



BeWater

**Making society an active participant in
water adaptation to global change**

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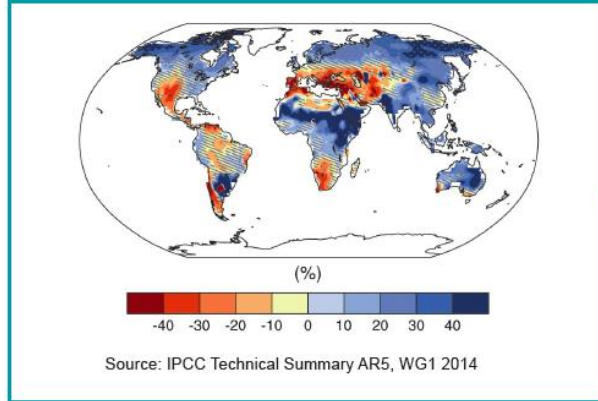
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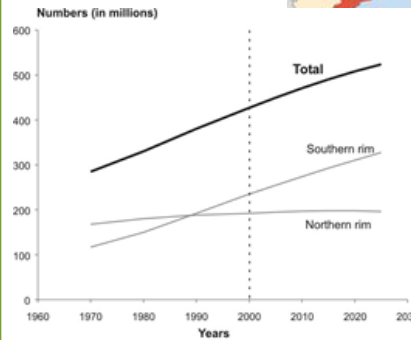
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A collaborative response to Global Change

Runoff by the end of the 21st Century (RCP8.5: 2081-2100)



Global change threatens the whole society. Uncertainty



Particular risk in Mediterranean region: increasing pressure on water resources. Complexity

ADAPTATION

Dialogue and collaboration between science and society
Social awareness, empowerment and joint responsibility
Bottom-up approach

Key objectives

Apply an **innovative, stakeholder-driven method** of societal transition towards a **less vulnerable** more **sustainable and adaptive river basin management**

Promote the **transfer** of BeWater results **into management and adaptation policy**

Promote **mutual and multi-directional learning** among partners, entities and actors within and between the river basins and with the broader society

Enhance **social participation** and build **societal resilience**



Dialogue and collaboration between science and society

Participatory methodology



Co-creation of four
River Basin Adaptation Plans



Iterative approach

**Science
based work:**
case study partners,
project partners

**Participatory
events:**
experts and
stakeholders

**Science
based work**
project
consortium

....

Applying BeWater approach to
other river basins & sectors

The BeWater process



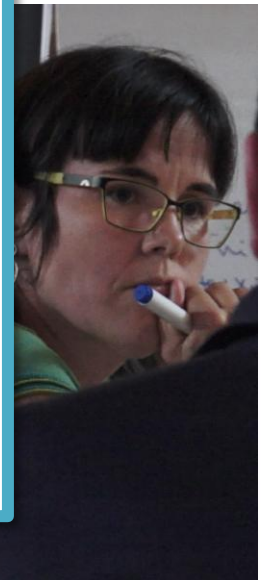
Participation for better problem identification, more suitable solutions and increased consensus → sustainable decisions

Stakeholder workshops



A participatory and stakeholder-driven approach applied in 4 case studies:

- 16 RBAP co-production **workshops**
- 25 complementary **events**
- **Hundreds of participants** representing: public administration, academia, education, private sector, NGOs, civil society with often conflicting priorities and competing resource uses.
- Use of diverse tools and methodologies



Problem scoping: Identifying challenges & objectives



Collaborative diagnosis: the current and future state of the basins

Science-based information:

- Series of meteorological data
- Climate projections at regional scale
- Land use changes
- Demographical trends
- DPSIR analysis
- Biophysical and socio-economic vulnerability and impact analysis
- ...



Stakeholder inputs:

- Citizen perceptions on current and foreseen challenges arising from climate change impacts
- Drivers of global change in the basin
- Relationship between key factors characterising the basin's dynamics
- Current and planned regional and local policies
- Common vision about the desired state of the basin
- ...

River basins challenges

Vipava (Slovenia):

- Water availability during droughts in growing season
- Flood risk reduction
- Appropriate water quality

Rmel (Tunisia):

- Water quantity
- Water quality
- Agriculture
- Forest & biodiversity management
- Awareness of civil society
- Human resource and employment

Tordera (Spain):

- Water quantity
- Water quality
- Health of forests & water ecosystems
- Integrated Water Management

Pedieos (Cyprus):

- Quantitative and qualitative status of groundwater
- Quantitative and qualitative status of surface water
- Flooding from the river

Problem solving: Co-developing water management options



Challenges and solutions in Pedieos (Cyprus)



GROUNDWATER



SURFACE WATER



FLOODING



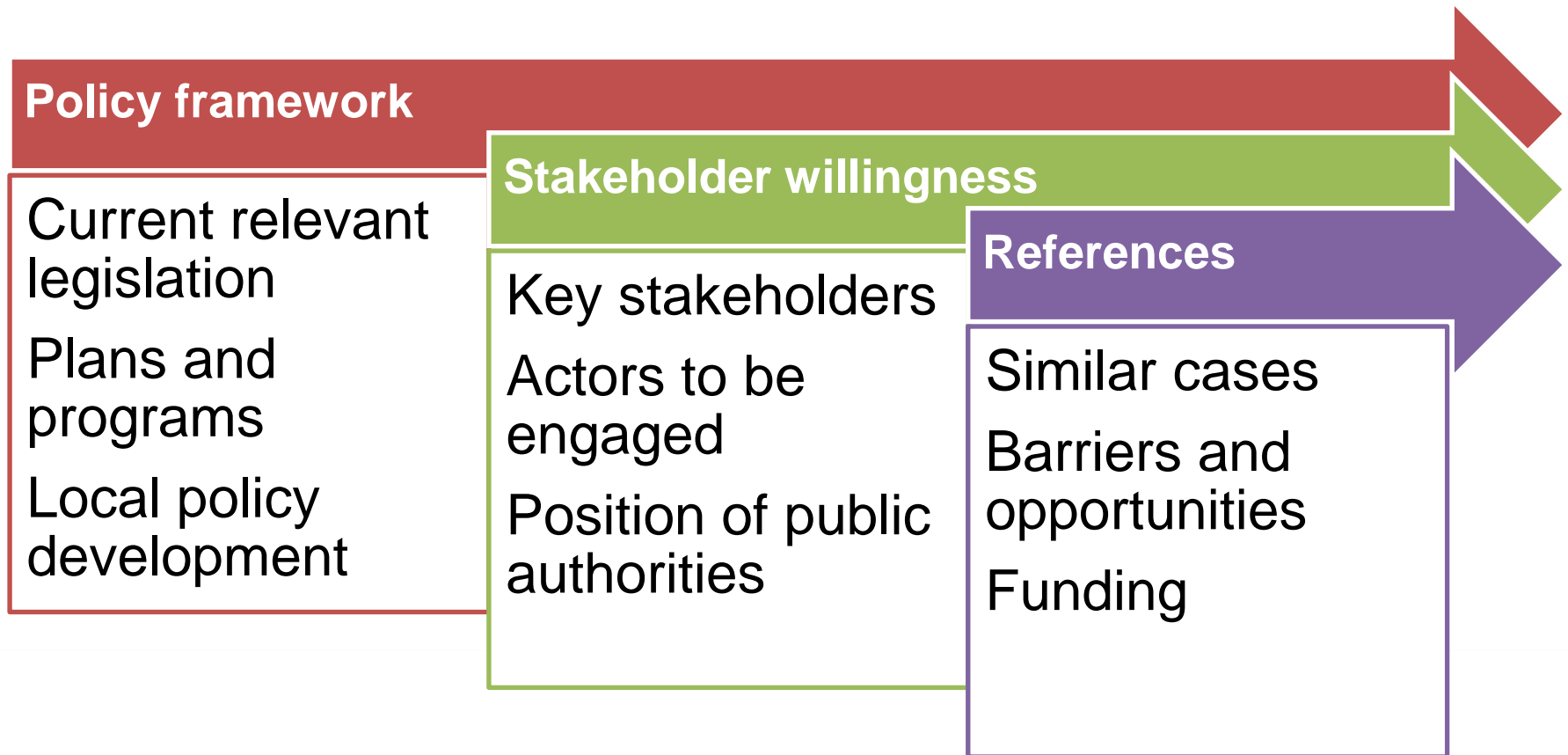
102 options in total!

Evaluation of water management options

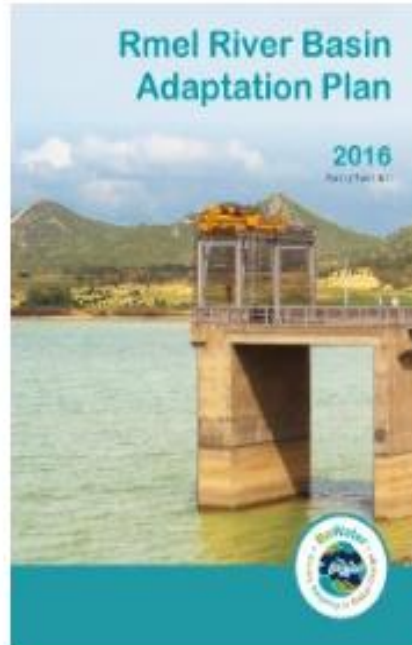
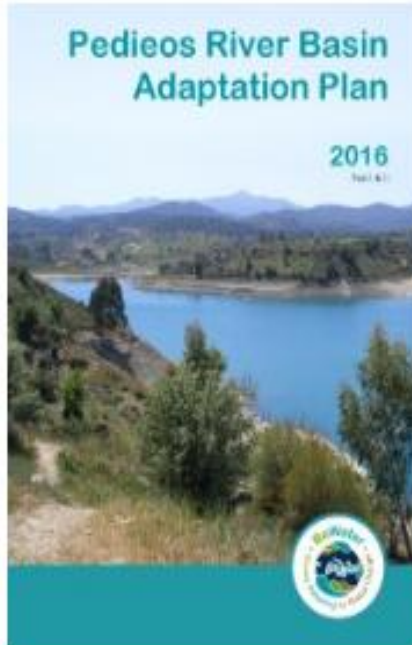


Preparing Adaptation Plans

Implementation-oriented information



Four Adaptation Plans

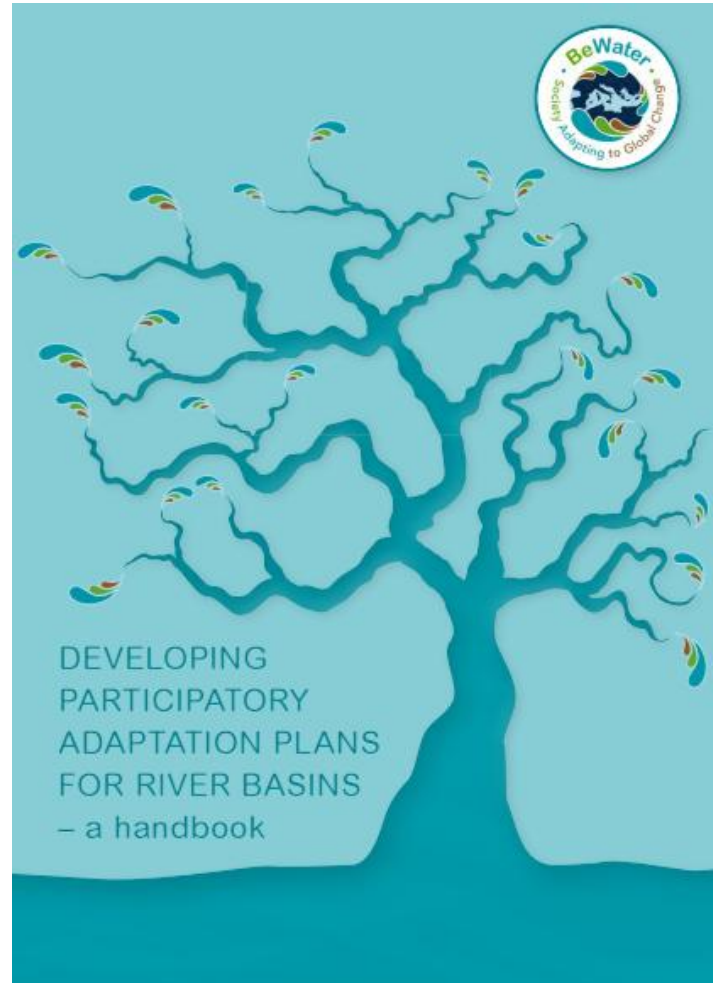


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Handbook of lessons learned



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Policy recommendations: EU, national/regional, local levels



Policy recommendations:

EU, national/regional, local levels

- **Adaptation** should be understood not merely as a technical approach but rather as a **wider political and social process**: societal vision building and collaboration across and between sectors to develop more robust and suitable solutions.
- **Small scale, replicable interventions** should be funded and supported by the EU to achieve wider-reaching adaptation impact.
- There is need to **increase the political will for stronger forms of participation** within adaptation decision-making processes, and for a subsequent **reform of governance process**.
- Defining **clear goals about the aim of the participatory process** is crucial for ensuring legitimacy, political uptake and sustained engagement.

Final remarks



Local **societies** are aware of the impacts of global change and its challenges and they are willing to **contribute** to pursue the **solutions** and actively participate in **decision taking** processes.



Stakeholders involved in BeWater have **evaluated** the process and outcomes as being **very positive** and a great experience of multi-stakeholder dialogue in **participatory RB planning**.



Stakeholders in the 4 CSs have taken **ownership** of the project results and many of them are **promoting initiatives** to pursue project outcomes after BeWater has ended.



Mainstreaming into policy development, plans and programs has been fostered.



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Thank you!



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