

1. Country/Organization:

Please indicate your name, organization and country.

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.

Upgrade existing nationwide water monitoring networks in Italy

3. Overview of progress made

(a) *Has the action been implemented?*

Yes / In progress / No

Most of the Italian Regions have established a new monitoring network and carried out monitoring of ecological, chemical and quantitative status of water bodies according to methods in compliance with the Water Framework Directive. Part of the Regions are still working to make their monitoring networks operational.

The Italian Ministry of Environment, supported by the Institute for Environmental Protection and Research, ISPRA (Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale) and the National Research Institutes (CNR IRSA, CNR ISE, ISS and ENEA), has been coordinating the Regions and the River Basin Authorities and promoting the exchange of practical experiences at national level.

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

Challenges in expanding and updating the existing monitoring networks were:

- training the staff to perform water monitoring according to the new methodologies;
- establishing new methods for individual biological quality elements to classify water bodies, in particular for the category of transitional waters;
- funding the new monitoring programme;
- creating and updating a national information system on water.

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

Future steps:

- follow up and improve monitoring programmes covering the whole national territory;
- fostering the exchange of experiences between Regions and River basin Authorities in defining reference conditions and validating methods in order to guarantee a uniform implementation at national level.

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

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

Joining Astana Water Action fosters the exchange of experiences with non-EU Regions and River basins on monitoring, management and protection of water bodies.

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

strongly agree / somewhat agree / somewhat disagree / strongly disagree

If agreeing, please elaborate how (e.g. European Union Directives, UNECE and other environmental agreements, Millennium Development Goals, Commitments made within the "Environment for Europe" process) (up to 250 words)

The AWA is also linked to obligations coming from European Union legislation. It is, however helpful in addressing management of international river basins shared by Italy and might facilitate the exchange of experiences with 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

Please elaborate (up to 250 words)

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