



Detailed information on the Elbe River Basin and the status of implementation of both directives is published on www.fgg-elbe.de



Lake Wannsee, Berlin



Stork nest at Rühstädt, Brandenburg



Fishing boat at Cuxhaven in the estuary of the river Elbe, Lower Saxony



Historic centre of the Hanseatic City of Havelberg, Saxony-Anhalt



River „Saxon Saale“, Bavaria



River Spree, Berlin



River Elbe in Saxon Switzerland



Implementation of the Water Framework Directive

- 2027 End of the 3rd management cycle
- 2024 Implementation of measures of the 3rd program of measures
- 2021 End of the 2nd management cycle, review and update of the 2nd management plan/program of measures
- 2019 Review and update of the analysis of the characteristics of the river basin
Review of the Water Framework Directive and proposal of necessary amendments
- 2018 Implementation of measures of the 2nd program of measures
- 2015 End of the 1st management cycle, review and update of the 1st management plan/program of measures
- 2013 Review and update of the analysis of the characteristics of the river basin
- 2012 Implementation of measures
- 2009 Publication of the management plan/program of measures
- 2006 Publication of monitoring programs
- 2004 Designation of the competent authorities / analysis of the characteristics of the river basin
- 2003 Adoption into national legislation
- 2000 Entry into force

Implementation of the Floods Directive

- 2027 Review and update of the flood risk management plan*
- 2025 Review and update of the flood hazard maps and flood risk maps*
- 2024 Review and update of flood risk assessment*
- 2021 Review and update of the flood risk management plan*
- 2019 Review and update of the flood hazard maps and flood risk maps*
- 2018 Review and update of flood risk assessment*
- 2015 Publication of the flood risk management plan
- 2013 Publication of the flood hazard maps and flood risk maps
- 2011 Publication of the preliminary flood risk assessment
- 2010 Report on changes concerning the responsible authorities / Determination of management units / Decision about adoption of transitional measures
- 2009 Adoption into national legislation
- 2007 Entry into force

* Review and update every six years



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The Elbe River
 Basin Community



Headwater of the river Salza, Thuringia



Lake Plauer See, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern



Marshland at the dike of the river Elbe, Schleswig-Holstein

The river Elbe and its basin

The Elbe River Basin is one of the largest catchment areas in Central Europe. It covers areas of Germany, Czech Republic, Austria and Poland.

If all of its tributaries are taken into account, the Elbe River Basin covers parts of ten German Federal States (Bavaria, Berlin, Brandenburg, Hamburg, Lower Saxony, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Schleswig-Holstein and Thuringia). Due to this geographic unity, these Federal States carry joint responsibility. Therefore, in 2004, the Federal States founded the River Basin Community Elbe (RBC Elbe; in German "FGG Elbe")



The Elbe River rises at Krkonoše (also called „Giant“) Mountains in the Czech Republic and flows after 1095 km at Cuxhaven into the North Sea. Its total length in Germany is 727 km. Important tributaries in the German catchment area are the rivers Saale, Havel, Schwarze Elster and Mulde. The Elbe River Basin Community furthermore includes the North Sea’s transitional and coastal waters with parts of the Wadden Sea and the island of Heligoland.



Port of Hamburg

Tasks and organisation

Common objectives of the RBC Elbe are the cross-border management of waters in the German Elbe catchment area, the implementation of the European Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the European Floods Directive (FD). Tasks of the RBC Elbe are the collaborative setting of objectives related to these directives and the coordination of measures for the German part of the Elbe catchment area. For this purpose the representatives and experts of the federal states work closely together with representatives of the Federal Government in Boards and Working Groups. The RBC Elbe has its registered Liaison Office in Magdeburg, the capital of Saxony-Anhalt.

Organisational structure

