

Flood risk management plans – the interlink between Floods Directive and Water Framework Directive – a creative approach to authorities work

Gimo, 11.06.2014

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What's explicitly required

Member States shall take appropriate steps **to coordinate** the application of this Directive and that of Directive 2000/60/EC focusing on opportunities for improving efficiency, information exchange and for achieving common synergies and benefits having regard to the environmental objectives laid down in Article 4 of Directive 2000/60/EC. In particular:

1. the information in **flood hazard maps and flood risk maps** shall be **consistent** with relevant information presented according to the WFD. **Maps may be integrated** into the reviews of characteristics of the river basin district and review of the environmental impact of human activity;
2. the development of the first **flood risk management plans** and their subsequent reviews shall be carried out in **coordination** with and **may be integrated into** the reviews of the river basin management plans.

(Article 9 of the Floods Directive)

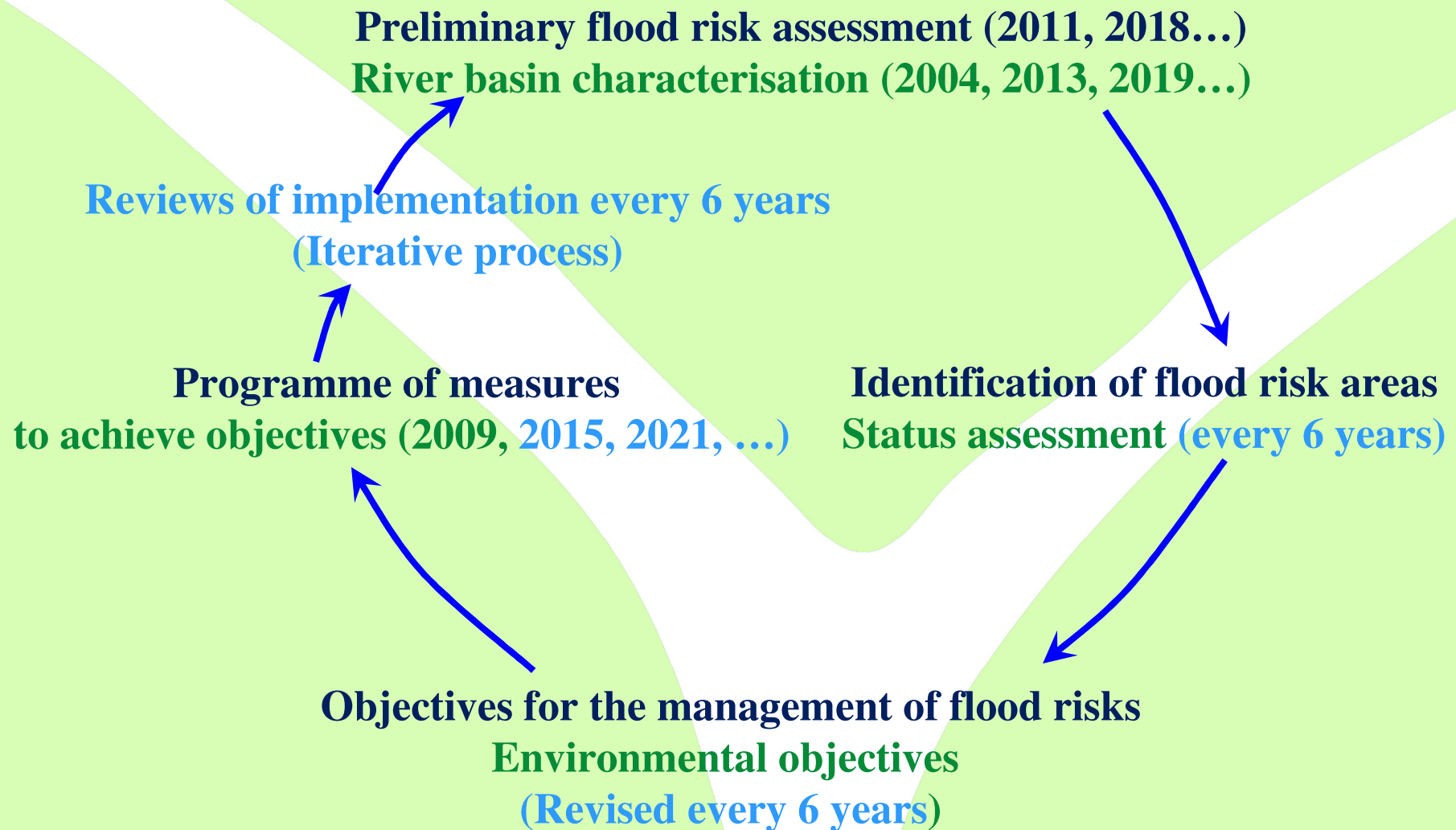


WFD & FD: the similarities

- Both directives operate within a river basin district (even if the Floods Directive allows usage of a different unit of management).
- Cooperation and coordination with the neighbouring countries is required.
- The basic idea behind the steps to be taken is similar (see next slide).
- Climate change shall be considered both in a flood risk management plan (explicit requirement in Article 4.2) and a river basin management plan (no formal requirements, but there is Guidance Document No 24).



WFD & FD: the similarities



WFD & FD: the differences

Water Framework Directive

The main purpose: protection of surface water & groundwater, emphasis on functioning ecosystems, even if the WFD asks for contribution to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts.

Scope: the whole river basin district as even waters in good status may require measures to prevent deterioration.

Floods Directive

The main purpose: the reduction of the adverse **consequences for human health**, the environment, **cultural heritage and economic activity** associated with floods.

Scope: identified areas, where potential significant flood risks exist or might be considered likely to occur.



WFD & FD: the differences

Water Framework Directive

Economic analysis: a significant and comprehensive chapter to identify significance of water uses, predict changes in drivers, justify pricing policy, exemptions and selection of measures (cost-benefit analysis).

Public participation: clearly defined timing; at least 6 months for consultation of draft management plans & programmes of measures; background documents shall be available.

Floods Directive

Cost-benefit analysis: explicitly required only for shared river basins or sub-basins to assess measures with transnational effects. Among the other things, preliminary assessment shall include **description/assessment of adverse consequences for the economic activity, which were** caused by past floods or may be caused by future floods.

Public participation: general requirements, even if it is required to encourage active public involvement.



Creativity needed to tackle challenges

- The WFD in all countries requires achievement of good status; the meaning of good status shall be intercalibrated, therefore the measures for status improvement should not have adverse impact in the another country. Flood management measures potentially can increase flood risks in upstream or downstream countries – coordination and agreement is required.
- Flood management measures potentially may be in conflict with the achievement of a good status. Definition of the priorities (protection of population or natural ecosystems) and justification of exemptions may be quite challenging.
- How to consider floods in the WFD DPSIR chain (Drivers-Pressures-State-Impact-Response)? Flood protection identified as a driver.



Latvian situation & choices

- Floods in inland waters are more or less a natural phenomena, but there are problems for people living in the vicinity of lowland rivers, floodplains or in the areas, where appearance of sludge-ice is possible. In urban areas an extensive rainfall can obstruct traffic, as well as communications and operation of sewerage infrastructure.
- It is important to prevent erosion of river banks and the sea coast. 25% of 496 km coastline are subject to intense washing away (erosion) as a result of powerful storms and waves.
- It is envisaged to integrate flood risks management plan in the river basin management plans, but at the moment we cannot tell how this integration will look like in practice. We have the same competent authority responsible for the development of the river basin management plans & flood risk management plans.

