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EUWI+ EU WATER INITIATIVE FOR EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

European Union Water Initiative Plus for the Eastern Partnership
(EUWI+ 4 EaP)

HOW TO ACHIEVE GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS OF WATER BODIES

SELECTING THE MOST INDICATIVE QUALITY ELEMENTS FOR ANTHROPOGENIC PRESSURES ON WATER BODIES – EXPERIENCES FROM THE EUWI+ PROJECT

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OECD BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

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International Office for Water

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EUROPEAN UNION WATER INITIATIVE PLUS FOR THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP (EUWI+ 4 EaP)

- EU-funded action: contribution of 23.5 million EUR - The biggest commitment of the EU to the Water Sector in Eastern Partnership Countries

- Objectives:
  - To improve the management of water resources,
  - To bring national policies in line with the EU Water Framework Directive and other multilateral environmental agreements.
  - To prepare River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) and enhance monitoring capacities (staff, equipment and infrastructure)
- 4-year implementation: 2016-2020
- Implemented by: UNECE / OECD / EU MS Consortium (AT, FR)

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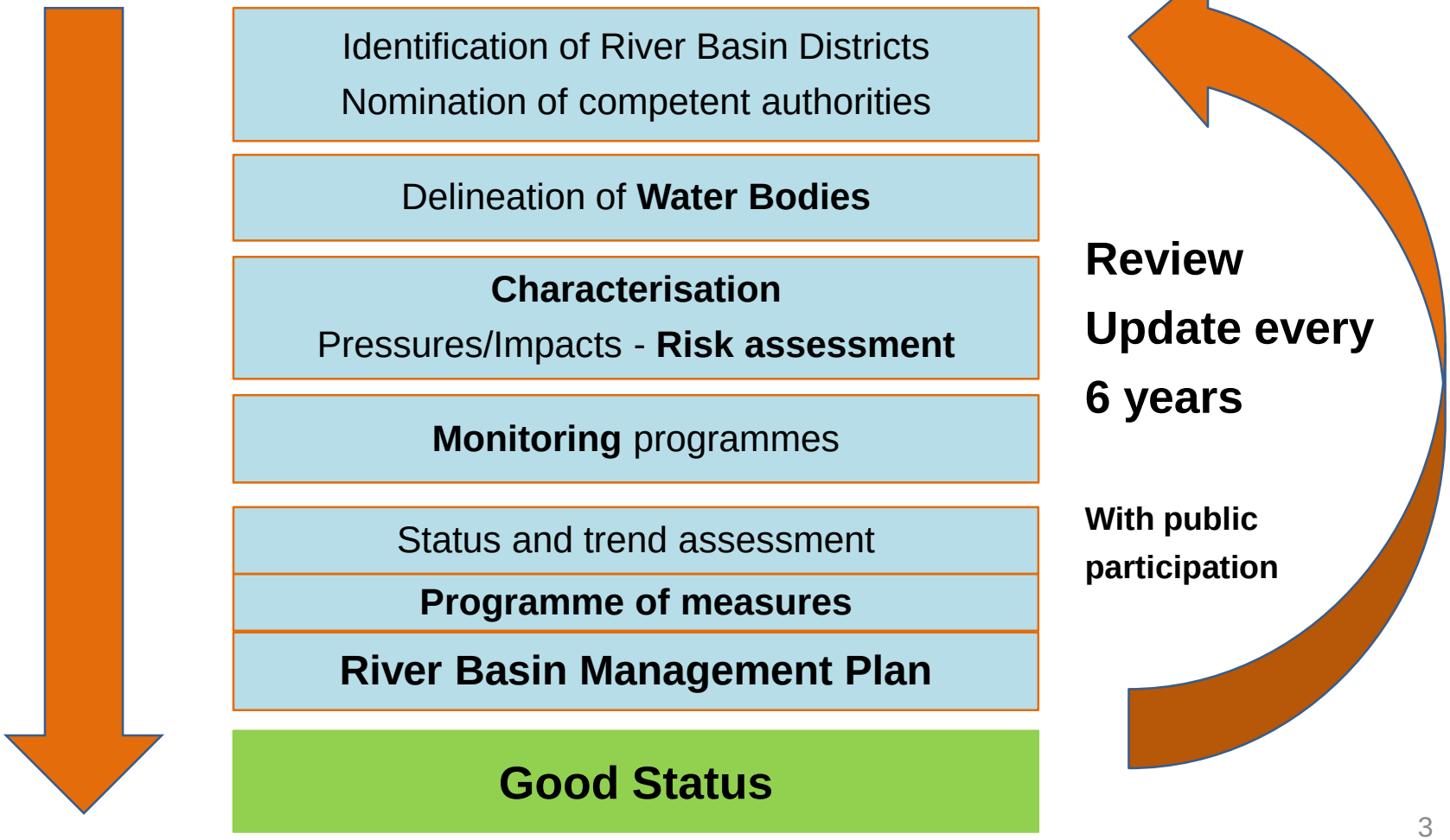
EU WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE - WFD IMPLEMENTATION STEPS



PRESSURE/IMPACT ANALYSIS - RISK ASSESSMENT

Characterisation, Pressures, Impacts = key element under the WFD:

- How do the water resources function (conceptual understanding).
- How are they impacted by pressures from human activities.

Risk assessment (= pressure/impact assessment):

- Which water bodies need utmost attention (**at risk** of not meeting good status objectives)

It is the basis for **focused (risk-based)** and **prioritized action**:

- Designing target-oriented and cost-effective **Monitoring Programs**
- Identification of most effective quality parameters/indicators
- Establishing **Groundwater quality standards** (considering natural background)
- Developing effective and cost efficient **Programs of Measures**

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SELECT THE RIGHT **QUALITY ELEMENTS**

Example Austria: Most indicative for anthropogenic pressures

Quality elements: / Anthropogenic Pressures:	Fundamental Physical and chemical Parameters	Pollutants	Phytobenthos	Macrophytes	MZB	Fish
Chemical pressures						
nutrients	x		x	(x)	(x)	
oxygen conditions	x				x	(x)
temperature	x				(x)	x
salinisation	x		(x)		(x)	x
acidification	x			(x)	x	(x)
pollutants	x	relevant pollutant				
Hydromorphological pressures:						
Morphological modifications:					(x)	x
only modification of stream bed					x	(x)
residual flow				(x)	(x)	x
hydro peaking				(x)	(x)	x
impoundment				(x)	x	(x)
interruption of continuum					(x)	x

PURPOSE OF WATER BODY MONITORING

Characterisation

- Verify the conceptual understanding of the system.

Risk assessment – Risk of failure

- Identify local or regional problems.
- Identify and verify the risk of failing compliance in future (outlook).

Status and trends

- Enable status classification.
- Identify trends including long-term changes (natural, anthropogenic).

Measures

- Place the right and most (cost) efficient measures at the right place.
- Verify effects of measures – track progress.
- Demonstrate compliance with legal provisions.
- Amend permits and authorisations for water users.

Reporting

- Provide information for decision makers and the general public.
- Report to other administrations or international obligations.

QUALITY OF MONITORING MATTERS

Good water governance and water management need **timely, targeted, relevant, sufficient and reliable data**!

The weakest monitoring element is decisive

- Monitoring design
- Sampling procedure
- Equipment - sampling and laboratory
- Trained staff
- Relevant indicators
- Availability of data
- Accessibility of data
- ….

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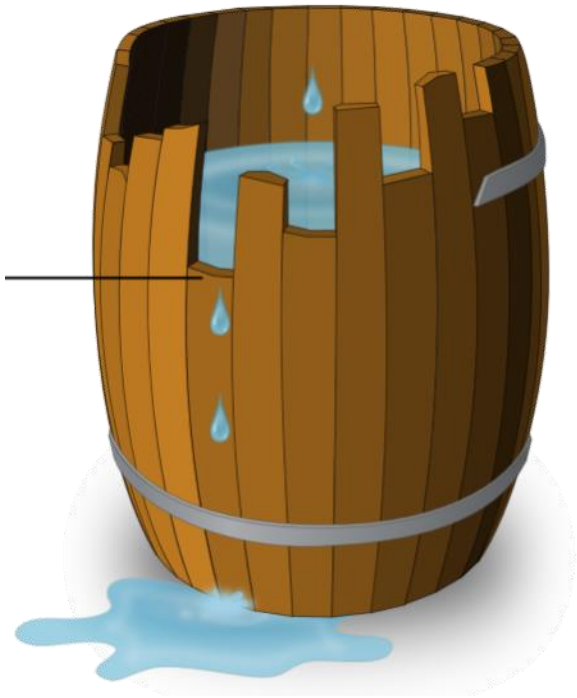

Source: Wikipedia. Liebig's Law of the Minimum

OVERALL BENEFITS OF THE EUWI+ APPROACH

- Parallel implementation in 6 countries - harmonised approach and support by same international institution/expert.
- National experts are implementing (learning by doing) – international experts are instructing and supervising.

- Purchasing of equivalent equipment for laboratory and sampling
- Provision / elaboration of ± unified trainings / guidelines / manuals in each country (but considering national situation)

- „Competition“ between neighbouring EaP countries.

TRANSBOUNDARY BENEFITS OF EUWI+ APPROACH

- Coordination of transboundary water bodies and characterisation.
- Regional hands-on activities → unified approaches,
  linking of national experts, exchange of experience / challenges.
- Transboundary knowledge transfer towards e.g. intercalibration.

  - Create common conceptual understanding.
  - Exchange of information on pressures and impacts.
  - **Identify most indicative indicators (quality elements) of common concern.**
  - Agree on monitoring sites for bilateral data exchange.
  - Establish common templates / rules for data exchange.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM EUWI+ IMPLEMENTATION

- Avoid „quick and dirty“ approaches (= waste of time and resources).
- Reiterate importance of monitoring!
  Monitoring needs attention, continuity and QA (sites, equipment, motivated (well-paid) staff, training, secured budgets).
- Consider „adsorption capabilities“ of beneficiaries (administrative procedures, available staff capacities and budget). Speed kills.
- All WFD steps are important, none can be skipped. + Cyclic process.
- 1st RBMPlan: EU Member States: 9 years, EaP countries: 3 years.
  Be pragmatic and focused. Start with most important aspects/indicators → gain routine → extend scope (depending on staff and budget capacities).
- Sustainability depends on guaranteed long-term budgets.

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