

Republic of Serbia  
Ministry of Agriculture and  
Environmental Protection

## Reforming water sector framework to strengthen good water governance

*Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection  
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harmonization of activities of Serbian OSCE Chairmanship*



**Water is one of the most valuable natural resources  
of the Republic of Serbia.**

**Planned water management and its careful  
preservation is one of the most important tasks.**

## **The Water Sector Framework in the Republic of Serbia**

- Current institutional set-up of the Water Sector
- Competencies distributed among state, provincial and local authorities and three state-owned water management companies.
- Key stakeholders responsible for national and international water-management
- Legislative framework
  - Effective national laws and a high number of by-laws

## **Institutional framework and water responsibilities**

- According to the Law on Ministries, competencies are divided among following Ministries and Institutions:
- Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, with the Republic Water Directorate and Agency for Environmental Protection
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure
- Ministry of Mining and Energy
- Other institutions: Republic Hydro- meteorological Service, Public Water Companies

## Competencies on Regional and National level

- Regional – Autonomic Province, Capital City
  - responsibilities - water enactment and inspection
- Local - municipalities
  - - Regional and local water supply (public utility – water companies)
  - - Wastewater collection and treatment (public utility – water companies)

## Legislative Framework

- Law on Waters
- Law on Environmental Protection,
- Law on the Environmental Impact Assessment,
- Law on the Integrated Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution,
- Law on Mining and Geological Exploration,
- Law on Communal Utility Activities,
- Law on Sanitary Inspection,
- Law on Public-Private Partnerships and Concessions,
- Law on Local Self-Government,
- Law on State Administration,
- Law on Ministries, Law on Public Revenues and Expenditures, Law on Public Enterprises, Law on Planning and Construction, etc.

## Harmonisation with EU water related legislation

- The 2010 Water Law largely aligned the Serbian water sector with EU legislation, primarily the Water Framework Directive but also other directives.
- Serbian Government supports the implementation of reforms , according the EU
- By-laws are synchronized with EU regulations, but not completely harmonized
- Recent EU accession talks addressing water issues held in October/November 2014 , gave us an overview of necessary activities and tasks for the following years
- We are expecting EU recommendations

## Campaign aimed at promoting newly adopted regulations on water quality in Serbia



2013:

- ✓ 10 public discussions in 10 cities across Serbia;
- ✓ over 300 representatives of local authorities, industry operators, public utility companies and civil society organisations

2014:

- ✓ 10 public discussions in 9 cities across Serbia;
- ✓ over 350 representatives of local authorities, institutes for public health, public utility companies, operators and civil society

## Promotion of the Protocol on Water and Health on local level

- After ratifying the Protocol on Water and Health in April 2013, Serbia followed a two-year process leading to accession, which engaged stakeholders, and included workshops and media outreach to increase participation of local communities in activities that will be taken under the Protocol.
- Important role in this process belongs to the OSCE Mission in Serbia which supported the promotional campaign on local level, in Arhus centers and Municipalities
- Promotions on local level, brought to the table: community leaders, public health officials, businesses sector, water utilities, schools, NGO's and the civil society members, to help steer the campaign to success. Each entity provided its unique contribution.
- The community was an important resource in providing input to the campaign.

## Promotion of the Protocol on Water and Health at local level



## Future steps: Tasks and challenges

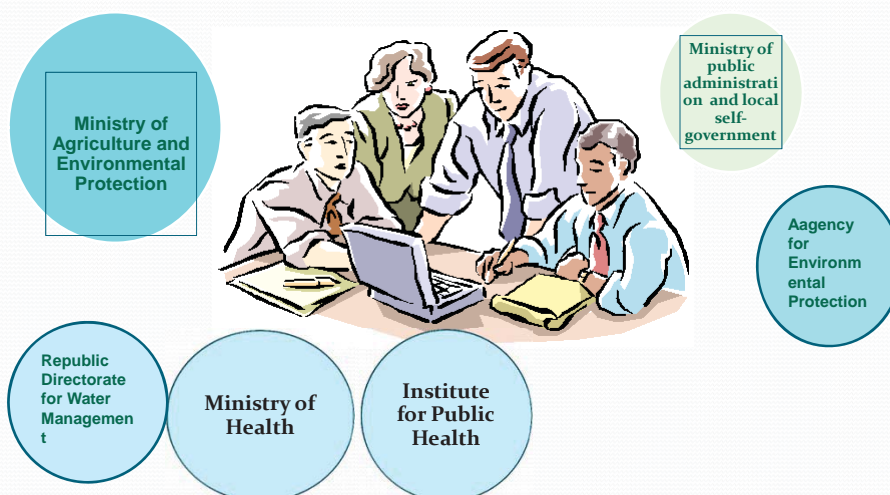
### • Tasks:

- Strengthen the legislative water framework (Creation of Water management Strategy)
- Enhance institutional infrastructure
- Improve current practices
- Upgrade water infrastructure

### Challenges:

- Capacity-building needs
- Engaging new staff
- Strengthen cross-sectoral coordination
- Enhance cooperation among responsible authorities
- Considerable financial requirements

### Coordination among authorities



## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMENDATIONS

- Efficient organization of the water sector
- Appropriate institutional support,
- Continuous long term financing

• Thank you for your attention

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