Integrated implementation of the WFD, MSFD, NiD and UWWTD considering the nutrients emissions reduction in Romania

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Setting the scene – national context

Romania’ obligations:
- Water policy – WFD + (UWWTD, NiD, MSFD)
  Legal: Water Law 107/1996 with further amendments
- Integrated River Basin Management Plan  Good Status
  and updated in 2015 – GD 859/2016

Marine policy – MSFD implementation
Legal: Emergency Governmental Ordinance 71/2010 and adopted by Low 6/2011, and
amended by Law 205/2013
- National Marine Strategy  Good Environmental Status
Romania – International Context

Contracting party of the international conventions: platforms to strengthen the co-operation in the water field in the Danube River Basin and the Black Sea Region

Danube River Protection Convention (signed on 1994)

Black Sea Convention (signed in 1992)
Significant water management issues

Danube River Basin District

Significant pressures lead to failure to achieve the environmental objectives, considering the main categories of risk:

- **Nutrients pollution**
  - Zero emission of ecosystems untreated all native wastewaters
  - No threat or impact by eutrophication

- **Hazardous substances pollution**
  - No risk or threat to human health or to aquatic ecosystem

- **Hydromorphological alterations**
  - Aquatic habitat for species

Significant pressures – lead to failure to achieve the environmental objectives, considering the main categories of risk.
Nutrients pollution objective in the DRB

- Reduction of discharged nutrient loads in the Black Sea Basin to such levels, which permit the Black Sea ecosystems to recover to conditions similar to those observed in the 1960s.
- A tool was used - MONERIS.
- Can this objective be reached for nutrients?

- Additional measures have been planned and implemented in the second RBMP and should be planned for the third one.
- Knowledge and understanding of the interlinkages between Danube loads and the ecological response in the NW shelf of the Black Sea still need to be refined and improved.
The whole Romanian territory is a sensitive area under the UWWTD - meaning that all human agglomerations over 10,000 p.e. should treat the urban wastewater for removal of nutrients (EU MS)

- Introduction of phosphate-free detergents
- IED (EU MS) and BAT (Non EU MS)
Since 2013, Romania no longer designates nitrate vulnerable zones, but applies the provisions of the Code of Good Agricultural Practice and Action Program measures throughout the country.

- Implementation of the ND leads to reduce nutrients pollution in SWBs and GWBs.
- Quality of the Romanian coastal and marine waters depends to a large extent on the quality of the Danube river waters, given that the Danube contributes substantially to nutrients, being the collector of 801,463 skm, covering totally or partially the territory of 19 countries.
- Measures taken in upstream will be lead to effects on downstream.

Diffuse pollution sources:
- Storage and use of organic and chemical fertilizers.
- Livestock breeding.
Nitrates Directive

- At the national level, a reduction of the nutrients concentration was detected having in view the trend analysis over the last two reporting period under the NiD requirements.

- For average nitrate concentrations, sections with decreasing and stable trends are over 92% of all sections analysed - improve over the previous reporting period.
Nitrates Directive

For transitional and coastal waters: average and winter average nitrogen concentrations are below 10 mg/l and maximum concentrations are below 25 mg/l;

For marine waters: all average nitrate concentrations, winter and maximum averages are below 10 mg/l.

Transitional and coastal waters are maintained in decreasing and stable levels.

Danube is linked with marine waters by discharging into the Black Sea, the ICPDR adopted (2012) a resolution declaring “the willingness of the ICPDR to serve as platform facilitating the coordination with land-locked countries required under Article 6 (2) MSFD and to contribute hereby to a close coordination of the implementation of the WFD in the Danube River Basin and the MSFD in the Black Sea Region”.

Important topics requiring coordination include the interlinkage between river basin management and the marine environment as well as with nature protection.

DRBMPs and NMPs contribute to protect the Black Sea ecosystem by reducing pollution and by fostering the migration of long-distance migratory fish species.
Main challenges in addressing nutrients

- Nutrient pollution reduction is a key environmental priority. Successful policies have been developed which have led to reduction of nutrient inputs and loads and brought benefits in relation to other policies implemented.

- Frequency and distribution of algal blooms in the water bodies could increase in the next years in the climate change context, with impact on water uses.

- It is difficult to estimate the achieving of the good ecological status for the water bodies shared with the non-EU Member States.

- For a successful water management, to ensure achieving and maintaining the good status, is the integration of the water policy with the land use management at the river basin level.

- Win-win measures should be agreed and implemented with stakeholders' support, which is not quite an easy process taking into account the multitude of various interests.
Thank you for attention!