

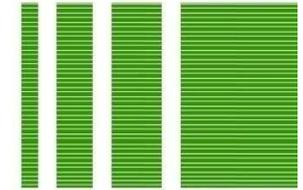
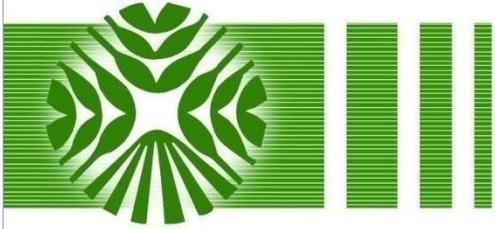
Integrated Water Management in the Republic of Bulgaria - status and priorities

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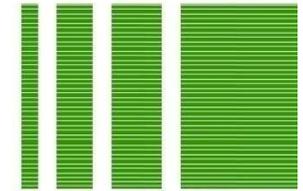


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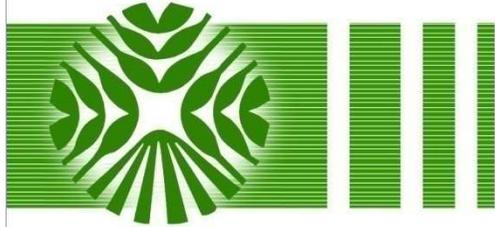
THE AIM

- The main purpose of this article is to present the integrated water management in the Republic of Bulgaria, to explore and analyze its status and to identify the basic priorities.
- The basic principles on which water management in the Republic of Bulgaria is based are:
 - ✓ Integrated management - complexity, environmental efficiency, effectiveness, priority;
 - ✓ River basin - a basic unit for water management;
 - ✓ Hierarchy of management;
 - ✓ Alternatives and effectiveness of management;
 - ✓ Legislative compliance of the adopted management principles;
 - ✓ Science service and application of a systematic approach;
 - ✓ Participation of public and the local authorities.

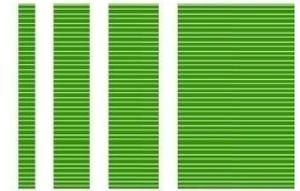


MATERIAL AND METHODS

- The study was carried out by means of presenting and analyzing the regulatory acts in the field of water management.
- For the purpose of the study the following were examined: Water Act, Directive 2000/60/EC/23.10.2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy (EU Water Framework Directive), as well as the report of the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of the water framework directive (2000/60/EC). The study of the legislative framework of the European Community and Republic of Bulgaria is related to the conservation of water resources.



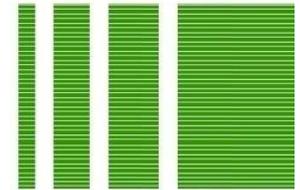
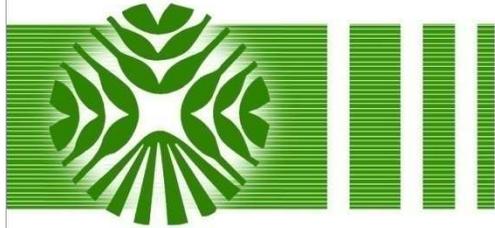
RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS



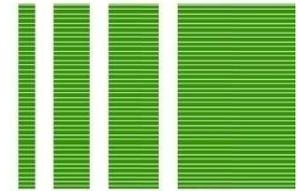
On 21.11.2012 the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria adopted National strategy for management and development of water sector, which sets out the main objectives, stages and methods of development.

To achieve the above objectives and principles for water management the following was adopted:

1. Single management at a national level of the natural resource "water".
2. Determination of a single water management at a river basin level or a river basin group level. The disputes and transfers of water between river basins shall be decided by the State authority at a national level.
3. The level "Aquaculture system" is governed by economic laws, but within the limits laid down by the basin level in compliance with the principles of effective, rational, economical and complex use of water resources.

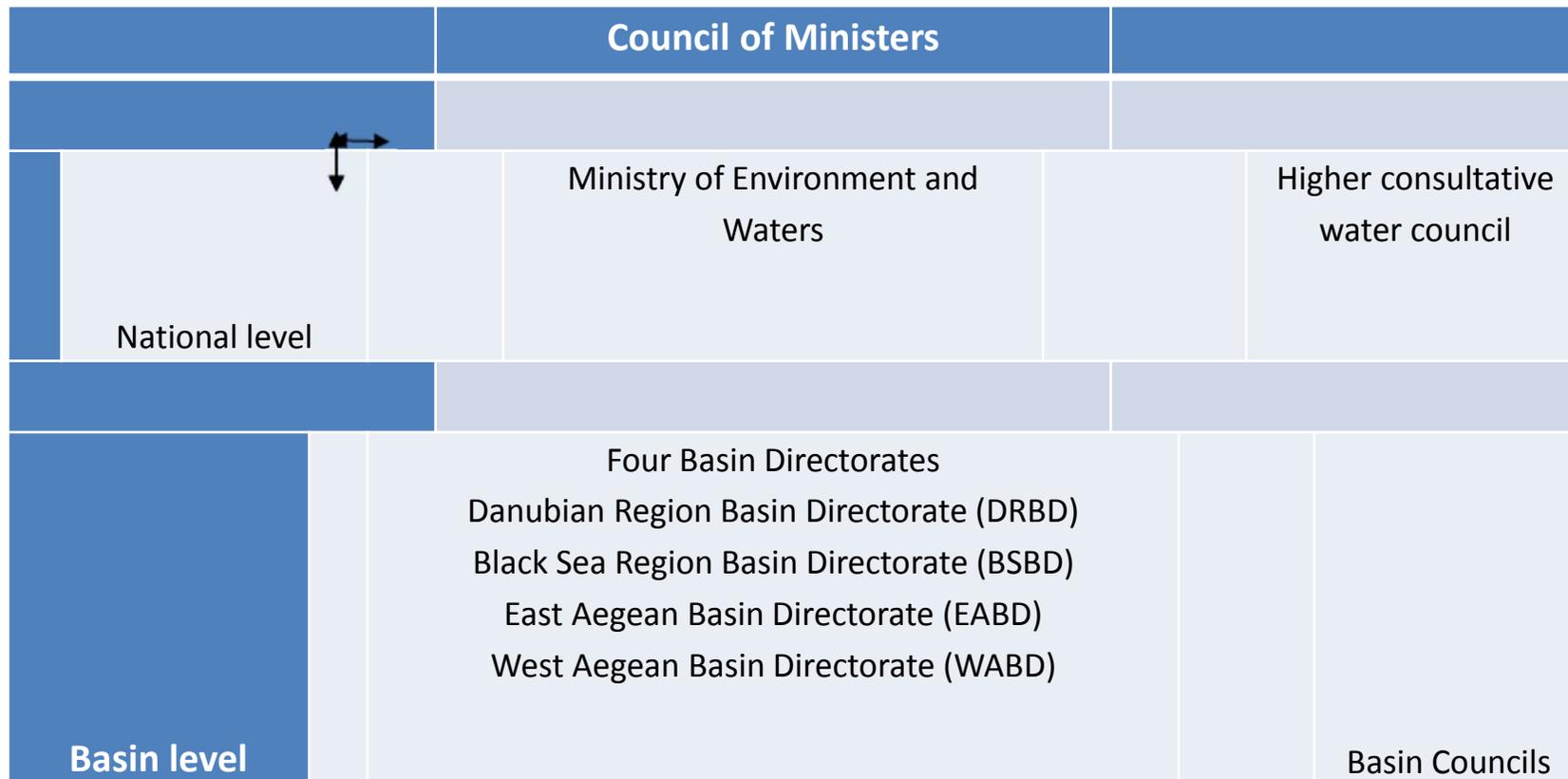


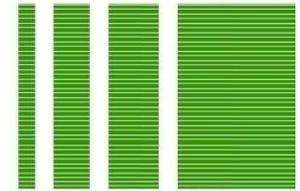
- Integrated water management requires:
 1. Development and implementation of a national policy for water management as a single and indivisible national resource on the basis of natural river basins, etc., basin management principle;
 2. A uniform national policy for the management and development of the combination of aquaculture systems and facilities;
 3. Clear regulations and application of a uniform national policy regarding the public-legal regime for the use of waters and aquatic environment and the public-legal nature of the ownership over the aquaculture systems and facilities;
 4. A uniform national policy regarding the economic regulation of water sector and financing its development.
 5. Information which shall be made available to the public about the completion of the objectives according to the defined progress indicators, about the progress achieved and the benefits to society. /Figure 1/



Water management

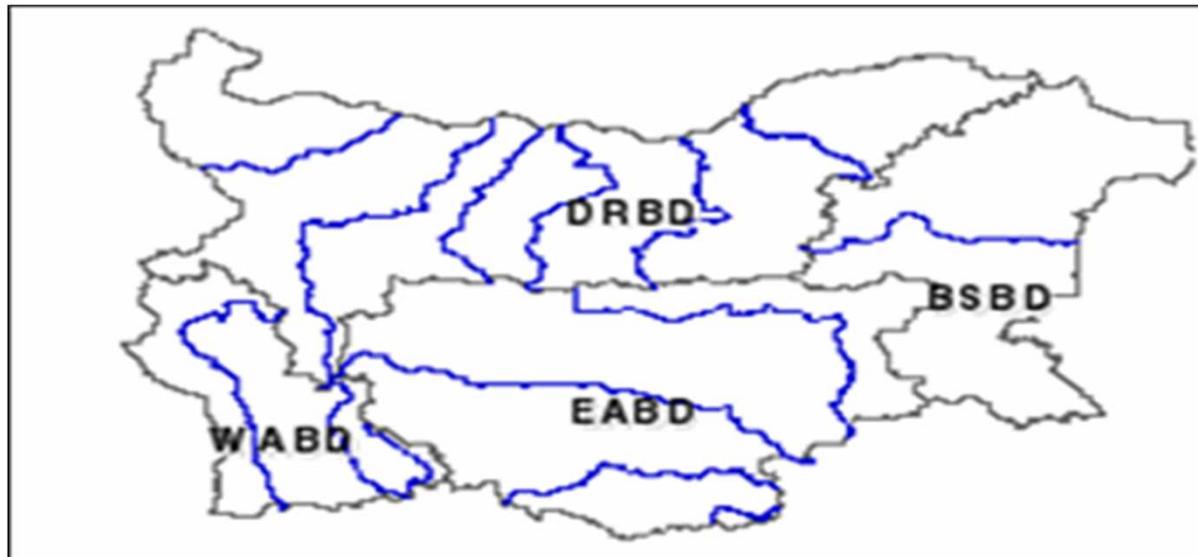
Figure 1

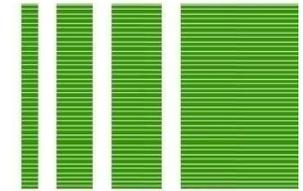




- Basin principle of water management is the modern and efficient approach to water management, both in national and in cross-border territorial scope.
- In an inter-institutional aspect however, the integrated water management requires improvement in coordination of policies and activities between institutions both at national and basin levels.

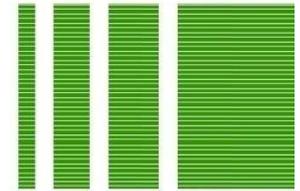
Territory of the basin directorates



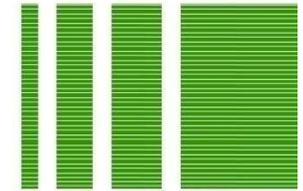
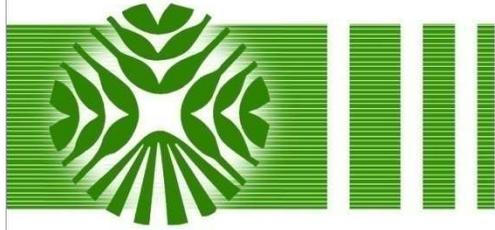


The territory of the Republic of Bulgaria is divided into four basin water management regions based on the river basin principle. For each water management region the competent body is the Basin Directorate.

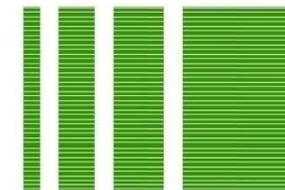
- ▶ The Danubian region, with center: city of Pleven – is responsible for the Bulgarian part of the Danube River and the rivers that flow into it.
- ▶ The Black Sea region, with center: city of Varna – is responsible for the Bulgarian part of the aquatory of the Black Sea and the rivers that flow into it.
- ▶ The East Aegean region, with center: city of Plovdiv – is responsible for the catchment of the rivers Maritsa, Tundzha, Arda and Byala.
- ▶ The West Aegean region, with center: city of Blagoevgrad – is responsible for the catchment of the rivers Struma, Mesta and Dospat.



- The river basin management plans are an essential tool for the water management at a basin level. They are planning documents prepared by the individual basin directorates for a period of six years.
- The river basin management plans have the following key features:
 - They play a major role in the characterization of the basin management region regarding surface and groundwaters and the ecosystems associated with them;
 - Water protection areas are determined - protection areas of waters intended for human consumption, protection areas of bathing waters, areas for species conservation, protected territories, etc., related to water;
 - The load of human activity is analyzed and an assessment is made of the impact on waters and related ecosystems;
 - The objectives for environmental protection are formed;
 - Programs of measures are prepared to achieve good status of surface and groundwaters and water protection areas.

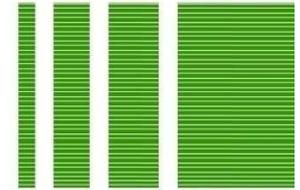
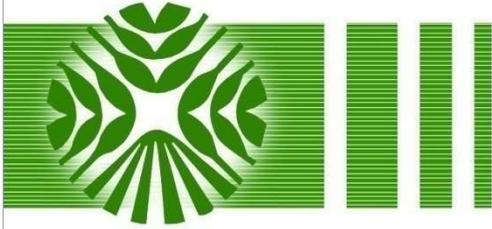


- Full harmonization will be achieved through the development of a new Water act.
- The following priorities will be settled in the new Act:
- The integrated management of quantity and protection of all waters as nationwide and indivisible natural resource from the harmful effects;
- Determination of the specific conditions concerning the protection of waters intended for drinking water supply of the population and the main public relations connected with the services provided;
- The requirements relating to the ecological potential of the water bodies (natural, modified, strongly modified or artificial);
- Clear definition of water uses and uses which require permits, detailed criteria for the issuance or refusal;
- Prevention of activities that may have an adverse impact on the status of waters and aquatic ecosystems;
- The procedures for issuing permits for water use, including their facilitation in the interest of citizens;



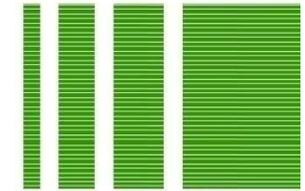
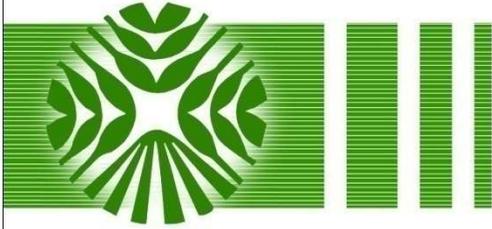
- Protection of water resources in accordance with the type of water body and the parameters which should be reached (i.e. its potential);
- Protected areas related to water resources;
- Prevention of water pollution from hazardous and noxious substances, including actions in the event of an accident;
- The amount and type of sanctions in case of violation of the Act;
- Control to carry out the requirements of the Act;
- Determining the mineral waters as an exclusive state property and the specificity when they are granted to concession, etc.





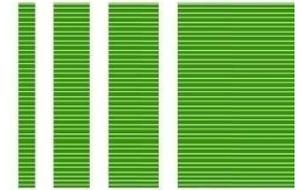
- The Act regulates the participation of the general public, including water users, in the development and updating of the river basin management plans, as well as relevant information on planned measures and progress achieved in their implementation, in order the general public to be included prior to the adoption of the final decision regarding the necessary measures.





CONCLUSIONS

- *Complete harmonization of national legislation with the specific European directives has been achieved in the sphere of waters.*
- *The Water Act of 1999 introduced the European approach to water management at a basin principle.*
- *By means of laws, global and regional conventions in the sphere of water management have been ratified in the Republic of Bulgaria.*
- *The integrated approach to water management in Bulgaria has been built on three legislative frameworks – international, European and national legislation.*
- *The integrated management of water resources will ensure their consistent use in ways acceptable to all water users in order to achieve social and economic well-being, while at the same time the sustainability of vital ecosystems is not threatened in any way.*



THANK YOU FOR THE ATTENTION!

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