



# Europes' water drowning in paper?

Results from a preliminary assessment of the Draft  
River Basin Management Plans by EEB and WWF

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Berlin, March 25





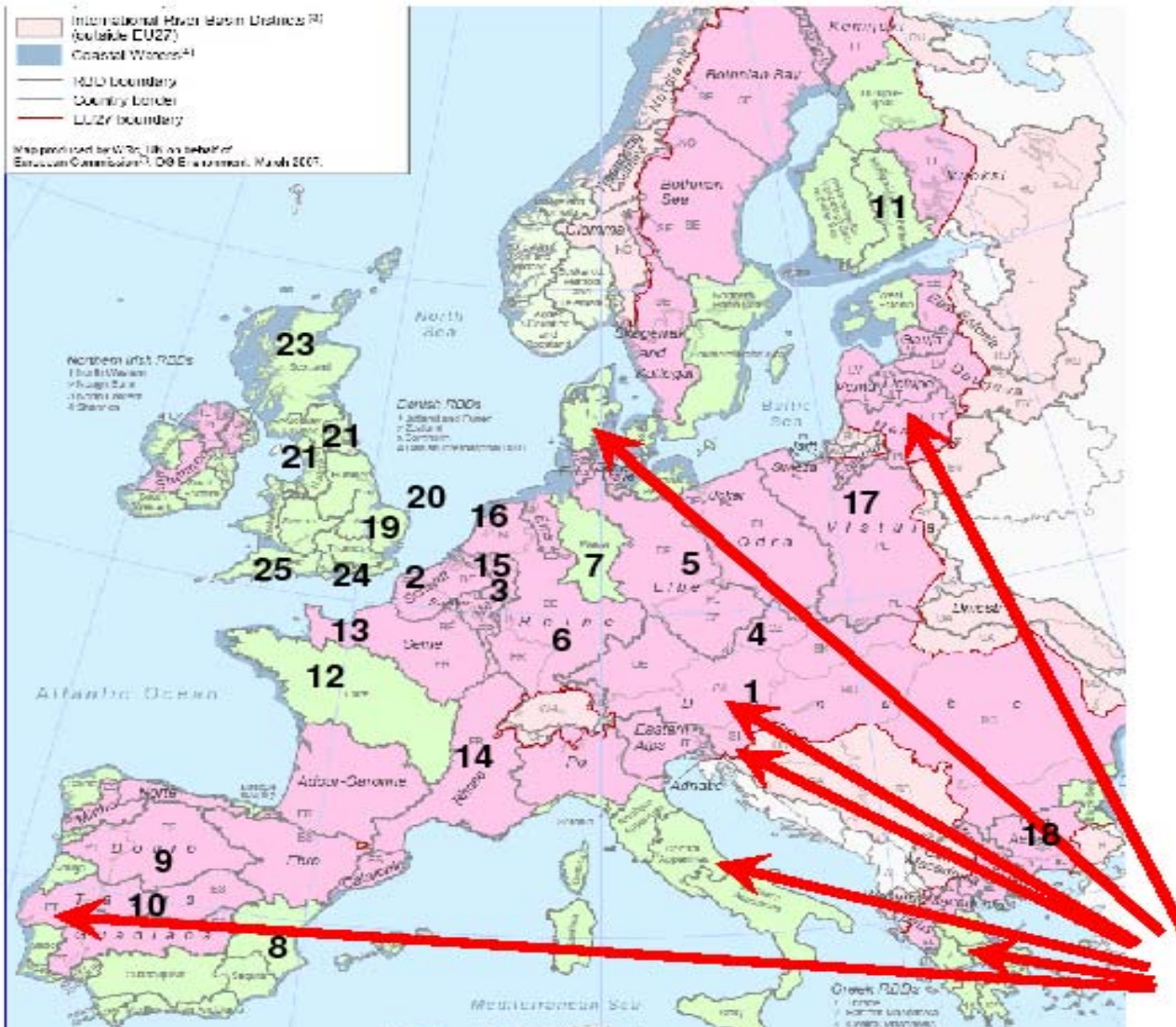
## 5 headline indicators

- Transparent and publicly owned water management
- Reducing wastage and using water well
- More space for living rivers
- Clean and healthy water for people and nature
- Visionary and adaptive water policies





# Coverage of assessment



1	AT	National
2	BE	ME
3	BE	SC
4	CZ	MO
5	DE	EL
6	DE	RH
7	DE	WE
8	ES	JU
9	ES	DU
10	ES	ET
11	FI	KS
12	FR	LB
13	FR	OR
14	FR	RH
15	NL	ME
16	NL	RH
17	PL	VI
18	RO	VE
19	UK	AN
20	UK	EW
21	UK	NU
22	UK	NW
23	UK	SC
24	UK	SE
25	UK	SW

Consultation did not start



# Overview table

Country	Basin	Transparent and publicly owner water management <sup>1</sup>	Water savings and using water well <sup>2</sup>	More Space for living waters <sup>3</sup>	Healthy and safe water <sup>4</sup>	Visionary and adaptive water policies <sup>5</sup>
AT	-	☹	NA	NA	☺	☹
BE	ME	☹	☺	☺	☺	☺
BE	SC	☹	☺	☺	☺	☺
CZ	MO	☹	☹	☹	☺	☹
DE	EL	☺	☹	☹	☺	☺
DE	RN	☺	☺	☹	☺	☹
DE	WE	☺	☹	☹	☺	☹
ES	JU	☺	NA	NA	NA	NA
ES	DU	☹	☹	☺	☺	☹
ES	TA	☹	☺	☹	☹	☺
FI	KS	☺	☹	☹	☺	☺
FR	LB	☺	☺	☺	☺	☹
FR	OR	☹	NA	NA	NA	NA
FR	RH	☹	NA	NA	NA	☹
IR	SH	☺	☹	☹	☺	☹
NL	ME	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺
NL	RN	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺
PL	VI	☹	☺	☹	☺	☹
RO	VE	☺	☹	☹	☺	☹
UK	AN	☹	NA	NA	NA	NA
UK	EW	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
UK	NU	☹	☹	☺	☺	☹
UK	NW	☺	NA	NA	☺	☺
UK	SC	☺	☺	☺	☺	☹
UK	SE	☺	☺	☹	☺	☹
UK	SW	☹	☺	☹	☺	☹



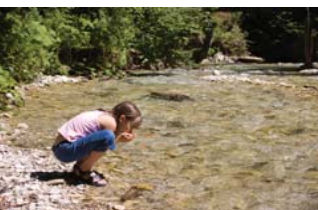
# Transparent and publicly owned water management

## Key preliminary findings:

- Improvements in the provision of information to stakeholders.
- For most River Basins it is possible to find information about status.

BUT

- Very little information about proposed measures and objectives.
- Designation of HMWB happens in an un transparent manner.
- Little expectations among NGO about new public ownership of the new plans and measures.





# Reduce water wastage and use it well

## Key findings:

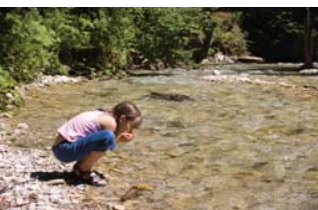
In only 5 plans are water saving objectives set, and only in 2 plans specific sectoral water saving objectives.

Water saving technologies are promoted in 9 cases but mostly through voluntary agreements. Only in two cases through building codes and one case through public procurement.

Water pricing still mostly aimed at recovering financial costs, only in two cases to reduce hydro morphological pressures (UK-SC/SW) and in 5 cases to reduce use and pollution

Mostly targeted households (15), then industry (14) and the least of cases agriculture (9)

Measures proposed are not considered to be very effective





# Water Services

Increase in activities classified as users of water services:

- Self services in 10 cases, flood protection and river maintenance in 5 cases, power production (UK-SC/SW, ES-Tajo), dredging and drainage in 3 cases, navigation and irrigation in two cases.

Different approaches in different member states:

- E.g Tajos in Spain considers: self service, power, navigation, flood, irrigation and maintenance but not dredging
- E.g UK Scotland considers: Self service, power, floods, dredging, maintenance, but not irrigation and drainage.
- E.g in Germany; only public water supply considered.





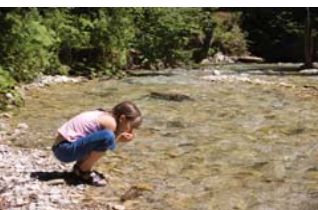
# More space for living rivers

## Key findings:

- Only in 8 cases are wetland inventory established.
- Only in 1 case, Scotland, is a partial inventory of obsolete infrastructure carried out.
- In 10 cases measures to reduce pressures on floodplains discussed and in 11 cases, including in Elbe and Rhein, green flood control measures are promoted.
- Measures mostly seen as moderately effective.

For example in France - Loire 'Compensation is required for any destroyed wetland, doubling the destroyed surface'.

In the Netherlands – Maas, a ban on new impediments, restrictions for infrastructure and buildings and rules for compensation.







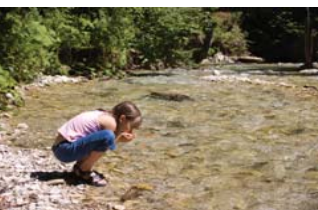
# Clean and healthy water for people and nature

## Key findings:

- Ground Water measures largely moderately effective (13 plans mention 2015 objectives)
- Surface Water
  - Little is known about objectives ( only 6 responses give figures)
  - Fish monitored in 17 cases
  - Classification where known covers all parameters
  - Pollutants mostly identified but few measures
  - Measures largely moderately effective

No cases of downgrading of national classification systems

Few exemptions to the 2015 deadline of meeting N2000 objectives (exemption in 5 cases e.g Schelde, Elbe, no exemption in 12 cases e.g Czech, Finland, Meuse)





# Visionary and adaptive policies

## Key findings

- 9 cases with illegal issues identified
- Climate change is addressed in most cases
  - 11 cases consider adaptation
  - 13 cases consider climate change, but mostly as an overriding issue
- 7 cases where coordination with flood management is not done
- Rating of visionary and adaptive character of draft plans is moderate





# Conclusions

- People are drowning in the process, the lack of clarity in especially objective setting is problematic.
- Some positive developments on space for rivers / hydropressures – less on water saving.
- Positive developments on water pricing but still far from being effective.
- Positive developments on information provision, i.e. status for WBs accessible
- But far from publicly owned water management
- Climate adaptation emerging as an issue and with this a vision

