



Comhshaol, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Community and Local Government

EPA National Water Event June 2016

Towards a Programme of Measures

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River Basin Management Plans

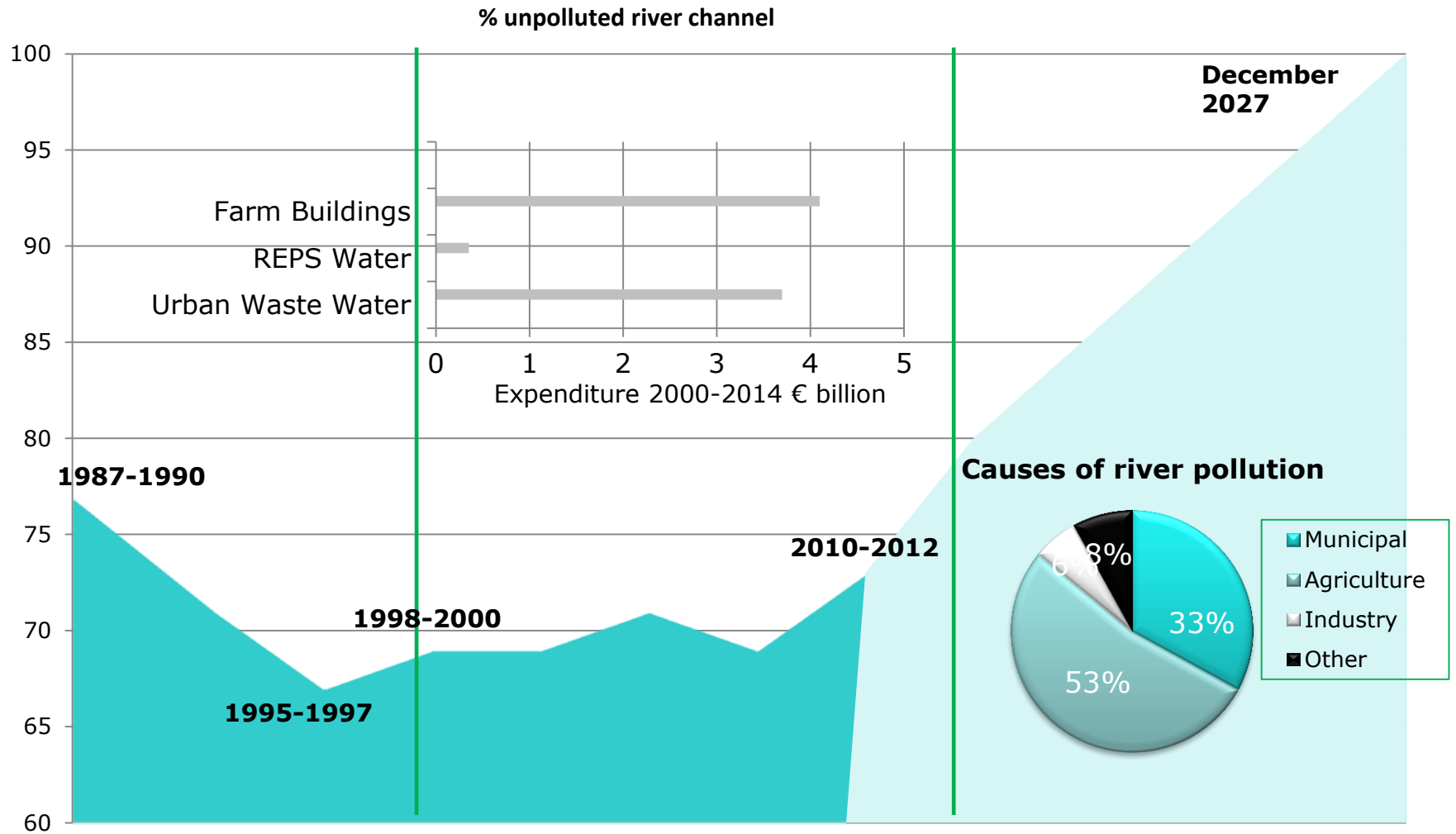
- Draft River Basin Management Plans to be published in December 2016 - finalised by end 2017
- National approach
- Plans will identify the priorities for the water environment to the end of 2021 and the strategies / programmes for their implementation
- The Minister is responsible for
 - Setting environmental objectives and deciding priorities
 - Establishing programmes of measures, and
 - Making river basin management plans
- EPA is responsible for the characterisation of river basin districts and advising and assisting the Minister
- Local authorities have a key 'on the ground' delivery role as well as providing support to the EPA and Minister

Timelines



- Pre-consultation workshop on Significant Water Management Issues – Farmleigh, 5 May 2015
- SWMI public consultation document launched by MECLG at EPA National Water Event – Galway Bay Hotel, 17 June 2015
- SWMI public consultation closed 18 December 2015
- Post SWMI workshop – Farmleigh, 20 May 2016
- Publication of draft River Basin Management Plan – December 2016
- Six months public consultation
- Final River Basin Management Plan towards the end of 2017

River Water Quality 1987-2012



Approach to next cycle of River Basin Management Plans



- Deliver positive environmental outcomes
- EPA analysis and river basin characterisation provides a strong evidence base for informed decision-making
- Need to be realistic in terms of what we can achieve
- Must ensure that capabilities and resources are optimised to give the best outcomes
- A time for consolidation and capacity building

RBMP / Programmes of Measures



- A policy document which sets out the priorities, work programmes and expected environmental outcomes
 - The Minister
 - National Water Policy Advisory Committee
 - Programmes of Measures Steering Group
- Supporting scientific evidence
 - EPA
 - Water body characterisation
 - Catchment reports

Priorities



- Compliance with EU water legislation
- Prevent deterioration
- Objectives for 'protected areas'
- High status waters
- Targeted improvements

Some Key Programmes



- Programmes to –
 - Control urban waste water pollution
 - Address rural diffuse pollution
 - Deal with abstraction pressures
 - Protect drinking water sources
 - Protect high status waters
 - Improve the longitudinal continuity of rivers
- Strategic Environmental Assessment

Some Risks to be Managed



- Compliance with Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive
- Lead Mitigation Plan – balancing public health risks and environmental protection requirements
- Food Harvest 2020 – Food Wise 2025

Conclusions



- Strong evidence base upon which to make decisions
- Improved working structures – better integration between policy, science and implementation
- Focus on priority outcomes
- Targeted and co-ordinated delivery effort
- Dedicated resources
- Support for stakeholder and community initiatives
- Implementation



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Thank You

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