



Resource efficiency in the RBMPs & optimising links with RDPs

13 June, 2017

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OVERVIEW

- *Water Framework Directive*
- *Key components of River Basin Management Plans*
- *RBMPs – measures to promote resource efficiency (nutrients, pesticides, abstraction)*
- *Creating links between RBMPs-RDPs*
- *Further information sources*



WFD

- *Adopted in 2000, requires RBMPs to be produced that contain measures to address **significant pressures** affecting the status of waterbodies , to allow for “**good**” status to be reached by 2015 (or by exemption to later date)*
- *RBMP 1 2009-15, **RBMP 2 2015-21**, RBMP 3 2021-27*
- *Good status = good quantity + chemical status for GW
=good ecological status + good chemical status for SW*
- *Agriculture pressures affecting good water quality and quantity are diffuse pollution : nutrients, pesticides and abstraction*



Key components of River Basin Management Plans

- **Key WFD Articles:** Article 4 (environmental objectives) 5 (economic analysis (pressure + impact assessment)) 8 (monitoring), 11 Programmes of measures (including art9)
- **Article 11 - Programme of measures**
 - * Basic measures (including existing ND, SUD, new - controls on abstraction, controls on phosphate)
 - * Supplementary measures (many funded through RDPs - e.g. M10, but also M2, M4, M8)
- **Article 9** - water pricing for industry, agriculture, households - to incentivise efficient use + allow for adequate cost recovery - to meet good status objectives



RBMPs – measures to promote resource efficiency

- **Nutrients** (article 11.3.h - control on diffuse sources of pollution)
- MS to establish rules on nutrients applied to land to allow for balanced nutrient management + reduction of losses to waterbodies to allow nutrient conditions consistent with good status to be reached
- requires in some cases (TRAC) more stringent nitrate conditions than in ND, requires rules on application of phosphate to land to be set up
- good rules should incentivise resource efficiency (manures, chemical fertilisers)
- Measures: ND action programmes (nutrient accounting, slurry/ manure stores, buffer strips), RDP measures - area payments- eg 6 m buffer strips, reduced nutrient application or safeguard zones - investments e.g. for slurry injection, increased storage capacity



RBMPs – measures to promote resource efficiency

- *Pesticides (article 11.3.h - control on diffuse sources of pollution)*
- *Sustainable Use of pesticides Directive, properly implemented should substantially support meeting WFD good chemical + ecological status - measures include IPM, including crop rotation, biological control*
- *Additionally measures to protect groundwater/ drinking water sources can be established - measures can be funded via the RDP (no pesticide areas/ area payments to convert land to use other than intensive agriculture)*
- *Focus overall should be on minimising use of pesticides, to reduce losses to the water environment to protect human health + environment*



RBMPs – measures to promote resource efficiency

- **Abstraction** (article 11.3.e - controls on abstraction)
- MS to establish rules to control amount of water that can be abstracted by all users (authorisation or permits) and ensure total abstracted quantity does not lead to the water body being at less than good status (GW - quantitative status, SW - allow for ecological flows)
- Requires review of existing permits + in some cases modifications to quantity or source of water (GW, SW, re-used, restricted times etc)
- Changing permits should drive efficiency in use - eg switch to more efficient irrigation systems to use less water, or switch to less water consumptive crops in areas with water deficit
- Measures can be incentivised + supported through the RDP - e.g. measure 4 irrigation investments + measure 10 support for drought resistant varieties, and supply chain measures for new crops/markets
- **Rural development- Art 46** - created link with WFD good status + need for water savings to be returned in part to over-abstracted waterbodies
- **Ex- ante conditionality 5.2** - water pricing in agriculture must be in place in line with WFD for programmes including irrigation investments under priority 5



Creating links between RBMPs-RDPs

- *WFD has no exclusive funding mechanism, MS indicate in their RBMPs that RDPs are an essential funding instrument for agriculture measures*
- *EC therefore checked such links were well established when negotiating the current RDPs with MS +*
- *carried out an ex-post assessment of the contribution of the RDPs to water policy (WFD + FD)*
- *Analysis can be used for RDP modifications following the adoption of the 2nd RBMPs, or for future planning*



Further information sources

- *Integration of the Water Framework Directive in other policies - 2 consultant reports on*
 - * *Key descriptive statistics on the consideration of water issues in the Rural Development Programmes 2014-2020 (EU report + 52 Regional annexes covering all MS)*
 - * *Guidance on a "Good Practice" RDP from a water perspective*
- *Available on EC water page http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/index_en.htm*