



Revision of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive

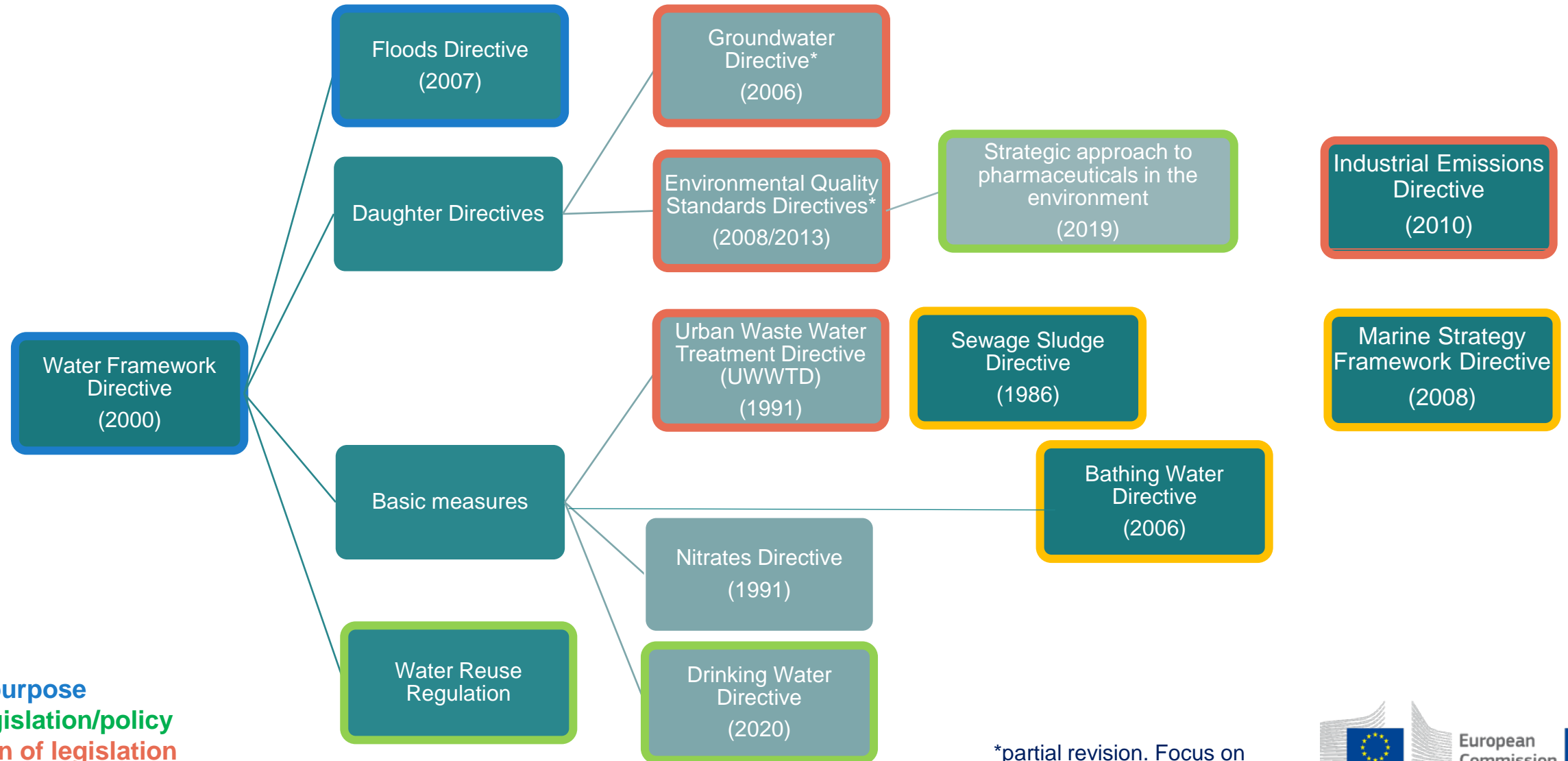


World Bank Webinar
Cleaning Up: The Review of the EU Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive

18 March 2021

European Commission DG Environment
Nele Rosenstock

EU water legislation



Fit for purpose
New legislation/policy
Revision of legislation
Evaluation of legislation

*partial revision. Focus on substances

What is the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (1991) about?

Objective: "Protection of the environment from the adverse effects of the discharges of untreated waste water"

Collection

Agglomerations
> 2,000 p.e.
population equivalent

Alternative:
Individual or
other appropriate
systems (IAS)

Treatment

Secondary
(biological)
treatment
as a rule

Agglomerations >
10 000 p.e. discharging
into sensitive areas =
nutrient removal
(More Stringent
Treatment)

Monitoring & reporting

Treatment
plants level of
treatment and
performance

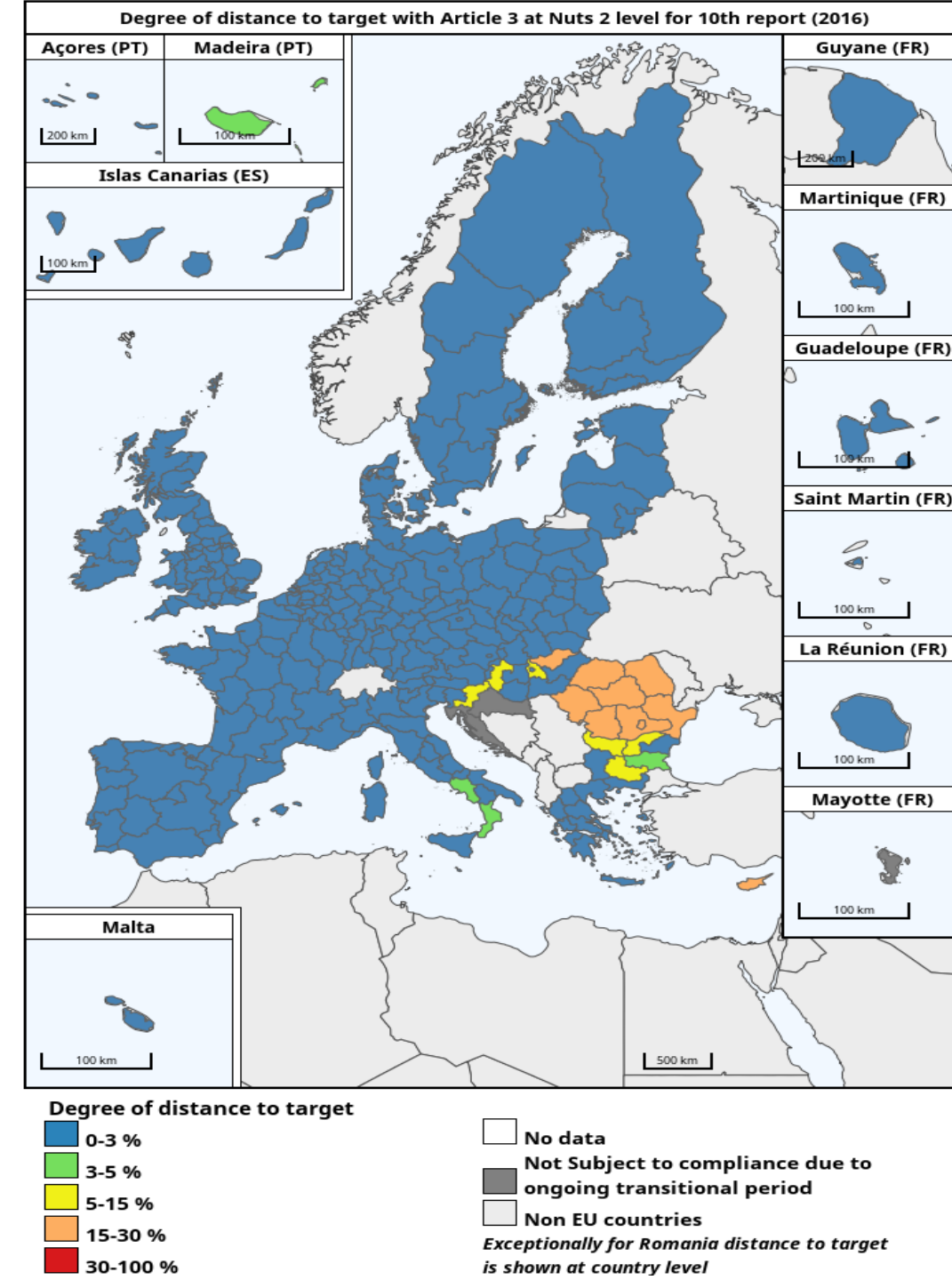
Biennial
reporting
to the European
Commission

Findings 10th implementation report

Distance to target COLLECTION

Nearly there in the EU

To improve: RO, CY; BG; HU and SI



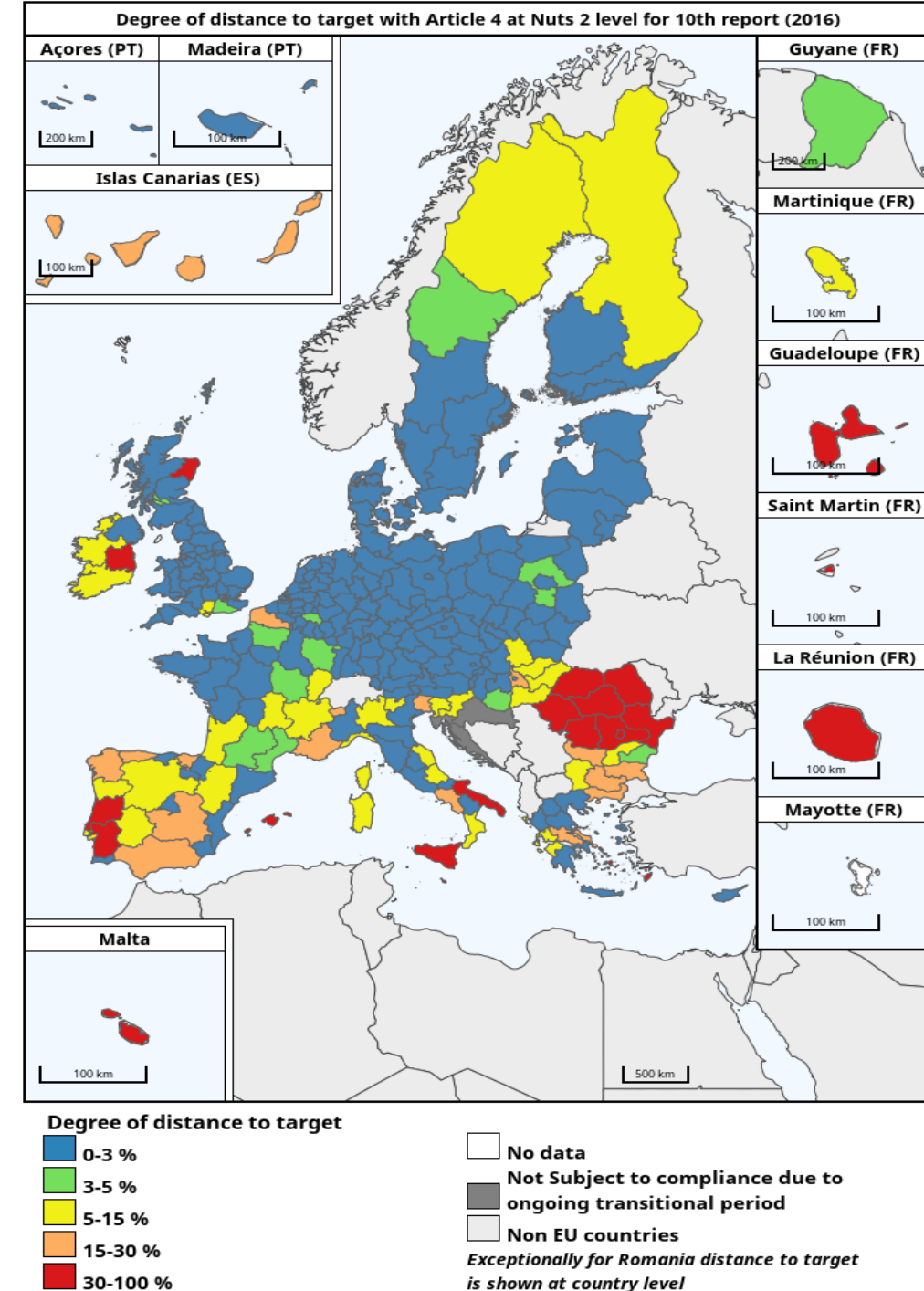
Findings 10th implementation report

Distance to target

SECONDARY TREATMENT

Longer way/distance to target

To improve: IE, PT, ES, IT, FR, EL, RO, BG, SE, FI, MT

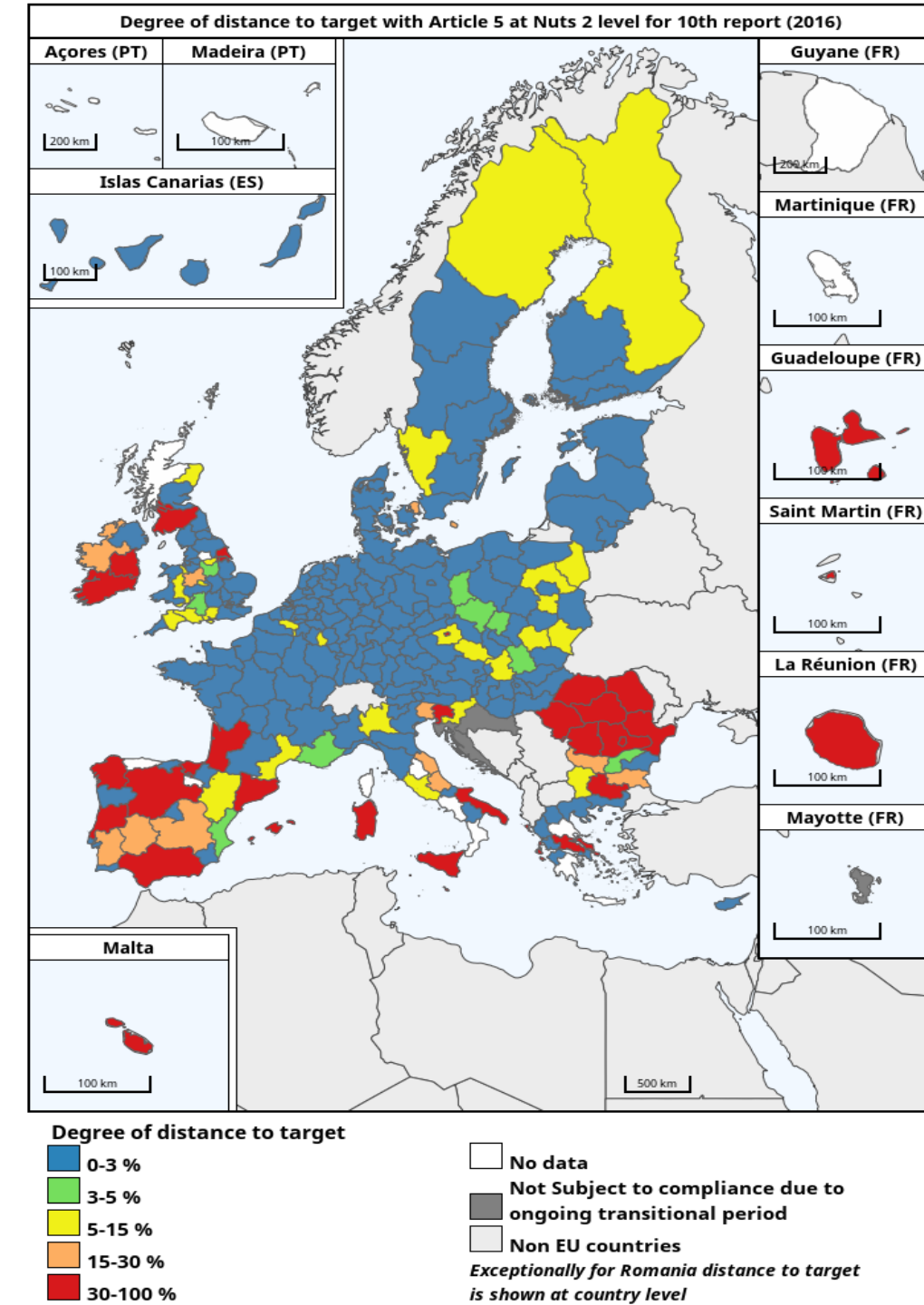


Findings 10th implementation report

Distance to target MORE STRINGENT TREATMENT

Longest way/distance to target

*To improve: IE, PT, ES, IT, FR, EL, RO, BG,
PL, SE, FI, MT*



Evaluation of the UWWTD (2017-2019)

Why?

- Old directive
- Fit for purpose?
- Fitting in new context (e.g. new ambitions, new legislations)

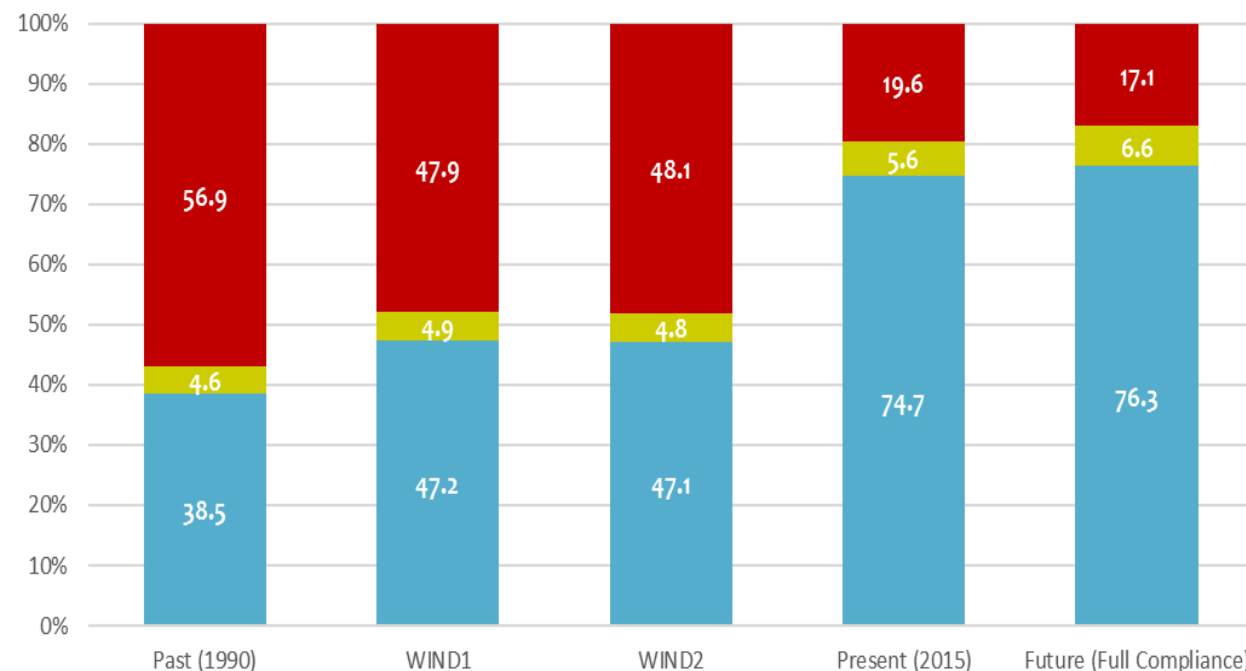
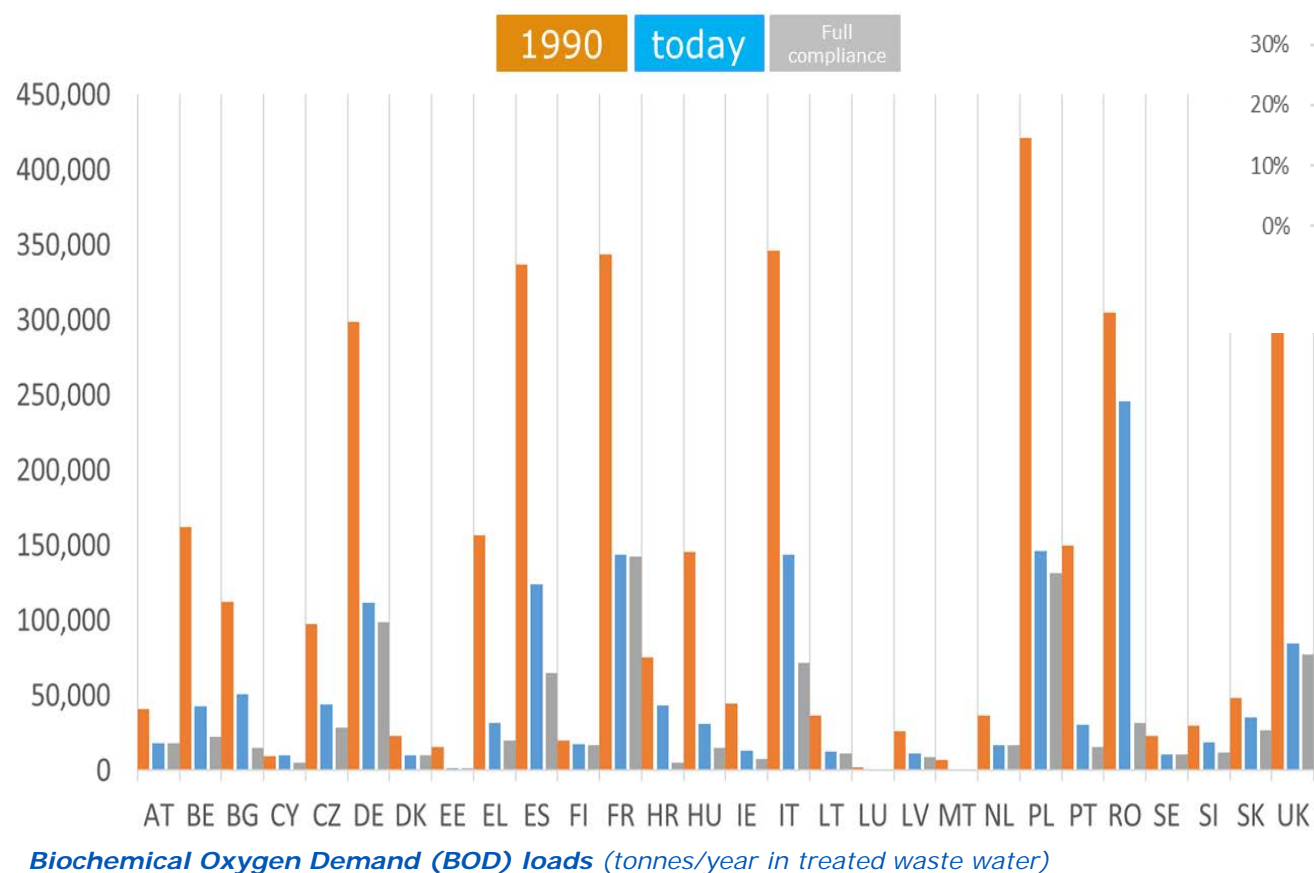
How?

- Effectiveness
- Efficiency
- Coherence
- Relevance
- EU added value

Use of results?

- Results inform political hierarchy on the way forward: keep as is or revise?

Main conclusions

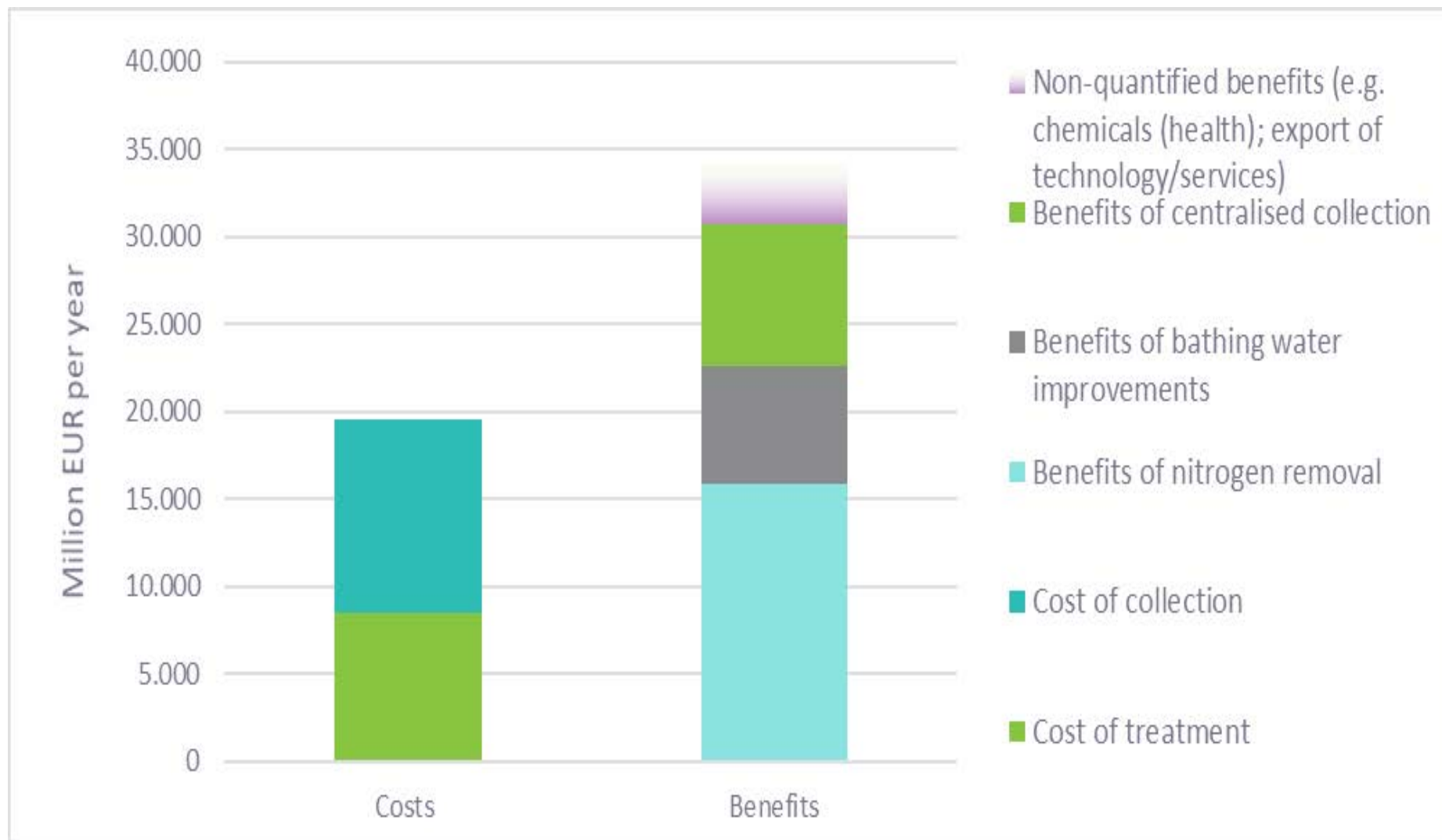


Conditions of EU inland freshwaters with regard to bathing water standards under different scenarios

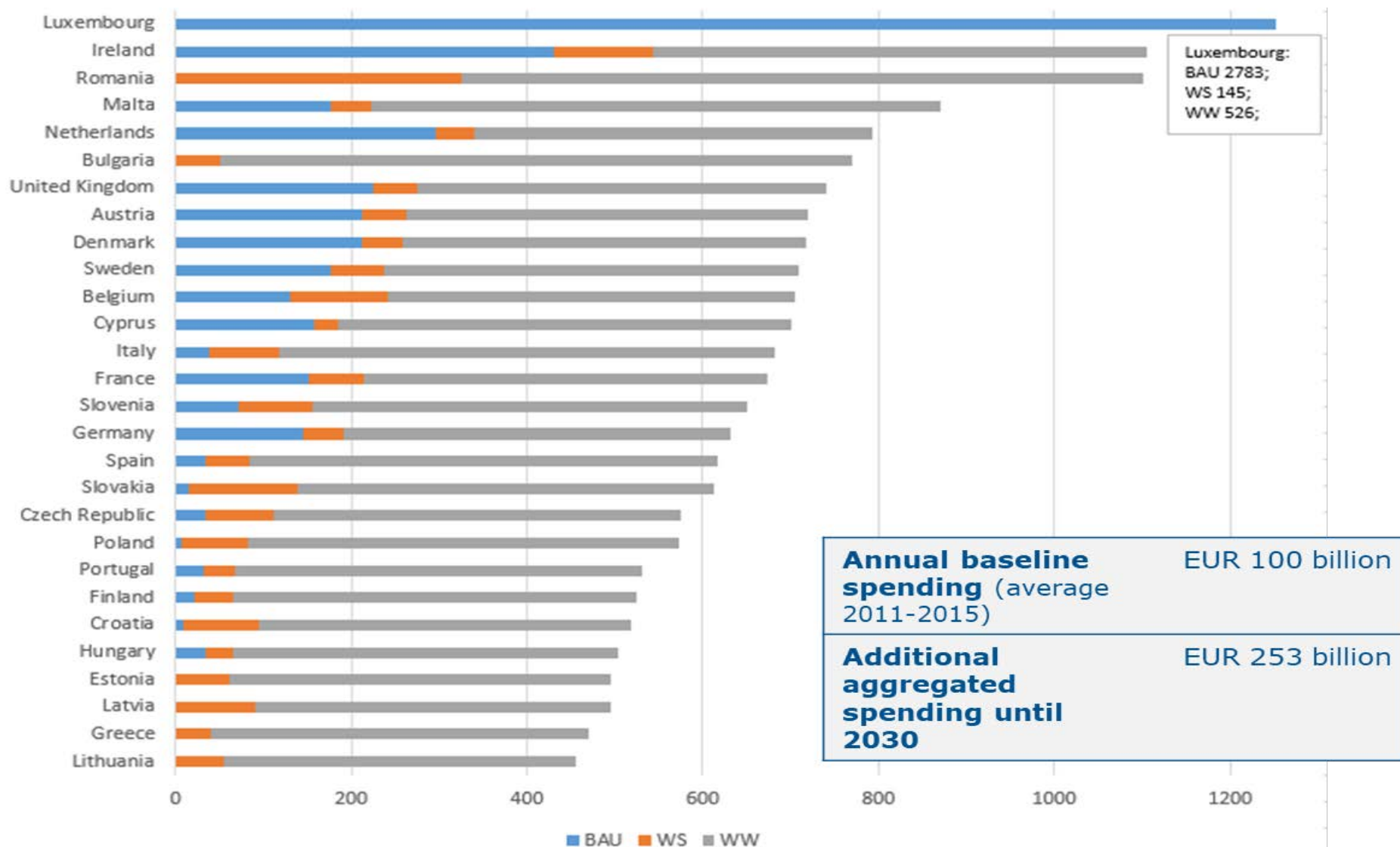
The UWWTD has delivered on the reduction of loads and thereby contributed to the improvement of water quality.

Cost vs benefits?

Annual costs and benefits under a full compliance scenario

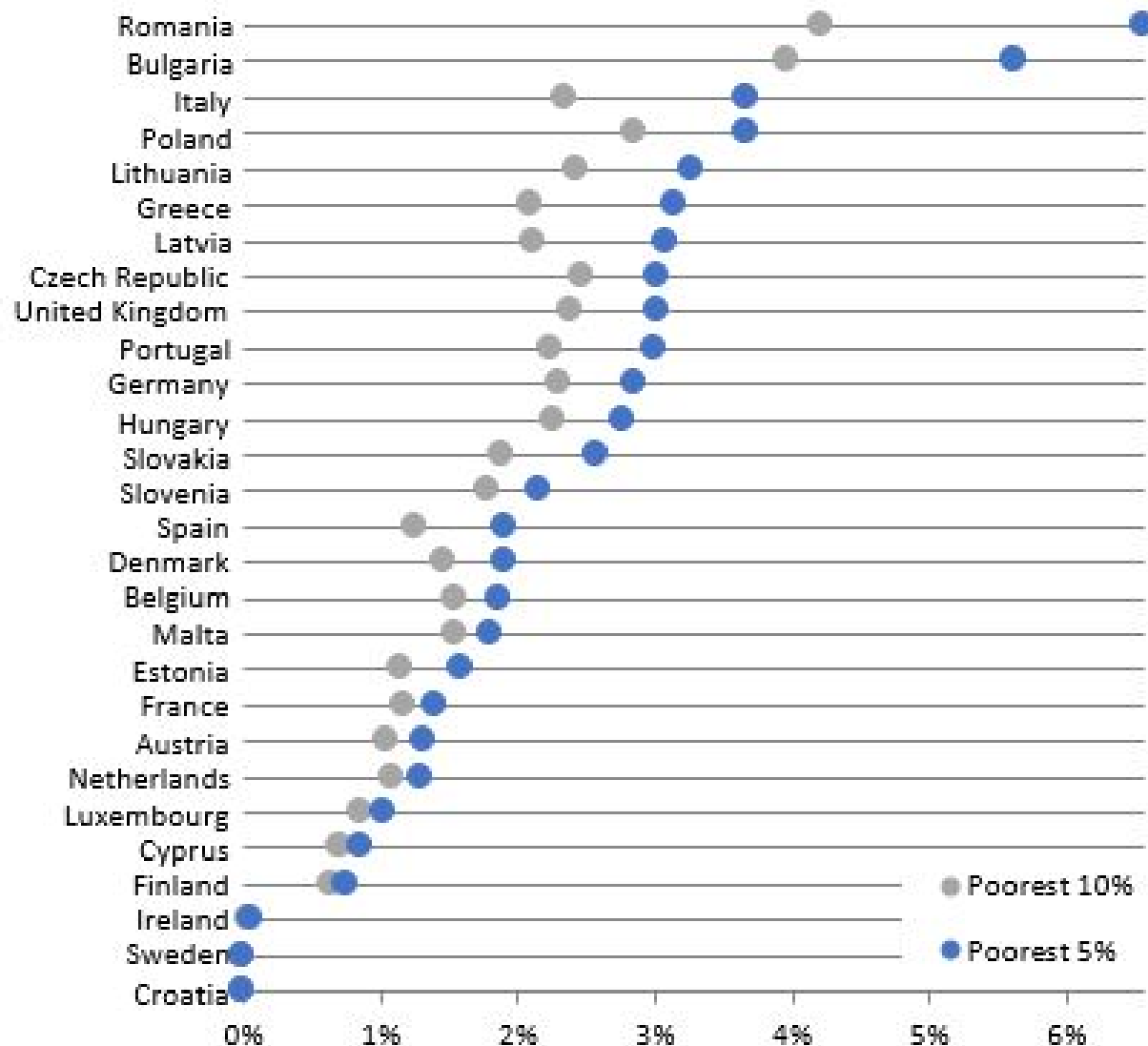


Investment needs in the WSS sector



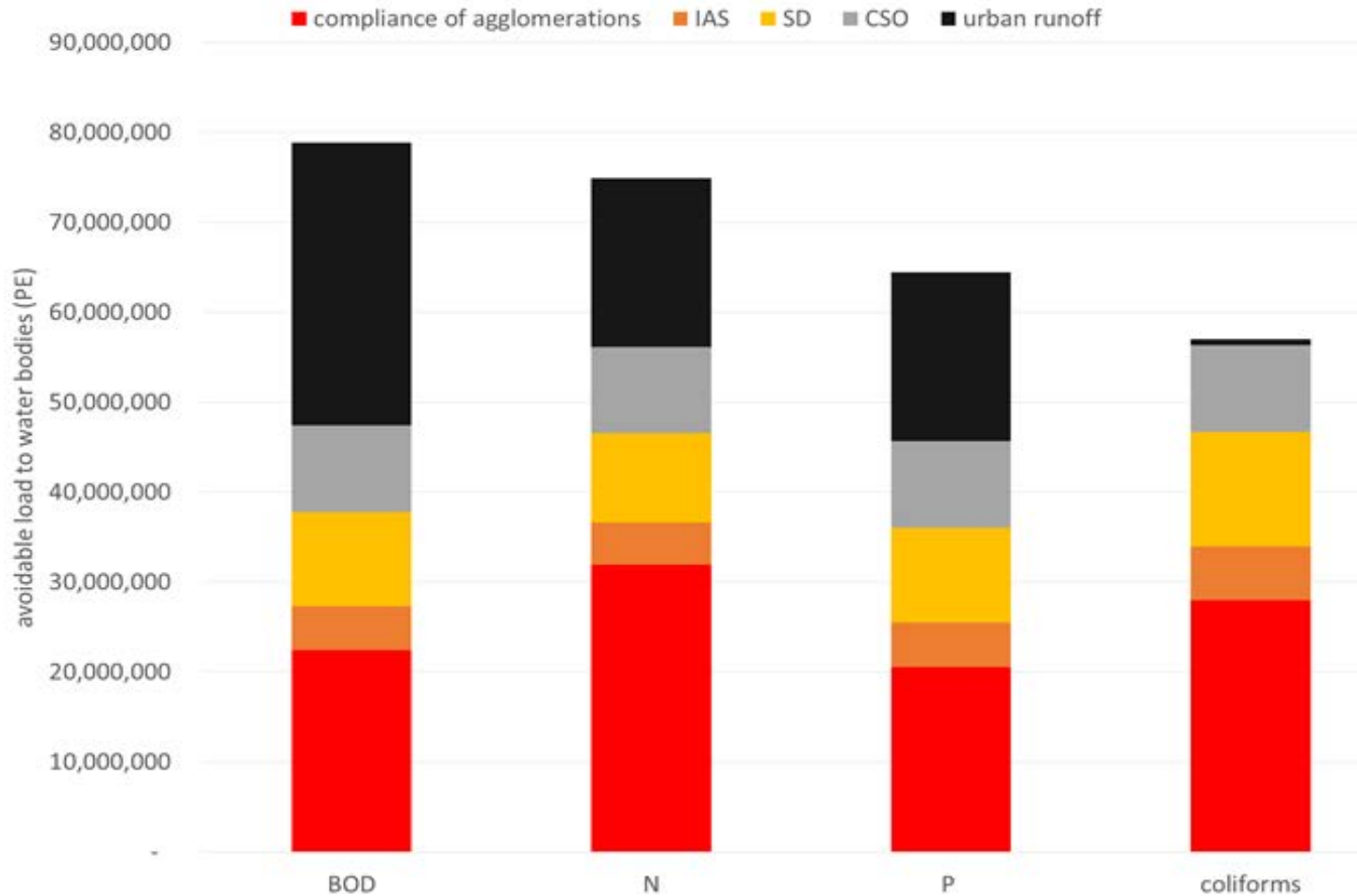
Total cumulative additional expenditure by 2030 for water supply and sanitation (WSS) per capita

Affordability



Share of water supply and sanitation (WSS) expenditure in households disposable income

Remaining pollution and „new challenges“



Contaminants of emerging concern and polluter pays

Energy use (0.8% of all energy consumed)



Sludge management

SD=agglomerations <2 000 p.e., CSO=combined sewer overflows, IAS=individual or other appropriate systems, The total urban waste water generated is about 612 mio p.e.

Launch of the UWWTD impact assessment

Lessons learnt

Effective tool – Tangible impacts

Simple and targeted instrument

Carrot and stick

Benefits >>> costs

Room for improvement

Remaining pollution

Eutrophication

Energy use, sludge management

Governance – transparency/reporting

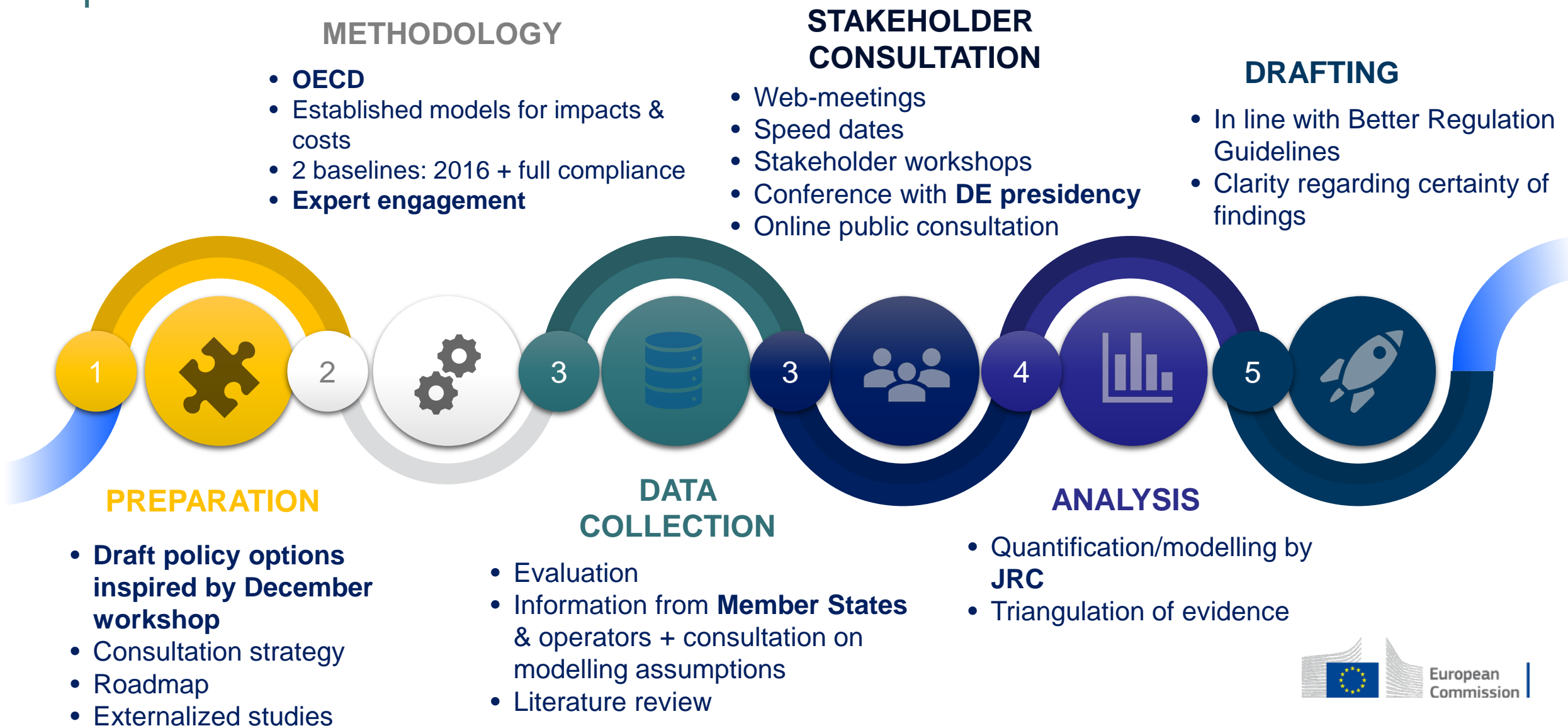
Coherence with other legislation



Announcement of potential revision through publication of roadmap (July 2020)

Objective of revision:
address „room for improvement“
Align with Green Deal ambition
Ensure fit for the future

Approach to the impact assessment



Preliminary ideas for policy measures*

Remaining pollution

Integrated management plans for collecting systems

EU standards/ Objectives for SWOs, small agglomerations, IAS

Risk-based approach with derogations

Coherence with other legislation

“Pre-designated” sensitive areas
Stricter standards (N&P) to support meeting WFD objective

Risk-based approach with derogations

Pre-treatment
Permits for Small & Medium Enterprises

New pollution

EU thresholds for performance indicator substances for large UWWTPs

“Hot spot” approach

Application of Extended Producer Responsibility

Fit for the future

Energy audits + reduction targets + production?

GHG targets

Track & tracing to ensure clean sludge for agriculture

Minimum phosphorus recovery

Governance

Planning obligations

Reasonable deadlines

Updated monitoring

Reporting via national datasets

Transparency

* Missing in overview but included in IA: access to sanitation, microplastics, access to justice

Some over-arching considerations

Implementation
&
Enforceability

Fit for the
future &
appropriate
deadlines

Investments:
polluter pays &
investing where
it makes sense

Risk-based
approach
vs
EU targets

Control at source
vs
end-of-pipe
action



Administrative
burden
vs
timely provision
of relevant data

How to contribute?

Type	Topic // Result	Time
Open public consultation	All topics // measures Contribute here: Have your say!	Start April (12 weeks)
Targeted consultation of Member State and stakeholders	Consultation on baseline information, modelling assumptions and technical aspects	March/April
Technical workshops*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joint EEA-ENV reporting workshop (23-24/03)• Costs and benefits (04/05)• Joint sludge and waste water in the circular economy and climate change (20-21/04)• Integrated sewer management (May TBC)	May
Stakeholder conference	Preliminary findings of impact assessment	XX/09

If interested to join, please contact: ENV-URBAN-WASTE-WATER@ec.europa.eu

Thank you

Links for further information

- **Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (1991):** <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:31991L0271>
- **Website for the UWWTD review:** https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-urbanwaste/evaluation/index_en.htm
 - **Including information about stakeholder consultations:** <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-urbanwaste/pdf/UWWTD%20IA%20consultation%20strategy%20final.pdf>
- **Evaluation of the Directive (2019):** <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-urbanwaste/pdf/UWWTD%20Evaluation%20SWD%20448-701%20web.pdf>
- **Roadmap for the launch of the Impact Assessment of the Directive (2020):** <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12405-Revision-of-the-Urban-Wastewater-Treatment-Directive>
- **Joint Research Centre Modelling Report supporting the Evaluation (2019):** https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-urbanwaste/pdf/Evaluative%20study_final.pdf
- **OECD study on investment needs + Member State factsheets (2020):** https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/economics/OECD_study_en.ht