



Thematic
analysis/diagnosis:
**Water management &
water infrastructure**

Executive Summary

Water resources are a key element of the socio-economic development of the country. Nevertheless, the degradation of aquatic ecosystems is increasing as a result of the combined impact of pressures related to development needs (for example, demographic changes, urbanization, agriculture, industrialization) and global changes (for example, climate change). Consequently, water stress and associated risks (for example, pollution, floods and droughts) are on the rise, undermining ecosystem integrity and development prospects. In this context, the National Development Strategy (NDS) provides an opportunity to change the paradigm for water management as a basis for changing the approach to planning, construction, maintenance and use of the water infrastructure. The new approach, which takes into account broader social, economic and political priorities, has better sustainability prospects and the potential to reduce asymmetries in the distribution of "costs and benefits" of water management and other related resources in a geographical, social and transgenerational context.

Composed of six main sections, this report provides an overview of some of the key aspects related to water management and water infrastructure that should be part of the NDS development process. In the first and second part, it addresses the context, the strategic environment and the main challenges at two main levels: **a)** water management system in a broader sense and **b)** water management infrastructure in the context of the water management system. The conceptual bases for the analysis are derived from the modern approaches to integrated water management, water safety, approach suitable for ecosystems, approach to adaptation to climate change, building resilience.

At these two levels, an overview of the institutional set-up and key stakeholders, their role in the system, but also the possible role in the development of the NDS is given. Additionally, this section includes an overview of relevant national policies, strategic documents, plans and programs to be consulted and/or harmonized within the NDS development process.

Based on a review of relevant documentation and databases, the report addresses the main challenges in water management and water infrastructure in the context of the broader framework of sustainable development.

In the third part, the report provides an overview of the available data that can be used as a starting point for understanding the current state of the system (and infrastructure), as well as for setting appropriate indicators that will help monitor future results within the sustainable development goals. Initial formulations and/or guidelines for these indicators have been also included in the report.

In order to connect the main expert analyses with the perceptions, attitudes, needs and visions of the general public, in its fourth part, the report provides an overview of the key inputs in this thematic area of the broad consultation process.

Taking into consideration the broad scope of the topic, the fifth section of the report provides an overview of the relevance to key transversal topics of interest to the NDS (Disaster Risk Management and Resilience, Good Governance, Social Inclusion and Gender, Digitalization and Innovation, Access based on human rights), as well as the key basics and indicators in the context of the country.

Finally, the report provides an overview of the conclusions of the analysis and a series of conceptual guidelines relevant to the further process of developing the NDS.