



# Assessment of Member States' progress in the implementation of Programmes of Measures during the first planning cycle of the Water Framework Directive

## Member State Report:

### *Austria (AT)*

Disclaimer: this report was prepared by consultants contracted by the European Commission, and it does not necessarily reflect the views of the Commission.

# 1. Introduction

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) requires that Member States (MS) establish Programmes of Measures to achieve the objectives established under Article 4. Measures are required to reduce the pressures to levels that are compatible with the achievement of the objectives such as the achievement of good water status by 2015.

Programmes of Measures for the first planning cycle were due to be published in December 2009 and should have been made operational in Member States by December 2012. Progress with implementation of the measures was to be reported electronically to the Commission in December 2012 through the Water Information System for Europe (WISE).

A preliminary assessment of the 2012 electronic WISE reports was undertaken in 2013 through the use of templates comprising a number of pre-defined questions, the answering of which by consultant Member State assessors provided the assessment of Member States' progress. The results were presented to the Commission by the consultants in a Preliminary Assessment report in January 2014.

The preliminary assessment was taken further by undertaking an in-depth assessment of some key processes in developing programmes of measures and in relation to five key aspects/pressures (agriculture, chemicals, hydromorphology, urban waste water treatment and water abstraction) of the Water Framework Directive. This was again facilitated by the use of pre-defined questions within templates answered by Member State assessors.

The results were reported to the Commission in December 2014 as a European Overview report that provided an overview of the progress made by Member States in the development and implementation of programmes of measures for the first planning cycle. It was also based on the conclusions from the Commission's 2012 assessment of the first River Basin Management Plans<sup>1</sup>, Member States' electronic (WISE) reports to the Commission in December 2012 on the progress with implementation of their programmes of measures (summarised in the Preliminary Assessment report) and the information arising from the Commission's bilateral meetings with Member States on their first River Basin Management Plans during 2013 and 2014. The report was used in support of the Commission's Communication to the European Parliament and Council on progress with Water Framework Directive implementation and its associated Commission Staff Working Document, both to be published in March 2015.

This report is a summary of the findings of the preliminary and in-depth assessment of the progress with the implementation of the programmes of measures in Austria.

References to River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) and programmes of measures (PoMs) throughout this document relate to the first planning cycle unless explicitly stated otherwise.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/impl\\_reports.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/impl_reports.htm)

## 2. Questions used in the assessments

For the **preliminary assessment** the following assessment questions were asked:

- Question 1. What is the reported progress between 2009 and 2012 with the implementation of the Basic Measures set out in Article 11.3.a?
- Question 2. What is the reported progress between 2009 and 2012 with the implementation of the Other Basic Measures set out in Article 11.3b-I?
- Question 3. What is the progress with the implementation of Supplementary Measures between 2009 and 2012?
- Question 4. Are there Supplementary Measures in place to tackle each of the significant pressures for which Basic Measures are reported by Member States to be not enough to achieve WFD objectives? Which pressures are not tackled?
- Question 5. Which measures reported to be implemented in the first RBMP/PoM in 2009 have not been reported in 2012?
- Question 6. What is the status of implementation of the Key Types of Measures identified in the Member State, and what progress is expected over the duration of the first RBMP?
- Question 8. What is the reported overall progress on implementing the Programme of Measures? Are there differences between the RBDs in the Member State? What are the main obstacles to successful implementation (if any)?
  - 8a) What are the main achievements?
  - 8b) Improvements in status of water bodies?
  - 8c) What are the main obstacles?
  - 8d) Overall Progress?
- Question 9. How are the measures being financed? What are the main achievements, progress and obstacles in securing the budget for the PoMs?
  - 9a) Securing finance for the PoMs?
  - 9b) Funding source?
  - 9c) Overall progress?

For the **in-depth assessment** the following assessment questions were asked:

- Question 1. What are the impacts on water bodies reported for 2009?
- Question 2. Have the sources of the impacts been identified?

- Question 3. If the sources of at least some of the impacts were identified, please indicate the relevant sources and pressures in the Excel spreadsheet provided in the document area to answer this question
- Question 4. Have the identified impacts been apportioned between the sources and sectors/drivers responsible for the pressures?
- Question 4a. Are there different approaches to source apportionment between the RBDs within the MS?
- Question 5. If no source apportionment was undertaken, how were measures assigned to the sectors to reduce pressures?
- Question 6. How were the measures assigned across the polluters and activities/sectors responsible for the impacts?
- Question 7a. Has the scale of the pressures arising from agriculture been quantified in terms of the reductions required to achieve WFD objectives?
- Question 7b. How much of the gap to the achievement of WFD objectives was expected to be achieved by the Nitrates Action Programmes?
- Question 7c. How much of the gap to the achievement of WFD objectives was expected to be achieved by the implementation of Article 11.3.h basic measures?
- Question 7d. How much of the gap to the achievement of WFD objectives was expected to be achieved by the implementation of Article 11.3.g basic measures?
- Question 7e. How much of the gap to the achievement of WFD objectives was expected to be achieved by the implementation of Article 11.4 supplementary measures?
- Question 8a. Has the scale of the pressures arising from emissions, discharges and losses of chemicals been quantified in terms of the reductions required to achieve WFD objectives?
- Question 8b. How much of the gap to the achievement of WFD objectives was expected to be achieved by the Basic Measures required by Article 11.3.a (measures required by the IPPC Directive (96/61/EC and 2008/1/EC) which was superseded by the Industrial Emissions Directive (2010/75/EU) on 7 January 2014)?
- Question 8c. How much of the gap to the achievement of WFD objectives was expected to be achieved by the implementation of Article 11.3.g and Article 11.3.k basic measures?
- Question 8d. What measures are in place to address the related objectives under the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (2008/105/EC)?
  - Is there an inventory of the sources of chemical pollution?
  - Are mixing zones being used?
  - If mixing zones are used, does the plan indicate measures taken to reduce the extent of the mixing zone in the future?
  - Are there specific measures with the aim of progressively reducing pollution from priority substances?

- Are there specific measures with the aim of ceasing or phasing out emissions, discharges and losses of priority hazardous substances?
- Question 8e. How much of the gap to the achievement of WFD objectives was expected to be achieved by the implementation of Article 11.4 supplementary measures?
- Question 9a. Has the scale of hydromorphological pressures been quantified in terms of the reductions required to achieve WFD objectives?
- Question 9b. How much of the gap to the achievement of WFD objectives was expected to be achieved by the Basic Measures required by Article 11.3.a?
- Question 9c. How much of the gap to the achievement of WFD objectives was expected to be achieved by the implementation of Article 11.3.i basic measures?
- Question 9d. How much of the gap to the achievement of WFD objectives was expected to be achieved by the implementation of Article 11.4 supplementary measures?
- Question 10a. Has the scale of the pressures arising from urban waste water treatment been quantified in terms of the reductions required to achieve WFD objectives?
- Question 10b. How much of the gap to the achievement of WFD objectives was expected to be achieved by the national programmes for the implementation of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive?
- Question 10c. How much of the gap to the achievement of WFD objectives was expected to be achieved by the implementation of Article 11.3.g basic measures?
- Question 10d. How much of the gap to the achievement of WFD objectives was expected to be achieved by the implementation of Article 11.4 supplementary measures?
- Question 11a. Has the scale of the pressures arising from water abstraction been quantified in terms of the reductions required to achieve WFD objectives?
- Question 11b. How much of the gap to the achievement of WFD objectives was expected to be achieved by the Basic Measures required by Article 11.3.a?
- Question 11c. How much of the gap to the achievement of WFD objectives was expected to be achieved by the implementation of Article 11.3.c and 11.3.e basic measures?
- Question 11d. How much of the gap to the achievement of WFD objectives was expected to be achieved by the implementation of Article 11.4 supplementary measures?
- Question 12a. Was a cost effectiveness analysis undertaken during the development of the programme of measures?
- Question 12b. Did the cost effectiveness analysis influence the selection of measures?
- Question 12c. What were the main factors that limited the use of a cost effectiveness analysis?
- Question 13. What are the effects/consequences of uncertainty in the Article 5 pressures and impacts analysis, monitoring and classification of status on targeting of measures to reduce pressures to achieve WFD objectives?
- Question 14. What are the main changes and improvements envisaged for the second planning cycle?

### 3. Contextual information on Austria

Austria has three River Basin Districts (RBDs), all of them international: Danube (AT1000), Rhine (AT2000) and Elbe (AT5000). The Rhine, Elbe and the Danube are all governed by international River Basin Commissions. Austria acts as a party in the Danube Commission and has observer status in the Rhine and Elbe commissions.

Austria has followed a national and consistent approach for the preparation of the three RBMPs; the main competent authority is the Federal State (national level), which delegated certain implementation powers to the regional States (Länder). Competencies are shared between national and regional authorities, the regional authorities having competencies with regard to the practical and operational implementation of the Directive.

Overall, a total of 38% of all 8445 surface water bodies (SWB) are not affected by any significant pressures; 0.8% are affected by significant pressures from point sources and 16.3% from diffuse sources. Additionally, 0.5% of all surface water bodies are affected by water abstraction and 58.5% by water flow regulations and morphological alterations, including "other morphological alterations".

Regarding good ecological status (GES): 19.8% of all natural SWBs are in "high" quality condition, 23.8% are in "good condition", 49.1% are "moderate", 5.8% are "poor" and 1.2% are "bad" (for artificial and heavily modified water bodies, 25.7% are in "good", and 74.3% are in "moderate" condition regarding good ecological potential (GEP)). Regarding the chemical status, 99.4% of natural surface water bodies are in "good" condition (99.6% of all artificial and heavily modified water bodies). Groundwater (GW) bodies are 97.8% in "good" condition regarding both chemical and quantitative status (3 out of 136 GW bodies are in "poor" condition). The three GW bodies in poor condition are affected by diffuse pollution from agriculture (nitrates).

## 4. Role of basic measures and supplementary measures

Article 11.3 of the WFD states that basic measures **are the minimum requirements** to be complied with and **shall** consist of <sup>2</sup>:

Paragraph a: those **measures required to implement Community legislation** for the protection of water, including measures required under the legislation specified in Article 10 and in part A of Annex VI (*e.g. measures to achieve compliance with the Nitrates Directive and Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive*)

Paragraphs b to l: measures that largely require binding rules in terms of, for example, the control of abstractions (paragraph e) (*e.g. requires abstraction permits to be revised in line with WFD requirements*), diffuse sources (paragraph h) (*e.g. where phosphate, pesticides, sediment, organic pollution and ammonia from agriculture are identified as a pressure affecting the achievement of overall good status, controls must be established*), and activities that affect hydromorphological conditions (paragraph i) (*e.g. controls should be defined to ensure that actions in or near rivers do not negatively impact on morphological condition*) that go beyond the national implementation of Article 11.3.a measures for the achievement of WFD objectives.

In certain situations basic measures alone will not be sufficient to achieve good status and so Article 11.4 supplementary measures may be needed. MS must first have basic measures that are compliant with Article 11.3 and second define supplementary measures and have a credible plan for securing and tracking progress on the established supplementary measures. Supplementary measures can be, for example, technical measures, advisory services or cooperative agreements between groups of stakeholders (see WFD Annex VI.B).

Basic and supplementary measures must add up to what is needed to address the pressures to allow the achievement of the WFD objectives.

<sup>2</sup> Meeting of the Strategic Co-ordination Group, 4 November 2013, Agenda point 4.a. Clarification on WFD programmes of measures (Article 11).

## 5. Targeting of measures to reduce pressures and impacts to achieve WFD objectives

Measures should be targeted in terms of their type and extent to ensure that pressures are addressed and that this will deliver improvements towards achieving good status or potential in the individual water bodies. The measures should be designed based on the assessment of the actual status of the water body, supplemented with the information from the analysis of pressures and impacts affecting the water body.

In terms of the objective of achieving good status by 2015, the aim would be to identify the gap in water body status/potential expected by 2015 and the status required by the Water Framework Directive. How large the gap that must be filled to achieve WFD objectives in any particular River Basin District and Member State will depend, for example, on how Member States have implemented the requirements under other Directives (e.g. the relative stringency of measures in national Nitrates Action Plans) and policies, as well as differences in the type, extent and magnitude of pressures on water bodies. The gap should be filled with measures that would be implemented under the Water Framework Directive for those water bodies expected to be failing objectives in 2015 without exemptions.

The gap to the achievement of objectives will be caused by significant pressures on water bodies: the sources and sectors responsible will have to be identified to determine where actions on the ground are needed to reduce pressures to levels in/on water bodies compatible with the achievement of objectives. This may be achieved through the use of source apportionment to give a clear picture of the most important sources for a given pressure or impact. In this context a source might be considered as a combination of a pressure type (e.g. diffuse or point source pollution combined with the responsible sector or driver (e.g. diffuse – agriculture, diffuse – forestry)).

The required reduction of the pressures to fill the gap to the achievement of objectives should then be quantified: this can be expressed in different ways depending on the nature of the pressure. For example: for nutrient pollution it could be in terms of the required reduction in the loads of nitrogen and phosphorus in the receiving water bodies; for pressures arising from the hydromorphological alteration of water bodies it could be expressed as number of barriers that have conditions not compatible with the achievement of Water Framework Directive objectives; and, for water abstractions the volume of water abstracted or diverted that has to be reduced to achieve objectives.

### Apportionment of impacts and pressures to sources

As described above source apportionment information is required so that measures can be targeted effectively at sources to reduce the pressures to levels compatible with the achievement of WFD objectives.

The information on sources, pressures and impacts is not easily available in Austria; instead, the information is presented in different documents: the WISE Summary Reports, MS Summary Report, National RBMP, EC Recommendations for AT and other documents associated with the bilateral meeting between Austria and the Commission. The sources of the various impacts are mostly known, but numbers regarding relative shares in pressures are only available for some impacts and pressures (i.e. there is very little information available on quantitative source apportionment).

### Approaches of assigning measures to sectors/sources to reduce pressures

In the National RBMP, 'hydromorphological pressures' and 'pollution' were identified as significant water management issues (SWMIs); at the same time, the National RBMP states that implementing the types of

measures that tackle the sectors/activities that are responsible for the SWMIs is the most effective way of reaching the targets. It was, therefore, concluded that the measures were predominantly assigned to the sectors/activities responsible for the most important pressures. In addition, during the bilateral meetings with the Commission, Austria reported that all pressures 'have been focused on with the same attention but the main challenges were hydromorphological pressures relating to flood prevention and hydropower'. Austria is working to ensure river continuity by removing obstacles, but this improvement "is not achieved automatically".

As a full quantitative source apportionment is not available, this explanation was interpreted in the sense that the pressures that are most important (e.g. that have the biggest impact) are tackled primarily. There are no differences between the three RBDs.

## Assigning measures across the polluters and activities/sectors responsible for the impacts

It seems that most measures concentrate on hydromorphology and UWWT (a statement of Austria in the bilateral meetings with the Commission said that 'all pressures have been focused on with the same attention but the main challenges are hydromorphological pressures relating to flood prevention and hydropower'). It was concluded that one single sector has not been the focus of measure implementation, nor was a focus entirely missing (i.e. it was concluded that measures were not implemented "randomly"). It has to be noted, however, that the Commission mentioned in the bilateral meeting to aim for a better balance between voluntary and mandatory measures (especially in agriculture; here, three supplementary measures are linked to pressure 2.1 'Diffuse - Agriculture\_GW': 'Awareness Raising and Information' (with a focus on agricultural aspects of water protection; measure code: 'Bildung'), 'Guidance and recommendation with regard to proper use of fertilisers' (measure code: 'Codizes') and 'Austrian programme for the promotion of extensive and environmentally friendly agriculture' (measure code: ÖPUL)). However, the point was not further discussed in writing and was possibly solved at the meeting itself, and there is no indication whether this point was solved satisfactorily - if not (i.e. if agricultural pressures are considered significant, but the measures assigned to deal with these pressures do not reflect this), it is questionable whether measures targeting agricultural pressures are sufficient for achieving objectives.

## Cost effectiveness

Cost-effectiveness analysis (CEA) is an appraisal technique that provides a ranking of alternative measures on the basis of their costs and effectiveness, where the most cost-effective has the highest ranking.

Uncertainty on costs, effectiveness and time-lagged effects of measures needs to be dealt with throughout the economic analysis process associated with the WFD, and more generally throughout the process of identifying measures and developing the RBMP. Sources of uncertainty are highly diverse according to situations and river basins, but will exist with regards to the assessment of pressures, impacts, baseline, costs or measures effectiveness. It is important that key areas of uncertainty and key assumptions made for the analysis are clearly spelt out and reported alongside the results of the analysis.

An assessment of cost effectiveness was done at a national level, not on a local water body level (i.e. site- or measure-specific), and was only done in a comprehensive (although qualitative) way for agricultural measures. In the following, the approaches used for agricultural, hydromorphological and other measures are described as reported by Austria:

- Regarding agricultural measures, the effectiveness was rated in relation to the emissions reduced (up to 25%/from 25% to 50%/from 50% to 75%/from 75% to 100%), the costs per ha/a (based on measures implemented in the past). These two figures were combined to obtain a matrix of

measures of low/medium/high and very high cost-effectiveness. Other agricultural measures are described as cost-effective on the basis of expert knowledge (i.e. reduced/no fertiliser application in Autumn, storage of residues).

- Regarding hydromorphological measures: measures tackling connectivity were prioritised according to their ecological effectiveness ('in water bodies/stretchers were the measures achieve the greatest benefit'), and combined with local improvements of the water body structure. This combination is deemed to be the most cost-effective way of implementing hydromorphological measures.
- Regarding other measures: it is stated in the National RBMP that pressures affecting the trophic level of water bodies are tackled most cost-effectively through a combination of measures aiming at point and diffuse sources. Although not explained in detail, it is stated several times in the National RBMP that the creation of a cost-effective PoM that will definitely achieve WFD objectives is not technically possible at the moment, due to knowledge/experience gaps regarding the effectiveness of measures (especially hydromorphological measures).

As stated above, cost-effectiveness was only calculated in a comprehensive way for agricultural measures - for these, however, there is no indication that the cost-effectiveness played a role in selecting them (probably also because a large proportion of the measures is voluntary). For hydromorphological measures, the cost-effectiveness analysis influenced the selection of measures in a certain way: it is stated that the combination of specific measures creating connectivity and morphological measures in selected water bodies/stretchers is the most cost-effective approach, and that water bodies were prioritised according to the ecological effectiveness of implementing measures there; the same is true for the mixture of measures addressing point and diffuse sources. Therefore, from a certain perspective, the knowledge about the most cost-effective combination of measures influenced the selection of measures, although in a pragmatic and not always clear and transparent way.

Lack of information on the costs of measures was not mentioned as a reason not to conduct CEA. For all pressures, however, the exact impact of both technical and regulatory measures (in terms of ecological / environmental effectiveness) is unknown (an exception is possibly urban waste water treatment (UWWT)). The time-lag between making measures operational and the resulting improvements is just one aspect of this general lack of knowledge (or experience: it is mentioned several times in the National RBMP that the lessons learned from the first cycle will lead to more effective implementation of better measures in the second cycle). The same is actually true for the agricultural measures, as it is mentioned several times that the exact impacts of the assessed measures (in terms of achieving objectives) are dependent on the local circumstances of the water body in question ('no prediction possible regarding the status of the water body after implementing the measure').

## Assessment of Disproportionate costs

An extended time to the achievement of objectives or less stringent objectives can be justified on the grounds of disproportionately expensive measures (Articles 4.4 and 4.5).

Exemptions (Article 4.4) on the basis of disproportionate costs were declared for 3773 water bodies. The National RBMP, however, does not provide any detailed methodology for the calculation of disproportionate costs, but it is argued that the total costs for improving the hydromorphology and removing approximately 20,000 barriers in rivers with a catchment area greater than 100 km<sup>2</sup> would cost in excess of €1billion. These costs need to be split over all three planning cycles. There are no details of innovative financial mechanisms that could be used; it is just stated that local authorities and the hydropower plant operators have to carry the costs.

## Effects of uncertainties

Measures should be targeted in terms of their type and extent to ensure that pressures are tackled and reduced, and that this will deliver improvements towards achieving good status or potential in the individual water bodies. The measures should be designed based on the assessment of the actual status of the water body, supplemented with the information from the analysis of pressures and impacts affecting the water body.

Therefore, uncertainty in the robustness and suitability of methods used in the Article 5 analysis of pressures and impacts, and/or in the confidence of the results of monitoring and the subsequent assessment of ecological and chemical status can fundamentally affect how measures are targeted at water bodies at risk of failing objectives or those that are assessed as being at less than good status from all significant pressures in a RBD.

Measures were targeted at those water bodies failing objectives with a defined level of confidence in their status.

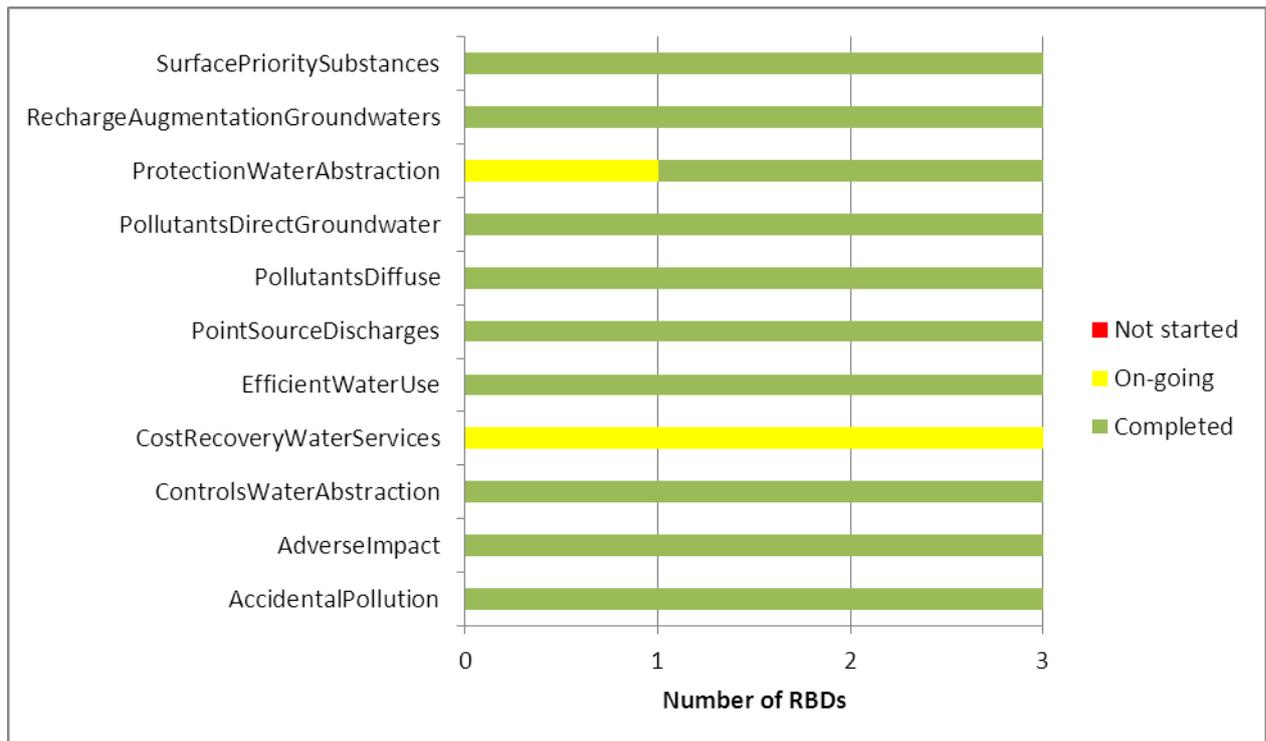
## **6. Progress with the implementation of the Basic Measures set out in Article 11.3.a**

All basic measures / Directives are reported to have been transposed into national law and implemented (already done in 2009). In all cases, a description of the relevant national regulation (or regulations) is provided. Progress or changes to the status already reported in 2010 could be identified only with regard to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive, and the Seveso and Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) Directives. In all cases, however, there is no explicit link made with, or explanation of, the actions relevant to WFD implementation.

## 7. Progress with the implementation of Basic Measures set out in Article 11.3b-I

### Reported progress

**Figure 7.1** Reported progress with implementation of basic measures (Article 11.3 (b) to (l) in 2012) (PoM aggregation report)



Source: WISE PoMs Aggregation Report 2-2 - Implementation of Other Basic Measures in 2012

All 'other basic measures' show the same status as in 2010, with the exception of 'measures for the recovery of cost of water services (Article 9)' and 'measures for the protection of water abstracted for drinking water (Article 7) including those to reduce the level of purification required for the production of drinking water'. Here, the status was reset from 'complete' to 'ongoing' (for drinking water only in the case of the Danube). Although the reasons for these delays are clear (in the case of drinking water in the Danube: inspection and designation of new protected areas; in the case of Article 9 the then-ongoing clarification of water services and environmental and resource (E&R) costs), it cannot be envisaged whether they might be fully implemented/completed in 2015.

### Delays in implementation

Member States were asked to report if there were substantial delays in the implementation of basic measures required under Article 11.3. b to l.

For 3% of the basic measures in AT, reasons for the state of implementation were given. No substantial delays were reported.

## Financing of measures

Member States were asked to report on the source of EU funds for the financing of Article 11.3.b to l basic measures.

Austria reported that for all basic measures (100%), non-EU funds were used to finance these measures; rural development and Life+ EU funds were not being used.

## 8. Supplementary measures (Article 11.4)

### The need for supplementary measures

Supplementary Measures are those measures designed and implemented in addition to the Basic Measures where they are necessary to achieve the environmental objectives of the WFD as established in Article 4 and Annex V. Supplementary Measures can include additional legislative powers, fiscal measures, research or educational campaigns that go beyond the Basic Measures and are deemed necessary for the achievement of objectives.

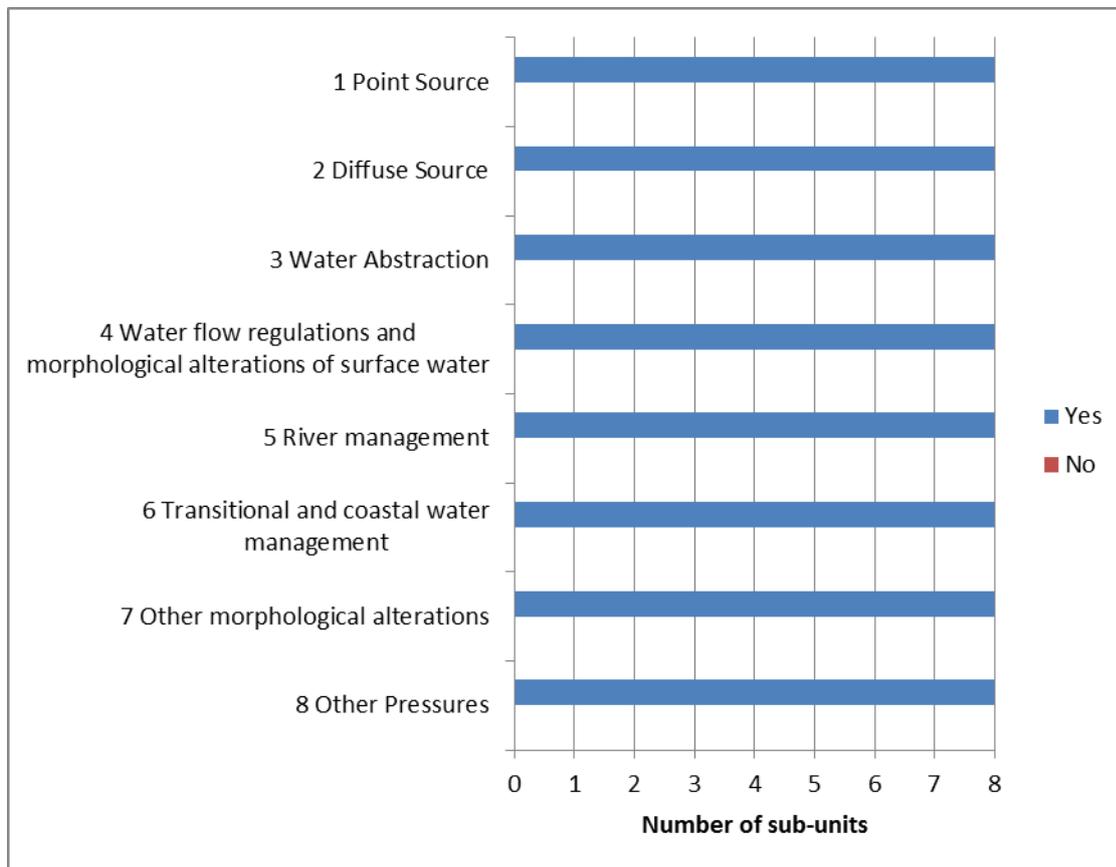
In 2010, Member States reported details of the Supplementary Measures planned (in 2009) to tackle significant pressures on surface and ground waters where Basic Measures were not enough to meet WFD environmental objectives. Details of the measures were reported in a List of Supplementary Measures specific to each RBD. Each Supplementary Measure was to be reported with a national code. In some Member States, national codes and measures may be common to more than one RBD, whereas in others the same measure may have a different code in each RBD. Therefore, the number of different measures used at a national level does not necessarily equate to the sum of the different measures used in the component RBDs. Also, the same Supplementary Measure may be applicable to more than one pressure type.

Member States were asked to report which Supplementary Measures were used to tackle specific pressures (at an aggregated and/or disaggregated level) when Basic Measures were not enough: these are indicative of those that have been applied or planned in 2009. There are also examples of where not all Supplementary Measures in the List of Supplementary Measures are reported to be used or planned in 2009.

In 2012, Member States reported some additional aspects on Supplementary Measures including their state of implementation ('not started', 'on-going' or 'completed'), whether their implementation was substantially delayed and, if so, the reasons for the delay.

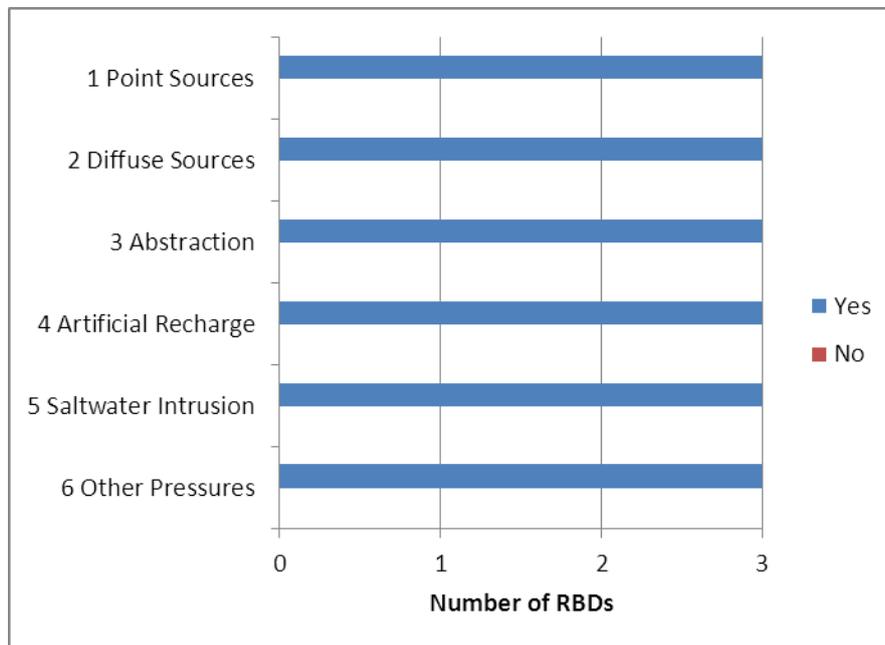
**Figure 8.1** Number of sub-units within the Member State (AT) where basic measures are enough (Yes) or not enough (No) to tackle significant pressures on surface water bodies (8 sub-units reported in AT).

Source: WISE PoM reports



**Figure 8.2** Number of river basin districts within the Member State (AT) where basic measures are enough (Yes) or not enough (No) to tackle significant pressures on ground water bodies. 3 RBDs reported in AT.

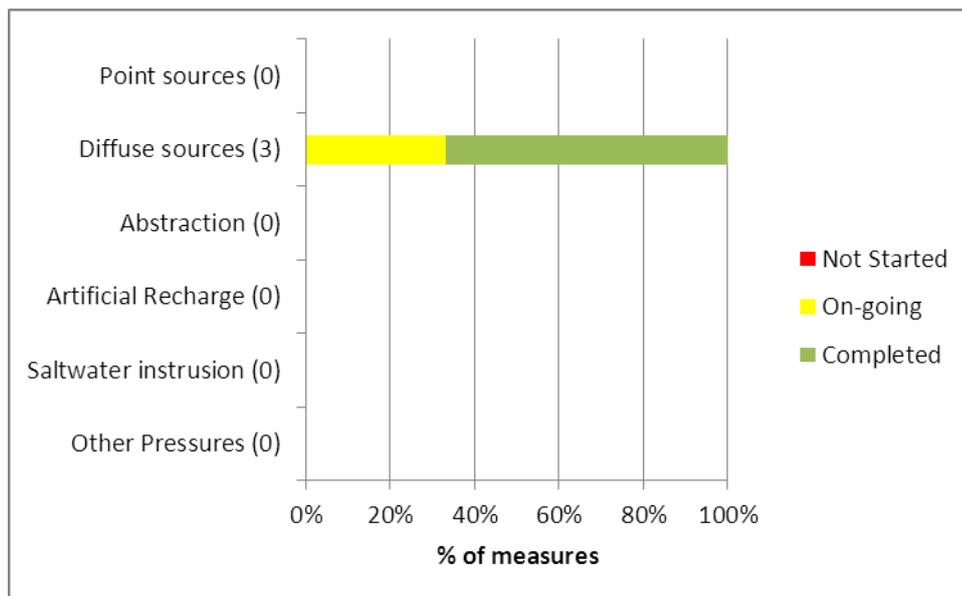
Source: WISE PoM reports



## Progress with the implementation of Supplementary Measures between 2009 and 2012

### Surface Waters

**Figure 8.3** State of implementation of supplementary measures in relation to significant pressures of surface waters in 2012



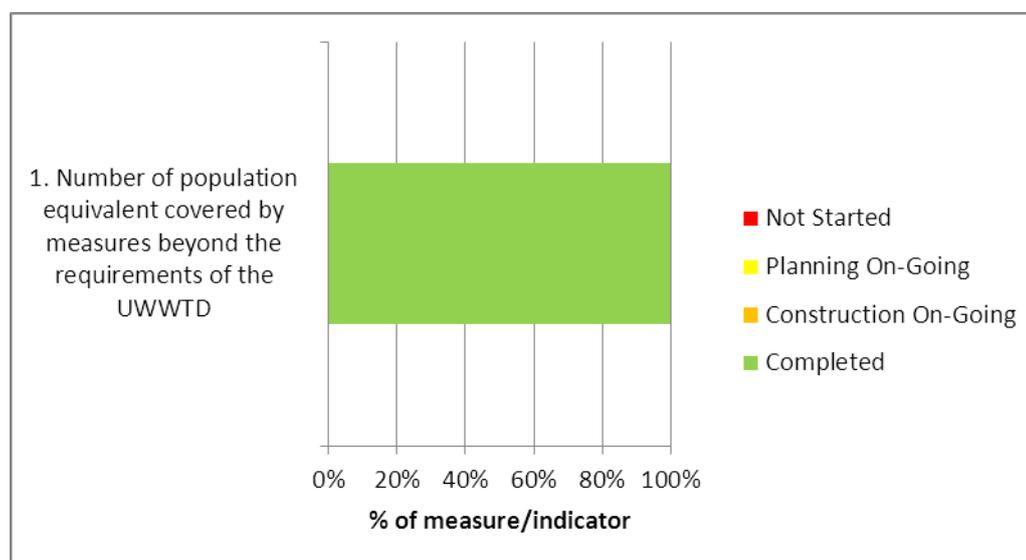
Number in brackets is the number of supplementary measures tackling the pressure.

Note: a measure may tackle more than one pressure.

Source: WISE PoMs Reports

## Groundwater

**Figure 8.4 State of implementation of supplementary measures in relation to significant pressures on ground waters in 2012**



Number in brackets is the number of supplementary measures tackling the pressure.  
Note: a measure may tackle more than one pressure

All measures have the same status as 2010: all are completed (two measures are listed as 'ongoing', because the measures were being offered throughout the whole management cycle, until 2015); also, no substantive delays were reported. One point to note is that in 2010, it was reported for all pressures that the basic measures are sufficient (see WISE aggregation reports, tables 3.1, 3.4); at the same time, 8 supplementary measures were reported (but not linked to pressures, and not 'in use', as WISE aggregation reports, table 3.2 was left empty; also, see WISE aggregation reports, tables 3.3 and 3.5). In 2012, the same 8 measures were reported to be 'in use', and three of them were linked to pressure 2.1 'Diffuse - Agriculture\_GW' (WISE aggregation reports, tables 3.6 and 3.9). At the same time, the five remaining measures are not linked to surface water or groundwater (see WISE aggregation reports, tables 3.8 and 3.9).

## Delays in implementation

As with Article 11.3 b to l basic measures, Member States were asked to report whether there was a substantial delay in implementing supplementary measures included in the first RBMPs in 2009, and to explain any such delays.

No delays in implementing supplementary measures were reported.

## Financing of supplementary measures

Member States were also asked to report on the source of EU funds for the financing of supplementary measures.

Contrary to Article 11.3.b to l basic measures, non-EU funds were not used exclusively to finance supplementary measures in Austria (68%), with EU structural funds, rural development and Life+ funds financing 46% of measures (some measures are funded by more than one source).

## **Supplementary Measures in place to tackle each of the significant pressures for which Basic Measures are not enough to achieve WFD objectives**

Austria reported in 2010 that basic measures are enough for all pressures (see WISE aggregation reports, tables 3.1, 3.4); no supplementary measures were therefore linked to any pressure. In 2012, three of the reported supplementary measures were linked to the pressure 2.1 'Diffuse - Agriculture\_GW' (WISE aggregation reports, tables 3.6, 3.9, 4.1), but without stating anywhere that basic measures are no longer sufficient to tackle that pressure. At the same time, the five remaining measures reported in both 2010 and 2012 are neither linked to surface water nor groundwater, nor to any pressure (see WISE aggregation reports, tables 3.8 and 3.9).

There are no differences in supplementary measures reported in 2010 and 2012 (codes and content are exactly the same). PoM WISE Aggregation Reports 5.2 and 5.3 were left blank.

## 9. Reporting of Key Types of Measures

In 2012, Member States were asked to report on 16 defined Key Types of Measures (KTM). These were expected to incorporate Article 11.3 (b to l) basic measures and supplementary measures. Their implementation and completion were expected to deliver the bulk of the actions required to achieve WFD objectives, i.e. to reduce significant pressures to the extent required to achieve good status or to prevent deterioration of status in high and good status water bodies. The defined KTMs were:

- 1 Construction or upgrades of wastewater treatment plants beyond the requirements of the Directive on Urban Waste Water Treatment;
- 2 Reduce nutrient pollution in agriculture beyond the requirements of the Nitrates Directive;
- 3 Reduce pesticides pollution in agriculture;
- 4 Remediation of contaminated sites (historical pollution including sediments, groundwater, soil);
- 5 Improving longitudinal continuity (e.g. establishing fish passes, demolishing old dams);
- 6 Improving hydromorphological conditions of water bodies other than longitudinal continuity;
- 7 Improvements in flow regime and/or establishment of minimum ecological flow;
- 8 Water efficiency measures for irrigation (technical measures);
- 9 Progress in water pricing policy measures for the implementation of the recovery of cost of water services from households;
- 10 Progress in water pricing policy measures for the implementation of the recovery of cost of water services from industry;
- 11 Progress in water pricing policy measures for the implementation of the recovery of cost of water services from agriculture;
- 12 Advisory services for agriculture;
- 13 Drinking water protection measures (e.g. establishment of safeguard zones, buffer zones etc.);
- 14 Research, improvement of knowledge base reducing uncertainty;
- 15 Measures for the phasing-out of emissions, discharges and losses of priority hazardous substances or for the reduction of emissions, discharges and losses of priority substances
- 16 Upgrades or improvements of industrial wastewater treatment plants (including farms) beyond the requirements of the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) Directive;

Member States also were given the possibility to report different or additional KTMs according to their specific situations and requirements.

Quantitative indicators for the scale and progress with the implementation of measures were proposed for each of the defined Key Types of Measure. Member States could also report their own indicators if the proposed ones were not appropriate for their specific national situations.

Sections 10 to 14 show and describe the progress made by Austria in the implementation of KTMs primarily associated with the five key topics subject to the in-depth assessment: not all KTMs were reported and/or applicable to the situation in Austria. Some of the KTMs are not necessarily associated with the 5 selected Topics: these are described in section 15. As indicated above, Member States were also able to report different KTMs from the defined KTMs; these are also described in section 15.

# 10. Progress with implementation of measures to reduce pressures (nutrients, organic matter) from agriculture

## Quantification of the scale of agricultural pressures

In Austria, agriculture is linked to the following pressures/impacts: nutrient pollution (nitrate (N) and phosphate (P)), chemical pollution, organic pollution, and some morphological modifications (bank enforcement, dams, weirs, drainage, etc.). For some of these pressures, the gap/scale of the pressures has not been quantified in terms of loads or areas/stretches of river banks; however, the number of water bodies failing environmental quality standards (EQS) is known and reported (in WISE, chapter 5, section 5).

In the annexes to the National RBMP, the 'Maßnahmenkatalog Landwirtschaft' (Catalogue of Measures: a kind of Factsheet for agricultural measures) describes the quantitative effects of measures to reduce agricultural diffuse emissions, in terms of: 0% to 25%/>25% to 50%/>50% to 75%/>75% to 100%, always in relation to the emission in a specific area. It is noted that the absolute effectiveness (i.e. the absolute amounts reduced), logically, depends on the actual emissions in a specific area, and that as such the absolute effectiveness of measures to reduce diffuse emissions from agriculture cannot be quantified (unless on a case-by-case basis). Hence, there is no estimation of the cumulative effects of such measures.

## Assessment of measures for the achievement of WFD objectives

### Basic Measures

In Austria, the basic measures are considered enough to achieve objectives in terms of diffuse sources; however, it could not be verified whether these 'basic measures that are enough' encompass more measures than the Nitrates Action Programmes (which are implemented throughout AT and not only in the "few nitrate impacted areas"). While there is no upward trend for GW (as seen in the Nitrates Directive (ND) report), it is not clearly justified why no more basic measures are needed besides the ND action plan (except the general reference that the action plan is valid for the whole of AT) - instead, Austria refers only to the ND Action Programmes.

As described in the paragraph above, Austria only refers to the ND Action Programmes in terms of the basic measures enough to achieve objectives in terms of diffuse sources (which are also implemented outside of Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) areas); at the same time, the 'Maßnahmenkataloge' (Catalogues of Measures) and the National RBMP list a number of additional/other measures as well (as a kind of suggestion for possible measures), but it is not clear how much these measures could contribute to reaching the objectives (as basic measures - i.e. the ND Action Programmes - are considered enough).

Agricultural point sources are not mentioned as a pressure.

### Supplementary Measures

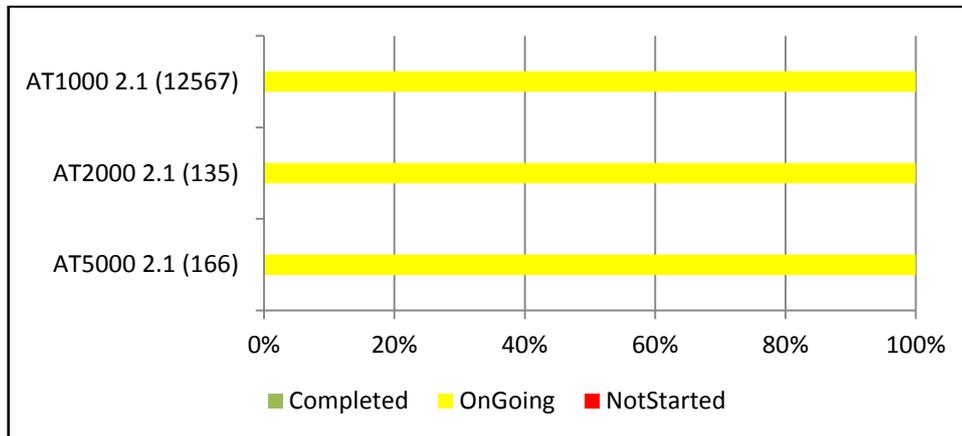
As described above, basic measures are considered enough to achieve the objectives in Austria. Nevertheless, there are three supplementary measures mentioned to tackle GW pollution by nitrates (1: "Awareness Raising and Information" (with a focus on agricultural aspects of water protection; measure code: 'Bildung'), 2: 'Guidance and recommendation with regard to proper use of fertilisers' (measure code: 'Codizes') and 3: the 'Austrian programme for the promotion of extensive and environmental friendly

agriculture' (measure code: 'ÖPUL'), but the gap (that should actually not exist, given that basic measures are considered enough) is not quantified.

## Key types of measure

### KTM2. Reduce nutrient pollution in agriculture beyond the requirements of the nitrates directive

**Figure 10.1 Percentages of measures/indicators associated with KTM2 that were reported as being not started, on-going and completed in 2012**



Key to indicators:

The annotations next to each bar in the Figure shows "RBDCode: Indicator number: (value of the indicator when 100% completed)":

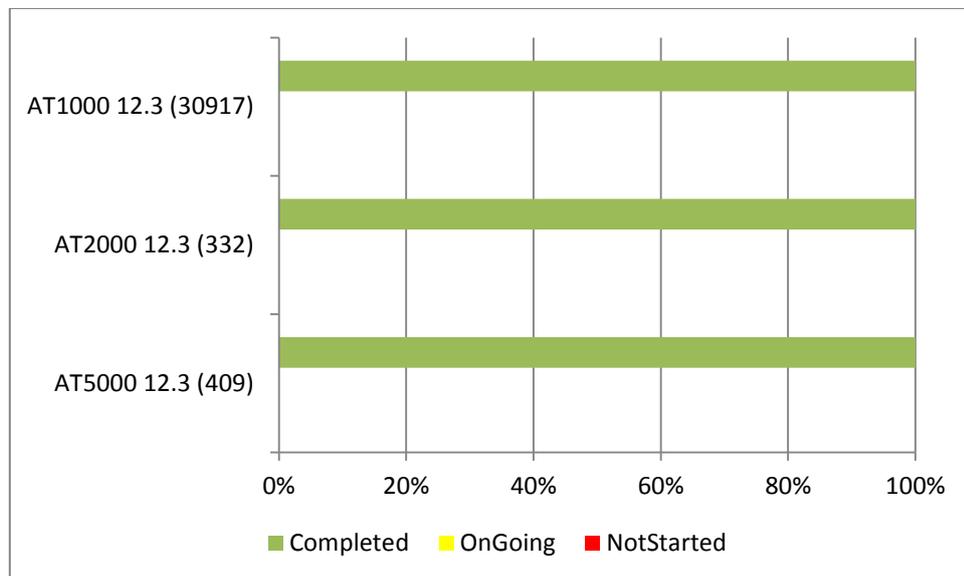
2.1 Area of agricultural land covered by measures (km<sup>2</sup>) beyond the requirements of the Nitrates Directive in this case agricultural land covered by General Binding Rules

Source: WISE PoM Reports

One indicator is reported in 2012 for KTM 2: 'Area of agricultural land covered by measures (km<sup>2</sup>) beyond the requirements of the ND'. The indicator seems to be linked to the 'ÖPUL' supplementary measures, describing the application of the voluntary ÖPUL support measure: 'environmentally friendly agriculture'. The status for this indicator is 'ongoing' for all areas in all RBDs.

## KTM12: Advisory services for agriculture

**Figure 10.2** Percentages of indicator/baseline associated with KTM12 that were reported as being not started, on-going and completed in 2012



Key to indicators:

The annotations next to each bar in the Figure shows "RBDCode: Indicator number: (value of the indicator when 100% completed)."

12.3 Area (km<sup>2</sup>) of agricultural land

Source: WISE PoM Reports

One indicator is reported in 2012 for KTM 12: 'Area (km<sup>2</sup>) of agricultural land covered by advisory services in relation to the total foreseen'. As an explanation, it is stated that advisory services are offered to all farmers/agricultural businesses in Austria, and that specific advisory services are offered in 'problematic areas'. This KTM is reported to be 100% completed in all three RBDs.

# 11. Progress with implementation of measures to reduce pressures from chemicals

## Quantification of the scale of chemical pressures

The scale of the pressures arising from emissions, discharges and losses of chemicals have not been quantified in terms of loads; however, the number of water bodies failing EU Environmental Quality Standards for Priority Substances and the number of water bodies failing national Environmental Quality Standards for River Basin Specific Pollutants are provided.

## Assessment of measures for the achievement of WFD objectives

### Basic and supplementary measures

In Austria, basic measures are considered enough to achieve the WFD objectives regarding chemical pollution, i.e. it is assumed that these measures will fill the gap by 100%. At the same time, there is no distinction between basic measures according to Article 11.3.a, 11.3.g and 11.3.k. In the bilateral meetings between Austria and the Commission, Austria referred to basic measures as the group of measures that "we already undertake based on legislation/agreements in place" (consisting of legally binding measures, measures providing financial incentives and educational/awareness-raising measures).

No supplementary measures are reported.

### Measures required by the EQS Directive

#### Inventory of the sources of chemical pollution

In the National RBMP, it is stated that an emission inventory will be fully functional in the second cycle.

#### Use of mixing zones

Mixing zones are used in all three Austrian RBDs. The methodology to define them, however, is not clearly outlined. In the by-law on 'chemical objectives for SWB', the definition is very general: 'the local area after a discharge into a SWB, in which the discharge has mixed with the receiving water body (plume)'. In the permit procedure, the allowable pollutant loads have to be set such that the EQS are met within a certain distance from the discharge (the mixing zone). This distance is normally ten times the width of the SWB at the point of discharge, but limited to 1 kilometre, which could be understood as a closer definition.

#### Measures taken to reduce the extent of the mixing zone in the future

There is no information available regarding the extent of the mixing zone in the future.

#### Specific measures with the aim of progressively reducing pollution from priority substances

There are no specific measures named, although Austria aims to reduce the few remaining exceedances of EQS for priority and priority hazardous substances. It seems that this should be achieved through the existing legal framework (i.e. permits etc.), and through close coordination (of WFD implementation) with REACH, to tackle chemical pollution at the source.

### **Specific measures with the aim of ceasing or phasing out emissions, discharges and losses of priority hazardous substances**

There are no specific measures named, although Austria aims to reduce the few remaining exceedances of EQS for priority and priority hazardous substances. It seems that this should be achieved through the existing legal framework (i.e. permits, etc.) and through close coordination (of WFD implementation) with REACH, to tackle chemical pollution at the source.

### **Key types of measure**

#### **KTM3. Reduce pesticides pollution in agriculture**

KTM 3 hasn't been reported/included by Austria.

#### **KTM15: Measures for the phasing-out of emissions, discharges and losses of priority hazardous substances or for the reduction of emissions, discharges and losses of priority substances**

KTM 15 hasn't been reported/included by Austria.

#### **KTM16: Upgrades or improvements of industrial wastewater treatment plants (including farms) beyond the requirements of the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) Directive**

KTM 16 hasn't been reported/included by Austria.

## 12. Progress with implementation of measures to reduce pressures from hydromorphological alterations

### Quantification of the scale of pressures from hydromorphological alterations

The scale of the hydromorphological pressures resulting from hydropower and flood protection has been quantified in terms of the absolute number of barriers, etc. not compatible with the achievement of good ecological status/good ecological potential, and in relation to the size of the water body. For other hydromorphological pressures such as those resulting from agriculture (e.g. channelling, bank modification), the scale has not been quantified.

### Assessment of measures for the achievement of WFD objectives

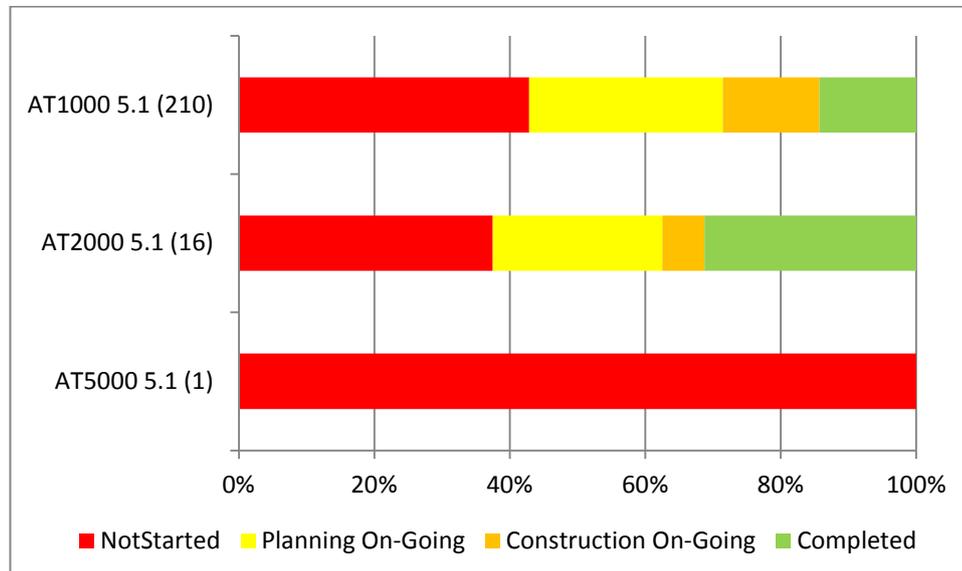
Austria considers basic measures sufficient for all pressures; nevertheless, there are two supplementary measures in place that target hydromorphological pressures (measure codes: 'LIFE' and 'UFG'), although in the WISE reporting, they are not linked to this pressure (it needs to be interpreted from the description of the measure). Austria considers basic measures sufficient for all pressures. As 'other basic measures', Austria reported 'Measures to control any other significant adverse impact on the status of water, and in particular hydromorphological impacts' to be completed in all three RBDs. It can, therefore, be concluded that these basic measures are included in the statement that basic measures are enough for achieving the objectives; it is not clear, however, which share the basic measures according to Articles 11.3.a and 11.3.i. will have in this.

At the same time, Austria always emphasises that the costs for hydromorphological measures are too high to be spent by 2015; instead, the costs need to be spread over the whole period, until 2027. Therefore, it is difficult to evaluate whether the measures are enough for achieving WFD objectives satisfactorily: on the one hand, Austria states that basic measures are sufficient (meaning that 100% of the gap to good status is supposed to be achieved by basic measures), on the other hand, there are two supplementary measures and the general opinion that the objectives will only be reached by 2027 for hydromorphology, because the costs are exceptionally high.

## Key types of measure

### KTM5: Improving longitudinal continuity (e.g. establishing fish passes, demolishing old dams)

**Figure 12.1** Percentages of indicator/measures associated with KTM5 that were reported as being not started, planning on-going, construction on-going and completed in 2012



Key to indicators

The annotations next to each bar in the Figure shows "RBDCode; Indicator number; (value of the indicator when 100% completed)":

5.1 Number of projects/measures to improve longitudinal continuity

Source: WISE PoM Reports

One indicator was reported in 2012 for KTM 5: 'Number of projects/measures to improve longitudinal continuity'. The 227 measures in the first management cycle took/take place in priority areas/water bodies; it is stated that in the second and third management cycles, areas other than these priority areas will be targeted. Of the 227 measures, 97 are 'not started', 64 in the status 'planning ongoing', 31 'construction ongoing', and 35 are 'completed'. There was no further information regarding the planned progress, etc.

### KTM6: Improving hydromorphological conditions of water bodies other than longitudinal continuity

KTM 6 hasn't been reported/included by Austria.

# 13. Progress with implementation of measures to reduce pressures from urban waste water treatment

## Quantification of the scale of the pressures

The pressures arising from UWWT in Austria are nutrient pollution (N and P), organic pollution and chemical pollution. The gap regarding the latter is quantified in terms of the number of water bodies failing EQS for Priority Substances and/or River Basin Specific Pollutants (Ammonium, AOX, Zinc, Copper). Biochemical Oxygen Demand / Chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD/COD) or nutrient loads to be reduced are not quantified.

## Assessment of measures for the achievement of WFD objectives

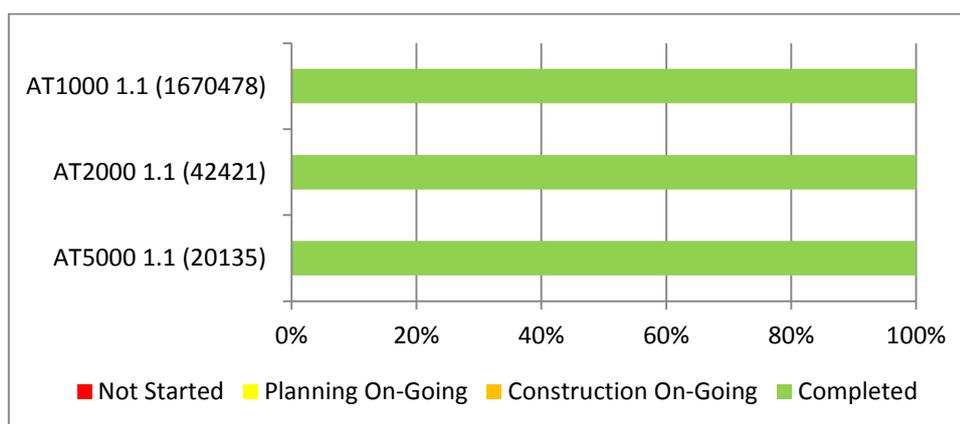
In Austria, basic measures are considered enough to achieve the objectives. However, it is not possible to distinguish between Article 11.3.a and 11.3.g measures regarding the respective contribution to filling the gap. Additionally, as the gap regarding nutrients and organic pollution is not quantified, it is unclear on which basis the assumption that basic measures will be enough is taken (it has to be remarked, however, that the UWWT plants in Austria already achieve a very high standard of removing nutrients (80-90% of N and P)). Nevertheless, the National RBMP mentions measures that will further reduce ammonium, zinc, AOX and copper emissions in the future.

No supplementary measures are reported.

## Key types of measure

### KTM1. Construction or upgrades of wastewater treatment plants beyond the requirements of the directive on urban waste water treatment

**Figure 13.1 Percentages of indicator/measures associated with KTM1 that were reported as being not started, planning on-going, construction on-going and completed in 2012**



Key to indicators measures

The annotations next to each bar in the Figure shows "RBDCode; Indicator number; (value of the indicator when 100% completed)"

1.1 Number of population equivalent covered by measures beyond the requirements of the UWWTD

Source: WISE PoM Reports

One indicator was reported in 2012 for KTM 1: 'Number of population equivalent covered by measures beyond the requirements of the UWWTD', which refers to the number of inhabitants (less than 10,000) in urban areas connected to purification plants which remove N and P (Directive 91/271/EC only requires N/P removal for greater than 10,000 inhabitants; Austria applies Article 5(4) in the whole territory). The stage of progress is 'completed' in all three RBDs.

# 14. Progress with implementation of measures to reduce pressures from water abstractions

## Quantification of the scale of the pressure

The pressures and impacts related to abstractions are described in the RBMP: 'Hydropower is the main pressure relating to water abstraction', which in this case refers to 'residual flow reaches' (Restwasserstrecken), in which low water levels lead to eutrophication, elevated temperatures and sediment delivery (see National RBMP page 130). The gap is quantified in terms of the number of water bodies impacted by this form of water abstraction (2,576).

## Assessment of measures for the achievement of WFD objectives

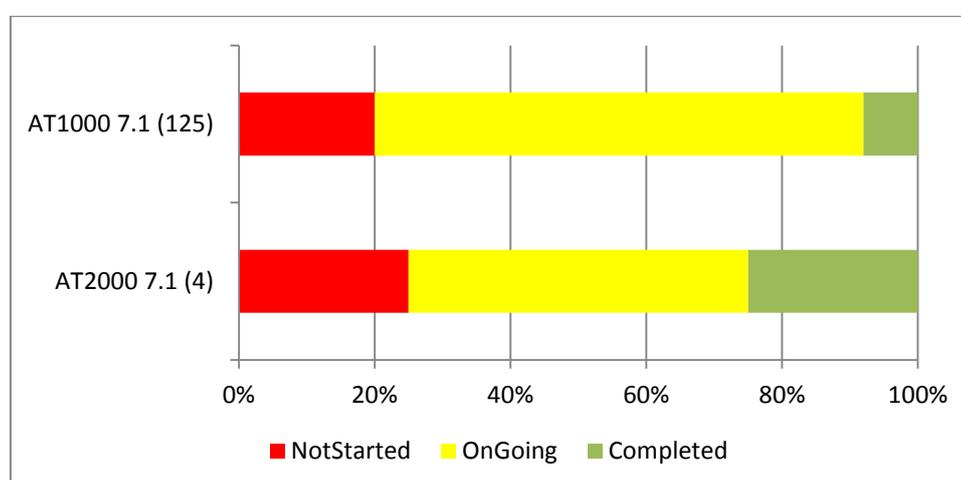
Water abstractions referred to in Articles 11.3.c and 11.3.e (i.e. abstractions that need to be regulated in terms of the amount of water extracted from sources) are not relevant in Austria (the Austrian 'water abstractions' originate almost exclusively from hydropower and are classified as hydromorphological pressures).

No supplementary measures are reported.

## Key types of measure

### KTM7: Improvements in flow regime and/or establishment of minimum ecological flow

**Figure 14.1 Percentages of indicator/measures associated with KTM7 that were reported as being not started, planning on-going, construction on-going and completed in 2012**



Key to indicators measures

The annotations next to each bar in the Figure shows "RBDCode; Indicator number; (value of the indicator when 100% completed)"

7.1 Number of projects/measures (including permits)

Source: WISE PoM Reports

KTM 7 was not reported/included in the Elbe RBD (AT 5000).

One indicator is reported for this KTM in 2012: 'Number of projects/measures (including permits) to improve flow regime and/or establishment of minimum ecological flow'. The 129 measures in the Rhine and Danube RBDs (no measures in AT 5000) in the first management cycle took/take place in priority

areas/water bodies; it is stated that in the second and third management cycles, areas other than these priority areas will be targeted. Of the 129 measures, 26 are 'not started', 92 are 'ongoing' (not specified whether in the planning or construction stage), and 11 are 'completed'. There is no information regarding the planned progress.

**KTM8: Water efficiency measures for irrigation (technical measures)**

KTM 8 was not reported/included by Austria.

## 15. Reporting of other Key Types of Measure

This section summarises the progress with the implementation of the defined KTM's not included within the assessment of the specific pressures/issues. Member States were also given the possibility to report different or additional KTM's according to their specific situations and requirements: these are also summarised in this section.

### **KTM4: Remediation of contaminated sites (historical pollution including sediments, groundwater, soil)**

KTM 4 was not reported/included by Austria.

### **KTM9: Progress in water pricing policy measures for the implementation of the recovery of cost of water services from households**

KTM 9 was not reported/included by Austria.

### **KTM10: Progress in water pricing policy measures for the implementation of the recovery of cost of water services from industry**

KTM 10 was not reported/included by Austria.

### **KTM11: Progress in water pricing policy measures for the implementation of the recovery of cost of water services from agriculture**

KTM 11 was not reported/included by Austria.

### **KTM13: Drinking water protection measures (e.g. establishment of safeguard zones, buffer zones, etc.)**

KTM 13 was not reported/included by Austria.

### **KTM14: Research, improvement of knowledge base reducing uncertainty**

KTM 14 was not reported/included by Austria.

## **Summary assessment on the state of implementation of Key Types of Measure**

There is relatively little information provided that would allow a judgement on the progress made: for KTM 12, it is completely unclear from the information provided. KTM 5 and 7 are probably mainly engineering projects (although KTM 7 also includes permits), so it is understandable that the progress is difficult to estimate. KTM 2 is also difficult to estimate, but it seems that large parts of Austrian agricultural areas are being supported by the supplementary measure ÖPUL - but no information is provided regarding the 'ongoing' status (e.g. whether it simply signals that the measures is offered continuously / regularly throughout the first management cycle). Only with regard to KTM 1 can it be stated that good progress has been made (seemingly with a high ambition).

## **New Key Types of Measures**

There are no new types of measures reported.

# 16. Overall progress with the Programme of Measures

## Main achievements

The main achievements reported for the implementation of the PoM are (in all RBDs):

- Significant reduction of the pollution of surface waters and groundwater (including nutrient pollution) through a combination of measures tackling point and diffuse sources, among others.
- Improvement of hydromorphological characteristics of water bodies mainly through measures improving linear and lateral connectivity and guaranteeing minimum ecological flow.
- Research for effective and efficient measures to reduce swell.
- Protection of ecologically important areas and simultaneous operation of hydropower plants, through a catalogue of criteria used in planning, etc.
- Consideration of climate change and possible scarcity / drought spells in the selection of measures.
- International cooperation.

Regarding financing of measures: the reported information is not sufficient to estimate if all planned measures have secured financing; nevertheless, as many planned projects are either completed or ongoing, it can be concluded that the financing is secured for most measures.

No specific information on the status improvements achieved and/or expected is provided. Some conclusions can be drawn, even if a clear indication of the expected improvements is not available. Regarding the chemical status of GW/SW, it is stated that the standards are not exceeded in almost all water bodies (and that the treatment plants not yet adapted to higher standards regarding nutrient filtration will be adapted by 2015); regarding the quantitative status of GW, it is mentioned several times that Austria does not have a water quantity problem.

The focus of measures, however, seems to lie on hydromorphological measures. It is stated that around 10% of the planned measures are already fully implemented, and “many are in the planning or implementing phase”. However, the information provided is not sufficient to draw specific conclusions regarding the achievement of GES/GEP. It seems that ecological status will be improved by 2015, even though further measures (e.g. restoration of banks) may be necessary to fully achieve the goal of good status.

## Main obstacles

Obstacles/reasons for delays are not explicitly identified. However, it is stated that the implementation of measures to improve hydromorphology faces high administrative burdens and has a high complexity in terms of planning. Other reasons for delays seem to be knowledge gaps with regard to reducing damages through discharges ('swell'), which are also mentioned in the WISE Aggregation Report 8.1.

## Overall Progress

A variety of achievements was reported in 2012, but no information is provided regarding a link to WFD objectives, and whether objectives are reached through the measures implemented (and being implemented until 2015). Therefore, a statement regarding the overall progress is not possible. However, it seems that the pollution issues are being tackled quite successfully, whereas hydromorphological issues face significant challenges / obstacles.

In addition, the following topics were not clarified satisfactorily and should be improved in the future: source apportionment / gap analysis (i.e. analysing and linking pressures and impacts); prioritisation of measures (e.g. on the basis of cost-effectiveness); comprehensive economic analysis of water use, including the calculation of environmental and resource costs; the delineation of small water bodies; exemptions and the designation of Highly Modified Water Bodies and methodologies for establishing Good Environmental Potential (GEP); measures to address diffuse nutrient pollution (and other diffuse pollution); and, some monitoring issues.

## 17. Progress in financing measures

Austria has reported that financing has been secured for all measures included in the programme of measures. It is indicated that financing measures is the sole responsibility of the respective stakeholder (whether public or private) responsible for the implementation of a measure (the polluter pays principle is also mentioned). Measures that will be or are being carried out by government bodies will be financed largely through income taxes or levies, and some EU funds are also mentioned as possible sources for funding. Overall, however, there is only very limited detailed information regarding specific costs provided. Only the UFG (Austrian Environmental State Aid Act) support scheme is described in terms of financial volume (€140 million). Of the €140 million provided by the UFG, €100 million was reported to have been spent in 2012; it is also stated that eight LIFE projects have been initiated (although there was no information on expenditure). Apart from the UFG, the information is not specific regarding individual measures. No information was reported regarding any obstacles in securing the budget.