Legislative approach to water protection in Hungary

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Chronology of Hungarian Water Resources Management

- Flood protection & early water management on flooded areas, (from the beginning until on the middle of 19. century)
- River regulations-flow alteration (from the beginning until the end of 19. century)
- Drinking water demand for urbanization – water works & water suppliers (from the end of 19. century till late seventies of 20. century)
- Water demand for irrigation – canalisation-channel network building on Great Hungarian Plain (from the beginning of 20. century till sixties)
- Water demand for industry (from the middle of 20. century till the end of eighties)
- Need of quantity and quality issues in water resources management (from fifties till the late of eighties)
- Need of IWRM – hollistic approach (from the sixties till recent days)
- Revelation of the ecological view in WRM (till 22th Dec 2000, the birthday of WFD)
Ministerial responsibilities in water issues

Water Sector

Ministry of Interior
Ministry of Rural Development
Ministry of National Development
Ministry of Human Resources
Decrees on responsibilities of ministers in WRM

Ministry of Interior

- protection of surface and groundwaters, water resources,
- co-ordination of river basin management planning activities and implementation of Programme of Measures,
- controling of water authorities and General Directorate of Water Management
- co-ordination and implementation of operative water management tasks: flood protection, excess water management, maintenance of state owned waters, river regulation,
- responsible in WFD relevant monitoring,
- responsible in EU legislation implementation: FD, WFD, GW, DW, UWWT
- contributing in the EU Strategy on the Danube Region (Water Quality coordinated by HU-SK and Environmental Risks by coordinated by HU-RO)
- international co-operation in water (EU, ICPDR, bilateral)
Regional Water Directorates
operating by GDoW and leaded by Mol
Decrees on responsibilities of ministers in WRM

Ministry of Rural Development

- legislation on environment protection (but no water),
- planning of relevant strategies,
- surveillance environmental laboratory network
- co-ordination of environmental, nature protection, nature park directorates, assessment of status of environment,
- responsibility in implementation of EU directives: NID, CAP, NATURA2000, BirdsD, Habitat D

Ministry of National Development

- supplies fee regulation for water service providers (waste water and drinking water),
- co-ordination of EU funded development programmes and projects (in case of water as well)
- responsible in EU legislation implementation: UWWPT, WSD, DWD

Ministry of Human Resources

- surveillance drinking water quality (tap water)
- surveillance open air and thermal bathing water qualities
- responsible in EU legislation implementation: DWD, BW
Regulations for water protection

• Act on water management
  – Regulation on water as
    • State,
    • Municipal and
    • Private associations owners
  – Regulations on water resources management protection and licencing

• Act on environment
  – Regulation on water related environment issues (e.g. binding of ecological water demand)

• Act on supplied water services
  – Obligation on measurements of water supplies
  – Obligation on attachment to existing wastewater network providing supplies (except in case of licenced local wastewater treatment solution)
Regulations for water protection (inferiors)

- Legislation on decreasing of organic and nutrient contamination
- Decree on Best Practices of Agriculture concerning on buffer zones
- Decree on water related monitoring network according to expectation of WFD
- Decree on drinking water protection programme through well-field and groundwater resources protection
- Decree on recharging of geothermal reservoirs (by heat losted water)
- Etc.
Thank you for your attention!