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# River basin management challenges in Estonia

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# Content:



- ✓ Water management
- ✓ Water management challenges



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# Water management in Estonia

# Legal frame



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- Aim is to protect all waters, to achieve and to maintain their good status!
- Since 2004 EC WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE
- ESTONIA WATER ACT
- Deadline for achieving the good status is 2027!

# Management units



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Waters are divided to management units—water bodies

## 744 surface water bodies

- 635 rivers or section of rivers

- 93 lakes

- 16 costal water bodies

- Marine territorial waters are counted as one unit

## 31 groundwater bodies

All bodies of water are not determined as management units!

# River Basin Management Plans



For managing the water bodies the **River Basin Management Plans** and Programme of Measures (PoM) are drawn for **six-year periods**

In the PoM measures and actions are planned for **achieving and sustaining the good status of water bodies**

River Basin Management Plans are drawn and updated **for each River Basin District**

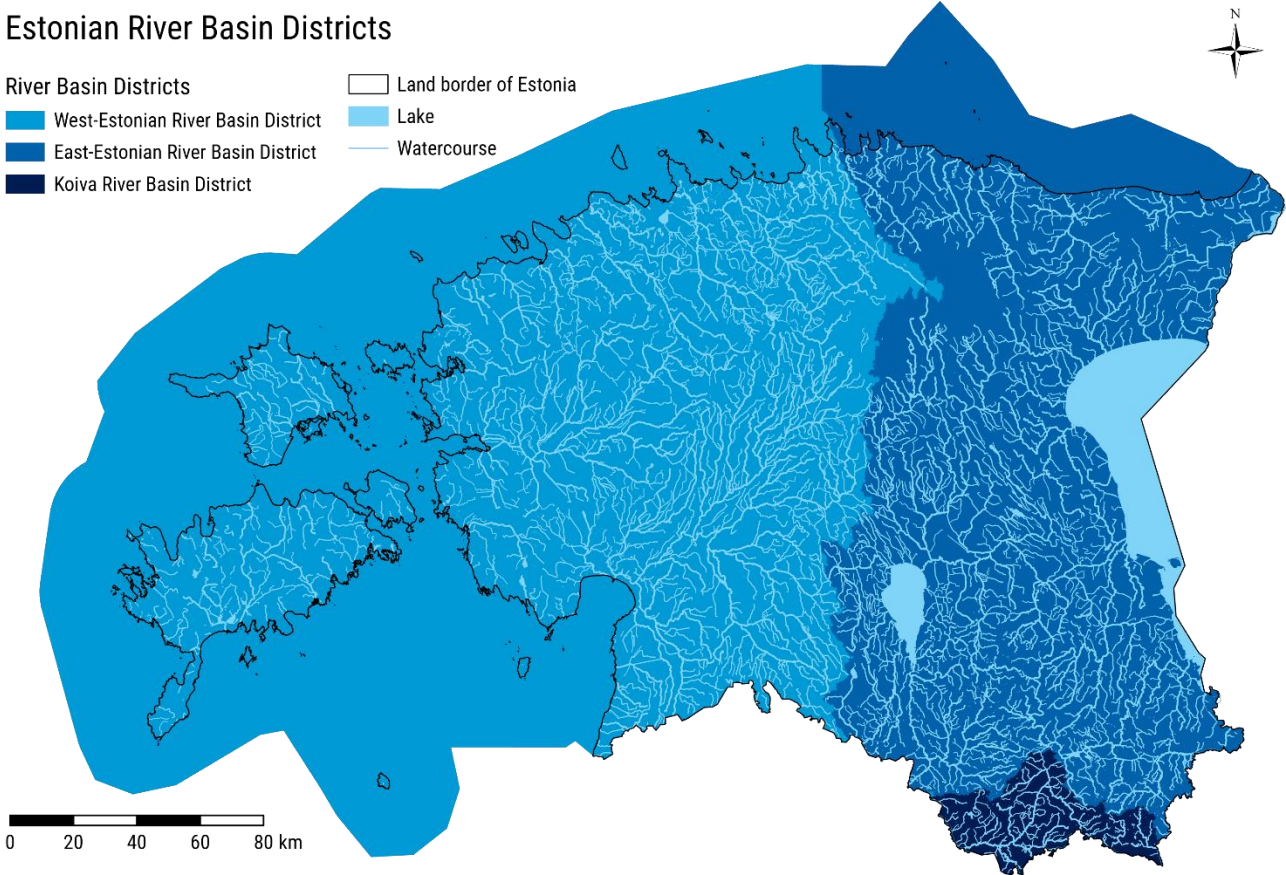
3rd RBMP for period 2022-2027 were authorised on 7.10.2022

# 3 River Basin Districts



Estonian River Basin Districts

- River Basin Districts
  - West-Estonian River Basin District
  - East-Estonian River Basin District
  - Koiva River Basin District
- Land border of Estonia
- Lake
- Watercourse





# Status and pressures of waters



Surface waters

Ecological status or potential

Biological quality elements

Physico-chemical elements

Hydromorphology elements

Chemical status

High

Good

Moderate

Poor

Bad

Good

Failing to achieve good

Groundwater

Chemical status

Quantitative status

Good

Failing to achieve good

Good

Failing to achieve good



Source: WISE FRESHWATER

# Status of water bodies



2021 status assessment:

Out of 744 surface water bodies—52% Good status achieved

635 riverine water bodies—58% good status achieved

93 lakes —15% good status achieved

16 costal water bodies—0% good status achieved

Out of 31 groundwater bodies—76% good status achieved

[Pinnavee ja põhjavee seisund - Interaktiivne kaart \(arcgis.com\)](#)

# Main pressures



Foto: Keskkonnaamet



Foto: Tiina Kõrtsini



Foto: PTA veebilehelt



Joonis: Balti Keskkonnafoorum



Foto: Shutterstock

# Programme of Measures



Planning of measures:

- Analysis of pressures of river basin district
- Status assesment of water bodies
- Connecting status of the quality element with affecting pressure of water body
- Planning measures to deal with the pressure

There are Basic Measures and Supplementary Measures

# Programme of Measures



Types of Measures: Administrative, Studies, Counselling,  
Technical measures

**2425 measures** in Programme of Measures

Total cost of PoM for 2022-2027 is **854 mln EUR**

# PoM Implementers:



## Public sector-62%

- Local municipalities
- Ministries
- Public administrations (agencies, boards)
- Universities

## Private sector-30%

- Industries
- Farms
- Ports
- Mines
- Hydroenergy plants
- Aquaculture farms
- Public enterprises (water sector, research Centres)
- ect

## Individuals-8%

- Land owners
- Dam owners
- All citizens

# Distribution of responsibilities:



**Ministry of the Environment:** Setting Goals, drawing RBMP-s, general coordination of implementation of RBPMs

**Environment Agency:** Monitoring, status assessment, reporting to European Commission

**Water Management Commission:** Arranging the implementation of RBMP Programme of Measures

**Environmental Board:** organising public involvement, coordination of the implementation of Programme of Measures



# Water management challenges in Estonia



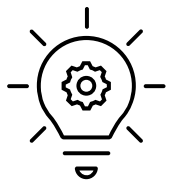
# Lack of political interest and support



## Lack of Resources for

- Implementing measures
- Creating administrative capability
- Developing management tools

## Inability/lack of will to set priorities



Allocating external resources for tackling these challenges:

Life SIP WetEST:

- implementing W-E RBMP,
- creating PoM implementation coordination system and building up team of RBM coordinators,
- developing management tools/desktop for these RBM coordinators

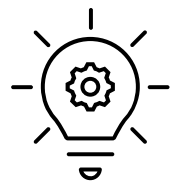
# Insufficient integration of different fields



Nature protection, marine strategy, climate, wastes ect

Results in conflicts:

water protection vs nature protection vs social expectations vs economy vs cultural heritage ect



Study to harmonize objectives and measure planning of different directives

# Low awareness and implementation capability

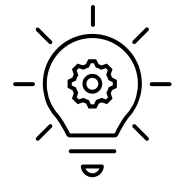


Private sector implementers and stakeholders have both **low environmental awareness** and **knowledge about the RBMP and their part in it**

Implementers have difficulties to implement the measures

- Lack of Resources
- Lack of knowledge and skills
- Inability to deal with administrative actions
  - Low level of assessing effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of measures
    - disproportional measures

# Low awareness and implementation capability



Environmental Investment Centre provides financial support through different financial incentives

Environmental Board and State Forest Management Centre have environmental awareness programmes for different target groups—increasing focus on water

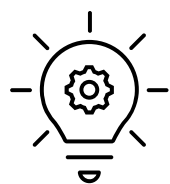
Supporting citizen science project and initiatives

Allocating external Resources for creating RBMP implementation coordination system

# Data concerns



- Too little data
- Scattered data
- Poor quality data
- Data technically difficult to access



Allocating external resources for investigative monitoring, developing new tools and databases for water data



Thank you!

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