

The challenge of providing adequate sanitation and waste water treatment in rural regions



Earth Forever
Living for the Future

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18 March 2010, Sofia

Our waters

Multitude of uses, aspirations, pressures and impacts on our groundwaters and surface waters



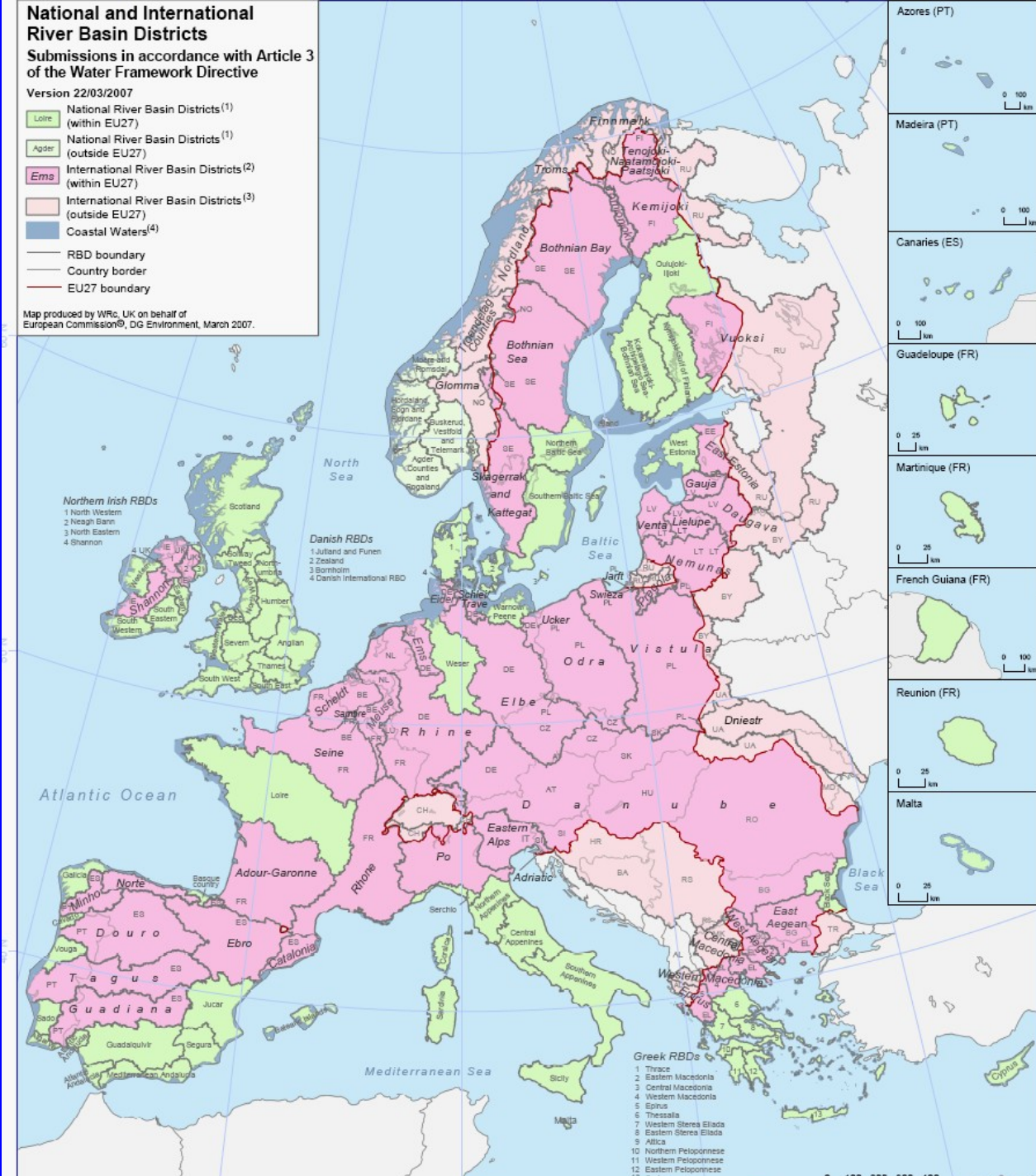
National and International River Basin Districts

Submissions in accordance with Article 3 of the Water Framework Directive

Version 22/03/2007

- Loire** National River Basin Districts⁽¹⁾ (within EU27)
 - Agder** National River Basin Districts⁽¹⁾ (outside EU27)
 - Elms** International River Basin Districts⁽²⁾ (within EU27)
 - International River Basin Districts⁽³⁾ (outside EU27)
 - Coastal Waters⁽⁴⁾**
- RBD boundary
— Country border
— EU27 boundary

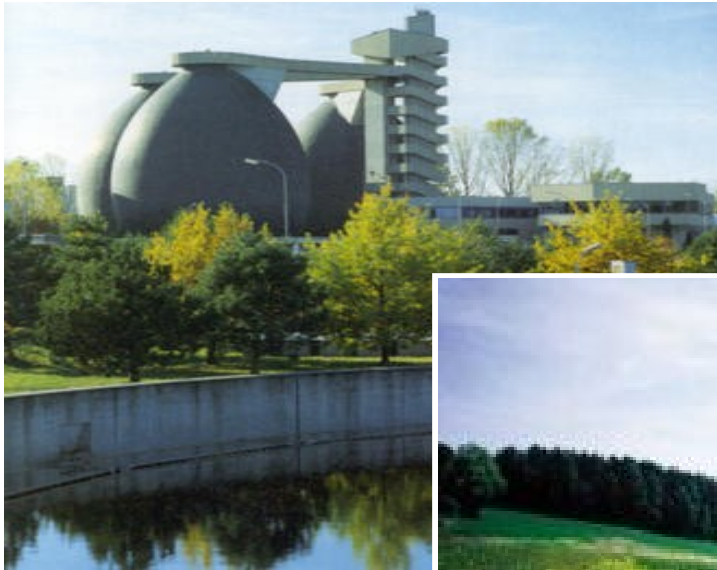
Map produced by WRc, UK on behalf of European Commission®, DG Environment, March 2007.



Diversity of regions and their waters



Diversity in sanitation



EU policy instruments for protection and management of water resources



Adequate sanitation

- **is a health and disease prevention requirement**
- **Is an environmental requirement**
- **Is a social requirement for well-being of citizens and development of business activities at all levels**



Key elements of EU water law and policy

- **Waste water collection and treatment in all settlement areas >2000 inhabitants ('agglomerations')**
Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive 1991
- **Good water quality for all our waters as a rule by 2015**
Water Framework Directive 2000
- **EU funding instruments: *cohesion policy, rural development policy***
- **Both environmental legislation and funding instruments establish objectives, but not prescribe technologies or approaches (e.g. 'decentralised vs de-centralised'), and thus allow tailored solutions.**

Overview and complete texts at

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/index_en.htm (environmental policy)

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/index_en.htm (agricultural policy)

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/offi_en.htm (cohesion policy)



Water Framework Directive

- **Protection of all waters (rivers, lakes, coastal waters and groundwaters)**
- **Obligation to achieve good water quality as a rule by 2015; values on nitrate in groundwater = drinking water value**
- **Plans and programmes for achieving good quality due by Dec 2009**
- **Information and consultation of citizens, local municipalities, NGOs mandatory for the development of the plans and programmes**



Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive

- **applies to settlement areas >2000 inhabitants*)**
- **minimum standards for waste water treatment**
- **fully flexible on the means to achieve the objective, thus open to - and encouraging - innovation and alternative solutions**
- **alternative solutions to centralised sewerage systems permitted even within in urban settlement areas, if same level of environmental protection is achieved**

*) smaller settlement areas covered by the objective of the Water Framework Directive ('good quality for all waters, as a rule by 2015')



EU Funding Instruments

- **Cohesion Fund Regulation (EC) 1084/2006;**
- **European Regional Development Fund Regulation (EC) 1080/2006;**
- **(Joint) Strategic Guidelines on Cohesion 2006/702/EC**
- **Rural Development Fund Regulation (EC) 1698/2005**
- **Strategic Guidelines Rural Development 2006/144/EC**



Rural Development

Rural Development Regulation

Article 30: Infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry
Support provided for in Article 20(b)(v), may cover notably operations related to access to farm and forest land, land consolidation and improvement, energy supply and water management.

Rural Development Strategic Guidelines

- “ Improving the environment and the countryside“
- “ Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy“
- “ Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy“



Cohesion Policy (1)

Cohesion Fund Regulation

Article 2: Scope of assistance

1. Assistance from the Fund shall be given to actions in the following areas, ensuring an appropriate balance, and according to the investment and infrastructure needs specific to each Member State receiving assistance:

.....

(b) the environment within the priorities assigned to the Community environmental protection policy under the policy and action programme on the environment. In this context, the Fund may also intervene in areas related to sustainable development which clearly present environmental benefits ...



Cohesion Policy (2)

Strategic Guidelines

“Making Europe and its regions more attractive places in which to invest and work“

One of the preconditions for growth and jobs is to ensure that the necessary infrastructure (e.g. transport, environment, energy) is available to businesses. A modern and secure infrastructure is an important factor in the performance of many enterprises, affecting the economic and social attractiveness of regions and cities. Infrastructure investment in regions that are lagging behind, especially in the new Member States, will encourage growth and thus reinforce convergence with the rest of the Union as well as improving quality of life.

“Strengthen the synergies between environmental protection and growth“

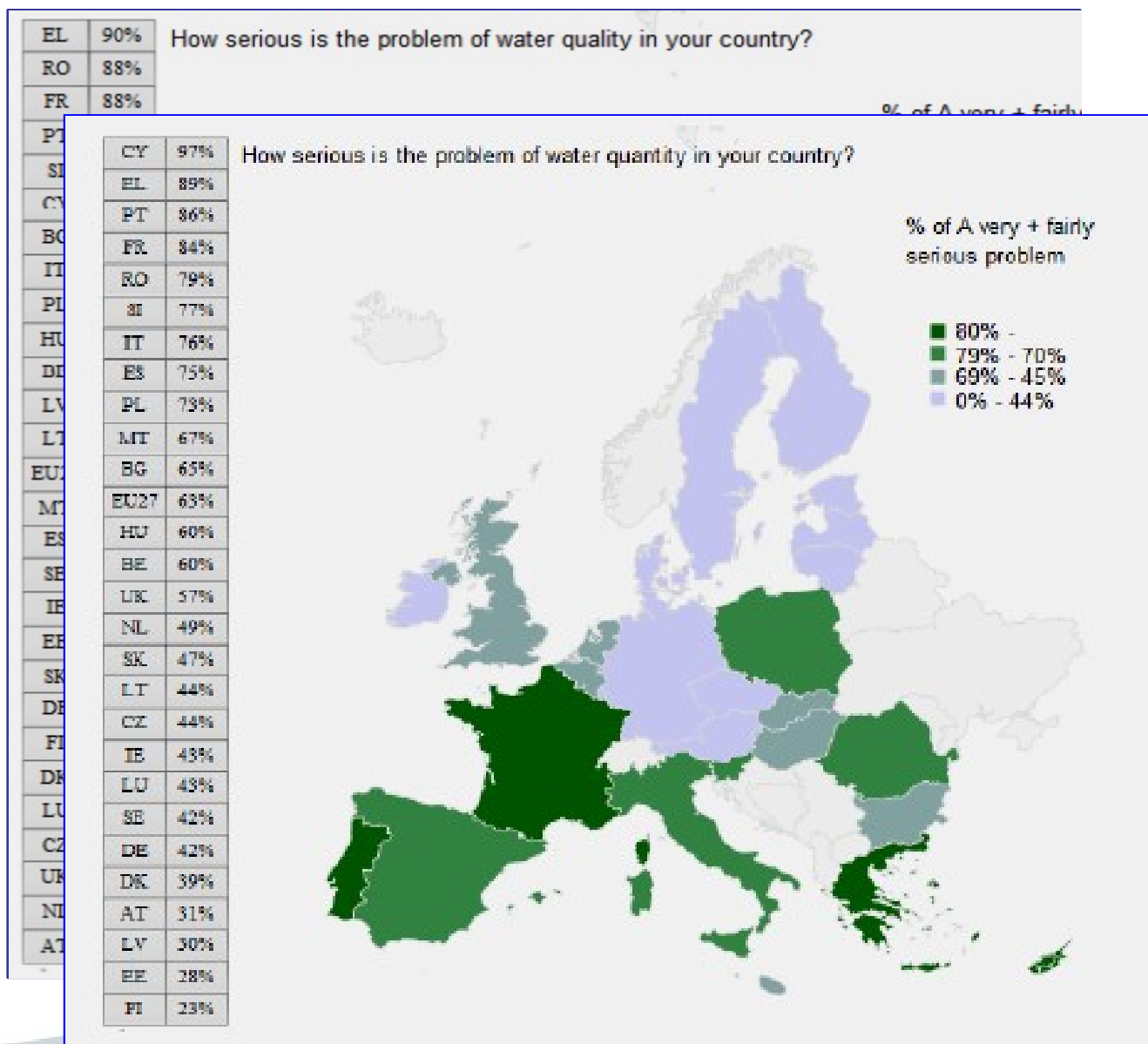
Environmental investments can contribute to the economy in three ways: ... ensure long-term sustainability of economic growth, decrease external environmental costs to the economy (e.g. health costs, clean-up costs or damage recovery) and ... stimulate innovation and job creation. ... The provision of environmental services such as clean water supplies, waste and waste-water treatment infrastructures, ... should all have high priority in this context



Water: The opinion of citizens

Water quality; Water quantity

Eurobarometer
opinion poll,
published
March 2009



Good Governance

- **Making work the instruments available, for the benefit of the people involved and affected, and with them;**
- **more and earlier efforts to be made to address the challenge of safe sanitation: better common understanding, changing attitudes by all, and reconsidering priorities and hearts in the countries will be required;**
- **promoted by projects like WCEF "Sustainable Development for All", as well as this seminar.**





**Thank you.
Благодаря.**

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