



A Blueprint to safeguard Europe's Waters

Prospects and problems

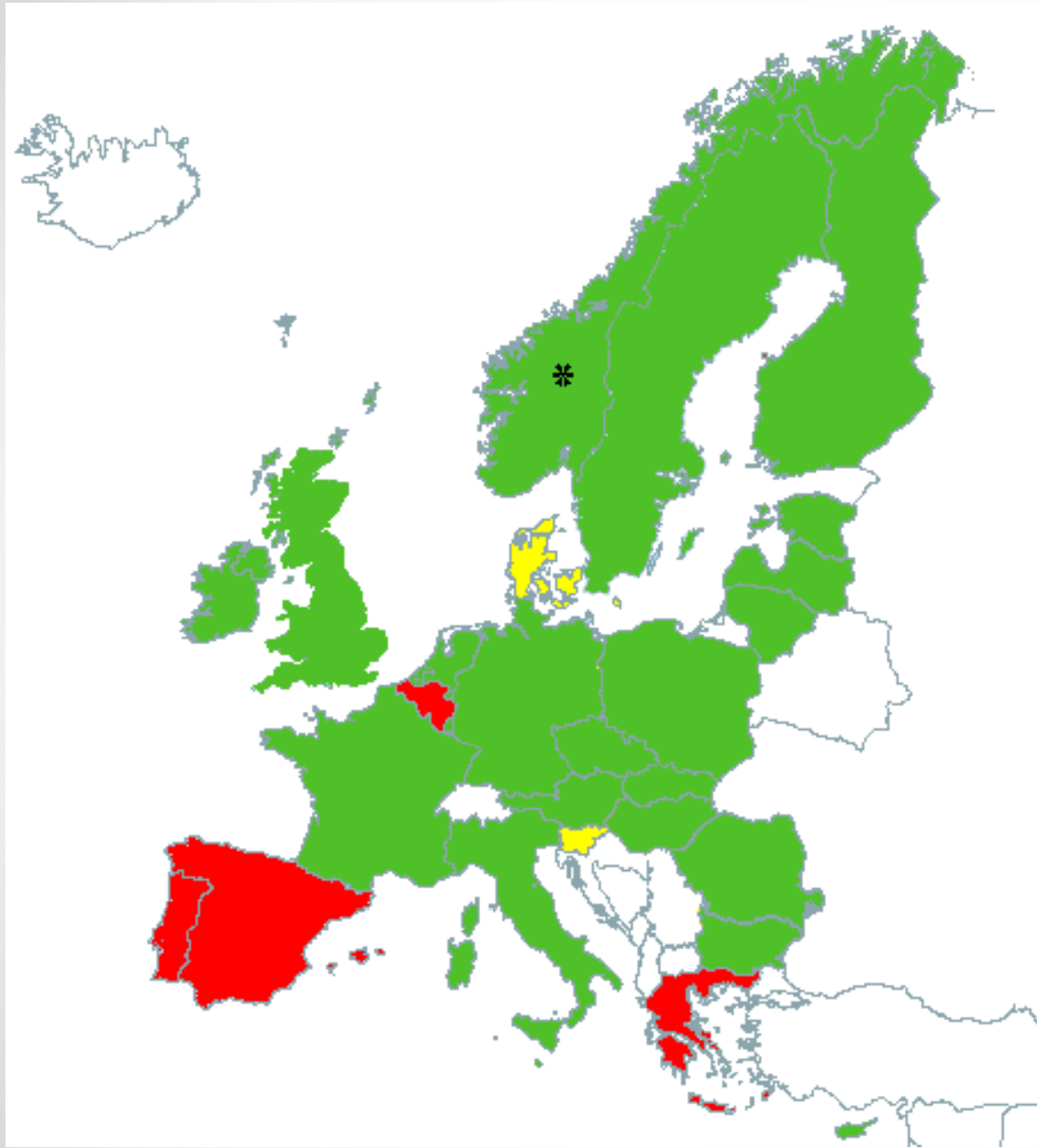
Where do we come from?

- 2000 Water Framework Directive come into force
- 2007 Floods Directive
- 2007 Communication on water Scarcity and Droughts
- 2008 Marine Framework Directive

- → Several Problems have been reduced (nutrient loads, chemical pollution), but some remain unchanged or increased (water over - abstraction, hydro-morphology)
- → Adaptation to Climate change becomes an issue
- → There are still different policy objectives that hamper a proper water protections (e.g. CAP)
- → administrative burdens, institutional capacity and lack of coordination also hamper the implementation of EU legislation.

Basis for the Blueprint

- Three assessments scheduled for 2012
 - Assessment of 1st river basin management plans under Water Framework Directive
 - Review of the Strategy for Water Scarcity and Droughts
 - Assessment of the vulnerability of water and environmental resources to climate impacts and man-made pressures.
- It considers a wide range research issues that looked into specific topics such as:
 - Climate change and water
 - Water saving in Buildings
 - Water and Agriculture
 - Water retention measures
- The Fitness check
 - New process part of EC smart regulation policy
 - Systematic check that all EU laws meet their objectives in an efficient way.
 - Water policy selected as a pilot area



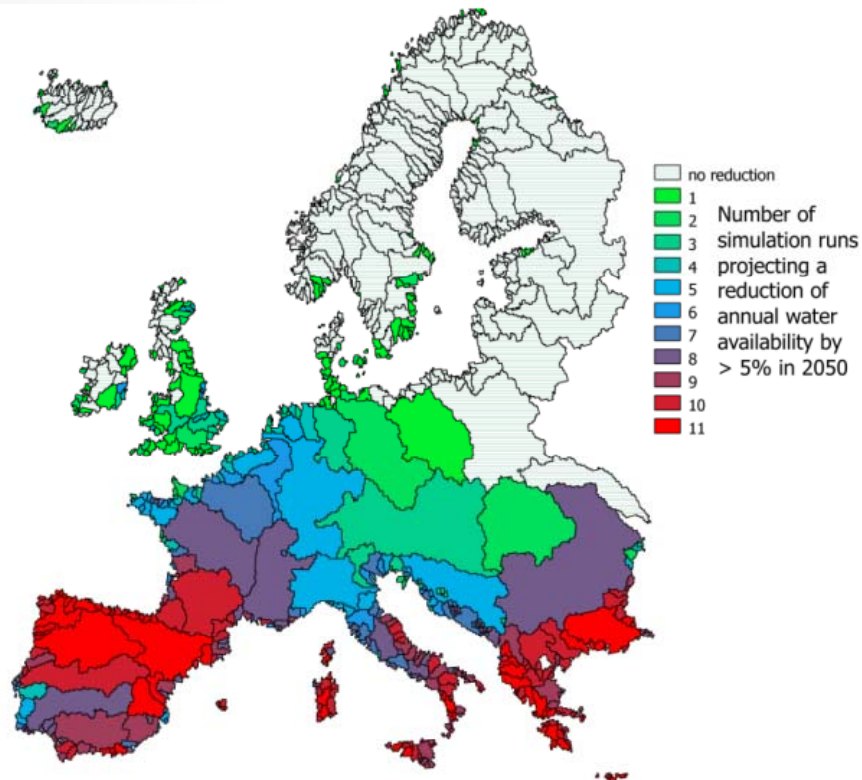
Status of River Basin Plans in Europe

Green = Adopted
Yellow = Public consultation
Red = Not ready

EEA 2012 State of Water Assessment - following SOER 2010

- Five Water thematic assessments (20-40 pages)
 - ✓ Coastal and transitional waters
 - ✓ Hydromorphology pressures;
 - ✓ Inland surface waters – ecological status & pressures;
 - ✓ Water resource efficiency and water economics;
 - ✓ Water and vulnerability (water scarcity and droughts, floods;)
- synthesis/integrated report
- Baseline – overview of current status and pressures affecting Europe's water

Scenarios for water stress 2050



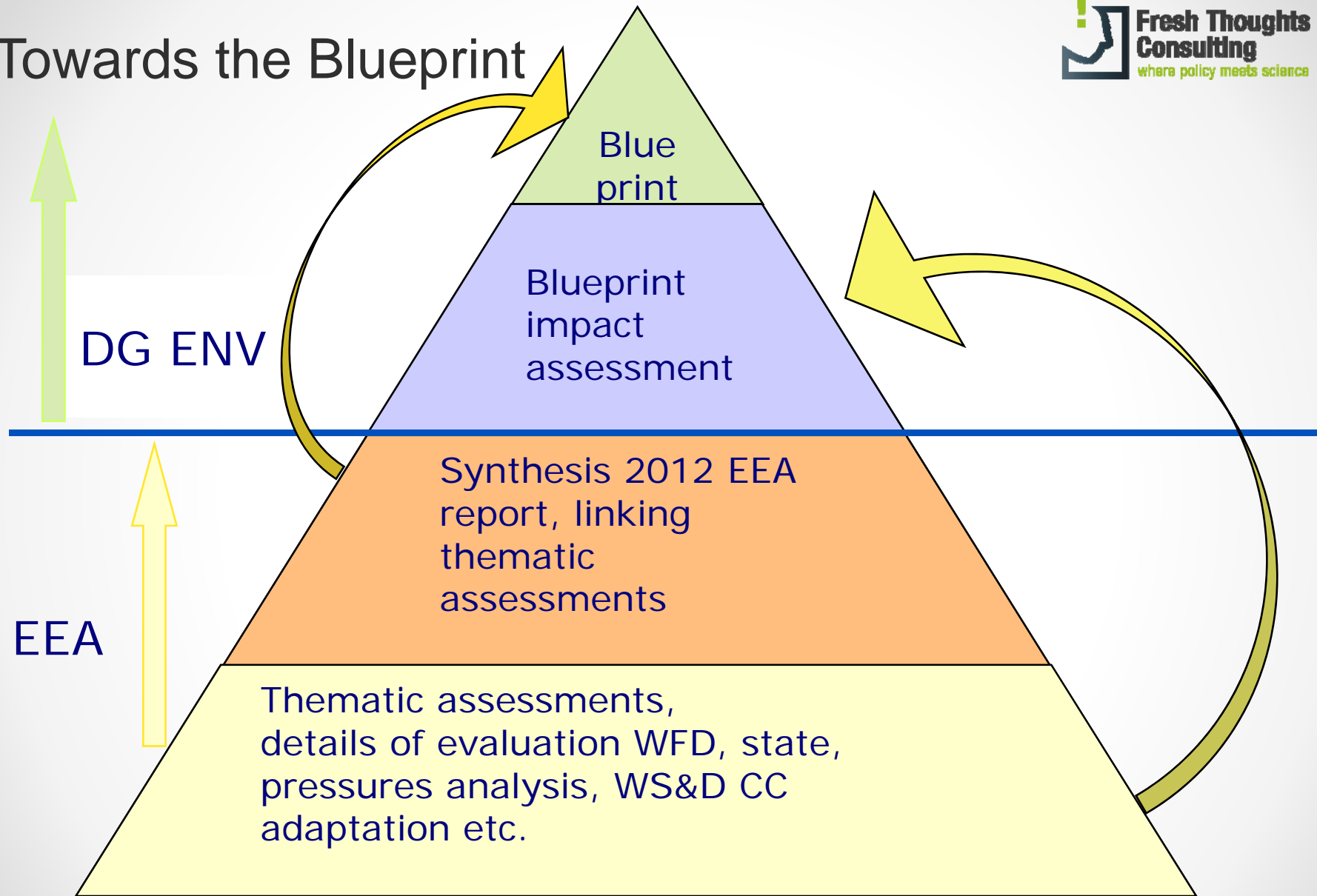
Agreement in the direction of change in the annual average water availability on a river basin scale for the 11 climate models forced by the A1B scenario used to drive LISFLOOD.

Water Exploitation Index for the summer season and excluding water withdrawals for cooling power plants.

Preliminary results from the Fitness-Check

- Aim:
 - to assess the effectiveness of existing laws and identify possible gaps or inconsistencies that need to be dealt with.
- Preliminary results:
 - the policy laid out in the Water Framework Directive is robust and largely coherent with other EU environmental laws.
 - However, implementation remains challenging and makes the achievements of the 2015 targets uncertain.
 - The EU needs to step up action on policy integration, particularly with regard to using water in agriculture and buildings more efficiently.
 - Member States have made only sluggish progress with introducing economic instruments such as water pricing, while the principle of cost-recovery remains controversial.

Towards the Blueprint



Source: European Commission

Objectives of the Blueprint

- Timeline of the Blueprint is 2020 → closely related to the EU 2020 Strategy and in particular to the recent Resource Efficiency Roadmap.
- The Blueprint aims at:
 - improving the implementation of current EU water policy by making full use of the opportunities provided by the current framework;
 - fostering the integration of water and other policies by managing trade-offs through a better understanding of the costs and benefits of both economic activities and water resources management; and
 - when necessary, seeking the completion of the current policy framework, especially in relation to water efficiency and adaptation to climate change.

Content of the Blueprint

- Seven key areas will be addressed (currently clustered into 5 blocks covering policy scenarios, promising measures, economic incentives, governance, and knowledge base & innovation):
 - Land Use
 - Economic Incentives
 - Quantitative water resources use targets
 - Governance
 - Knowledge Base
 - Innovation
 - Global Dimension
- Policy options to be selected on the basis of the IA.

Land-use

- Land Use change is one of the main drivers of the degradation of water resources and vulnerability to extreme events.
- The Blueprint
 - will identify and analyse natural water retention measures that could be widely implemented at EU level
 - Define the policy instruments that can accelerate the implementation of those measure such as
 - Change in existing funding (CAP, Cohesion)
 - Guidelines

Source: European Commission

Economic incentives for a more efficient water resources management

- Develop a consistent approach for the internalisation of costs from water use and water pollution.
- Policy options could include
 - More concrete criteria for pricing, taxation, removal of harmful subsidies, etc.
 - Setup of water allocation schemes (including tradable permits) in water scarce areas.
 - Payment for ecosystem services
 - Certification schemes

Source: European Commission

Water efficiency targets and measures to protect water resources

- Starting point: ClimWatAdapt project
 - Indicators of the water gap in Europe in 2020 or 2050 between water demand and water availability, combining climate change and socio-economic scenarios
- Link with Water and Ecosystem accounts, currently developed by the EEA
- The Blueprint might provide indicative water efficiency targets
 - at EU level taking into account the great variety of situations across economic sectors and geographic areas.
 - Sensitivity analysis: physical/virtual water transfers
- Policy Options are not clear yet

Source: European Commission

Governance / Knowledge Base

- Starting Point: Key conclusions of the Fitness Check (FC)
- The FC will also provide a set of specific objectives for improving the governance system stemming from EU water policy.
- On that basis, and building on the RBMPs assessments, options to be developed will aim at:
 - Supporting an **administrative setup** (at both national and trans-boundary level) that better serves the objectives of water policy, in particular the implementation on the ground (e.g. enhancing the role of River Basin Authorities).
 - Improve the **effectiveness of the implementation** (e.g. reporting requirements) while providing the reactive capacity needed to face emerging challenges (e.g. climate change adaptation)
 - improve the quality of the **knowledge base** for water policy making.

Source: European Commission

Time planning 2011 and 2012

- 1st half 2011
 - Analyse RBMPs, WS&D and other issues
- 2nd half 2011
 - Draft thematic and outline integrated assessments
 - Present and discuss assessments with stakeholders
- Throughout 2011 - Network:
 - internal and external contributors - Advisory group (April, Oct. & Early 2012) & Stakeholder meeting October 2010
- 2012:
 - Finalize and launch of thematic assessments over 2012 at relevant events (WWF6, 3rd EU Water Conference,)
 - Integrated assessment end 2012 in support of Blueprint
 - **Publication of the Blue Print in autumn 2012**

Stakeholder involvement

- Several workshops/meetings with stakeholders are foreseen
- Still room for flexibility and a need to discuss potential policy options
- Active involvement is possible under http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/blueprint/index_en.htm



Auhofstrasse 4/7 | 1130 Vienna | Austria

Tel: 0043 (0)676 9715509

Mail: thomas.dworak@fresh-thoughts.eu

Web: www.fresh-thoughts.eu