



European Commission - DG Environment
Unit D.2: Water & Marine



Towards a better science-policy integration in the field of groundwater- soil interfaces

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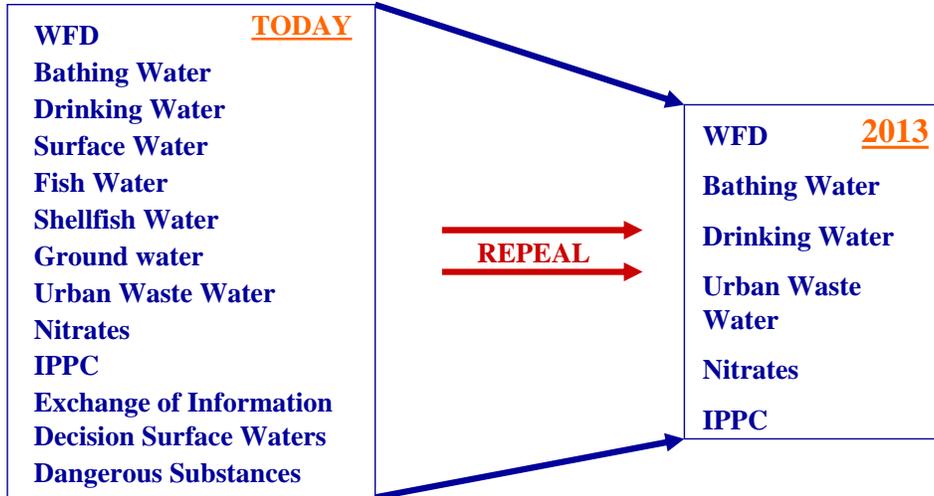


Contents of the Presentation

- Key Components of EU groundwater and soil regulations under developments
- Integration issues: environmental policies
- Science-policy integration issues: links with on-going RTD projects
- Need for a ‘science-policy’ interface
- Conclusions, perspectives



Introductory remark: evolution of EU water policies





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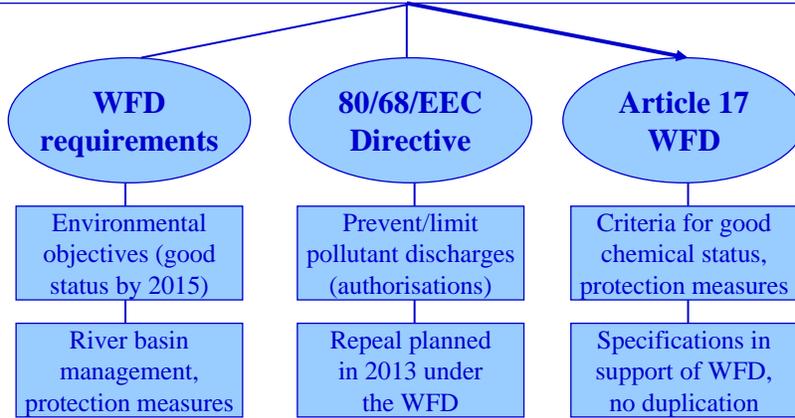
EU Water Framework Directive: key elements



- ✓ protecting all waters, **surface and ground waters**
 - ✓ **Setting** environmental objectives
 - ✓ good quality (**'good status'**) **to be achieved within a set** deadline of 15 years
 - ✓ water management **based on** river basins
 - ✓ combined approach **of emission controls and water quality standards, plus phasing out of particularly hazardous substances**
 - ✓ economic instruments: **economic analysis, and getting the prices right - to** promote wise use of water
 - ✓ **getting the** citizen involved: **public participation**
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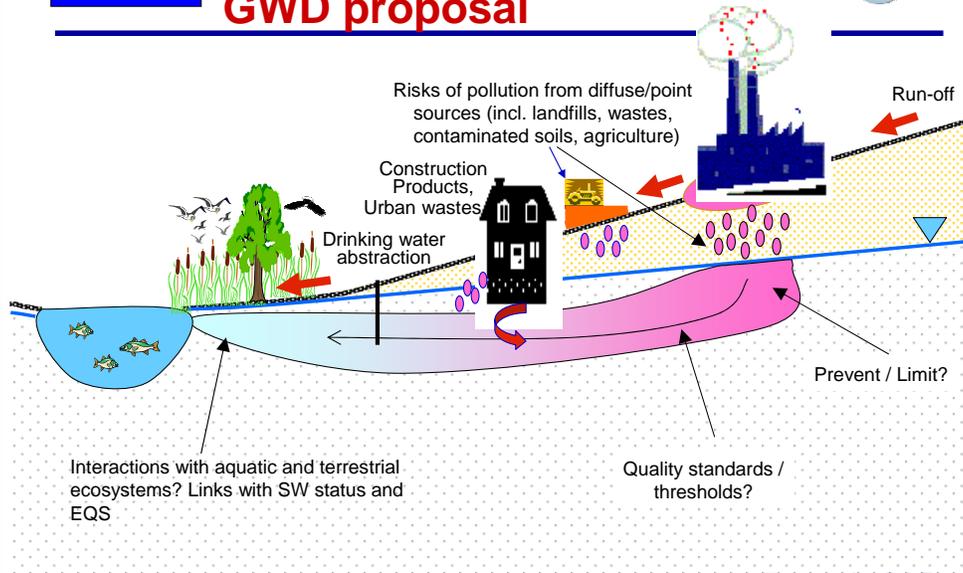
GROUNDWATER PROTECTION AGAINST POLLUTION





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Issues tackled by the EU GWD proposal





Update of GWD negotiation process

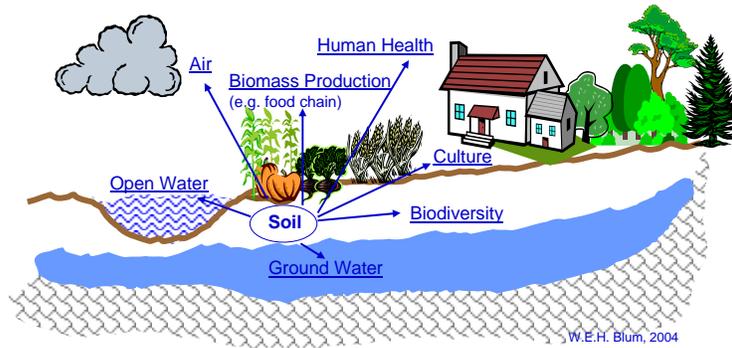


- **COM(2003)550 proposal** published in September 2003. First round of discussions with EU institutions from October 2003 to March 2004
- **Discussion rounds at EU Council** from June 2004 to May 2005
- **First EP reading report** adopted on 28th April 2005
- **Political agreement (Council/Commission)** adopted on 24th June 2005
- **Common position** expected in December 2005, followed by second reading (first trimester 2006)
- **Final adoption** by summer 2006?



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EU Thematic Strategy on Soil Protection





SOILS THREATS IDENTIFIED

- **Erosion**
- **Decline in Organic Matter**
- **Soil Contamination**
- **Salinisation**
- **Biodiversity loss**
- **Compaction**
- **Soil sealing**
- **Floods and landslides**

INTEGRATION of soil protection aspects in other policies



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EU Soil strategy - Policy options



On the basis of

- ❖ Working Group reports
- ❖ opinions from other community institutions
- ❖ international agreements, e.g. Soil charter, protocol on soil protection (Alpine Convention)
- ❖ ongoing Ex- Impact Assessment
- ❖ our own assessment of the need for a comprehensive approach

We propose for the TS

- ❖ Communication **laying down the way forward and addressing issues not tackled in the SFD**
- ❖ **Framework Directive for the protection of soil (SFD)**
- ❖ Extended Impact assessment
- ❖ **Proposed date of adoption : End 2005**



Integration with other policies



✓Environment and health

✓Chemicals

✓Waste

✓Development policy

Natural resources

Marine policy

Transport policy

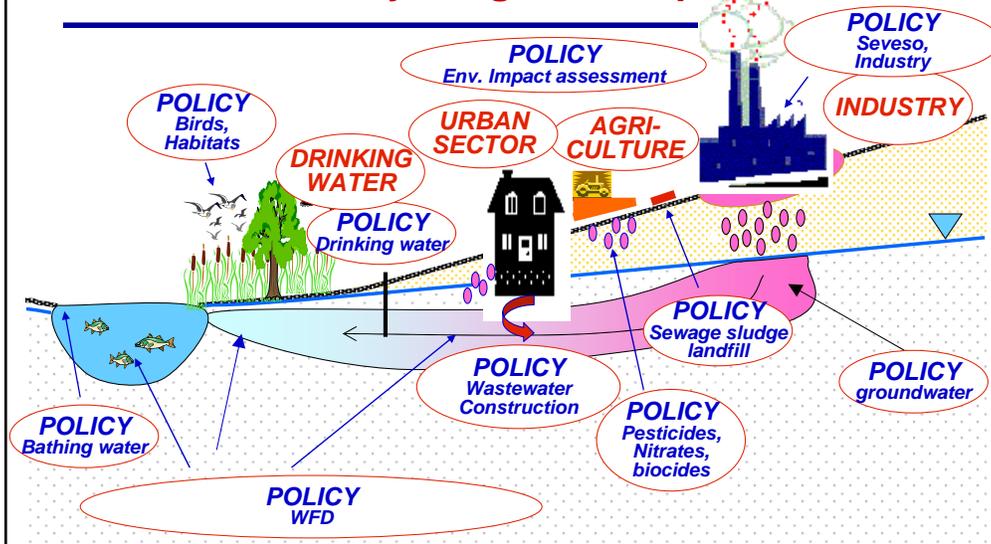
Research.....

Each policy sector should consider also the **side effects**, positive or negative, to other sectors and ecosystems,

The political commitment to **sustainable development** should lead to a more integrated approach to policy making and management



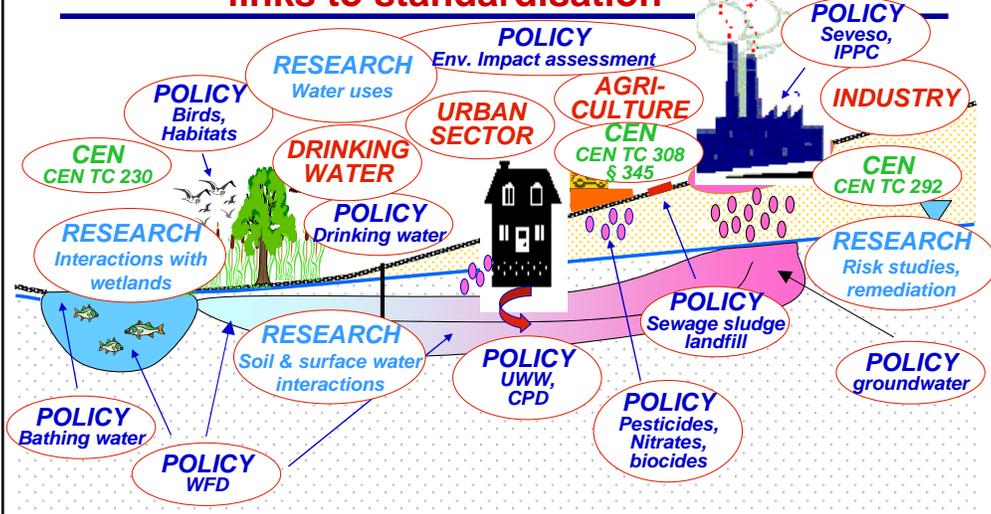
EU Policy integration in practice





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EU Research integration and links to standardisation





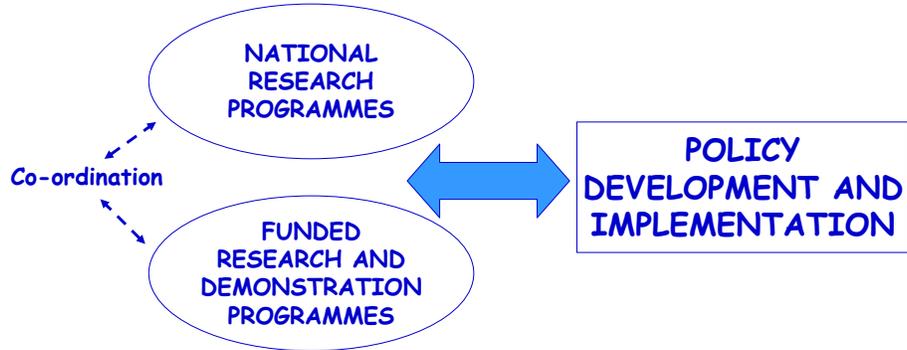
Funding instruments (Research, demonstration)



- Based on yearly calls for proposals launched by DG Research (European Commission) under 6th FP: large-scale projects or targeted research
- Of interest to the **Water and Soil Sectors**: Priority 6.3 ‘Global changes and ecosystems’, ERA-NET (potential access to national research), Scientific Support to Policies Priority [medium (3-5 y) to long (5-10 y) term research]
- JRC Multiannual WP [short (1-2 y) to long term]
- LIFE Programme [demonstration projects]



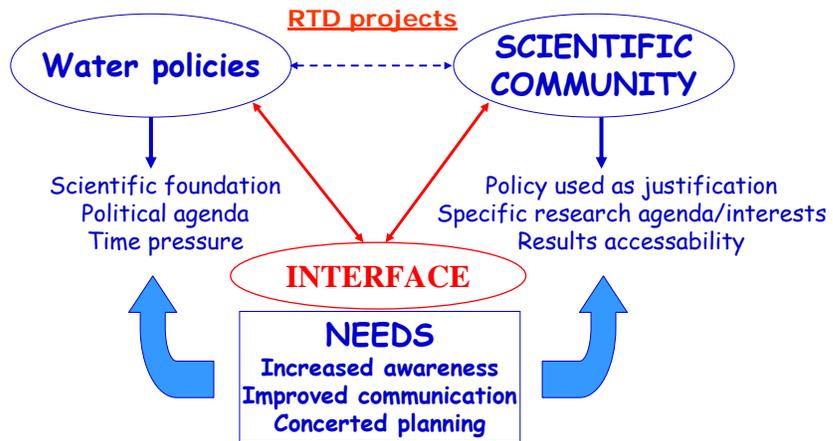
Science-policy integration in a perfect world ...



In reality, only part of the results of research projects are effectively and efficiently applicable to policies

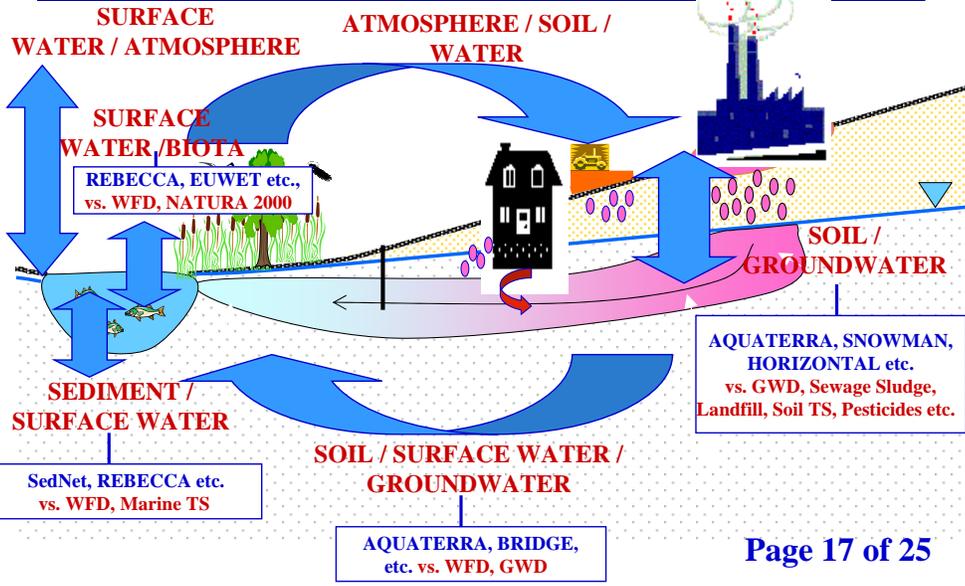


Science-policy links



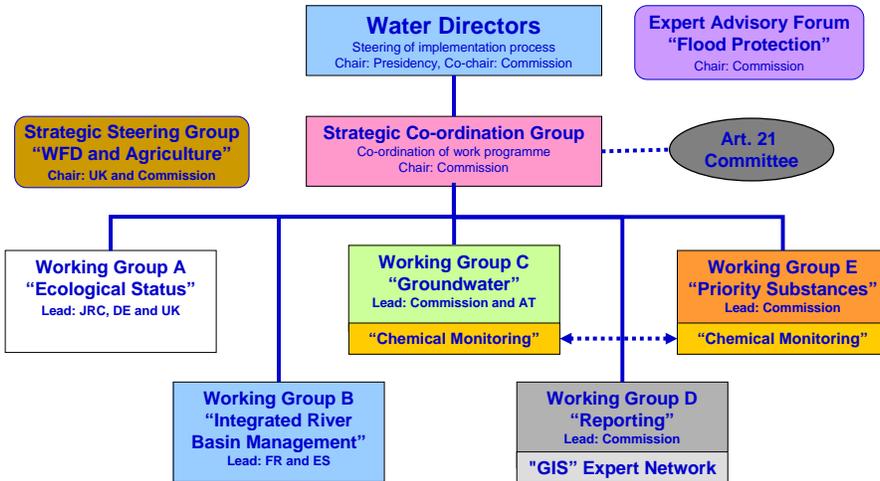


Soil & Water cycle: reseach vs. policy (EU) response





Example of consultation: Common Implementation Strategy (CIS)

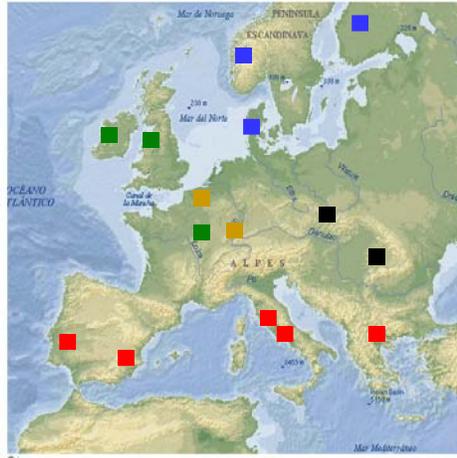




Pilot River Basins Network: an interfacing tool under the CIS?



- B, F, NL (Scheldt),
- D, F, Lux (Moselle-Sarre)
- France (Marne)
- Ireland (Shannon)
- UK (Ribble)
- Denmark (Odense)
- Finland (Oulujoki)
- Norway (Suldals)
- Portugal (Guadiana)
- Spain (Júcar)
- Greece (Pinios)
- Italy (Tevere, Cecina)
- HU/ROM (Somos)
- PL, CZ, D (Neisse)



Notes for the Speaker:

The network of pilot river basins was established in 2003 as a voluntary exercise supported by most Member States, Norway and some Accession Countries. The network involves 15 river basins in all European ecoregions covering 18 countries.

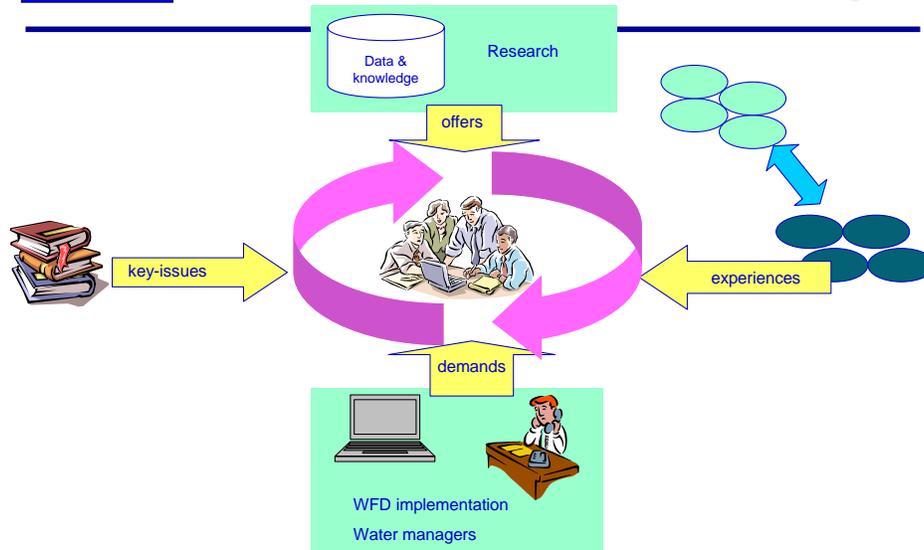
The pilots will test the guidance documents. The process has just started and results are slowly emerging.



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- Water Information System for Europe (EU-DG ENV, Joint Research Centre, European Environment Agency, Eurostat), aiming at efficiently managing all water-related information at EU level, ensuring coherence between various reporting mechanisms and needs, and providing access to information (including RTD) / data for various purposes and needs



Developing concept





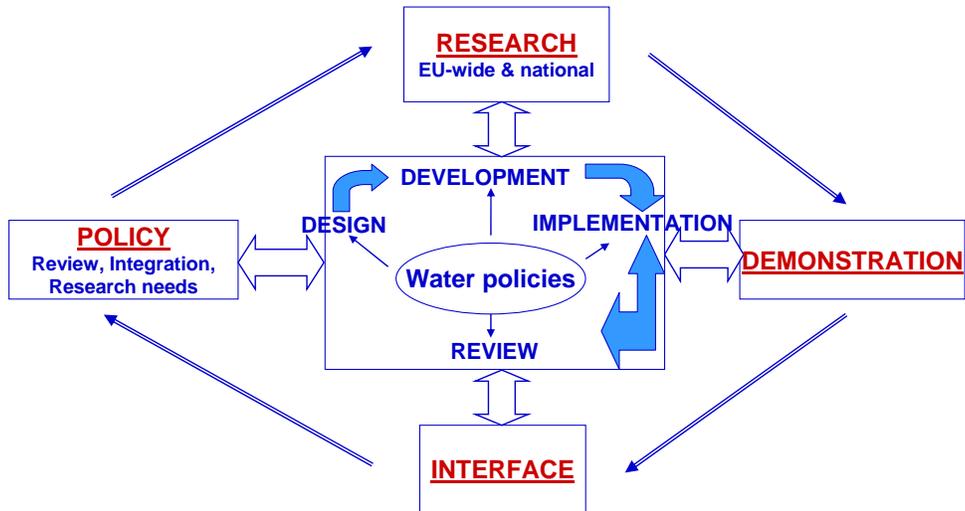
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HarmoniCA initiative





... Toward WISE-RTD development





Conclusions

- **Key feature of implementation and review of environmental policies:** Communication is far from being in place among the scientific and policy-making groups. At EU level, efforts are made to identify the operability of a possible RTD-Policy interface (WISE-RTD).
- **Coordination is required** to ensure information exchanges among the scientific community and policy-makers
- **Improvements are already noted** thanks to ,tailor-made‘ projects funded under the ,Scientific Support to Policies‘ (SSP) Priority of FP6
- **Interfacing** implies efforts to establish and maintain a multidisciplinary dialogue and to look at integration issues (other policies, public awareness, education etc.) – We cannot anymore afford to work isolated!



Opened questions

- Is the state of knowledge sufficient and transferred versus soil and water policy implementation / development?
- Based on the likelihood of an ‘integrated approach’ in the environmental legislation, how should the research system policy adapt to consolidate / develop knowledge on ‘soil-water environmental interfaces’?