

The governance of European water services: facing societal challenges in an evolving policy environment

Dr Claudia Castell-Exner – EurEau President EFRWS - Rome 3 December 2019

EurEau - Who we are

~ European Federation of Water Services

~ 32 national associations of **drinking** and **waste water operators** from 29 European countries

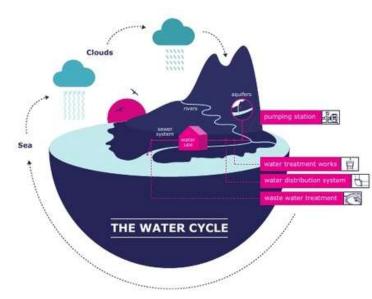
~ Public and private sector











Water: a European heritage



~ WFD, 2000 - Recital 1

"Water is not a commercial product like any other, but, rather, a heritage which must be protected, defended and treated as such"

~ Art.191.2 TFEU

"The Union policy on the environment [..] shall be based on the precautionary principle and on the principles that preventive action should be taken, that environmental damage should as a priority be rectified at source and that the polluter should pay."

Governance



- Water services are services of general (economic) interest.
- ~ Regulated at EU and national levels:
 - ~ EU level -> environmental and health standards.
 - ~ national level -> Subsidiarity Protocol (n.26) TFEU on the choice of the management models
 - ~ EU institutions are neutral on the choice of management models.

Governance: actors and levels





Commission

Parliament



Council

Farmers

Energy sector

Chemical and Pharma industry



National Government

Economic Regulator

Health Regulator Environmental Regulator

Consumers Associations

Municipality

Customers

NGOs/Right2Water

http://www.eureau.org/resources/publications/150-report-on-the-governance-of-water-services-in-

EU policy, SDG6 and cost recovery



- New Commission: Green Deal and Zero Pollution ambition
- ~ UN GA definition of human right to water SDG6:
 - ~ Availability
 - ~ Accessibility
 - ~ Affordability
 - ~ Acceptability
 - ~ Safety
- Cost recovery: Art.9 WFD: adequate contribution of the different water uses (industry, households and agriculture)

Societal challenges

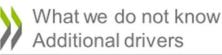
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- ~ Climate change
- ~ Carbon emissions reduction
- ~ Health protection
- ~ Environment protection and water savings
- ~ Circular economy
- ~ Aging society and consumption habits
- ~ Impact of agriculture on water
- ~ Greater expectations of customers: service 24/7
- ~ Transparency and updated information for consumers
- ~ Security threats
- ~ Leave no one behind

OECD: drivers for expenditure in WSS

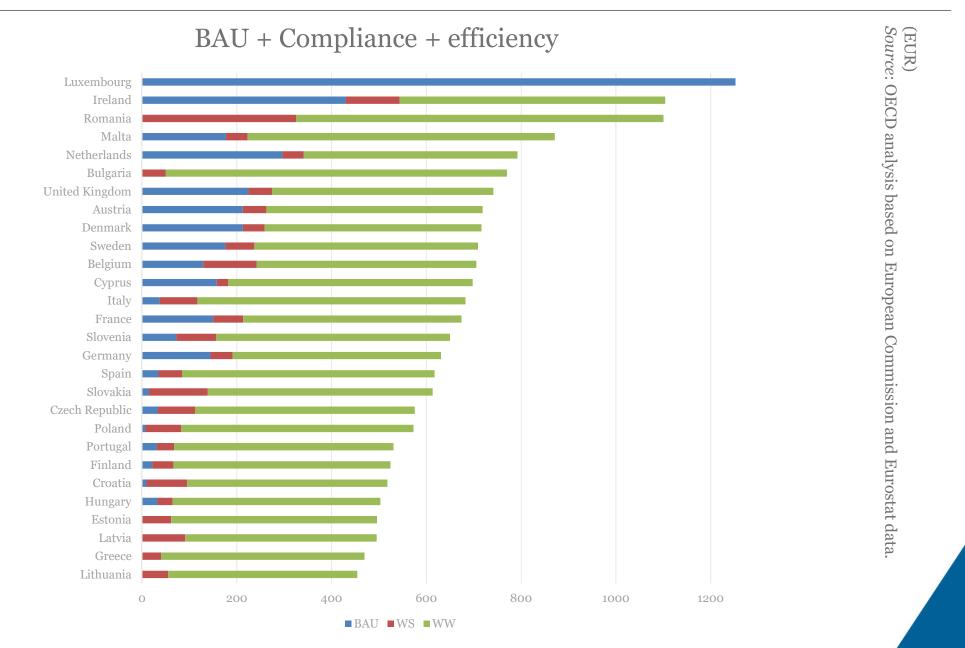


- ~ Climate change
 - ~ Drought
 - ~ Combined Sewers Overflows
 - ~ Floods
- ~ Contaminants of emerging concern
- ~ Sludge management
- ~ Efficiency
 - ~ Reduction of NRW/leakage
 - ~ Data management systems
- ~ SDG6: access to vulnerable groups

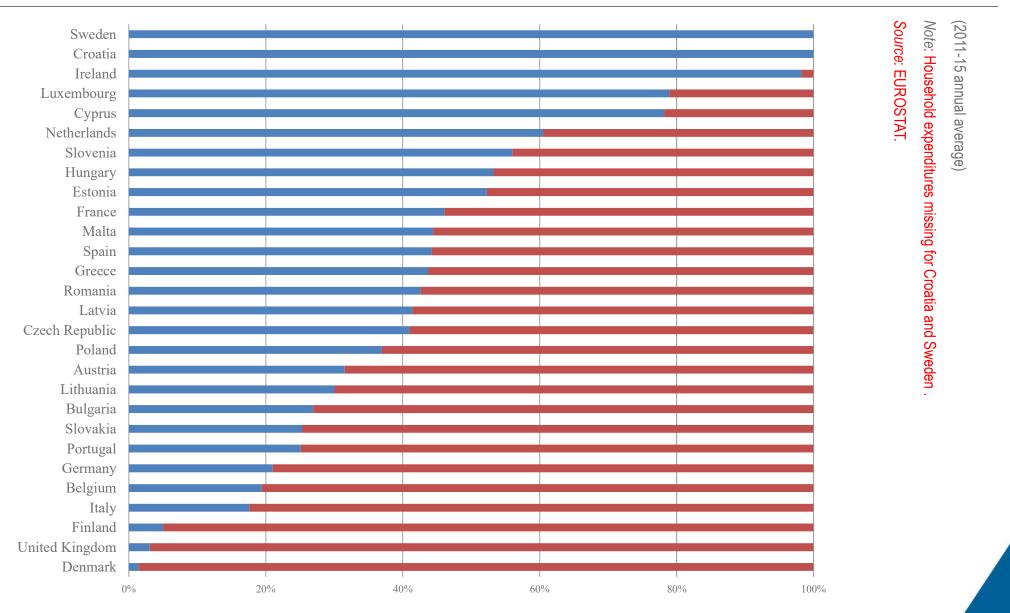


- The state of the asset
- Sludge management
- Adaptation to climate change
- CECs pharmaceutical residues

Projecting financing needs Cumulative additional exp. by 2030 per capita



Financing capacities Sources of finance for WSS



Will our mission be wider?



- Climate change: adaptation and mitigation measures
- ~ Energy: efficiency, recovery, production
- ~ Circular economy: water reuse and sludge as resources
- Micropollutants and microplastics: extra-treatment? And source control?
- ~ Agriculture pollution: cooperation with farmers (and enforcement?)
- ~ Increased performance: **benchmarking** at national level
- ~ Transparency: relevant and up-to-date information to consumers
- Security, safety and resilience: managing risks, including malicious events, to ensure continuation of service
- Customers engagement: need to explain the sector's role and the need for investments to ensure sustainability for future generations
- ~ Affordability: mechanisms in place



- ~ Circular economy:
- 1. Water reuse: who pays?
 - ~ The beneficiaries that use reclaimed water: farmers and industry....or the water customer?
- 2. Recovery of nutrients from sludge:
 - ~ Minimum % of recovered P in the production of fertilisers to create/develop a market



~ Micropollutants (CECs) and the UWWTD:

~ Source-control is essential:

- Holistic approach to the lifecycle of substances
- ~ End-of-pipe treatment at UWWTPs:
 - Energy and chemical intensive: not in line with climate ambition and the circular economy
 - what about the Extended Producers Responsibility: Pharmaceutical and Chemical Industry to contribute to the costs of extratreatment?



- ~ Climate mitigation and adaptation measures (including NBS)
- ~ Transfers to farmers to protect water resources from nitrates and pesticides
- ~ Energy production at UWWTP
- ~ Copenhagen harbour: bathing water quality



Will water services be the Superman of the water cycle?





Should everything be financed via the water tariff?

What we expect from regulators



- Engagement to develop together a vision for the European water sector to cope with societal challenges
- Raise the awareness of European and national institutions on the need for sustainable investments in the water sector (intergenerational responsibility)
- If WFD revised, to implement a real cost recovery, not only through water bills. Industry and agriculture should contribute (affordability)
- Prioritisation for drinking water in case of drought and allocation conflicts (availability)
- ~ Making consumers more aware of the value of water

Thank you for your attention

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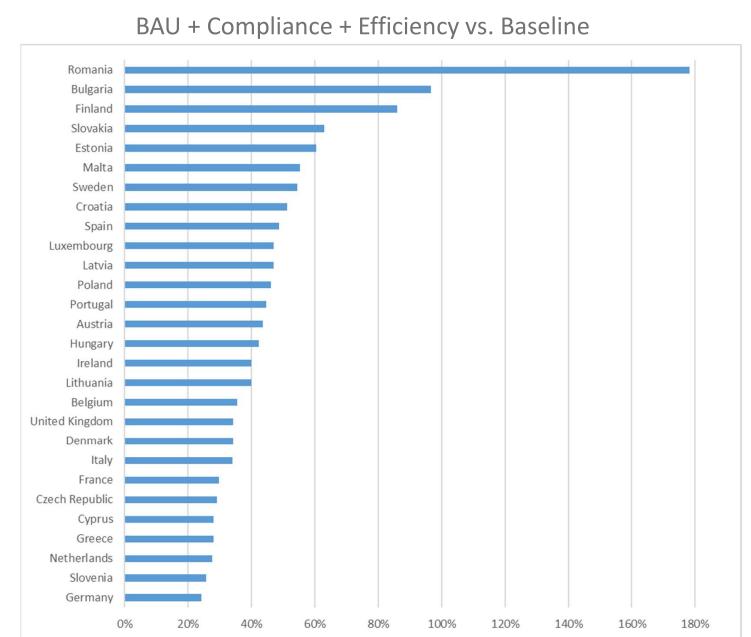


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Projecting financing needs Per Annum additional expenditures by 2030



Source: OECD analysis based on European Commission and Eurostat data



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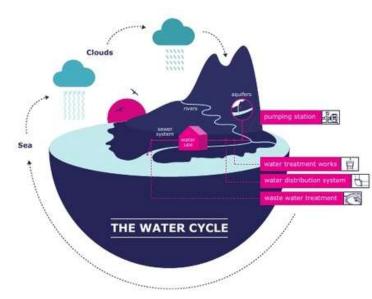
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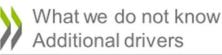
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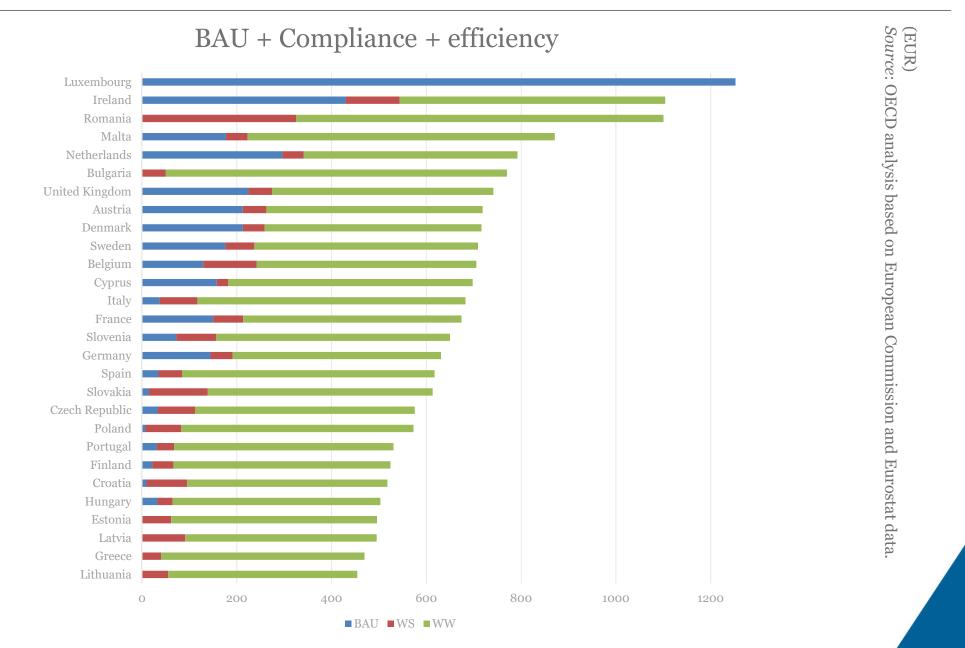


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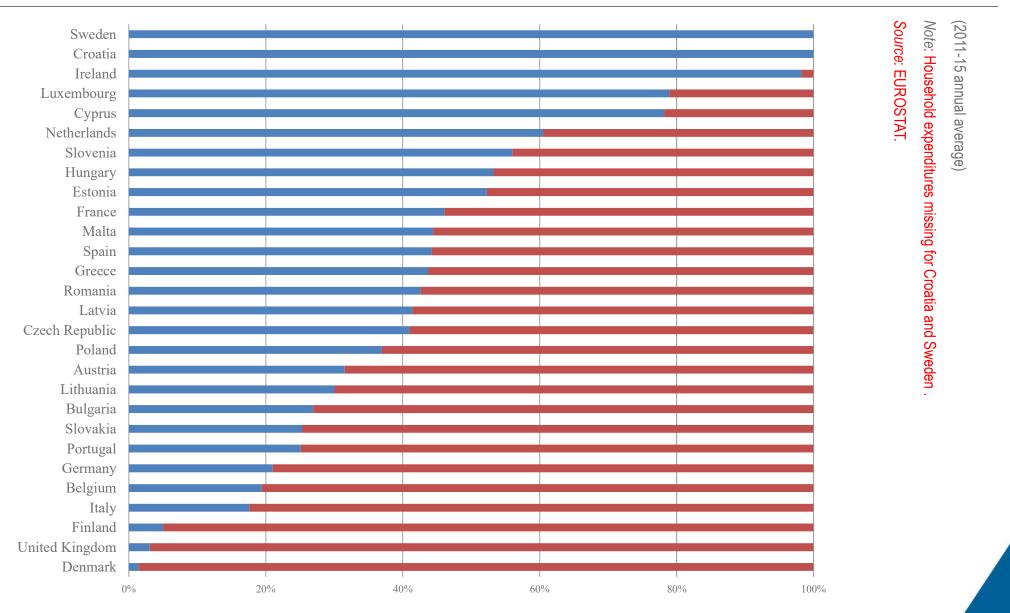


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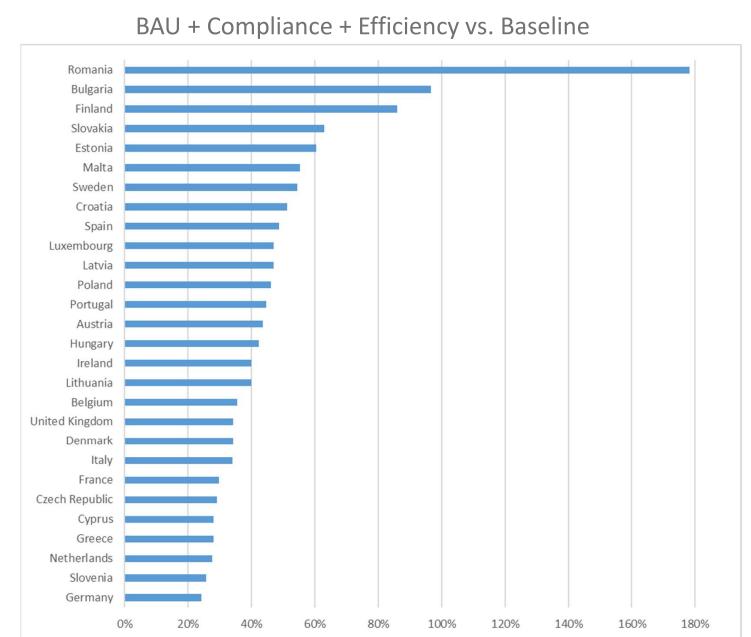


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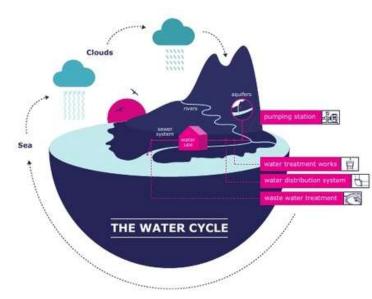
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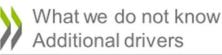
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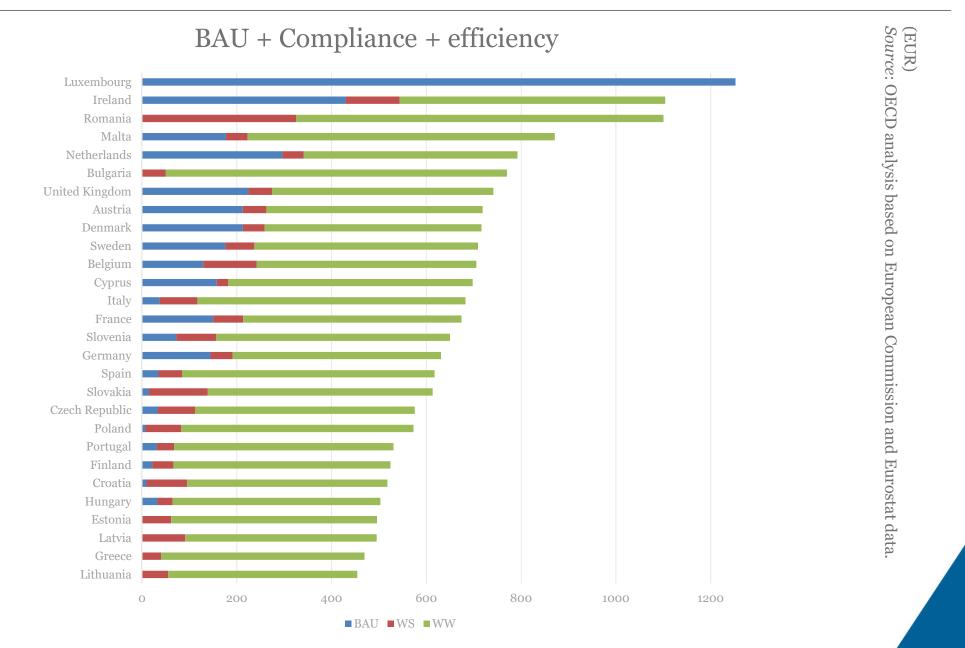


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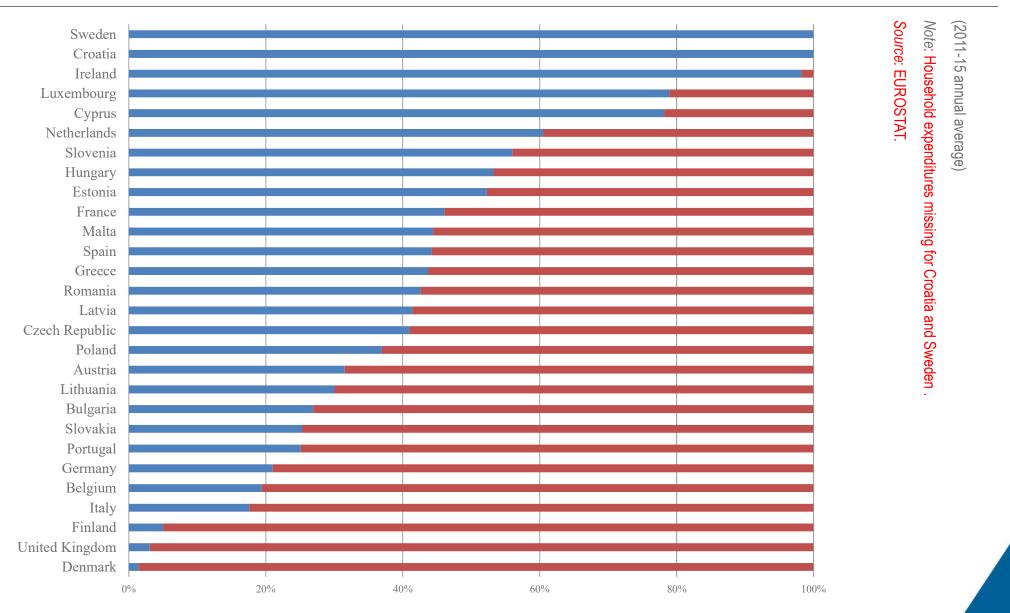


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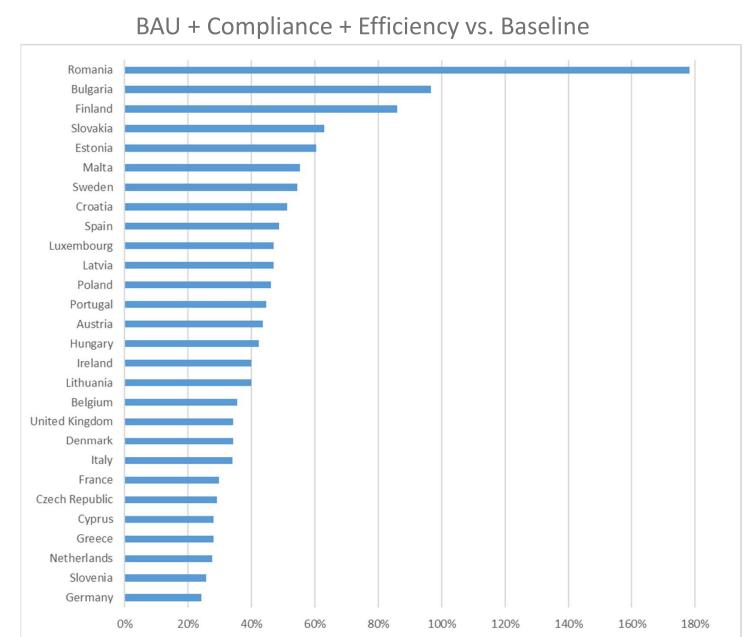


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