

AUTHORITIES AND OBJECTIVES

The role assigned to the Regions for the management of water resources is of strategic importance, as they are expected to handle the delicate job of translating the principles of sustainable use of this natural resource into rules, planning, actions and interventions.

At a European level, in fact, and partly implemented in national legislation, a new approach that safeguards water supplies has matured, it is founded on setting objectives of environmental quality, and on the utilisation of water bodies, and it is a significant improvement over the previous policies based merely on fixing limits of acceptability of polluting inputs; the new approach intends to consider all the aspects tied to water protection in a unitary and integrated way.

The fundamental starting point is the collection of data that will support the choices to be made; these data must be solid, detailed and reliable, so that the decisions will be sustainable. The acquisition of knowledge on the water state is very important (monitoring of the quality and quantity of the surface and underground waters) and understanding the effects on these of man's activities (a register of users, discharges, water service infrastructures and irrigation networks).



The enormous amount of information acquired will naturally require computerised handling, set up through the Sistema Informativo Regionale delle Risorse Idriche (Regional Water Resources Information System), that will enable authorities to relate each single datum on the specific body of water to a territorial base.

An accurate survey of the characteristics of Piedmont's waters becomes, then, the essential foundation for the adoption of decisions involving water management, for planning protective actions from both the quality and of quantity point of view, for disciplining the rational utilisation of the resource, for defining the objectives and the quality standards of the waters, and consequently for setting the limits for discharges, organising the aqueduct water services, sewage and depuration, and establishing the regulations for the various uses.

So, it is an integrated approach, but also flexible, which can evolve and diversify adapting to the specific needs of local situations, ready also to conform to the inevitable changes of the natural and human environment.



INTRODUCTION

The Piedmont Region, with its important mountain streams, its big flatland rivers, its lakes, its high-quality springs and extensive aquifers in the plains, for a long time has recognised the social and strategic value of water as a vital public asset, and it has shown growing attention to problems connected to its use, and to the risks of the degradation of its quality and availability.

Substantial resources have been invested in these years to gather complete information on the characteristics of Piedmont's surface and underground water; to study the factors that can affect and alter the ecosystems, and to build up water service infrastructures - in some cases of real excellence at a European level - and to adopt measures to safeguard and reclaim bodies of water.

WATER RESOURCES PLANNING

PROBLEMS

The effort needed today to ensure a sustainable use of this resource involves integrating the principles of water protection in all our decisions and policies for development.

Translating this principle into operating solutions means investing in many diversified competences that allow us to understand the many implications of an economic, social, scientific and juridical nature of the new man-nature relationship.

WATER RESOURCES PLANNING



Assessorato Ambiente, Parchi e Aree Protette, Risorse Idriche, Acque Minerali e Termali



