

**International Conference  
on Water Management  
in Federal and Federal-Type Countries**

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**The Situation in Italy**

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# OUTLINE

**Introduction:** data (incomplete, non-homogeneous)

**Framework:** legislative situation and evolution; allocation of legislative powers (State and Regions); administrative organisation

**“Water management”:** water services; water infrastructures; water resources; river basins

**Profiles:** property; planning; exploitation; protection; water services; costs

## INTRODUCTION: DATA

**Quantity: sufficient** (but: season; macro-areas) but **decreasing availability** (growth in demand) and **uneven distribution**

**Quality: unsatisfying**, but **improving** (exception: drinkable water)

More potential **resources**, more water **abstraction** than **EU average**

**Mediterranean model** as for **climate** and **uses**

Very limited **transboundary waters**

# INTRODUCTION: STRESS FACTORS

**Climate** change

**Population** density (urbanisation / immigration)

**Intensive agriculture** / farming

Small and medium-sized **enterprises**

Water services **inefficiency** (infrastructures and management)

Unsatisfying **internalization of costs**

Water losses and waste: 38-45% of “**real**” losses and “**apparent**” losses (50-60% in southern Italy)

# WATER LAW

**d.lgs. 152/2006 (“environmental code”), part III**

- I. **Soil protection**
- II. **Quality and quantity protection**
- III. **Water services**

**r.d. 1775/1933: Water permits**

**Legislative powers:**

- **State / Regions (environmental legislation): borders**
- **Fair cooperation for cross-sectional issues (Constitutional Court)**

**Issues: State-Regions conflicts; lobbying**

# ORGANIZATION

**Complex** and “**overlapping**” public organisation

**Traditional bodies** (vertical subsidiarity): Regions; Provinces;  
Metropolitan Cities; Municipalities

**Specialized bodies** (“technical” subsidiarity): River Basin  
District Authorities; (Optimal Territorial) Areas Authorities

**Main issue:** role definition (model choice)

# MANAGEMENT: PROPERTY

**Public ownership:** public domain (special regime)

Few, limited **exceptions:** rainwater and groundwater for domestic uses

**“Privatization”:** services privatized, resource “publicized”

## NEXT

- Information, consultation and involvement of **public and users**
- **“Deideologize”** debate on privatization

# MANAGEMENT: PLANNING

**Overlapping:** different laws, areas, interests

**Soil protection:** *Piano di bacino distrettuale; Piani stralcio di distretto per l'assetto idrogeologico (PAI); Piani straordinari per le situazioni a più elevato rischio idrogeologico; Programmi di interventi urgenti per la riduzione del rischio idrogeologico per la tutela dal rischio idrogeologico; Piani urgenti di emergenza per l'incolumità delle popolazioni interessate; Piani regionali per l'adeguamento delle infrastrutture; Programmi triennali di intervento*

**Water protection:** *Piano di gestione (piano stralcio); Piano di tutela delle acque (piano di settore); Programmi di misure*

**Water services:** *Piano d'ambito*

**NEXT**

**- Simplification and co-ordination**

# MANAGEMENT: PROTECTION

**Quality protection:** WFD (specific tools: environmental objectives)

**Quantity protection:** WFD (general criteria)

**NEXT**

**- Implementation of WFD**

# MANAGEMENT: EXPLOITATION

**Concessions** (progressively adapted to other laws changing)  
**Hierarchy** of uses (and **environmental** uses)

## NEXT

- Concession “**system**” full integration
- Different **hierarchy** of uses
- **Cost** recovery

# MANAGEMENT: WATER SERVICES

Vertical and horizontal **integration** to overcome inefficiency  
**Social** issues: local availability at reasonable prices

## NEXT

- “**Technical**” integration to overcome inefficiency
- **Investments** on old water **infrastructures**
- **Tariffs** review

# MANAGEMENT: COSTS

**Low internalization** of costs (high costs to **move** and **manage** water)

**Social issues** (households; agriculture) in a crisis time

## NEXT

- Implement **WFD** (art.9), **internalization** of costs
- Consider **social issues** combined with **EU competition** issues and **taxation** issues

# CONCLUSIONS

**Delicate but not hopeless** factual situation: limit stress factors

**Unsatisfactory** legislation

**Unsatisfactory** management

**Incomplete** legislative and administrative **partial reforms**

**Cost-benefit** analysis, according to **sustainability** criteria

Towards a **water** (environmental) **code**?