



A Report to identify Water Policies implementation Gaps



Overview

Under European Partnership **Water4All Pillar C** activities, a Policy Support Working Group was established to identify research and innovation needs in support of implementing selected water policies and legislations.

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Step 1 was to select relevant thematic policies to focus on:

- Water Framework Directive - **WFD**
- Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive - **UWWT**
- Drinking Water Directive - **DWD**.

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Identifying Gaps

Step 2 was to look at what is preventing the objectives of the current legislations to be achieved. Two main types of gaps were identified : **governance** and **technical**

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Step 3 is now to find **available solutions and implementation strategies**.



Method for step 2 - Identifying gaps

Desk study

More than 20 articles and reports have been reviewed, leading to more than 40 gaps highlighted.

Webinar

IA webinar was held on 14 December 2023, gathering 53 participants from science/research and policy sides.

Interviews

10 people interviewed from the policy making and science sides, working on different water policies, with different EU coverages.

Policy implementation gaps

	GOVERNANCE GAPS	TECHNICAL GAPS
WFD, UWWTD & DWD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for cross sectoral approaches and coordination • Need for coherence between policies • Need to integrate scientific evidence, via capacity building, knowledge transfer, communication, awareness • Need to develop stakeholders' engagement • Proper implementation of cost recovery from all water users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for more data collection, sharing and use, to produce information and feedback / data-driven measures • Promotion of Nature Based Solutions • Water quantity and climate change are new challenges requiring technical solutions (to increase ecosystems resilience, new conditions for implementation, trade-offs) • Controlling diffuse source pollution from rural and urban sources
WFD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need data on performance, costs and benefits – on consequence of inaction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transboundary & basin issues (upstream/downstream link) • Accountability and liability
UWWTD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Going to circular, integrating circular economy technical solutions to make it applicable • Energy neutrality • Control at source to prevent pollution in the first place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaps in the implementation of the Extended Produced Responsibility • Water reuse: who is paying, acceptance from potential users • Lack of market limiting N and P reuse
DWD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of PFAS 	
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New initiatives/solutions stemming from the Green Deal are very intensive users of water (for example, digital transition – data centres; energy transition – production of green hydrogen) • Water is still not properly and transversally addressed in other sectors' policies • Lack of clear policy on water quantity 	



An opportunity to contribute during the conference !



What is expected ?



Share your **Solutions/ Innovations/Project** that could fill the gaps



Give your comments on the gaps table



How to contribute ?



Leave your **ideas** on the support or via this QR Code



Share your thoughts about the project or its tasks in **video**



And if you want, take a **picture** with Water4All banner !