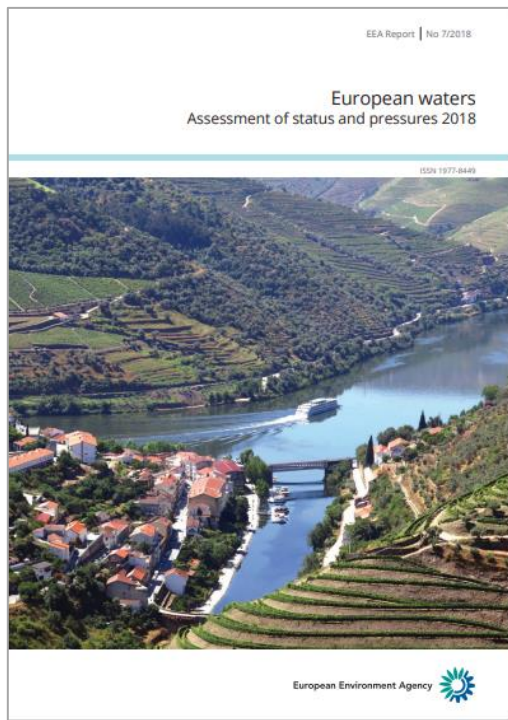


The State of European Rivers and Water

Philip Weller, Head of Technical Secretariat, IAWD

European waters – assessment of status and pressures 2018

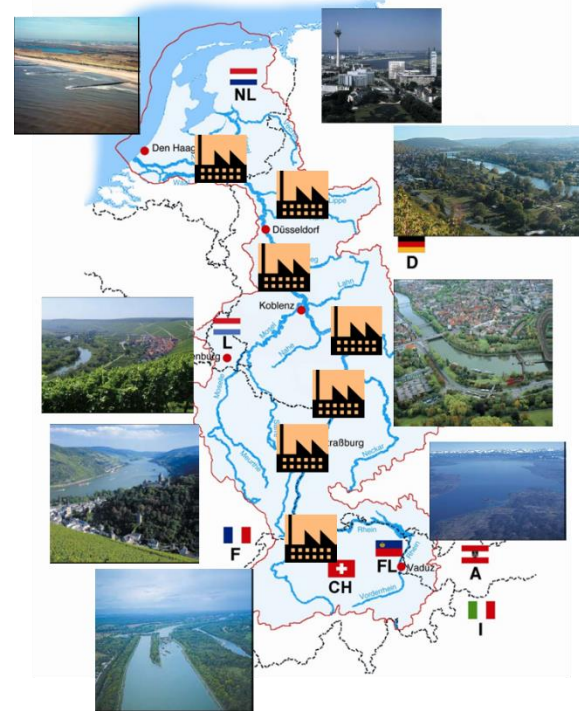


- Groundwaters generally have the best status: good chemical status for 74% of the groundwater area, while 89% of the area achieved good quantitative status
- Around 40% of surface waters (rivers, lakes and transitional and coastal waters) are in good ecological status or potential, and only 38% are in good chemical status.
- A few priority substances account for poor chemical status, e.g. mercury: by omitting those only 3% would fail to achieve good chemical status
- Limited change in status for most water bodies: proportion of water bodies with unknown status has decreased, confidence in status assessment has grown, improvements usually at level of individual quality elements or pollutants, but not overall status
- Significant pressures on surface water bodies: hydromorphological (40%), diffuse (38%), particularly from agriculture, and atmospheric deposition (38%), particularly of mercury, followed by point sources (18%) and water abstraction (7%)

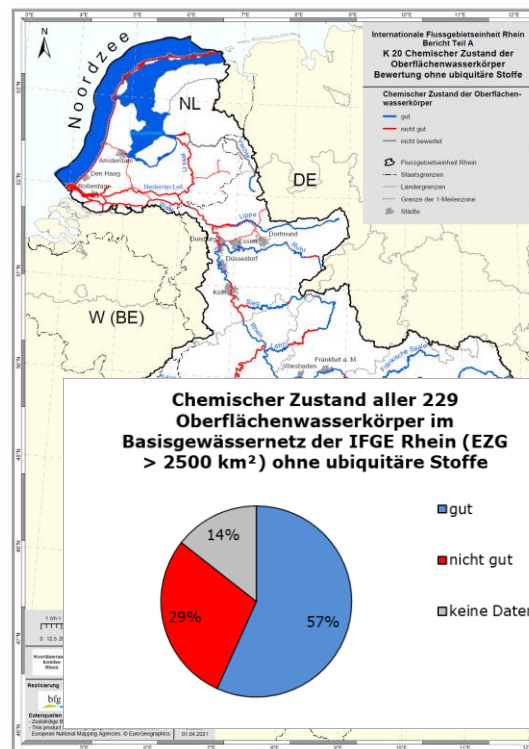
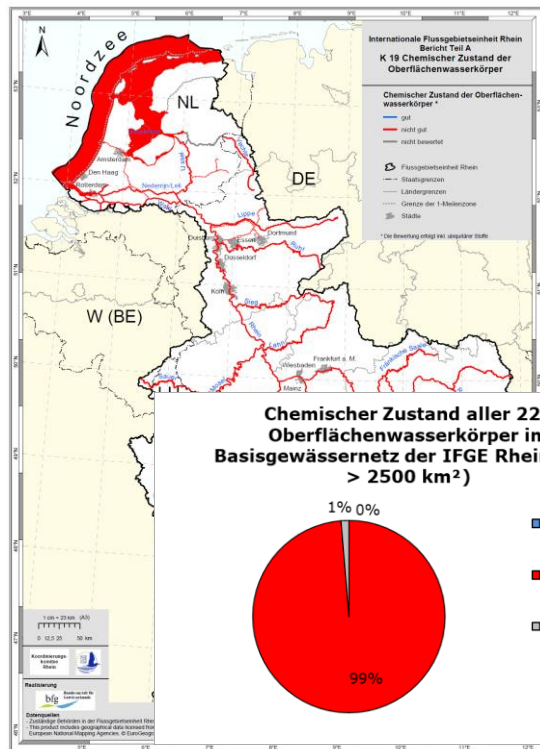
Facts about Rhine Basin



- Main stream length: 1233 km
- 60 million inhabitants in 9 countries
- Drinking water supply for 30 million people
- Europe's most important navigation route (825 km)



Current state of classification (draft): Chemistry



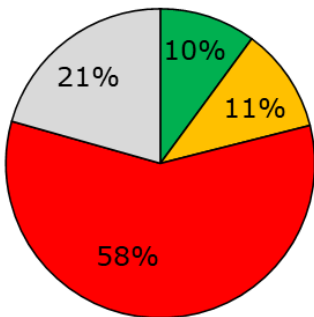
Some Conclusions about the EU WFD



- Important achievements in water quality and ecology have been made but are not (yet) reflected in the classification results due to:
 - presence of ubiquitary substances
 - One-out-all-out principle
 - still existing deficits in habitat diversity and ecological continuity
 - slow reaction of ecology to implemented measures
- Groundwater quantitative status is good, chemical groundwater status affected mostly by nitrogen
- Public participation until 15.10.2021

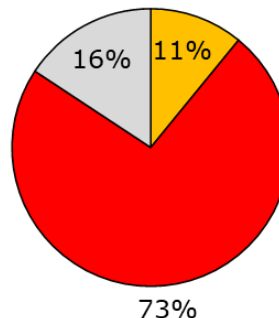


Zielerreichung guter ökologischer Zustand / gutes ökologisches Potenzial für alle Oberflächenwasserkörper im Basisgewässernetz der IFGE Rhein (EZG > 2500 km²)



- Zielerreichung 2016-2021
- Zielerreichung 2022-2027
- Zielerreichung nach 2027
- keine Daten

Zielerreichung chemischer Zustand für alle 229 Oberflächenwasserkörper im Basisgewässernetz der IFGE Rhein (EZG > 2500 km²)



- Zielerreichung 2016-2021
- Zielerreichung 2022-2027
- Zielerreichung nach 2027
- keine Daten

- Forecast not optimistic! For a large amount of water bodies the achievement of the objective will be after 2027!

The Danube Basin

- 19 countries share the Danube River Basin
- world's most international river basin
- more than 81 million people of different cultures and languages call the Danube Basin their home.
- all countries sharing over 2,000 km² of the Danube River Basin, as well as the European Union, are contracting parties of the ICPDR



Significant Water Management Issues in the Danube River Basin



Organic
Pollution



Hydromorphological
Alterations



Effects of Climate
Change (drought,
water scarcity,
extreme hydrological
phenomena and
other impacts)



Nutrient
Pollution



Hazardous
Substances Pollution

Endangered Aquatic Species

[WWF's Living Planet Report](#) showing that freshwater ecosystems are the most threatened on the planet, and freshwater species populations have declined by 83% since the 1970s.



Areas of inter-sectoral work



Navigation



Climate Adaptation



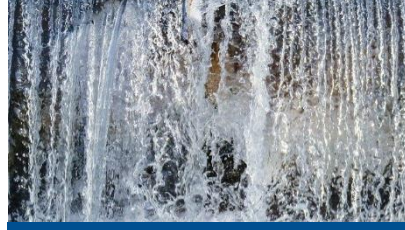
Nature Protection



Agriculture

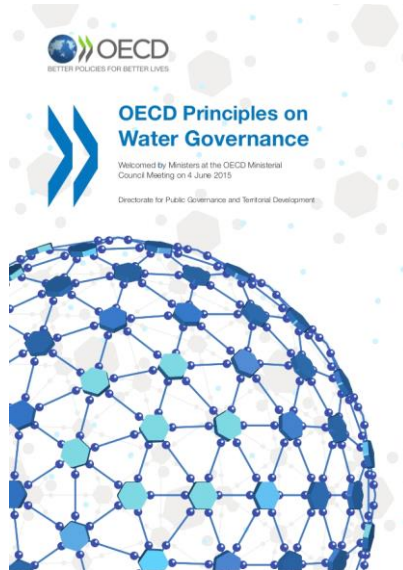


Hydropower

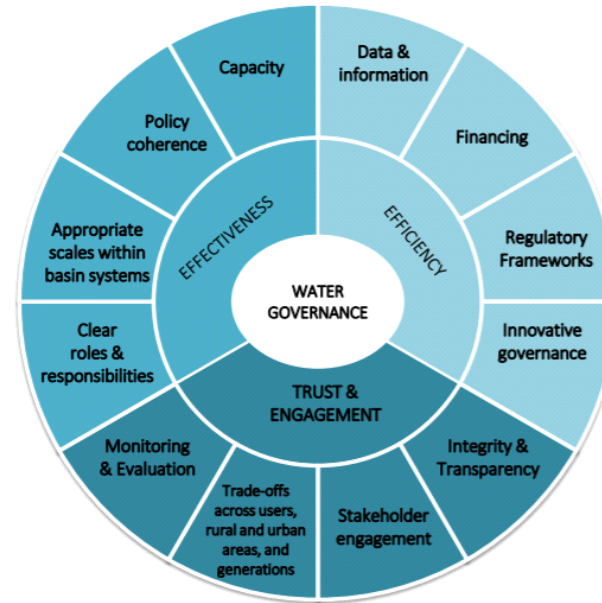


Water services

OECD Principles on Water Governance

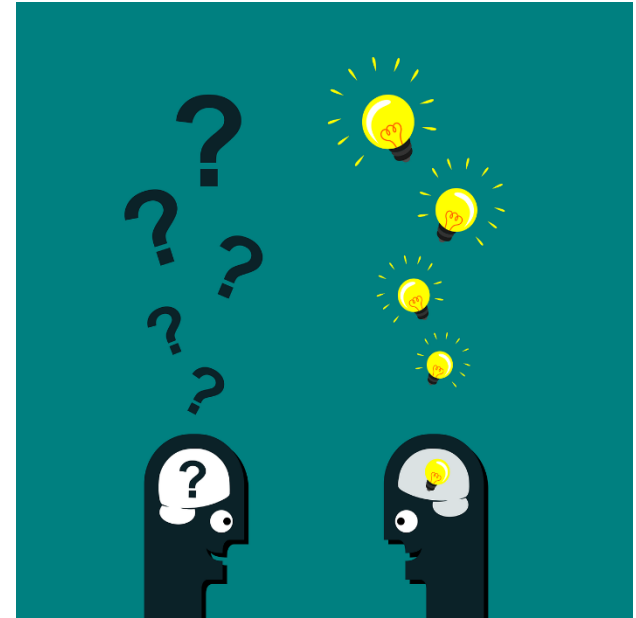


OECD 2015, [OECD Principles on Water Governance](#)



Take home messages

- Improvements made, but situation is not overly optimistic in meeting the WFD goals for all rivers
- Accelerated effort using the tools available including the Green Deal and the Biodiversity Strategy



Thank you!