

environmental protection agency **NATIONAL WATER EVENT 2018**



PATHWAYS TO PROGRESS





Water Event

20 June 2018, Galway

DG Environment, European Commission

Introduction

- Background
- EU Water Legislation
- New CAP and Water
- Fitness Check on Water Legislation
- Task Force on Water & Agriculture

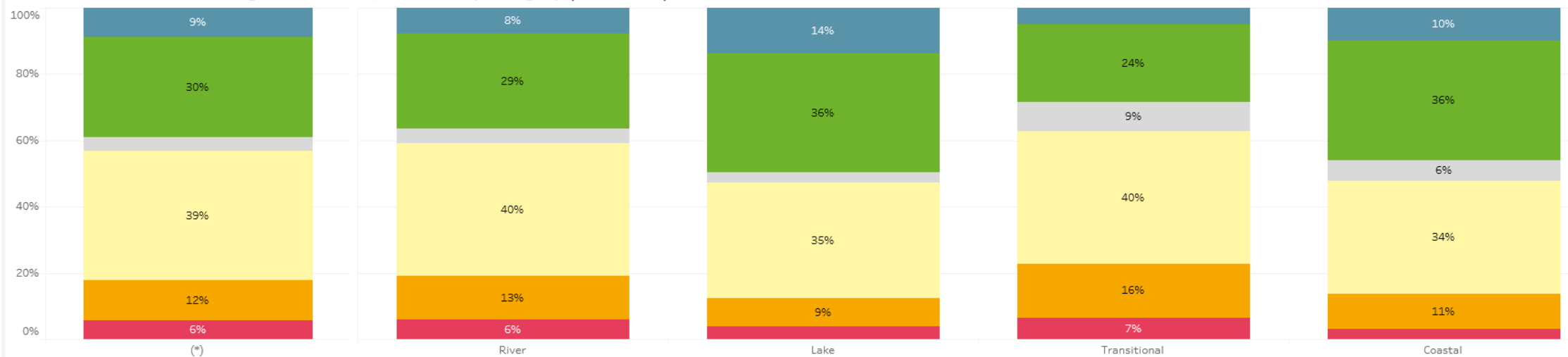
Main Pressures on Water in the EU

Nutrient loading: decreasing trend. More so for P than for N. 15% reduction in N inputs due to agricultural measures. **Results uneven.**

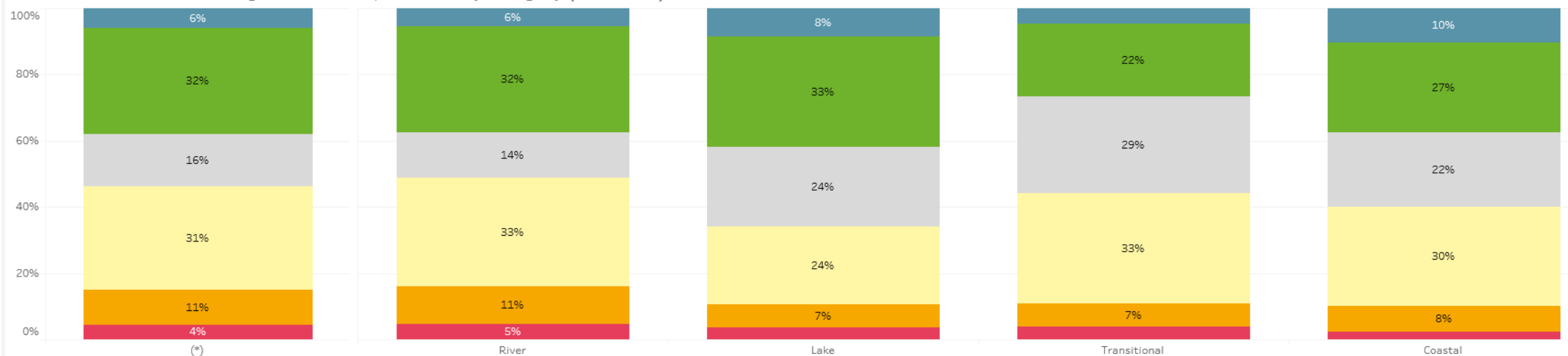
Water abstraction: Abstraction for irrigation is being reduced (by 22% since 1990s), but patterns vary (more in E & N) **This is not the case in the South).**



Surface water bodies: Ecological status or potential, by category (2nd RBMP)

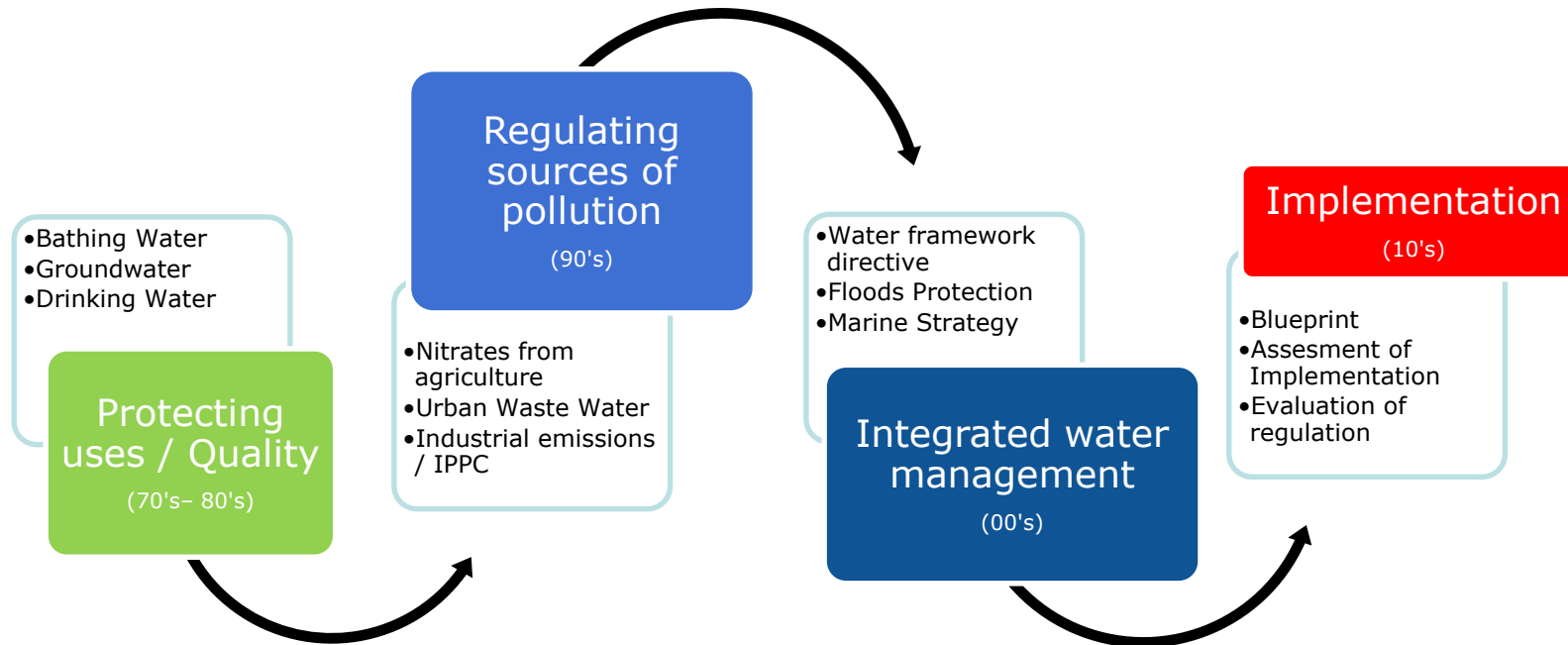


Surface water bodies: Ecological status or potential, by category (1st RBMP)



EU WATER LEGISLATION

Development in EU water legislation and policy



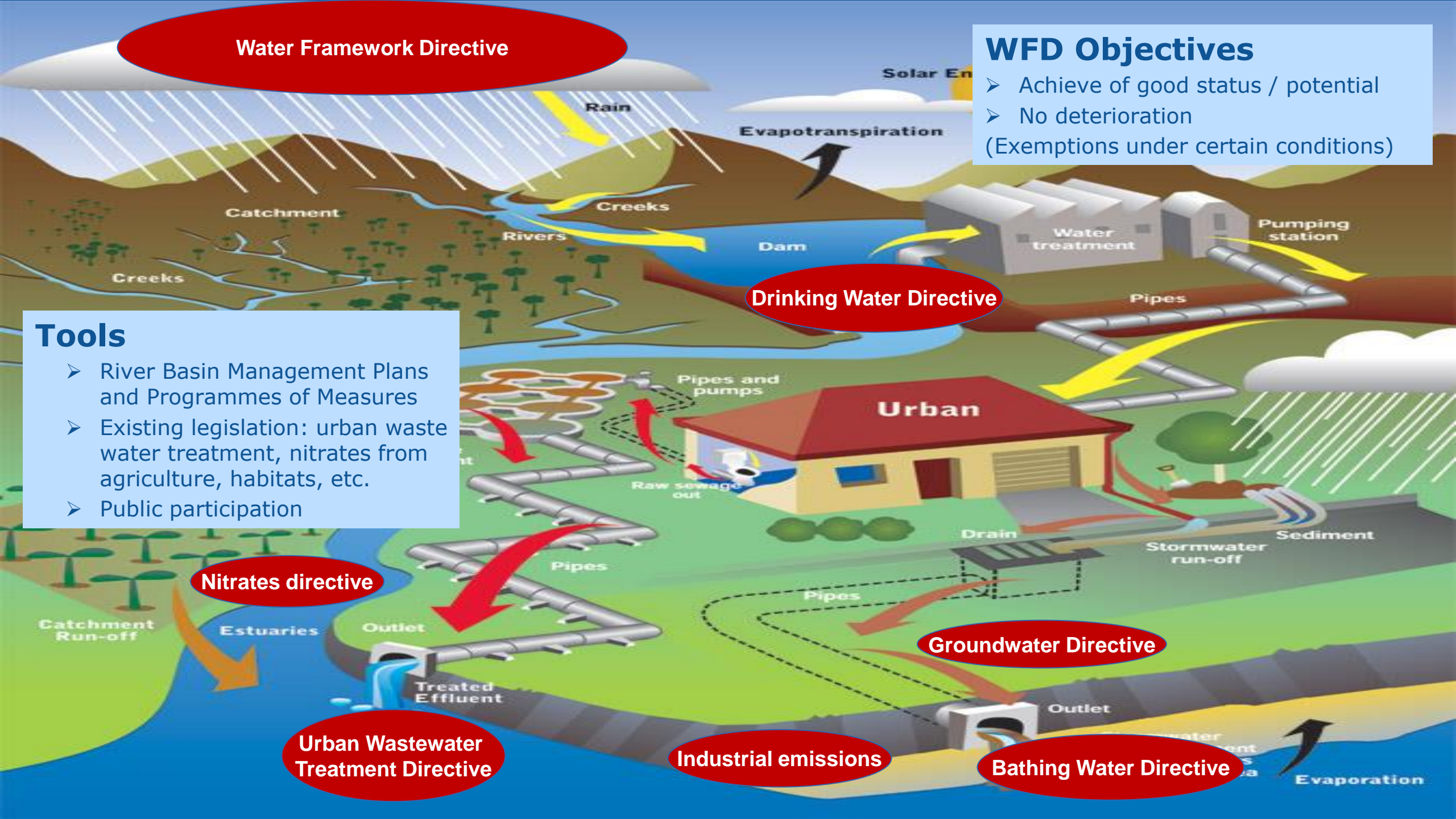
Water Framework Directive

WFD Objectives

- Achieve of good status / potential
 - No deterioration
- (Exemptions under certain conditions)

Tools

- River Basin Management Plans and Programmes of Measures
- Existing legislation: urban waste water treatment, nitrates from agriculture, habitats, etc.
- Public participation





Programme of measures (Art.11 WFD)

- Basic measures

Measures under existing legislation

Article 11.3 (a)

- Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)
- Nitrates Directive addressing agriculture (91/676/EEC)
- Industrial emissions Directive (2010/75/EU)
- Birds and Habitats Directive (79/409/EC and 92/43/EC)
- Etc.

Additional WFD basic measures

Article 11.3 (b-l)

- Cost recovery
- Safeguarding drinking water
- Controls over abstraction
- Emission controls for point and diffuse sources
- Controls over hydro-morphological alterations
- Prohibitions on direct discharges to groundwater
- Eliminating/controlling pollution by priority substances and reducing pollution by other substances

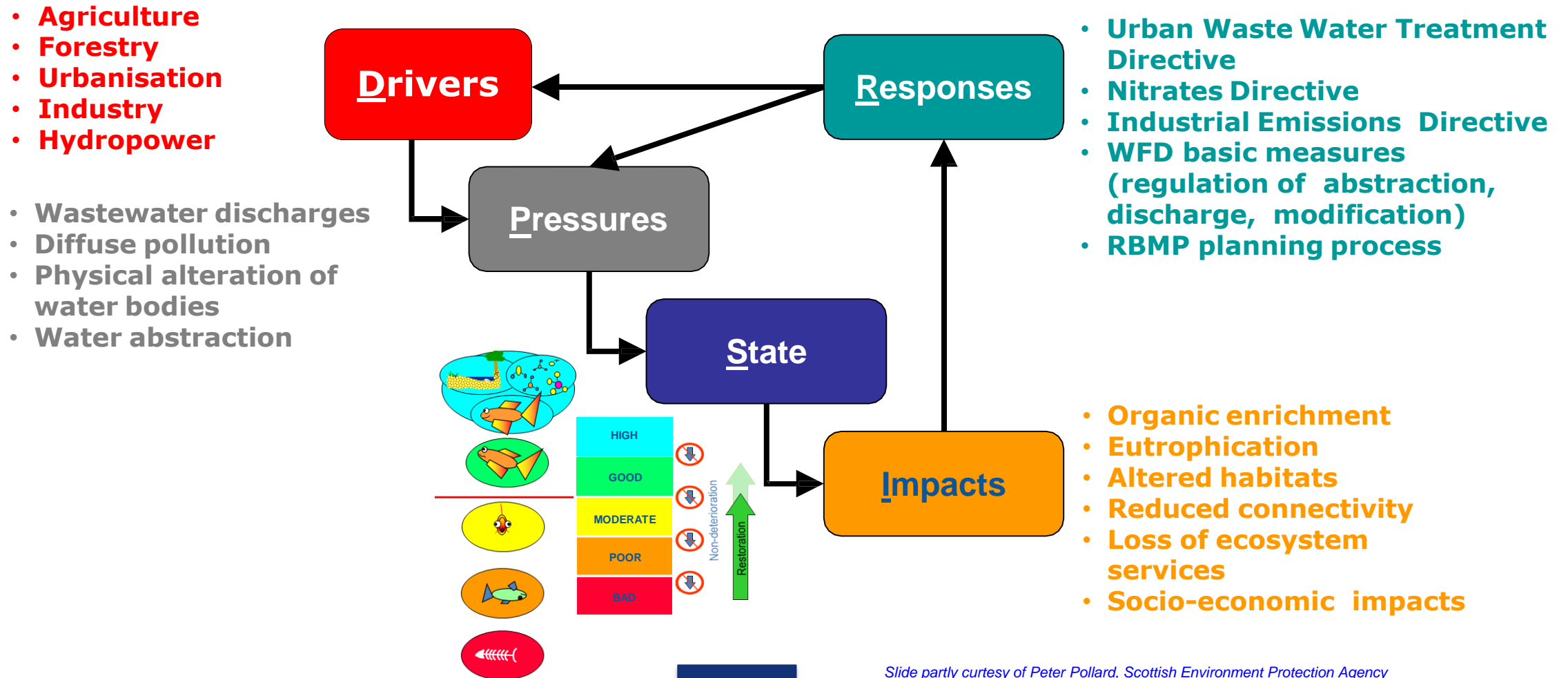
- Supplementary measures

Supplementary measures

Article 11.4

- Those measures designed and implemented as needed, on top of the basic measures, with the aim of achieving the objectives established pursuant to Art.4. To be defined by Member States.

EU Water Framework Directive



Common Implementation Strategy (CIS)



WFD Guidance Documents

Guidance documents and technical reports have been produced to assist stakeholders. Guidance Documents are intended to provide an overall methodological approach to specific circumstances of each EU Member State.

List of published CIS Guidance Documents available on [CIRCABC](https://circabc.europa.eu/)

- [N° 1 - Economics and the Environment - The Implementation Challenge](#)
- [N° 2 - Identification of Water Bodies](#)
- [N° 3 - Analysis of Pressures and Impacts](#)
- [N° 4 - Identification and Designation of Heavily Modified and Artificial](#)
- [N° 5 - Transitional and Coastal Waters - Typology, Reference Condition](#)
- [N° 6 - Towards a Guidance on Establishment of the Intercalibration Net](#)
[Intercalibration Exercise](#)
- [N° 7 - Monitoring under the Water Framework Directive](#)
- [N° 8 - Public Participation in Relation to the Water Framework Directive](#)
- [N° 9 - Implementing the Geographical Information System Elements \(GIS\)](#)
- [N° 10 - Rivers and Lakes - Typology, Reference Conditions and Classification](#)
- [N° 11 - Planning Processes](#)

- The EU Member States (MS), EFTA countries and the Commission addressing challenges in a co-operative and coordinated way since 2001
- Enlargement countries invited to actively participate as well
- CIRCABC - the Information Exchange Platform
- Work Programme 2016-2018

<https://circabc.europa.eu/>

WATER & THE NEW CAP

Policy objectives of the new CAP

New CAP aims to:

- *Foster a smart, **resilient and diversified agricultural sector** ensuring food security*
- *Bolster environmental care and climate action and to **contribute to the environmental- and climate-related objectives of the Union***
- *Strengthen the **socio-economic** fabric of rural areas*

While also delivering:

- ❖ Greater **subsidiarity** and **simplification**
- ❖ **Increased** environmental and climate **ambition**
- ❖ Modernisation through **innovation**, research and technology

New CAP Approach

➤ *More flexibility for Member States*

- ❖ Each MS makes its own CAP Strategic Plan **not** 'one-size-fits-all'
 - economic, **environmental**, social
 - **Commission approves** plans and will follow progress towards **agreed targets**

➤ *Better targeting of support - A fairer deal*

- ❖ Fairer payments distribution among farmers and MS
- ❖ More support for young farmers

➤ *Greater use of knowledge and innovation*

- ❖ Environmental training and advice – AKIS
- ❖ More big data/new technologies for monitoring
- ❖ €10 billion from Horizon Europe for research/innovation

Greater ambition for environment and climate

- *“Member States shall aim to make, through their **CAP Strategic Plans**, a greater overall contribution to the achievement of the specific environmental- and climate-related objectives ...”*
- *Farmers will be required to do more:*
 - ❖ **Conditionality - enhanced environment/climate requirements**
- *MS States must offer **Eco-schemes***
 - ❖ **designed by MS**
 - ❖ **funded from direct payments (Pillar 1)**
 - ❖ **going beyond mandatory requirements**
- *At least 30% of Rural Dev. funds for environment/climate*
- *40% of overall CAP's budget to contribute to climate action*

CAP alignment with Environmental Legislation

- *Environmental authorities shall be effectively involved in the development of the CAP Strategic Plans*
- *The CAP Strategic Plan shall take into account the objectives and the planning tools in the legislation*
 - ❖ **WFD, Nitrates Directive, Habitats, Air quality, etc.**
 - ❖ **MS must offer training/advice on environmental legislation**
- *Impact indicators based on EU environmental objectives*

New CAP & Water

Conditionality – links CAP support to compliance by farmers

- **SMR 1 - Water Framework Directive - 2000/60/EC**
 - ❖ Article 11(3)(e) and Article 11(3)(h) as regards mandatory requirements to control diffuse sources of pollution by phosphates
- **SMR 2 – Nitrates Directive - 91/676/EEC**
 - ❖ Articles 4 and 5
- **GAEC 4 (Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition) - Establishment of buffer strips along water courses**
 - ❖ The GAEC buffer strips must respect, both within and outside vulnerable zones designated pursuant to Article 3(2) of Directive 91/676/EEC, at least the requirements relating to the conditions for land application of fertiliser near water courses
- **GAEC 5 - Use of the new Farm Sustainability Tool for Nutrients**

New CAP & Water

Interventions for WFD (current Measure 12)

- *Co-funding up to 80%*
- *To compensate farmers for obligations in areas where specific measures apply under the WFD*
- *Farmers are compensated on the basis of income forgone + additional costs + possibly transaction costs*
- *Annual payments*

Performance Framework

Water

EU Specific objectives	Impact indicators (to evaluate EU policy)	Result indicators (MS set targets against them)
Foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air	I.13 Reducing soil erosion: Percentage of land in moderate and severe soil erosion on agricultural land	R.18 Improving soils: Share of agricultural land under management commitments beneficial for soil management
	I.15 Improving water quality: Gross nutrient balance on agricultural land	R.20 Protecting water quality: Share of agricultural land under management commitments for water quality
	1.16 Reducing nutrient leakage: Nitrate in ground water - Percentage of ground water stations with N concentration over 50 mg/l as per the Nitrate directive	R.21 Sustainable nutrient management: Share of agricultural land under commitments related to improved nutrient management
	I.17 Reducing pressure on water resource: Water Exploitation Index Plus (WEI+)	R.22 Sustainable water use: Share of irrigated land under commitments to improve water balance
Improve the response of EU agriculture to societal demands on food and health, including safe, nutritious and sustainable food, as well as animal welfare	I.27 Sustainable use of pesticides: Reduce risks and impacts of pesticides	R.37 Sustainable pesticide use: Share of agricultural land with supported specific actions which lead to a sustainable use of pesticides in order to reduce risks and impacts of pesticides

Eco-schemes

- Mandatory for Member States
 - ❖ Member States must offer eco-schemes to all farmers
- Voluntary for farmers
 - ❖ Payment for delivery of environmental and climate services
- Content left to each MS, indicating level of ambition
- MS can choose to:
 - ❖ compensate for income foregone/additional costs or provide an incentive
- Fully financed by the EU – no need for co-funding
- Eco-schemes offer potential win-wins in the new CAP for farmers, the environment and society at large

The Farm Sustainability Tool (FaST)

- a nutrient management tool

Objectives: Water quality, simplification and digitalization

➤ Features

- ❖ Automatic integration of data from various sources
 - LPIS and IACS, farmer-generated data, soil analyses etc.
- ❖ Soil sampling at appropriate spatial and temporal scale
- ❖ Information from farmer on management, crop history, and yield goals
- ❖ Nutrients - legal limits indicated and nutrient budget for farmer
- ❖ Based on principles of EU data inter-operability, openness and re-use
- ❖ Guarantees for data security and privacy in line with best current standards
- ❖ Modularity and possibility to support further sustainability objectives
 - water protection measures, gaseous emissions management, biodiversity enhancement

Farm Sustainability Tool

CORE AND ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONALITIES

Modular structure, customizable and possibly objective-oriented



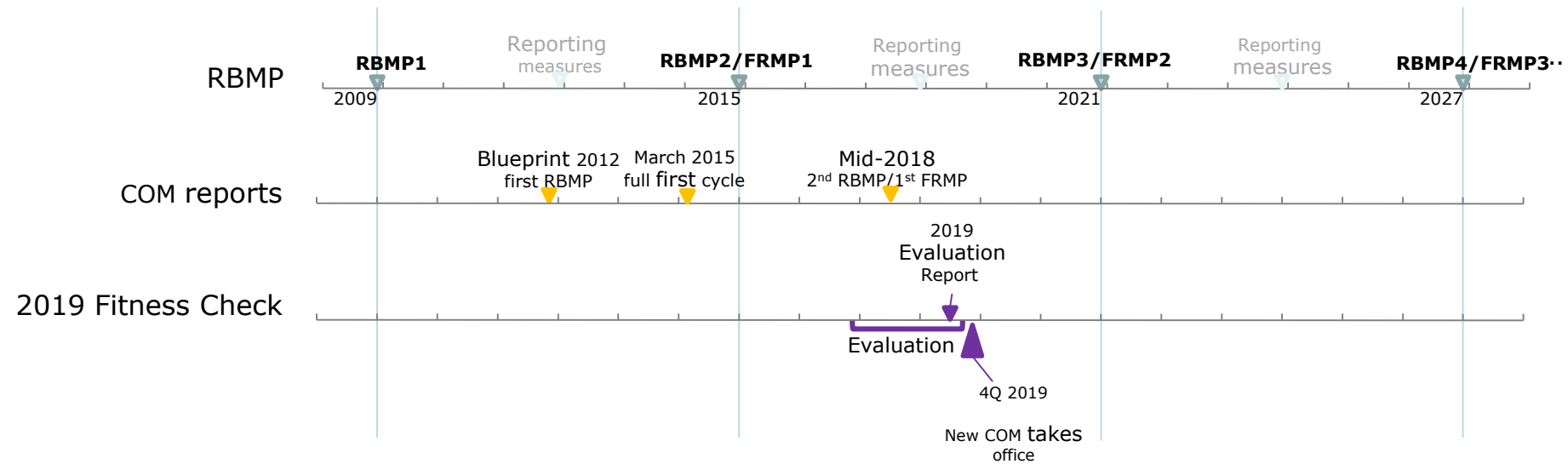


Fitness Check of EU water legislation

Towards a Fitness Check of EU water legislation (evaluation)

- Assessment of 2nd River Basin Management Plans and 1st Flood Risk Management Plans (2017/2018)
- + Additional inputs
- Mid-2019 publication date for fitness check report

Tentative timetable



NB: This timetable is tentative and has not yet been formally validated by the European Commission

Evaluation of EU water policy

- Drinking Water Directive (2016)
- Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (ongoing)
- **Fitness Check** (ongoing)
 - ❖ **Water Framework Directive**
 - ✓ **Environmental Quality Standards Directive**
 - ✓ **Groundwater Directive**
 - ❖ **Floods Directive**

Fitness Check EU water legislation

- **Roadmap** published in November 2017
- **Evaluation study** started in end April 2018
- **Based on reliable information**
 - ✓ COM assessment of RBMPs and FRMPs
 - ✓ Study supporting the evaluation of WFD & FD
 - ✓ Integrated assessment - drivers, pressures, state, impacts, responses – how policy areas interact
 - ✓ Economic study (BLUE2)
 - ✓ ECA performance audit on floods (conclusion Q4 2018)
 - ✓ Other evidence and contributions:
 - ✓ public consultations,
 - ✓ EU water conference in Vienna
 - ✓ OECD study “*Water investment needs and financing capacities in EU MS*”

Fitness Check – how will it be done?

➤ **Assessment criteria...**

- ✓ Effectiveness
- ✓ Efficiency
- ✓ Relevance
- ✓ Coherence
- ✓ EU value added

➤ **... and process**

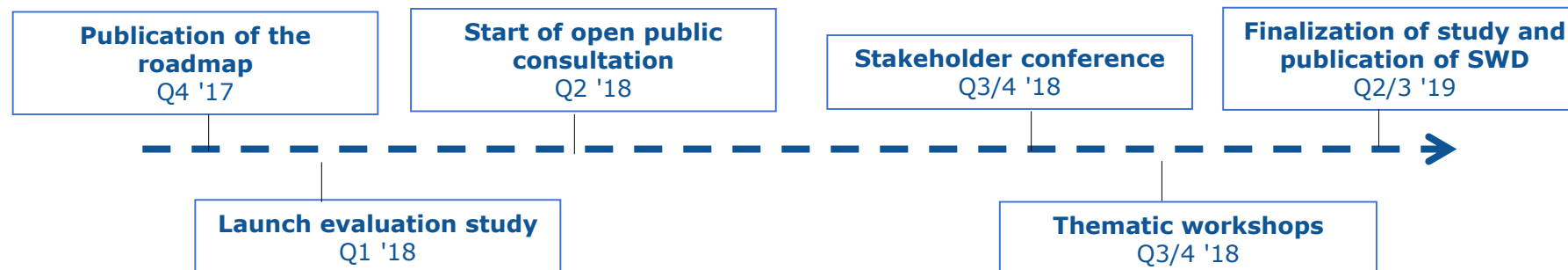
- ✓ Elaborate baseline scenario, intervention logic, develop framework, methodology and work plan for evaluation of information and evidence
- ✓ Review relevant available information and evidence
- ✓ Consultation with Member States and key stakeholders & public participation

Implementation support

- ✓ Common Implementation Strategy WP 2016-2018 and beyond
- ✓ Enforcement strategy (including infringements)
- ✓ Water – Agriculture Task Force: governance, investments, knowledge & innovation -> NWRMs included)
- ✓ Water reuse regulation (minimum quality standards for irrigation)
- ✓ Pharmaceuticals in the environment
- ✓ Investment instruments (MFF post 2020)
- ✓ European Innovation Partnership on Water
- ✓ New Urban Water Agenda 2030, launched 2017

Evaluation of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive

- **Assessment of the functioning** of the directive in the past:
 - ❖ Effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, EU-added value and coherence
- **Cooperation** with WFD and Floods Directive Fitness Check ongoing
 - ❖ Joint consultation strategy
- **Consultation activities**
 - ❖ Expert work-shops in Q3/4 2018; potential topics: micropollutants, stormwater overflows and individual appropriate systems
 - ❖ Stakeholder conference in Q3/4 2018: Presentation of preliminary findings



TASK FORCE ON WATER AND AGRICULTURE

Set up in December 2015
by Commissioners Hogan and
Vella



Other DGs such as JRC,
SANTÉ, RTD contributing

Task Force Rationale

- *Reduced pollution and abstraction will deliver a win/win*
 - ❖ the environment
 - ❖ availability of good water for agriculture and other uses
- *Innovation needed to enhance sustainability*
- *Farmers needs support and advice in this effort*
- *Initial Focus:*
 - ❖ Leadership
 - ❖ Investments
 - ❖ Policy Implementation
 - ❖ Knowledge transfer and Innovation

TASK FORCE ACTIONS

- **Staff Working Document** on 'Agriculture and sustainable water management'
- **Joint meeting of Water Directors and Agricultural Directors** and launch of SWD at AGRIFISH Council under the Maltese Presidency of the Council
- **Investments** - working together with the EIB on development of instruments to mobilise European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) with MS
- Review and analysis **cross-compliance implementation**
- Establish Water-Agriculture **Knowledge Hub** - DG JRC
- Explore potential of **Copernicus** for monitoring, management data, control
- Three **workshops** with stakeholders – **Bucharest, NW Europe, Mediterranean** - focused on governance, investments, nutrients/pesticides, water scarcity
- Promote coordinated action between relevant **EIP Water and EIP-AGRI Groups** to ensure actions are focused on addressing water issues
- Develop contacts with **OECD and World Bank** for joint agriculture/water policy initiative.



Thank you for your attention
gerard.shortle@ec.Europa.eu

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PATHWAYS TO PROGRESS

