



Implementation of Water Framework Directive in Albania[#]

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Abstract: The Water Framework Directive is the framework legislation setting out the EU water policy. It requires an integrated and strategic approach to water management based on river basin districts, with the overall objective of ensuring that all water bodies achieve 'good status' by 2015. It gives the model to be followed by the national legislation of the Member States and those countries that so aspire to be. Approximation and compliance of EU legislation, and therefore of the WFD, in Albania is one of the main conditions for its intended EU accession. As this formal compliance to WFD has not yet been met by the country, efforts are needed to be made in the future. Approximation of WFD will affect the national legislation in the first place and its implementation will have considerable implications upon all those who have an interest in water management and use. This paper presents shortly the results of the work carried out at the end of 2008 by the CARDS project INPAEL: current gaps, weaknesses and challenges for the transposition and implementation in Albania, the recommendations for completing the approximation of the Directive: measures to be taken and costs to be afforded in order to achieve full approximation in the way of country's accession to the EU. Best estimates at present indicate that costs, in constant 2008 prices, are: full transposition would cost 0.8 ml EUR; capital/one off measures would cost 5.4 ml EUR, of which technical assistance projects over 4.8 ml EUR, equipment 0.543 ml EUR and public consultation 0.12 ml EUR; annual operating/ implementation would cost 0.524 ml EUR.

Key words: *Water, transposition, compliance, policy, monitoring.*

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