

**Astana Water Action (AWA)
Actions by CZECH REPUBLIC**

Country: Czech Republic

1. Title of the action

Promoting of concept of integrated water management (AWA Paragraphs 9 (a), (b), (c), 10 (a), 11 (e), 12 (b), (c), and 15 (d),(e)).

Description of the action and if possible target date:

The Czech Republic as an EU Member State implements principles of integrated river basin management according to the Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (WFD). On the national level it has been transposed into the Water Act 254/2001 Coll. The implementation includes monitoring and assessment of water bodies status, identification of significant water management issues and their solution through the Water Management Plans and their Programmes of Measures with the aim to achieve established environmental objectives. Part of Plans and Programmes is identification of protected areas, river continuity interruptions, and disconnected wetlands and floodplains and their restoration, enhancement and protection. The use of GIS in the process is inevitable. The process encompasses participation of different sectors and institutions as well as public.

Important links:

www.ikse-mkol.org, www.icpdr.org, www.mkoo.pl – plans on the international level of the Elbe, Danube and Oder river basins (level A)

www.mzp.cz/cz/voda - plans for the national parts of the Elbe, Danube and Oder international river basins (level B)

www.pmo.cz, www.pvl.cz, www.pla.cz, www.poh.cz, www.pod.cz, www.mze.cz – plans for the national river basin districts (level C)

Expected outcome:

Implementation of the first Programme of Measures 2010, development of the second River Basin Analysis 2014 and second River Basin Management Plans 2016.

Partners:

Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, regions, municipalities, River Basin Authorities, water services providers, water users, water polluters, etc.

Contact points:

2. Title of the action

Water quality and quantity protection (AWA Paragraphs 10 (b), (c), (d) and 11 (f), (g), (h), (l), 13 (f), (i))

Description of the action and if possible target date:

The Czech Republic implements WFD, the Decision 2455/2001/EC to this Directive establishing the list of priority substances in the field of water policy, the Directive 2008/105/EC on environmental quality standards in the field of water policy, Directive 2006/11/EC on pollution caused by certain dangerous substances discharged into aquatic environment of the Community, Directive 91/676/EC concerning the protection of waters against pollution

caused by nitrates from agricultural sources, Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste water treatment, Directive 2006/44/EC on the quality of the fresh waters needing protection or improvement in order to support fish life, Directive 2006/118/EC on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration, and others. Hence, legislatively embedded emissions and imissions pollution limits and required regularly updated permissions for all water management measures influencing quality/quantity of surface and ground waters, water protection zones around water abstraction facilities and vulnerable zones with relevant action programmes for protection against nutrient pollution have been introduced (Government De-crees 61/2003 Coll. and 108/2008 Coll.).

Expected outcome:

Final aim of these regulations is surface and groundwater status as defined in the WFD and in other EU directives.

Partners

Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, regional and local water authorities, water users and polluters.

Contact points:

3. Title of the action

Water quality and quantity monitoring and assessment (AWA Paragraphs 11 (a), (b), (d), and (j))

Description of the action and if possible target date:

In line with the WFD the Czech Republic developed and implements Framework Monitoring Programme for surface and ground waters. The Programme contains monitoring of quantitative, qualitative and ecological status of waters and monitoring of reference ecological conditions. The laboratories involved are tested and must have relevant certificate.

Expected outcome:

Monitoring data serve to the assessment of the water bodies status, to evaluation of the Programme of Measures implementation process and to development of updated approaches and policies. The results of the monitoring are being regularly published on the web of the Czech Hydrometeorological Institute.

<http://hydro.chmi.cz/isarrow/>

Partners

Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, River Basin Authorities, Czech Hydrometeorological Institute, public.

Contact points:

4. Title of the action

Guarantee of minimum environmental water flow in streams (AWA Paragraphs 11 (k) and 12 (d))

Description of the action and if possible target date:

The Czech Republic has regulation for the minimum river flows designation, which is going to be updated and will be legislatively embedded in the next year (2012).

Expected outcome:

Legislation regarding minimum environmental water flow designation. Healthy ecosystems along the whole river streams.

Partners

Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, River Basin Authorities, regional and local water authorities, hydropower operators.

Contact points:

5. Title of the action

Application of user-pays and polluter-pays principles (AWA Paragraph 13 (c))

Description of the action and if possible target date:

According to the Czech Water Act 254/2001 Coll. the surface and ground water withdrawal is charged with exception of small amounts for individual uses. Legal or private person discharging waste water to surface waters pays fees for concentration and mass pollution amount and for volume of discharged water in the case that legislatively stated limits are exceeded. Discharge to the ground water is charged but permitted only in the specific cases. Remission of fees or their part can be rendered to the polluter who invests into the upgrade of the treatment technology. The Czech law also stipulates fines for breach of it regarding the surface or ground water pollution.

Expected outcome:

Financially sustainable water management. Fees for surface water abstraction use the River Basin Authorities for maintenance and protection of rivers and streams. Fees and fines for waste water and pollution discharges into surface waters are income of the State Environmental Fund. State Environmental Fund receives also 50% of fees for ground water withdrawal and the remaining 50% are income of regions, that can use it only for water infrastructure measures. Discharges into groundwater are exceptionally permitted and payments are income of the relevant municipality.

Partners

Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, River Basin Authorities, regional and local water authorities, Czech Environmental Inspection, State Environmental Fund, municipalities, users, polluters.

Contact points:

6. Title of the action

Access to save water supply and sanitation and its sustainable pricing (AWA Paragraph 13 (d), (e), (j), (k))

Description of the action and if possible target date:

93,1% of Czech inhabitants are supplied by the save drinking water from public supply systems and 81,9% of inhabitants are connected to public sanitation systems. The water supply and sanitation facilities are private and their services are duly charged (the Act on public water supply and sanitation systems 274/2001 Coll. and Act on Prices 52601990 Coll.). The prices are affordable for public.

Expected outcome: Financially sustainable water services.

Partners

Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture, municipalities, providers, public.

Contact points:

7. Title of the action

Climate change adaptation and IWRM (AWA Paragraphs 15, 16)

Description of the action and if possible target date:

The Czech Republic prepares cross-sectional Strategy for climate change adaptation, part of which will be devoted to water issues. Concrete water related adaptation measures will be part of the water management plans and related programmes of measures developed in line with the EU WFD and the Flood Directive 2007/60/EC.

Expected outcome:

Strategy for climate change adaptation, second phase of water management plans (level A - international, B – national, level C – local).

Partners

Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, regional authorities, river basin authorities, stakeholders.

Contact points:

8. Title of the action

Trans-boundary cooperation and IWRM (AWA Paragraphs 17, 18)

Description of the action and if possible target date:

The Czech Republic is contracting party to the UN ECE Water Convention ratified by the CZ in 2000, its amendments ratified in 2008 and the Protocol on Water and Health ratified in 2001. Moreover it concluded bilateral agreements with neighbouring states (DE, PL, SK, and AT) on cooperation on trans-boundary waters and is contracting party to the conventions on cooperation in the international river basins of the Elbe, Danube and Oder rivers. The main part of agenda of the last two groups of agreements and conventions consists of IWRM, namely the implementation of the EU WFD on bilateral and multilateral level (development of the joint Monitoring Programmes, River Basin Management Plans and Programmes of Measures). Into the second EU WFD planning phase, beside water, also other topics (ecosystems, groundwater, sediments, climate change, flood protection, accident prevention, etc.) and sectors (navigation, hydropower, fishery) have been integrated.

Expected outcome:

Joint Monitoring Programmes, River Basin Management Plans for the whole river basins of Elbe, Danube and Oder rivers and relevant Programmes of Measures.

Partners

Bilateral commissions for trans-boundary waters, commissions for protection of river basins: ICPER, ICPDR, and ICPO RaP, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture

Contact points: