Overall strategy for the Elbe
- achievements to date and next steps

Thomas Gabriel
Overall strategy for the Elbe  
- achievements to date and next steps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>BMVI und BMU agree to draw up an overall strategy for the Elbe</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Draft for a key paper</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>River Conference in Magdeburg and adoption of key paper in Magdeburg</td>
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<td>2013/16</td>
<td>Develop an overall strategy by the Federal Government and the federal states with the active participation of associations from the environment and economy as well as citizens' action groups and the church.</td>
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Jan. 2017 „Bund-Länder-committee“ adopted the overall concept Elbe (GKE)
Mär. 2017 2. Regional conference

Approximately 200 interested guests came together in the Cathedral of Magdeburg at the invitation of the Federal Government and the federal states involved to discuss this overall strategy as a basis for future action related to the Elbe as a living environment and transport route.
Jun. 2017  German “Bundestag” took note of the overall strategy for the Elbe and adopted a corresponding resolution

With the resolution, the Bundestag called upon the Federal Government to draw-up and implement corresponding measures for the overall strategy for the Elbe aimed at developing the German non-tidal Elbe in a timely manner and within the available budget.
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Development of the overall concept took place in two steps:

1. **Conducting** an inventory by representatives of the federal and state administrations

2. **Elaboration** of the target conception

The **priority areas** of the overall strategy for the Elbe are divided into four work packages:

- water management,
- nature conservation,
- stream control and transport.
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water management (WP 1)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Reduce material loads (nutrients, harmful substances) in the water as well as in the sediments of the Elbe and its floodplains (water quality and sediment quality management)</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. Improve continuity and dynamics with regard to sediments</td>
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<tr>
<td>c. Improve hydromorphology (dynamics of discharge, water bodies’ structure, habitats)</td>
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<tr>
<td>d. Expand flood retention in catchment areas (flood retention spaces – e.g. relocating dykes, bypass retention basins; adaptations of use)</td>
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<td>e. Improve flood defences (technical flood protection; safeguard efficiency of flood water outflow cross-sections, e.g. ice floods)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Nature conservation (WP 2)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Create favourable conservation statuses for habitat types and species in the river bed and banks (N2000 conservation objectives, aqua-ecological functions), improve waterbodies’ structures, stimulate morphodynamics, reduce solid bank fixation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. Improve horizontal (lateral) links of floodplain waters and affluents to strengthen the ecological impact of river and floodplain connections (N2000 coherence, ecological functions of floodplains)</td>
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<tr>
<td>c. Stop further vertical separation as a result of river bed erosion to restore functional river-wetland couplings (N2000 conservation objectives and coherence, ecological functions of floodplains), near-natural water level dynamics</td>
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<td>d. Expand inundated areas in former floodplains, relocate dykes</td>
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<tr>
<td>e. Protect species and habitats (N2000 conservation objectives) by avoiding disturbances, reducing material and other loads and adapting use with regard to rivers and floodplains</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stream control and river bed stabilization (WP 3)</th>
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<tr>
<td>a. Optimize stream control system for low water range averages (reliability)</td>
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<td>b. Stabilize beds by widening cross-section scopes (incl. forelands, following the river bed stabilization strategy) and optimize stream control system for mean water ranges to reduce erosion followed by stabilization of water levels and to achieve steady sediment transport</td>
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<tr>
<td>c. Stabilize river beds by reducing bedload deficits</td>
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<tr>
<td>d. Optimize river regulation structures in ecological terms to maintain/improve their control function</td>
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<th>Transport (WP 4)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Maintain and optimize transport function upstream of Magdeburg</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. Maintain and optimize transport function downstream of Magdeburg</td>
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<tr>
<td>c. Extend time period for low water ranges when fairway is guaranteed to be sufficiently deep</td>
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<tr>
<td>d. Improve usability, for example by means of digital route information, traffic rules and traffic information</td>
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<tr>
<td>e. Prioritize sections with transport problems (remove bottlenecks)</td>
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19 objectives for the 4 work packages
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**Guideline:**
5 separate fields

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fields</th>
<th>Tasks and objectives</th>
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</table>
| E      | Erosion control and bedload balance  
Bed and water level stabilization |
| W      | Improvement of flood defences, water retention and water balance  
Improvement of flood defences, water retention and water balance |
| G      | Reduction of input of substances  
Reduction of material loads |
| S      | Improvement of navigation conditions  
Optimization for low water ranges  
Improvement of route information  
Optimization of river regulation structures in ecological terms  
Strengthening of the Elbe/Mittelland Canal/Elbe Lateral Canal federal waterways system |
| N      | Preservation and restoration of habitats and living environment types in water bodies, on banks and in floodplains  
Improvement of the structure of bodies of water and banks |
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Guideline:
5 separate fields
+ Future considerations

Future considerations
Perspectives for the future and requirements that are beyond the framework of the key issues and the rules of procedure of the overall concept in terms of spatial scale, content and time
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Proposals

Implementation of the guideline:

55 proposals for specific measures
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Implementation of the guideline:
Locations for proposals along the Elbe
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Next steps
Organizational structure for the follow-up process

Bund-Länder Committee
- Management: Waterways and Shipping Administration (WSV) / Federal Waterways and Shipping Agency (GDWS)
- Members:
  - Water management: FFG Elbe, Secretariat
  - Nature conservation: BfN Mittelrhein
  - Stream control/traffic: GDWS/WSV
- Additional regular participants for the preparation of advisory council meetings:
  - 1 representative of environmental groups
  - 1 representative of industry associations
- Advisory Council
  - Chair: Secretariat
  - Members:
    - Bund-Länder Commission
    - Four permanent representatives from the field of environmental and nature conservation/ civil society
    - Four permanent representatives from the field of industry/transport
    - One permanent representative, respectively, from the BAV, BfN, BfL, USA
  - Guests: one permanent representative, respectively, of the church and the Czech Ministry of Transport

Secretariat
Process control and communication

Regional participatory processes
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- 3 Meetings of the designated Advisory Council since May 2017

Main topics:
- Development of a Rules of Procedure for the follow-up process
- On-site appointment pilot measure Klöden
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1. Meeting of the „Bund-Länder-Committee“ at 03. Dez. 2018 in Bonn

Topics:
- Decision of the Rules of Procedure for the follow-up process
- Organizational structure and personnel
Section of erosion:

Pilot measure Klöden

- §5 (Scoping-) date in 06.2016
- WSA Dresden is currently preparing to award the UVU
- GDWS and Sachsen-Anhalt (ST) are currently negotiating a planning agreement for the measures of ST
- BAW updates model basis for the section Klöden and develops variant optimization with WSA Dresden

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Remaining section:

- 2019

Developing of a research assignment according to chapter 4 GKE

Für die Reststrecke wird im Gesamtkonzept folgendes vorgeschlagen: Für die Reststrecke wird zunächst eine Untersuchung beauftragt, welche Möglichkeiten zur Anpassung dieses Elbabschnittes unter Maßgabe der verkehrlichen und ökologischen Zielstellungen bestehen. Die Erstellung und die Ergebnisse der Untersuchung sowie die daraus resultierende mögliche Vorgehensweise werden im Anschlussprozess gemeinsam diskutiert und bewertet (vergleiche Kapitel 5 und 6).
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„Z“, Future considerations

- Investigation of the **possibilities** and **limits** for stopping or returning erosion

- **boundary conditions** to be observed (ecologically, economically, socioculturally ...)

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WSV Personnel

• 34.5 DP were approved for GKE
• thereof:
  ➢ 26.5 for technical and environmental staff of the WSÄ and GDWS
  ➢ 4 for personnel management
  ➢ 2 for BAW and 2 for BfG
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**Ger./Czech. Agreement**

According to the Bundestag Resolution of 21.06.2017, the Federal Government is required

"... to enter into negotiations with the Government of the Czech Republic in which the navigation parameters and their maintenance developed in the overall concept of the Elbe are agreed, in order to give the Czech Republic the security of preserving the Binnenelbe as a federal waterway and international inland waterway. ..."

11.06.2018 first **negotiations** in Prague between BMVI and Czech Ministry of Transport

12.11.2018 Continuation of negotiations in Bonn
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www.gesamtkonzept-elbe.bund.de