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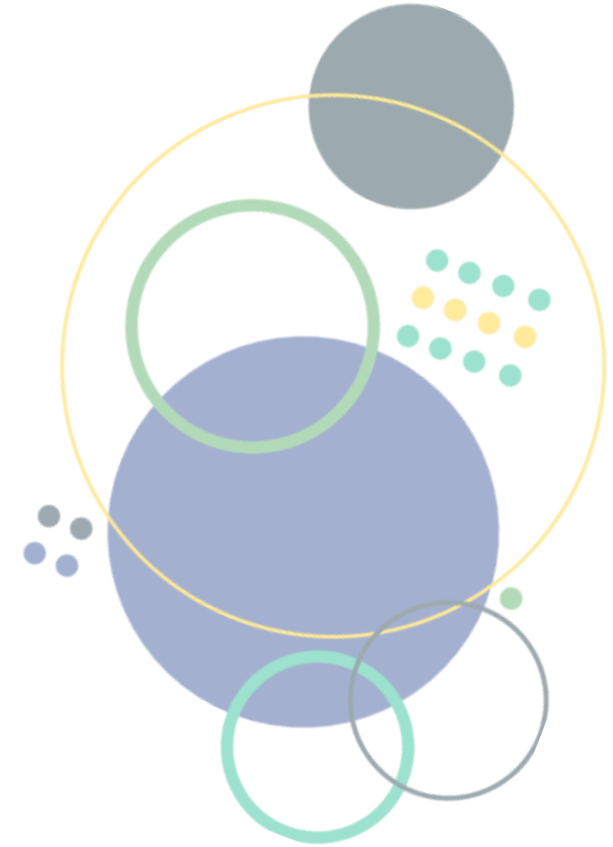
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EU 4 Green Recovery East

Official title: "Recovery through a Circular Economy and Pollution Reduction in the Eastern Partnership countries"

Stakeholders' engagement and Basin Councils Regional Workshop

01/07/2026, Paris and Online



Implementing partners:

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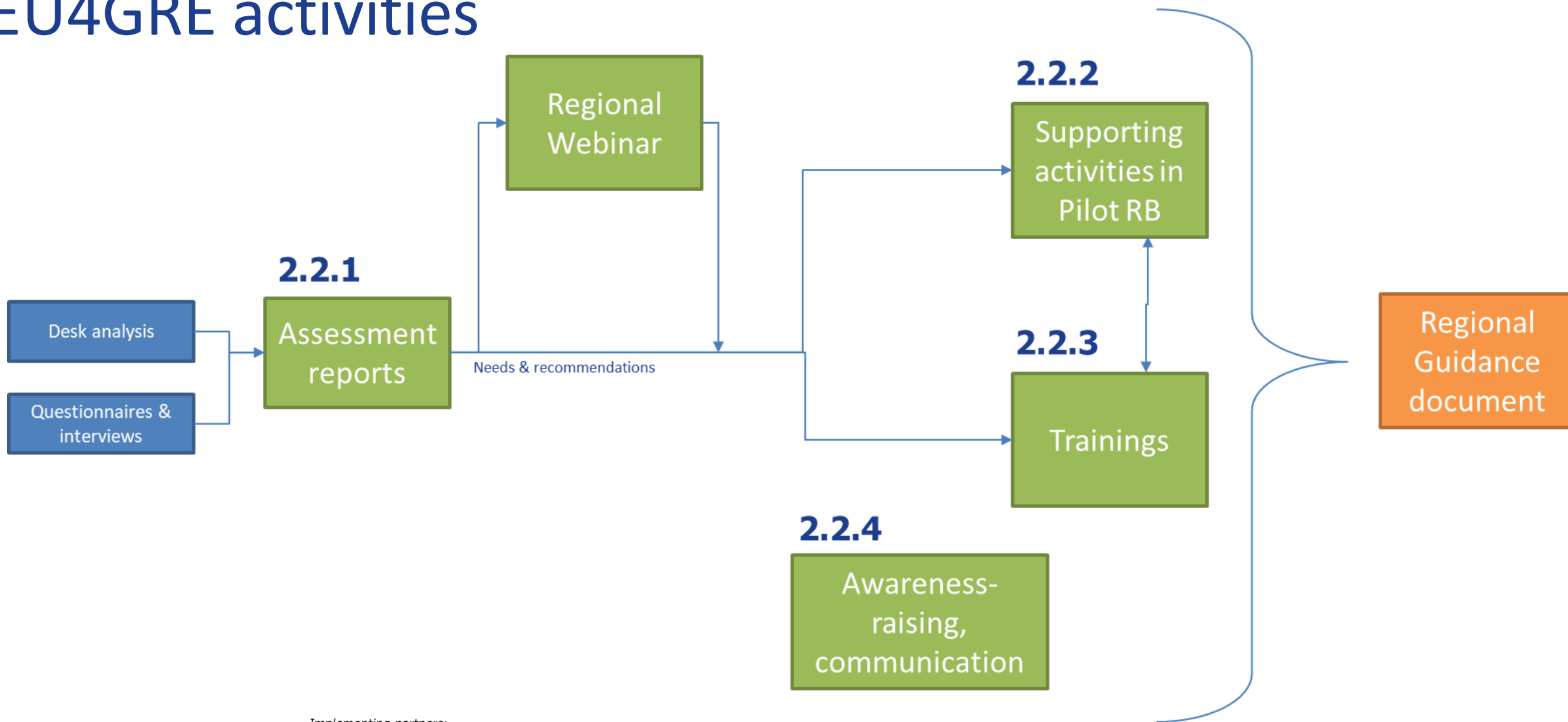
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EU4GRE activities



Content

- French experience: water governance, financing and stakeholders' involvement – p.4
- River basin organizations and basin planning in Armenia: achievements and bottlenecks - p.21
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French experience: water governance, financing and stakeholders' involvement

Patrick Laigneau, OiEau

Implementing partners:



French 1964 Water Law

- Challenges
 - insufficient funding
 - Lack of articulation between sectors (cities, industry, agriculture)
 - Need for geographic coherence
- Solution: creation of basin organizations
 - Basin Agencies
 - Basin Committees
- Water use permits



Seine River, 1842



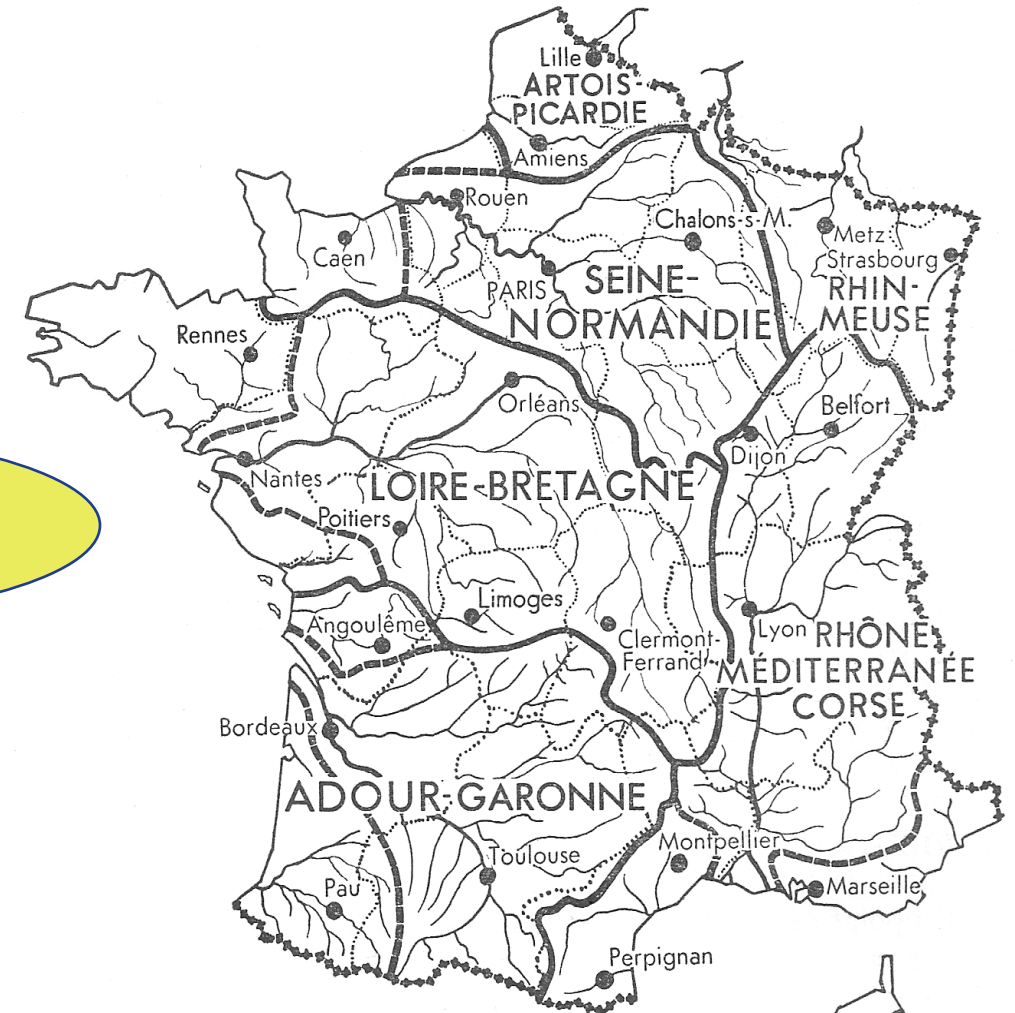
1966: creation of 6 Basin Agencies

Basin Agency

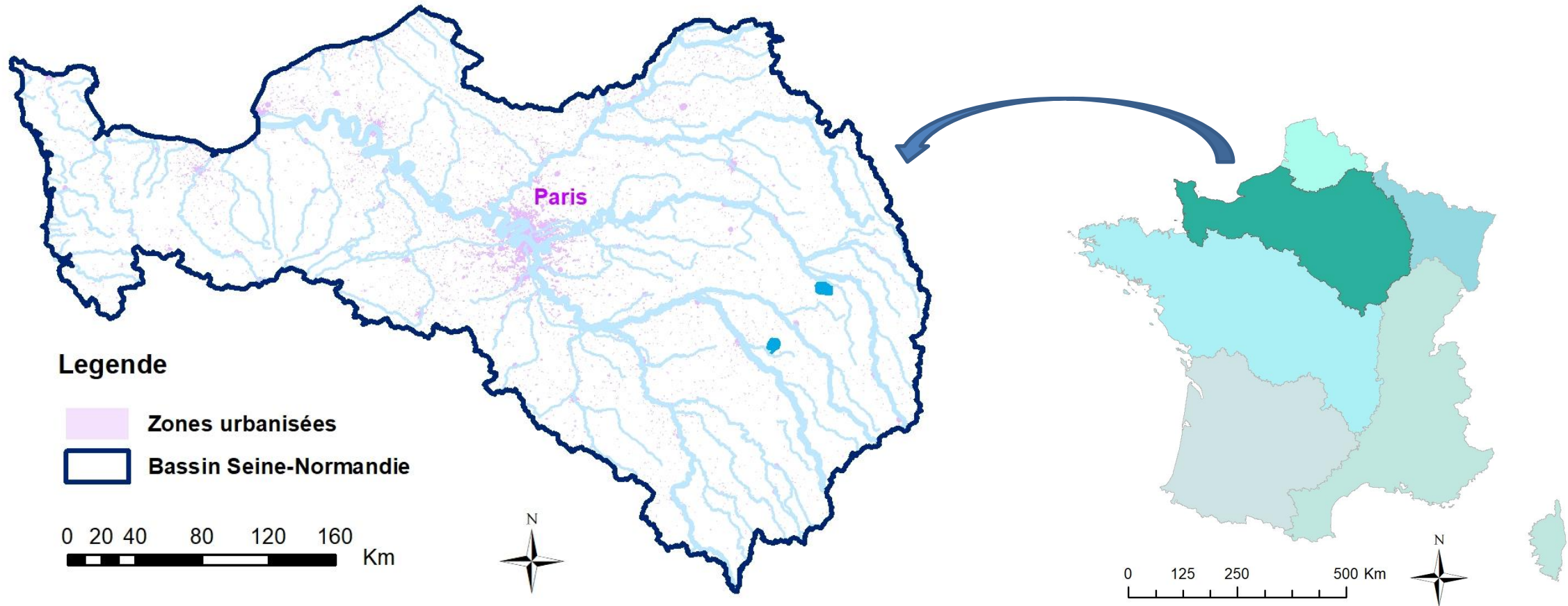
Fees for water intake
and water discharge

Monitoring and investments
in the river basin

In France, the basin committee decides the rate of the
water fees and “PoM of the RBMP”



Example of Seine-Normandie River Basin



Paris: how to secure water quality/quantity downstream "big" rivers?

Implementing partners:



Seine-Normandie Basin Agency

- 15 studies to perform the characterization of the basin (first part of “RBMP”)
- 45 technical staff contracted in 1967
- Technical secretary of the Basin Committee



Flood of 1910

Implementing partners:



Seine-Normandie Basin Commitee

- Created in 1967
- Decides the rate of the water fees
- Approves the “PoM of the RBMP”



Composition:

- 21 representatives of Government
- 21 representatives of local authorities
- 21 representatives of water users

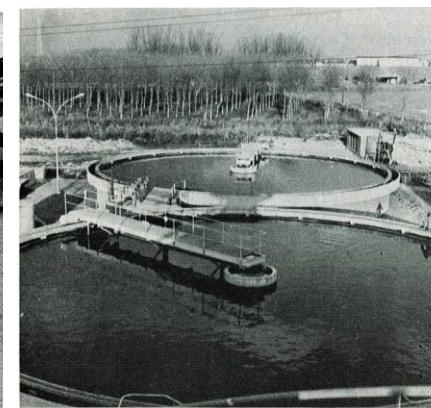
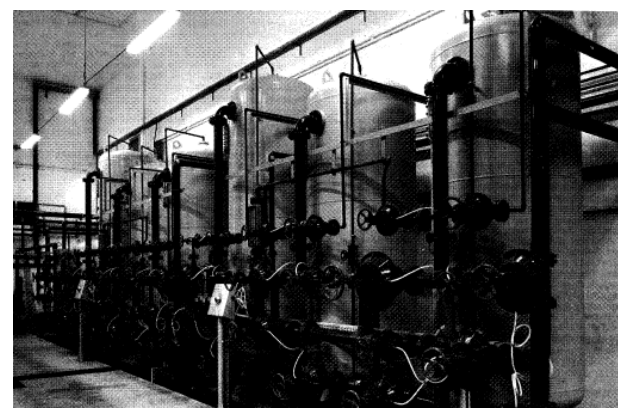


Industry	8
Water supply	2
Fishing and Fish Farming	2
Agriculture	3
Navigation	2
Hydroelectric sector	1
Tourism	1
Water consumers	1
Academia	1

Implementing partners:

1969-1972: First PoM of the Seine-Normandie RBMP

- Completion of Dam (350 million m³)
- Strengthening of urban water supply networks
- Water conservation in industry
- Sewage treatment plants

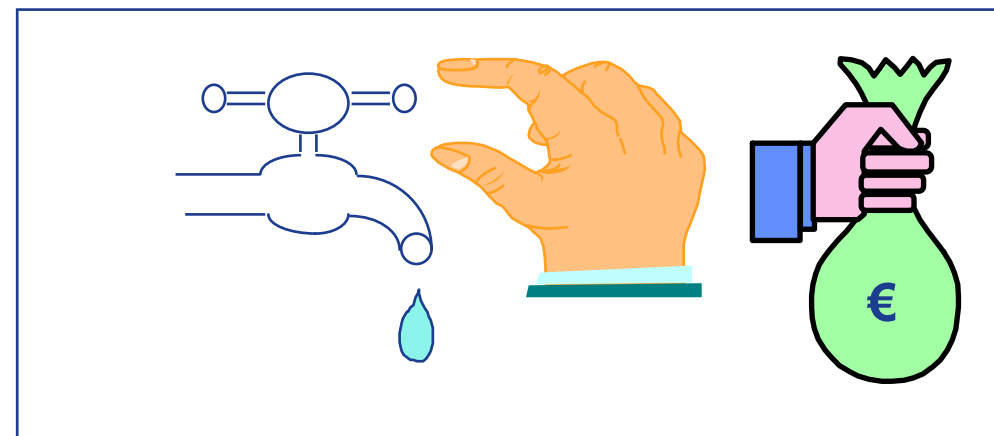
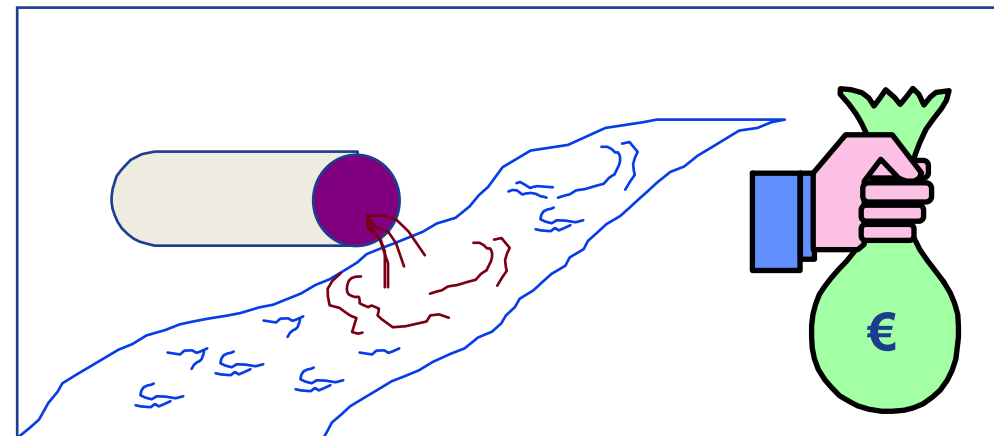


Total cost	Agency Funding
1 billion euros	400 million euros

Implementing partners:

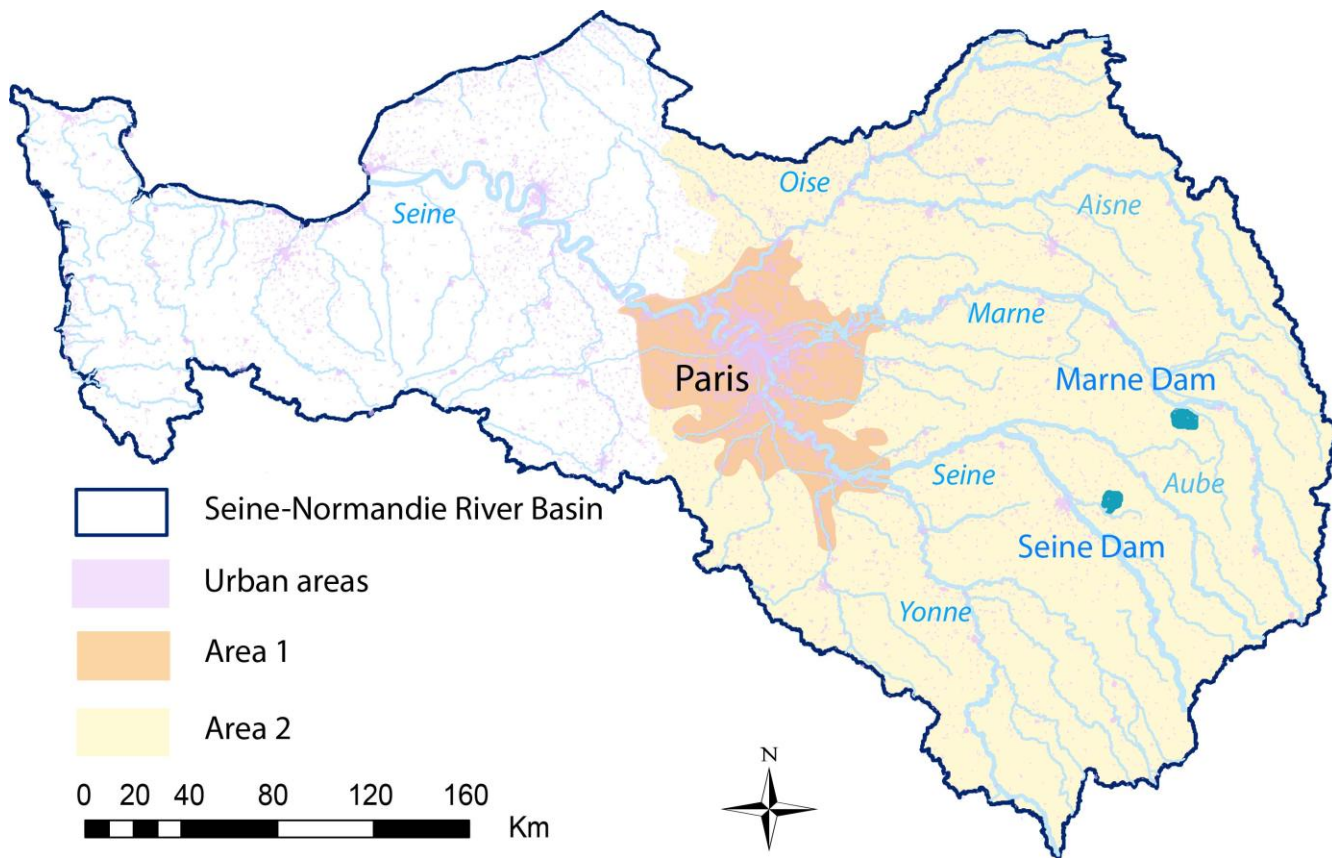
Water fees to finance the Program of Measures

- Fees for discharge in water bodies
- Fees for water intake





Example: fees for water intake in the Seine-Normandie River Basin



Area	Water intake fees for drinking water	Total amount
Area 1 (Paris region)	0,06 € / m ³	37 M€ / year
Area 2 (upstream of Paris region)	0,03 € / m ³	4,3 M€ / year
Rest of the river basin	0,002 € / m ³	

Negotiations in the Basin Committee to decide the water fees

- Imminent risk of water shortage
- Technical quality of RBMP/ Program of Measures
- Strong engagement of different stakeholders:
 - Government (officials from different departments Ministries)
 - Local Authorities
 - Industry Directors
- Financial subsidies from the basin agency benefiting the water users

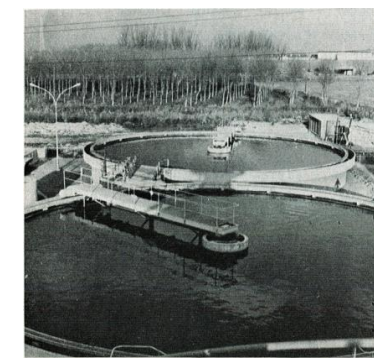
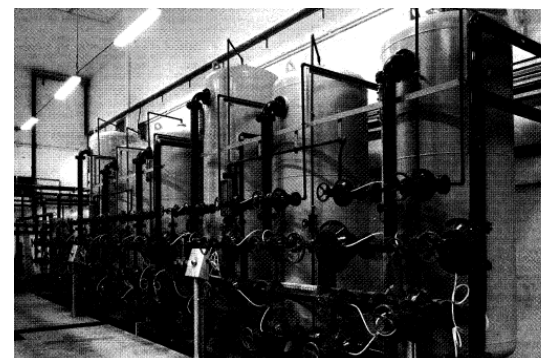
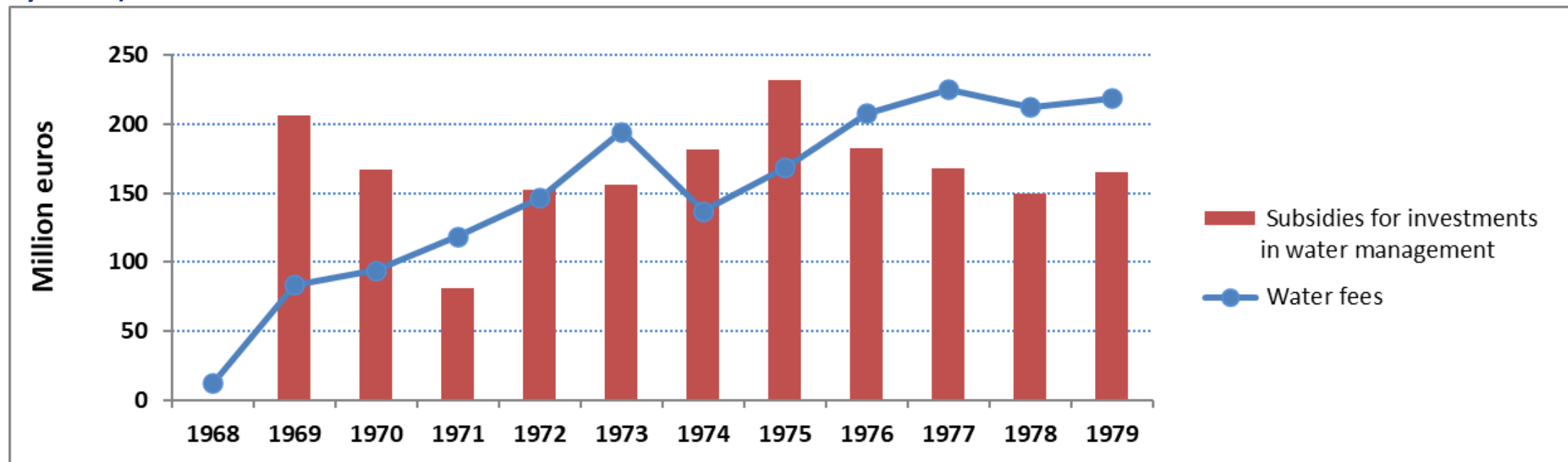


**Almost unanimous
vote of the committee**

Implementing partners:



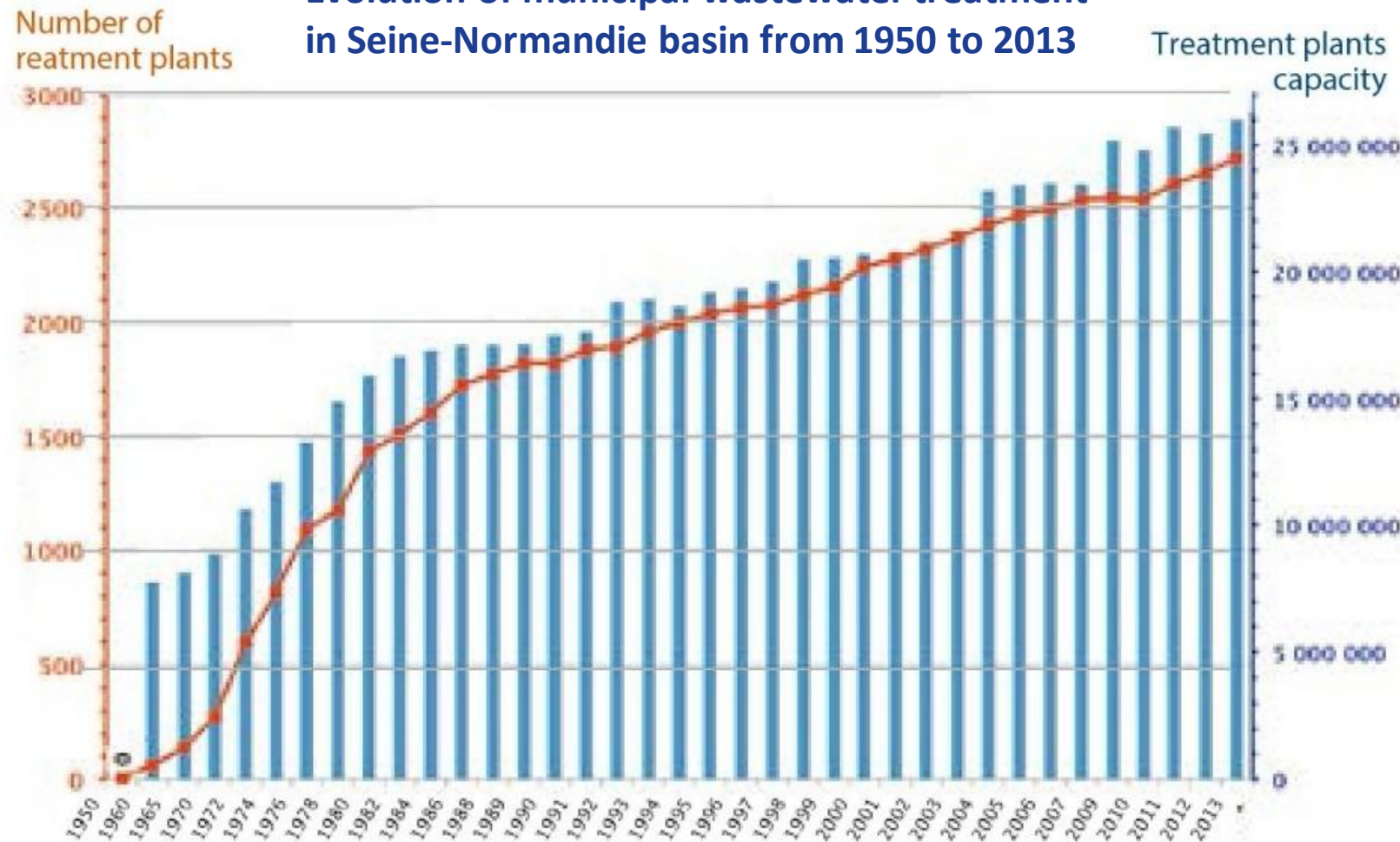
1969-1975: Implementation of the Seine-Normandie Basin Plan RBMP (1st and 2nd cycles)



Implementing partners:

Example of result: construction of wastewater treatment plants

Evolution of municipal wastewater treatment
in Seine-Normandie basin from 1950 to 2013



Implementing partners:



1992: Basin Committees are also called “Water Parliament”

- 33 representatives of Government
- 66 representatives of local authorities
- 66 representatives of water users and NGOs



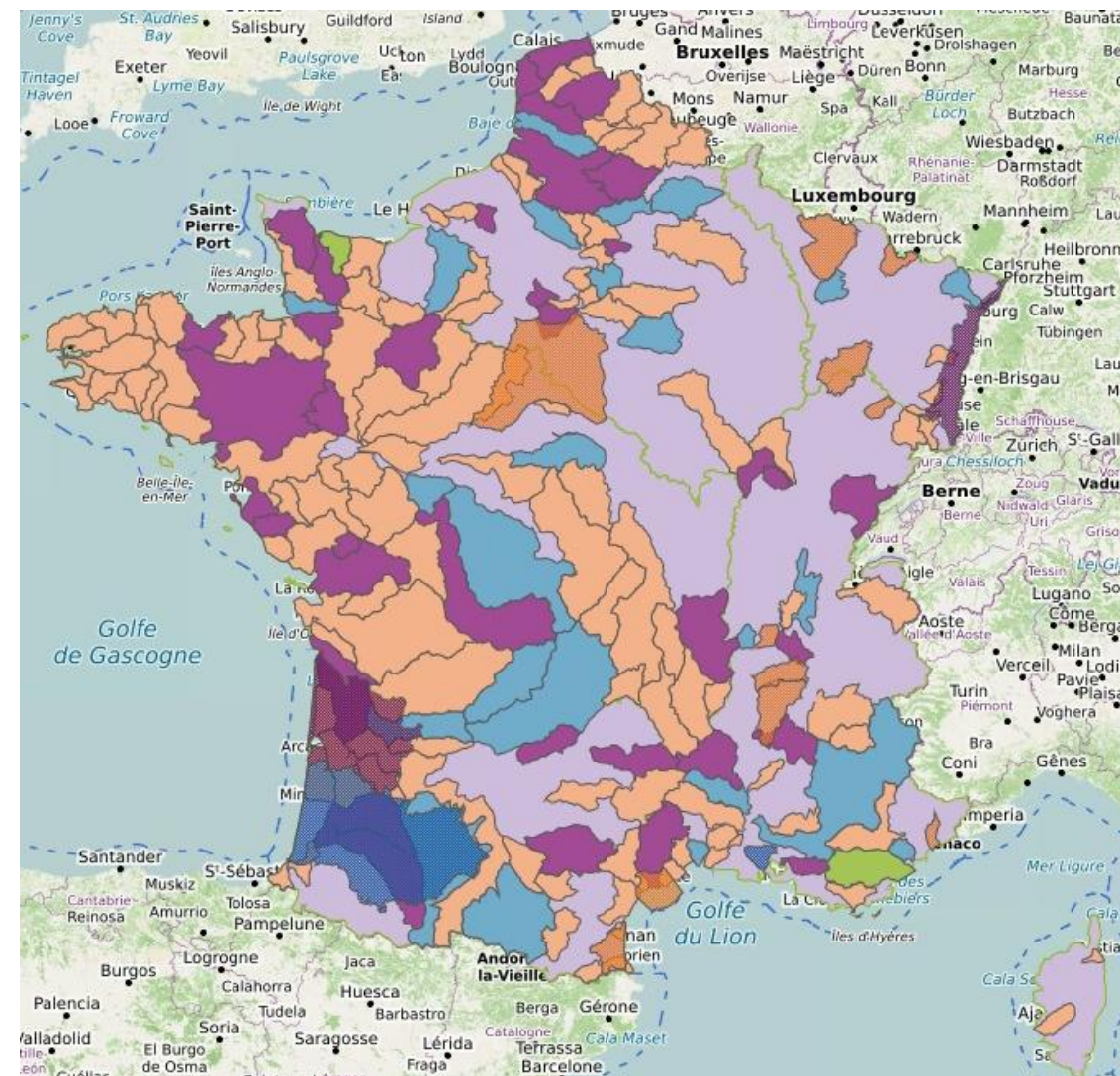


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1992: Sub-Basin Committees (“Local water commissions”) are created at local level

- Creation depending of the situation in each territory
- 208 Local water commissions in 2026
- Elaboration of Sub-Basin Management Plans
- Important participation of Local Self-Government Bodies
- Coherence and complementarity with RBMP



Implementing partners:

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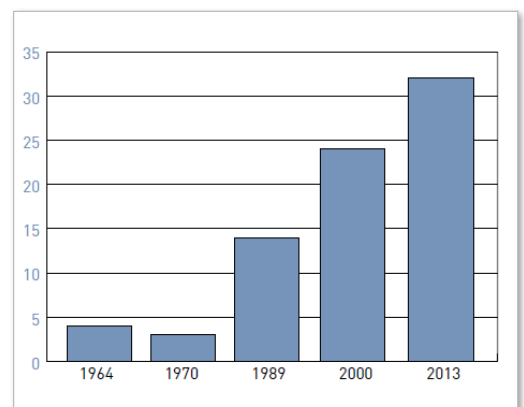
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Example of Result: quality of water in the Seine River



Number of fish species in the Seine River downstream Paris

Les poissons du bassin de la Seine

Espèces continentales naturellement présentes

 Ablette <i>Alburnus alburnus</i> (1)	 Barbeau fluviatile <i>Barbus barbus</i> (1)	 Bouvière <i>Rhodeus amarus</i> (1)	 Brème bordelaise <i>Blicca byerlina</i> (1)
 Brenne commune <i>Alburnus brama</i> (1)	 Brochet <i>Esox lucius</i> (1)	 Chabot <i>Cottus poecilichthys</i> (1)	 Chevaine <i>Squalius cephalus</i> (1)
 Épinoche <i>Gasterosteus gymnaeus</i> (1)	 Épinochette <i>Pungitius laevis</i>	 Gardon <i>Rutilus rutilus</i> (1)	 Goujon <i>Gobio gobio</i> (1)
 Lamproie de planer <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (1)	 Loche de rivière <i>Cobitis taenia</i>	 Loche franche <i>Barbatula barbatula</i> (1)	 Lote <i>Lota lota</i>
 Perche <i>Perca fluviatilis</i> (1)	 Rotengle <i>Scardinus erythrophthalmus</i> (1)	 Spirin <i>Alburnoides bipunctatus</i> (1)	 Tanche <i>Tinca tinca</i> (1)
 Truite fario <i>Salmo trutta fario</i> (1)	 Vairon <i>Phoxinus phoxinus</i> (1)	 Vandoise <i>Leuciscus leuciscus</i> (1)	

Espèces migratrices (eaux marines et continentales) naturellement présentes

 Alose feinte <i>Alosa fallax</i>	 Anguille européenne <i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	 Éperlan <i>Osmerus eperlanus</i>	 Esturgeon européen <i>Acipenser sturio</i> (DISPARU EN SEINE)
 Flet commun <i>Pleuronectes flesus</i>	 Grande alose <i>Alosa alosa</i>	 Lamproie de rivière <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>	 Lamproie marine <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>
 Mulet porc <i>Liza ramada</i> (1)	 Saumon Atlantique <i>Salmo salar</i>	 Truite de mer <i>Salmo trutta trutta</i>	

Espèces introduites par l'Homme

 Able de Heckel <i>Leuciscus deloneatus</i> (1)	 Achigan (black bass) à grande bouche <i>Micropterus salmoides</i>	 Amour blanc <i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i> (1)	 Aspe <i>Aspius aspius</i> (1)
 Blageon <i>Telestes souffia</i> (1)	 Carassin argenté <i>Carassius gibelio</i>	 Carassin commun <i>Carassius carassius</i>	 Carassin doré <i>Carassius auratus</i>
 Carpe argentée <i>Hypophthalmichthys molitrix</i>	 Carpe commune <i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	 Esturgeon de Sibirie <i>Acipenser baeri</i>	
 Gobie à tâches noires <i>Neogobius melanostomus</i> (1)	 Grémille <i>Gymnocephalus cernuus</i> (1)	 Hotu <i>Chondrostoma toxostoma</i> (1)	 Ide mélanote <i>Leuciscus idus</i> (1)
 Loche d'étang <i>Misgurnus fossilis</i>	 Omble de fontaine <i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>	 Ombre commun <i>Thymallus thymallus</i> (1)	 Perche soleil <i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>
 Poisson-chat <i>Ameiurus melas</i>	 Pseudorasbora <i>Pseudorasbora parva</i> (1)	 Sandre <i>Sander lucioperca</i> (1)	 Silure glane <i>Silurus glanis</i> (1)
 Truite arc-en-ciel <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	 Umbre pygmée <i>Umbra pinnacea</i>		

Ce poster d'information a été conçu par la cellule transfert des connaissances du PIREN Seine, en partenariat avec l'Union des Fédérations de Pêche du bassin Seine Normandie et soutenue par l'Agence de l'eau Seine-Normandie et l'EPB Seine Grand Lac, et animée par l'association ARCEAU-IDF.

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Les partenaires du PIREN-Seine



From 2001: The European Water Framework Directive

- Water management by River Basin in all European countries
- Objective of Good Ecological Status for all water bodies in 2015, 2021 or 2027
- Public participation in RBMP implementation
- Cost-recovery principle



International and national river basin districts and sea regions



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River basin organizations and basin planning in Armenia: achievements and bottlenecks

Lilit Abrhamyan, Head of Water Policy Department, Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Armenia

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RIVER basin organizations and basin planning in Armenia: achievements and bottlenecks

Lilit Abrhamyan

Head of Water Policy Department,
Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Armenia

1 July 2026

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Outline

- Water Sector Reforms
- Legal Framework
- Basin Management Organizations
- Status of Development and Implementation of RBMPs
- Key Challenges for Basin Management Organizations
- Public Participation in River Basin Planning



Water Sector Reforms

- Initiated in 1999-2000 with the World Bank-funded IWRM Project
- First generation reforms: 1999-2011
 - Legal framework
 - Institutional framework
 - Introduction of basic principles of IWRM
- Second generation reforms: from 2011
 - Decentralization of water resources management through development, adoption and implementation of river basin management plans
 - Strengthening of institutions, including basin management organisations
 - Financial sustainability
- Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement with EU: 2017
 - Ambitious commitments to reform water policies and implement EU water-related directives

Implementing partners:

Legal Framework

- Water Code, 2002
 - Contains the idea of integrated river basin planning
 - Establishes the need to develop RBMPs
- Law on National Water Policy, 2005
 - Practical application of the principle of integrated river basin management and planning
- Law on National Water Program, 2006
- Formal adoption of River Basin Management Plans by Government Resolutions, since 2016
- Over 200 regulations and by-laws to support the implementation of the Water Code



Implementing partners:

Basin Management Organizations

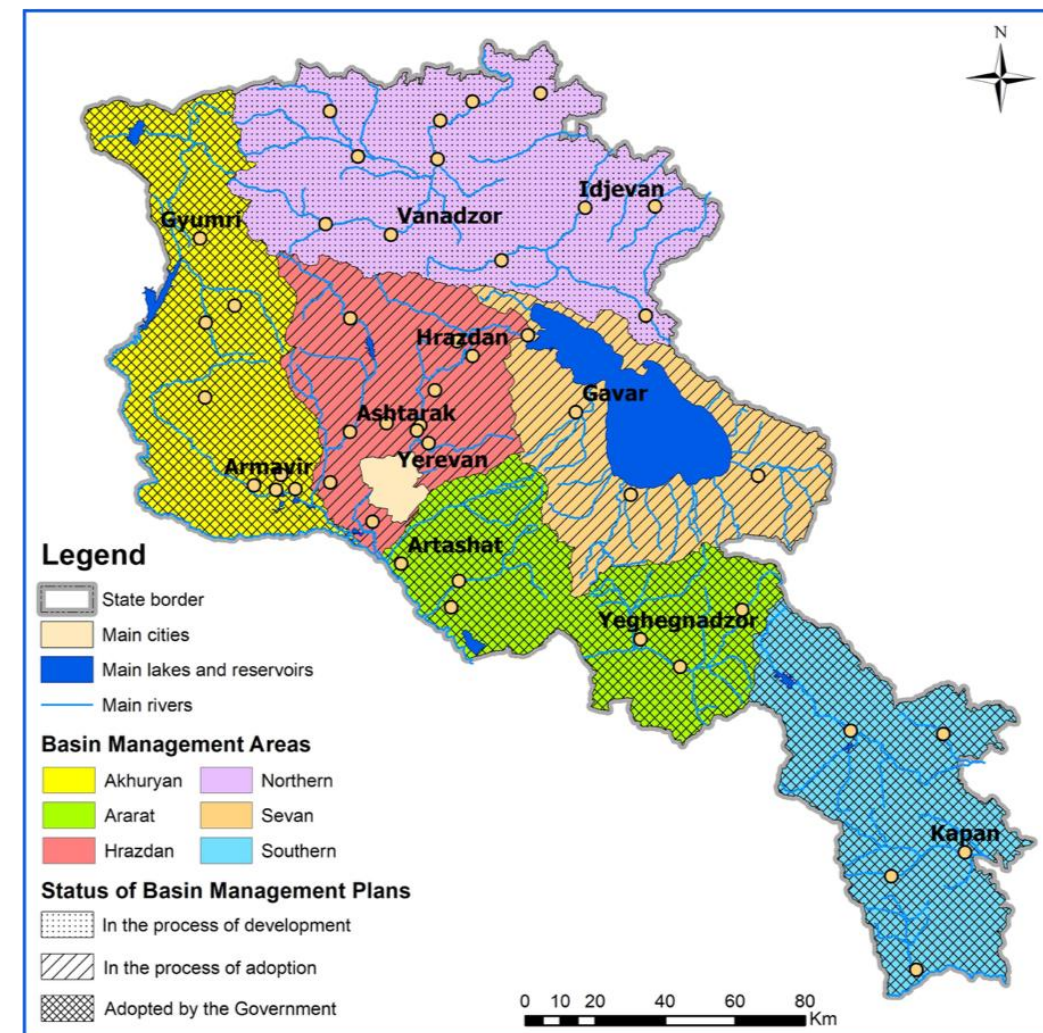
6 BMOs established since 2004:

- Development of river basin management plans,
- Registration of water use permits,
- Ensuring protection of water resources,
- Monitoring of water use permit conditions,
- Definition of water regime,
- Development of water resources allocation plans



Status of development and implementation of river basin management plan

- WFD compliant RBMPs
 - 1 RBMP (Southern RBD) in the **second** cycle of implementation (2025-2030)
 - 2 RBMPs (Sevan RBD, Hrazdan RBD) in the first cycle of implementation (2022-2027)
 - 1 RBMP (Ararat RBD) in the process of official adoption for the **second** cycle (2026-2031)
 - 1 RBMP (Northern RBD) in the process of official adoption for the first cycle (2026-2031)
- Still lot needs to be done to achieve WFD objectives
- Need for institutionalization of implementation mechanisms of RBMPs



Key challenges for basin management organizations

- Despite being operational for almost two decades, BMOs are still very weak and suffer significant lack of human resources.
- In early 2000s, each BMO had 6-7 employees, while currently the average number of BMO employees is 2-3 in each basin (covering on average 5,000 km² of area).
- BMOs are still not perceived as the “water authorities” in the basins, and still face significant challenges in ensuring cross-sectoral coordination at basin level.
- With the official adoption of the RBMPs and increasing role of BMOs in overseeing the implementation of the RBMPs, increasing the number of staff, budget and their capacities is of utmost importance.
- As a result of “weak” BMOs, the linkage and coordination among government agencies and key water use sectors of the economy at the basin scale is very weak and within the current institutional framework this role is largely absent.

Implementing partners:

Public participation in river basin planning

- There are no basin public councils, to foster public participation in each of the six basins and to facilitate a voice for water users and water companies regarding water use permitting and water resources planning and management.
- Over the period of 2003-2005 the Northern public basin council was established with the support of USAID “Water Management in the South Caucasus” project, but later on become inoperational due to absence of funding.
- At this stage the water users have very limited involvement in decision making at basin scale, despite the fact that they are involved in key stages of RBMP development (significant water management issues and draft program of measures).
- There is a need to develop clear procedures that would include instruments for encouragement of active involvement of public in development of RBMPs, which will result in that the plans will have public support, thus at the same time ensuring the public support for the “willingness-to-pay” for implementation of the plan.

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Frumoasa-Crihana Sub-basin

Victoria Gratii, State secretary, Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova

Implementing partners:



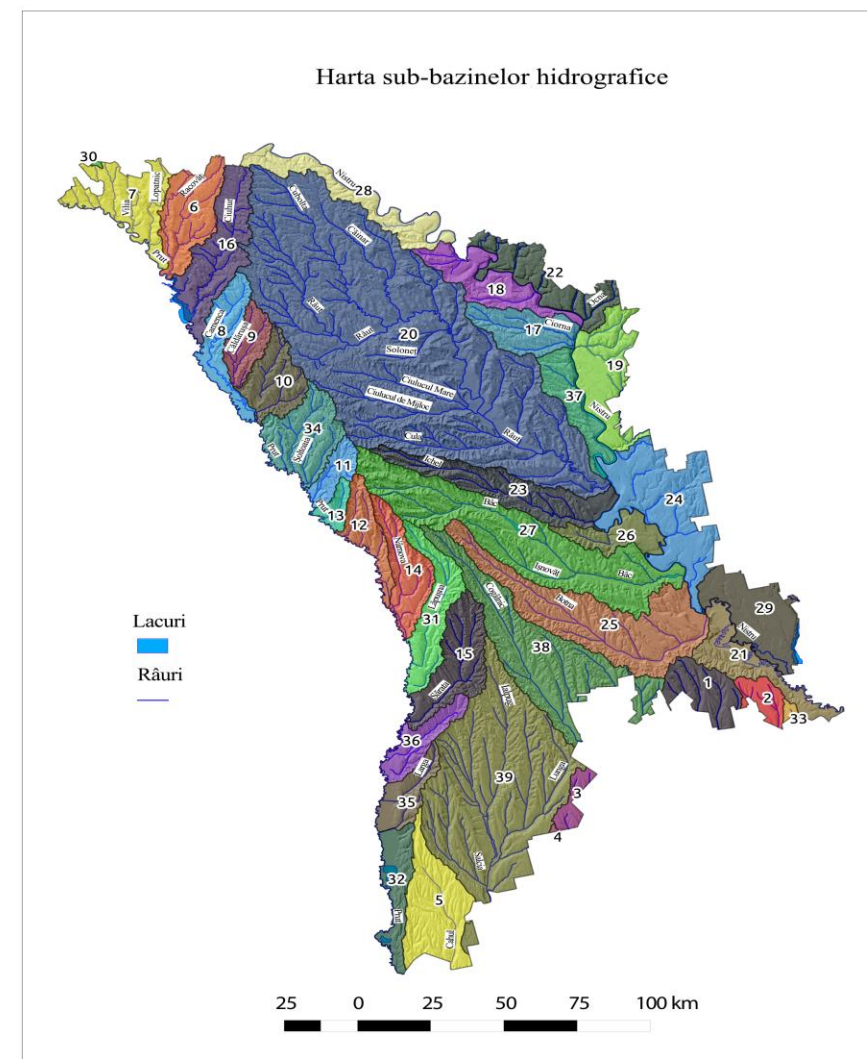


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VICTORIA GRATII STATE SECRETARY MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

01 JULY 2026, PARIS



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Hydrographic Sub-bazine of the river Frumoasa-Crihana, Moldova

- Legal base: Law on water nr 272, 23.12.2011 (amendments from 2017 included the establishment of the sub-basin committees);
- Sub-basin committee established on 21 December 2018 by National Environmental Centre and transferred the secretariat to PA EcoContact;
- The Management Plan of the Hydrographic Sub-basin Frumoasa-Crihana was developed in 2022 (for 2022-2027).



Implementing partners:

Support for strengthening the administrative framework and further management of the Frumoasa-Crihana Sub-River Basin Committee

- 6 Meetings of the Frumoasa Crihana Sub-Hydrographic Basin Committee
- Round tables and field visit to identify measures to unclog Beleu Lake



Legal and mediation support to ensure good governance in the RBPF and the Frumoasa-Crihana Sub-basin

- ✓ Local meetings on the identification of environmental problems and legal assistance needs;
- ✓ Notification to competent authorities on the prevention of environmental pollution;
- ✓ Development of the Guide on Strategic Environmental Litigation



Piloting climate change resilience activities prioritized based on the Program of Measures of the Frumoasa – Crihana Sub-Hydrographic Basin Management Plan

Creation of a forest strip and sanitation of the land adjacent to the garbage dump in the village of Vadul lui Isac,



Cahul district
Creation of an agro-forestry strip in the village of Andrușul de Jos, Cahul district



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Basin councils in Ukraine

Viktor Kantsurak, Deputy Head of the State Agency of Water Resources of Ukraine

Implementing partners:

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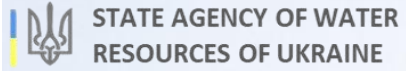
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Basin Councils in Ukraine

Viktor Kantsurak
Deputy Head of the State Agency
of Water Resources of Ukraine



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In total, there are 9 river basin districts (RBDs) in Ukraine. 7 RBDs are transboundary, 3 RBDs are shared with EU countries (Vistula, Danube, Dniester). The basins of the Southern Bug and the Crimean rivers are entirely located within Ukraine.

2 RBDs are completely occupied (Crimean rivers and Azov Sea rivers) and 3 are partially occupied (Don, Dniro, and Black Sea rivers)*.

9173 surface water bodies (SWBs):



5164 rivers

32 coastal waters

85 lakes

3630 HMMBs**

44 transitional waters

28 AWBs**



173 groundwater bodies (GWBs)

MAIN FEATURES



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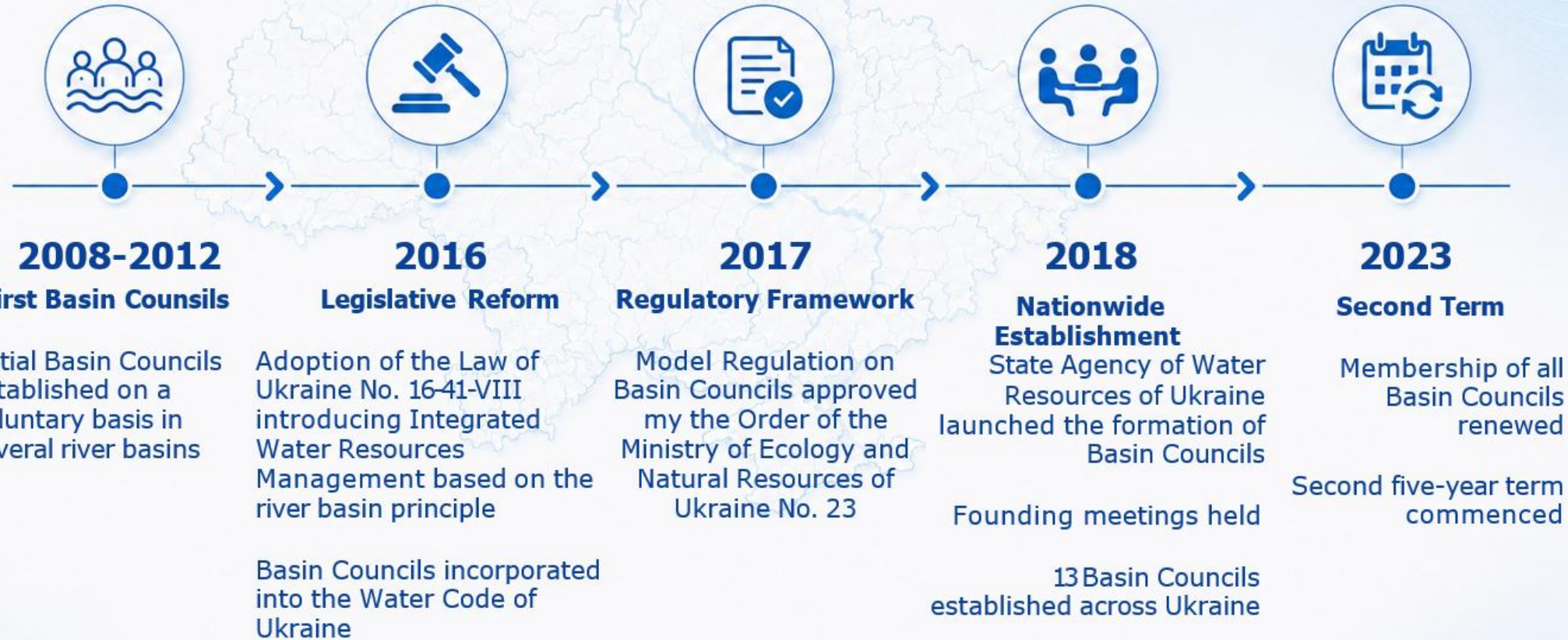
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LEGAL FRAMEWORK ESTABLISHMENT OF BASIN COUNCILS



Implementing partners:



WHAT ARE BASIN COUNCILS?

Basin Councils are a platform for coordinated actions in river basin management, bringing together the interests of all stakeholders (water users, the public, scientists and authorities)

MAIN TASKS



ENSURE COORDINATION

and harmonization of interests of stakeholders in water resources management at the basin level



REVIEW AND ENDORSE

River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs)



AGREE ON PROGRAMMES OF MEASURES

for protection from the adverse effects of water



PARTICIPATE

in the development of water policy



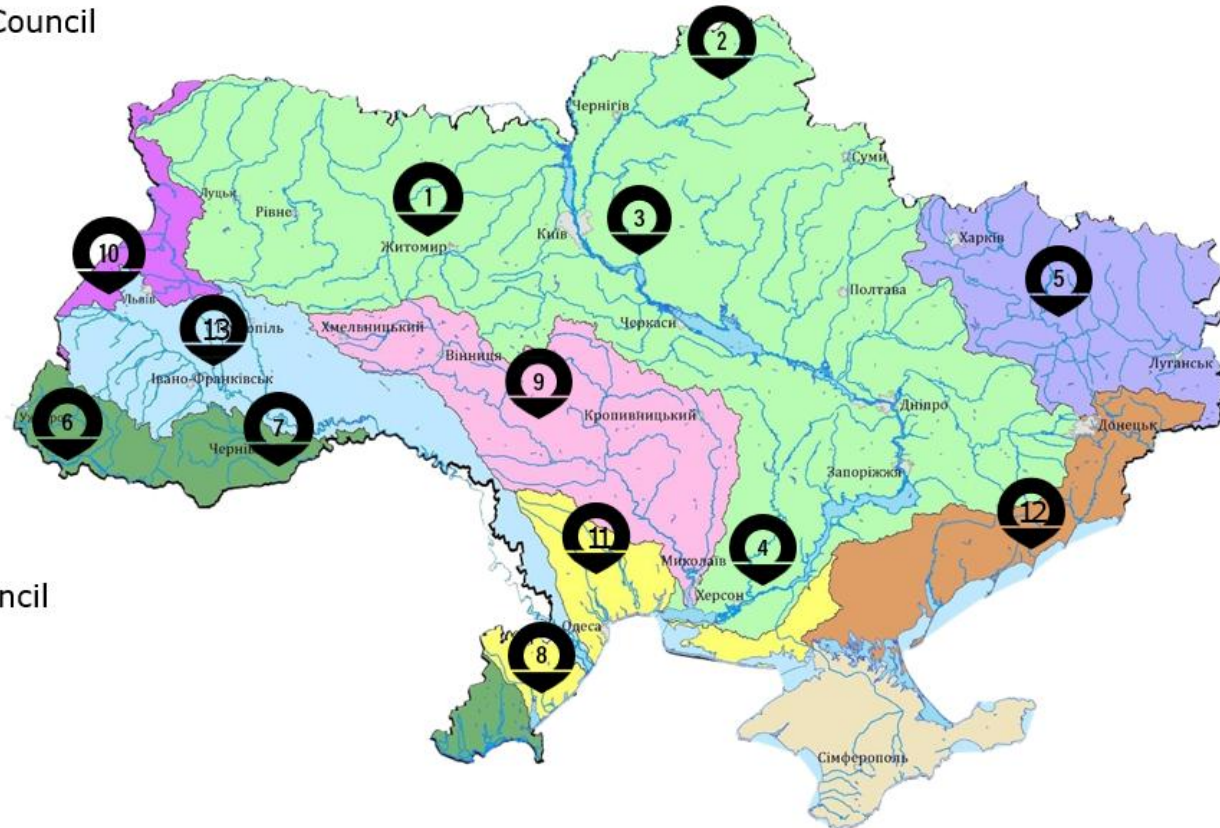
CONTRIBUTE TO DECISION-MAKING

on river basin (sub-basin) management to achieve good water status



BASIN COUNCILS IN UKRAINE

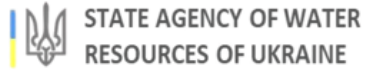
- 1 Prypiat River Basin Council
- 2 Desna and Upper Dnipro River Basin Council
- 3 Middle Dnipro River Basin Council
- 4 Lower Dnipro River Basin Council
- 5 Siverskyi Donets River Basin Council
- 6 Tisza River Basin Council
- 7 Prut and Siret River Basin Council
- 8 Lower Danube River Basin Council
- 9 Southern Bug River Basin Council
- 10 Western Bug and San River Basin Council
- 11 Black Sea Rivers Basin Council
- 12 Azov Sea Rivers Basin Council
- 13 Dniester River Basin Council





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9
river basin
districts



12
river basin
authorities



13
river basin
councils



588
council
members

LARGEST BASIN COUNCILS

(by number of members)



Dniester River Basin Council

86
members



Middle Dnipro River Basin Council

84
members



Lower Dnipro River Basin Council

82
members



Southern Bug River Basin Council

73
members

SMALLEST BASIN COUNCILS

(by number of members)



Tisza River
Basin Council

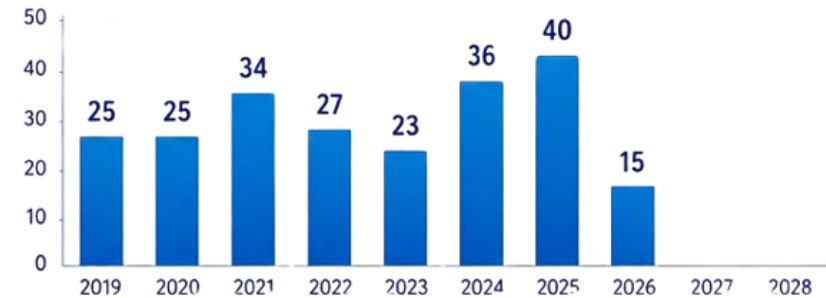
13
members



Lower Danube River
Basin Council

12
members

NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD



TOTAL: **225** MEETINGS



Basin Councils bring together a diverse group of stakeholders.
Water users account for **at least 30%** of the membership.



Basin Councils provide a continuous platform for dialogue
and cooperation for sustainable water management.

Implementing partners:



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KEY CHALLENGES



Frequent turnover of
members due to war-
related migration and
displacement



Maintaining long-
term stakeholders
engagement

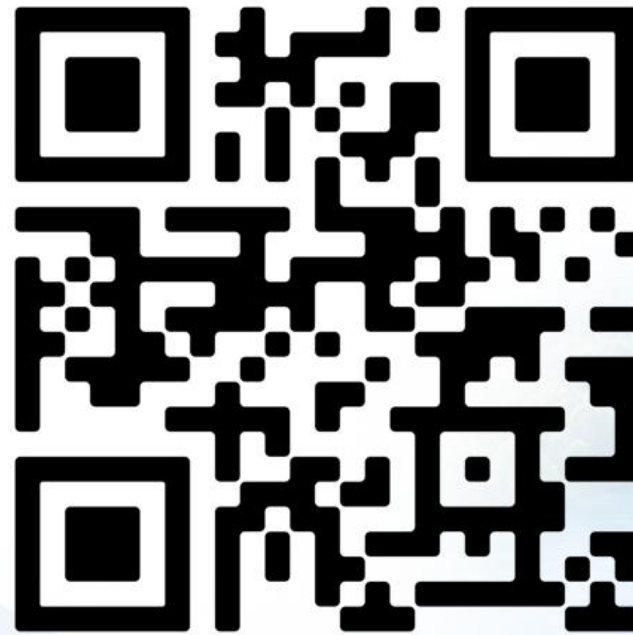


Limited influence
resulting from
the advisory nature of
Basin Councils



STATE AGENCY OF WATER
RESOURCES OF UKRAINE

CONTACT INFORMATION



Implementing partners:

umweltbundesamt^U
ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AUSTRIA

EXPERTISE
FRANCE
GROUPE AFD

OiEau
International Office
for Water

OECD
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

UNEP
UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM

UNIDO
UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

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Regional comparison and discussions

Yannick Pochon, OiEau

Implementing partners:

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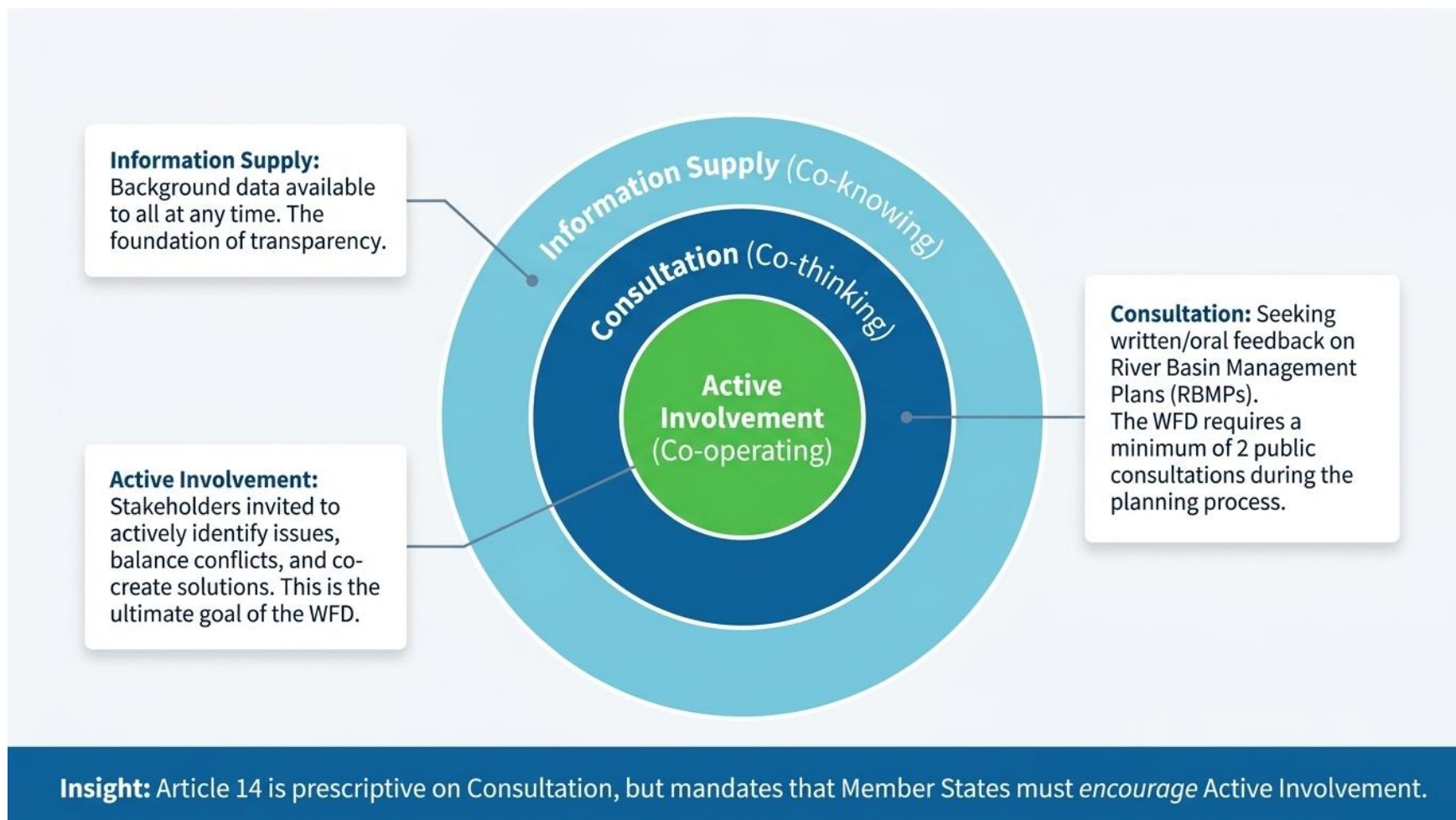


CONTENTS

- WFD requirements
- Situation in Countries
- Benefits and challenges of Stakeholders engagement
- Assessing well-functioning Stakeholders engagement
- Discussion
- Way ahead



WFD REQUIREMENTS



Anatomy of a River Basin Organisation



A Basin Council without an efficient, fully funded Secretariat is an engine without fuel.
Both are required to constitute a functional River Basin Organisation (RBO).

Some Benefits of engaging stakeholders?



- **Developing a shared vision:** Water management cycles are long. Build-up on the steps and understanding of the RBMPs.
- **Improved RBMPs preparation and decision-making quality:** Shared knowledge, scientific evidence, direct experiences...



- **Increased transparency and legitimacy:** A well-organized participatory approach opens up a wide dialogue between the public, interest groups, and authorities, making the decision-making process more transparent, inclusive, and legitimate.
- **Proactive conflict resolution:** Early interaction and discussion among managers and stakeholders, potential conflicts identified and resolved.



- **Smoother and more effective implementation:** Building consensus and understanding reduces the likelihood of litigation, misunderstandings, and delays. Ownership of measures!
- **Greater public acceptance and awareness:** whole population to appropriate the analyses, approaches, and decisions. Create a sense of "ownership" and commitment toward RBMPs objectives



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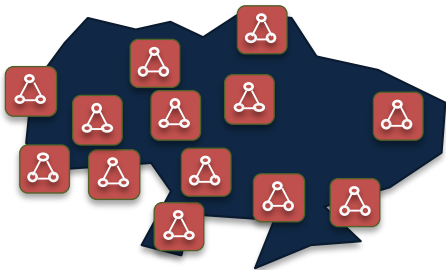
Water Governance Benchmarks: Comparing Basin Management across the EaP and France

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Evaluating the institutional framework for water management across Armenia, Moldova, Ukraine, and France. It highlights the disparity between established geographical basin districts and the functional committees required for participatory water governance.

Institutional Framework & Governance

**Ukraine leads
in institutional
volume with
13 committees**

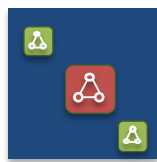


Ukraine manages 9 basin districts with 13 committees, the highest count among the compared countries.

**France and Moldova
maintain a 1:1
management ratio**



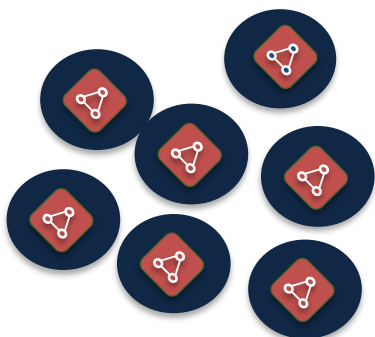
France



Moldova

Both nations align one committee to each basin district and sub-basin committees also exist.

**Armenia faces a
governance gap
with zero active
committees but
has BMOs**

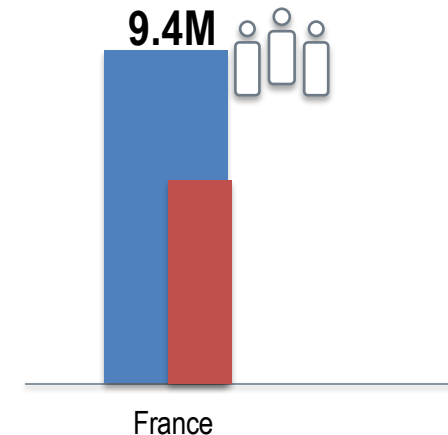


While 6 basin districts are defined, no active committees exist to facilitate stakeholder engagement.

Jurisdictional Scale and Density

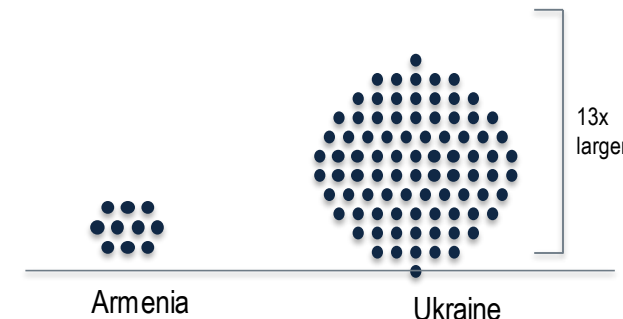
France manages on average 9.4 million people per basin district

This represents the highest population density per management unit among the four countries.



Ukraine's districts are 13x larger than Armenia's

Ukrainian basin districts average 67,060 km², requiring significantly more resources for effective monitoring.

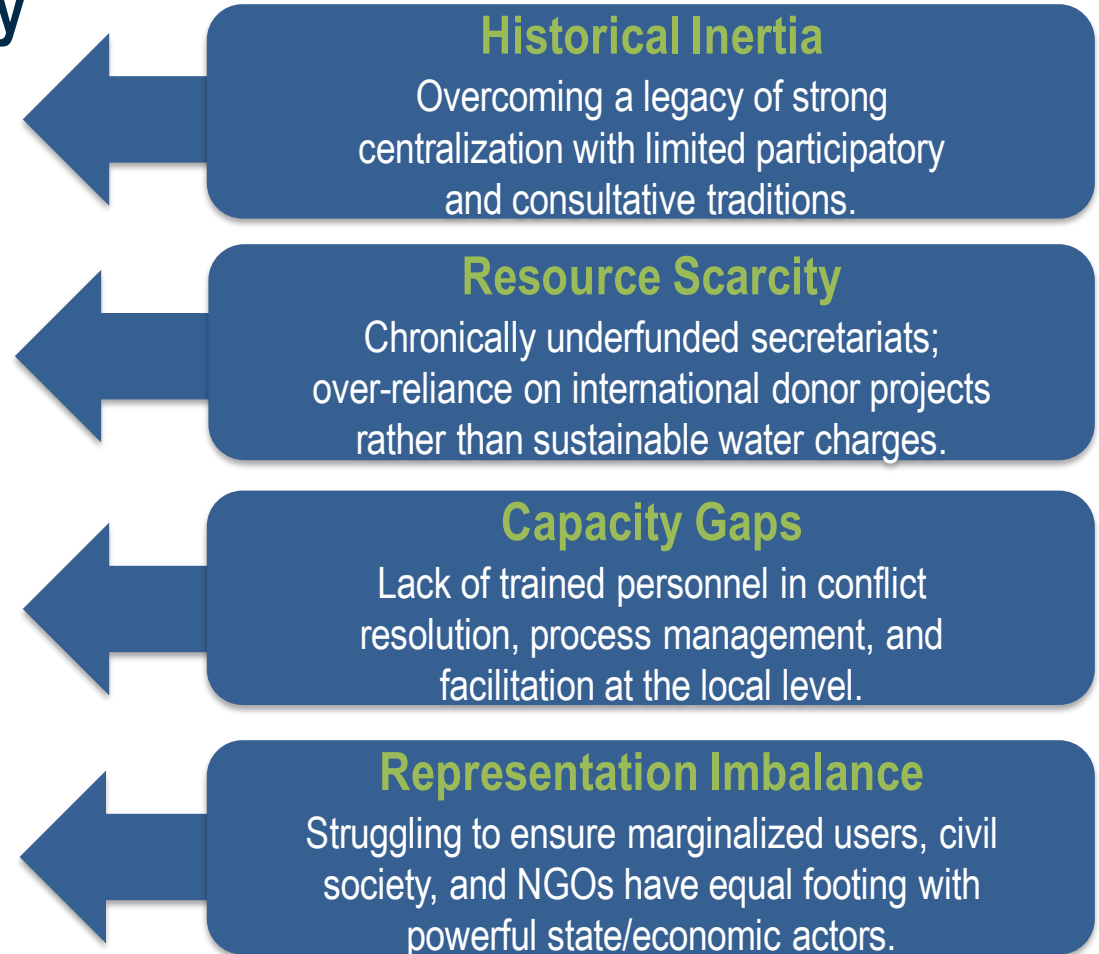
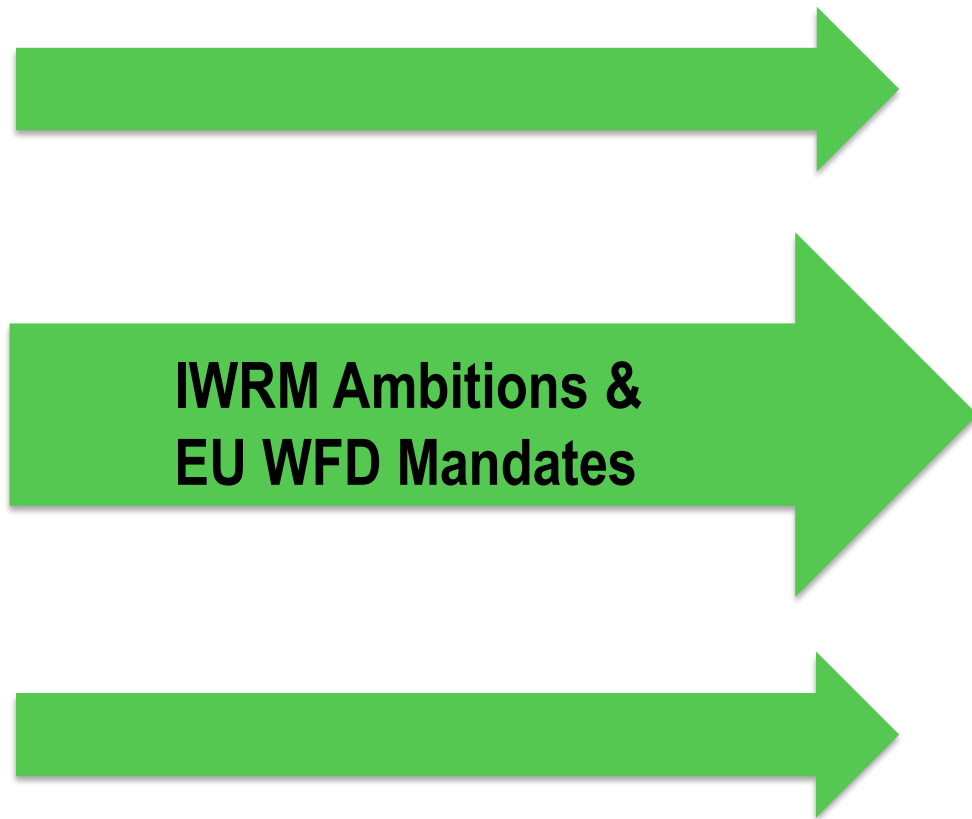


EaP Basin District Scale & Demographics

Country	Basin Districts	Avg. Surface per District	Avg. Population per District
Armenia	6	4,957 km ²	465,167
Moldova	2	16,885 km ²	1,307,500
Ukraine	9	67,060 km ²	4,454,652

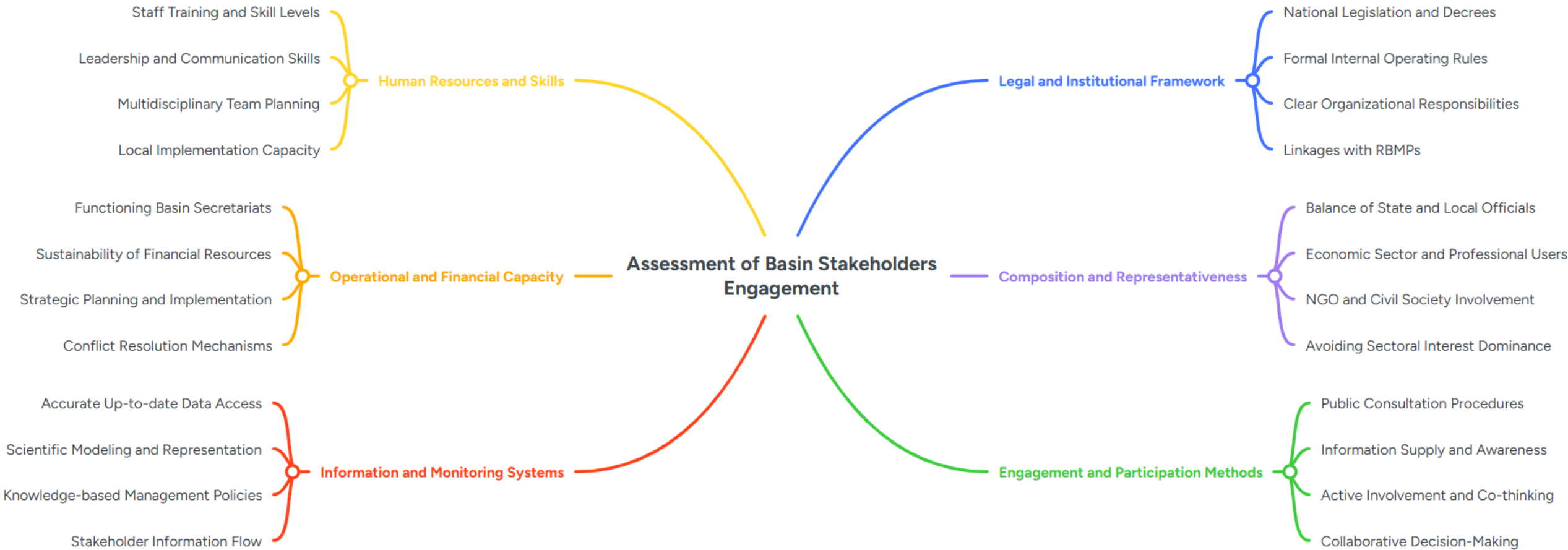
Governance and Implementation Challenges

Current Reality



Implementing partners:

Criteria for ASSESSMENT of BC / SE





Diagnostic Criteria for Well-Functioning Councils

Derived from EU4Environment Water and Data

1. Legal & Institutional

- ✓ Is the mandate guaranteed by national law?
- ✓ Are internal rules formalized?
- ✓ Is there clear coordination with State Agencies?

2. Composition

- ✓ Is there balanced representation (State vs. Economic vs. Civil)?
- ✓ Is the selection process transparent?
- ✓ Are marginalized groups effectively included?

3. Operationality

- ✓ Are there a minimum of 2 meetings per year?
- ✓ Have a minimum of 2 RBMP public consultations been held?
- ✓ Are accessible data platforms and registries maintained?

4. Financial

- ✓ Is there dedicated sustainable funding (e.g., ear-marked taxes)?
- ✓ Are budgets independent of short-term donor cycles?
- ✓ Are there adequate premises and IT infrastructure?

Implementing partners:



FURTHER SUPPORT FROM EU4GRE

- Finalisation of Countries assessments
- Training needs analysis
- Implementation of Pilot Basins activities
- Lessons learned and regional note



Questions and DISCUSSIONS

- Success stories from the audience?
- How can Basin Councils contribute to RBMP implementation?
- What support do Basin Council & Secretariats need?

Implementing partners:



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Thank you for your attention



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