

COUNTRY REFORMS ON LEGAL, INSTITUTIONAL AND TECHNICAL ISSUES IN CROATIA

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Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management

Department for water policy and international projects

Department for water management

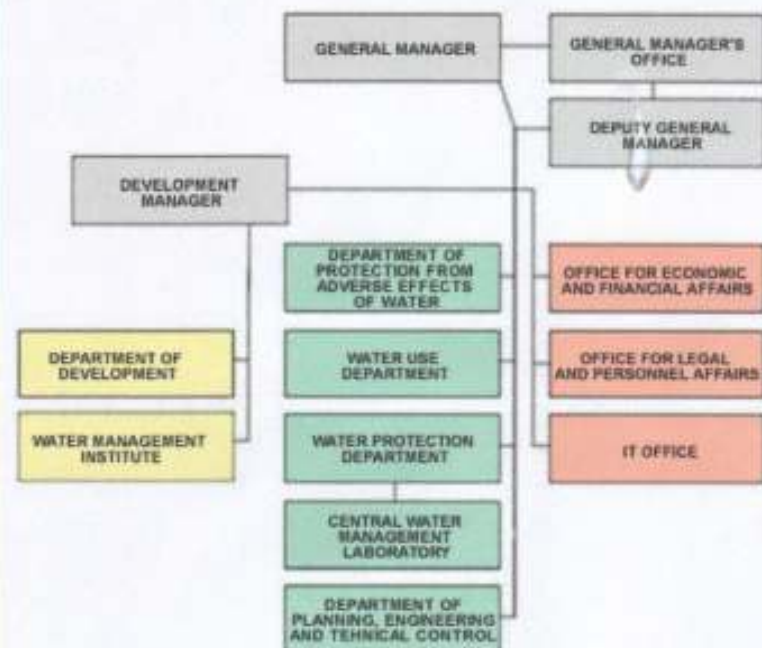
**Coordinating Ministry
&
Responsible
Institution**

WATER MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENTS



**CROATIAN
WATERS**

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF THE HEAD OFFICE



General responsibilities of the Head office are:

1. technical and financial planning;
2. establishment of methodology for executing tasks which require uniformity in procedures;
3. coordinating tasks which require uniformity in procedures;
4. preparation of legal acts of Hrvatske vode;
5. directing lower organizational units and supervising them;
6. participation, upon invitation of the relevant state body, in the preparation of acts and by-laws;
7. contracting and making payments pursuant to contracts provided in the Water Management Plan;
8. communicating and cooperating with government bodies, state administration organizations, public institutions, and public-right organizations of interest in the Republic of Croatia, significant users of water and water estate, with persons obliged to pay water charges mentioned above, large users of the funds of Hrvatske vode, international and foreign organizations, and establishing inter-state and international cooperation on water issues.

General responsibilities of the water management departments are the following:

1. Implementation of the Water Management Plan on the river basin district through immediate execution, giving proposals of contracts, monitoring and supervising implementation, and previous approval of payments.
2. Coordination, monitoring, supervision, and providing instructions and guidelines to water management branch offices on flow operation.
3. Participation in technical and financial planning.
4. Participation in the preparation of general acts of Hrvatske vode.
5. Communication and cooperation with regional and local self-government and government bodies, regional units of government bodies and state administration organizations, public institutions of regional and local significance, regional units of public organizations of significance for the Republic of Croatia, users of water and water estate, payers of water charges, users of funds of Hrvatske vode, other legal entities on the river basin district, and representation before courts.



**Approximation of Croatian water management legislation with
the EU water *Acquis***

<http://voda-lex.voda.hr>

**Draft Strategy for the Approximation of Croatian Water Sector Legislation with EU
Water Acquis**

Programme: European Union CARDS 2003

Partner country: Croatia

Project Beneficiary: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management

Water Policy and International Projects Directorate

Project Reference No: *EuropeAid/119445/C/SV/HR*

Public water supply

Approximately 76% of Croatia's population is served by public water supply, of which 90% is supplied from groundwater sources and 10 % from surface water sources. In 2003 there were 127 public water supply companies in the country.

In 2002 the total quantity of water supplied by the public systems to the end-users amounted to about 365 Million m³.

The average water losses in the public systems amount to 43% of the abstracted water volume. Own abstraction of water by industries amounts to about 300 Mm³/a.

Waste water collection and treatment

Sewerage coverage is presently estimated at 53% countrywide, and shows considerable regional variation being considerably higher in the littoral and Istrian river basin, than in any other region of Croatia. Combined sanitary and rainwater systems predominate in the city centres with systems that are more than 50 years old. Only a few smaller cities and residential districts of bigger towns have separate systems.

Industrial wastewater is often discharged into the sewerage system, in many cases without adequate pre-treatment. At present about 12% of the population is connected to wastewater treatment plants, of which only 4.4% receives secondary treatment. At present, there are 83 municipal wastewater treatment plants: 22 plants with only preliminary treatment, usually in combination with sea outfalls, 27 plants with primary treatment, 34 with secondary treatment.

In the implementation of the EU legislation on water management Croatia has to comply with the requirements of the Urban Waste Water Treatment (UWWT) Directive (91/271/EEC).

Major requirements of this directive stipulate:

- All urban agglomerations of more than 2000 person equivalents (PE) should have adequate waste water collection and treatment systems.**
- Agglomerations over 10000 PE, discharging their waste water into sensitive areas, require advanced waste water treatment with higher nitrogen and phosphorus removal.**
- Agro-food industries with a waste water load equivalent to 4000 PE or more, that are not connected to urban waste water systems, require adequate waste water treatment.**

A master plan to achieve compliance with the requirements of the UWWT Directive is prepared. The plan focuses on development of adequate waste water collection and treatment in selected agglomerations with more than 2000 inhabitants. Development of the plan is supported by data processing and reporting through GIS, comprising all required data on existing water and waste water infrastructure, boundaries of the agglomerations, settlements within the agglomerations, industrial and domestic waste water loads, WWTP locations and discharge points, and sensitive and protected areas.

The EU Water Framework Directive emphasizes the importance of surface waters and groundwater monitoring to obtain baseline information and impact assessment of the water status for hydrotechnical structures. Article 8 of EU Water Framework Directive explicitly stipulates the obligation to establish monitoring of surface waters and groundwater status. Since Croatia is in the accession process to the EU, Croatian legislation in the field of water policy has to be harmonized with the EU legislation. According to the Amendments to the Water Act, Croatian Waters is responsible for monitoring of all water status, while according to the Construction Act the obligation to carry out the monitoring of hydrotechnical structures is the responsibility of the users.

Transboundary karst water related problems will be better and more efficiently solved if professional and scientific principles are fully recognised and not affected or influenced by daily politics. In case of the states, which were established after disintegration of former Yugoslavia, official contacts of experts should be strengthened. Friendship and appreciation between experts and institutions that were created over many years, and privately still exist, should be used at best for efficient solution of current problems that do not have political background. Unfortunately, at the present, some positive experiences from the former country and political system are insufficiently used because the opinion (mainly from politicians) that nothing from the former system was good.

Of paramount importance is to ensure a stable exchange of technical information and to create institutions and space where a public, free and open discussion among all the partners in process will be conducted. It is the way to create a long-term strategy for a more efficient internationally shared transboundary karst water management respecting the principles of sustainable development.