



Report: Risk Assessment Criteria I

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Participation/ Representatives:

Scotland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Ireland, Poland, Czech Republic, Latvia, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Austria, EEB

Risk Assessment Criteria so far

Common aspects

- completed in most countries, some are still working
- focus on rivers (few assessments for lakes)
- uses and pressures considered have been similar, as discussed during the workshop so far
- abiotic data used for assessment, biological data are not available at a large scale, gradually being added to the assessment
- establishment of three to four different categories for assessing risks
- consideration of morphological and hydrological aspects
- expert judgement played a role in all countries
- high degree of uncertainty



Risk Assessment Criteria so far

Differences in approaches

- water bodies at risk due to hydromorphology criteria: some countries designate all water bodies as provisionally heavily modified, some followed hmwb guidance and designated only a subgroup
- some countries used information on uses and pressures (Latvia, Norway), others focus on hydromorphological criteria (Austrian example) to perform risk assessment
- different thresholds (more than 15 percent of river length affected vs. more than 50)



Next steps

- to confirm and refine risk assessment results during further characterisation work (with view to programmes of measures)
- continue with the collection of data to validate risk assessment – mainly biological but also still other data in some countries
 - common approach: fish and macroinvertebrates
- initiation of research projects
 - on the correlation between hydromorphology and biology
 - example: effects of channelization and dredging on biology



Next steps

- work on the clarification of the status of water bodies so far designated as probably at risk
- in cases with poor and bad status: start with program of measures immediately without further assessment steps
- development of a classification system for hydromorphology as background for drafting the programmes of measures
- work on the better communication of criteria and results to the public through wider participation (proposal by EEB)

Follow-up work in context of CIS

Mid-term perspective

- forum for exchanging information between MS and other stakeholders on measures and research projects planned (web-based, smaller workshops)
 - identification of possible synergies
 - learning opportunities for small countries
 - reduction of work
- suggestion of mitigation measures for different uses
 - European approach
 - good practice
- supporting further research
 - not on an European, but regional level for MS with same uses, water body types and problems

Follow-up work in context of CIS

Shorter term

- summaries of Article 5 reports on website for quick reference
 - template for summary (max. five pages)
- overview table of risk assessment criteria used for specific pressures
- Europe-wide analysis on setting thresholds for risk assessment
- work with table from WRc and provide update



Additions, comments from the working group?