



Challenges in the Implementation of EU Water Policy and the Role of Innovation

**Economic benefits of water innovation
Brussels, 5 November 2015**

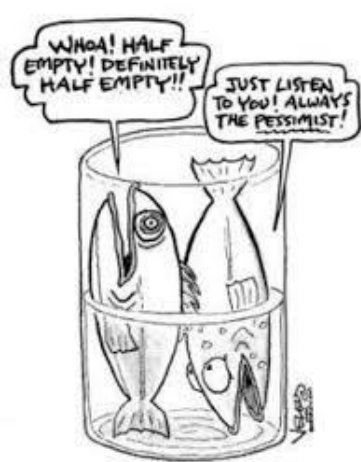
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WFD Implementation in the 1st cycle 2009-2015

- **1st RBMPs adopted in 2009**
- **2012 Assessment of RBMPs and the Water Blueprint**
- **The Common Implementation Strategy process**
- **Bilateral consultations and enforcement**

2015 – the deadline for achieving good water status



Achievements

- **Expected result: 53% of EU waters in good status by 2015** if MS PoMs deliver (up from 43% in 2009)
- **WFD and "daughter" directives have contributed to improving water protection in EU**
- **Effective dialogue with MS to improve implementation (CIS)**
- **Increased trans-boundary cooperation in water management**

But still a lot to do...



Findings & Recommendations - WFD

- **PoMs**: MS included what is in place, in the pipeline or feasible rather than what is necessary
 - Base PoMs on assessment of pressures to design cost-effective measures
 - Provide appropriate justification for exemptions
- **Water Abstraction**: insufficient measures to control abstraction and ecological flow
 - Review permits to ensure sustainable use
 - Improve monitoring and enforcement
- **Water pricing** and **cost recovery** not applied across sectors & MS (e.g. lack of metering)
 - Adjust inadequate pricing of water resources



- **Agriculture:** still many gaps to address diffuse pollution
 - Better control fertilizers use
 - Create incentives for more water efficient irrigation
 - Better use of EU Funds (i.e. RDF)
- **Industry:** no systematic consideration of WFD objectives in the review of discharge permits
 - Review existing permits to ensure good water status
- **Household:** too slow planning and financing infrastructure investment (collection & treatment)
 - Better use of EU Funds (i.e. Regional & Cohesion)



Key Findings - FD

- Significant progress in the implementation (most MS have done **Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment**)
- **Flood Hazard and Risk Maps** provide a wealth of info on flood risks in EU
- Good basis to develop **Flood Risk Management Plans** (FRMPs - by 12/2015)
- Need to **ensure better coordination** between FD and WFD (i.e. use of Natural Water Retention Measures)



Outlook for the 2nd Implementation Cycle 2016-2021

- **All MS is the state of non-compliance/apply exceptions – MS need to step up their effort**
- **2nd RBMPs should be improved**
 - EC assessment of the RBMPs and bilateral discussions
 - CIS process will continue to support MS
- **Water and sectoral policies should be better aligned**
 - Integrated assessment (how other policies contribute to or undermine the achievement of WFD objectives)
 - Collaboration with the key sectors (energy, agriculture, navigation, etc.) at EU and MS level
- **Economic arguments** - the cost of non-implementation
- **Evaluation/REFIT and review of WFD and FD (2019)**



The role of innovation in the implementation of EU water policy

- **Implementation challenges:**
 - Lack of funds to implement measures
 - Non-existence of necessary technologies/techniques
 - Rigid, ineffective management and governance structures
- Need for **innovative solutions** – technologies, management approaches, governance and funding



EIP Water

Objective: identify, test, scale up, disseminate and stimulate market uptake of innovative solutions for major water related challenges

8 Priority areas:

- **Water reuse and recycling;**
- **Water and wastewater treatment, including recovery of resources;**
- **Water-energy nexus;**
- **Flood and drought risk management;**
- **Ecosystem services;**
- **Water governance;**
- **Decision support systems and monitoring;**
- **Financing for innovation**



Benefits of EIP

- Support to **30 concrete water innovation**
- **Addressing barriers** to water innovations
 - Identification of specific barriers water innovators face in bringing their innovation to the market on the basis of the experience of **EIP action groups**
 - Finding effective ways to remove the barriers in collaboration with relevant stakeholders
- Creation of a platform for information exchange and matchmaking for water innovation – the **EIP Market Place**