

LITHUANIAN WATER-SUPPLY NETS AS AN INDICATOR OF THE ECONOMICAL DEVELOPMENT

Loreta Steponėnaitė

Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania

Water is known to be vital to humans and it is difficult to find a field in life or activity that does not require water [3]. There are many factors that cause water problems, and their solutions depend on such processes as water management, climatic, social, economical and socio-political conditions and expectations, which influence water planning, development and management processes and their implementation, regulated by legal and regulation systems and influenced by conditions of the country, available and new developing technologies, questions of education and development of the society [1]. Similarly to other European countries, Lithuania also tries to find more efficient solutions. After joining the European Union (EU), it was required to harmonize the national requirements with the legislation of the EU: the core attention in the water management sector had been given to the implementation of the EU water directives [2]. Thus groundwater protection and quality analysis are especially important, because this water is used for drinking in Lithuania and all fresh water for household and domestic needs in Lithuania is extracted from the underground.

Water-supply nets play one the most significant role in human daily life, and their distribution can show the level of economical development of the country. In Lithuania they influence both making water management decisions and solving economical and social issues. This study aims at examining relations between integration of water-supply nets and economical development of the country. Recent examples of water problems occurring in cities and rural territories are discussed. Moreover, protection of water resources, water quality and aquatic ecosystems is also important as ensuring protection of fresh water resources and their rational use covers comprehensive conformity with the requirements of regulations applied to settlements.

The findings of the study may be useful for raising and answering many questions: is it worthwhile to integrate in water-supply nets and how it can change other processes which strongly influence the society, for example, environmental issues, legislation, and health problems. The results of this analysis can be used nowadays to find reasons of the essential challenges for water management in Lithuania. Management of water resources may be improved considering the processes occurring and applying the principles of sustainable development.

References:

1. Biswas, Asit K. (2008). Integrated Water Resources Management: Is It Working? *International Journal of Water Resources Development*, 24: 1, 5–22.
2. Glinskienė, R., Daraškevičiūtė, B. Research for rural development: International scientific conference proceedings, Jelgava, Latvia, 19-22 May, 2006. P. 58–63. Water management investment into water management in Lithuania, Gaile, Z., Špog'is, K., Ciproviča, I., Kakitis, Dumbrasuskas, A., Alsins, J., Bernhard, A. (ed.).
3. Marcinonis A., 2009. How much and what kind of fresh water in entrails we have in Lithuania? <http://www.mokslasirtechnika.lt/mokslo-naujienos/kiem-ir-kokio-g-lo-vandens-turime-lietuvos-zem-s-gelm-se>.