

GENERAL PROJECT INFO	
Dataset ID	BSNN 12 - NGO Representation at the Black Sea Basin Council
Project title	Water Management as Shared Responsibility and follow up activities
Project acronym	n/a
Project centre	Black Sea NGO Network, Varna, Bulgaria
Associated programme	Phare Programme
Begin date	01/09/2001
End date	30/04/2002
Ongoing	No
LOCATION	
Geographical coverage	Bulgarian Black Sea coast and territorial waters
Area Type	Coastal, marine
Sea-area	Black Sea
Coastal zone	Bulgaria
DESCRIPTIONS	
Case Study Summary	<p><i>The case.</i> The introduction of the EC Water Framework Directive 2000/60, which came into force on 22 December 2000 (WFD) in Bulgaria and the transposition of its principles in the Bulgarian Water Act, was a challenge in terms of capacity building to a good number of environmental NGOs. At the core of the Directive is an integrated approach for sustainable water management in river basin districts. The overall objective is to reach good water status for all waters by the year 2015. The challenges for countries implementing the Directive are substantial not least for the River Basin Management Authorities that are the implementing unit at the regional level. The Black Sea River Basin Directorate in Varna is one of four Directorates established in Bulgaria in 2002 in accordance with the Bulgarian Water Act and is the regional operational unit under the Ministry of Environment and Water for the Black Sea Basin catchment area. The catchment area covers 14.70% of Bulgarian territory and 100% of the Bulgarian Black Sea territorial waters. This is approximately 16,568 km<sup>2</sup> land area and 6358 km<sup>2</sup> sea area. The 12 nautical mile zone of the Bulgarian Black Sea waters is 27 000 km<sup>2</sup>. It is situated opposite the coast from Cape Sivriburun on the north to the mouth of the Rezovska River to the south with a total length of 378 km of the coastline.</p> <p><i>The change process.</i> The Black Sea NGO Network (BSNN) studied the basic principles and implementation procedure of the WFD in Bulgaria. The BSNN involved in the process of capacity building experts, environmental NGOs and representatives of administrations from the coast. The organization also monitored the procedure for the establishment of the Basin Council, the consultative body at the directorate. The Basin Council is a consultative committee supporting the activities of the Director of the Basin Directorate. The Basin Council includes representatives of government institutions, municipalities, water users, and environmental non-government organizations from the respective basin region, as well as representatives of scientific institutes.</p> <p><i>The outcome.</i> The BSNN monitored the council formation and applied for representation at the council in accordance with the legal procedure. It was admitted to it and became member for the maximum two four year terms. The sessions of the council are public and the BSNN is invited to attend. The records and presentations delivered at the council are made</p>

public at the website of the directorate.

*Follow up and best practices.* The involvement of NGOs and their experts in the process of drafting and approval of the water management plans and their revision has been very positive in terms of their own capacity building. The Black Sea Basin Directorate as an institution has become more transparent in its planning and everyday routine activities.

Accesses to information activities provide a good example of tradition in the Black Sea Basin Directorate in Varna. It has published on its web site the internal rules of the institution, model application form, the Law for Access to Public Information and Register of all applications. The Register provides a high-quality basis to refer to already provided information by the Directorate, creating thus a clear picture of the type of data available from the institution. The Register spans over a good number of years.

The Register of the issued licenses from the Black Sea Basin Directorate under the Water Act is also available on the website. The information is provided in accordance with the Law on Access to Public Information. An official request must be made to the Director of the BSBD, specifying the required information and the need for this information. The register is linked to the EEA database.

Filing any kind of letter or request with the BSBD has improved very much over the years. Letters and requests can be filed over the internet and they receive ingoing numbers and are processed in a regular manner.

The BSBD is conducting a good number of public awareness activities and youth education activities in partnership with schools, public institutions and NGOs.

<b>Keywords</b>	Black Sea, Basin Directorate, Basin Council
<b>Data theme</b>	BEST PRACTICES/PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT/COUNCIL
<b>CENTRE-INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Project centre</b>	Black Sea NGO Network, Regional Office, Varna, Bulgaria
<b>Role of research centre</b>	Lead Partner
<b>Other partners and countries</b>	Bourgas Association of Ecological and Rural Tourism (BAEST)
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<b>Completed by</b>	Emma Gileva
<b>Collating-centre</b>	
<b>Latest-update</b>	02/03/2015