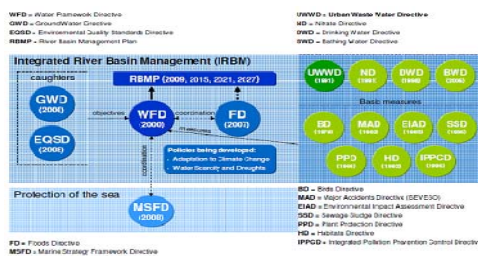


IRBM Planning and the WFD

A guideline on how to get started

This Guide is the result of surveys amongst water management practitioners in the Western Balkans, Turkey and new EU member states in Eastern Europe, and of a seminar in which experiences on meeting the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) planning were exchanged.

This publication has been drafted by the consultants to the DABLAS Task Force. Contributions, inputs and insights of experts from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Estonia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovakia have been used in the writing of this guide. DABLAS is an acronym for Danube and Black Sea, the DABLAS Task Force seeks to bring cohesion to the process of financing of technical assistance and investments.



The new EU member countries have just completed the preparation of River Basin Management plans (WFD). The Balkan countries and Turkey are all in some stage of IRBM preparation, mostly as part of an EU accession process.

Two surveys were carried out under this project. One survey focused on problems faced by pre-accession countries while starting up IRBM planning, the second survey was amongst new EU member states to formulate the most important "lessons learned".

Especially for the countries just starting up IRBM planning the seminar gave an opportunity to find responses to the many questions and uncertainties they are facing at the beginning of this process.

The guide addresses the stage before actual IRBM planning is taken up: how do I start the IRBM planning process? An answer to that core question can be found by answering two other questions first:

1. what should be the content of the IRBM plan?
2. what are constraints that may obstruct the planning process?

With insight in these two aspects realistic ambitions for water management can be formulated. The guide is structured along a systematic method of finding an answer to the core questions. This red line is interwoven with examples and results of the surveys and the seminar.

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