

Workshop

Basic and supplementary measures and anticipated effects

15 - 17 February 2016
ECRAN 61384

Water as a Cross-Cutting Issue



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Structure of the presentation

- EU Legal basis
- Cross cutting topics
- Climate change & water
- Innovation & knowledge
- Governance
- Integration
- Water scarcity & droughts
- Water & agriculture
- Water & energy
- Implications for the PoM



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Legal basis

EU Blueprint

EU Cross-cutting policies (energy and natural resources, environment, consumers and health, regional and local development)

Better Regulation
Europe 2020 - strategy for growth and jobs
Impact assessment of new initiatives
Multilingualism

REFIT – making EU law lighter, simpler and less costly

**REFIT - EC's Regulatory Fitness and Performance programme.
Action to make EU law simpler and to reduce regulatory costs.**



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Blueprint cross cutting issues

Specific sectoral measures proposed by the
Blueprint can be supported by crosscutting tools:

Focus on:

- Innovation & Knowledge
- Governance
- Policy Integration



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Cross cutting topics

1. Climate Change
2. Innovation & Knowledge
3. Governance
4. Integration
5. Floods & Droughts
6. Disaster Management
7. WFD /Waste Water / Drinking water / Bathing Water
8. Agriculture & Water: CAP reform
9. Priority Substances
10. Water & Energy
11. Regional Policy



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1. Climate Change & Water

Recent trends highlighted in the [Commission White Paper - adapting to Climate Change](#) indicate:

- 11% of the European population and 17% of its territory affected by water scarcity
- climate change will have a significant impact on the quantity and quality of water resources both within Europe and globally
- a significant increase in water scarcity across Europe
- major changes in water availability - increasing water scarcity and risk of floods
- flooding and droughts will impact water quality and increase pollution
- will affect key socio-economic activities across a range of sectors
- biodiversity and ecosystems in large parts of Europe will also be affected
- successful adaptation to the impacts of climate change on water will depend not just on effective national and European water regulations, but also on the extent to which water management can be integrated into other sectoral policies such as agriculture and energy policies, regional policy etc.



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Climate proofing

Water policies and Program of Measures

Action 1: Assess the most significant threats posed by the changing climate in the short, medium and long term

Assessment of the existing climate scenarios to be used as a basis for assessing climate threats

Identification of main climate threats

Ranking of main threats and identification of the main policy areas linked to these threats

Action 2: Identify the most appropriate measures that could address each threat, for implementation in the time frame 2013 – 2020

Screen key policy areas and identify adaptation measures

Costing of future key measures

Assess economic, social and environmental impacts of key measures

Action 3: Recommendations on how key measures could be implemented within the EU policy framework and its funding schemes.



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Innovation & Knowledge

EU developments

- Implement the Innovation Partnerships on Water
- and on Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability
- Upgrade WISE
- Streamline reporting & statistics requirements
- Complete the hydro-economic model
- Continue CIS work on the science-policy interface



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Governance

EU developments

- Use a CIS peer review system for RBMPs
- Strengthening inspections and surveillance requirements
- Country-specific recommendations on water



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Integration

EU developments

- Add Water Framework Directive requirements to cross-compliance under CAP
- Country-specific recommendations on water
- Support awareness-raising tools on water consumption (e.g. voluntary labeling & certification schemes)



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Water Scarcity & Droughts

The number of areas and people affected by droughts 20% more 1976 - 2006.

The total cost of droughts over the past thirty years amounts to € 100 billion.

Reduced water availability - negative impact on citizens and economic sectors such as agriculture, tourism, industry, energy and transport, and may affect competitiveness and the internal market.

In 2007 EC Communication on water scarcity and droughts in the EU (COM (2007) 414 final).

The Communication identified 7 main policy options to address water scarcity and drought issues

- (1) Putting the right price tag on water
- (2) Allocating water and water-related funding more efficiently
- (3) Improving drought risk management
- (4) Considering additional water supply infrastructures
- (5) Fostering water efficient technologies and practices
- (6) Fostering the emergence of a water-saving culture in Europe
- (7) Improve knowledge and data collection .



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Water & Agriculture

Water management: key role in the EU's common agricultural policy (CAP), and farmers must comply with water policy.

Agriculture accounts for 24 % of water abstraction in Europe

CAP reform objectives: enhancing the competitiveness of the agricultural sector

Water & CAP reform: Commission proposal favours measures that **protect water resources** (e.g. crop diversification and the identification of areas excluded from cultivation) while also **providing funding** to promote more efficient irrigation, if coupled with cuts in water consumption, **in line with the WFD objectives.**

o **Pillar I:** Cross Compliance CAP beneficiaries , such as farmers, must respect articles from 19 legal acts

(SMRs) and a number of **environmental issues and standards** (GAECs) to keep agricultural land in good agricultural and environmental condition.

Some of them are **directly related to water.**

o **Pillar II:** Rural Development Programmes + Cross Compliance for some measures
RD Programmes finance measures

Implementation: As soon as the WFD and Pesticides Directive have been implemented in all MS, the **EU's cross-compliance mechanism**, which forms **part of the CAP, enters into force.**

It makes **direct payments** to farmers **conditional upon the application of environmental**, animal and plant health standards, is expanded to include some **requirements from the WFD** and the Directive on Sustainable Use of Pesticides. This is a powerful **incentive**, at farm level, to reduce pressures on water.



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Water & Energy

Environment and Climate
Regional Accession Network **ECRAN**

Main fields of nexus between water & energy:

- Water for energy production
 - Energy use in drinking water supply
 - Energy use/recovery in wastewater treatment

There is potential for conflict between the two in future



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Water & Economic instruments

Environment and Climate
Regional Accession Network **ECRAN**

Pricing and taxes are essential to reach water goals.

The **WFD** already aims at '**getting the price right**'

Incorporate **full cost recovery** and applying the '**polluter pays**' and '**user pays**' principles (Article 9 WFD).

The **WFD** **does not provide details** on the basic requirements for cost recovery

Cost recovery through water pricing: tool to obtain the necessary funds to **run the public water supply system** and **cover the investment needs** in general.

Appropriate cost recovery mechanisms are essential to **ensure the financial viability** of water management but these economic systems have to be **revenue-neutral!** **No new taxes and fees** without abolishing the old ones! We need to go a **long way**, and have a **major public debate**, before being able to change our pricing systems

Water prices have an **effect on the allocation of water** across users and sectors, and can serve as an **incentive to change users' behavior**.

Price determination and **allocation of water** across sectors is subject to strong **political pressures**.



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Implications for the PoM

Identify the measures that could address climate change threat

1. Evaluate measures considering climate change
2. Describe measure
3. Classify measure based on criteria
4. Assess measure

- Hydrological scenarios (both floods and low flow)
- Hydraulic modeling
- Flood risk analysis
- Measures and strategy

International cooperation essential (upstream downstream effect)



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Thank you!



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