



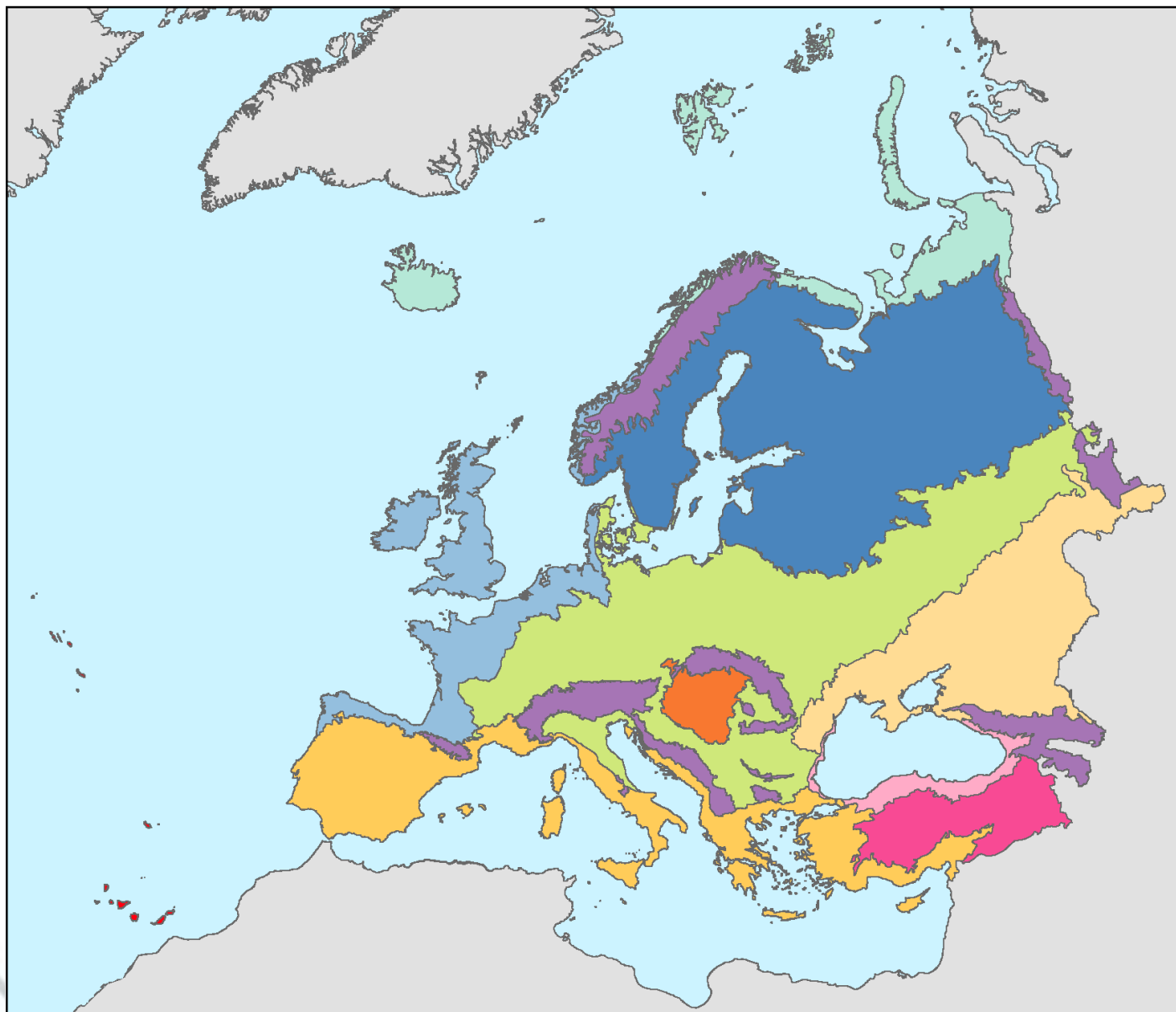
The Founding Principles of the EU Water Policy: how relevant to the Mediterranean Region?

**SWIM-SM Steering Committee
Meeting
Barcelona, 15-16 December 2014**

*Unit E1: International, Regional and
Bilateral Relations Unit
DG Environment, European Commission*

Really?

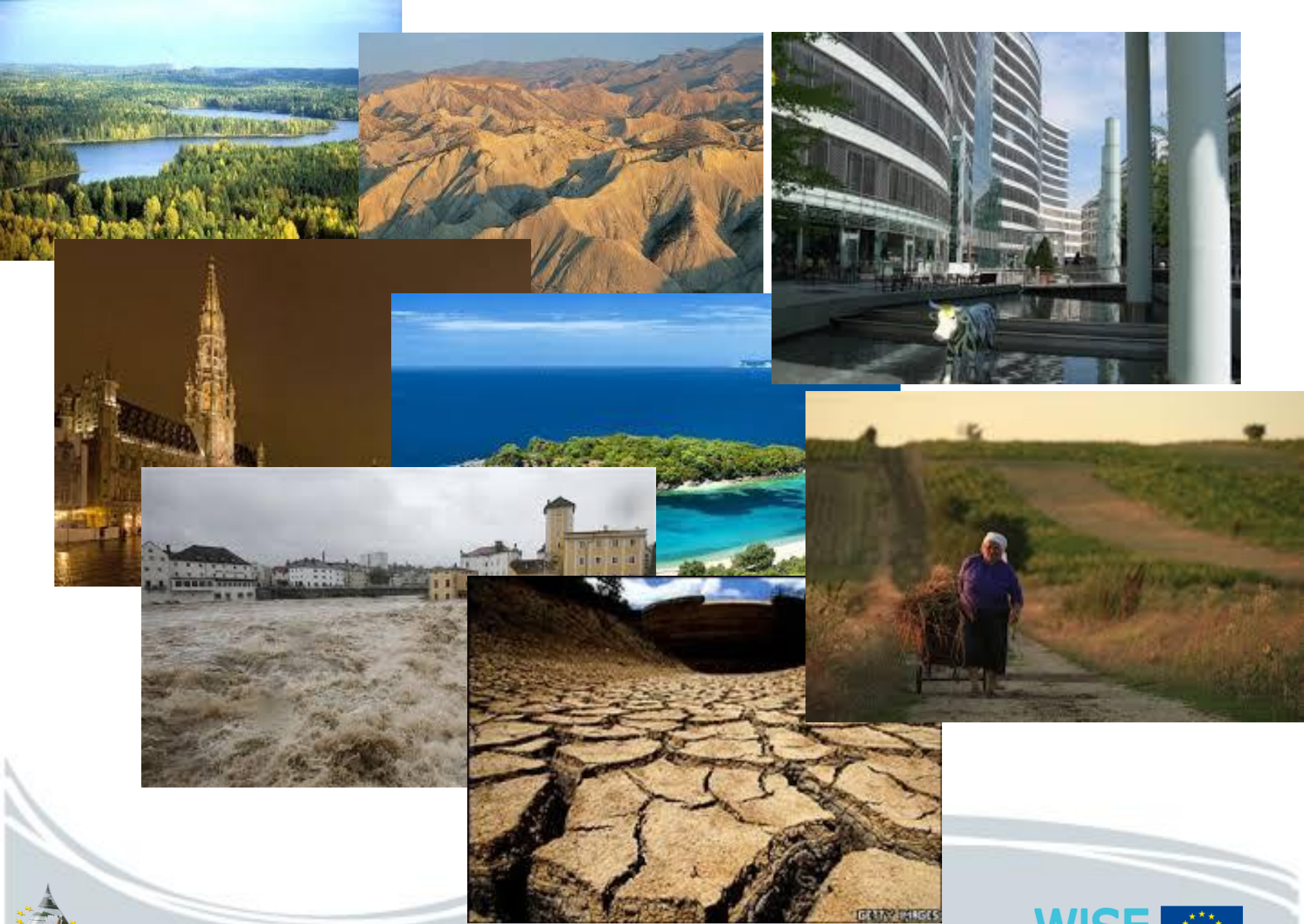




Biogeographical regions, 2001

- Alpine
- Anatolian
- Arctic
- Atlantic
- Black sea
- Boreal
- Continental
- Macaronesia
- Mediterranean
- Pannonian
- Steppic
- Outside data coverage





National and International River Basin Districts
Submissions in accordance with Article 3 of the Water Framework Directive

Version 22/03/2007

- National River Basin Districts⁽¹⁾ (within EU27)
- National River Basin Districts⁽¹⁾ (outside EU27)
- 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 WRo_UK on behalf of European Commission®, DG Environment, March 2007.



Diversity of river basins in Europe !



A bit of history



The “First and Second Waves”

1975:

- Standards for rivers and lakes used for drinking water abstraction
- emission control: Dangerous Substances Directive

1980s:

- binding quality targets for drinking water
- quality objective on fish waters, shellfish waters, bathing waters and ground waters.

1990s

- IPPC Directive
- Urban Waste Water Treatment
- Nitrates Directives
- Drinking water Directive

Several approaches

- **Source controls** (what is achievable at source (technology) vs. **quality standards** (based on the needs of the receiving environment))
- Tackling **specific pollution problems**: eutrophication vs chemical pollution

Limited scope: only surface waters – other water bodies addressed through piecemeal approach



From a piecemeal to a framework

WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

Objective: Good Status



Ground water Directive
Drinking water Directive
Bathing water Directive



Floods Directive
Communication on water
scarcity and droughts
Marine Strategy Framework
Directive
Habitats & Birds Directives



Urban Waste Water
Directive
Nitrates Directive
IPPC Directive (IED)
Priority Substances-
Environment Quality
Standards

← PRINCIPLES-APPROACHES →



The Water Framework Directive



Objective: Achieving good status

- No deterioration of status for surface and groundwater
- Achievement of good status by 2015
- Surface waters:
 - Progressive reduction of pollution by priority substances
 - Phase-out of emissions of priority hazardous substances to water
- Groundwater:
 - Prevention and limitation of input of pollutants
 - Reversal of any significant, upward trend of pollutants
- Achievement of standards and objectives set for WFD protected areas in EU legislation



The River Basin Approach (Art.3 & 13)

- Protecting all surface and ground water bodies, including transitional waters and coastal waters
- Covering all pressures and impacts on waters
- Water management at river basin level



An integrated and combined approach

Combined approach of emission limit values and quality standards (Art.10)

- Good surface water status

 – Good **chemical** status + good **ecological** status



- Good groundwater status

 – Good **chemical** status + good **quantitative** status

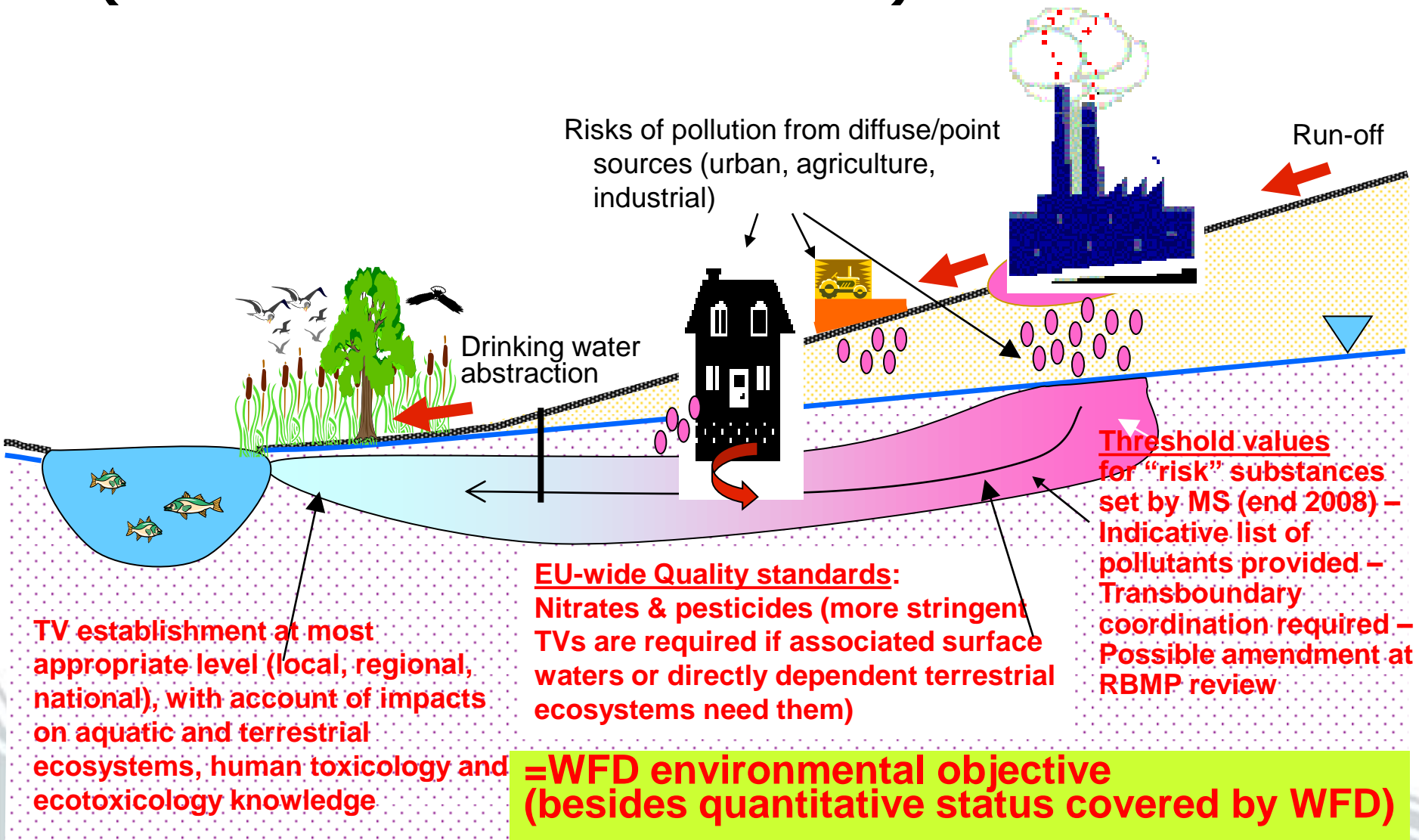


Integrated approach (Arts. 5, 6, 11):

- **Assessing** water characteristics, all impacts (human activities) and economic value of water use;
- Looking at all **water uses** (agriculture, energy, land-use, industry, ecological-nature conservation)
- Integrating all **other legislative requirements**
- **Monitoring** (Art. 8)

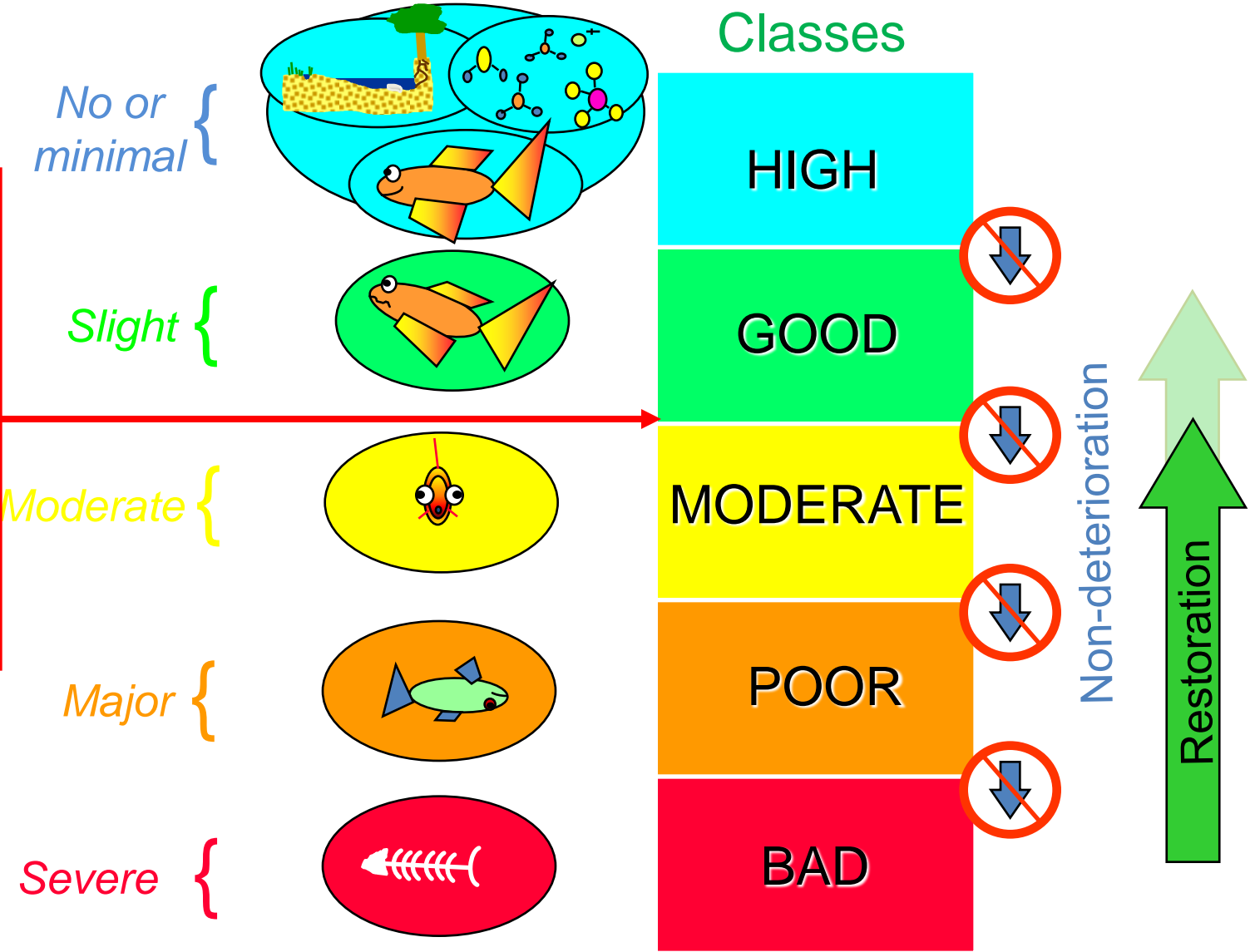


Good chemical status criteria (Article 4 & Annexes I and II)



Ecological Status

Intercalibration
Exercise:
Commission
Decision
2008/915/EC:
Harmonised
understanding of
good ecological
status consistent
with definitions in
Annex V



A participatory approach (Art. 14)

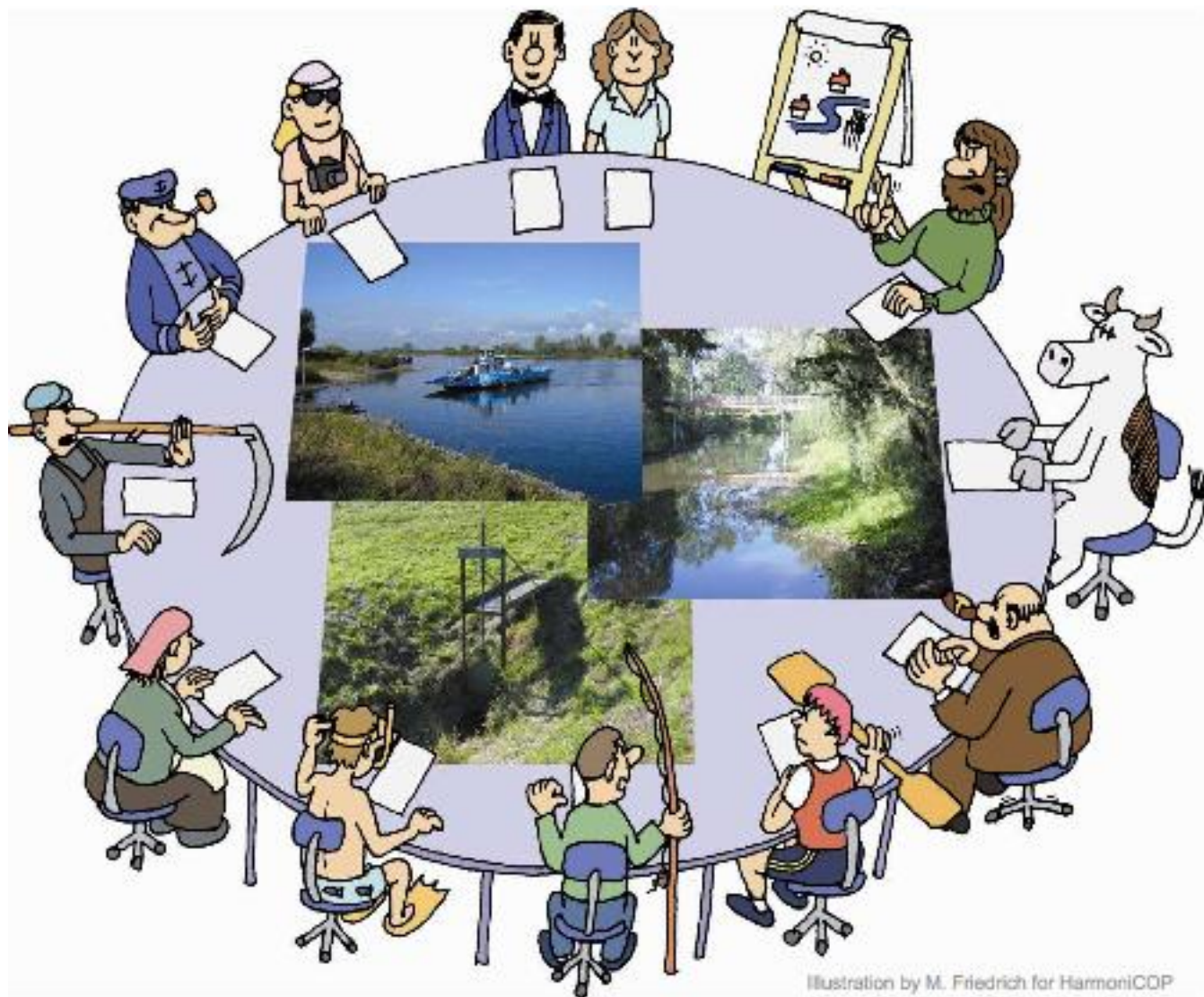
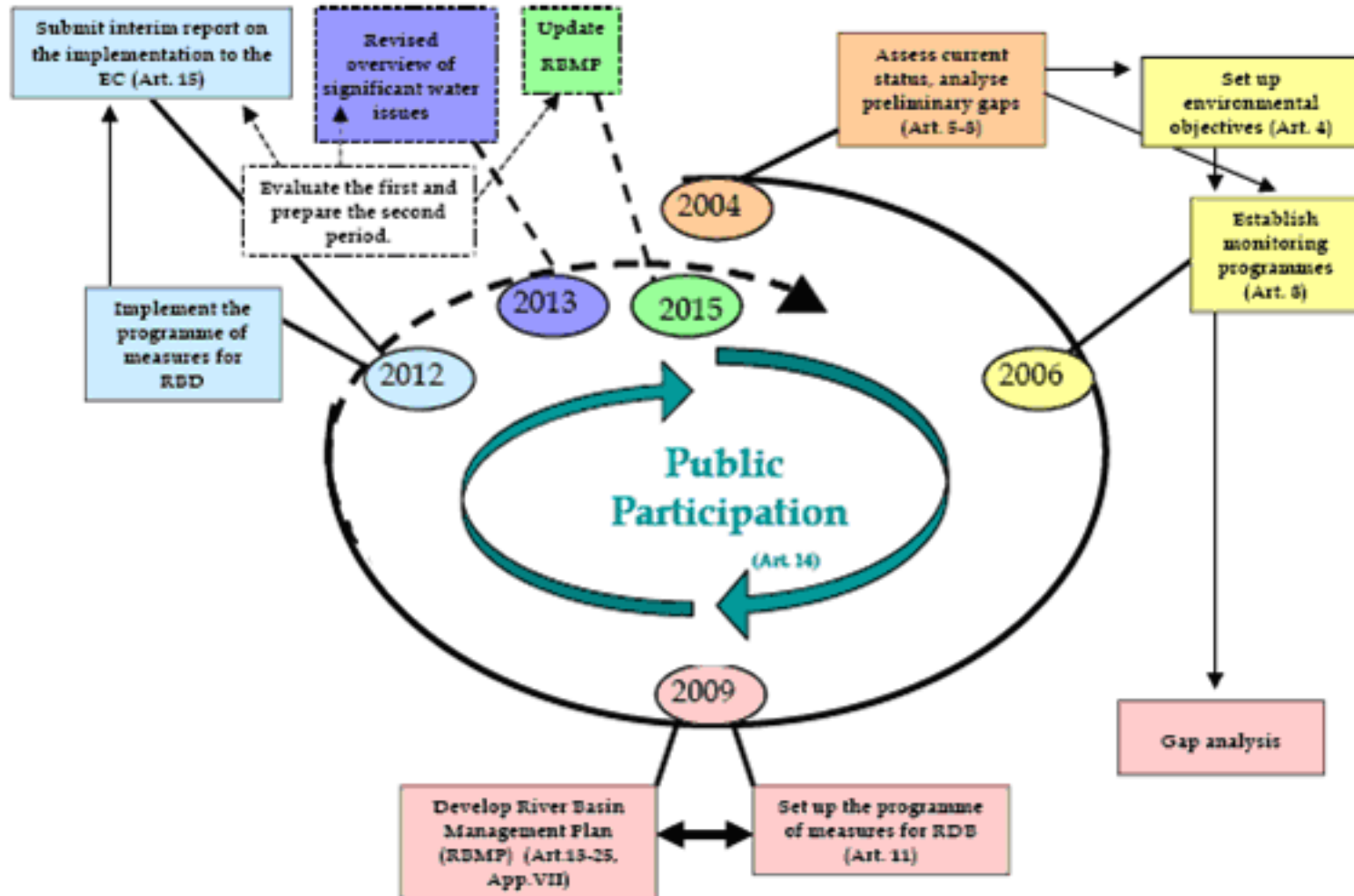


Illustration by M. Friedrich for HarmoniCOP



A participatory approach



Getting prices right (Art 9)

- principle of **recovery of the costs** of water services, including environmental and resource costs,
- **polluter pays principle**
- provision of **adequate incentives** for users to use water resources efficiently
- **adequate contribution** of the different water uses to the recovery of the costs of water services
- Take account of **social, environmental and economic effects** of the recovery as well as the geographic and climatic conditions



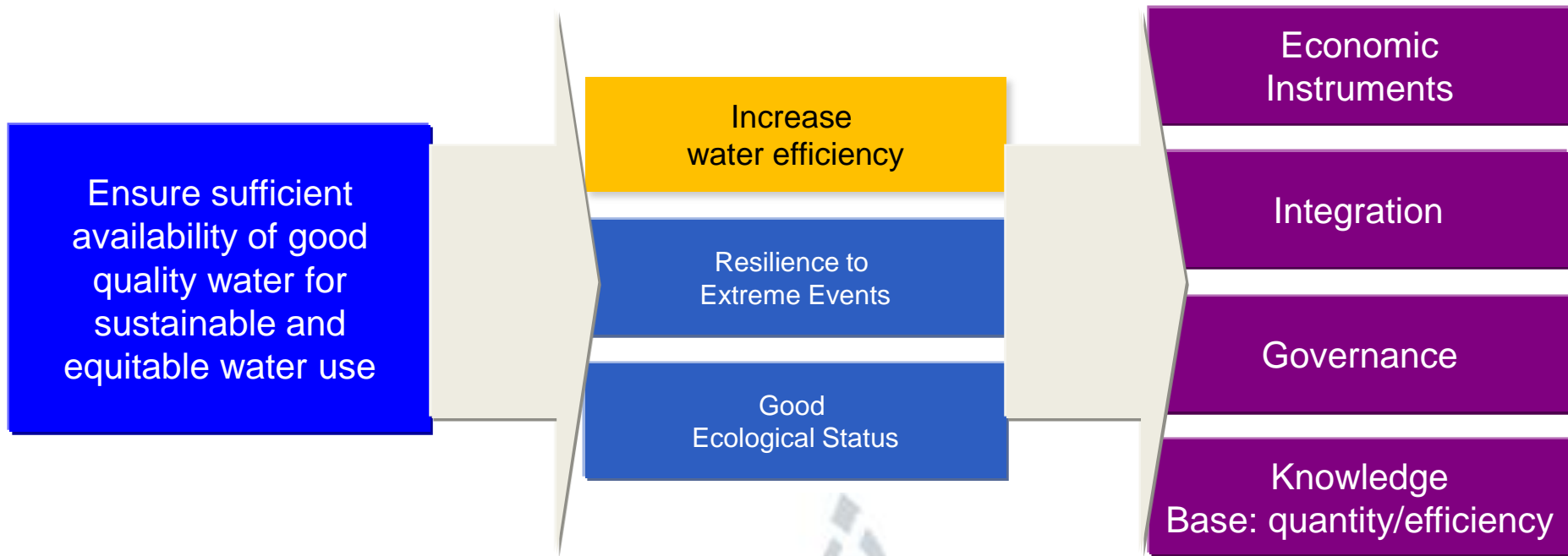
Other elements

- **Giving sufficient time (2003-2015-2021-2027)**
- **Providing for Flexibility:** Possibility for exceptions
- **Promoting Innovation:** European Innovation Partnership in Water
- **The International Dimension:**
 - **establish appropriate coordination with the relevant non-MS**, with the aim of achieving the objectives of this Directive throughout the **river basin district** (*Art 3(5) WFD*)
 - MS are encouraged to **coordinate** with non-MS with a view to producing a **single river basin management plan**



The future: Blueprint Objectives

- a strategic plan to enhance the WFD objectives: concentrating on better IMPLEMENTATION



Water Diplomacy: FAC Council Conclusions July 2013

- The **EU has a substantive commitment** to address the root causes of water challenges, particularly through its work on development and environment
- An EU policy **promoting water co-operation across the world** can be built on the **long tradition** of co-operation and vast experience and knowledge of the management of transboundary waters in Europe
- Encourages the **promotion of international agreements** on water co-operation, the relevant UNECE and UN Conventions



Thank you for your attention

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/
water/index_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/index_en.htm)