-na-obszarze-dorzecza-jarft Świeżej / River Basin Management Plan for the Jarft basin
- 5) International river basins in the Baltic Sea Region, Project part-financed by the European Union (European Regional Development Fund) within the BSR INTERREG III B Programme; February 2006 By Susanna Nilsson, Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Department of Land and Water Resources Engineering (susanna@kth.se) <http://www.baltex-research.eu/material/downloads/riverbasins.pdf>
- 6) Plan gospodarowania wodami na obszarze dorzecza wisly / RBMP for the Vistula, 2011
- 7) Conflicting loyalties and the state in Post-Soviet Russia and Eurasia, edited by Michael Waller, Bruno Coppieters and Alexei Malaschenko, Frank Cass Publisher, 1998

COOPERATION CATEGORY 4

Coordination Mechanisms of the International EL-BG-TR River Basins

1. Basic information on international river basins/sub-river basins between EL, BG, TR

EU Member States sharing the basins: EL, BG

Third countries sharing the basin: TR

River Basin Districts concerned: East Aegean

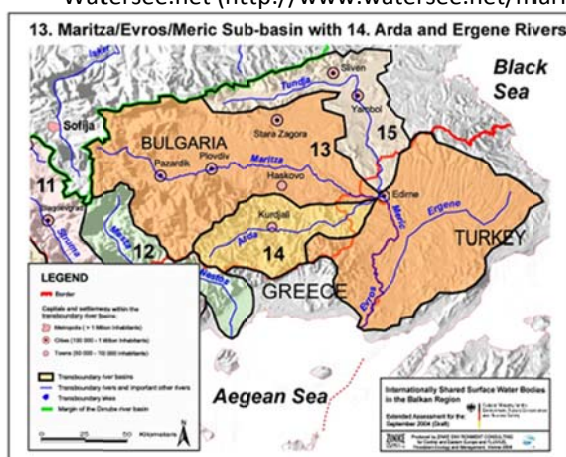


Size of the total catchment area and national shares for each international river/sub-river basin, indicating division by country and the respective RBD:

Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	Total Area of Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	EU Member States/Non EU Member States in International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin	International RBD to which International River Basin belongs
	(km ²)		km ² (%)	
Maritsa/Evros/Meric	53,220	BG	35,230 (66%)	East Aegean
		EL	3,340 (6%)	
		TR	14,650 (28%)	

Sources for area/size:

- Mimikou, M. A. (undated): FLAPP POLICY WORKING GROUP - Regional case study on Evros region (<http://www.flapp.org>).
- Watersee.net (<http://www.watersee.net/maritsza-evros-meric.html>)



2. Status of international cooperation

2a. Key Obstacles and Challenges to International Coordination/Cooperation

In case no coordination/cooperation takes place describe the obstacles and challenges

1. The following key obstacles to international coordination/cooperation can be identified:

- Importance of water availability/quantitative issues for all riparian countries.
- Lack of reliable data regarding quantitative and qualitative issues, as a base for cooperation/agreements.
- "Political tension" between Greece and Turkey, and general "political mistrust" between all three countries (although it has to be stated that the overall political situation has very much improved in the last years).
- Poor level of co-operation concerning environmental problems is also seen as an impediment for further cooperation.
- Part of the river represents the Greek-Turkish border, and is located in military-controlled areas; therefore, it is very difficult to enter the area for scientific purposes (i. E. for monitoring purposes to establish a sound data base for bilateral/multilateral agreements).
- Conflicts of interests between upper (Bulgaria) and lower (Greece/Turkey) riparian. In case Bulgaria cooperates with EL/TR on the management of dams and early flood-warning systems, the country will have to keep the dam reservoir levels at minimum levels to lessen the risk of floods, and this situation will decrease power generation potential.
- Conflicts in Bulgaria between various water using sectors (hydroelectricity, water management/environmental issues, flood management) negatively affects the transboundary cooperation.
- Turkey not signatory to the most relevant international Treaties on transboundary cooperation (Aarhus, Helsinki and Espoo Conventions).

2. Current key challenges to international coordination/cooperation can be described in relation to

(e) the past/current WFD planning cycle

The most urgent current (and future) general challenge in the Evros/Maritsa/Meric RB is the creation of an agreement regarding the coordinated management of the river basin between all three riparians.

The full adoption of RBMPs in Greece and Bulgaria, and the alignment of the national water legislation according to WFD requirements in Turkey are the current and future challenges regarding WFD issues in the Maritsa/Evros/Meric RB.

If in the course of these processes an agreement regarding the coordinated management of the river basin can be achieved remains to be seen.

(f) any other areas regarding water resources management

- Flood Prevention (problems in Greece and Turkey as the lower riparians).
- Pollution issues (untreated industrial wastewater discharges and pollution from overuse of fertilizers and pesticides in Bulgaria are also problematic in Greece and Turkey as the lower riparians).
- Meric/Maritsa/Evros delta is a Ramsar site that needs to be protected.

3. Respective areas of improvement. Indicate details, if planned:

It seems that Greece and Bulgaria are close to an agreement regarding water resource distribution (quantity) of the Meric/Maritsa/Evros.

Bulgaria and Turkey agreed to operate a joint monitoring station to measure water quantity.

If relevant, list any inconsistencies/open issues stated during interviews with country representatives or found during other investigations:

There are several bilateral agreements in place between the three countries, but no trilateral agreements. The agreements in place are:

Greece-Bulgaria: In the last decades (since 1964), there have been several agreements between EL and BG regarding the use of transboundary waters (see box 2d for details) of all shared rivers; all of these agreements, however are not in force anymore, or have never established permanent working conditions or organizations/boards.

According to the sources, all of these agreements have been replaced in 2010 by the "*Joint Declaration of the Minister of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change of the Hellenic Republic on Understanding and Cooperation in the Field of Use of Water Resources on the respective Territories of the shared River Basins between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Hellenic Republic signed on July 27th 2010*" (short: Joint Declaration).

It seems that Greece and Bulgaria are close to an agreement regarding water resource distribution (quantity) of the Meric/Maritsa/Evros.

Greece-Turkey (all signed, but not in force):

- Agreement concerning the Control of Hydraulic Works on Both Banks of the Evros/Meriç River (1934).
- Agreement related to the construction of flood control measures (1955).
- Protocol on the Rehabilitation of the Meriç River Basin Forming the Significant Part of Turkish-Greek Border in Thrace (1963).
- Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Cooperation on Environmental Protection (2001).
- Joint Declaration Between The Minister For Environment, Energy And Climate Change Of The Hellenic Republic And The Minister For Environment And Forestry Of The Republic Of Turkey (2010), to:
 - Decide to establish an ad hoc Joint Committee within two months following the signing of this Joint Declaration in order to exchange relevant information aiming at establishing, if possible, a single management plan or, at least, a single flood risk management plan for Evros / Meric river, ensuring coordination between the different management plans and measures.
 - Take necessary measures and apply best available techniques to protect the marine environment.
 - Take necessary measures to protect biodiversity.
 - Work together to adapt to climate change and reduce its adverse impact, on the basis of common and differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

Bulgaria-Turkey:

- The Agreement between the Republic of Turkey and the People's Republic of Bulgaria concerning Cooperation in the Use of the Waters of Rivers Flowing through the Territory of Both Countries established a Joint Commission authorized to settle any disputes, which might have arisen (1968).
- Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria on Long Term Economic, Technical, Industrial and Scientific Cooperation (1975).
- Protocol signed between the General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works of Turkey and the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology of Bulgaria for the installation, operation and maintenance of a flow observation telemetry station on the Maritsa River in Svilengrad, Bulgaria (2002).
- During the visit of the Bulgarian Minister of Environment and Waters in Turkey, Ankara, was presented an information about management of waters, connected with implementation of WFD (2004).

3. Future of international cooperation - Next steps/View towards 2nd WFD Planning cycle**3a. Expected future challenges regarding international cooperation***Description of the future cooperation and coordination mechanism***1. Expected challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to****(a) Next WFD planning cycle**

The adoption of RBMPs in Greece and Bulgaria, and the alignment of the national water legislature according to WFD requirements in Turkey are the current and future challenges regarding WFD issues in the Maritsa/Evros/Meric RB.

If in the course of these processes an agreement regarding the coordinated management of the river basin can be achieved remains to be seen.

(b) any other areas regarding water resources management

As above.

3b. Future plans regarding international cooperation

Description of the future cooperation and coordination mechanism

1. Future international cooperation/coordination is planned (Y/N)

Y

If yes, complete the below:

2. Areas of future international cooperation/coordination

3. Monitoring (Bulgaria/Turkey). Key coordinated activities that are planned to be undertaken

Operation of joint monitoring station of water quantity between Bulgaria and Turkey and Bulgaria and Greece.

A joint dam project between Bulgaria and Turkey (Suakacagi) was planned in the past; negotiations stopped, however; now it needs to be revitalized (for multiple benefits: hydropower, irrigation needs, flood prevention, stimulating the RB management). There are some obstacles as of the place of the dam there are identified Natura 2000 zones.

4. An international/bilateral/multilateral agreement is aimed for/will be in place. If yes, indicate details (cooperation with countries; what kind of agreement).

It seems that Greece and Bulgaria are close to a formal agreement regarding water resource distribution (quantity). Bulgaria and Greece agreed to coordinate to implement Directive 2000/60/EC and 2007/60/EC. Bulgaria and Turkey agreed to cooperate in the coordination of river basin management plans in principals of related international obligations and to coordinate and cooperate to implement a single joint flood risk management plan or separate but coordinated plans for each of transboundary river basins, focusing on protection and preparedness in accordance with the principles and recommendations related international obligations.

3c. International River Basin Management Plan

Information requested in case future international cooperation is planned: Whether an international plan is foreseen

1. Outline if the development of an international RBMP according to the EU WFD is foreseen

If so, by when (2015, 2021, 2027)

Y – till 2021 based on the signed agreements between Bulgaria and Greece in 2010 and Bulgaria and Turkey in 2012.

2. First milestones that will be jointly aimed for regarding the future EU WFD implementation

3. If no international RBMP will be developed, briefly describe why this is the case

Political cooperation shortcomings in the Evros/Meric/Mestos RB is in its initial phase/in the very beginning.

6. Additional Comments

There are bilateral agreements between TR-EL And TR-BG, dating back to the 1930s and 1960s (e. g. Agreement between Bulgaria and Turkey for cooperation in using the waters of the rivers that cross both countries, Oct. 23, 1968; in force since Sept. 25, 1970). These, however, are not very specific, and do not include any dispute settlement mechanism. Sources describe these agreements as “ad-hoc” agreements. No additional information could be found regarding these agreements.

7. Interviewed country and RBO representatives as well as other experts

26.3: Vakur SÜMER (Research Assistant at Middle East Technical University (Ankara)): Department of International Relations

28.3: Dr. Sevket COKGOR, Istanbul Technical University, School of Civil Engineering

29.3: Vasso Tsiaoussi, Greek Biotope/Wetland Centre

8. Sources and References

Cokgor, S./Ozen, B. 2010: Flooding Problem in the Meric River.

International Network of Water-Environment Centres for the Balkans (INWEB): (<http://files.inweb.gr/>).

Mimikou, M. A. (undated): FLAPP POLICY WORKING GROUP - Regional case study on Evros region (<http://www.flapp.org>).

Ministries of the Environment Turkey and Greece (2010): Joint Declaration Between The Minister For Environment, Energy And Climate Change Of The Hellenic Republic And The Minister For Environment And Forestry Of The Republic Of Turkey.

Mousmouti, M. (undated): Hellenic-Bulgarian Bilateral Agreements for the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses (www.nomosphysis.org.gr).

Mylopoulos, Y.A., E. Eleftheriadou, E.Kampragou (undated): The transboundary catchment of River Nestos and the bilateral agreement between Greece and Bulgaria (http://www.feem-web.it/transcat_conf/conf_papers/Eleftheriadou.pdf).

Mylopolus, Y. A./Kolokytha, E./Vagiona, D./Kampragou, E./ Eleftheriadou, E. 2008: Hydrodiplomacy in Practice: Transboundary Water Management in northern Greece, in: Global NEST Journal, Vol 10, No 3, pp 287-294.

Mylopolus, Y. A./Kolokytha, E. G. 2008: Integrated water management in shared water resources: The EU Water Framework Directive implementation in Greece, in: Physics and Chemistry of the Earth 33 (2008) 347–353.

ORSAM (Center for Middle Eastern Strategic Studies) 2011: EU’S Water Framework Directive Implementation in Turkey: The Draft National Implementation Plan.

ORSAM (Center for Middle Eastern Strategic Studies) 2012: Orsam Water Bulletin, Issue 63.

Papadimos K. D. 2004: Development of an Inventory of Internationally Shared Surface Waters in South-Eastern Europe (http://files.inweb.gr/workshops/presentations_pdf/surface/Papadimos.pdf).

Transboundary Waters Information Exchange Network for the Eastern Europe: Watersee.net (<http://www.watersee.net/maritza-evros-meric.html>).

UNECE (eds.) 2011: Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=26343>).

WaterWiki.net (http://waterwiki.net/index.php/Situation_in_the_new_EU-Member/Neighbour_States).

Coordination Mechanisms of the International EL-MK-RS River Basins

1. Basic information on international river basins/sub-river basins between EL and MK

EU Member States sharing the basins: EL

(eventually Third Countries)

Third countries sharing the basin: MK,

Serbia (very small parts)

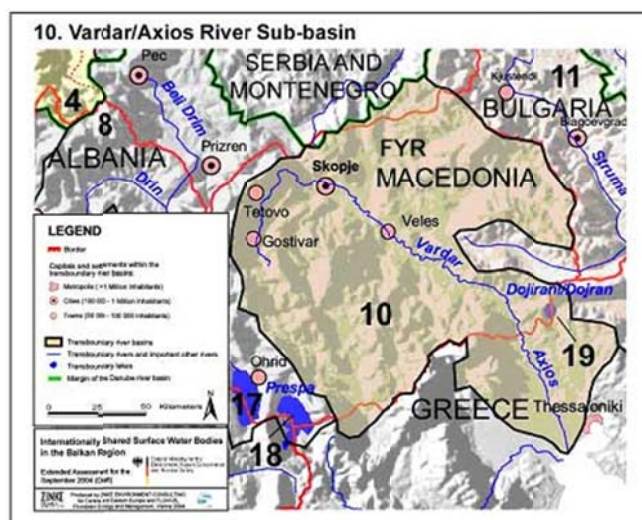
River Basin Districts concerned:

Central Macedonia



Size of the total catchment area and national shares for each international river/sub-river basin, indicating division by country and the respective RBD:

Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	Total Area of Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin (km ²)	EU Member States/Non EU Member States in International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin km ² (%)	International RBD to which International River Basin belongs
Basins with Agreement and no Coordinating Body				
Axios/Vardar	23.747	EL	3.212 (14%)	Central Macedonia
		MK	20.535 (86%)	
		Serbia	Negligible (<0,1%)	



2. Status of international cooperation

2a. Key Obstacles and Challenges to International Coordination/Cooperation

1. The following key obstacles to international coordination/cooperation can be identified:

According to the sources,

- a) "Different socio-economic conditions" and
- b) "Political tension/lack of political will" between Greece and MK impede the establishment of an agreement.

2. Current key challenges to international coordination/cooperation can be described in relation to

(g) the past/current WFD planning cycle

MK: EU accession.

Greece: finish own RBMPs.

(h) any other areas regarding water resources management

Establishing and actually implementing a formal agreement regarding the cooperation on environmental and socio-economic topics related to the water of the Axios/Vardar river, and implementing it in practice.

3. Respective areas of improvement. Indicate details, if planned:

In July 2002, the governments of EL and MK organized an "Ad-hoc meeting on transboundary waters", and envisaged:

- A: the set-up of a common system of monitoring.
- B: the establishment of a standing commission for the management of transboundary waters.

Nothing has been implemented until now, however; nevertheless, these declarations can be seen as possible future areas of coordination.

3. Future of international cooperation - Next steps/View towards 2nd WFD Planning cycle

3a. Expected future challenges regarding international cooperation

Description of the future cooperation and coordination mechanism

1. Expected challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

(a) Next WFD planning cycle

First, establish and implement a legal and institutionalized agreement.

(b) any other areas regarding water resources management

First, establish and implement a legal and institutionalized agreement.

3b. Future plans regarding international cooperation

Description of the future cooperation and coordination mechanism

1. Future international cooperation/coordination is planned (Y/N)

Y.

In July 2002, the governments of EL and MK organized an "Ad-hoc meeting on transboundary waters", and envisaged:

- A: the set-up of a common system of monitoring.
- B: the establishment of a standing commission for the management of transboundary waters.

Nothing has been implemented until now, however; nevertheless, these declarations can be seen as possible future areas of coordination.

If yes, complete the below:

2. Areas of future international cooperation/coordination

- A: the set-up of a common system of monitoring.
- B: the establishment of a standing commission for the management of transboundary waters.

3. Key coordinated activities that are planned to be undertaken

- A: the set-up of a common system of monitoring.
- B: the establishment of a standing commission for the management of transboundary waters.

4. An international/bilateral/multilateral agreement is aimed for/will be in place. If yes, indicate details (cooperation with countries; what kind of agreement).

N

3c. International River Basin Management Plan

Information requested in case future international cooperation is planned: Whether an international plan is foreseen

1. Outline if the development of an international RBMP according to the EU WFD is foreseen

If so, by when (2015, 2021, 2027)

No indication.

MK is developing the RBMP in the process of WFD implementation (with the perspective of EU accession); the plan is to finalize the work in 2-3 years; there is, however, no indication that the MK RBMP on Axios/Vardar has an international component.

Greece is just developing its own RBMPs for the first management cycle.

2. First milestones that will be jointly aimed for regarding the future EU WFD implementation

If the envisaged joint monitoring system will be established in the future, this could be the first milestone towards coordinated WFD planning as well.

3. If no international RBMP will be developed, briefly describe why this is the case

The political relations between EL and MK are not the best; before these are improving, a cooperation/international RBMP will be difficult.

6. Additional Comments

Two agreements have been signed, before the partition of Yugoslavia, between Yugoslavia and Greece concerning hydro-economy issues and the improvement of the current situation in Axios/Vardar basin. These agreements have no validity at present, since MK is now the second interested part (and did not take over the agreements as legal representative).

Informal bilateral commissions were meeting on specific problems (such commissions were repeatedly established under pressure/initiative of international donor organizations, but never generated any results or permanent working structures); such commissions have not met for several years.

7. Interviewed country and RBO representatives as well as other experts

26.3.: Vladimir Stavric, UNDP, NCSA Project manager (vstavric@mt.net.mk), Skopje, MK.

27.3.: Alexander Zinke, Zinke Environment Consulting

29.3.: Vasso Tsiaoussi, Greek Biotope/Wetland Centre

8. Sources and References

Bonazountas, M./ Vasilopoulos, V./Leivadarou, J. 2006: Registration for Information Assessment for the integral Management of the Axios-Vardar River Basin (http://www.ntua.gr/envirosystems/files/KATASTASH_14-11%20_2_.pdf).

International Network of Water-Environment Centres for the Balkans (INWEB): (http://files.inweb.gr/workshops/sub_basins/12_Nestos.html).

Mylopolus, Y. A./Kolokytha, E./Vagiona, D./Kampragou, E./ Eleftheriadou, E. 2008: Hydrodiplomacy in Practice: Transboundary Water Management in northern Greece, in: *Global NEST Journal*, Vol 10, No 3, pp 287-294.

Mylopolus, Y. A./Kolokytha, E. G. 2008: Integrated water management in shared water resources: The EU Water Framework Directive implementation in Greece, in: *Physics and Chemistry of the Earth* 33 (2008) 347-353.

Papadimos K. D. 2004: Development of an Inventory of Internationally Shared Surface Waters in South-Eastern Europe (http://files.inweb.gr/workshops/presentations_pdf/surface/Papadimos.pdf).

Transboundary Waters Information Exchange Network for the Eastern Europe: Watersee.net (<http://www.watersee.net/vardaraxios-river.html>).

UNECE (eds.) 2011: Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=26343>).

Coordination Mechanisms of the International IT-CH River Basins

1. Basic information on international river basins/sub-river basins between IT and CH

EU Member States sharing the basins: IT

Third countries sharing the basin: CH

River Basin Districts concerned: Eastern Alps



Size of the total catchment area and national shares for each international river/sub-river basin, indicating division by country and the respective RBD:

Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	Total Area of Shared International River Basin/Sub River Basin	EU Member States/Non EU Member States in International River Basin	National Shared Area with International River Basin	International RBD to which International River Basin belongs
	(km ²)		km ² (%)	
Adige/Etsch	12,100	IT	11,970 (98,9%)	Eastern Alps
		CH	(184*) 130** (1,1%)	

*concerns - according to the document: "Rapporto sintetico sui possibili aspetti transfrontalieri del piano di gestione dei bacini idrografici delle Alpi orientali.", 2009⁹ - only the catchment of the Rom/Ram from the source at Passo del Forno (Pass dal Fuorn) to its confluence with the Adige after 21km

**source: RBMPlan Eastern Alps, document name (taken from the web page of the river basin authority):

0_Relazione_Generale_Parte_I_2010_02_24 page 29

Remark: the number in the Italian eastern alps management plan is more or less confirmed by the GIS operated by the "Amt für Natur und Umwelt" of the Sivss canton Graubünden/Grgioni. According to this source the Rom catchment in Switzerland has a size of 131,75km²)

⁹ (download from

<http://www.google.at/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&ved=0CD8QFjAC&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwisa.lebensministerium.at%2Ffilemanager%2Fdownload%2F48840%2F&ei=54NxT6uAGM7KtAbV95HaDQ&usq=AFQjCNHE6bcITd5e7xozVNbmnb-XOMPTcQ&sig2=sig12SUSWII24e9obxHHuw>



Figure 2: Map of the eastern Alps catchment (taken from the strategic environmental assessment of the corresponding River Basin Management Plan, page 74, Italian title of the document PIANO DI GESTIONE DEI BACINI IDROGRAFICI DELLE ALPI ORIENTALI Valutazione Ambientale Strategica ai sensi della Direttiva 42/2001/CE RAPPORTO AMBIENTALE 18/09/09)

2. Status of international cooperation

2a. Key Obstacles and Challenges to International Coordination/Cooperation

In case no coordination/cooperation takes place describe the obstacles and challenges

1. The following key obstacles to international coordination/cooperation can be identified:

No subject for coordination; neither the catchment size nor the management issues are considered to be significant. Nevertheless the competent authorities on the Italian and Swiss side have established and maintain the appropriate mechanisms to exchange information.

Past alterations of the hydromorphology/hydraulic regime in the Rom valley have been eliminated and the status has significantly improved since then.

In addition cooperation takes place at a lower regional/municipal level for the assessment of wastewater treatment options. Activities at the state level are not considered to be appropriate for the issues under discussion.

2. Current key challenges to international coordination/cooperation can be described in relation to

- the past/current WFD planning cycle
- any other areas regarding water resources management

3. Respective areas of improvement. Indicate details, if planned: --

3. Future of international cooperation - Next steps/View towards 2nd WFD Planning cycle

3a. Expected future challenges regarding international cooperation

Description of the future cooperation and coordination mechanism

1. Expected challenges to international coordination/cooperation in relation to

- Next WFD planning cycle

Recent monitoring of the transboundary pollution (CH-IT) seems to indicate a negative trend (reasons unclear so far); assessment shows moderate status (presumably due to organic pollution).

Source: "Rapporto sintetico sui possibili aspetti transfrontalieri del piano di gestione dei bacini idrografici delle Alpi orientali, 2009".

- any other areas regarding water resources management

3b. Future plans regarding international cooperation

Description of the future cooperation and coordination mechanism

1. Future international cooperation/coordination is planned (Y/N)

No cooperation that goes beyond the scope of the currently existing consultation process is planned. Formally the consultation and information exchange has been integrated as “supplementary measure” in the River Basin Management Plan (at the sub-district level). It is the objective of such measures to “verify and harmonise the measures taken by each state in order to establish a reference framework that has more homogeneity and mutual coordination at the basin scale.”*

If yes, complete the below:

2. Areas of future international cooperation/coordination

3. Key coordinated activities that are planned to be undertaken

4. An international/bilateral/multilateral agreement is aimed for/will be in place. If yes, indicate details (cooperation with countries; what kind of agreement).

*Translated from the document *Chap1_Governance_Ita* (see point 8.2 of this fact sheet)

3b. International River Basin Management Plan

Information requested in case future international cooperation is planned: Whether an international plan is foreseen

1. Outline if the development of an international RBMP according to the EU WFD is foreseen

If so, by when (2015, 2021, 2027)

No international RBMP is foreseen.

2. First milestones that will be jointly aimed for regarding the future EU WFD implementation

3. If no international RBMP will be developed, briefly describe why this is the case

- a) For those parts of the Danube catchment, which fall into Italian territory, Italian methodologies (e.g. water body delineation) are applied as if these were part of the Adige river. However, Austria and Switzerland are integrated in the consultation process of the RBMP.
- b) For the Adige catchment beyond Italian territory no international RBMP will be developed as the share is very small (circa 130km² in the upper Val Monastero), no significant impacts exist (so far).

6. Additional Comments

In addition to the transboundary nature of the Adige (Italy and Switzerland) there are other small catchments and creeks within the Eastern Alps river basin district which do not entirely coincide with the national borders. Italy has identified the following rivers and shares of catchments as being of potential transboundary importance for the development of the Eastern Alps management Plan:

- a) Levante (381km², Timavo/Reka) (shared between Italy-Slovenia, see fact sheet IT-SI Isonzo),
- b) Isonzo (shared between Italy-Slovenia, see fact sheet It-SI Isonzo) Note LC: This is not “small”...
- c) Slizza - (shared between Italy-Austria, hydrographically Danube RBD because it discharges into the Gailitz on Austrian territory, integrated into the Italian eastern Alps Management Plan),
- d) Drava catchment (shared between Italy-Austria, 160km² of the upstream Drava are on Italian territory and belong hydrographically to the Danube RBD, integrated into the Italian eastern Alps Management Plan)
- e) Small part of the Inn catchment.

Ad Slizza:

This catchment (188km² out of 214km² total size belong to Italian territory) at the Slovenian-Austrian-Italian border actually belongs to the Danube catchment. However, the autonomous region Friuli Venezia Giulia has formally asked (nota al Ministero dell'Ambiente prot ALP 7/11910/E/15 del 28 aprile 2009) to attribute this catchment to the eastern Alps instead of the Danube catchment. As a consequence the region Friuli Venezia Giulia has proposed to include not only Slovenian and Swiss, but also Austrian competent authorities in the consultation process of the eastern Alps management plan. To ensure coordination and consultation with these countries during the implementation period of the POM, information exchange has also been integrated as a supplementary measure in the River Basin Management Plans.

Transboundary pollution issues at the Slizza concerned Lead and Zinc and other heavy metals that stem from former mining activities in Raibl. To date however, due to retention measures the concentration is significantly reduced as compared to former surveys. Nevertheless the problems at the Slizza have led to the definition of “supplementary measures” entitled “Special measures of transboundary coordination with the republic of

Austria for the quantitative and qualitative protection and purification of the waters of the torrent Slizza". In addition Austria has encouraged to organise joint monitoring regarding the pollution of the Slizza.

Ad Drava:

This 10km upstream stretch of the Drava which hydrographically belongs to the Danube catchment is attributed to the eastern Alps/Adige management plan as there are no significant pressures and thus no critical transboundary issues (wastewater of two small Italian villages receive tertiary treatment and are not considered to be an impact).

Ad Inn:

This region near the source is considered to be insignificant both, concerning the size and the pressures.

7. Interviewed country and RBO representatives as well as other experts

- 1) Remo Fehr, Amt für Natur und Umwelt Graubünden,
- 2) Jean Philippe Houriet, Bundesamt für Umwelt BAFU, Abteilung Wasser, Ch
- 3) Hugo Aschwanden Bundesamt für Umwelt BAFU, Sektion Gewässerbewirtschaftung, Ch
- 4) Andrea Braidot, authority of the upper Adriatic river basins (Autorità di bacino dei fiumi dell'Alto Adriatico)

8. Sources and References

- 1) *Adige river Management Plan, document name: 02_PG_adige_2010_02_24 (download from the Basin authority web page <http://www.bacino-adige.it>*
- 2) *Document: Chap1_Governance_Ita, download from WISE*
- 3) *Document: "Rapporto sintetico sui possibili aspetti transfrontalieri del piano di gestione dei bacini idrografici delle Alpi orientali, 2009", download from WISA- Water Information System Austria*
- 4) *strategic environmental assessment of the eastern Alps River Basin Management Plan, page 74, Italian title of the document PIANO DI GESTIONE DEI BACINI IDROGRAFICI DELLE ALPI ORIENTALI Valutazione Ambientale Strategica ai sensi della Direttiva 42/2001/CE RAPPORTO AMBIENTALE 18/09/09)*
- 5) <http://www.bacino-adige.it>