



## Framework for reporting identified practices

**Partner: Epirus**

	<b>Section</b>	<b>Indication of Content</b>
1	Title of the practice	Creation of a framework for the protection and efficient management of water resources.
2	Precise theme/ issue tackled by the practice	The creation of a legal framework that describes the steps for establishing a policy for the protection and effective management of water resources. The bodies involved and their competences are described.
3	Objectives of the practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Creation of a policy for the protection of the available water resources.</li> <li>-Establish the bodies that should contribute to the creation of policies for the protection and management of available water resources.</li> <li>-Determine the competences of the involved bodies and services.</li> <li>-Determine the different uses of water from individuals and enterprises.</li> <li>-Determining penalties for polluting or misusing water resources.</li> </ul>
4	Location	Greece
5	Detailed description of the practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The protection and effective use of the available water resources is of outstanding importance since it is directly connected the quality of life of citizens, public health, environment protection and sustainable development. For the establishment and implementation of policies to that direction various bodies and services are involved.</li> <li>-The National Committee of Water Resources sets the policies for the protection and effective management of water recourses in Greece and monitors their implementation. The committee consists of representatives of the involved Ministries and can be supported by scientific committees. The committee asks for the opinion of the National Council of Water Resources before approving proposals which are made by the Minister of Environment.</li> <li>-The National council for Water Resources consists of one</li> </ul>

		<p>representative of each party in the Greek Parliament, representatives of the unions of Municipalities and Regions, representatives of the companies of water supply, representatives of the fields of agriculture and industry and representatives of various other bodies which are involved in the planning for water-uses or in the procedure of monitoring the quality of water resources.</p> <p>-The Central Service of Water Resources under the Ministry of Environment should every year, among other things, make a study about the condition of water resources across the country and about the implementation of relevant legislation.</p> <p>-The Decentralized Administration (services under the central government in each Region of Greece) has a Department of Water Recourses which monitors the pollution in water resources, sets the policies on regional level for the sustainable use of water resources and gives permits for the uses of water. Moreover, in their responsibilities are included the analysis of the impact of human activities on water resources and the economic analysis of the various uses of water resources. They also have to set plans for cases of emergency and define the preventive measures that should be taken, while they draft the Management Plan for water resources which describes the actions that should be taken in a period of six years.</p> <p>-In each Region there is the Regional Council of Water Resources which is "a body for the social dialogue about the protection and management of water resources". President of the council is the General Secretary of the Decentralized Administration, while there are representatives of the local union of Municipalities, the Regional Units and other stakeholders. The council is asked their opinion about the Management Plan drafted by the Department of Water Resources.</p> <p>-The law defines five different uses of water: use for water supply, use for irrigation, industrial use, use for the production of energy and use for entertainment. The relevant legal frame defines the procedure that an individual or an enterprise should follow in order to be given permits for a kind of use of water.</p>
6	Evaluation	The legislation indicates the bodies that should evaluate the results of the policies and the measures taken for the protection of water resources.

		<p>i) The Central Service of Water Resources drafts every year a study for the implementation of the legislation concerning the protection of water resources.</p> <p>ii) The departments of Water Recourses of the Decentralized Administration should also draft every year a study for the condition of water resources in their area, propose measures for the improvement of water resources and inform the Central Service of Water Resources about the implementation of the measures taken.</p> <p>The quality and quantity of water resources are measured (chemical analysis, networks of sensors, inspections) and in this way the results of the measures taken can be evaluated. A database with scientific data which indicate the condition of water resources has also been created on national level, while the network of bodies submitting the relevant data has been determined.</p>
7	Lessons learnt from the practice	<p>-Water resources are precious and should be protected. A national policy to that direction is needed, while the climate change should be taken into consideration when planning that policy.</p> <p>- A balance is needed between development and protection of water resources. When the plans for the protection and management of water resources are drafted the ways in which they affect agricultural and industrial production should be taken into consideration.</p> <p>-The flow of rivers, underground water resources and lakes do not care about administrative or national borders. Cooperation of services in different regions or countries is required in many cases. Moreover, the "area of responsibility" of an organization dealing with water resources may differ from the administrative borders of a Region or Municipality.</p> <p>-The establishment of a system which monitors the condition of water resources from a qualitative and a quantitative aspect is important in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the measures taken and propose new ones.</p>
8	Contact information	<p>Batzias Nikolaos Region of Epirus Regional Unit of Thesprotia Tel:26653-60333</p>



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9	Other possible interesting information	Legislation for water resources. -Law n. 3199/2003 (GG A 280/9-12-2003) -European Guideline 2000/60/EG