



MINISTRY
OF ENVIRONMENT
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Policy - making and planning of river continuity measures - Slovakia

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European River Symposium
27 May 2021

River continuity restoration in current national policy

- River continuity issues identified as one of major water management problems
- River basin management plan 2015 – 2021: chapter on river continuity measures - 845 proposed measures (beyond 2021)
- Draft river basin management plan 2022 – 2027: chapter on river continuity measures - 296 proposed measures
- Methodology on construction of fish paths – revision needed



What are pitfalls of the current policy?

- Continuity measures in 2015-2021 plan: (mostly fishways)

total	planned 2015-2021	implemented (incl. expected by end 2021)
845	145	96

- Insufficient funding (~ 100 % EU structural funds)
- Infringement for poor impact assessment of small hydropower plants
- No real priorities set – implemented projects are those less „complicated“
- Concrete projects design – controversial subject



Why new Water Policy

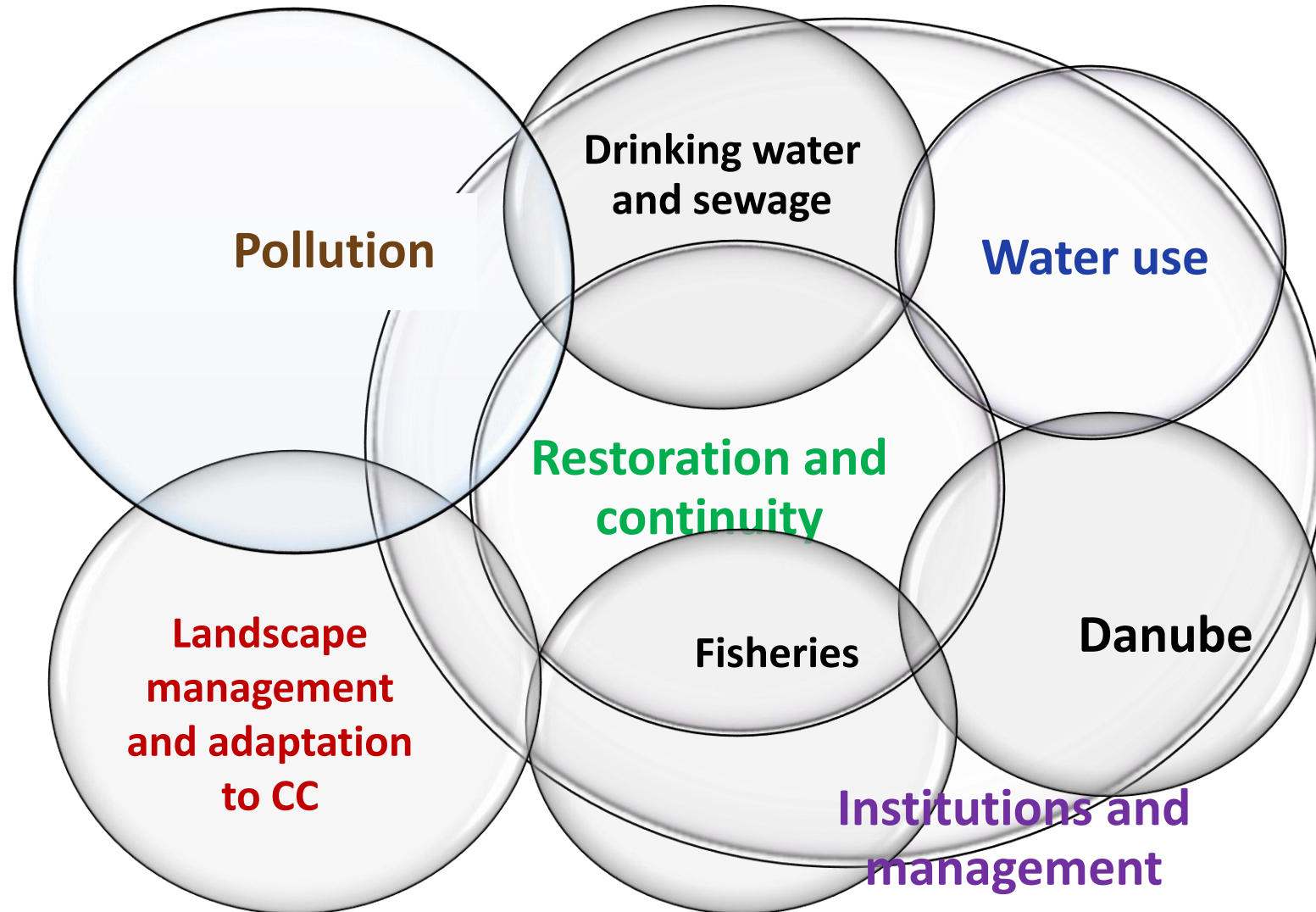
- Obsolete current water management strategies – obstacles for reflection of reality, namely climate change
- Water management plans are not designed as long-term policy strategic documents
- Broad and intensive participation – document ownership
- New government declaration (2020)



How is this process managed?

Stakeholders
working group

Steering
committee



What are lessons learnt that might be replicated to other countries?

- Hydromorphological alterations has been recognized as often reason why waters cannot achieve good status
- River continuity restoration is ideally combined with re-instatement of lateral revitalization and flood protection measures
- Rivers continuity not seen as real priority
- Difficult debates on good technical design





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Thank you!