

International Conference on Water Management in Federal and Federal-Type Countries

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The Situation in Italy

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OUTLINE

Introduction: data (incomplete, non-homogeneous)

Framework: legislative situation and evolution; allocation of legislative powers (State and Regions); administrative organisation

“Water management”: water services; water infrastructures; water resources; river basins

Profiles: property; planning; exploitation; protection; water services; costs

INTRODUCTION: DATA

Quantity: sufficient (but: season; macro-areas) but **decreasing availability** (growth in demand) and **uneven distribution**

Quality: unsatisfying, but **improving** (exception: drinkable water)

More potential **resources**, more water **abstraction** than **EU average**

Mediterranean model as for **climate** and **uses**

Very limited **transboundary** waters

INTRODUCTION: STRESS FACTORS

Climate change

Population density (urbanisation / immigration)

Intensive agriculture / farming

Small and medium-sized **enterprises**

Water services **inefficiency** (infrastructures and management)

Unsatisfying **internalization of costs**

Water losses and waste: 38-45% of “**real**” losses and “**apparent**” losses (50-60% in southern Italy)

WATER LAW

d.lgs. 152/2006 (“environmental code”), part III

- I. **Soil protection**
- II. **Quality and quantity protection**
- III. **Water services**

r.d. 1775/1933: Water permits

Legislative powers:

- **State / Regions (environmental legislation): borders**
- **Fair cooperation for cross-sectional issues (Constitutional Court)**

Issues: State-Regions conflicts; lobbying

ORGANIZATION

Complex and “**overlapping**” public organisation

Traditional bodies (vertical subsidiarity): Regions; Provinces; Metropolitan Cities; Municipalities

Specialized bodies (“technical” subsidiarity): River Basin District Authorities; (Optimal Territorial) Areas Authorities

Main issue: role definition (model choice)

MANAGEMENT: PROPERTY

Public ownership: public domain (special regime)

Few, limited **exceptions:** rainwater and groundwater for domestic uses

“Privatization”: services privatized, resource “publicized”

NEXT

- Information, consultation and involvement of **public** and **users**
- **“Deideologize”** debate on privatization

MANAGEMENT: PLANNING

Overlapping: different laws, areas, interests

Soil protection: *Piano di bacino distrettuale; Piani stralcio di distretto per l'assetto idrogeologico (PAI); Piani straordinari per le situazioni a più elevato rischio idrogeologico; Programmi di interventi urgenti per la riduzione del rischio idrogeologico per la tutela dal rischio idrogeologico; Piani urgenti di emergenza per l'incolumità delle popolazioni interessate; Piani regionali per l'adeguamento delle infrastrutture; Programmi triennali di intervento*

Water protection: *Piano di gestione (piano stralcio); Piano di tutela delle acque (piano di settore); Programmi di misure*

Water services: *Piano d'ambito*

NEXT

- Simplification and co-ordination

MANAGEMENT: PROTECTION

Quality protection: WFD (specific tools: environmental objectives)

Quantity protection: WFD (general criteria)

NEXT

- Implementation of WFD

MANAGEMENT: EXPLOITATION

Concessions (progressively adapted to other laws changing)
Hierarchy of uses (and **environmental** uses)

NEXT

- Concession “**system**” full integration
- Different **hierarchy** of uses
- **Cost** recovery

MANAGEMENT: WATER SERVICES

Vertical and horizontal **integration** to overcome inefficiency
Social issues: local availability at reasonable prices

NEXT

- “**Technical**” integration to overcome inefficiency
- **Investments** on old water **infrastructures**
- **Tariffs** review

MANAGEMENT: COSTS

Low internalization of costs (high costs to **move** and **manage** water)

Social issues (households; agriculture) in a crisis time

NEXT

- Implement **WFD** (art.9), **internalization** of costs
- Consider **social issues** combined with **EU competition** issues and **taxation** issues

CONCLUSIONS

Delicate but not hopeless factual situation: limit stress factors

Unsatisfactory legislation

Unsatisfactory management

Incomplete legislative and administrative **partial reforms**

Cost-benefit analysis, according to **sustainability** criteria

Towards a **water** (environmental) **code**?