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Quality of Life-Health, Nature & Biodiversity



# Water Policy in the European Union

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## Overview

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- **Water Framework Directive**
- **Other EU Water Legislation**
- **Water Policy in relation to Other EU Policy Initiatives**
- **Water Policy beyond the EU**



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## **Diversity of problems throughout Europe**

- ⇒ **Pollution of our groundwaters, rivers, lakes and regional seas**
- ⇒ **flood events, but also water scarcity**
- ⇒ **over-abstraction of groundwaters**
- ⇒ **destruction of aquatic ecosystems and wetlands**
- ⇒ **erosion and desertification**
- ⇒ **challenge of EU enlargement to Central and Eastern Europe and Mediterranean countries**



## **The role of the citizen**

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**Europe's citizens are increasingly demanding a cleaner environment**

- ⇒ clean water for drinking**
- ⇒ clean water for bathing**
- ⇒ clean and ecological sound rivers, lakes and coastal waters as part of their environment, their local and regional heritage**



## **The Water Framework Directive**

### **Key elements on the Implementation of the WFD:**

- **Integrated Management of Water resources at the level of the river basin,**
- **covers all waters; surface, groundwater, estuarine and coastal waters,**
- **Achievement of good status (ecological and chemical) by 2015,**
- **Cost recovery: Use of economic instruments,**
- **Transboundary rivers also require integrated approach,**
- **Public participation**



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## **Ambitious and binding on objectives, flexible on tools**

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- ⇒ **Environmental objectives set in a legally binding and enforceable way**
- ⇒ **Flexibility on choosing tools to achieve this objective**
- ⇒ **Within the particular river basin sufficient discretion to address the problems, looking at the regional and local circumstances as well as the technical and scientific facts**



## **WHY THE WFD IS A CHANCE?**

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- **Good status**
- **Better monitoring**
- **Better co-ordination of all instruments**
- **Adequate management and measures**
- **Re-creation and restoration of wetlands measures to reach good status, improvement of measures**
- **Economic analysis will demonstrate economic relevance of integrated management and water value**
- **Increase of public awareness**



## **CIS: Outlook**

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- ⇒ **Ambitious implementation is as important as ambitious environmental legislation.**
- ⇒ **Challenge for all involved - for Member States, regions, local communities, European Commission as well as NGOs and stakeholders: need in particular as regards the necessary resources at all levels. Ongoing efforts for implementing the WFD serve as an example of Good European Governance.**
- ⇒ **Together will be available to deliver on our joint commitment:**



## **Integrated Management at the Level of the River Basin**

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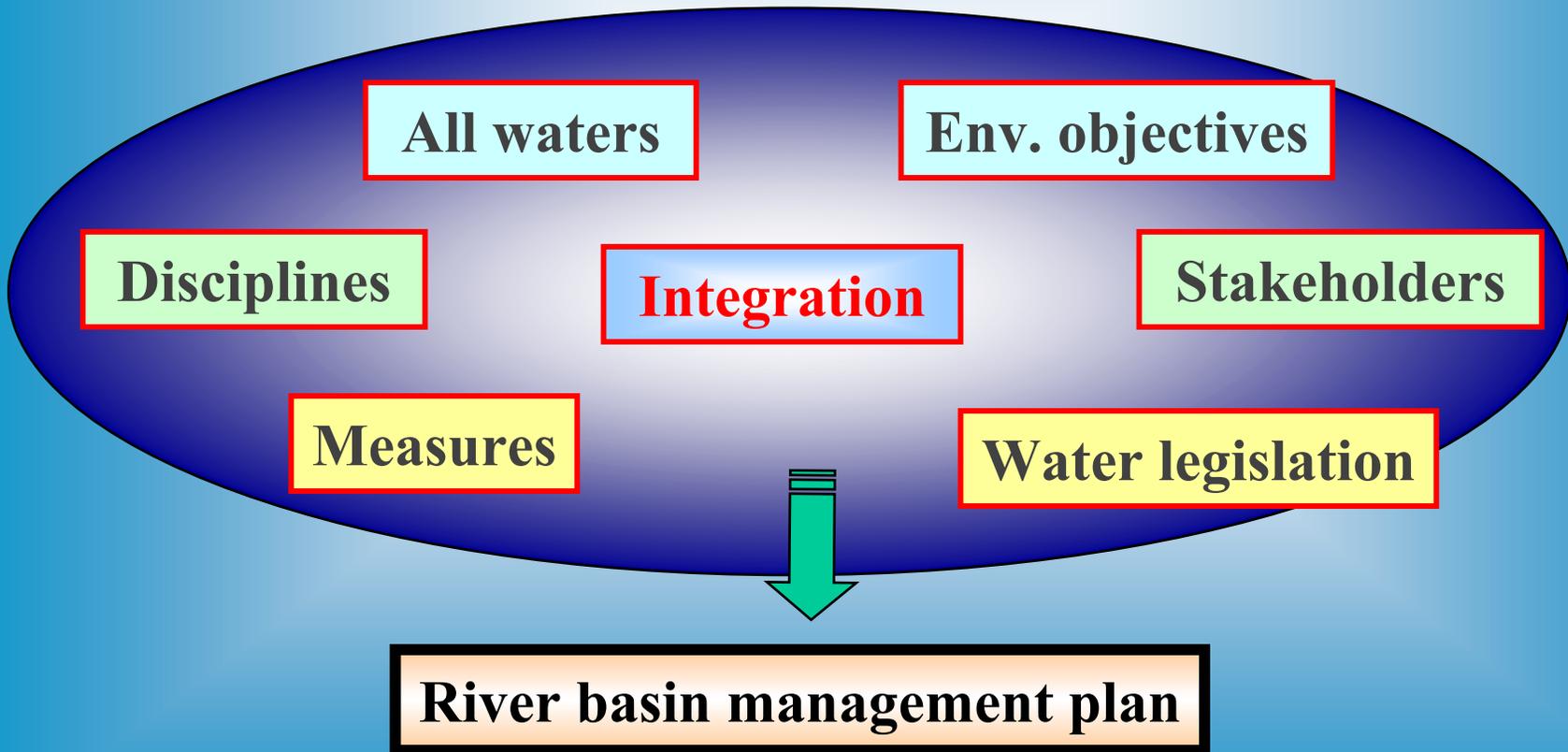
### **River Basin Management Plan**

- **Characteristics of River Basin Districts**
- **Analysis of pressures and impacts, economic analysis**
- **Monitoring network**
- **Established environmental objectives and derogations**
- **Program of measures**
- **Results of public participation**



# PROMOTE KEY WATER MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

*River basin*





# Integrated Management

## Analysis of Pressures and Impacts

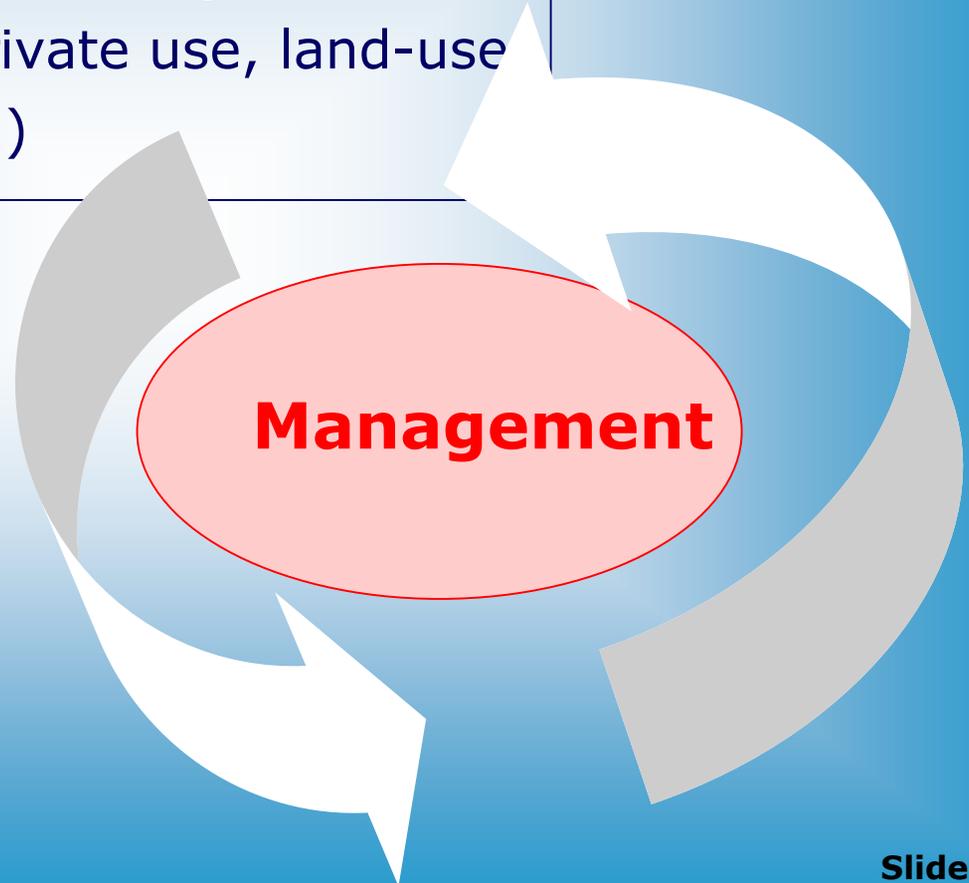
(Industry, Agriculture, private use, land-use issues, impacts of cities...)



**Analysis of Status**  
(Monitoring)

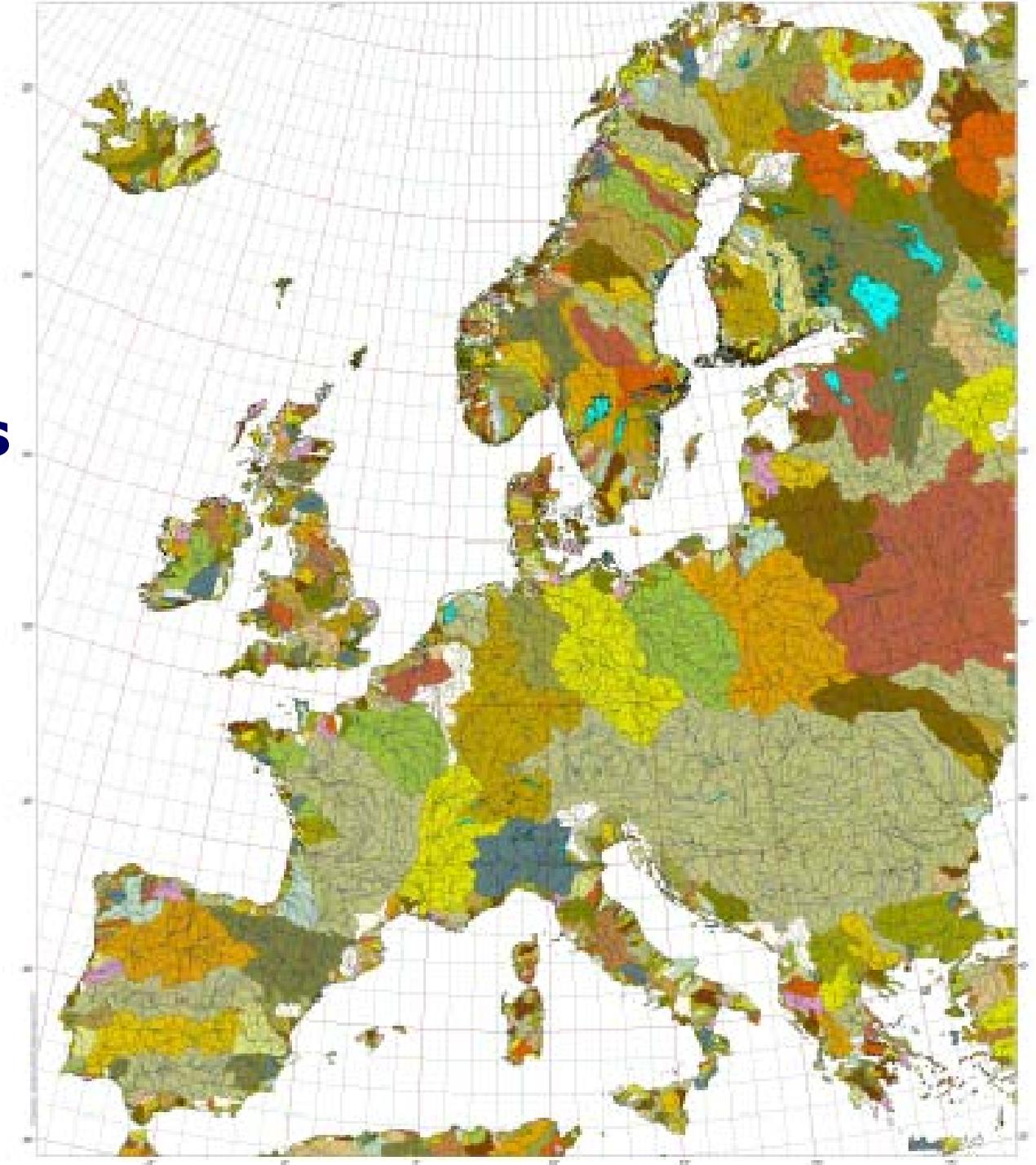


**Response**





# River basins in Europe





## Implementation Timetable

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**2003** - Transposition into national legislation

**2003** - Identification of River Basin District

**2004** - Analysis of pressures, impacts, use

**2006** - Monitoring programmes operational

**2006** - Start Consultation with public

**2009** - River Basin Management Plan

**2010** - Pricing policies

**2012** - Programme of measures operational

**2015** - Environmental objectives



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# Common Implementation Strategy

## General Organisation 2001 - 2002



**Water Directors**  
Steering of implementation process  
Chair: Presidency, Co-chair: Commission

### 3 Expert Fora

**1. Priority Substances**

**2. Groundwater**

**3. Reporting**

**Strategic Co-ordination group**  
Co-ordination of work programme  
Chair: Commission

**10 Working Groups**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Analysis of pressures and impacts                        | 6. Inter-calibration                                  |
| 2. Reference conditions inland surface waters               | 7. Monitoring   |
| 3. Typology, classification of transitional, coastal waters | 8. Economic analysis                                  |
| 4. Heavily modified water bodies                            | 9. Tools on assessment, classification of Groundwater |
| 5. Geographical Information Systems                         | 10. Best practice in river basin planning             |

**Stakeholders**  
NGO's, Experts, etc.



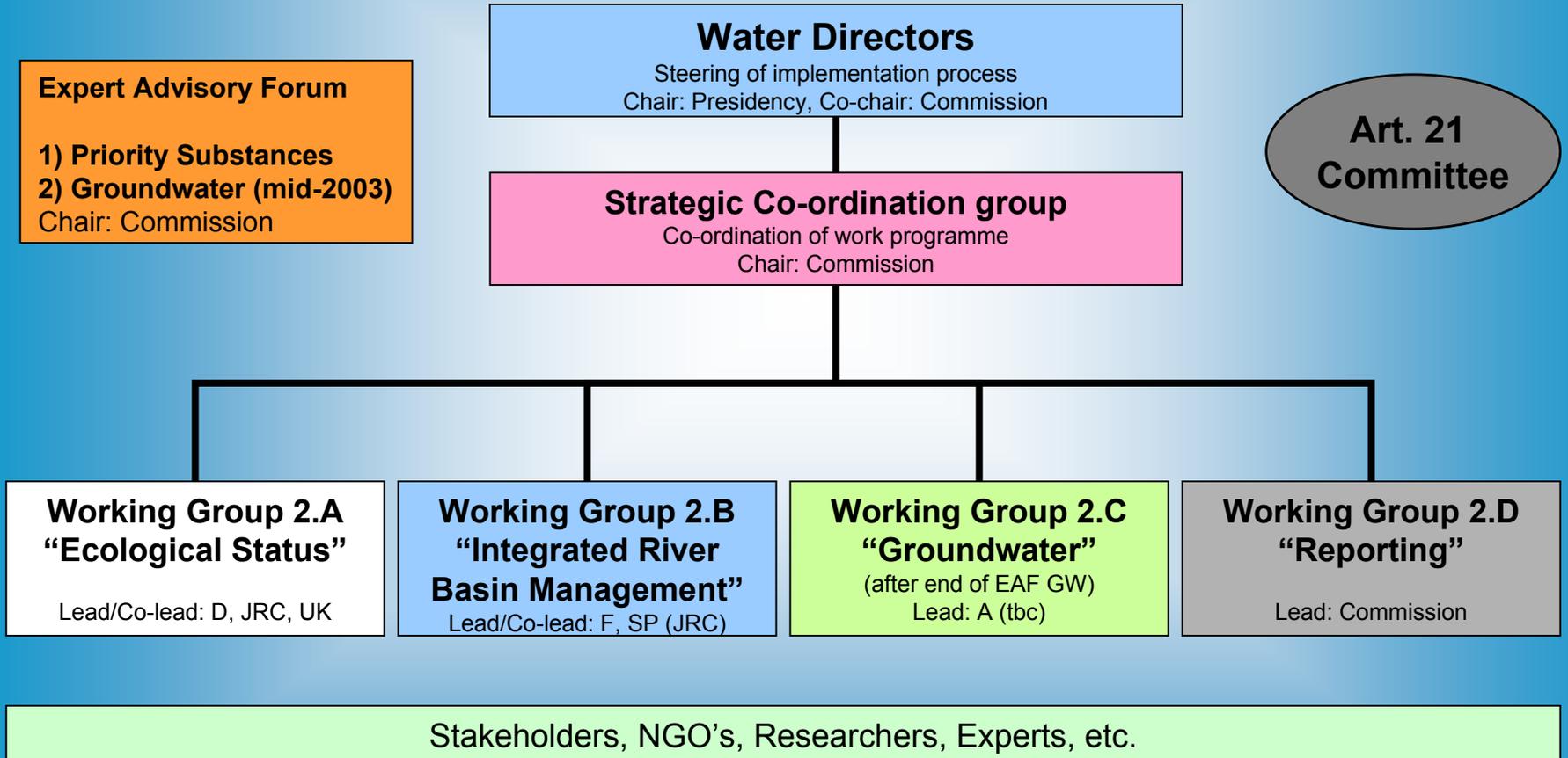
## State-of-play

### Progress to date:

- ⇒ Finalization of eleven guidance documents and four technical reports (>1500 pages)
- ⇒ Setting up of pilot river basin network currently 15 pilots in 18 countries
- ⇒ Establishment of extensive expert network
- ⇒ Increasing awareness through numerous activities



# New organisation 2003/2004





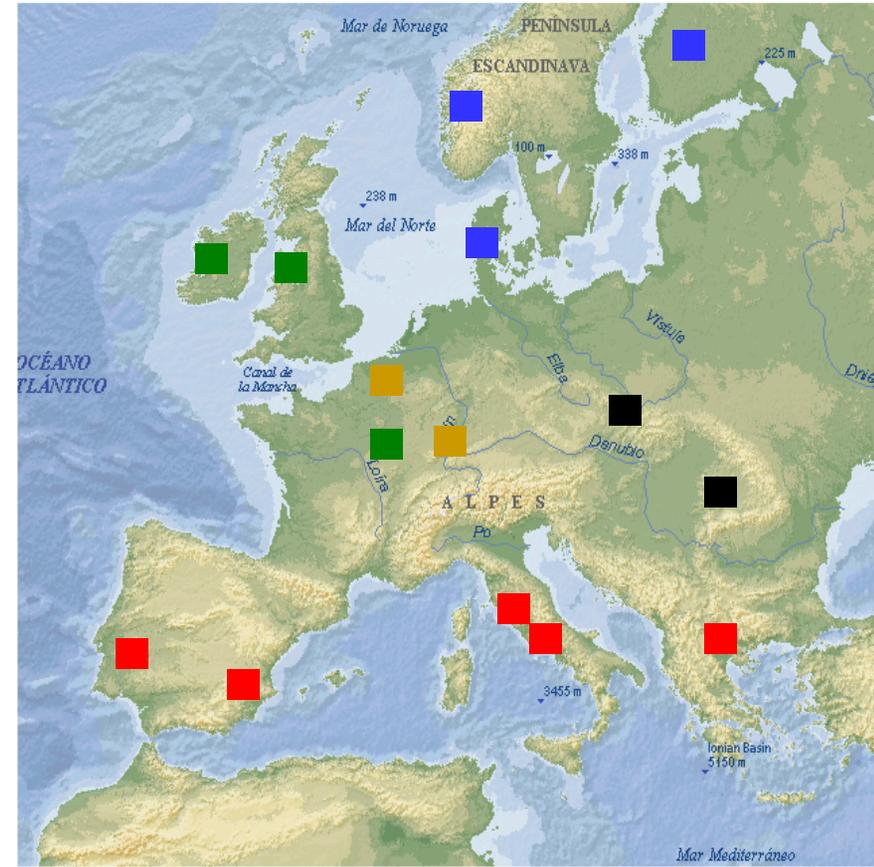
## CIS: Progress and outlook

	May – Oct 2001	Nov 2001 – Nov2002	Nov2002 – May 2003
Number of members in WFD CIRCA	~ 250	~ 600	>800
Number of meetings of WGs and New WG	25	50	20
Number of final “products” from the CIS process	0	13	15



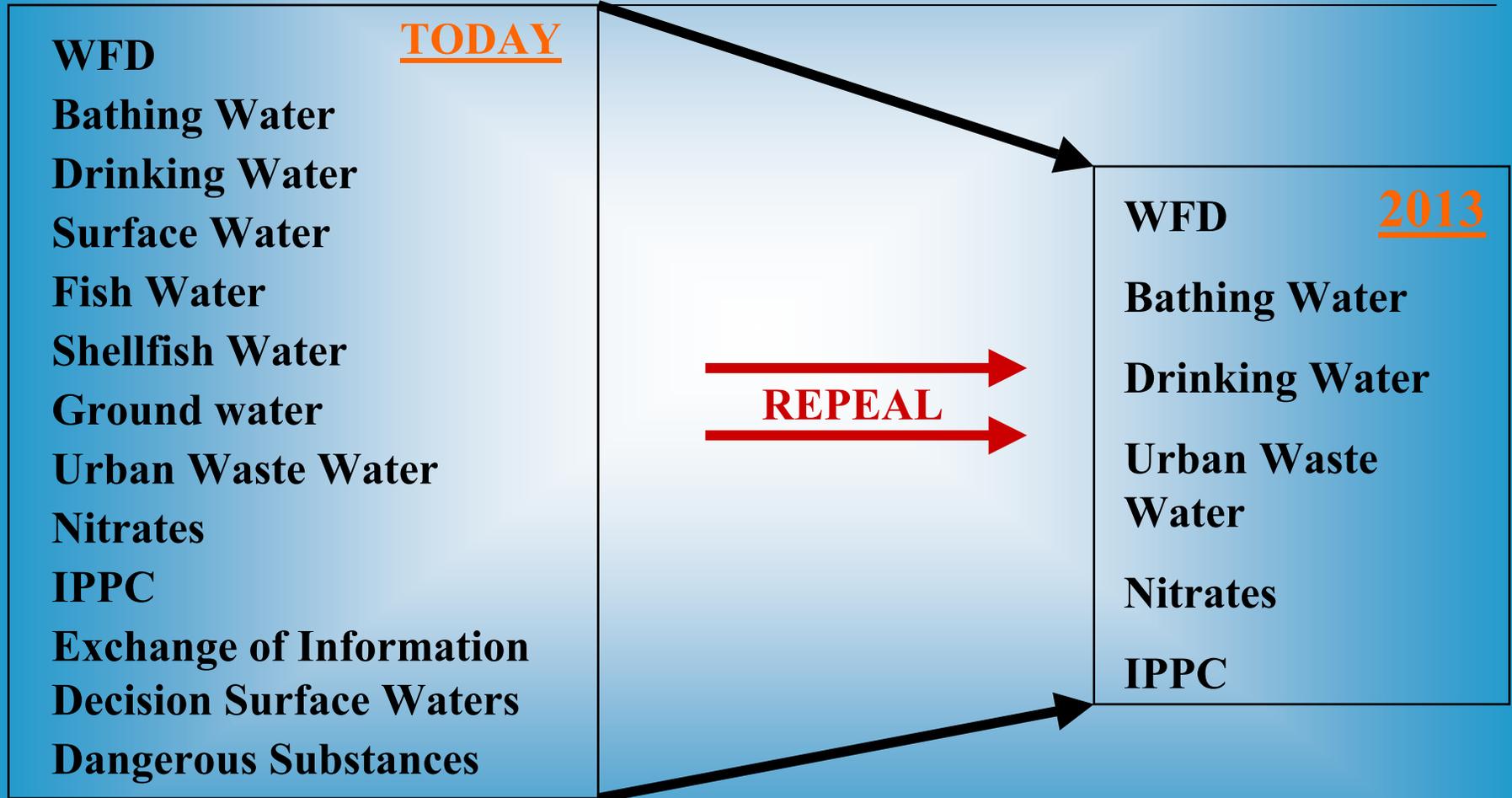
## Pilot River Basins

- **B, F, NL (Scheldt),**
- **D, F, Lux (Moselle-Sarre)**
- **France (Marne)**
- **Ireland (Shannon)**
- **UK (Ribble)**
- **Denmark (Odense)**
- **Finland (Oulujoki)**
- **Norway**
- **Portugal (Guadiana)**
- **Spain (Júcar)**
- **Greece (Pinios)**
- **Italy (Tevere, Cecina)**
- **HU/ROM (Somos)**
- **PL, CZ, D (Neisse)**



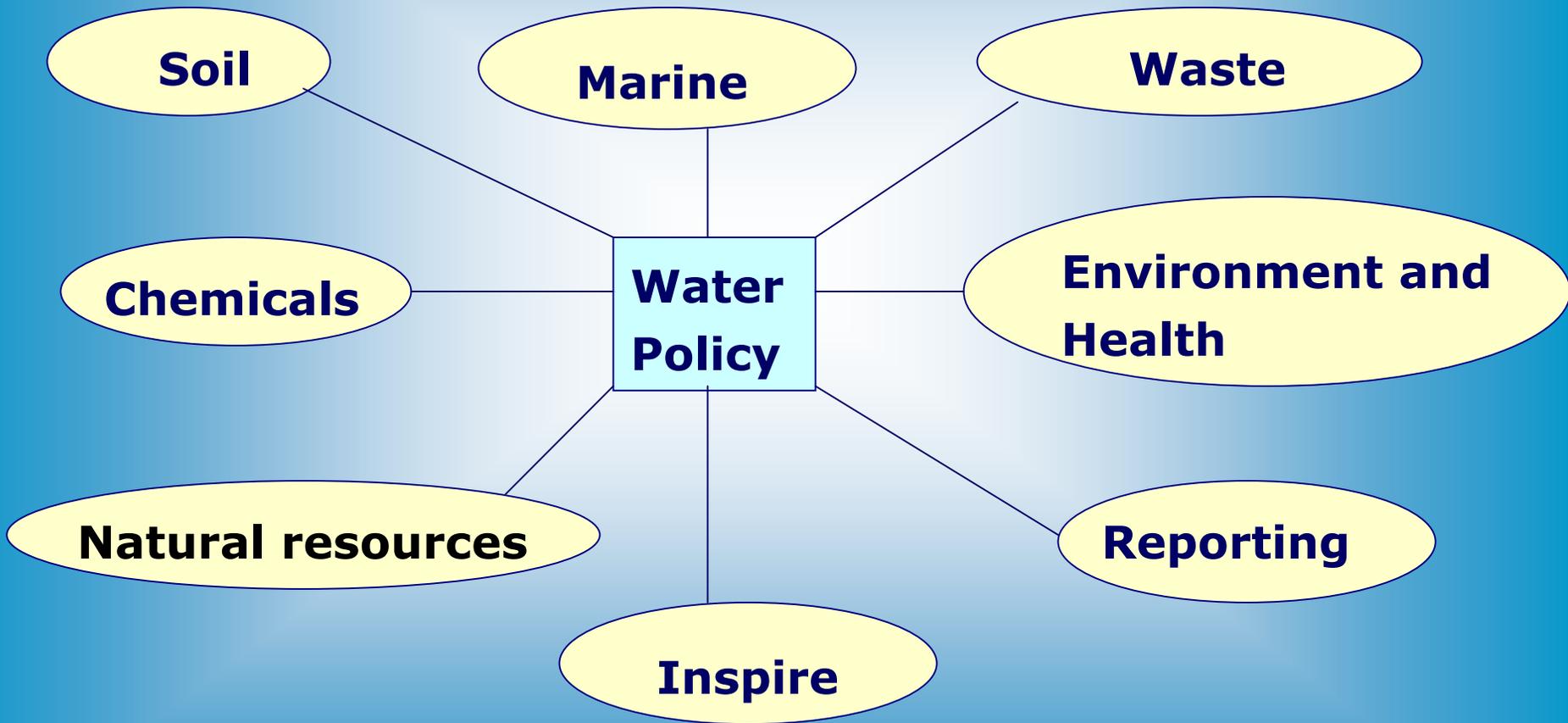


# Evolution of Water Legislation



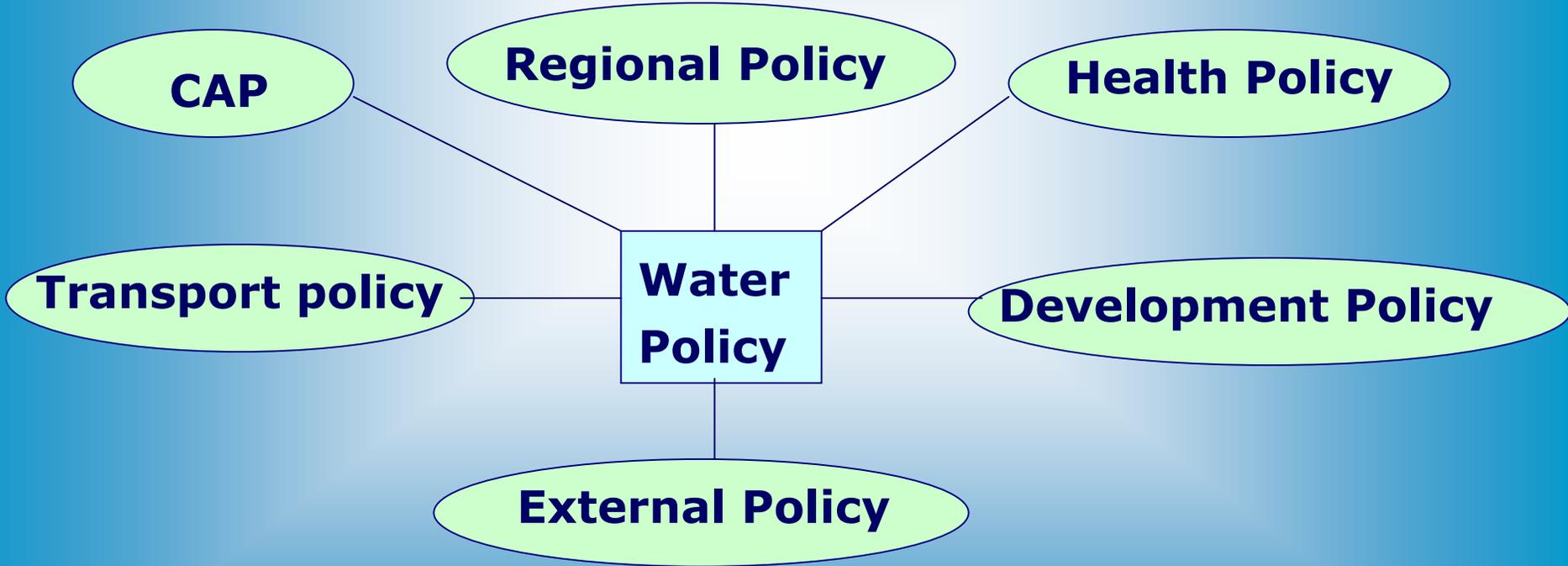


# Water Policy and relation to Other Environmental Initiatives





# Water Policy and relation to Other Policy Initiatives





## **Other EU Water Legislation**

### **What's New?**

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- **New Bathing Water Directive proposed in 2002**
- **New Groundwater Directive foreseen to be proposed in July 2002**
- **Directive on Priority Hazardous Substances List, EQS, Measures and Daughter Directives in 2004**
- **Drinking Water Directive revision will start in a major Conference in September 2003**



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## **Other Water Legislation: What's challenging**



### **UWW Directive:**

- **Big Challenge to EU 15 Member States - practically all Member States have infraction procedures against them**
- **Candidate Countries: Most costly item of all EU acquis**
- **Financial Measures: Structural, Cohesion, Ispa, Phare funds**



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## **Other Water Legislation: What's challenging**



### **Nitrates Directive:**

- **Directive to reduce nitrate inputs from agriculture**
- **Major challenge for all countries with intensive livestock**
- **Many court cases - Action Plans inadequate**
- **linkage to CAP - Rural Development - Agri/Environmental Measures**



## **Water Initiative at WSSD (1)**

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- **Launching of the EU Water Initiative**
- **Signing of the new EU-African Strategic partnership on water affairs and sanitation**
- **Agreement with 12 countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia**
- **Announcement of the Mediterranean component**



## EU Water Initiative (2): Targets

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**Firm commitment of all partners to**

- **Half the proportion of people with no access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015**
- **Develop integrated water resources management and efficiency plans by 2005 with co-ordination in transboundary waters**
- **ensure a balance of the human water needs with those of the environment and contribute to halting or reversing the loss of environmental resources**



# (3) General Organization

