Austria

Improving continuity of the Lužnice (Lainsitz) River and the Braunaubach Stream

Three fish passes are to be constructed in the Austrian part of the Elbe River Basin during the second management cycle: one on the Lužnice River near the Bürgermühle (municipality of Weitra) and two on the Braunaubach Stream: one at the Mahlerwinkel Weir (municipality of Gmünd) and another one at the Pichler Weir (municipality of Schrems).

Fish pass at the Mahlerwinkel Weir on the Braunaubach Stream

Fish pass at the Pichler Weir on the Braunaubach Stream

Poland

Improving continuity of the border stream of the Divoká Orlice (Dzika Orlica) River

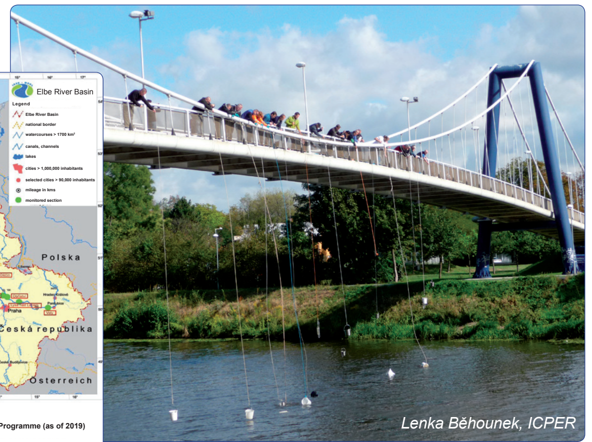
A river bed drop in the Divoká Orlice River near the municipality of Mostowice (112.5 river km)

A river bed drop in the Divoká Orlice River near the municipality of Mostowice (112.5 river km) is to be changed into a boulder chute that will allow for water organism migration, particularly of fish, downstream and upstream. An environmental impact assessment has already been successfully completed. At present, the project is being developed and consultations are underway with the Czech side on the actual implementation of the planned measure. The construction is to take place from 2020 to 2021.

International Elbe Monitoring Programme

The joint basis for the monitoring of water status in the international Elbe River Basin District is the International Elbe Monitoring Programme. In 2018, the new ICPER Monitoring Strategy was approved, defining a framework for the annual compilation of the monitoring programme.

A necessary precondition for achieving reliable analysis results is to ensure their quality by applying the relevant EN or ISO standards (if available) and by utilising other means such as inter-laboratory comparison tests, comparative analyses with joint sampling in the field and analyses of reference materials. Reports on joint sampling with an assessment of comparative analyses are published on the ICPER website: www.ikse-mkol.org.



Joint sampling from the Elbe River in Kolín, September 2015

PREPARATION FOR THE UPDATE OF THE RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE THIRD MANAGEMENT CYCLE

In December 2018, a document that the general public may use to submit any comments concerning the timetable and work programme for review and updating the River Basin Management Plan for the third management cycle was published on the ICPER website. Comments can be submitted until 22 June 2019.

The document explains all the steps to be taken by the end of 2021. The timetable adheres to the deadlines set forth by the WFD.

- By 22 December 2019: publication of an interim overview of significant water management issues for comments
- By 22 December 2020: publication of a draft copy of the updated International Management Plan for the Elbe River Basin District (Part A) for 2022–2027 for any comments

Published by:
The International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe River (ICPER)
Internationale Kommission zum Schutz der Elbe (IKSE)
Mezinárodní komise pro ochranu Labe (MKOL)

Postfach 1647/1648
39006 Magdeburg
Fürstenwallstraße 20
39104 Magdeburg
Phone: +49 (0)391 400 03-0
Fax: +49 (0)391 400 03-11
Email: sekretariat@ikse-mkol.org
Internet: www.ikse-mkol.org

Editorial deadline: 12 February 2019
Impressions:
500 copies in English (translation into English: Vít Prošek)
500 copies in Czech
1000 copies in German
Print:
Harzdruckerei Wernigerode
Max-Planck-Straße 12/14
38855 Wernigerode

WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE IN THE ELBE RIVER BASIN

In December 2015, an updated version of the International Management Plan for the Elbe River Basin District for the second management cycle 2016–2021 was published in accordance with obligations resulting from the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC, hereinafter the "WFD"). By the end of 2018, i.e. in the middle of the management cycle, the countries in the Elbe River Basin had informed the European Commission about their progress in implementing measures aimed at achieving the objectives defined in the WFD.

On this occasion, ICPER would like to inform the general public about the progress being made towards meeting the supraregional environmental objectives set forth by the river basin management plan on the international level. In particular, the focus lies on solving the following identified significant water management issues: improvement of surface water structure and river continuity, and reduction of significant nutrient and pollutant loads. Additionally, you will find examples of measures being implemented by the countries in the Elbe River Basin.

PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING THE SUPRAREGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES SET FORTH BY THE INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE ELBE RIVER BASIN DISTRICT

Improvement of surface water structure and river continuity

Restoring passability for fish, lamprey and, at the local level, also for macrozoobenthos is a pivotal task for the implementation of the WFD in the Elbe River Basin. This significant water management issue is coordinated within the so-called supraregional priority river network. For the management cycle 2016–2021, it intends to ensure the river continuity at more than 300 locations with transverse structures.

Some of these measures have already been implemented, e.g. in Germany at the weir on the Mulde River in Dessau, on the Pulsnitz River in Saxony, in the Spreewald in Brandenburg; in the Czech Republic at the weir on the Elbe River in Štětí and on the Ploučnice, Berounka, Divoká Orlice and Tichá Orlice Rivers. Nevertheless, not all expectations concerning the implementation of the measures were fulfilled by the end of 2018. The reasons for the delay are as follows: time-consuming approval proceedings and links to other water management measures, e.g. the reconstruction of weirs and involvement in extensive water management planning, and measures aimed at improving water structure. Therefore, only a portion of the measures aimed at river continuity restoration have been completed so far. However, efforts are being made to complete the implementation of the planned measures by the end of 2021.

Besides river continuity, the International River Basin Management Plan also emphasises improvement in water structure. Relevant general recommendations with references to ICPER publications and national concepts are defined at the international level. Proposals for individual measures, which will be gradually specified and implemented, are defined for most waterbodies in the Elbe River Basin at the national level.

Reduction of significant nutrient loads

Nutrient input in surface water and groundwater remains one of the main pressures for the Elbe River Basin, even for the second management cycle. Furthermore, high nutrient loads from inland waters complicates the achievement of the environmental objectives for the North Sea. Although nitrogen and phosphorus loads have been decreasing over the long term, the environmental objectives concerning nutrients are in most cases not achieved across the entire basin. The exceedingly variable hydrometeorological conditions in recent years have resulted in considerable fluctuation in relevant concentration levels and nutrient loads.

With respect to the extraordinary importance of the nutrient issue, in 2014 the ICPER set up an ad hoc expert group called "Nutrients". In October 2018, ICPER approved the Strategy for Nutrient Reduction in Waters in the International Elbe River Basin District (www.ikse-mkol.org) which defines supraregional objectives and contains a 10-point plan with corresponding solutions.

On the basis of the average annual total phosphorus and total nitrogen concentrations detected for the period of 2011–2015, and the relevant nutrient load, a need for input reduction was defined for Hřensko/Schmilka and Seemannshöft (monitoring sites of the Elbe) allowing achievement of the target values for nutrients in regard to marine environment protection *(see Tab. 1)*.

Tab. 1: Overview of the need to decrease total nitrogen (N) and total phosphorus (P) input in the international Elbe River Basin District based on data for 2011–2015

Need to reduce input in the Czech Republic in Hřensko/Schmilka (border section)	N	P
Target concentration (annual average) in mg/l	3.2	0.1
Target load standardised to Q_a flow rate in t/year	30 799	962
Actual load standardised to Q_a flow rate in t/year	45 810	1 541
Need to reduce input in t/year	15 011	579
Need to reduce input in %	33	38
Need to reduce input for marine protection in Seemannshöft	**N**	**P**
Target concentration (annual average) in mg/l	2.8	0.1
Target output standardised to Q_a flow rate in t/year	66 580	2 385
Actual output standardised to Q_a flow rate in t/year	84 400	3 940
Need to reduce input in t/year	17 800	1 555
Need to reduce input in %	21	40

NB: Q_a – long-term average flow rate