

Project „Cultural landscapes of mountain and highland river valleys”
supported by a grant from Norway
through the Norwegian Financial Mechanism
in the framework of Polish-Norwegian Research Fund



The Impact of the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) on Norwegian Water Management: Regionalisation and Integration

Nicolás J. I. Rodríguez

*Seminar in Bergen 12-16.09.2009
Supported by a grant from Norway through
the Norwegian Financial Mechanism*



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Conclusions

The EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) was introduced in Norwegian legislation as a regulation in force from 01.01.2007. The EEA committee decided to include EU WFD as part of Annex XX (environment) of the EEA –agreement at 28.09.2007. Because of cost of implementation involved it had to be formally approved by the Norwegian National Assembly on the basis of Article 26 in the Norwegian Constitution before the final recognition at 12.02.2009. This presentation explores the impact of the EU Water Framework Directive on Norwegian Water Management. The EU Water Framework Directive reorganized the Norwegian Water Management system from being sector divided and performed without holistic regional intentions. A consequence in the legal framework has been to achieve a regional organization of water management and higher integration between sector authorities in the field of water management. It has introduced a new planning tool for water management and also addressed the need for monitoring programs of water resources. In addition it is based on an ecosystem approach to water resources, but the specific approach has some limitations that is dealt with in this presentation. In this presentation the relation between water resources and land use is analyzed based on the experience that can be withdrawn from a comparative analysis of the first wave of water management plans (2009) in Norway. The directive raises also some interesting legal questions relating to for example aquaculture and interaction between sea water and freshwater systems and the question of ecological potential in regulated streams. Some of these issues are particular for Norway and others are questions to be dealt with on an European level. Among the most interesting aspects is the connection between ecological indicators, physical/ chemical indicators and normative rules set in the directive, which add a dynamic content to the legislative framework – this legislative technique is new to Norwegian water management.

