

QUESTIONNAIRE REGARDING THE STATE OF APPLICATION OF THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE 2000/60/EC

PARTNER EMILIA-ROMAGNA REGION

REGION EMILIA-ROMAGNA

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INTRODUCTION

MAREMED – Maritime Regions cooperation for Mediterranean, is a project started in 2010 and co-funded by the MED Programme, that involves 15 partners among Regions and local administrations from France, Italy, Spain, Greece and Cyprus together with the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)

The project is dealing with the following themes: maritime policy governance, the integrated management of coastal and maritime areas, fisheries, adaptation to climate change in coastal areas, efforts to reduce pollution and data management.

Its objective is to develop tools for enhancing and coordinating regional, European and Mediterranean policies on these six thematic strategies

Within the first work phase (the present one) it will be carried out an overview of the policies implemented and their governance by the project partners. In the second phase will identify pilot coastal zones in which promote transnational management initiatives and share operational tools to aid in decision-making for the six thematic strategies.

PREPARATION AND AIM OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire has been elaborated by FEPORTS (Comunidad Valenciana, Spain) on the basis of the UE Water Framework Directive (WFD), with the advice of the Head of the Water Quality Service in the Environment Ministry of the Valencian Region and the responsible of environment issues of the Valencia Port Authority. It has been presented to the EC DG Environment and integrated after this consultation. The Questionnaire has been presented to the MAREMED partners in the meeting hold in Marseille the last 26th November and has been modified/integrated on the basis of the discussion.

This questionnaire aims at determining and comparing the current state of implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) from the point of view of the coastal waters in the regions involved in the project; to

gain an outline of the problems and obstacles hindering implementation; and to identify the parties involved and the bodies which are responsible for ensuring compliance with the WFD in each region. Also its intended to identify best practices and areas for improvement and to create synergies between the different regions involved which can help to overcome the obstacles encountered. Finally, a further goal is to be able to make recommendations and guidelines which will help to improve the level of implementation and compliance with the WFD and thereby meet the deadlines and objectives previously set.

The Questionnaire will contribute to create an informative framework useful for decision makers at regional, national and European level. Partners and voluntary regions are kindly asked to fill-in the questionnaire and send back it to FEPORTS before February the 28th in your language and before the March the 11th in English.

The WFD creates a legal framework to protect and restore clean water across Europe and ensure its long-term, sustainable use (its official title is Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy.)

The Directive establishes an innovative approach for water management based on river basins, the natural geographical and hydrological units, and sets specific deadlines for Member States to achieve ambitious environmental objectives to protect aquatic ecosystems. The Directive addresses inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater, and it establishes innovative principles for water management, including public participation in planning and economic approaches, including the recovery of the cost of water supply services.

Annex V of the Directive lists the quality indicator to be measured to determine ecological status. It also sets out a five-step classification of surface water bodies and calls for joint work on intercalibration.

Please, justify your answers and attach references to documents or Internet links if appropriate. Use the space you need but keeping in mind to be precise and clear in the explanations. You can modify/adapt the questionnaire to the context of your region if necessary and by consulting previously the coordinators of the WFD MAREMED working group:

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- Ana Subirats: asubirats@feports-cv.org

PART 1: GOVERNANCE

Please, address to the document “Diagnostic of Governance of Maritime Policies” in order to answer to questions relating to Governance of the WFD .

PART 2: OPERATIONS

- 1 - Have frameworks been developed for water planning been drawn up in your river basin district? Are there river basin management plans?

Emilia-Romagna's territory falls within to three different Districts: the Po Valley District, the Northern Apennines District and, for a small portion of mountainous territory, the Central Apennines District.

Italian State did not appoint Competent authority for River basin Districts yet, but, under law n.13/2009, established that national basin Authorities should draw up River Basin Management Plans.

River basin management plans were adopted on February 24th 2010.

- 2 - Has there been any kind of initial survey with regard to water planning in your river basin district? What framework or tool has been used for this?

Water bodies were identified and impact of human activities on water bodies' status was analyzed, the initial survey was carried out considering previous monitoring and expert judgement.

- 3 - What is the current status of the planning process in your region? Has it finished?

By now National Basin Authorities, together with Regions are implementing River basin management Plans. Regional "Water Protection Plan" will be updated according to River basin management plans.

- 4 - Are the WFD implementation deadlines being met? What operational difficulties have been encountered?

Italy acknowledged Directive 2000/60/EC only in 2006. Despite that River basin management plans were adopted in time. The main difficulty depends on the fact that Competent authority for River basin Districts is not designated yet.

- 5 - Have the river basin district(s) which your region belongs to been the subject of a study regarding the impact of the pressures of human activity on the water in the maritime and port areas?

The impacts of human activity on water bodies' status were analyzed, taking mainly into consideration pressures coming from the draining basin. Several pollutant were searched into marine water with special attention to eutrophying compounds.

The only national port in our Region is Ravenna's. All the other one have not a relevant impact.

- 6 - Does your region have a register of the maritime protected areas? What kind of control is carried out on them?

Emilia-Romagna Region established on February 2010 a new Site of Community Importance (SCI IT4070026), the one and only marine site in all Emilia-Romagna Region.

The same area was previously identified as "Biological Protection Zone" by a national law (D.M. July 21st 1995)

Designation came into force on February 8th 2010 and will be ratified by Environment Ministry and EU with a specific Decision.

This area is mainly controlled in order to verify the respect of use's limitations.

- 7 - Does your region differentiate between bodies of coastal water depending on their chemical or ecological state? Are the waters in port areas given special consideration?

Water bodies identification took into consideration the following issues:

- *Pressures on the territory, referring particularly to nutrients (nitrates and phosphates);*
- *Marine coastal waters trophic status evaluation, since Emilia-Romagna's water bodies are threatened by eutrophication phenomenon;*
- *Relevant discontinuities in littoral zone depending on infrastructures such Ravenna's port;*
- *Expert judgement based on previous multi-year monitoring of water status and climatology.*

- 8 - Has your river basin district taken part in intercalibration¹ exercises for its coastal waters? Does your river basin district belong to a network of intercalibration points?

In 2003 -2004 our basin district took part in intercalibration exercises regarding Benthic invertebrate fauna in order to find Reference Conditions with the data of two stations (Cesenatico, Cattolica) in Med-Gig. Emilia-Romagna Region is also involved in the same geographical intercalibration group for phytoplankton element.

- 9 - In your district, has any network been set up to monitor the chemical quality of coastal waters and their ecological potential? If so, specify its structure.

The monitoring network for chemical, physical elements and phytoplankton element consists of 14 stations displaced on 7 transects perpendicular to the coast line. On each transept there are two stations placed respectively at 0.5 and 3 Km from the coast. There are also 8 stations for biological element macrobenthos.

- 10 - What parameters are considered by the monitoring networks? How often does monitoring take place?

On Emilia-Romagna coastal area there are not either macroalgae on natural substratum or marine angiosperms, the biological monitoring is therefore directed towards phytoplankton and Benthic invertebrate fauna.

Qualitative elements for ecological status classification for marine coastal waters are:

➤ *Biological elements*

- *Composition, abundance and biomass of phytoplankton. Algal bloom, presence of potentially toxic or harmful species (frequency: twice a month);*
- *Composition and abundance of benthic invertebrate fauna presence of sensitive taxa (frequency: twice a year, seasonal);*

➤ *Hydromorphological elements supporting the biological elements*

- *Depth, seabed morphology, sediment features (grain size), tidal regime, direction of dominant currents (frequency: half-yearly);*

¹ For the purpose of the project, only the geographical intercalibration group in the Mediterranean will be taken into account.

- *Chemical and physico-chemical elements supporting the biological elements*
 - *Transparency, Thermal conditions, Oxygenation conditions, Salinity, Nutrient conditions, Chlorophyll a (frequency: twice a month);*
- *Specific pollutants supporting the biological elements:*
 - *Pollution by other substances identified as being discharged in significant quantities into the body of water (frequency: three-monthly).*
- *Elements supporting chemical status definition,*
 - *Specific priority pollutants searched in water (frequency: monthly in 8 monitoring points) and sediments (frequency: twice a year in 8 monitoring points), integrated ecotoxicological analysis.*

11 - Are the following issues monitored in coastal and port waters in the geographical district in which your region is located?

National law acknowledging WFD does not foresee monitoring on port waters.

The following table is therefore only referred to coastal maritime waters.

a) State of biodiversity	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, partially <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If so, what kind of monitoring:
b) Disturbance of marine ecosystems, the presence of foreign species	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, partially <input type="checkbox"/> No If so, what kind of monitoring: systematically in phytoplankton and benthic invertebrate fauna monitoring; episodically in case of epidemic diseases of foreign fish species.
c) The commercially exploited fish and shellfish populations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, partially <input type="checkbox"/> No If so, what kind of monitoring: Monitoring of quality for shellfish waters and veterinary controls on species for human consumption.
d) The stability of the sea bed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, partially <input type="checkbox"/> No If so, what kind of monitoring: bathymetric survey every five year.
e) Concentration of pollutants in the water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, partially <input type="checkbox"/> No If so, what kind of monitoring: monitoring of pollutant substances according to WFD.
f) Presence of marine waste	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, partially <input type="checkbox"/> No If so, what kind of monitoring: episodic monitoring after warning in case of waste presence.

12 - In order to comply with the WFD planning, the ecological potential and chemical quality of the waters should be in the process of being classified. Has such classification been carried out for coastal waters, including those in port areas? If not, what is the current status of this classification?

River Basin Management Plans contain an initial survey based on previous multi-year monitoring of water status, climatology and on expert judgement. Since 2009 Emilia-Romagna Region is carrying out monitoring according to WFD requirements, even if only on February 7th 2011 the national law, containing technical criteria for water bodies classification, entered into force.

- 13 -** What difficulties have been encountered in your district with regard to the implementation of monitoring networks? Technical, operational, financial...?

There were both financial and organizing difficulties, depending on the increased number of monitoring parameters compared to previous ones. Moreover chemical determinations for priority and hazardous priority substances requires sophisticated technical instrumentation in order to detect low environmental quality standards.

- 14 -** In your river basin district, are there any special differences in the implementation of these networks for inland waters and those for territorial coastal waters? What are they?

Implementation of monitoring network for territorial coastal waters was simpler than the one for inland waters.

- 15 -** Is there a database which records the pressures on coastal and transitional waters, so that the bodies of coastal waters in your region can be identified and quantified? State its name and who is responsible for it.

Basin Authorities collected data referring to human pressures from each Region and put them in a data base, which is in their possession. The same information were collected by National Agency for Environment in order to implement WISE system.

- 16 -** Does your region or district have a census or register of all the coastal or maritime waters from which water is taken for different uses?²

In Emilia-Romagna Region there is not any uptake of coastal or maritime waters for the mentioned uses.

- 17 -** Do you have any recommendations or methodologies for the integrated management of bodies of water in coastal and/or port areas in your country, region or river basin district? If so, specify the legal or administrative framework which this tool forms part of.

Emilia-Romagna Region approved, on January 20th 2005, with Regional Decree n. 645, guidelines for Integrated Coastal Zone Management. According to ICZM guidelines Emilia-Romagna Region aims to re-orient human activities insisting on coastal areas towards environmental, economical and social sustainability.

PART 3: ECONOMIC ISSUES

- 18 -** Is there any devoted budget for the establishment of the WFD policy in your region?

There is not a specialized budget for monitoring water status. Monitoring is carried out by ARPA (Regional Agency for Environment Protection).

² Industrial uses, fish farms, desalination to produce drinking water, etc.

There is a specialized budget for infrastructural public works and actions, according to Water Protection Plan.

- 19** - Has your region been the subject of an economic analysis or study concerning the use of coastal waters or those of port areas?

Cost- benefit analysis of River basin management Plans is still in progress.

- 20** - Do these studies analyze the economic impacts and how industrial development is conditioned by the requirements of the WFD regarding maintaining water quality? Specify these.

Cost- benefit analysis of River basin management Plans is still in progress.

- 21** - Have cost-benefit analyses been carried out regarding the implementation of the WFD in coastal waters? Specify which studies they are and their availability.

Cost- benefit analysis of River basin management Plans is still in progress.

- 22** - What are the main economic barriers that have been encountered in your region or district hindering compliance with the WFD?

Main difficulties arise from:

- *conflicts due to competing uses of water resource;*
- *difficulties for an homogeneous measures application to different Regions belonging to the same District;*
- *lacking of economic resources to carry out foreseen measures;*

Signature _____

Place _____ Date _____, 20__