Securing national budget to support the establishment, functioning and work of institutional mechanisms for transboundary water cooperation: experience sharing from Spain

C. Marcuello – DG Water - MITECO
Spain and Portugal: Members of the UE, common env. acquis

Directive 2000/60/EC, establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, applies on both sides

Albufeira Convention 1998 – Implemented by the CADC

Reviewed in 2008: includes quarterly flow regime

ES-PT anual Summits: Address water under the CADC umbrella.
Financing measures in EU MS:

EC, 2021 - Economic data related to the implementation of the Water Framework Directive and the financing of measures:

*In total, the capital investment costs of the measures planned in the 2nd RBMPs (2016-2021) of the WFD reach at least EUR 142 billion*
Passed by the Government in January 2023:

✓ Allocate water to users from mix of sources: surface, groundwater, reuse, desalination
✓ Achievement of environmental objectives:
  o demand management,
  o improving water efficiency,
  o abating contamination

Measures and budget (recovered by taxes/tariffs at central, regional and municipal levels)

• 6,500 measures for all RBs with an investment of 22,844 million euro (mio€) mainly distributed as:
  o 47% Central Administration; 36% regional admin.

• Wastewater Treatment and sanitation: 6,644 mio€; irrigation: 5,071 mio€; drinking water supply: 2,260 mio€
• Desalination and water reuse: 1,270 mio€
• Digitalization of the urban and agricultural sector: 3.000 mio€
• Information by basins: https://servicio.mapa.gob.es/pphh/queries/resumenMedidas?ciclo=253
Transboundary consultation (eg. Duero/Douro – 27 shared waterbodies):
RBMPs must ensure compliance with Albufeira Convention

Common projects for improving knowledge (eg. POCTEP Albufeira)

Exchange of hydrometeorological information
Knowledge sharing at national level in Iberoamerica - Conference of Iberoamerican Water Directors (CODIA):

- Capacity development and knowledge transfer on **Transboundary Cooperation**
- In coordination with the Secretariat of the **Water Convention**

Recommendend actions for countries on Financing and funding:

**Financing**

- Improving the financing of transboundary water cooperation should be linked to: (i) the definition of strategic frameworks with clear objectives for cooperation between countries, (ii) incentives for joint programmes with transboundary focus, (iii) the harmonisation of investment and water resources management, (iv) the integration of cooperation into results frameworks and (v) the strengthening of implementation and enforcement capacities, tracking.
- Access to existing financial resources and funds requires favourable conditions, political will and agreements between countries that provide a basis on which to work.
- To quantify a country’s investments needed to improve transboundary management, it is important to have good information on water resources to enable decision-making. Many countries do not have sufficient information and knowledge to estimate the investments needed, including in GHG or to achieve water security.
- Greater efficiency in the use of resources from different sources (national budgets, bilateral or multilateral external donors and strategic funds) requires coherence in the definition of objectives and complementarity of interventions.
- Climate funds present an opportunity to work on IWMI issues at the cross-border level since the cross-border perspective does not have the prominence that it should have in these funds. The inertia generated by regional work on transboundary waters can be used to seek funding.
- Allocate more funds for cooperation in transboundary waters, with incentives for the development of operational agreements.
- Provide resources for the development of specific goals and indicators at the national level that guide planning and the achievement of results.
- Fund joint monitoring for the assessment of water status to achieve environmental objectives.
- Finance the creation of databases, studies and analyses that allow decision-making in the preparation of action and investment plans.
- Ensure the sustainability and strength of joint management bodies with stable sources of funding that allow long-term actions not subject to a project with a defined deadline.
- Access international financial resources while analysing how national resources are used and how cross-border issues are incorporated into national planning.
- Assess the opportunity provided by climate funds to finance IWMI issues at the cross-border level.
- Offer support from regional and international financial and development agencies, multilateral and bilateral, through non-reimbursable financing.
- Promote coherence in the definition of objectives and complementarity of interventions for greater effectiveness in the use of resources from different sources.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Undertake actions that promote IWRM and the management of shared ecosystems considering the economic, social and environmental development of the territories.</th>
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<td>- Provide resources for the development of specific goals and indicators at the national level that guide planning and the achievement of results.</td>
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<td>- Strengthen national governance frameworks (IWRMs) to enable better cross-border cooperation through the creation of basin committees and bodies.</td>
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<td>- Incorporate the cross-border dimension in the formulation of coherent and efficient public policies that reflect the plurality of political interests of States.</td>
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<td>- Harmonize norms (laws, policies and regulations) in each of the coastal countries according to their model of government.</td>
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<td>- Strengthen joint management bodies or mechanisms so that they are fully operational and have greater ownership by countries.</td>
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<td>- Ensure the sustainability and strength of joint management bodies with harmonization and integration.</td>
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<td>- Promote coordinated management, especially when there is a geographical mismatch between hydrological and administrative boundaries of transboundary basins and aquifers.</td>
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<td>- Adjust the implementation of the agreement or in accordance with national laws, policies and programmes.</td>
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<td>- Improve the knowledge base on the management of water resources.</td>
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<td>- Materialize the commitment of States to guarantee access to knowledge, research and information in a permanent and transparent manner.</td>
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<td>- Promote a consultative and communication process between institutions and authorities for the preparation of the indicator 6.5.2 report in order to give greater attention and support to IWRM and its cross-border dimension.</td>
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<td>- Develop and have more robust and transparent national statistical systems that allow the evaluation and monitoring of the indicator based on data from official sources in the countries.</td>
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<td>- Develop technical and institutional capacities and adequate infrastructures for effective data monitoring.</td>
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<td>- Develop and implement recommendations presented in this report that are aimed at unlocking impediments to achieving cross-border cooperation through accelerators: governance, financing, data, capacity and innovation.</td>
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GLOBAL WORKSHOP ON
FUNDING AND FINANCING
TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION
AND BASIN DEVELOPMENT

5-6 DECEMBER 2023 | GENEVA

Thanks!