



RESEAU INTERNATIONAL DES ORGANISMES DE BASSIN
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS
RED INTERNACIONAL DE ORGANISMOS DE CUENCA



CEE NBO

Central and Eastern European Network of Basin Organization



2015 대구·경북 세계물포럼
7th World Water Forum 2015



National Administration
"APELE ROMANE"



The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
Department of Waters, Forests and Fishery



The National Institute of Hydrology
and Water Management

**12th "EUROPE-INBO" INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE
IMPLEMENTATION**

**Bucharest, Romania
12 - 15 November 2014
RAMADA MAJESTIC Hotel******

"EUROPE-INBO DECLARATION OF BUCHAREST"

The 12th conference of the "EUROPE-INBO" group took place in Bucharest, Romania, from 12 to 15 November 2014, at the invitation of the Romanian Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, the National Agency "APELE ROMANE" and the National Institute of Hydrology and Water Management. It gathered 134 participants, representatives of national administrations and basin organizations as well as of NGOs, companies, international and regional organizations, coming from 33 countries.

The work of the conference was organized around four roundtables addressing the following issues:

- * Preparation of the WFD 2nd Basin Management Plans (2016 – 2021);
- * Natural Water Retention Measures and River Restoration;
- * Implementation and funding of Programs of Measures;
- * Water governance in Transboundary Basins.

Prior to the EUROPE-INBO conference, two workshops were organized:

- * A technical workshop on river restoration and Natural Water Retention Measures:

- * A workshop on the European regional process of the 7th World Water Forum.

These issues were mentioned during the general assembly of the EUROPE-INBO members.

The conference allowed reminding that the preparation of the next management plans required integrating water quantity issues, adaptation to climate change and better coordinating the directives between themselves to ensure a link with sectoral policies (agriculture, energy, navigation...). Just before implementing the second management plans, coordination with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the Flood Directive appears essential.

The participants were pleased with the holding of joint meetings between the Water, Marine Environment and Nature Managers at European level and with the organization by the European Commission of a joint workshop on water, nature and marine strategy in December 2014 to think about coordinating the directives implementation in these three sectors.

Since the release of the Blueprint, there has been a better consideration of the quantitative issues in WFD management plans and tools. This is particularly the case through the production of guidance documents on water accounts. The development of scarcity and drought management plans in other Member States shows that they are going in the same direction.

Communication with populations about progress made in the status of water bodies in 2015 is to be increased insofar as that recovering good status will take time.

Non-point source pollution and hydro-morphology are significant pressures affecting rivers. To move forward, it is necessary to progress towards the integration of European texts (CAP, Flood Directive, Habitats Directive, Birds Directive and the Renewable Energy Directive) and to think about improving the coordination of the implementations of these policies. Better integrated basin management is necessary to implement measures such as the restoration and maintenance of water ecosystems by natural means or Natural Water Retention Measures, effective to improve water status and flood management.

On this issue, answers are to be given on links and exchanges between sectors to better integrate different policies, communication on the various benefits of approaches to restore rivers, Natural Water Retention Measures, the mobilization of partners from other sectors, the work scale and the tools available in different countries to facilitate the measures to restore rivers.

In addition, better commitment of local communities in ecosystem restoration projects is needed with a greater mobilization of the elected representatives in these projects.

The EUROPE-INBO members noted that lack of knowledge and awareness of the effectiveness and multiple benefits of the Natural Water Retention Measures is an obstacle to their implementation on a large scale.

The integration and coordination of planning across sectors and at different levels are vital for many European policies. To take full advantage of the multiple benefits, the Natural Water Retention Measures should take into account the plans established for Basin Management, Flood Risk, Natura 2000 and the Rural Development Programs.

The participants underlined the importance of consistency between the measures taken to achieve environmental objectives and the policies and practices of the agricultural sector.

The ongoing preparation of the Rural Development Plans is an opportunity for taking measures for improving river water and hydro-morphology. The participants asked the water managers to be closer to their colleagues of the agricultural sectors to include financing measures that benefit both water and the agricultural sector but also to limit the financing of some measures that could have negative effects on the ecological quality of water bodies.

The next Management Plans should be based on a more exhaustive economic analysis of pressures and on adequate quantification of costs and impacts of the measures needed to comply with the objectives of the WFD. For this purpose, it is necessary to establish clear and transparent methodologies, improve common knowledge, but also, if needed, to agree on a practical guide under the CIS to complete and update the WATECO guidance document.

The Convention on the law relating to the use of international watercourses for purposes other than navigation, adopted by the United Nations in 1997, entered into force on 17 August 2014. The EUROPE-INBO Members welcomed its entry into force and reiterated their commitment to see an effective implementation of this convention as well as of UNECE Water Convention which are a solid basis for international cooperation for transboundary basins.

Whatever the scale, good knowledge and easy access to data and information on the status and evolution of water resources and of their use is a key to a successful water policy. For better communicating with the decision makers and the general public, the members of EUROPE-INBO group insisted on the need for developing tools for data interpretation. The participants recommended increasing the exchange of experience on the ways of producing and sharing comparable data among stakeholders at the national level, as well as on the tools and methods used for the analysis and interpretation of data and the dissemination of knowledge to decision makers and the general public.

With regard to the Flood Directive, it was reminded that it requires coordinated Flood Risk Management Plans in each basin.

The participants also reminded the importance of involving stakeholders and the public from the start of processes. Appropriation by all users of water policies and of the resulting measures are essential to advance and increase efficiency.

For this purpose, access to monitoring results and knowledge of water and aquatic environments should be facilitated to a wider public.

The monitoring program could be a communication tool in itself if based on standardized methods improving the understanding, comparison and use of information.

The participants also stressed that the indicators used to characterize the status of water bodies are too general. They do not reflect the effectiveness of the actions undertaken during the WFD cycle. There is also a real need for less aggregated indicators that could be used effectively at local and national level. They would allow a better understanding of the results of the significant efforts made.

The "EUROPE-INBO 2014" conference is a new important step for assessing implementation and for formulating sound proposals to improve WFD implementation in the next cycles, especially for the 2016-2021 period.

The recommendations will also feed the preparatory work for the 7th World Water Forum to be held in South Korea in April 2015.