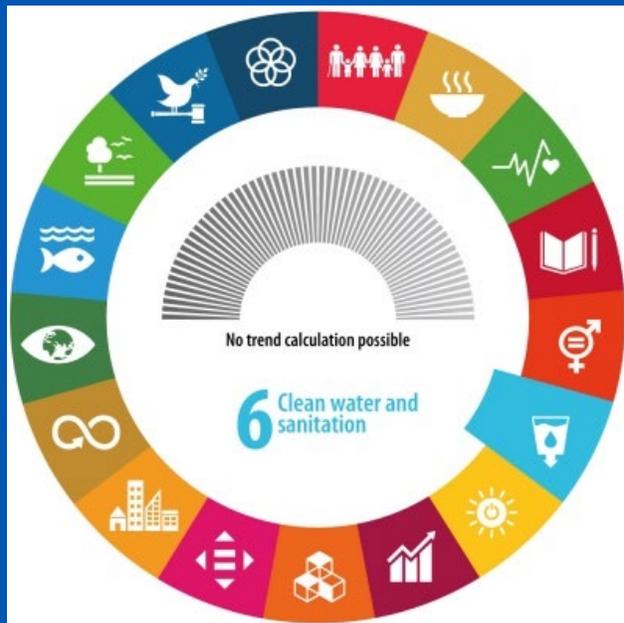


European Green Deal and Water Policy for SDG 6 implementation in the EU



Marijana Mance, DG Environment

The European Green Deal





Latest developments in EU water policy contributing to water efficiency

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Circular Economy Action Plan – 2020

- Key product value chains – Food, water, nutrients
 - *“The new Water Reuse Regulation will encourage circular approaches to water reuse in agriculture. The Commission will facilitate water reuse and efficiency, including in industrial processes.”*
 - *“The Commission will also consider reviewing directives on wastewater treatment and sewage sludge [...] “*
- Circularity in production processes
 - *“Review of the Industrial Emissions Directive, including the integration of circular economy practices in upcoming Best Available Techniques reference documents”*

Water Reuse Regulation - 2020/741

State of play:

- In force since June 2020 – rules to apply as of 26 June 2023

Aim:

- To address water scarcity and drought, while safeguarding public health and the environment
- Great potential for reuse in the EU - from 1.1 bn m³/year in 2015 up to an estimated 6 bn m³/ year in 2025

Costs and benefits:

- estimated investments \leq EUR 700 m for treating over 6.6 bn m³ water /year at a cost of \leq EUR 0.5/m³
- estimated 5% - 10% reduction in water scarcity

Main provisions

- The Regulation introduces **minimum requirements** for water reuse in agricultural irrigation:
 - 1) Parametric values for quality of reclaimed water & monitoring requirements (Annex I) – addressing HEALTH risks
 - 2) Key risk management elements (Annex II) – addressing ENVIRONMENTAL risks & potential additional health risks
- Introduces requirements to develop a **risk management plan** for each water reuse project to ensure safety (both health and environment)
- Introduces a **system of permits** and compliance checks
- Fosters **transparency** and access to information

UWWTD - Council Directive from 1991 91/271/EEC

Objective: "Protection of the environment from the adverse effects of the discharges of untreated waste water"

Collection

Agglomerations
> 2,000 p.e.
population equivalent

Alternative: Individual or
other appropriate systems
(IAS)

Treatment

Secondary
(biological)
treatment
as a rule

Agglomerations >
10 000 p.e. discharging into
sensitive areas =
nutrient removal
(More Stringent Treatment)

Monitoring and reporting

Treatment plants level of
treatment and
performance

Biennial reporting
to the European
Commission

Considerations in a review of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive

Remaining pollution from urban sources

Urban run-off, stormwater

Individual Appropriate Systems

Small agglomerations

Nitrogen & Phosphorus

Micro-pollutants

New challenges

GHG emissions

Energy use

Sludge

Health

Modernisation and Governance

Transparency

Reporting

Affordability, producer responsibility

Access to sanitation

UN 2023 Water Conference – EU input

- Strengthening Water Governance at all levels
- Water and sanitation – A human right and enabler for peaceful, healthy, inclusive and resilient societies
- Water, climate change and energy
- Ensuring food security in harmony with nature while delivering on Paris Agreement
- Enhancing tools for effective implementation of water policies and strategies

