Implementation of the Water Framework Directive and adaptation strategies in the Czech Republic

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Abstract Since the mid-20th century, the focus of water policies in European countries has gradually changed from replenishment of water resources to saving them, and during the last 30 years attention has increasingly been paid to water resource protection. The latest policy was incorporated into the Water Framework Directive (WFD – Directive 2000/60/EC), which introduced water planning and preparation of programmes of measures on a Europe-wide scale. The water planning was almost exclusively focused on chemical water quality, biological quality of surface waters, and naturalisation of water bodies. Subsequent frequent occurrence of drought periods and floods and increasing water scarcity problems in Europe indicated that the WFD water policy has to be modified towards establishing robust water management systems, which will ensure water protection, availability of water resources, and protection against harmful impacts of water. These conclusions agree with the experience in the Czech Republic described in this paper.

Key words Water Framework Directive; water planning; drought; flood; water policy