



Negotiated agreements at basin scale as a tool for the integrated implementation of WFD and FD in Italy: results of a national census of River Contracts experiences (2002-2012) and future challenges

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MANY ACTORS

PUBLIC

- state administrative bodies
- regional administrative bodies
- local administrative bodies
- river basin authorities
- environmental agencies
- drainage authorities
- protected area managers
- water authorities

PRIVATE

- farmers
- land developers
- anglers
- whitewater enthusiasts
- sediment miners
- hydropower companies
- environmentalists
- manufacturers
- ...

A WATERCOURSE



MANY STAKES

STAKE

1

STAKE

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STAKE

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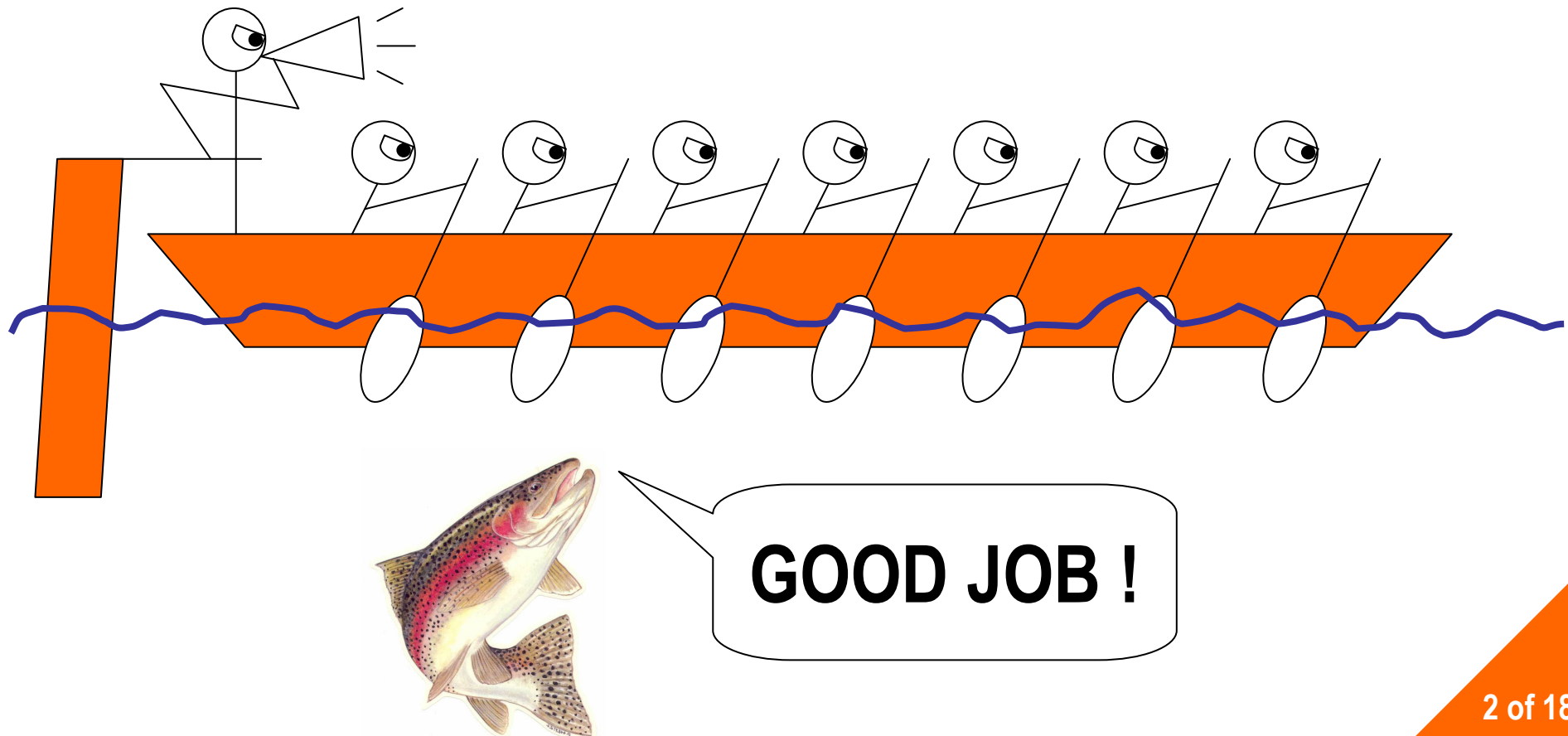
STAKE

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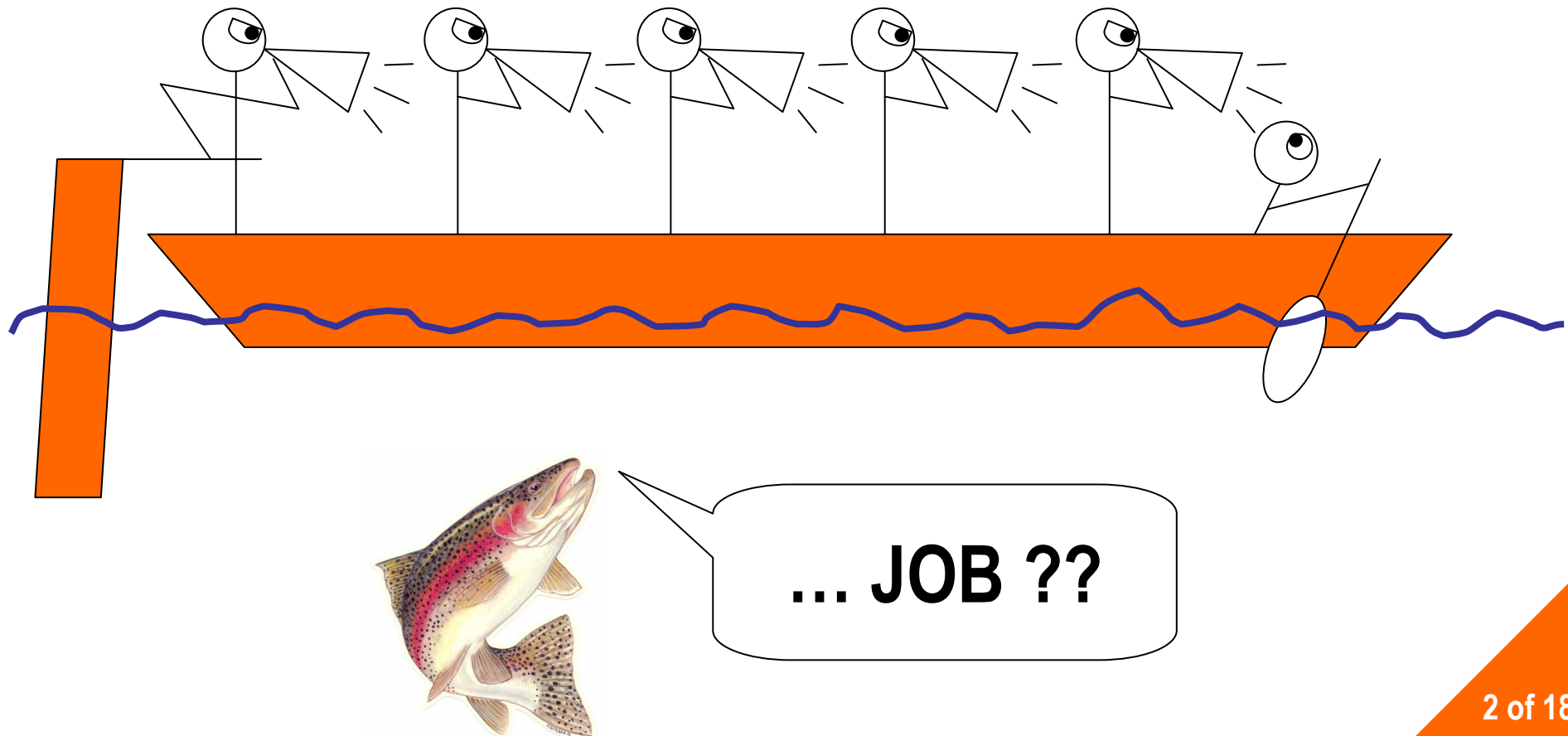
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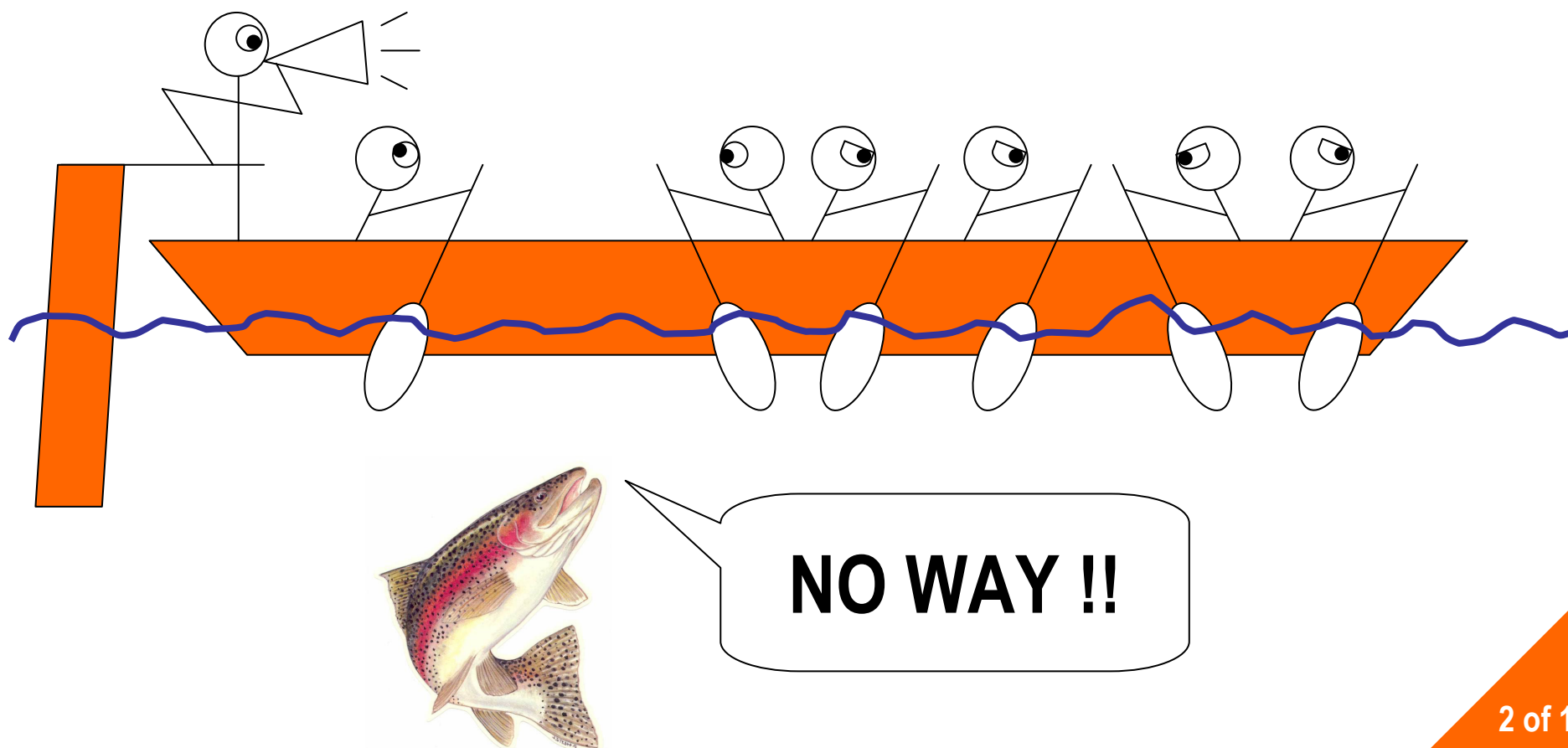
We should work like this...



but often we find ourselves like this...



or like this...



IS RIVER RESTORATION



A MISSION IMPOSSIBLE ?

WFD

Water Framework Directive

FD

Flood Directive

Both Directives address for an **integrated approach** to river basin management, through a **collaborative governance** agenda able to conjugate **multi-objectives, multi-levels and multi-stakeholders decision making processes** and to achieve jointly the objectives of **environmental enhancement** and **flood risk management**.

WFD

Water Framework Directive
(annex VI, part B)

FD

Flood Directive
(unique annex, article C4)

Negotiated Environmental Agreements (NEA)

supplementary measure that may be adopted by District Authorities at river basin scale within respective RBMPs (PoMs)

RIVER CONTRACTS

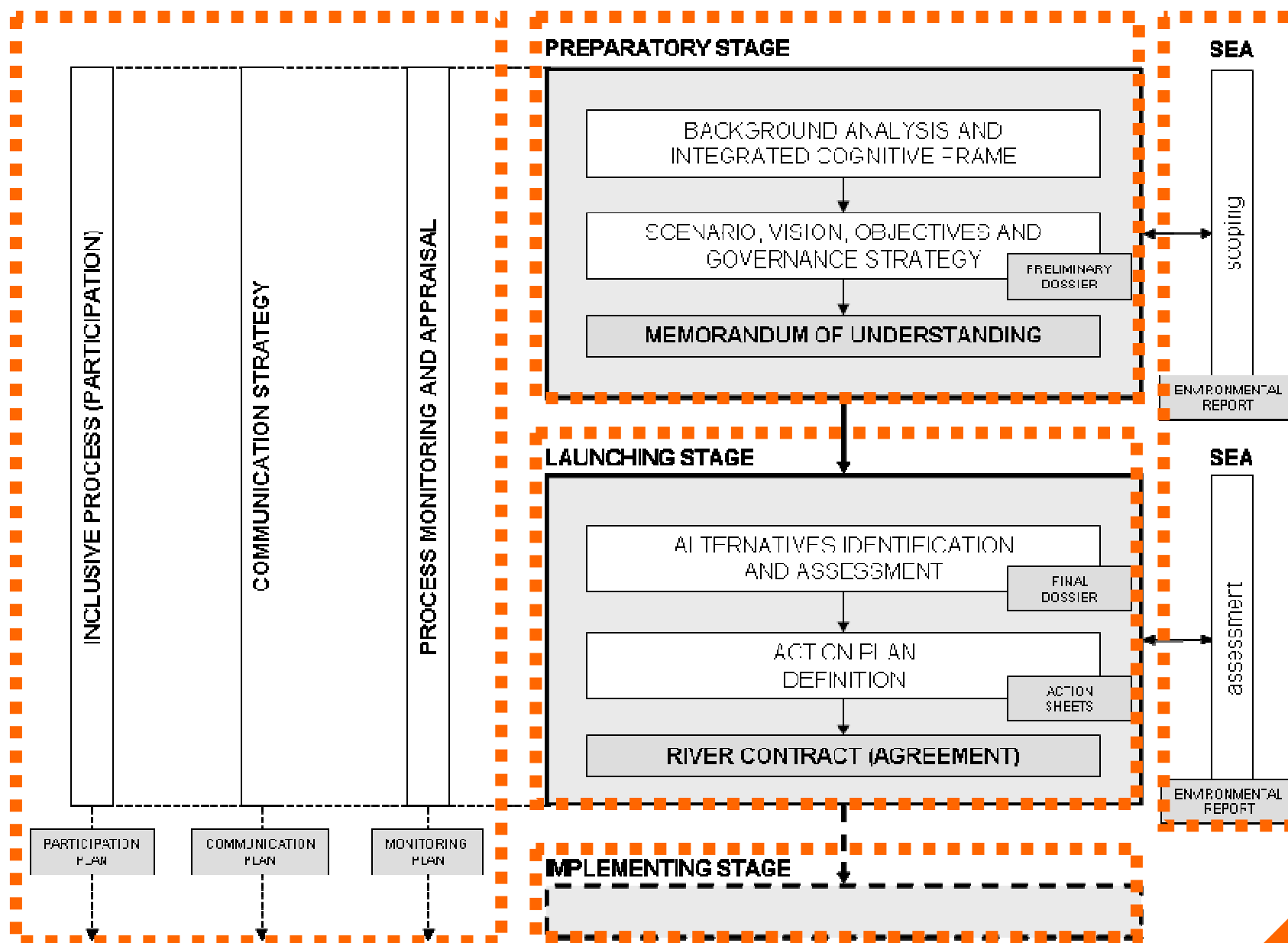
'80s FRANCE

ITALIAN DEFINITION

voluntary agreements amongst **public** and **private** subjects variously involved and/or committed into local river issues aimed at the **ecological restoration** and **socioeconomic regeneration** (including flood risk reduction) of river watersheds through a **participative process**

'90s BELGIUM

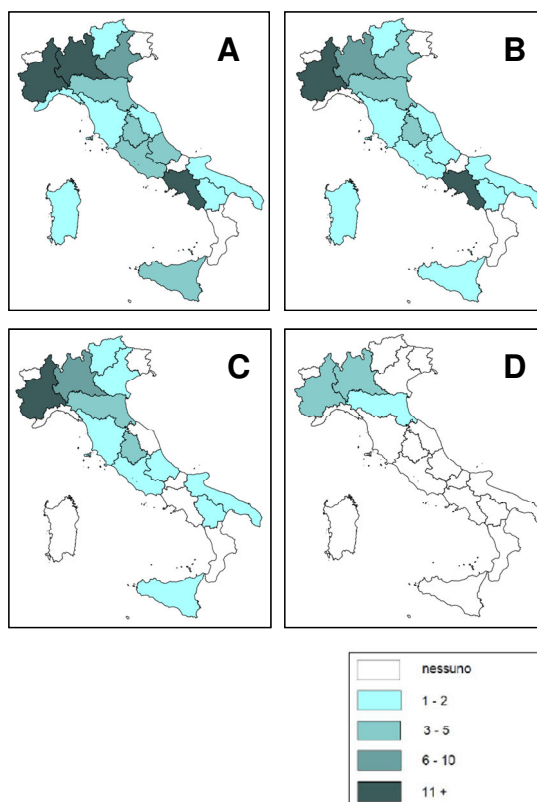
'00s ITALY



NATIONAL CENSUS OF RIVER CONTRACTS IN ITALY

geographic distribution

ITALIAN REGION	RIVER CONTRACT EXPERIENCES			
	A	B	C	D
	just announced	tangibly launched	with a participation process	formally subscribed
Piemonte	14	12	10	3
Campania	13	11	-	-
Lombardia	12	9	9	3
Veneto	6	5	1	-
Emilia Romagna	5	5	3	1
Umbria	5	5	4	-
Abruzzo	4	1	1	-
Sicilia	4	2	1	-
Lazio	3	2	1	-
Sardegna	2	2	-	-
Toscana	2	1	1	-
Alto Adige	1	1	1	-
Basilicata	1	1	1	-
Liguria	1	0	-	-
Marche	1	1	-	-
Puglia	1	1	1	-
Trentino	1	1	1	-
	76	60	35	7

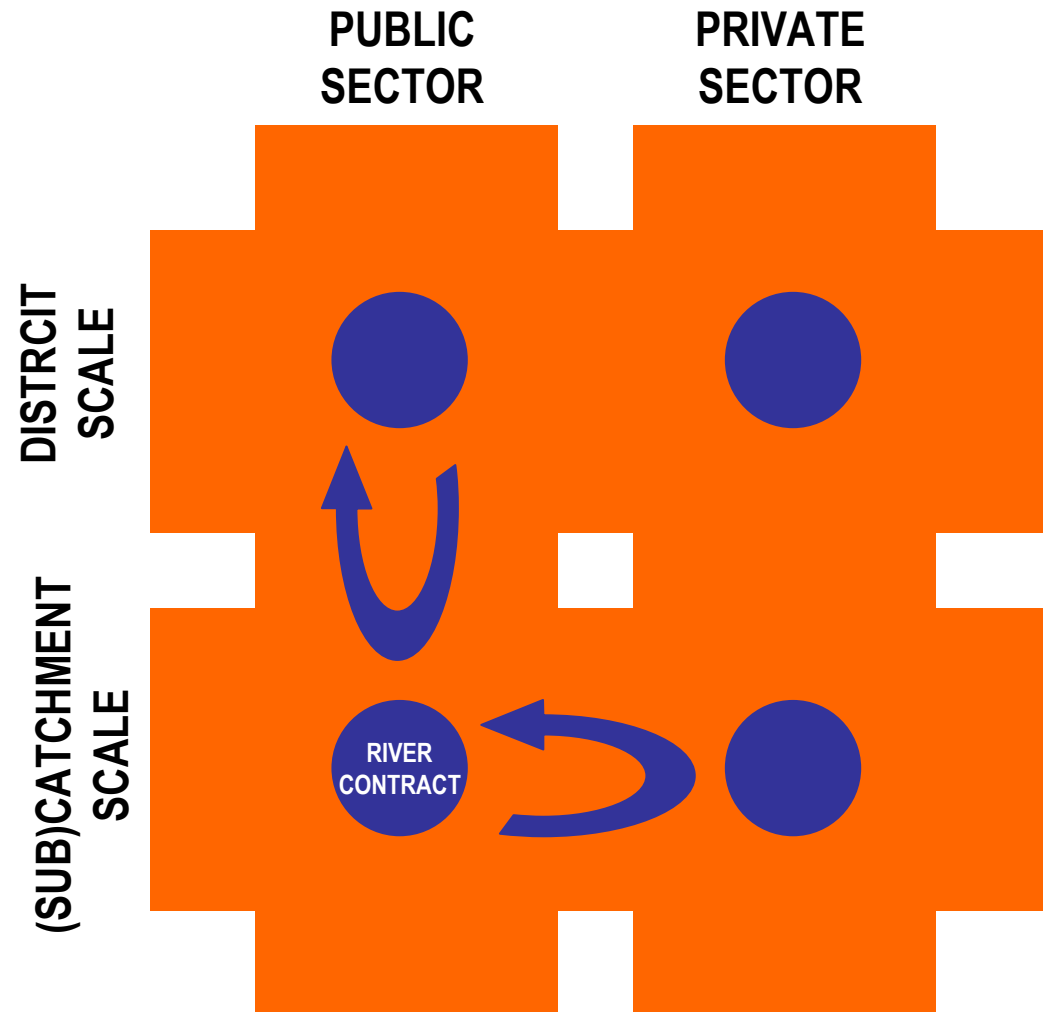


acknowledgement of a **real scattered need** in Italy for more inclusive and collaborative decision making process in river management

In a recent international report about Italian environmental performance (OECD, 2013), this trend has been acknowledged within **multi-level water governance issues**, reporting River Contracts as unofficial consultations adopted

(a) when actual implementation of environmental measures falls under the authority of bodies other than River Basin Authorities

(b) in order to reach agreements between public administrations and private actors.



STRENGTHS

(A)

wide interest over contractual method for River Basin Management

(B)

common framework of integrated objectives

- ecological enhancement of the river corridor
- landscape improvement of the river valley
- flood risk reduction along floodplains (*)
- recreational value endorsement upon watercourses
- awareness increase amongst river communities

(C)

early tangible responses in terms of river restoration with positive tradeoffs on involved communities

(*) but also geological instability risk reduction as typical of Mediterranean countries

WEAKNESSES

(A)

low confidence of stakeholders towards collaborative governance
(limits of stakeholders inclusion into participation processes)

(B)

undeniable difficulty in the committing capability of the involved groups (less than 10% have been signed)

(C)

hardly ever a cost estimation is available within River Contracts' Action Plans

(D)

(where a timeline is available) established deadlines for measures implementation seem to be disappointed

1

How much effective could River Contracts be in order to properly face with sharpest and tangled conflicts at the basis of river alterations (hydropower, flood works, pollution,...)?



CAPILLARY CAPACITY OF (TRYING TO BE) **BEING INCLUSIVE TOWARDS STAKEHOLDERS USUALLY HARDLY GET INVOLVED** IN DECISION MAKING PROCESSES



RISK OF INSUCCESS WHEN DEALING WITH COMPLEX INTERESTS SUCH AS HYMO PRESSURES (JUST FRUITLESS DEBATE OR FORCED SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE OF PRECONSTITUTED DECISIONS)

**DO NEED FOR INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT
DO NEED FOR SKILLED FACILITATORS**

3

Which level of compulsoriness should accompany the commitments voluntarily agreed by River Contracts subscribers?

RIVER CONTRACT **NOT JUST COMPULSORY BY LAW**, BUT
RATHER A **TANGIBLE ANSWER TO A SHARED WILL**

NO NEED FOR A SPECIFIC PRESCRIPTIVE LAW BUT RATHER A REGULATORY FRAMEWORK THAT SET COMMON TECHNICAL RULES AND ACKNOWLEDGE RESULTS THROUGH:

- APPRAISING METHODOLOGICAL ROBUSTNESS
- CHECKING EXTERNAL COHERENCE
- AWARDING RESULTS (FUNDS ALLOCATION)

FINAL REMARKS

_TO MAINTAIN the voluntary and collaborative nature of River Contracts as a strength feature, while effectively engaging local communities

_TO DEVELOPE AND DISSEMINATE methodological approach for contractual decision making processes at river (sub)basin scale (capacity building)

_TO SUPPORT local agreements with skilled technicians and financial resources (optimization of current ones or activation of new ones) both for decision making processes and for measure implementation

_TO MONITOR AND APPRAISE experiences carried out (European and National based Observatory)

FINAL REMARKS

UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF
EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR RIVER RESTORATION
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF BASIN AUTHORITIES

PROPOSAL OF ACTIVATION OF AN EU WORKING GROUP ON RIVER CONTRACTS



European River Restoration Conference

Featuring the IRF Riverprize

Celebrating Successes and Addressing Challenges

5th edition | 11-13 September 2013 | Vienna



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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