

# Implementation of Water Framework Directive in Greece: Opportunities and Challenges

Ministry for the Environment,  
Physical Planning and Public Works

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# Water Framework Directive:

A revolutionary approach in the field of water  
resource management

# WFD: The New Opportunities

- Prevention of further deterioration and achievement of good status for all waters
- Promoting water management and use sustainability
- Restructuring administrative framework
- Rationalizing water costs
- Long term planning in Water Resources Management
- Involvement of the greater public in the protection of the environment
- Promoting economic sustainability

# WFD: Major Concerns

- Clarification of complex actions and implementation processes
- Scientific, practical and technical issues requiring further elaboration
- Strict time schedule

# A major constraint: Strict time schedule

2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015

- Economic analysis of water uses
- Assessment of current level of cost recovery

- Gaps from the environmental objectives
- Cost of measures to reduce those gaps

- Assessment of the effect on cost recovery

- Selection of measures and assessment of costs
- Cost effectiveness analysis of measures
- Presentation of the river basins management plans

- Programme of measures for each river basin and cost
- Publication of river basin management plans

- Water pricing policies
- Appropriate contribution of water uses

- Measures implementation

- Reassessment of effects

- **Good quality of inland waters**

Repeated every 6 years

# Problems and Challenges Encountered during Implementation of WFD in Greece

- The harmonisation of the National Legislation
- Unprepared administrative structures
- Lack of technical data and experience
- The achievement of the WFD objectives, adjusted to the particularities of the Greek region

# Implementation in Greece: The key issues

## River Basins

- Identification of River Basins
- Establishment of competent authorities

## Pricing - Penalties

- Providing adequate incentives for efficient use
- Achieving cost recovery
- Imposing penalties
  - Effective, proportionate and dissuasive

## Analysis and Review

- Analysis of characteristics
- Review of impact of human activity
- Economic analysis of water use

## Public Participation

- Encouragement of active involvement of all interested parties
- Development and publication of draft RBMPs

# Particularities of the Greek Region

- Unequal distribution of resources
- Extensive coastline
- River Basins of small size
- Over-exploitation and salinization of groundwater
- Transboundary river basins
- Unequal distribution of population
- Seasonality of demand
- Large number of regions with water scarcity problems
- Increased irrigation demand



# Particularities of the Greek Region

- Capacity shortage in managing water resources
- Fragmentation of roles, according to existing administrative structures
- Insufficient legislative framework, not implemented to a large extent
- Limited public awareness on water issues

# New and Scheduled Interventions for the WFD Implementation

# Actions in Progress

- New law on water
- Pilot implementation of the Directive in a river basin
- Restructuring of the Water Quality and Quantity Monitoring Programs
- Interregional water issue management strategic planning
- Updating of the National Qualitative and Quantitative water data bases
- Categorization and determination of Reference Conditions of aquatic bodies

# Transposition of WFD into National Legislation

# The Challenge

- Establishment of a modern and effective legislative framework
- Development of long term planning in Water Resources Management
- Decentralization of management to the River Basin units
- Harmonization of the National Legislation with WFD

# New Administrative Framework

# Government

*National level*

**Minister of Environment**

**National  
Water  
Committee**

**National  
Water  
Council**

**Cooperation**  
M. Interior  
M. Agriculture  
M. Development  
Min. Health

**M. Environment.**

**National  
Water  
Directory**

**N.G.O.  
Public**

**General Secretary of Region**

**Technical  
Support**  
G. Geolog. Inst  
P.P.C. SA  
H.C. Marine R.  
Universities  
EYDAP SA  
...

**Regional  
Water  
Directories**

**Regional  
Water  
Councils**

*Region*

# Implementation of Pinios Pilot River Basin Project

- Pilot implementation of the Directive in a river basin



Learning about the implementation of the WFD (front runner of the actual implementation).

Identification of the technical and management problems that may come up in real cases of the implementation of the WFD and development of pragmatic solutions to these problems.

Testing of the practicability and efficiency of the GDs in Greece before they are widely applied.

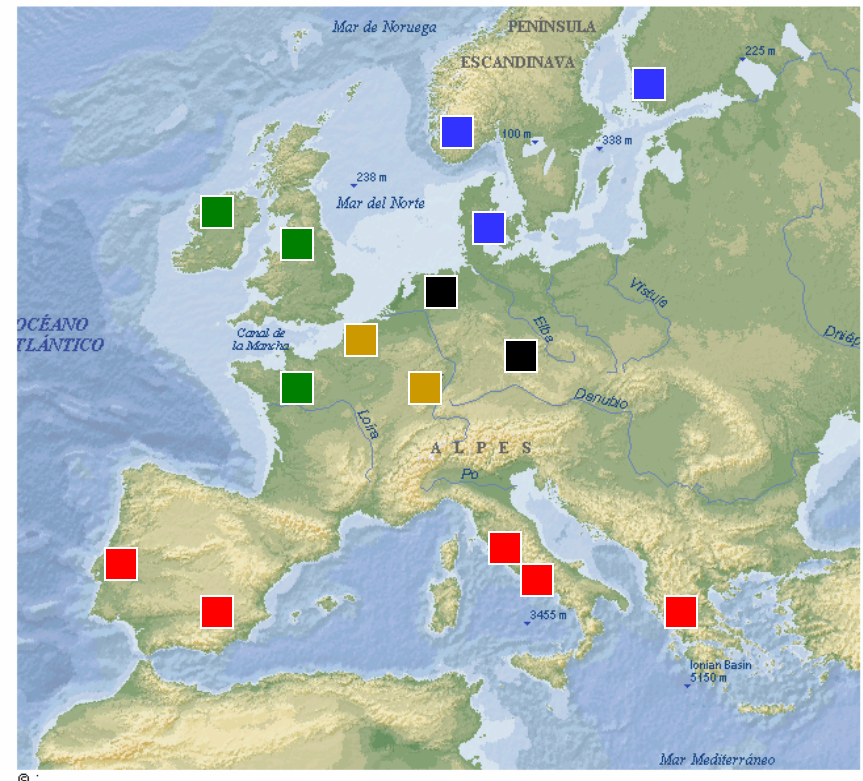
Attain a concrete example of the application of the GDs in Greece.

Inform the interested parties about the implementation of the WFD, through real circumstances and allow the stakeholders to be involved in the early implementation.

Inform the general public about the aspects and the objectives of the WFD.

# Integrated Testing of Guidance Documents in Pilot River Basins

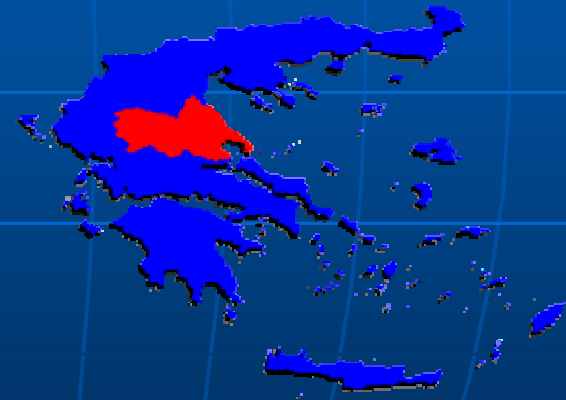
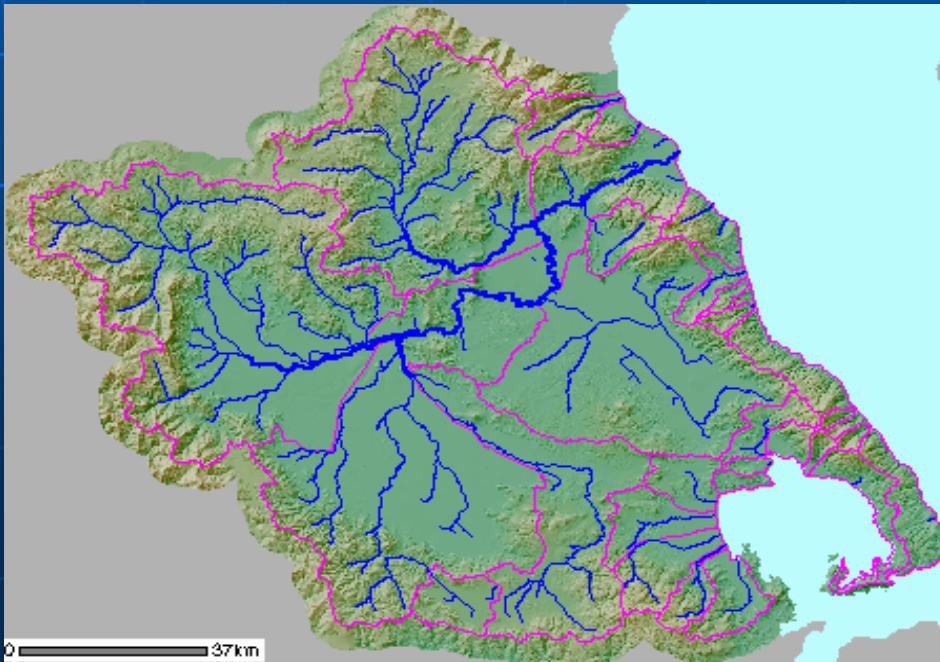
- Scheldt (B, F, NL)
- Moselle-Sarre (D, F, Lux)
- Marne (France)
- Shannon (Ireland)
- Ribble (England)
- Odense (Denmark)
- Oulujoki (Finland)
- Suldalsvassdraget (Norway)
- Guadiana (Portugal)
- Júcar (Spain)
- Pinios (Greece)
- Cecina (Italy)
- Tevere (Italy)
- Somes (Hungary, Romania)
- Neisse (CZ, D, PL)



© :

# Pinios Pilot River Basin

**Total Surface Area: 10.550 km<sup>2</sup>**



# Total Water Availability: 3.209 Mm<sup>3</sup>

- 2.596 Mm<sup>3</sup> surface water
- 613 Mm<sup>3</sup> groundwater

## Water Uses:

- ✓ Agriculture: 96%
- ✓ Water Supply: 3,3%
- ✓ Breeding: 0,7%

More Information:

[http://www.minenv.gr/pinios\\_river.html](http://www.minenv.gr/pinios_river.html)

# Involvement of Public and Stakeholders

Their contribution to successfully implement WFD

# Public Participation

Opportunity to analyse different levels of public participation:

- Effective participation and contribution from the interested parties.
- Enhance their understanding of the different elements related to the implementation process.

## Public consultation

- Public consultation is legally binding according to the new legislation on water: Appointment of National and Regional WaterCouncil in which several NGO's and stakeholders will participate.



## Possible Implications:

- PP may complicate negotiations
- Participatory processes could take a lot of time and money
- Lack of willingness to participate

# Conclusions

- It is up to each Member State to review the status and the particularities of its water resources and develop its own national implementation strategy.
- The WFD provides Greece with an opportunity for introducing and implementing water policies that enhance the sustainability of the water resources.■
- The effective implementation of the WFD in Greece, presupposes:
  - the appropriate infrastructure,
  - great effort,
  - long term planning,
  - new way of thinking,
  - allocation of adequate financial resources,
  - political will.