

ANALYSIS OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION OPTIONS IN LITHUANIAN WATER MANAGEMENT SECTOR USING ECONOMIC AND INSTITUTIONAL INSTRUMENTS

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RESUME

Lithuania does not have water shortage problems. The available resources calculated on the basis of mean annual run-off are of 26.1 km³, most of them being from surface water. The total volume of freshwater available per capita is approximately 7000 m³.

In optimising water use the abstraction of water has decreased around two times to compare with the level of 1991. The sustainability of water resources with regard to the quality is an important topic. Although, 40% of discharged water is not adequately treated or not treated at all. The eutrophication has become one of the main environmental problems in the Baltic Sea region.

The paper deals with the measures for improving and newly constructing sewage handling and treatment facilities, drinking water supply systems. The investment options are being researched taking on consideration the projects of EU structural funds to invest in environmental and infrastructure systems. This is in connection with the interests of different stakeholders and beneficiaries.

Lithuania has rather large area of drained land which amounts to 2.6 million of ha. The irrigated areas have decreased significantly during last decade due to the changed structure of landholders. The rehabilitation and maintenance of drainage and irrigation systems remain the priority objective in agricultural water management. The specific problem in this respect is the large-scale character of the systems.

The new opportunities are being discussed with regard to public interests and contributions in developing investment strategies and support measures. Those opportunities arise from the new integrated approach of the EU Rural development policy. This policy aims at promoting the adaptation and development of rural areas in order to meet public expectations and create favourable living and working environment. The support instruments provided by the Structural funds are seeking to get beneficiaries involved in the investment process. The problem is to coordinate the private and public interests in seeking for the common benefit.

The paper is dealing with the conflicts of public and private interests in generating development projects in rehabilitation of large-scale water management systems. The drainage systems covering a large number of agricultural and non-agricultural beneficiaries (settlements, forests, road zones, etc.) are the best examples of seeking for the solution with participatory approach.

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