

SMALL WATERCOURSES AND STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT OF THEIR USE THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS

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Abstract: Mountain areas are usually rich in watercourses, which are a significant resource of every country. They are typically torrential in their most upstream part and can cause extensive damage to downstream landscapes. Proper strategic management of all resources is the basis of the development of any society. The water is an essential material for the life, environment and economy. That is why the main subject of this research is small watercourses and modalities of their strategic management, with a special attention to environmental and social impacts. This manuscript covers the review of the hydro potential of small courses in different countries, as well as the level of their usage and experiences. Main positive and negative environmental and social impacts are explained. The multicriteria methodology is offered as a support for decision makers, with the goal to reach the optimal holistic solution for optimal watercourses exploitation.

Keywords: watercourses, small hydro power plants, environmental and social impacts, EU, strategic management.