



THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE (WFD)

Contents and implications

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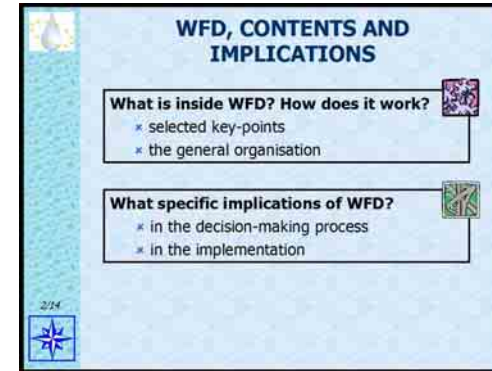
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COMMENTS

Structure of the presentation:

- part 1: What is inside WFD? How does it work?
This part will give an overview of fundamental aspects of WFD in order to understand the general organisation of the text.
- part 2: What specific implications of WFD?
Part 2 will present some of the main implications incurred by the implementation of WFD, as it will generate significant changes in the way water policies are designed

Go further



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YOUR NOTES

COMMENTS

Key ideas

Part 1 - What is inside WFD? How does it work?

For several reasons WFD is innovative text. This part provides some elements to understand the fundamental characters of this text. It will not cover each point of the directive but rather concentrate on key principles on which all the process is based.

Go further

For a detailed presentation of selected WFD's articles (those including an economic dimension), see presentation EcoEcoC.

The slide is titled "WFD, CONTENTS AND IMPLICATIONS" and is set against a light blue background with a water drop icon in the top left. It contains two main sections, each with a small icon to its right. The first section, "What is inside WFD? How does it work?", lists "selected key-points" and "the general organisation". The second section, "What implications of WFD?", lists "in the decision-making process" and "in the implementation". A small navigation icon is visible in the bottom left corner of the slide.

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YOUR NOTES

COMMENTS

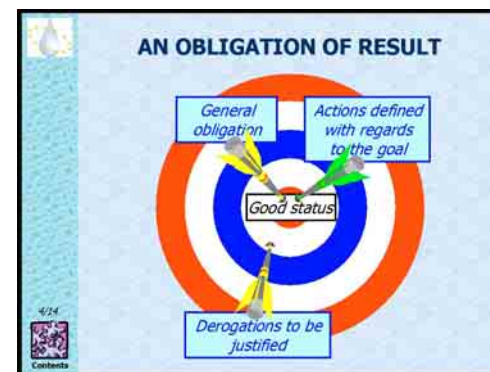
Key ideas

First key principle of WFD: an obligation of result (the good status).

Concrete consequences:

- × it is a general obligation applying a) to surface, ground and coastal waters b) all MS. It goes together with a general principle of no further deterioration
- × all actions regarding water management will be defined with regards to the gap between the initial situation and the 2015 goal
- × non-compliance with the goal (either delay or result) must remain exceptional and is to be clearly justified as the goal is a general obligation

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YOUR NOTES

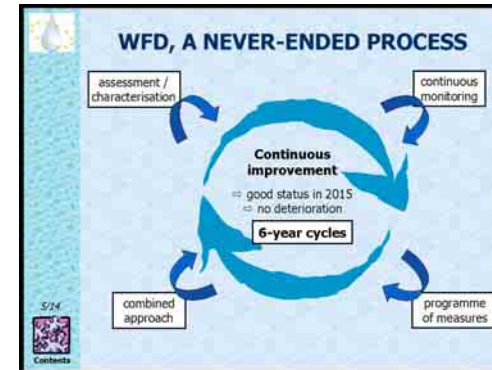
COMMENTS

Key ideas

Second key principle of WFD: a management approach:

- * a never-ended process: the job is never totally completed as a) a general principle of no further deterioration applies b) results achieved must be maintained in time c) new pressures may appear d) uses may change...
- * a cyclic process: it will be updated on a 6-year basis from 2015 on
- * a continuous improvement: the knowledge of the situation and the general process will continuously be fed by several inputs coming from the implementation (data generated by the monitoring, regular assessment of the results achieved...)

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YOUR NOTES

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Third key principle of WFD: transparency at different levels/stages:

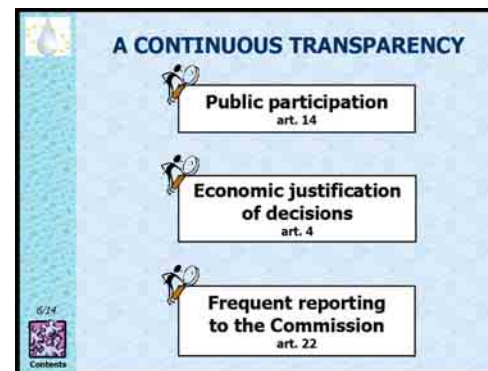
- × active involvement of all interested parties in the implementation : information must be made available, consideration of opinions and comments must be ensured...
- × all specific and key decisions must be clearly justified on an economic basis (e.g. demonstration of the disproportion of costs...): derogations, designation of HMWB...
- × MS must report regularly to the Commission on the implementation of WFD

Economics are one source of transparency as they provide information lately used as a basis for debates (e.g.: recovery of costs).

Go further

"Guidance on public participation in relation to the water framework directive", CIS working group 2.9, December 2002 (main text + annexes)

http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/env/wfd/library?l=/framework_directive/guidance_documents&vm=detailed&sb=Title



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YOUR NOTES

COMMENTS

Key ideas

This slide provides a flow chart of the complete procedure and locates economic inputs:

- the black straw indicates the main tasks to be done
- the red straw refers to documents to be produced. Reporting is listed in the "actions" group as it is a duty and not a document;
- the blue one presents specific actions to be carried out.

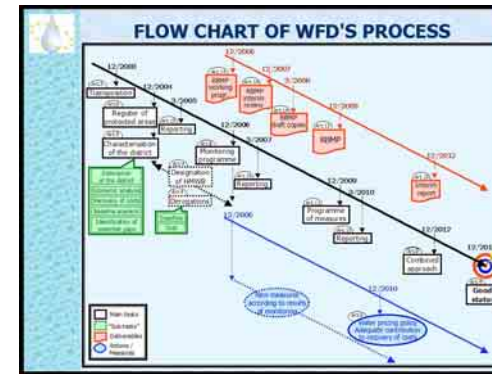
As one can see, economic input is very important. Of course, all inputs referred to here don't have the same importance. However, it is important to see that economics are present all along the procedure: it is not a punctual but a continuous contribution. Economists thus have to be included in "WFD action teams" and cross exchanges of experience are needed between water professionals, decision-makers and economists. Specific efforts will also have to be made to ensure good understanding by the public.

Notes

This slide is based on a chronological presentation. However, depending on the needs, parameters of the animation may be changed in order to present one straw after the other for instance.

It is not intended here to detail the all WFD procedure but only to locate economic input. Though some comments may be made regarding WFD in general or some specific aspects (derogations, pricing...), the estimated duration of the presentation (45') doesn't include a long explanation of the current slide.

Go further



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YOUR NOTES

COMMENTS

Key ideas

One innovation of WFD, which impacts all stages of the implementation, is the continuous necessity to move back and forth from one scale to the other.

This is not only true from a hydrological point of view (what is not seriously surprising), but also from a socio-economic and an administrative one. Although this is fully justified from a theoretical point of view (all issues can't be dealt with at the same scale), it will raise lots of difficulties. E.g. data will sometimes be available at local scale (e.g. price of water at utility scale) and sometimes at very large scale (e.g. turnover of water companies at national scale).

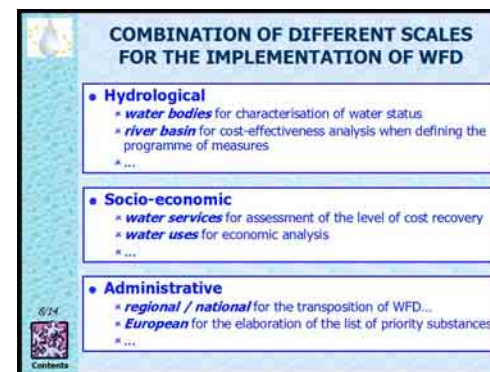
The outputs required at each step will thus demand a continuous adaptation and the implementation of methodologies to allow (dis)aggregation.

The same statement is true for several other aspects:

- actors involved will not always be the same,
- citizens' interest will often depend on the scale of the issues,
- analysis will often be carried out at district scale but assessment of the quality of water will be done at water body scale, etc.

Go further

Presentation WP-EcoA provides elements regarding the scale issue applied to data collection and use.



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COMMENTS

Key ideas

WFD identifies 3 geographic levels for water management:

- district for the general approach: characterisation, issues at stake, trends...
- sub-basin, sector or type of water at lower scale where specific policy is needed
- water body to evaluate the quality of water and the achievement of the goal.

Specific cases are addressed at water bodies scale: HMWB, derogations.

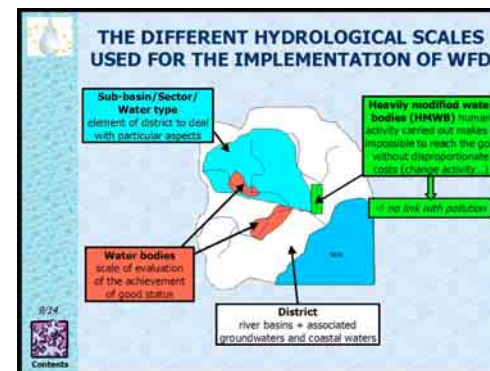
The question of scale is fundamental under WFD, as there is a continuous back and forth move from one level to the other. E.g.: identification of problems at district scale, determination of relevant measures at water bodies scale, reporting at district scale...

Go further

Guidance documents:

- "Identification of River Basin Districts in Member States", CIS working group 2.9, August 2002
- "Identification of water bodies", CIS working group 2.9, January 15 2003
- "Identification and designation of heavily modified and artificial water bodies", CIS working group 2.2, January 14 2003

http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/env/wfd/library?l=/framework_directive/guidance_documents&vm=detailed&sb=Title



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YOUR NOTES

COMMENTS

Key ideas

Implementation of WFD follows a logical path:

- × characterisation of the district, determination of trends by 2015 and of the potential status of water
- × identification of gaps with the "good status" goal
- × determination and implementation of measures to fill the gap
- × continuous assessment of the results and update of the measures

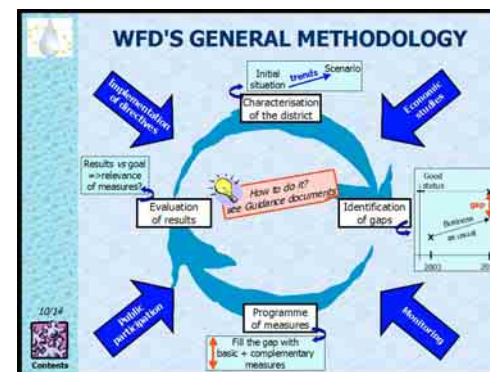
All the process is fed by several inputs and is submitted to public's attention and to Commission's review.

Go further

All guidance document provide useful information and case studies for all stages of the implementation

http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/env/wfd/library?l=/framework_directive/guidance_document&vm=detailed&sb=Title

Results from the testings carried out until the end of 2004 in the pilot river basins in the frame of the second phase of CIS (working group 2B - Integrated river basin management)



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YOUR NOTES

COMMENTS

Key ideas

Part 2-What implications of WFD?

It has been showed that WFD introduces lots of changes and of novelty in water management. Although all the set of presentations focuses on economic aspects, similar statements may be done regarding other aspects: methods for the appraisal of water quality, public participation, etc.

The intensive use of economics significantly impacts the way water policies will be designed. Part 2 focuses on such implications.

WFD, CONTENTS AND IMPLICATIONS

What is inside WFD? How does it work?

- × selected key-points
- × the general organisation

What implications of WFD?

- × in terms of methods
- × in terms of instruments used

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YOUR NOTES

COMMENTS

Key ideas

One key change induced by the WFD is a methodological one. Three implications are suggested here, which cover a wide scope of aspects:

- a structured process: WFD launches a cyclic and never-ended process and describes precisely the method to apply. For more elements on this aspect see WP-WaterA presentation;
- an open process, that involves all types of actors who have some interest in water issues and that is *de facto* (if not word by word) connected to all aspects of water management, from quality to pricing, from quantity to environmental benefits, etc.
- key decisions, particularly when they lead to non-respect of WFD, will have to be justified what means a clear basis for justification, transparency vis-à-vis local actors as well as the Commission. All this implies a debate thus. Although in some cases economic analyses will be partial (e.g. due to lack of data), decision-makers and all actors involved will be aware of this, and will take this into account when debating and when deciding.

All this is of great novelty and will impact decision-making process, existing relationships among actors, methods, procedures, etc.

Go further

NOVELTY IN TERMS OF METHODS

- **A structured process**
 - global process: long-term and cyclic approach
 - connections with other European policies: CAP, regional, etc.
 - stringent step by step methodology
- **An open process**
 - involvement of professionals, experts and stakeholders
 - all aspects of water management at hydrological scales
 - unusual issues to be debated: disproportion of costs, recovery of costs, cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit ratios...
- **Clear justification of important decisions**
 - HMWB, derogations...
 - based on "objective" arguments: efficiency, benefits, ability to pay of citizens...

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Implications

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COMMENTS

Key ideas

A subsequent consequence of novelty induced by WFD is the use of unusual tools.

It is clear that economic instruments are generally not used that intensively with such a high degree both of interaction of the technical approach and of integration in the decision-making process. A specific point is that the higher the risk of non-compliance with WFD will appear, the more intensive the use of economic tools will be necessary.

Closely connected to this first statement is the fact that water pricing policies may be officially used as a tool to interact on uses of water. If this sometimes happen, it is still quite unusual and is not often clearly stated.

Last but not least, the use of scenario is also unusual in this sector. It raises methodological questions (how to cope with uncertainty, regarding for instance the evolution of the quality of water by 2015?) and it will be fundamental as it will allow to identify potential gaps with the goal. It will be necessary to make all actors understand the limits of the use of scenarios, the methods applied and their implications (what it means if data come from experts saying instead of formal statements?).

Once again, all this is a great factor of novelty in water policies.

Go further

NOVELTY IN TERMS OF INSTRUMENTS

- **Construction and use of baseline scenario**
 - horizontal approach: impacts of other policies on water
 - water policy as a driver for evolutions: choices regarding water with impacts on other policies
- **Economic tools**
 - cost-benefit and cost-efficiency analyses
 - understanding of specificities and of outputs
- **Unusual use of prices**
 - pricing policies as a tool aiming at a specific goal
 - assessment of environmental costs; damages, resource cost...

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Implications

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YOUR NOTES

COMMENTS

Key ideas

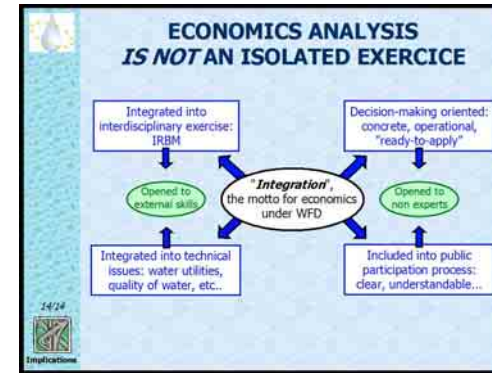
This slide intends to stress on the "integration" factor, which is fundamental in the economic side of the WFD process (if not in the all process):

- economics must be deeply integrated in the implementation process, and not considered as an isolated exercise. This is made necessary by WFD itself, which imposes to carry out economic analyses prior to derogation procedures for instance. As a consequence, it is not possible to work on economic aspects without working together with water experts, as it is a "eco-technical" procedure.
- economics must also be integrated in the decision-making process what means easy understanding by all actors but also requires to do much more than simply deliver results of analyses: bias of the analyses, methods applied and implications, etc. have to be explained to decision-makers at least. It is not possible to remain on the theoretical side: economic information is expected to directly feed the decision-making process.

This integration duty is to be clearly understood by all actors:

- economists, who will have to adjust their methods and to share their knowledge;
- decision-makers who will have to use economic information together with other information and not to consider it as the decision. they will also have to pay interest to economic issues;
- water professionals who will also have to open to economic methods, wording, tools, etc. and to share their "technical" knowledge with economists

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