

NGO involvement in river basin management in Latvia

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Baltic Environmental Forum

15.12.2007, Sigulda



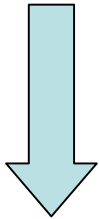
About *Baltic Environmental Forum*

- **Non-governmental** organization, established in 2003 by the team of the long lasting TA projects in Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania;
- Goal: to promote the environmental protection, by developing **co-operation** and **dialogue** between various institutions and stakeholders, and by **increasing their capacities** in implementation of environmental management

Public Participation in Latvia

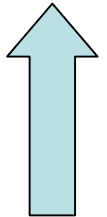
Top - Down approach:

- Legal basis
- Status of implementation



Bottom-Up approach

- NGOs and society groups: projects, actions





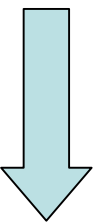
Legal basis for participation

- Water Framework **Directive**, 2000
 - Article 14
- Latvian **Law** on Water Management, 2002:
 - Article 9 and 23: competences and principles
- Governmental **Regulations**
 - On statutes of river basin district Coordination Committee (No 681, Dec,2003);
 - On river basin district management plans and programmes of measures (No 283, May, 2003)



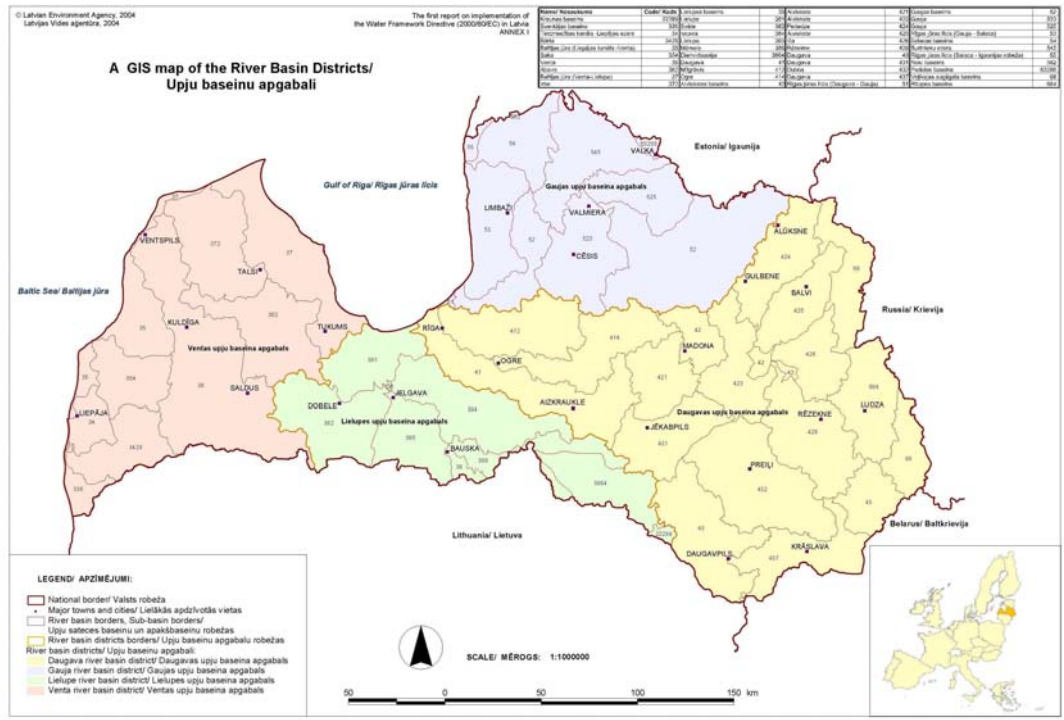
Latvian Law on Water Management

- Assigns the Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Agency as the competent body:
 - to ensure public participation in elaboration and updating of management plans and programmes of measures and
 - to inform about the plans and programmes those municipalities, which administrative territories are covered by these documents



Latvian Law on Water Management

- Establishes a **Coordination Committee** for each river basin district: 4 river basin districts



Management Structure

Ministry of the Environment

Environment Geology and
Meteorology Agency

Venta RBD CC

VENTA

Gauja RBD CC

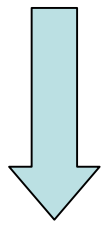
GAUJA

Lielupe RBD
CC

LIELUPE

Daugava RBD CC

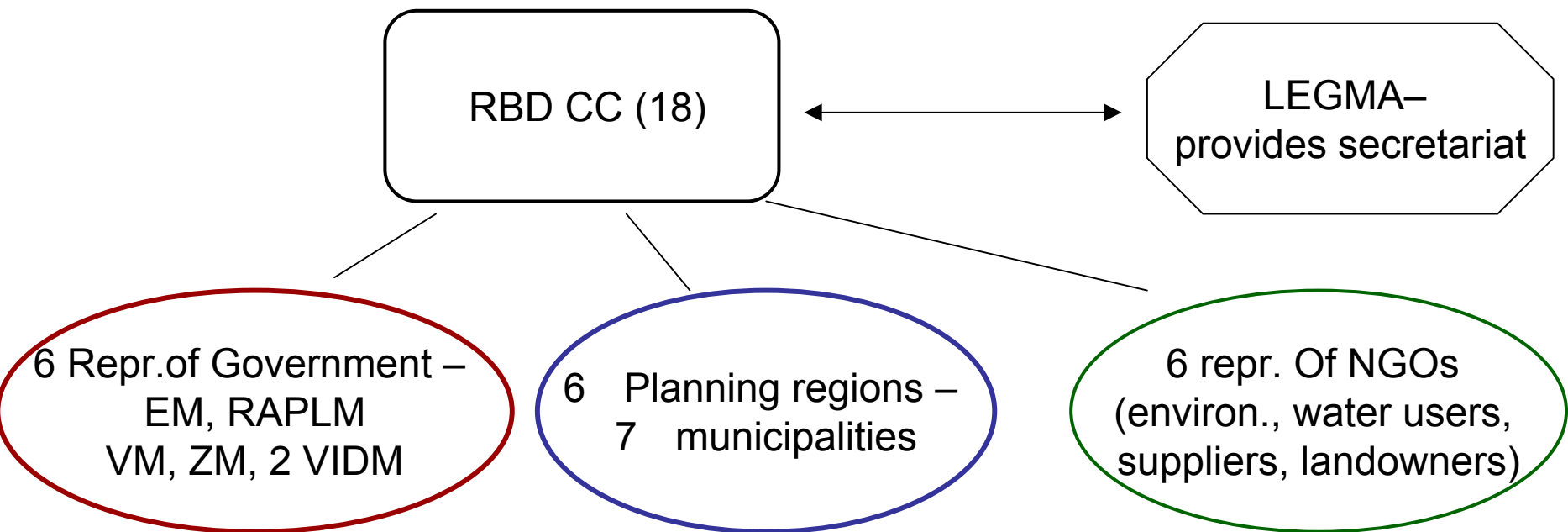
DAUGAVA



Coordination Committee (CC)

- Functions:
 - To co-ordinate the issues of interest of the stakeholders
 - To review the management plan and programme of measures and issue an opinion about them, as well as about the proposed budget for their implementation.

Composition of CC





Status of implementation

- Nomination of the NGOs for the work in the Coordination Committee took place in Spring/Summer 2006.
- NGOs were called together for a meeting by the LEGMA in each RBD
- The interest was very low, only Lielupe RBD could nominate 6 representatives at first meeting; In other 3 basins the number of candidates were less than 4.

Status of implementation

- 3 meetings
- Introduction to characterisation report (risk assessment, etc.)
- Introductions to Heavily modified water bodies
- Introduction to the progress and content of the development of the river basin management plans

Availability of info

- www.lvgma.gov.lv

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address http://www.meteo.lv/public/udens_apsaimniekosana.html. The page title is "Ūdens apsaimniekošana - Microsoft Internet Explorer". The website is the Latvian Environmental Agency (LVA) website, with a logo and navigation menu. The main content area is titled "Ūdens apsaimniekošana" and contains several links to documents and news items, such as "Veiktās izmaiņas virszemes ūdensobjektu dalījumā 2007.gadā (907.29 KB)", "ŪDENS STRUKTŪRDIREKTĪVAS IEVIEŠANAS GRAFIKS, APSAIMNIEKOŠANAS PLĀNS UN PASĀKUMU PROGRAMMA (68.36 KB)", and "ŪDENS STRUKTŪRDIREKTĪVAS IEVIEŠANAS LAIKA GRAFIKS TABULAS VEIDĀ (9.52 KB)". There is also a section for "Upju baseinu apgabali" (River basin districts) and "Upju baseinu apgabalu konsultatīvās padomes" (River basin district consultative committees). The page is in Latvian and includes a search bar and a language selector (LV/EN).

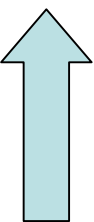
Activities in 2008

- Overview of significant environmental issues – 22.12.2007 – 6 month for commenting
- Draft river basin management plan – 22.12.2008 – 6 month for commenting

Cooperation will be very essential

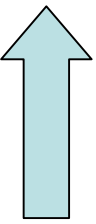
NGOs and Society Groups: projects & actions

- River Watch/Monitoring of water quality, identifying pollution sources (involvement of schools, local inhabitants)
- Festivals (Water days, Big Jump, Paying for the Baltic sea) aiming at awareness raising of importance of waters



NGOs and Society Groups: projects & actions

- Information dissemination through different media
- Clean up actions (river banks, lake surroundings)
- Educational measures: trainings to different stakeholder groups (farmers, industry, waste water managers); publications (info booklets to the targeted audience)





NGO and Society Groups: projects & actions

- Coordinating and Networking for involvement in river basin management:
 - Working groups on national level – to defend society interests in legislation development and implementation process
 - working groups on river basin level to cooperate on actual problems

Cooperation and Working together becomes more and more common to strengthen NGO capacities