



How to take action for integrated water management

M. Brilly, S. Rusjan and S. Koren

University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Civil Engineering and Geodetics

Water management development and river regulations go back to ancient times, they gradually developed in the 19th century and intensified in the second half of the 20th century with irrigation, water power development and river regulations for development of inundated land. Regulation and deterioration of rivers has a long history. The process was lead by specific, economically defined interests and simple decision-making schemes. The main task in urban areas was how to take and develop, safely for different economical purposes, space of river corridor.

To day different interests overload the water resources and that is main obstacle for sustainable development and implementation of WFD. The integrated approaches seem to be proper solution for to day actions in water management. A good practice is in overall integration or at least partial inaugurations. There are some lacks in implementation because of particular interest, knowledge, development, organization and trans-boundary impacts. The integrated approach of water management has different aspects of integration in space, time, hydrological cycle, professional disciplines, administration etc. There are also some practical lags in improving between scientific development and practice in society, including legislation and the organisation of the government.

Water management policy proceeds from development to management. The importance of environmental sustainability has been recognized overall. The decision making should integrate more interests, calls for a greater decentralization, more participation and greater financial viability. Efforts and actions must involve a pro-active participation and contributions of both governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.

Regardless of the approach chosen, water management asks for a flexible, tailor-made set-up. Each necessary step can be taken at different points in time, depending on available resources and capabilities. It is thus advisable to apply a well-defined logical framework, consisting of a comprehensive set of logically related tasks in water management cycle.

Each phase can be subdivided into several tasks, where relevant stakeholders should always be involved as early as possible in the process. To achieve the objectives set, all the phases and tasks are best performed when they follow a certain logical order. You can start at any phase of the cycle, as long as certain tasks are followed by specific other tasks, as laid down in the logical framework.

Problems are more complex if trans-boundary aspects are included in management. There is solution in partial integration in space according space oriented solutions.