

CONFERENCE OF THE WATER DIRECTORS OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN AND SOUTHEASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

WATER ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM IN ALBANIA GENERAL INFORMATION

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Hellenic Government
Ministry for the Environment
Ministry of Foreign Affairs



EU Commission
DG Environment
DG AidCo



**Mediterranean Component of
the EU Water Initiative**
European Commission



**Euro-Mediterranean
Partnership**



**Euro-Mediterranean
Information System
on Know-How in the
Water Sector**



**Regional Monitoring and
Support Unit**
MEDA-Water Programme

Country profile

- Area 28.748 km²
- Population about 3.7 million in 2005
- Hydrographic network 43.305 km²
- Coastal area 7.000 km², 25% of the national territory
- Average altitude 786 meters
- Mountains area 60 % of the territory
- Coastline length 476 km 70% sandy, 30% rocky
- Coastal population about 2 million (54 %)

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- **B1 Drin-Buna basin, Shkodra:**
 - 285 km long,
 - surf. 19.582 km²,
 - annual water volume (in million m³) 21.190
- **B2 Mati basin, Lezhë:**
 - 144 km length
 - Surf. 2441 km²
 - annual water volume (in million m³) 3.250
- **B3 Ishem-Erzen basin, Tirana:**
 - 108 km length
 - Surf. 1439 km²
 - annual water volume (in million m³) 660
- **B4 Shkumbini basin, Elbasani:**
 - 181 km length
 - Surf. 2445 km²
 - annual water volume (in million m³) 1.900
- **B5 Seman basin, Fieri:**
 - 638 km length
 - Surf. 11252 km²
 - annual water volume (in million m³) 2.700
- **B6 Vjosa basin, Vlora:**
 - 262 km length
 - Surf. 6706 km²
 - annual water volume (in million m³) 5.550



Legal and institutional aspects of the water administration system

- Law No. 8093, dated 21.3.1996 “ON WATER SOURCES”
 - The National Council of Water (NCW) is the central decision organ for the management of water resources. The Prime Minister chairs the National Council of Water;
 - Technical secretariat is an executive organ of the National Council of Water, which is established by decision of the Council of Ministers;
 - Councils of Water Basins (CWB) are local authorities responsible for management of water reserves in the respective basins;
 - Inter-ministerial Commission for the transboundary water established by the decision of the Council of Ministers.

Government institutions for each water basin

- For each basin an Agency of Water Basin have been established with decision of National Water Council, and in place from 2002 with three people in charge.
- Other Ministries in charge of water management
 - Sewage water and pipelines - Ministry of Public Work, Transportation and Telecommunication (MPWTT)
 - Drinking water – MPWTT and Ministry of Health;
 - Agriculture water including reservoirs – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection
 - Water for energy (mostly artificial lakes) – Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy

The actual challenges regarding water issues

1. Improvement of the legal aspects;
2. Efficiency of the National Water Council;
3. Strengthening of the role of the Water Secretariat and CWB from their establishment, including their membership;
4. Reduction and control the river basin extraction of gravels;
5. Prevention of illegal and without control of underground water;
6. Collaboration with other interested institutions (scientific, services, Ministry, etc);
7. Re-establishment of the transboundary commissions and signature of joint agreement in cooperation with the neighboring countries.

Financial resources in water

- Limited budget from the government (for the moment only the salaries and running cost of the Agencies);
- Some income from the gravel extraction in the river basin and water use (bottling, technological use, etc);
- Government contribution for the existing water monitoring, about 50.000 USD
- Project on the wetlands and transboundary lakes:
 - The conservation of costal and lagoon ecosystems in the Mediterranean Region - MedWet Coast, 2 million USD
 - Integrated water and ecosystem management, 22 million USD
 - Lake Prespa, about 4 million USD – 1.03 Albania
 - Lake Shkodra, expected to be 4 million USD
- World Bank project on water management (agriculture) with about 40 million USD, where 1,3 million will be managed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Water Administration for the institutional strengthening and water monitoring system in the country.

Future plans

- **Start the implementation process of the European Water Directive.**
 - The work coordination between different institutions involved in water management;
 - The establishment of the monitoring network in the hydrological system of the country;
 - The inventory of the water sources in the country.
 - The sewage water system;
 - The normal function of the permission and tariffs for water use in the country;
 - The limitation of river basin gravel extraction and orient the business into the mountain quires.

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