

1. Country/Organization:

ITALY

2. Title of the action committed to in 2011 (see the annex)

Please indicate the title of the action on the implementation of which you are reporting. Those countries that committed to more than one action please kindly note that a template for reporting should be filled in for each action.

Define and monitor environmental flow in the Po river basin district and Arno river basin

3. Overview of progress made

(a) *Has the action been implemented?*

Yes / In progress / No

The Po river Basin Authority realized an intensive public participation process: a large scale forum (4 meetings from November 2010 to July 2012), 2 regional scale meetings in 2011-2012, technical focus groups with stakeholders (15 meetings in 2011 plus 8 meetings in 2012). Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is ongoing and the draft copy of the "Water resources balance plan" will be available for public comments shortly. The definition of the minimum ecological flow and the preparation of guidelines on its application are still ongoing, involving stakeholders and technical experts. The key objective of the plan is promoting a green water balance to guarantee a right water quantity to safeguard environment and water related ecosystems.

The Arno river Basin Authority adopted its "Water resources balance plan" and important measures have been already implemented. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) procedure is concluded as well as the public participation process: 5 comments have been received and evaluated by the river Basin Authority.

(b) *What challenges were encountered during the implementation of the action? What lessons were learned?*

Challenges in drawing "Water resources balance plan" were:

- dealing with conflicts among stakeholders on water uses and identifying possible shared solutions;
- ensuring a platform for discussion with stakeholders on the uses of water resource;
- sharing the importance of ecological aspects in allocation of water resources with potential stakeholders;
- including expected impacts climate change when calculating water balance.

Po District

Lesson learned: economic impacts of water scarcity need to be investigated on the entire "production chain" (e.g. Parmigiano Reggiano, Parma Ham) in order to take into account also socio-economic impacts.

(c) *What future steps, if any, are planned in relation to the action implementation/follow up?*

Po District: last phase of consultation process on draft of Water resources balance plan; defining ecological flow to meet WFD objectives.

Arno District: implementing Water resources balance plan.

4. Usefulness of the Astana Water Action

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements and provide an explanation, as appropriate.

(a) *The Astana Water Action was useful to strengthen political support related to sustainable water management issues:*

strongly agree / somewhat agree / somewhat disagree / strongly disagree

Joining Astana Water Action fosters the exchange of experiences between non-EU Regions and River basins improving water resources management, including during drought periods.

(b) *The Astana Water Action has helped my country to comply with its international obligations:*

strongly agree / somewhat agree / somewhat disagree / strongly disagree

Italian AWA activities put into action European provisions. Improving those activities is useful in management of international basins shared by Italy but also in exchanging experiences within other international basins not shared by Italy.

(c) *Would your country be interested in continuing to submit and monitor new actions within the AWA framework in the future?*

Yes / No

In the next future, Italy will monitor progresses in implementing the current AWA. A possible renewal of the Italian commitment in AWA framework will be evaluated in due time.