



Updates on the EU Water Policy and Cohesion policy current investments and future perspectives for post 2020 in the water field

2nd workshop "Building common cross-MRS collaboration platform on water: meeting of macro-regional coordinators"

Budapest – 5 November 2019

Giacomo Luciani, European Commission, DG REGIO Unit D.1



EU water policy: Commission activities

DG Environment, C.1 Clean Water Unit

Outline

1. The next European Commission
2. EU Water Policy overview
3. Assessment of the 2nd River Basin Management Plans
4. Fitness Check of the EU water acquis
5. Water reuse
6. Drinking water
7. Pharmaceuticals in the environment

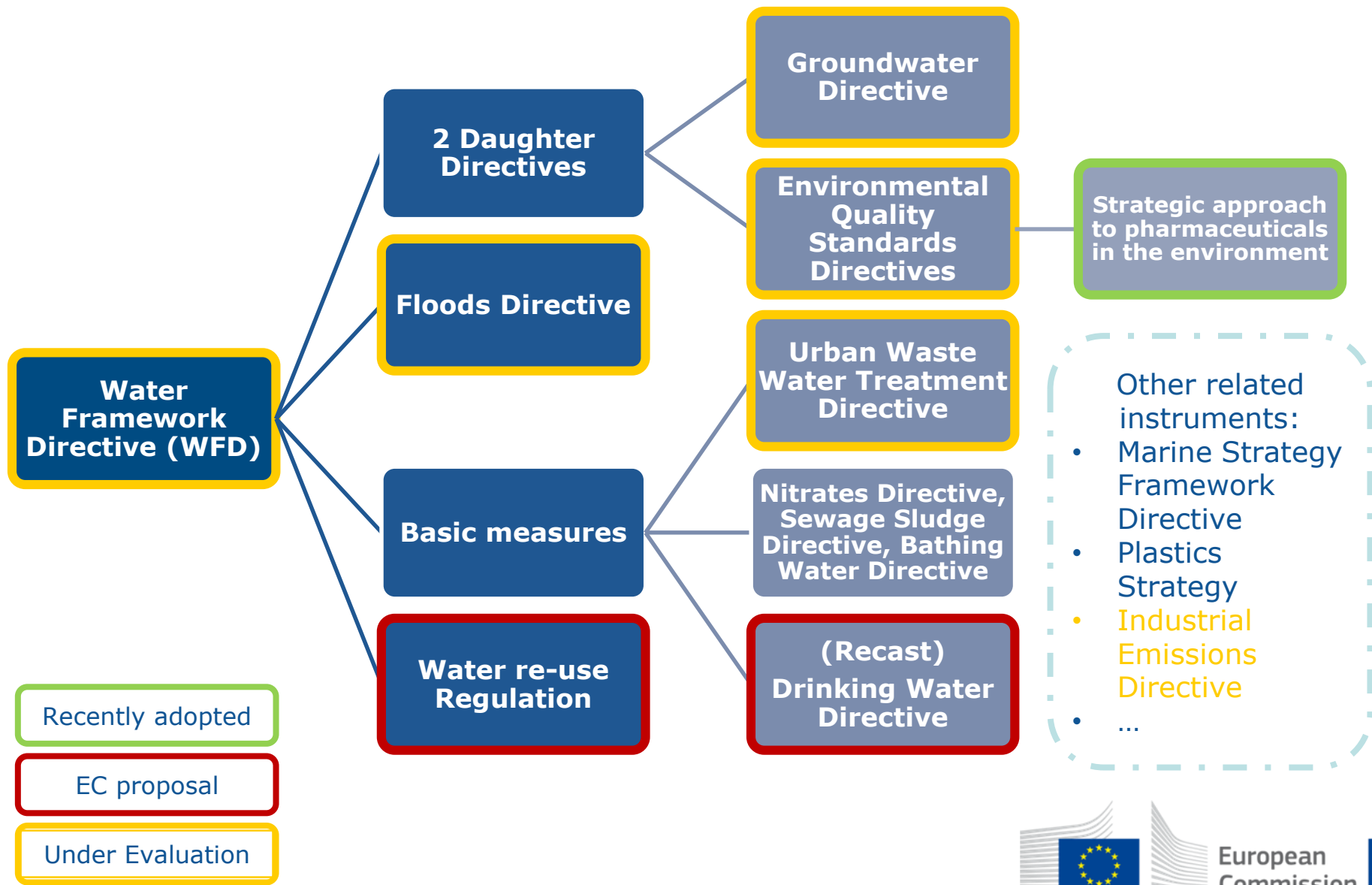
Upcoming Von der Leyen Commission: A significant increase of « green » ambition!

- *A European Green Deal*
- *Announced deliverables:*
 - *Climate Neutrality for Europe by 2050*
 - *European Climate Law*
 - *Biodiversity Strategy for 2030*
 - *Towards Zero Pollution Ambition*
 - *Circular Economy Action Plan*
 - *Farm to Fork initiative*
 - *Sustainable Investment Plan*

Towards Zero Pollution means:

- *« For the health of our citizens, our children and grandchildren, Europe needs to move towards a zero-pollution ambition »*
- *This entails a cross-cutting strategy for the protection of citizens' health from environmental degradation and pollution addressing:*
 - *Air and water quality*
 - *Hazardous chemicals*
 - *Industrial emissions*
 - *Pesticides and endocrine disruptors*

What is ongoing in the water area?



Commission Report on the Second River Basin Management Plans

26 February 2019 - COM(2019) 95 final

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/impl_reports.htm

What has the Commission assessed?



**Comprehensive picture
has been presented in
previous
implementation
reports**

**Current assessment
focusses on progress
since first cycle -
follow-up to
Commission
recommendations**



**Basis for analysis =
RBMPs, WISE reporting -
complementary
information**

**Main areas: Governance –
Monitoring - Status assessment and
classification - Heavily Modified
Water Bodies - Environmental
objectives and exemptions - Diffuse
pollution - Economic analysis -
Droughts etc.**

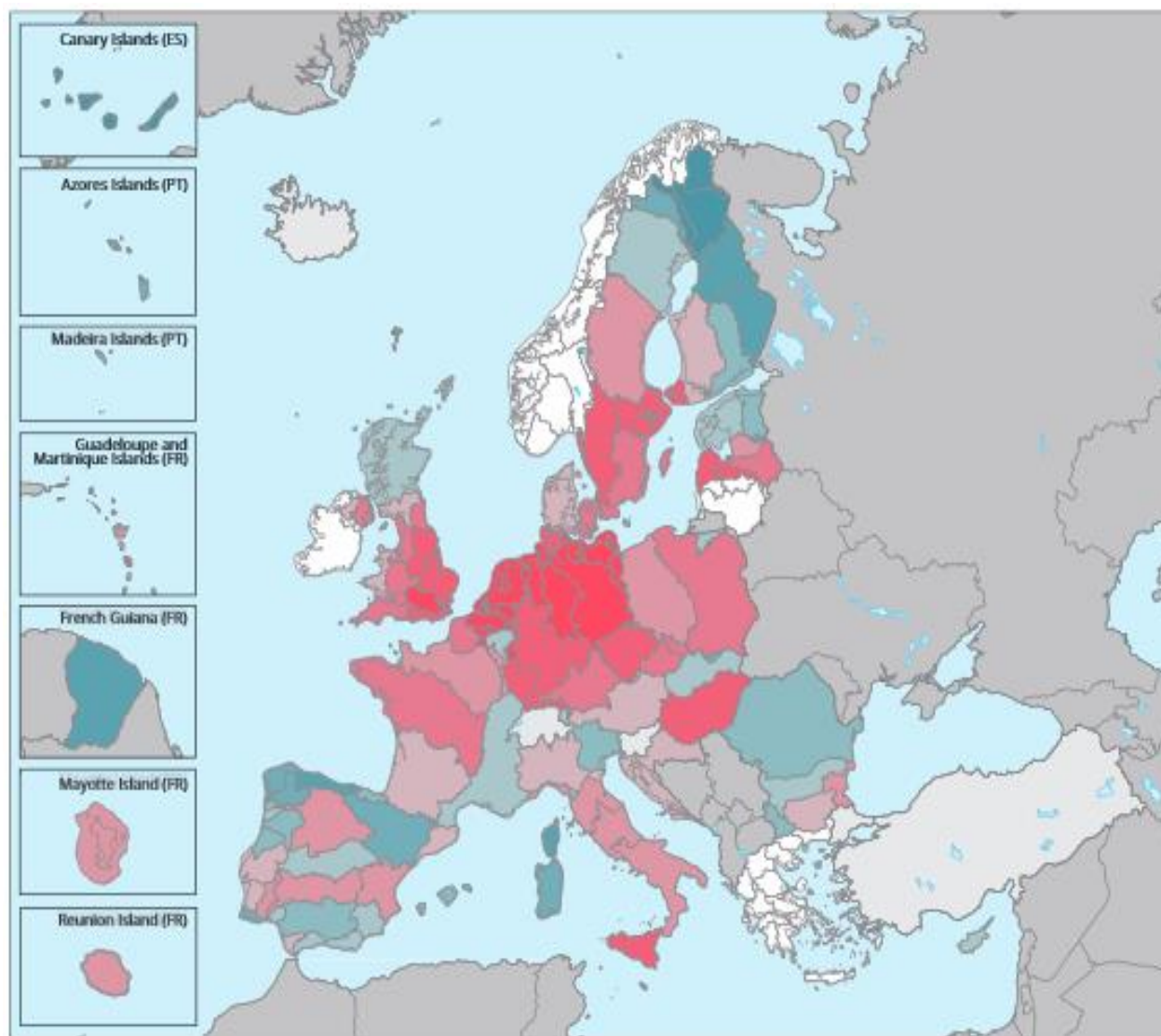


Europe's waters today

- **Surface water: 40% in good ecological status**
Main pressures – hydromorphological 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

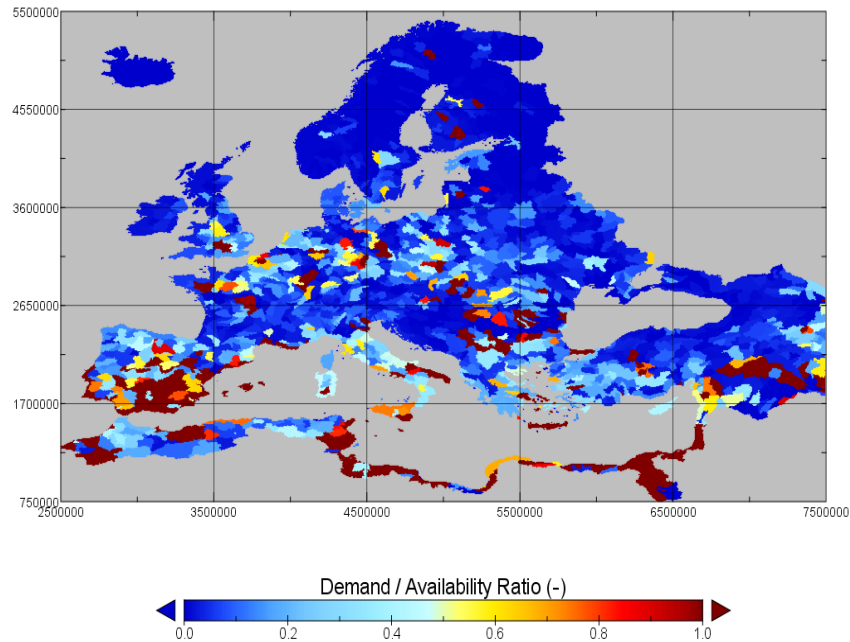
Fit for the Future? What our Fitness Check tells us:

- 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 (2027 just over 7 years away)
- 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 (Annex I)** – addressing **HEALTH risks**
 - 2) Key risk management tasks (Annex II)** – addressing **ENVIRONMENTAL risks** & potential additional health risks
- Currently in **ordinary legislative procedure**

Proposal for DWD

Latest policy developments

Drinking Water Proposal of the Commission adopted in 2018

Co-decision ongoing

New elements:

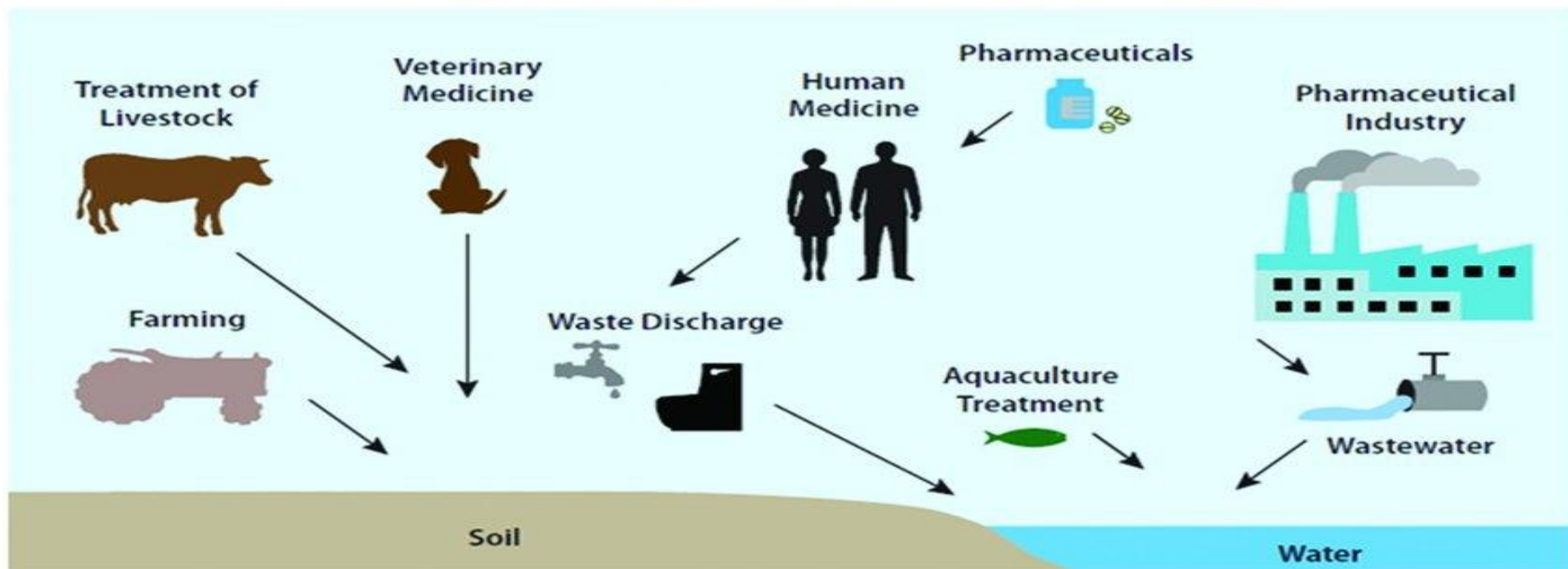
- Updated/new parameters → based on WHO Report
- Better protection through risk-based approach
- Improved access to water
- Improved access to information

- (and: materials in contact with water)

Strategic approach to Pharmaceuticals: Pathways to the environment

(adopted in March 2019)

SOURCES AND PATHWAYS OF ANTIBIOTICS IN THE ENVIRONMENT



**Communication from the Commission:
European Union Strategic Approach to Pharmaceuticals in the Environment,
March 2019*

Pharmaceuticals

- The "[Strategic Approach to Pharmaceuticals in the Environment](#)" that the Commission presented, identifies six action areas concerning **all stages of the pharmaceutical life cycle**, where improvements can be made. The text addresses pharmaceuticals for human as well as for veterinary use.
- The **six areas** identified include actions to raise awareness and promote prudent use, improve training and risk assessment, gather monitoring data, incentivise "green design", reduce emissions from manufacturing, reduce waste and improve wastewater treatment.
- The approach includes **actions covering the whole lifecycle of pharmaceuticals**, from production through use to disposal and waste management.





**Thank you for your
attention!**

**In case of any questions please contact
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Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and investment needs for water supply and sanitation

**DG Environment, C.2 Marine Environment & Water
Industry Unit**

Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive

*Directive 91/271/CEE of 21 May **1991***



Latest developments

Evaluation of the Directive (nearly 30 years old):
effectiveness, relevance, efficiency, coherence, EU-added value

Coordination with WFD and Floods Directive Fitness Check
(ongoing)

Consultation activities for the evaluation
Expert workshops & stakeholder conference

Evaluation will finish in 2019

Investment needs for water supply and sanitation

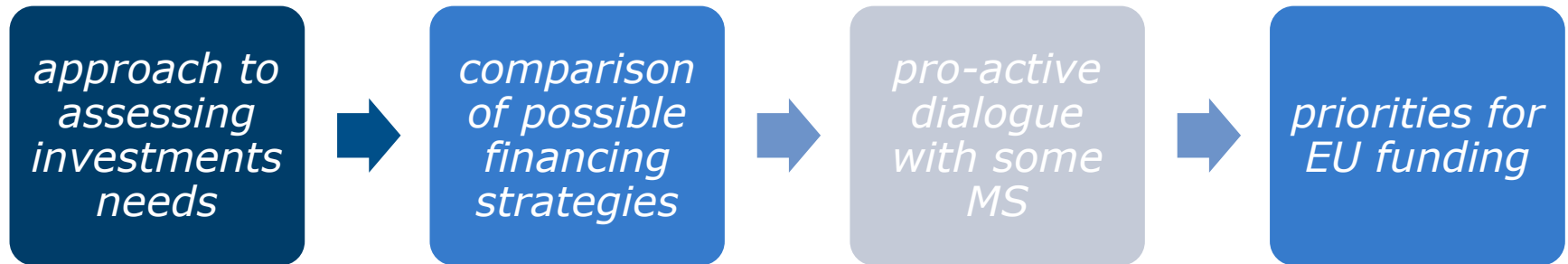


*Joint project of OECD &
DG ENV:*

*Assessing Member
States' investment
needs and financing
capacities for water
supply & sanitation*

Rationale for this project

Water infrastructure in all OECD cannot deliver today's level of service in 2050 with current investment rates – investments not sustainable



Thank you

For questions contact DG ENV Unit C2
ENV-URBAN-WASTE-WATER@ec.europa.eu

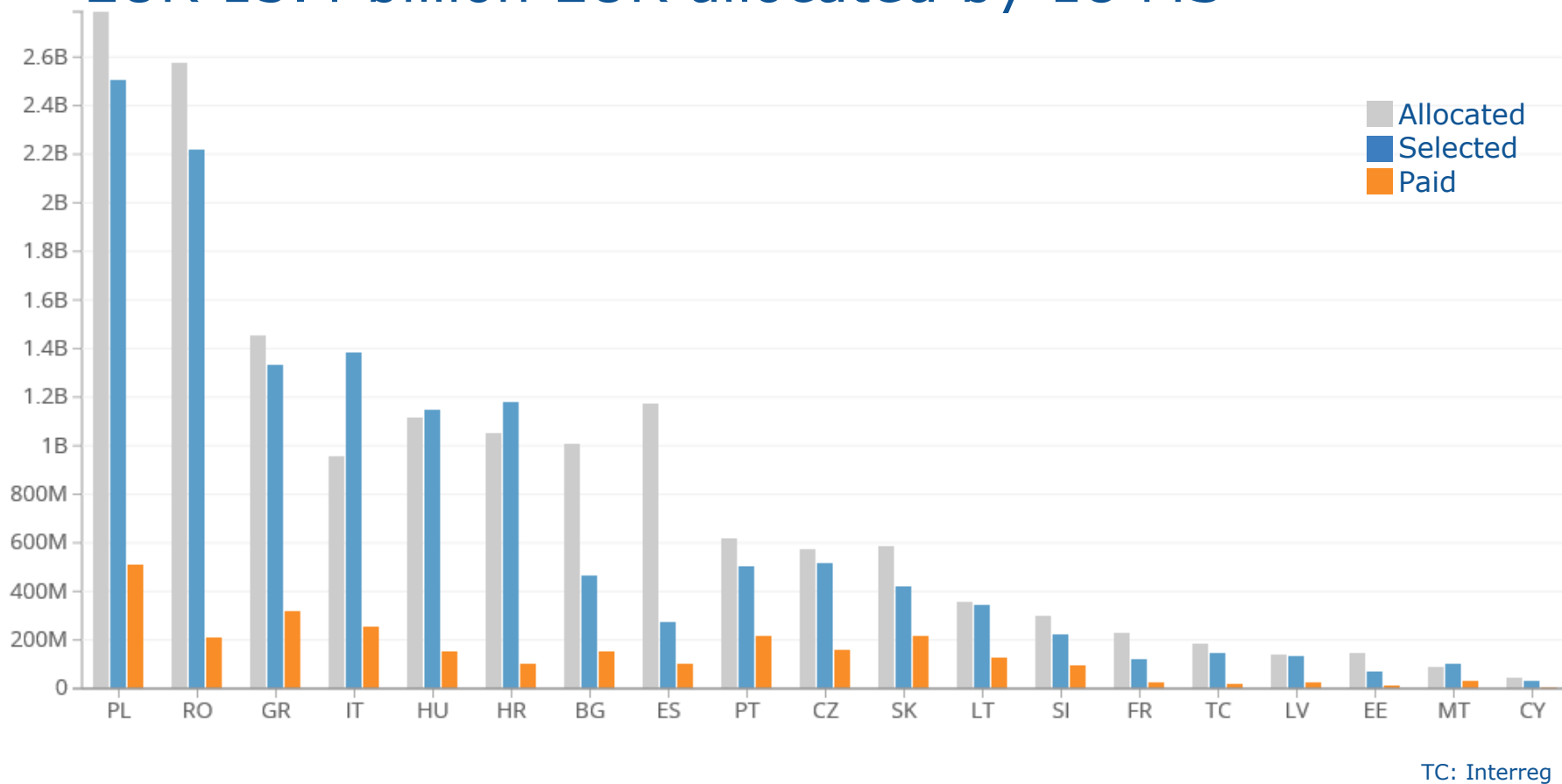


Cohesion policy and sustainable water management

**DG Regional and Urban Policy, G.1 Smart and Sustainable
Growth Unit**

2014-2020 allocations and selection

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



- Selection rate in December 2018: 85%

2014-2020 key achievements



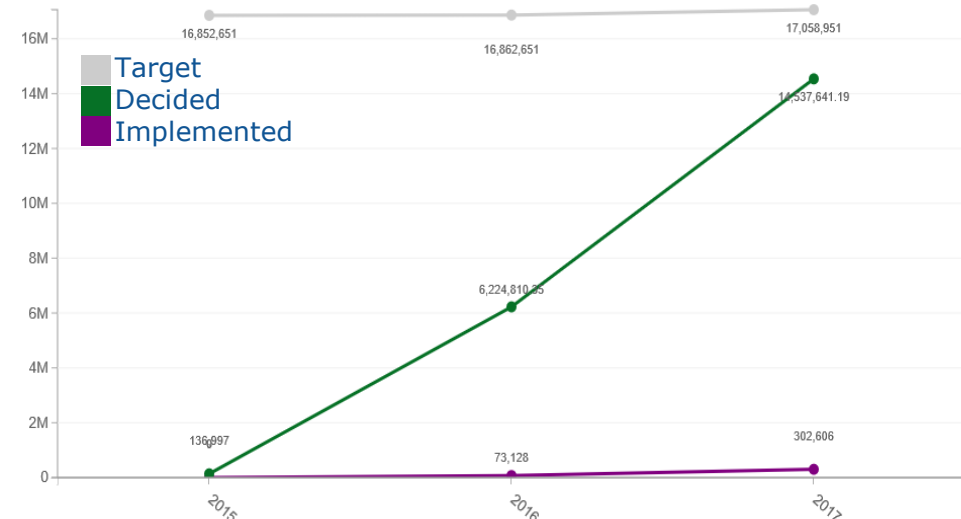
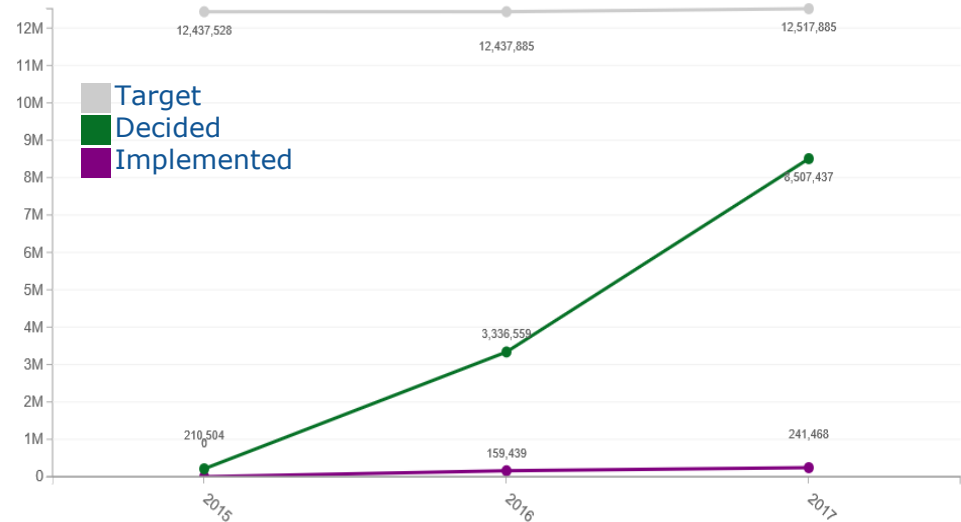
New/improved water supply:
12.5 million people

- 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



2021-2027: investment areas

- PO 2: focus on a greener, low-carbon Europe
 - Part of thematic concentration
 - SO 2.5: Promoting sustainable water management
- 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
 - ...
- MS-specific investment priorities: Annex D of the 2019 European Semester Country Reports

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
- New: **interregional innovation investments**
 - Commercialisation and scaling up of interregional innovation projects
 - Development of European value chains
 - Lessons from ongoing pilots (Bioeconomy, High-tech farming, Marine renewable energy...)
- PO 5: sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural, coastal areas
 - Includes environmental development

Urban Innovative Actions

- EUR 371 million, to experiment novel ideas (Art. 8 ERDF), linked to the Urban Agenda for the EU
- 'Water' so far not included, but related to several priorities:
 - Sustainable use of land and nature-based solutions
 - Climate change adaptation
 - Circular economy
- Last call (16 September to 12 December 2019) includes circular economy, **with a focus on water**

Thank you!

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