Policy - making and planning of river continuity measures - Slovakia

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River continuity restoration in current national policy

• River continuity issues identified as one of major water management problems
• River basin management plan 2015 – 2021: chapter on river continuity measures - 845 proposed measures (beyond 2021)
• Draft river basin management plan 2022 – 2027: chapter on river continuity measures - 296 proposed measures
• Methodology on construction of fish paths – revision needed
What are pitfalls of the current policy?

• Continuity measures in 2015-2021 plan: (mostly fishways)
  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>total</th>
<th>planned 2015-2021</th>
<th>implemented (incl. expected by end 2021)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>845</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>96</td>
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• Insufficient funding (~ 100 % EU structural funds)
• Infringement for poor impact assessment of small hydropower plants
• No real priorities set – implemented projects are those less „complicated“
• Concrete projects design – controversial subject
Why new Water Policy

• Obsolete current water management strategies – obstacles for reflection of reality, namely climate change
• Water management plans are not designed as long-term policy strategic documents
• Broad and intensive participation – document ownership
• New government declaration (2020)
Drinking water and sewage
Restoration and continuity
Institutions and management
Water use
Fisheries
Danube
Pollution
Restoration and continuity
Landscape management and adaptation to CC
Stakeholders working group
Steering committee
What are lessons learnt that might be replicated to other countries?

• Hydromorphological alterations has been recognized as often reason why waters cannot achieve good status
• River continuity restoration is ideally combined with re-instatement of lateral revitalization and flood protection measures
• Rivers continuity not seen as real priority
• Difficult debates on good technical design
Thank you!