

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE 2000/60/EC IN SPAIN AND ITS AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITIES

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The Water Framework Directive 60/2000/EC required member states to conduct an economic analysis of their water use as well as to put into practice important economic principles such as the recuperation of water services and the polluter pays principle. On a broader scale, member states are required to sustainably and efficiently manage and protect water use. Achieving an economically conscientious regime for water management, allocation and use goes beyond basic economic principles – it requires comprehensive and integrated management, an administrative regime which brings the right stakeholders to the table and demands accountability, and legal language that makes “sustainable”, “efficient”, “effective” and “recuperation” tangible concepts.

My research focuses on the implementation and achievement of these principles in Spain and its autonomous communities. The broad question I am looking to answer is how do the Water Framework Directive, the Ley de Aguas and the River Basin Management Plans seek to achieve the recuperation of costs, and the sustainable and efficient use of water in Spain, and implement the polluter-pays principle?