Towards the New Urban Water Agenda: How cities can contribute to achieving EU water policy objectives

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- The WFD objective: Good water status by 2015
- Covers all fresh, ground, transitional and coastal waters in the EU
- Status considers ecological (including hydromorphology), chemical and quantitative aspects
- River basin-based management
- Coordination in international river basins
- Programmes of Measures should cover the gap between the current situation and the good status
- Use of economic instruments to incentivise efficient use and raise funds for necessary investments
Status of European Waters 2009

Percentage of surface water bodies

- Good Ecological Status
- Unknown Ecological Status
- Exemptions

Source: EC - WFD Reporting
Challenges: Less than Good Status

Percentage of classified water bodies in less than good ecological status or potential in rivers and lakes:

- < 10%
- 10–30%
- 30–50%
- 50–70%
- 70–90%
- ≥ 90%
- EEA member countries not reporting under Water Framework Directive
- No data
- Outside coverage

Source: EEA
The WFD intervention logic not always followed
Often insufficient monitoring and deficient analysis of pressures
Frequent and non-transparent use of exemptions
Programmes of measures not ambitious enough
Insufficient investment and financing of measures
Only partial application of cost recovery
Expected improvement of the water status – 10%
Cities as water polluters
Urban Waste Water Treatment

"Compliance Article 4" versus "secondary treatment in place and performance met" as required by the UWWTD 91/271/EC

Source: EC, The 8th UWWTD Implementation report
Challenges: UWWTD Implementation

Source: EEA
Challenges: UWWTD Implementation

Source: EEA
Sustainable Development Goal #6

- Safe drinking water
- Sanitation for all
- Improve water quality
- Increase water efficiency
- Integrated water management
- Protection of water-related ecosystem
- Strengthen the participation of communities in water management

Cross-checking with EU policies and law: full implementation will bring the EU to compliance with SDG6
Leadership in Sustainable Water Management Wanted!
A double role of cities in water policy

Cities as a pressure on water bodies
• Commitment to address the water problems

Cities as water users and beneficiaries of water services
• Call upon other stakeholders to take actions

Cities depend on other water users

Cities affect other water users
What are urban water issues?

- Health
- Safety
- Amenity
- Local economy
- Identity
- Quality of life

Urban water/flood infrastructure

Water quantity

Water quality

Flood protection
Urban water issues

High consumption
  Leakage
Absence of water recycling/reuse

Safe drinking water
  Treatment of collected wastewater
  Treatment of storm/runoff water
  Emerging pollutants

Public awareness and participation

Infrastructure planning, maintenance and renewal
  Water tariffs
  Energy consumption of water infrastructure
  Lack of material recovery

Reducing flood risks through land use planning
  Reducing runoff
  Lack of green infrastructure
The Leeuwarden process

- Launched at Cities and Water conference February 2016
- Cities as leaders in tackling water challenges
- Legitimacy: public health, local economy, public participation
- Double action: commitments to take mitigation measures and calls upon other stakeholders to take necessary actions
- Complementary to other urban sustainable development initiatives and networks
Roadmap

- Inviting all European cities to join
- Meetings to finalise the commitments (Bratislava, La Valetta)
- Inspiring and assisting members to plan effective actions
- Collaboration with existing networks or initiatives (Eurocities, Covenant of Mayors/Mayors Adapt, ICLEI)
- Water in the EU Urban Agenda
- Urban water issues in EU research and innovation policy and financing
Will your city join the Leeuwarden process?
Additional slides not to be used in the presentation
New Urban Water Agenda 2030

Water efficiency
- Leakage reduction (target 10%)
- Consumption reduction (20% compared to 2015)
- Water reuse (50% of urban use)

Resource efficiency
- Energy efficiency of urban water systems (50% reduction)
- Recovery of materials from wastewater (75% of nutrients and 50% of organic matter)
New Urban Water Agenda 2030

Water quality
- Safe drinking water to inhabitants
- Treatment of wastewater
- Treatment of storm/run off water
- Addressing emerging pollutants

Sustainability of urban water infrastructure
- Water pricing
- Investments
New Urban Water Agenda 2030

Flood prevention and nature based solutions
• Land use planning to prevent damages
• De-sealing/increasing infiltration
• Green infrastructure and storage of rainwater

Citizens involvement
• Raising awareness and empowering citizens