

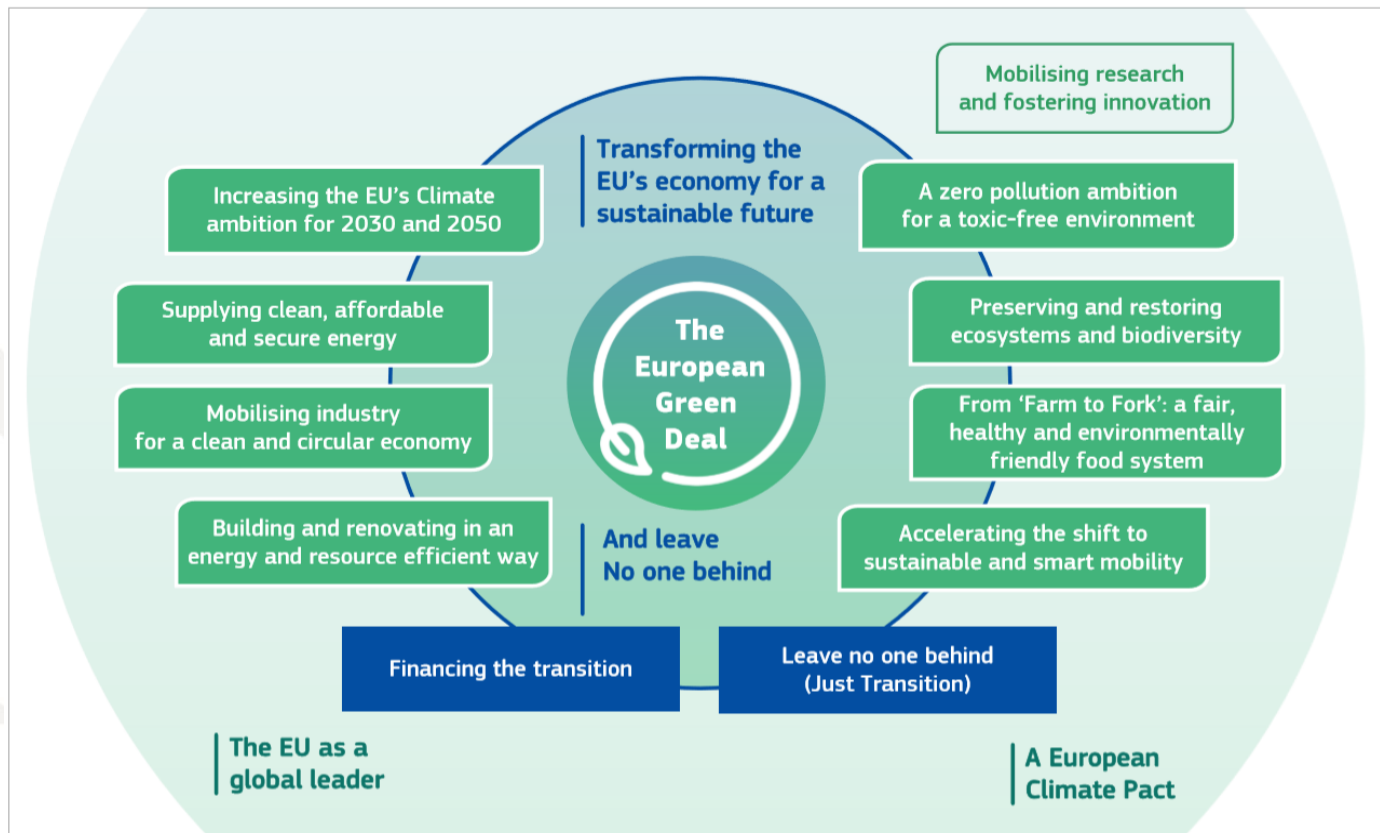
Integrated water management in the EU policies for the environment and the climate: state of the art and perspectives for 2021-2027

Andrea Bianchini

European Commission, DG Environment
ENV E1 – Mainstreaming and Environmental Assessments

The EU Green Deal

The European Green Deal is about improving the well-being of people. Making Europe climate-neutral and protecting our natural habitat will be good for people, planet and economy. No one will be left behind.



The EGD on water

Access to resources as a strategic security question for Europe's ambition to deliver the Green Deal

Increase the value given to protecting and restoring natural ecosystems

A zero pollution ambition to better monitor, report, prevent and remedy pollution from air, water, soil, and consumer products

Ecosystems provide essential services such as food, fresh water and clean air, and shelter

Circular Economy Action Plan

Biodiversity Strategy

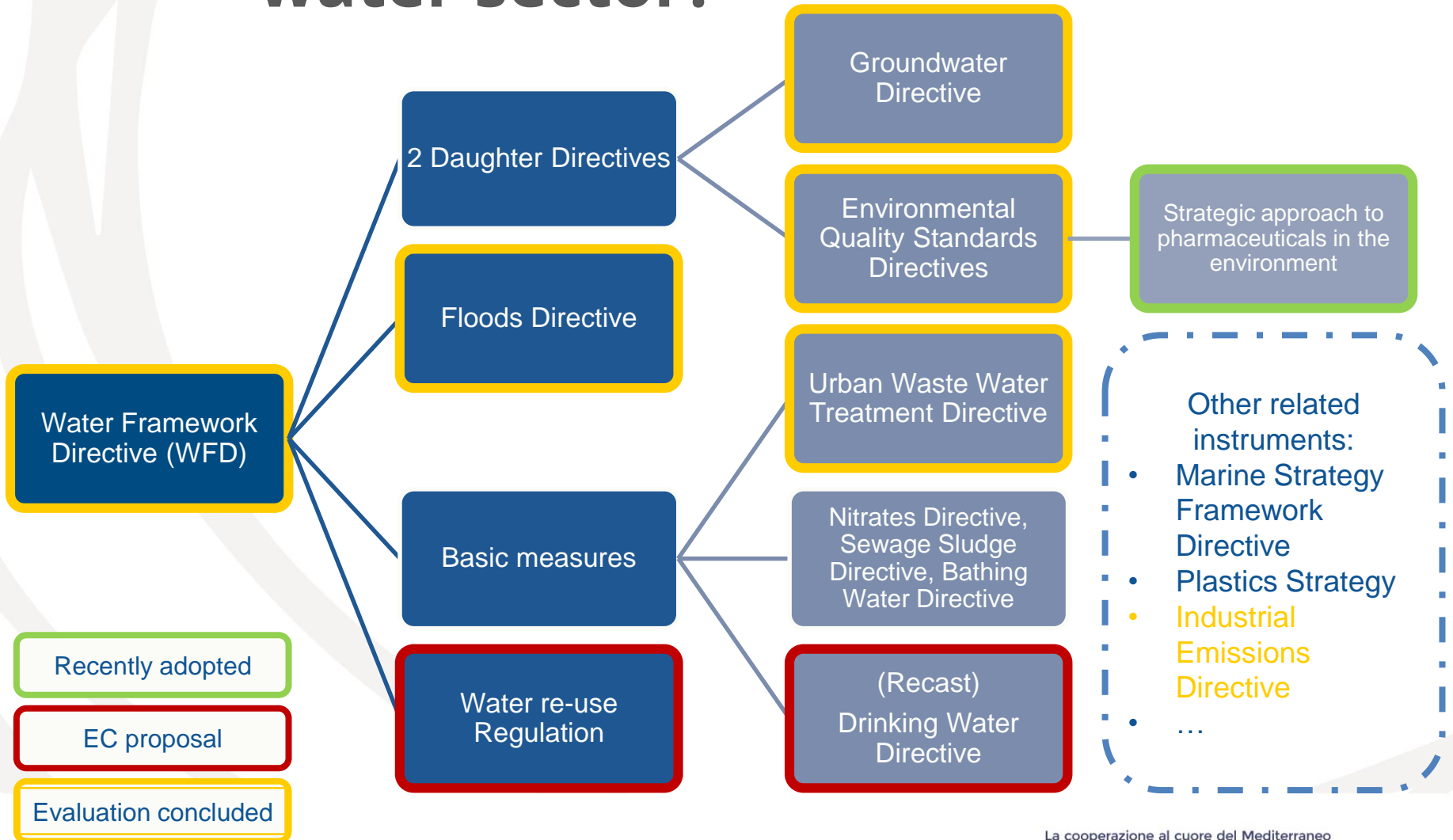
Farm to Fork Strategy

Zero Pollution Ambition

Climate Pact

Climate Adaptation Strategy

What is ongoing in the water sector?



Commission Report on the Second River Basin Management Plans

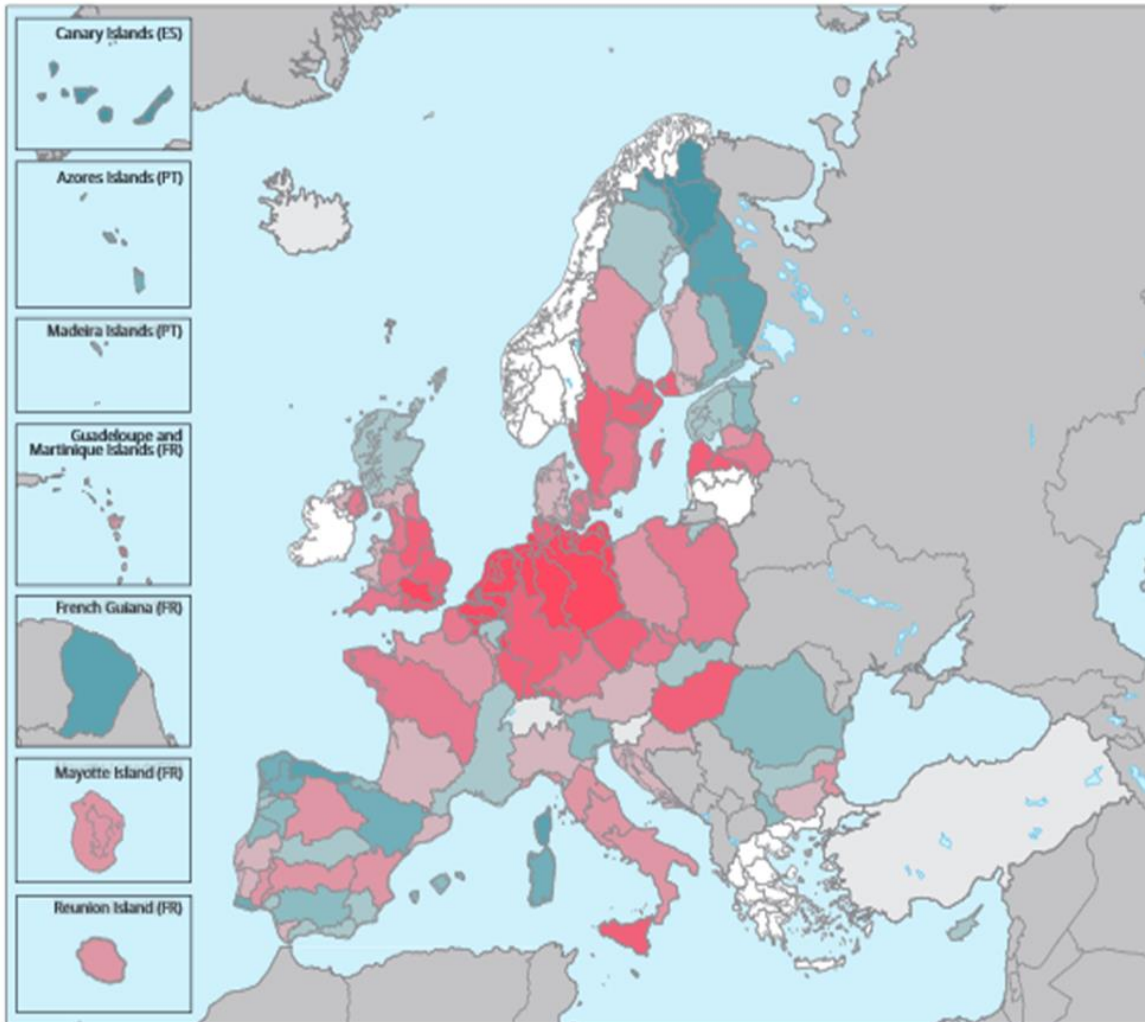
26 February 2019 - COM(2019) 95 final

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/waterframework/impl_reports.htm

- Surface water: 40% in good ecological status
Main pressures: hydro-morphological alterations, diffuse and point source pollution, over-abstraction
- Surface water: 38% in good chemical status
Mostly due to mercury and other ubiquitous substances
- Groundwater: 74% in good chemical status
- Groundwater: 89% in good quantitative status

WFD simple map viewer: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/explore-interactive-maps/water-framework-directive-2nd-rbmp>

EU State of Water report 2018



Blue = most waterbodies in good status

Red = most waterbodies failing good status

But: making progress as a result of One Out All Out

Fit for the Future?

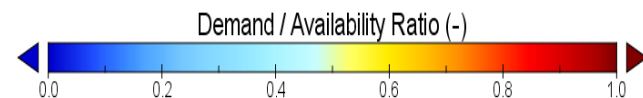
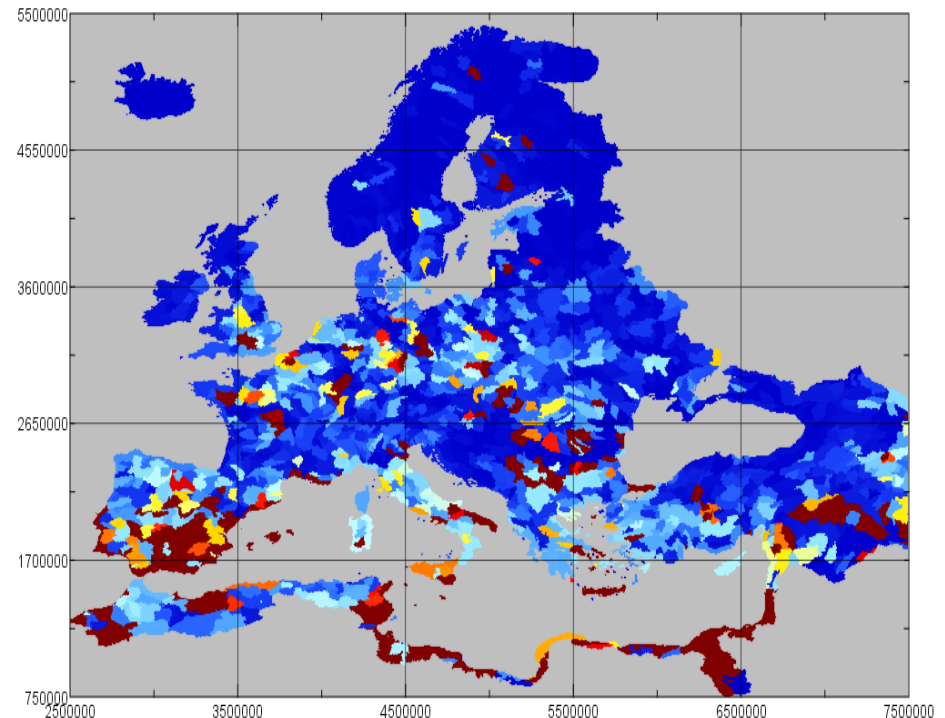
What the Fitness Check tells us:

- Water deterioration halted
- Only 40% of surface water bodies and 74% of groundwater bodies in good status
- Significant progress in reducing pressures
- Better monitoring, more transparent information
- More integrated water management in place
- Significant investments made
- Slower progress than expected
- Long-standing problems: agriculture, hydromorphology, persistent chemicals
- Uneven implementation, uneven monitoring
- New problems: pharmaceuticals, micro-plastics, climate change
- The price for water is still not 'right'
- Legislation could be more efficient



Water scarcity and droughts

- Water stress today: 1/3 of the EU territory all year round (not just southern Europe)
- Climate change = Frequency and intensity of droughts on the rise; Extreme weather events
- Cost of water shortages 1976-2006 €100 billion (EC, 2012)



Proposal for a Regulation on water reuse

- Introducing minimum requirements for reuse in agricultural irrigation:
 1. Parametric values for quality of reclaimed water & monitoring requirements – addressing HEALTH risks
 2. Key risk management tasks – addressing ENVIRONMENTAL risks & potential additional health risks
- Currently in ordinary legislative procedure

Green Infrastructure - Enhancing Europe's Natural Capital

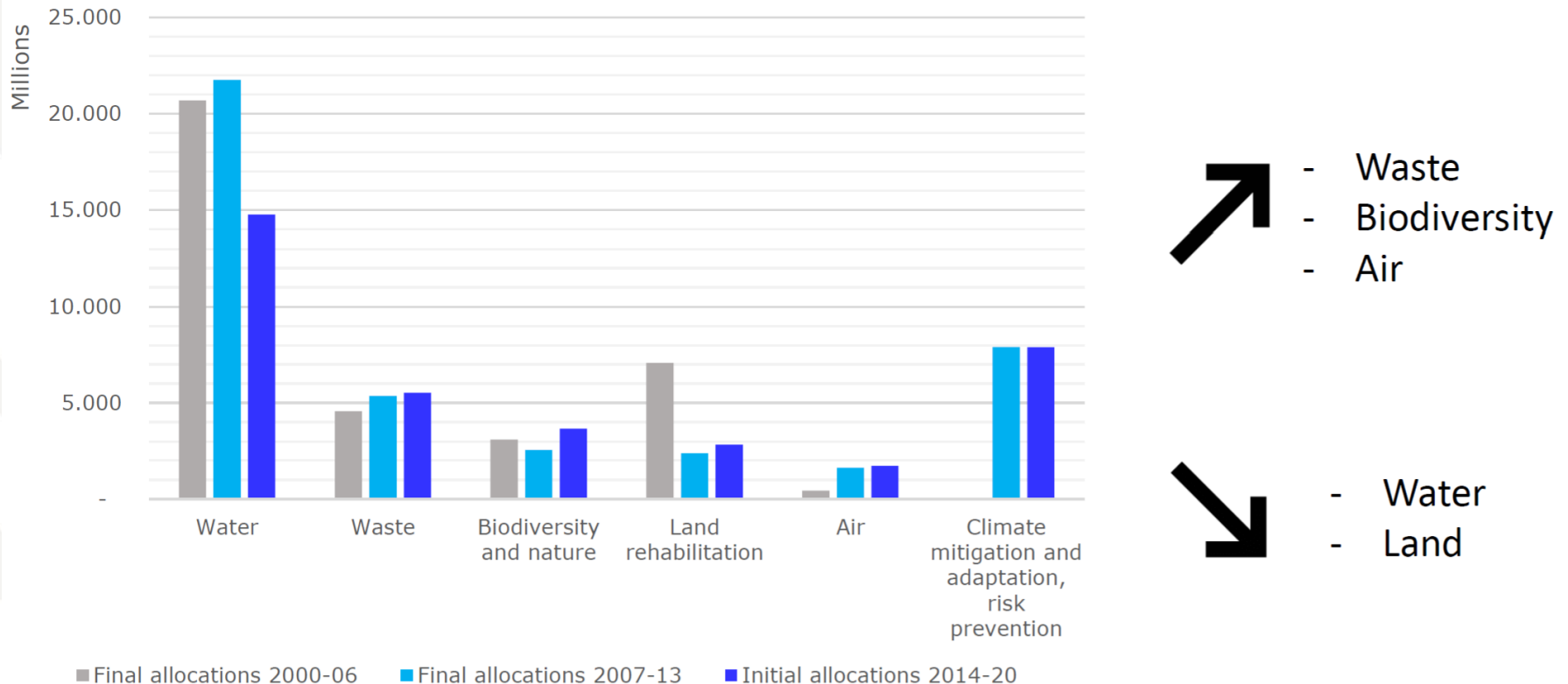
- The Communication from the EC to the Parliament, the Council, the EESC and the CoR: Green Infrastructure (GI) — Enhancing Europe's Natural Capital (COM(2013) 249) is also answering to the requests
- Human society depends on the benefits provided by nature: food, materials, clean water, clean air, climate regulation, flood prevention, pollination and recreation (benefits, frequently referred to as ecosystem services: provisioning, regulating or cultural)
- GI are a tool to enhance the “natural capital” and build the latter around 4 elements: air (including CO2 sequestration/climate); water (quality and quantity); land (food, raw materials, protection from floods...); biodiversity (ecosystem services, pollination...)

Assessment of progress and challenges: GI in EU policies

- Ecosystem-based solutions and GI are recognised as relevant approaches to addressing climate change in the EU strategy on adaptation to climate change
- The review of the EU Adaptation Strategy provided an opportunity to consider how to encourage further the uptake of GI to deliver cost-effectively climate-resilient societies, likewise does the review of EU water policies
- NWRM help to slow down the flow of storm water, increase infiltration and reduce pollution through natural processes □ cost-effective solutions to reach the objectives of the WFD and the Floods Directive while also contributing to biodiversity protection and adaptation to climate change

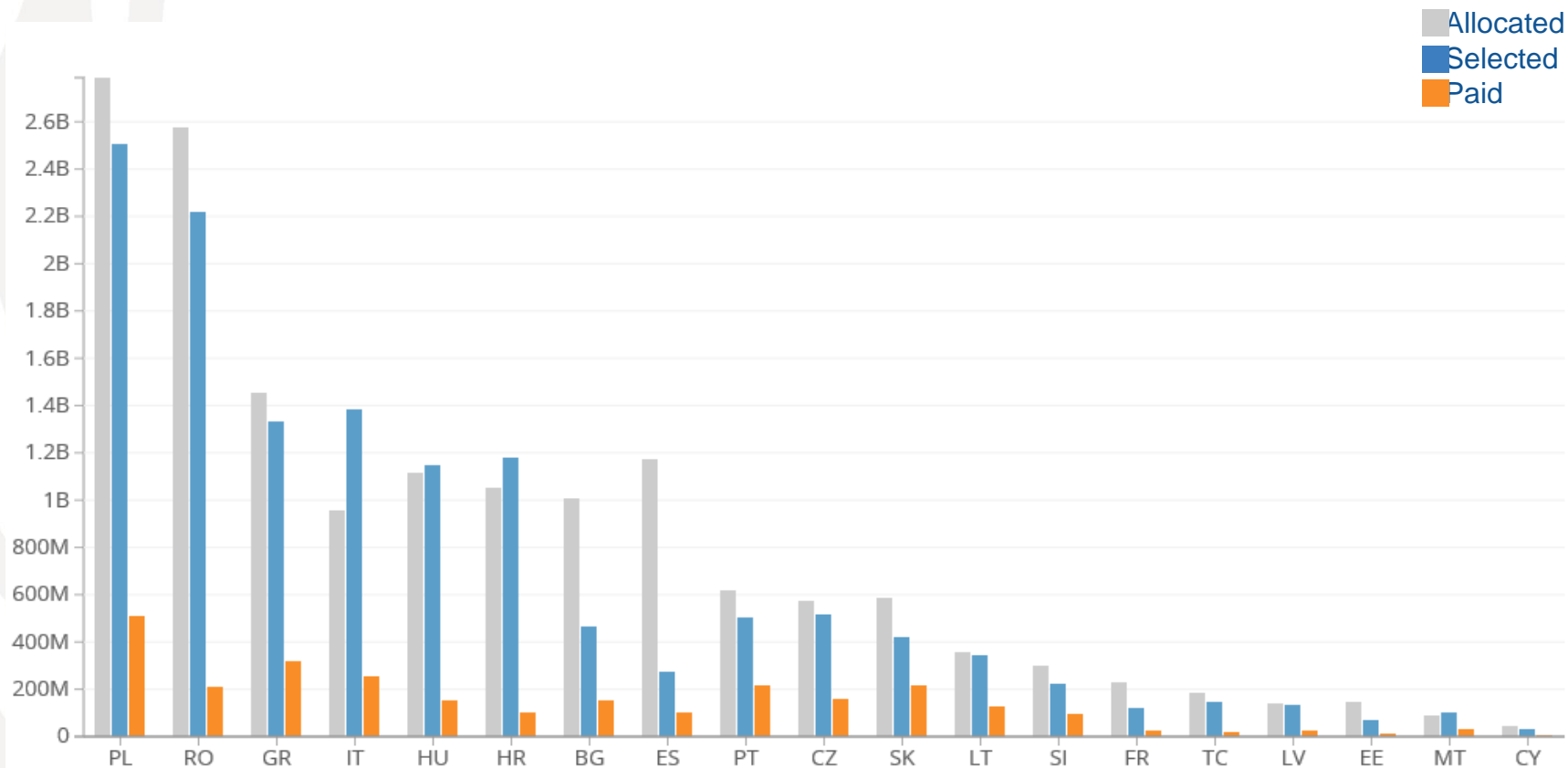
Cohesion policy and sustainable water management

Direct investments - Comparison of allocations by sector across the 3 financing periods (all Member States aggregated)



2014-2020 allocations and selection

Planned investments in water management:
 EUR 15.4 billion EUR allocated by 18 MS



2014-2020 key achievements



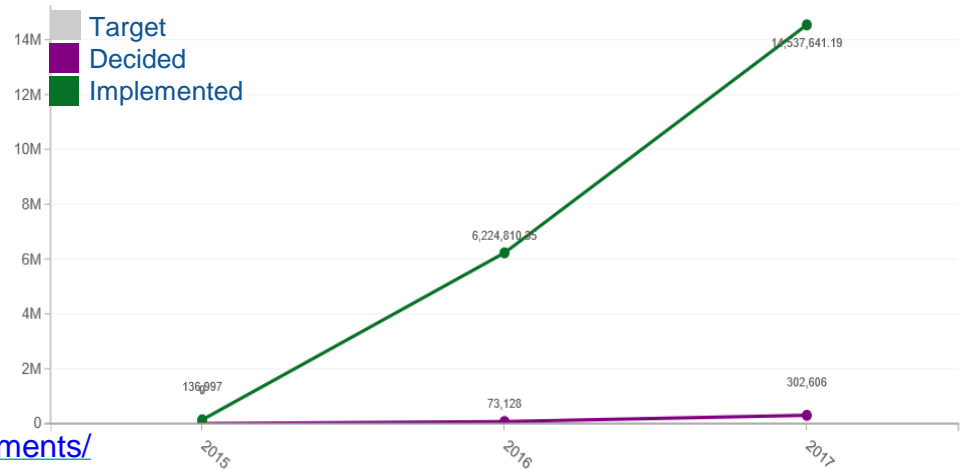
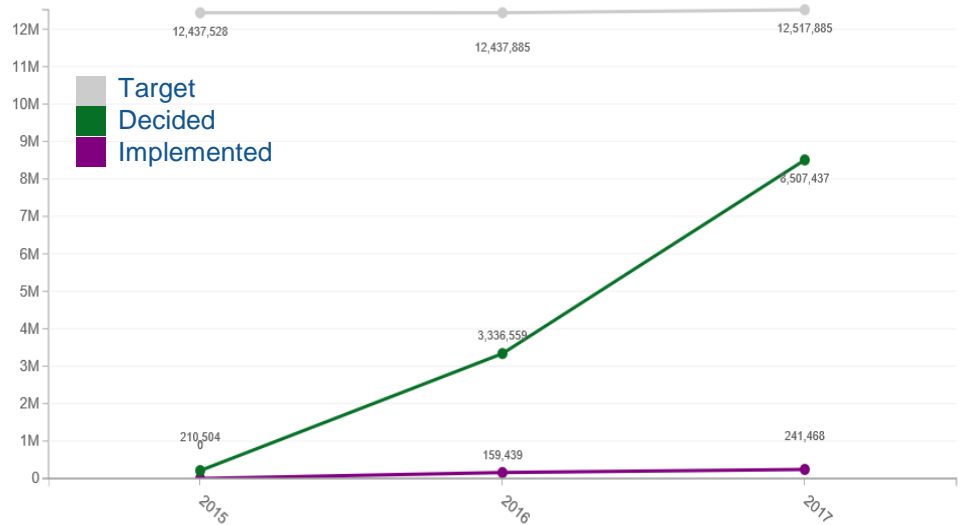
New/improved water supply: 12.5 million people

➤ 80% of this is in EL, ES, IT, PT, RO



New/improved wastewater treatment: 17 million people

➤ 50% of this is in ES, IT, PL



Access to funding for Green Infrastructure measures

- EU funding for GI in 2007-2013 period has been estimated to around EUR 6.579 million → highest contribution from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development; also LIFE programme provides specific funding for biodiversity, including green infrastructure
- 2014-2020 period: GI further supported as part of European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund direct allocations to biodiversity, nature and green infrastructure with EUR 3.700 million + investments in several related areas (flood protection, water purification, renovation of buildings, etc.)
- Investing in GI also brings substantial returns to the private sector (increased land value thanks i.e. to protected assets from erosion and floods)

The new Cohesion Policy

5 policy objectives in ERDF and CF regulations:

- PO1: A smarter Europe (by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation)
- PO2: A greener, low-carbon Europe (by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk prevention and management)
- PO3: A more connected Europe (by enhancing mobility and regional ICT connectivity)
- PO4: A more social Europe (implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights)
- PO5: A Europe closer to citizens (by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives)

2021-2027: investment areas in PO2

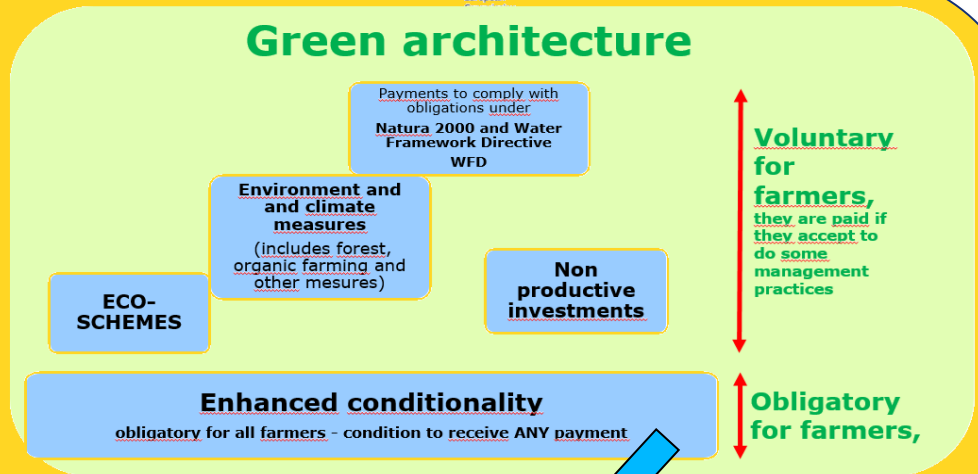
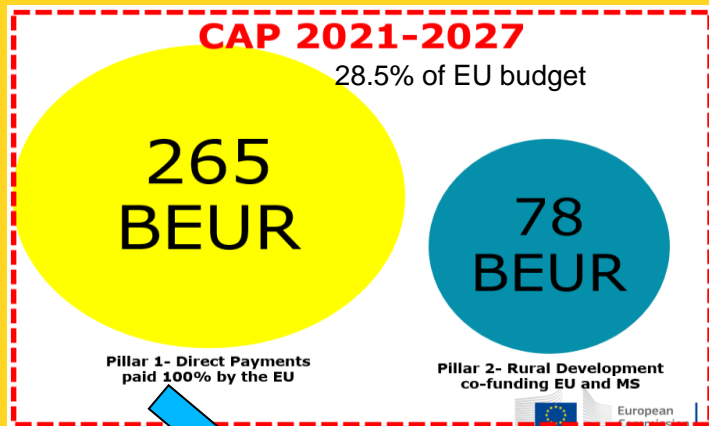
- PO 2: focus on a greener, low-carbon Europe
 - SO 2.4 **Adapting cities and regions to the impacts of climate change**
 - SO 2.5. **Promoting sustainable water management** (ensuring availability of water and sanitation for all, adapting water management to climate change through anticipating scarcity and floods, promotion of water reuse)
 - **Consider ecosystem-based approaches as a priority** (working with nature to avoid negative impact of grey infrastructure and to achieve various co-benefits e.g. flood plains, afforestation, ecosystem restoration, etc.)
- This includes:
 - Wastewater collection and treatment (to comply with UWWTD)
 - Drinking water supply (to comply with *recast* DWD)
 - Stormwater management
 - Improving water networks
 - Improving drinking water access
 - Improve monitoring (to comply with WFD)
 - Capacity-building of municipalities and beneficiaries
 - Restricted focus on basic infrastructure

2021-2027: links to PO 1 and PO 5

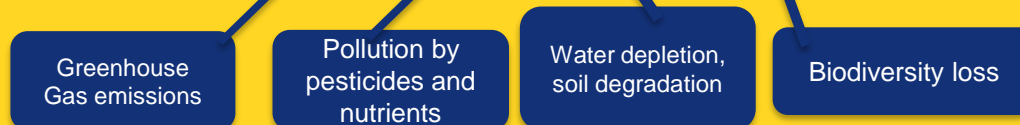
- PO 1: innovation and economic transformation
 - Smart specialisation remains main framework
 - Specific objectives:
 - R&I capacities and uptake of technologies
 - Digitisation
 - Supporting SMEs and start-ups
 - Skills for smart specialisation and industrial transition
- PO 5: sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural, coastal areas
 - Includes environmental development
 - Community-led local development strategies
 - Collaborative projects

CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) post-2020

- Increased level of environmental ambition
- Better integration of environmental policies into the CAP
- New green architecture



9 Priorities of which 3 are environmental



LIFE proposal for 2021-2027

budget is likely to increase
from €3.46 bn. to €5.45 bn.

two main fields of action:

Environment
(€3.5 bn)

**Climate
Action**
(€1.95 bn)

sub-programmes:

**Nature &
Biodiversity**
(€2.15 bn)

**Circular
Economy &
Quality of
Life**
(€1.35 bn)

**Climate
change
mitigat. &
adaptation**
(€0.95 bn)

**Clean
Energy
Transition**
(€1.00 bn)

What is new in LIFE?

- Increased focus on mainstreaming nature and biodiversity policies into other policy areas
- Implementation of the PAF (Prioritised Action Framework) established according to new format (incl. Green Infrastructure, etc.)
- Thematic extension towards other biodiversity issues
- Transnational SNAPs (Strategic Nature Projects)

Thank you for the attention

Andrea Bianchini
DG Environment, Unit E.1
European Commission
andrea.bianchini@ec.europa.eu

