



European
Commission

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**Water in the cities
European Legislation**

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Water in the cities

- Facts
- Challenges
- Solutions
- EU Action:
 - Water acquis
 - Water blueprint
 - 7th EAP
 - Green infrastructure
 - Climate change adaptation
- Conclusion



Water in the cities - Facts

- More than half of the global population lives in urban areas
- By 2025, 2/3 of global population will concentrate in urban areas
- Global urban water consumption will double by 2025
- More than 75% of EU citizens live in urban areas
- 20% of the total freshwater abstracted in the EU supplies public water systems
- Leakages in water infrastructure cause water losses ranging between 7% and 50% accross the EU
- Only 20% of public water supply is actually consumed – 80% returns to the environment, primarily as treated waste water
- Soil sealing in cities causes rainwater to mix with waste water in sewer networks
- Climate change is expected to affect availability of water and induce water related disasters
- Increased droughts cause increased competition for water between cities and surrounding agriculture and industry

Water in the cities - Challenges

- Proper investment in water infrastructure to ensure high quality sanitation and drinking water services
- Innovative technologies for waste and drinking water infrastructure
- Reduction of leakages
- Stimulate separate collection of rain/waste water – promote green infrastructure
- Explore possibilities for water re-use
- Smart water pricing to incite sustainable water use
- Incite water saving household appliances (dish-washers, washing machines, shower/toilet systems)
- Make cities climate change resilient:
 - Flood protection
 - Water storage
 - Storm water management

Solutions: an integrated approach

Solutions require:

- an integrated approach to urban resources management:
 - Involving all key players: different governance levels, stakeholders and the public
 - Considering the entire water cycle: from sources to supply and discharge
 - Assessing the whole portfolio of water sources: surface water, groundwater, rain water, storm water, waste water, grey water, drinking water
 - Integrate water management in urban planning
- e.g. Design '**Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDs)**'
 - => will lead to reduced inflows of relatively clean rainwater in collection/treatment systems allowing more resource efficient handling of real polluted waste water
 - => will reduce storm water overflow risks
- A mix of policy tools:
 - Legislation, Funding, Pricing, Awareness raising, Innovation, etc



EU action

- A strong EU water acquis
- Water Blueprint
- 7th Environmental Action Programme
- Regional policy and cohesion funding
- Policies on green infrastructure, climate change adaptation, regional policy, etc
- Response to the ECI'Right2Water'

The EU Water acquis

Relevant pieces are:

- **Water Framework Directive**
 - Achieve good ecological status by 2015 by means of RBMP's
 - Advice to include measures on efficiency, water re-use and water efficient technologies in POM's
- **Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive:**
 - Obligations to adequately collect and treat generated waste water
 - Reinforced treatment of water in sensitive areas
- **Drinking Water Directive:**
 - Ensure safe and wholesome drinking water for the protection of human health
- **Groundwater Directive:**
 - Protection of groundwater against pollution; groundwater being a key resource for drinking water and industry



Water Blueprint

- Taking stock of and planning action for EU water protection
- Result of collective effort involving all key players (MS, stakeholders, NGO's, scientists, EP, etc)
- Calls for reinforced action to meet water policy goals by improving policy **implementation**, policy **integration** and **fill** policy **gap**
- Milestone in relation to the EU 2020 strategy, particular the Roadmap to a more Resource Efficient Europe

Water Blueprint: improve implementation

⇒ Improve implementation by 'carrot and stick approach'

⇒ Support action such as:

- ⇒ Investment planning and structural funding: Development of implementation programmes for urban waste water management; about 14 billion available funding for water industry under cohesion policy for 2014-2020 => **strong connection with regional and cohesion funding policy**
- ⇒ Promotion of metering and guidance on cost-recovery calculation
- ⇒ Best practice document on addressing leakages in water infrastructure
- ⇒ Stimulation of innovation through the Innovation Partnership of Waters
- ⇒ Tools for improved data processing and dissemination towards the public (SIIF's)

⇒ Enforcement action when political pressure/support action fails

Water Blueprint: policy integration/fill gaps

- Water policies must be more **integrated** into other policy areas:
 - Guidance document on natural **water retention measures**, for endorsement of Water Directors next week => mainly for agriculture, includes as well recommendations on urban drainage
 - Better integration of water management in the cohesion policy (funding) => comments were provided on PA's and OP's for regional funding to strengthen water management priorities.
- **Fill gaps: two areas identified:**
 - Water efficiency in buildings
=> Eco-design Directive: to make products such as taps and showers more water and energy efficient
 - Foster water re-use:
=> address public fears and alleviating pressure in water stressed areas by promoting water re-use.
=> public consultation closed on 7th November; responses being analysed



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7th EAP

- Includes a priority objective to enhance sustainability of the Union's cities
- Calls for integrated approaches to enhance sustainability of Union cities, requiring, among others:
 - Agreeing on a set of criteria to assess environmental performance of cities
 - Ensuring access to financing for measures to improve urban sustainability
 - Sharing of best practices on innovative and sustainable urban development
 - Integration of urban planning, considering objectives in relation to, among others, water management and human health
- Policy support tools include the EIP on smart cities and communities and the research Joint Programming Initiative Urban Europe
- Confirms the requirement to fully implement the Water Blueprint

Climate change / Green infrastructure

- The EU strategy on climate change adaptation recognised the need to make cities resilient to risks
- COM published a guidance on developing and implementing urban adaptation strategies
- Guidance is being prepared on disaster prevention
- Sustainable integrated water management in and around cities makes cities resilient for main risks, such as floods and drought
- Green Infrastructure such as parks, green spaces, green roofs, etc are essential parts for an integrated urban water management
- The Commission and the EIB are looking at a number of options to establish a financing facility to support GI projects



ECI'Right2Water': Commission response

- The Commission recognises that access to safe drinking water and sanitation is essential for life and human dignity and an adequate standard of living
- The Commission commits to take concrete steps to further improve access to high quality sanitation and drinking water services:
 - Reinforce implementation of water quality legislation, building on the 7th EAP and Water Blueprint
 - Launch an EU wide consultation on the EU drinking water policy
=> consultation finished on 23/9/2014; responses being analysed
 - Explore the idea of benchmarking of water quality and services
=> an *ad hoc* stakeholder dialogue took place in September, further action being reflected upon
 - Stimulate innovative approaches for development assistance
 - Advocate universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation as a priority area for future Sustainable Development Goals

=> These action will also contribute in safeguarding further improve access to high quality services in urban areas and share our experiences with urban policy makers in developing countries

Conclusions

- Population growth and climate change risks lead to important challenges for sustainable water management in cities
- Continued investments in infrastructure are essential to ensure that basic requirements of the UWWTD and DWD are met for the next generations
 - => innovative solutions to increase resource efficiency
 - => tackle important problems such as leakages
- Integrated urban water management is essential to safeguard high quality sanitation and drinking water services in cities and make our cities climate change resilient.
 - => explore the idea of SuDs
 - => make water management part of integrated urban planning, including GI solutions
- Explore funding opportunities to the fullest to design and implement integrated water management, including development of innovative technologies (cohesion funding, EIB,...)



Thank you for your attention