Report to SCG, 6th November 2008
Conclusions of the 2008 EUROPE-INBO
Conference on WFD implementation
(1-3 October 2008, Sibiu, Romania)
International Network of Basin Organizations:

Created in 1994 to facilitate operational exchanges between BO

EUROPE-INBO Group for WFD

Central and Eastern European Network of Basin Organizations (CEENBO)

Mediterranean Network (MENBO)

188 FULL MEMBERS or PERMANENT OBSERVERS in 68 COUNTRIES
Sibiu, 195 participants, from 27 countries

- Basin Organizations, national administrations, international commissions, researchers, NGO, ...

- An active participation of non-EU countries!

- 33 communications, fruitful exchanges

- 3 workshops:
  - Elaboration of Programmes of Measures
  - Implementation of the Floods Directive
  - WFD implementation in transboundary basins
Key messages - Programmes of Measures (PoM) -

- Elaboration: at relevant scale - large basin + sub-basin level & should involve local politico-administrative stakeholders as frontliners of future implementation.

- Operational phase of implementation: essential role of local stakeholders !!!

- Need for increasing mobilization of local State Services

- Time factor: take into account necessary time to realize actions and obtain positive results (uncertainties about real efficiency of measures) and launch measures asap (since 2015 is tomorrow !)

- Call for a true mobilization in agriculture, difficult to obtain good status without a real reform of CAP

- Increase means devoted to wetlands & hydromorphology + groundwaters

- Promote measures for quantitative issues (water scarcity and drought)
Key messages
- Programmes of Measures -

- **Need for realistic objectives**: Huge cost! who will pay & how much?
- A significant % of WB would not reach good status in 2015

*Question*: With your current level of knowledge, which % of water bodies reaching good status do you think to reach in your basin in 2015?

- **Financing capacities**: condition for the realization of objectives
- Need for a common approach between BO on exemptions and extensions of delays
Key messages

- Floods Directive -

- A necessary change of mentalities: control & defence → integrated prevention and risk management

- A need for close coordination between Floods Directive and WFD but pbs because administrations are often ≠

- Integration must start from the 1st RBMP (2009) with the inclusion of elements of Floods management plans

- Invested amounts in efficient prevention avoided damages, but pb for exceptional floods! (increasing frequency)

- Need to increase exchanges of knowledge & good practices esp. for transboundary basins
Key messages
- WFD in transboundary basins -

WFD inputs...

- Dissemination of river basin managt & IWRM all over Europe
- Delimitation of International RBD
- A common planning frame
- Positive role of international commissions and bilateral agreements

For the first time in the world, 27 countries adopted the same basin oriented approach!
A driving force for new EU MS and non EU countries

A tool for European integration

Usefulness of “networking” like INBO in order to take advantage from sharing knowledge and experience

International River Basins of EUROPE

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Key messages - transboundary basins

... But specific constraints and needs!

- Increase **means & human resources** in the IRBD
- Launch joint specific professional training for the staff
- Improve **decision-making process** in international commissions
- Develop common indicators & **information systems**
- Increase **ambition of roof reports** & coordination of priorities
- Develop urgently a joint manage of **transboundary aquifers**
- Organize **true joint public consultation** on shared stakes
- Reinforce cooperation programmes with **non-EU countries**

Still huge work to improve coherence of methods & actions:
provide increased resources for WFD implementation!
Other key messages

- Great importance of the CIS process: INBO should invest more as the "voice of basin organizations"
- B.O experts could be included in CIS Working Groups to provide information and practical examples on good practices
- Water Directors meeting, 25 Nov: INBO communication on "WFD contribution in transboundary basins"
- Reinforce coordination of research & science-policy interface
- Active involvement of INBO in 5th World Water Forum
- Positive outcomes of TWINBASIN programme and wish for an European funding support for its continuation
Thank you for your attention!
More information on www.riob.org