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SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

1. RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT AND THE EC WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

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Abstract

Due to the continuous deterioration of water quality, as well to the intensive and unbalanced usage of water in different regions and industries, not correlated enough with the adoption of coherent recycling and reuse practices, the future availability of water is threatened in many regions. Because of that, at the dawn of the third millennium, water may be considered a strategic resource as well as a trade good, and sustainable water management programs must be implemented at local, regional, national and international scale. Such sustainable solutions can only be found by considering both management and technological practices, in the context of well-defined national and international associated environmental policies and legislation.

This study presents the actual trends of the European water resources management, with particular attention given to the EC Water Framework Directive (EC WFD) that integrates, for the first time, all issues related to an improved protection and management of all of Europe's water resources and aquatic environments

The integrated river basin management is considered to be an essential part for the implementation of the EC WFD and a case study concerning the Prut river basin is discussed.

Keywords: EC Water Framework Directive, integrated river basin management, Prut river basin

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