

Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks – The links with the Cohesion Policy

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Floods Directive 2007/60/EC

- **AIM: to reduce the adverse consequences of flooding to human health, the environment, economic activity and cultural heritage**
- **It requires MSs to:**
 - ➔ to carry out a preliminary flood risk assessment in 2011 to identify areas of potential significant flood risk
 - ➔ to prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps for these areas by 2013
 - ➔ to prepare flood risk management plans by 2015
- **The flood risk management plans should focus on prevention, protection and preparedness.**

Cohesion Policy aims to:

- Reduce economic and social disparities
- Show solidarity and keep Europe competitive
- Meet the challenges of the 21st century

Cohesion Policy architecture:

- Three funds: CF, ERDF and ESF
- Three new priority objectives: convergence, regional competitiveness and employment and European territorial cooperation

“Risk prevention” in Cohesion Policy

- **“Risk prevention” is addressed under the environmental header of the Cohesion Policy**
- **The prevention of risks covers both natural and technological risks**
- **€ 104 billion allocated for the environment in 2007-2013 programming period (30% of total Structural Funds)**
- **Three main areas:**
 - ➔ Basic environmental infrastructure
 - ➔ Climate change
 - ➔ Eco-innovation/ green technologies

Regulations and guidelines I

- **Community Strategic Guidelines on Cohesion 2007-2013:**
 - *Art. 1.1.2 Strengthen the synergies between environment protection and growth «... protection against certain environmental risks (e.g. desertification, droughts, fires and floods), should all have priority»*
- **The Decision on the Community Strategic Guidelines insists on undertaking risk prevention through:**
 - Improved management of natural resources
 - Better use of ICTs
 - More innovative public management policies

Regulations and guidelines II

- **“Risk Prevention” is a reinforced priority in the current regulation on the ERDF, in all three objectives:**
 - ➔ Convergence (article 4.5),
 - ➔ Regional competitiveness and Employment (article 5.2e) and
 - ➔ European Territorial Cooperation (article 6.1b; 6.2b; 6.3a).
- **Eligible measures can be:**
 - ➔ structural (e.g. works, defence and monitoring infrastructure) and
 - ➔ non-structural (e.g. plans, including the development of knowledge and methodologies, participatory mechanisms, risk awareness and communication)

Regulations and guidelines III

- **The ESF can support capacity building on risk prevention and strengthening the institutional capacity**
- **The CF can cover the implementation of EU environmental policies (article 2.2), including measures for risk management.**

Planned allocations

- **Planned co-financing of 7.3 billion euro:**
 - “Risk prevention”: € 5.7 billion
 - “Other environmental and risk prevention measures”: € 1.6 billion

- **Member States decide (principle of shared management) on their priorities and level to engage in risk prevention projects**

Floods prevention

- **Funds for flood prevention have been allocated in MSs, though their national and regional programming documents for the Structural Funds (the OPs) for the period 2007-2013.**
- **There are big differences in the allocations for flood prevention among the MSs.**
- **Flood prevention projects would include: modernisation of flood banks, construction of polders, improvement of the technical condition of existing anti-flood objects and increasing the natural retention of rivers valleys by reconstruction of river beds and afforestation.**
- **The Commission has been encouraging national authorities to advance on the implementation of these projects, thus avoiding and limiting future flood events.**

Examples of projects

■ Flood prevention on the Tisza River (Hungary)

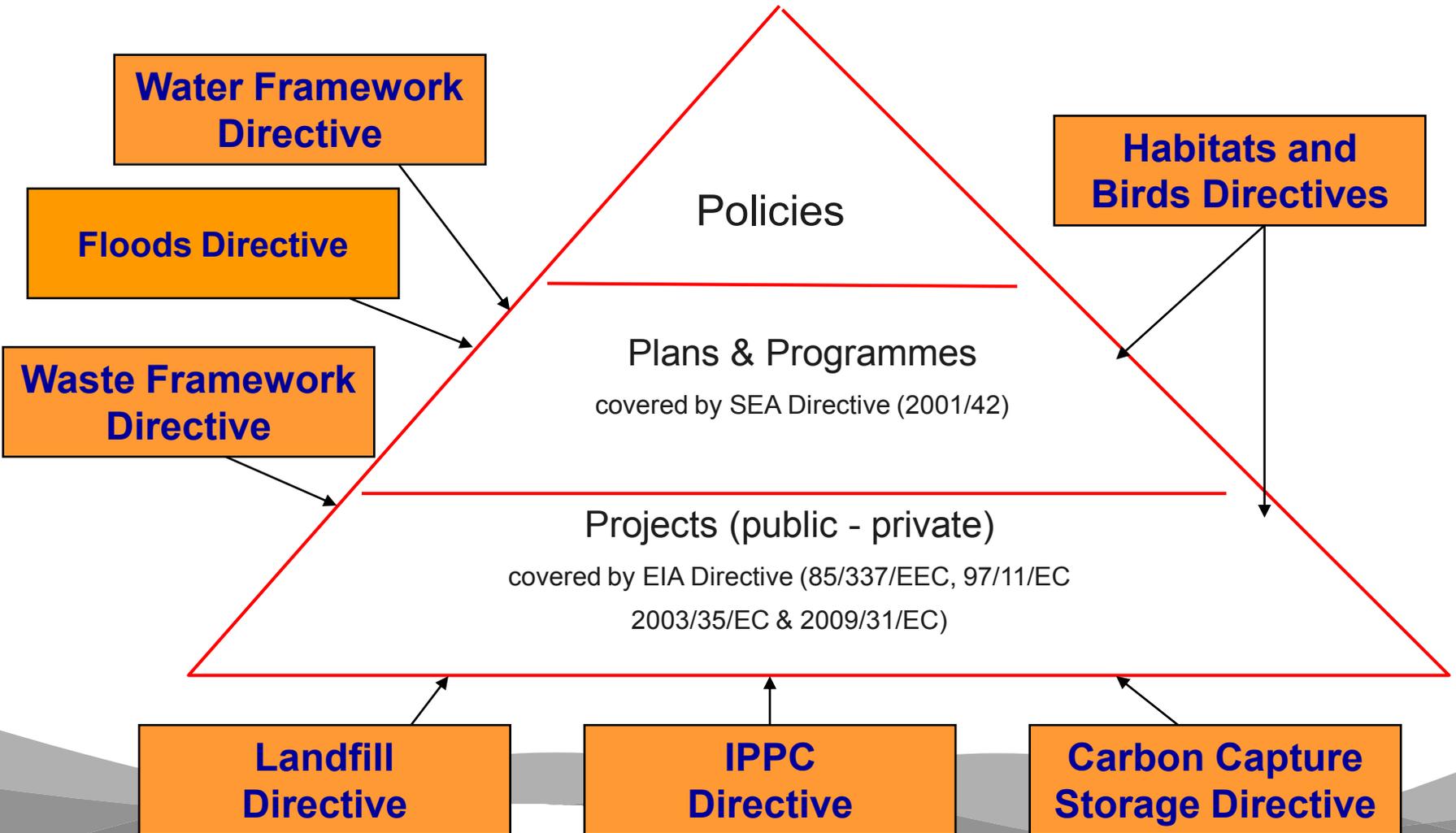
- Construction of 7 flood reservoirs and dikes along the river
- Financed through OP Environment 2007-2013

■ Flood protection project Austria – Hungary

- Envisages the Raab River, frequently affected by floods
- Development of a flood prognosis model
- Harmonisation of technological solutions for flood risk assessment and data collection, which will result in a better risk assessment and earlier flood warning

■ Developing flood risk assessments and preparing flood hazard maps and flood risk maps (Romania)

Environmental assessment



Conclusions

- **Cohesion Policy supports “risk prevention” with:**
 - ➔ Significant financial aid to projects;
 - ➔ Instruments for networking, cross-border cooperation and sharing of good practice on risk prevention
- **“Risk prevention and preparedness” is especially relevant in regional policies: integration in planning and regional development are key concerns**
- **Impact assessment is an effective tool to integrated risk concerns into projects and plans (even if not explicit criteria)**

Thank you for your attention!
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