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ACQUATIC ENVIRONMENTS: RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

AcqueVive call

LIFE Climax Po – Regional stakeholders board

European initiatives towards climate resilience for aquatic environments

Benjamin JEANNOT
European Commission, DG ENV
Unit C1 :Sustainaible freshwater Management

10 novembre 2026 – Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali, Torino

Contents

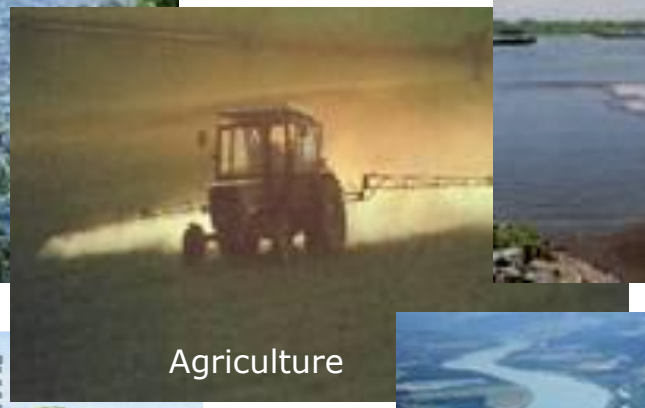
- ❑ Introduction and diagnosis of challenges at EU level
- ❑ European Water Resilience Strategy from 2025 and its implementation
- ❑ Recently announced European Water Initiative (Sept 2026)
- ❑ Recently released European climate resilience framework (Oct 2026)

Various uses, water demand,pressures and impacts

Water is a transversal issue



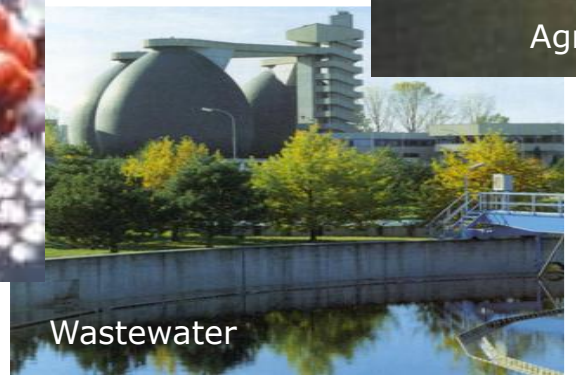














Jessika Roswall

COMMISSIONER (2024-2029) | Environment, **Water Resilience** and a Competitive Circular Economy

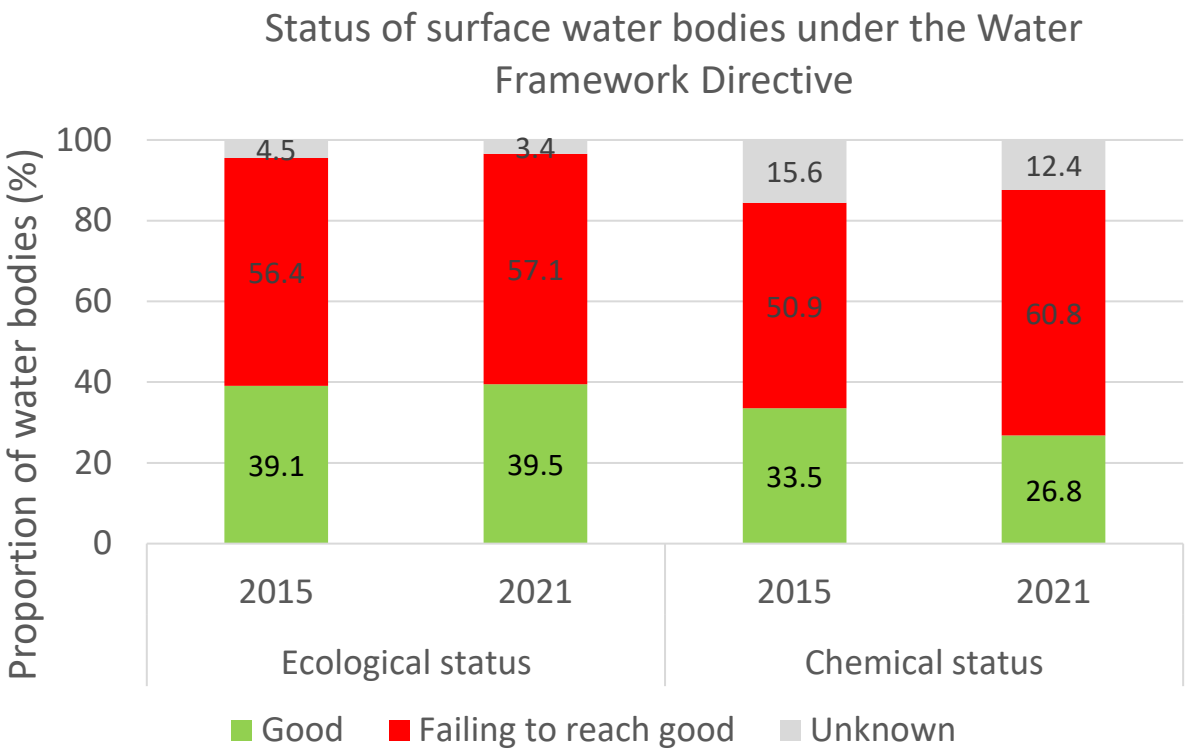


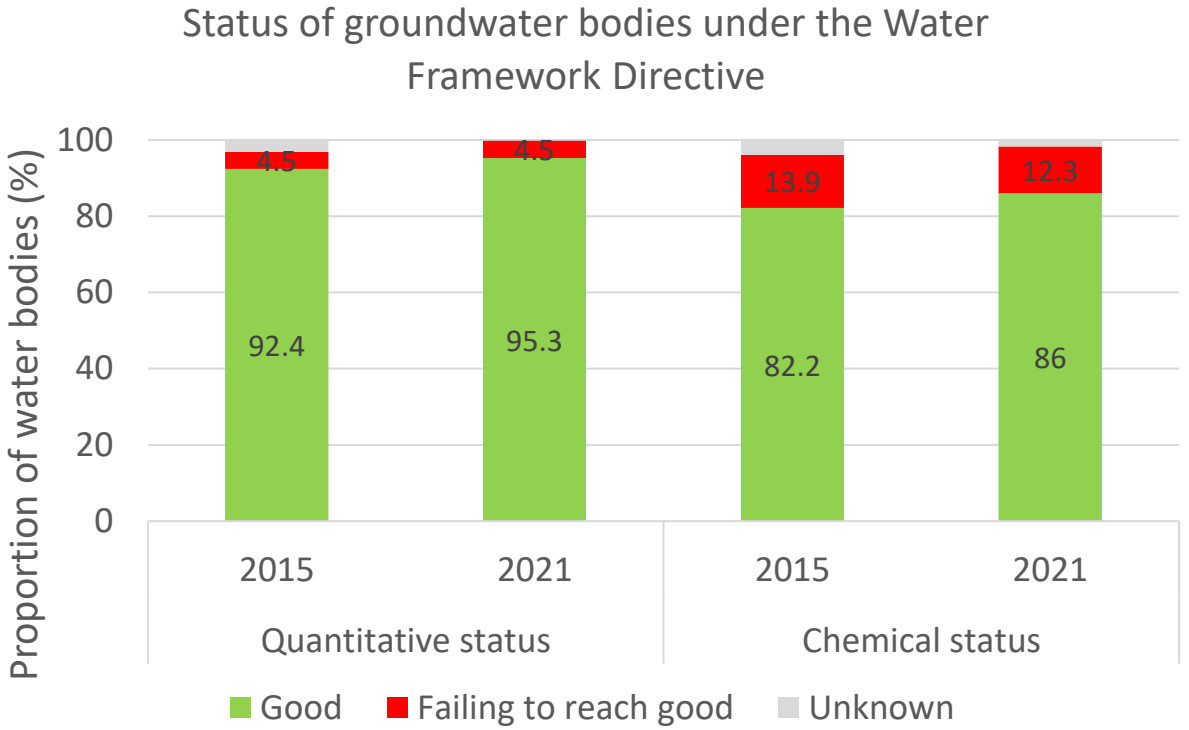
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Overview of European legislation on water



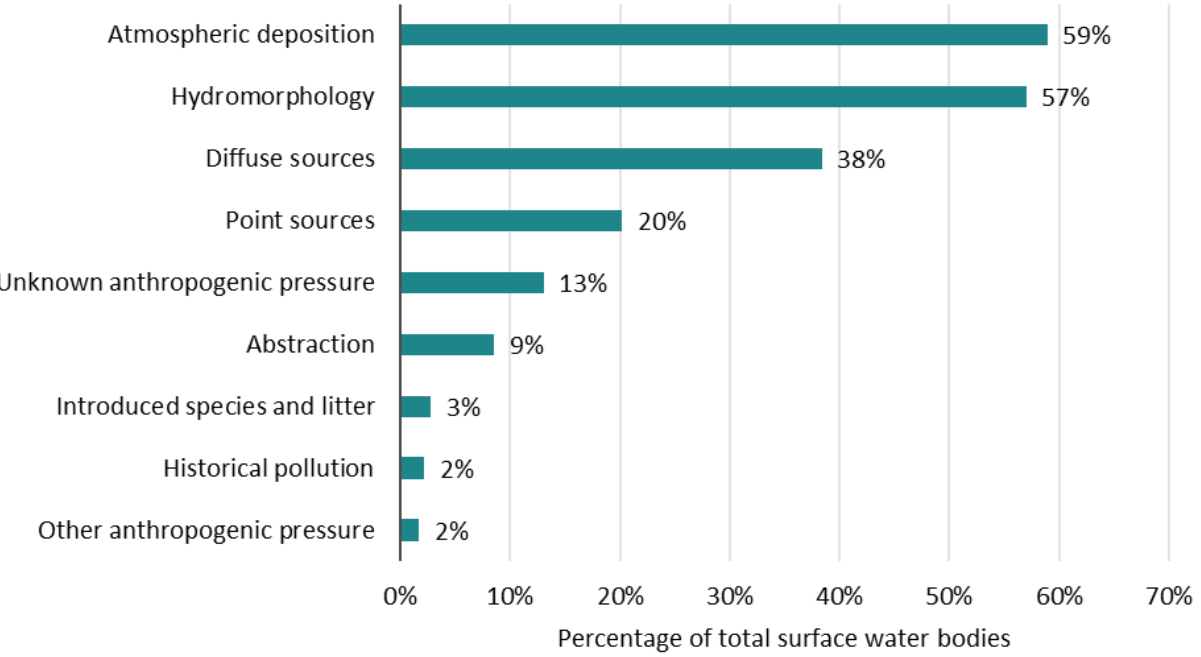
Status of water bodies in the EU

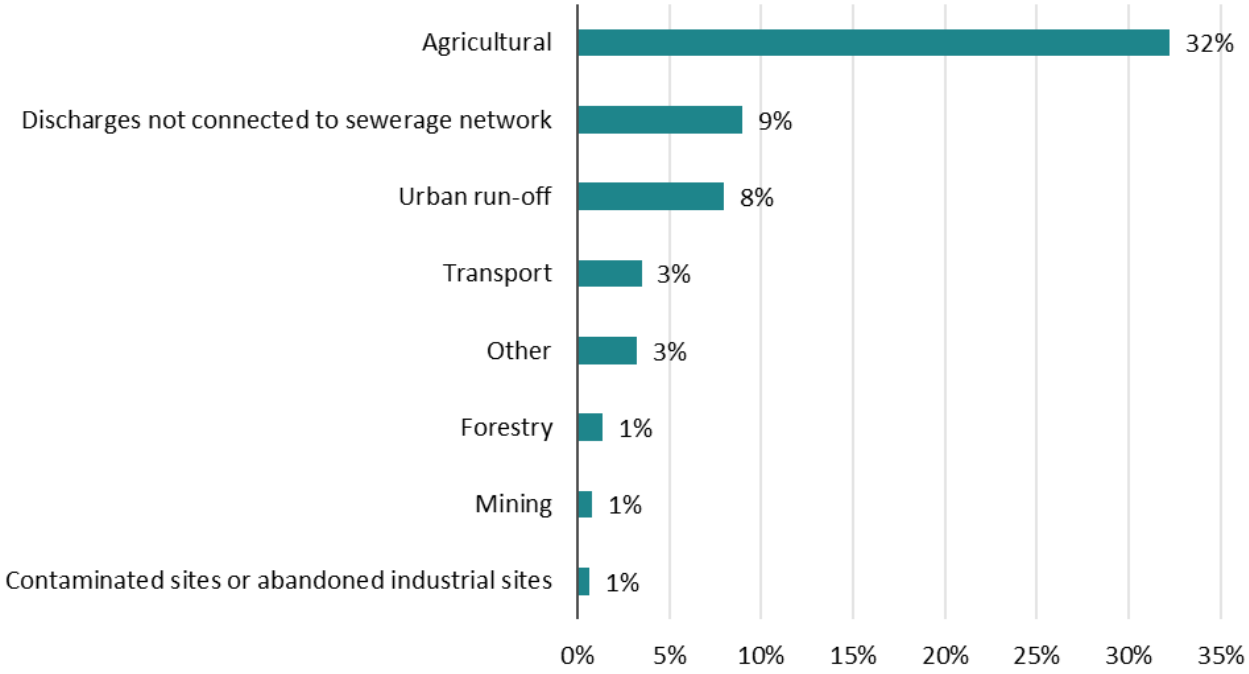




Source : SWD(2025) 13 final

Main pressures on surface water bodies

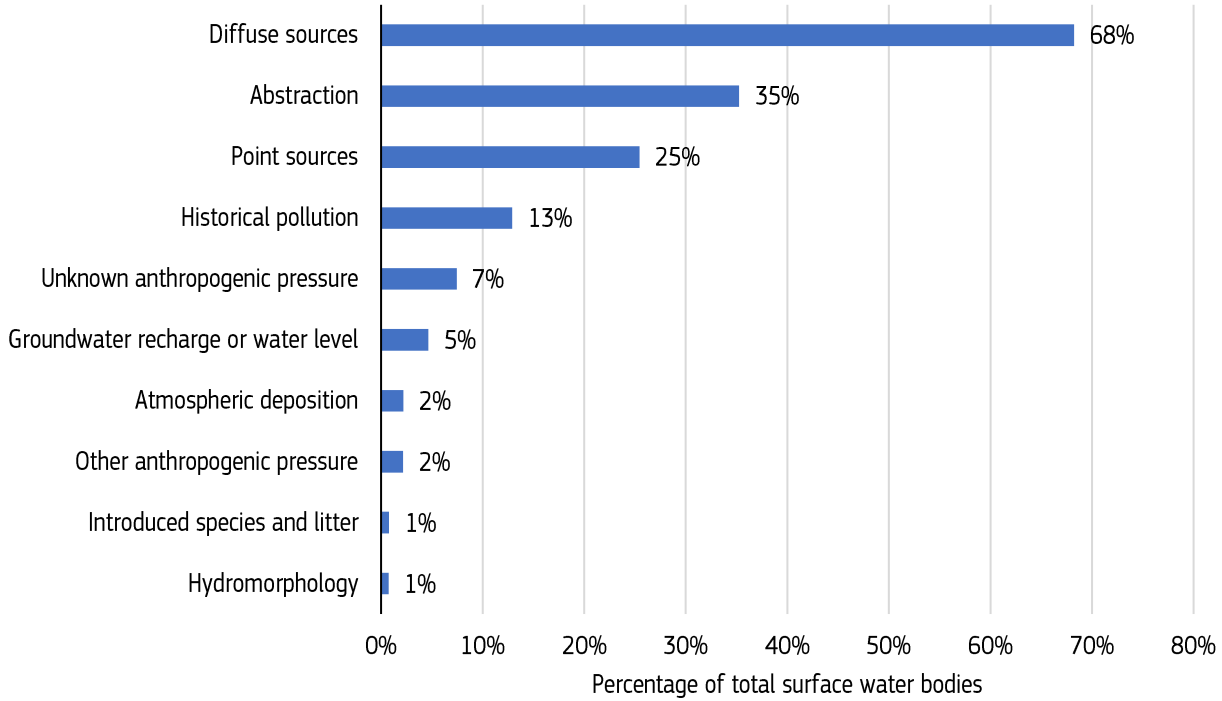




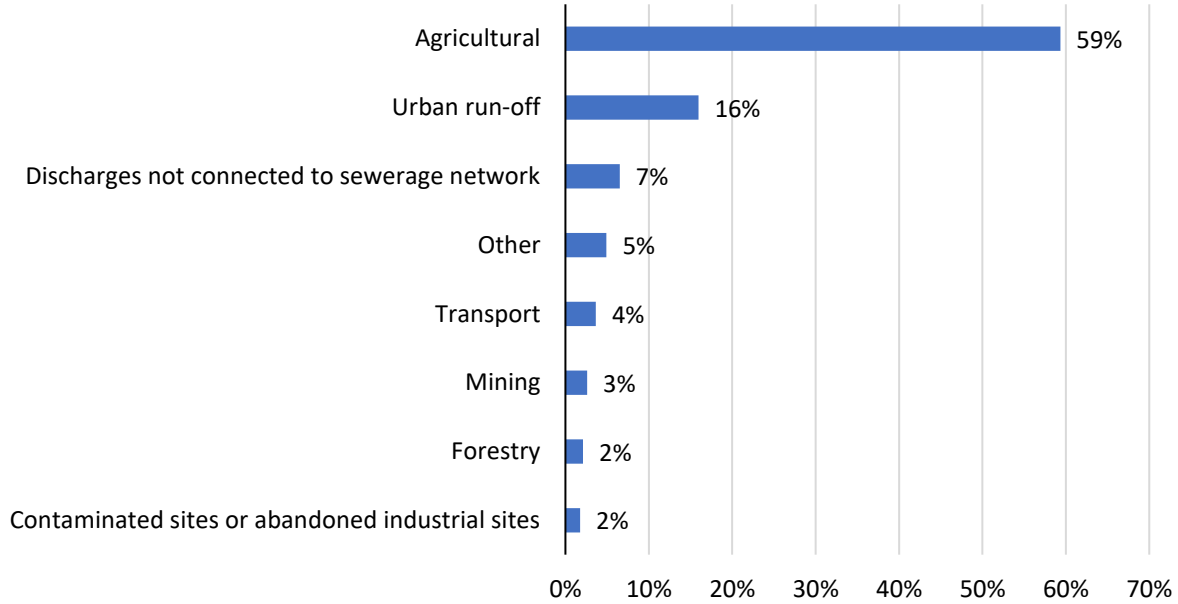
Source : SWD(2025) 13 final

Main pressures on groundwater bodies

Top 10 significant pressures

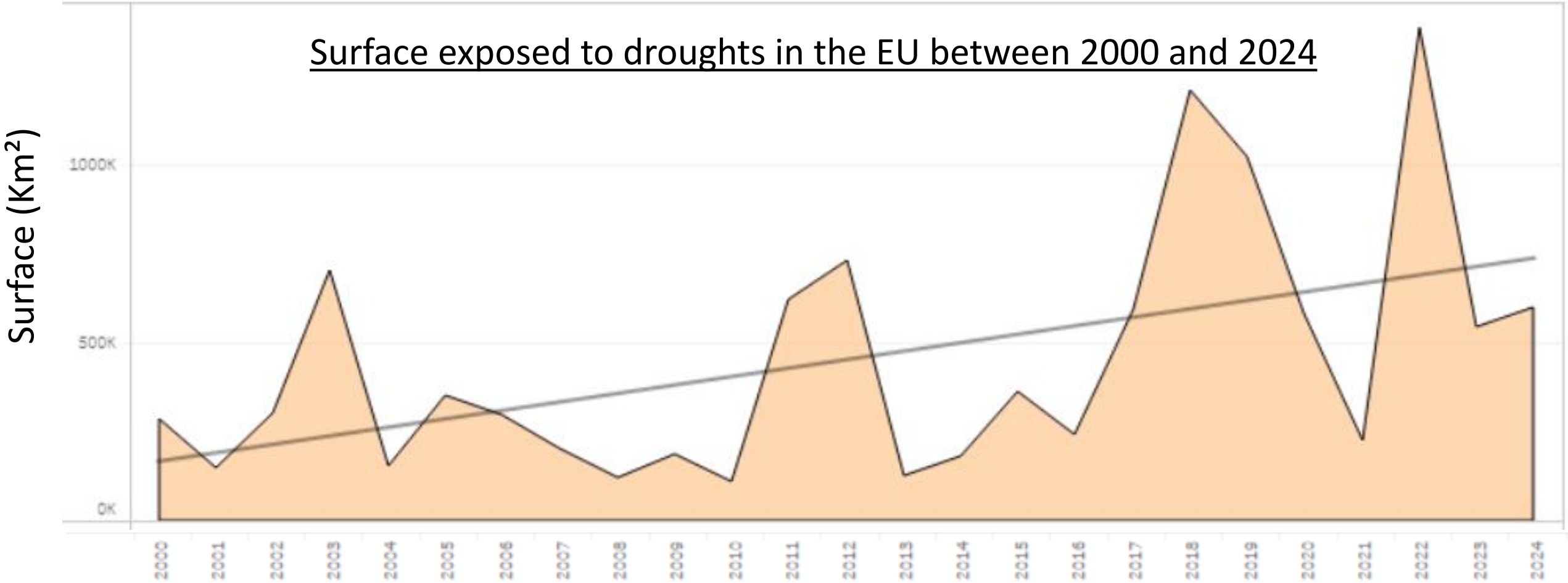


Main sources of diffuse pollution (except atmospheric deposition)



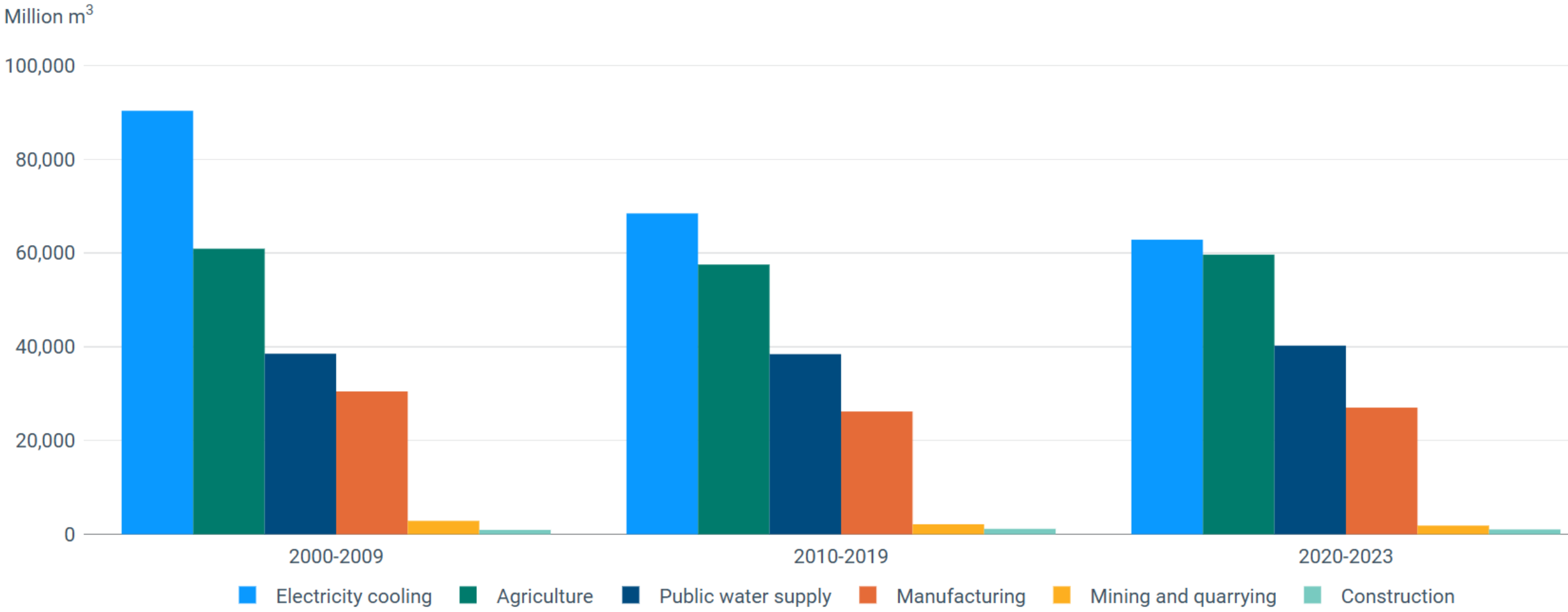
Source : SWD(2025) 13 final

Droughts in the EU



Source : [Drought impact on ecosystems in Europe, 2000-2024 | Maps and charts | European Environment Agency (EEA)]

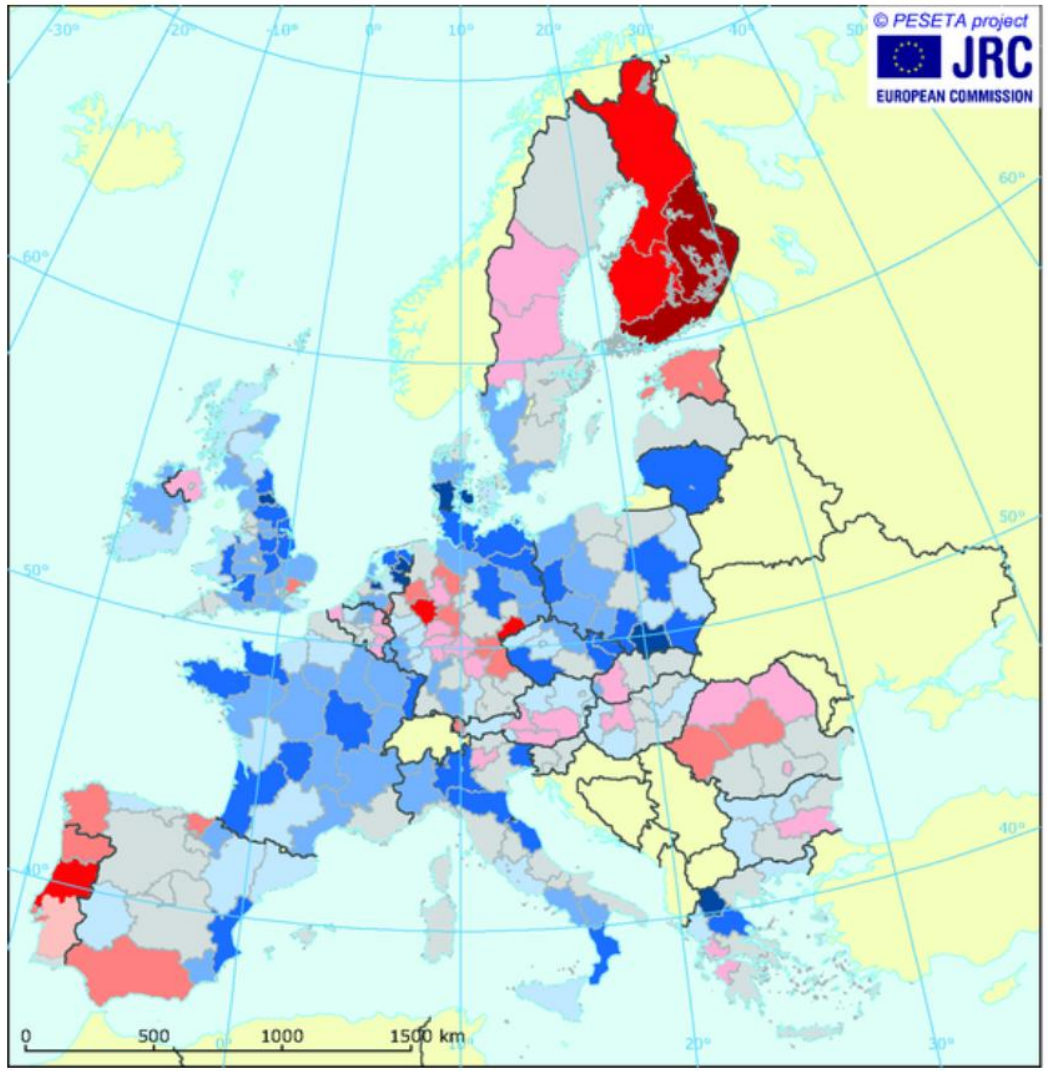
Water abstraction by sector of activity

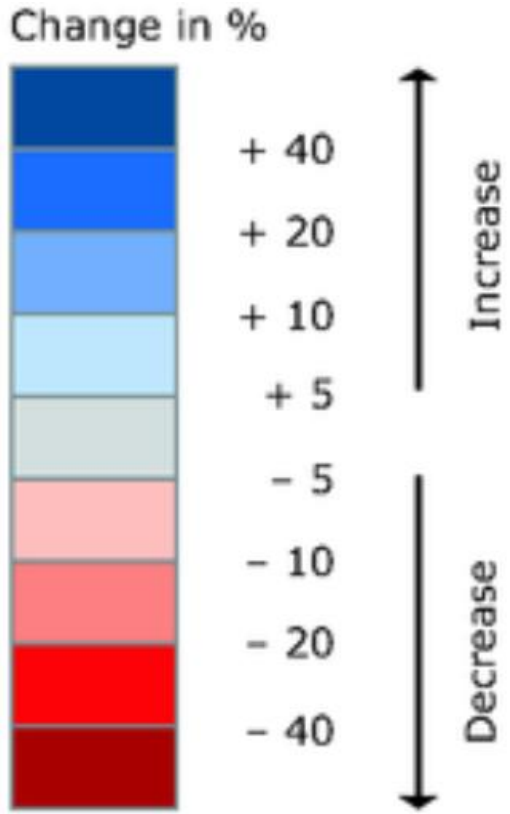


Source : [Drought impact on ecosystems in Europe, 2000-2024 | Maps and charts | European Environment Agency (EEA)]

Flooding risk

Evolution of damages linked to floods between the 1961-1990 period and the 2071-2100 period, according to scenario A2 of IPCC





Source : Projected change in damage of river floods with a 100-year return period between 2071-2100 and 1961-1990 | Maps and charts | European Environment Agency (EEA)

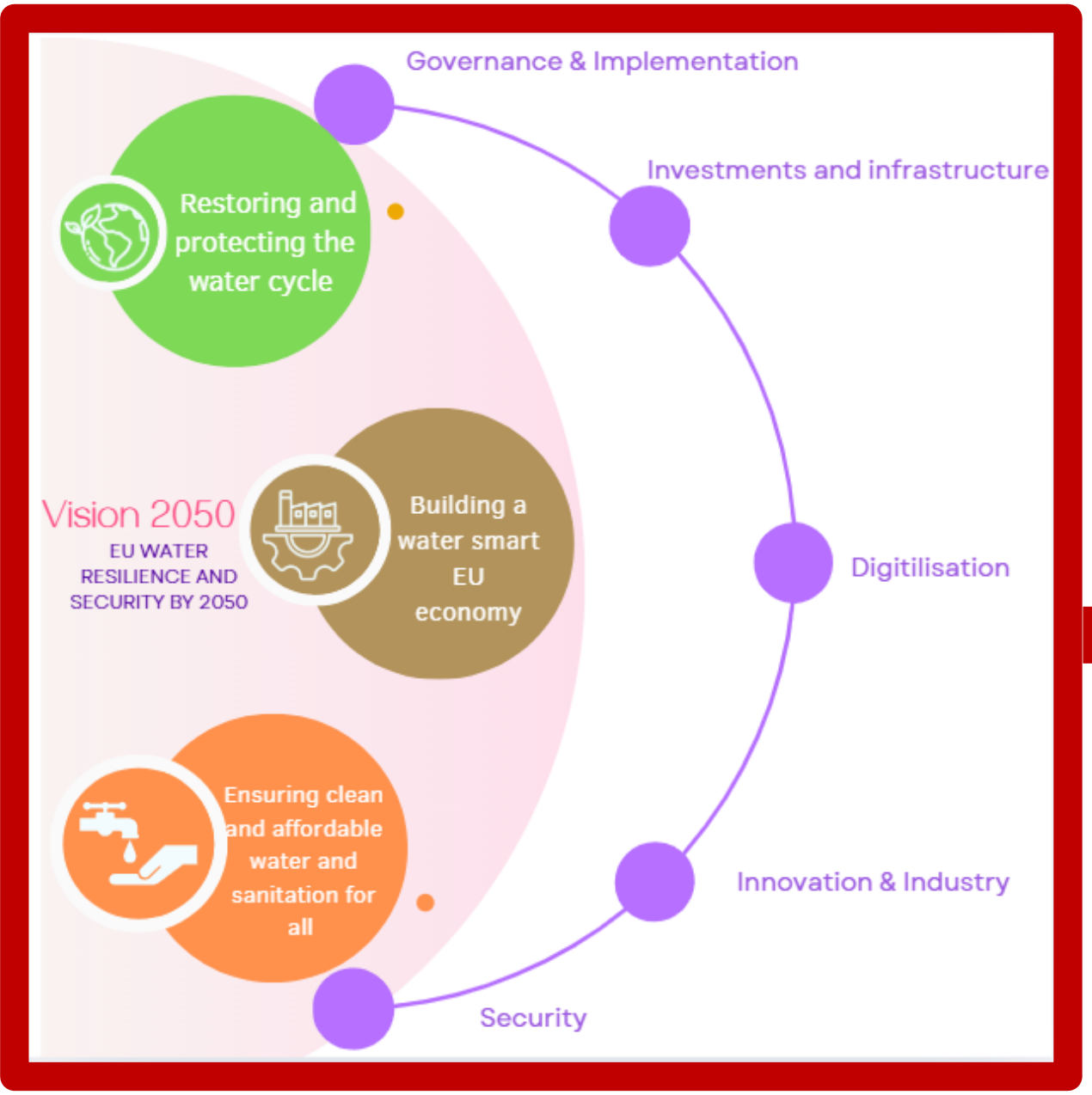
Water resilience strategy

Political Guidelines for the new Commission 2024-2029

”We need a new European **Water Resilience Strategy** to ensure sources are properly managed, scarcity is addressed, and that we enhance the competitive innovative edge of our water industry and take a circular economy approach”



- Published on June 4th 2025



- 30 flagship actions in 5 key areas

GLOBAL ACTION

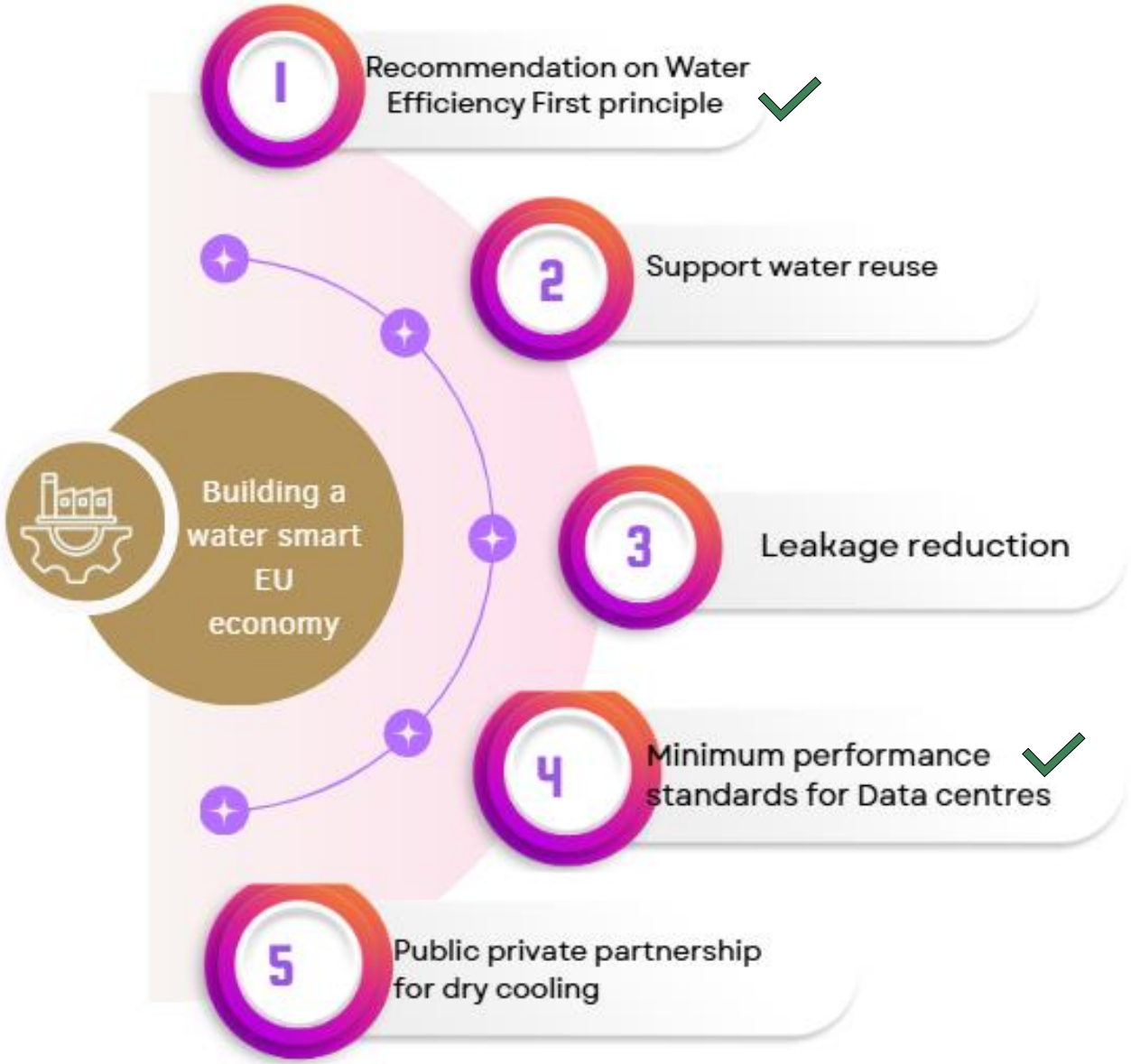
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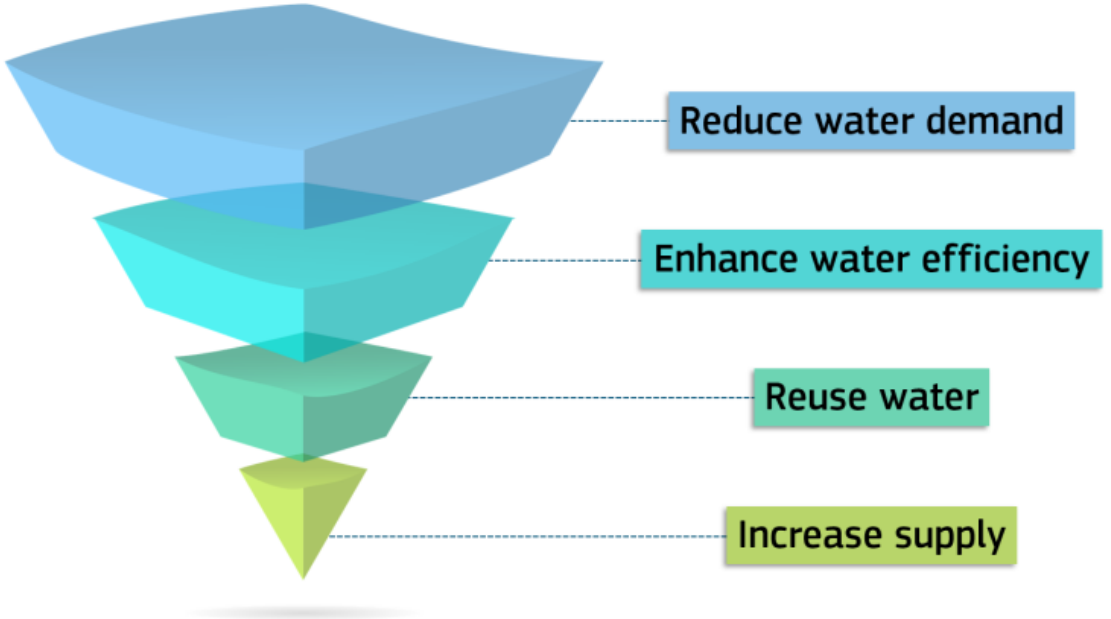
(Revision proposal expected in Q1 2027)

(Q4 2026)

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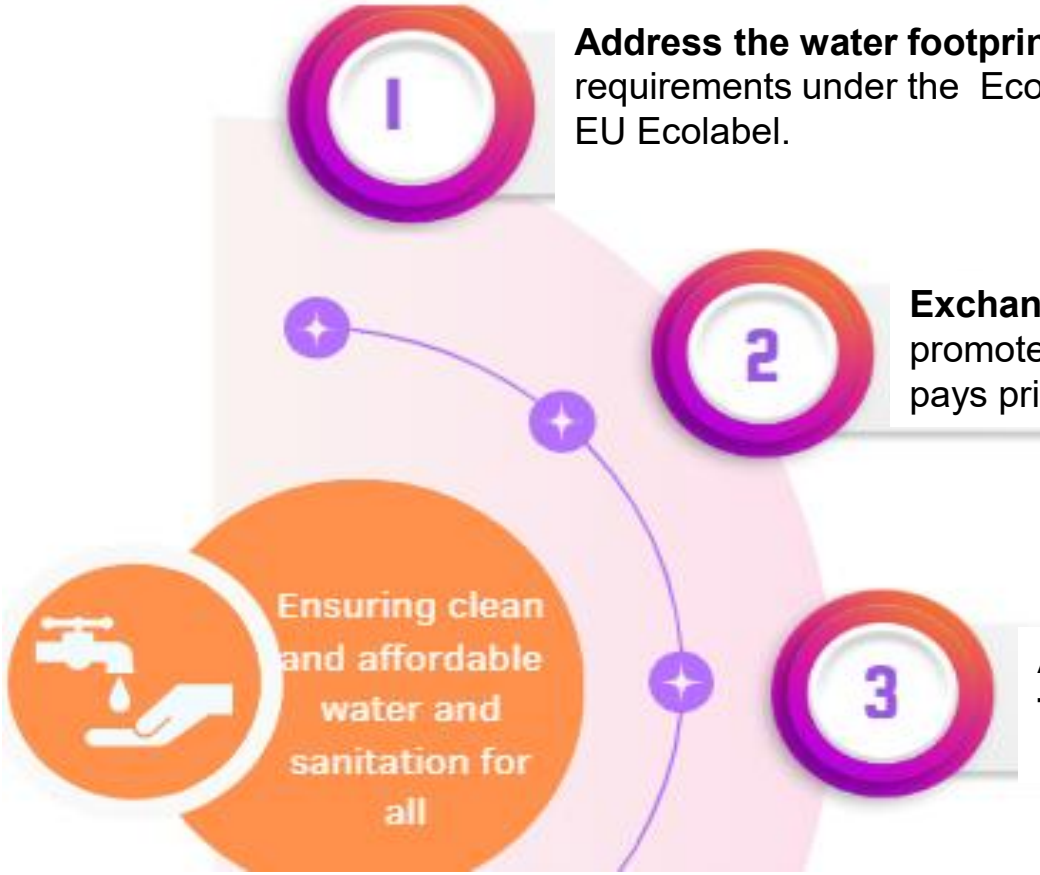


Water Efficiency First - Hierarchy



- ✓ ***An aspirational EU target*** *to* ***enhance water efficiency by at least 10% by 2030****.*
- ✓ ***Member States encouraged to set own targets****, based on national circumstances.*
- ✓ *Commission to assist with a* ***joint methodology*** *and* ***common benchmarks***

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Address the water footprint of products when setting or updating requirements under the Ecodesign for Sustainable Product Regulation and the EU Ecolabel.

Exchange of best practices on water pricing to promote water efficiency, cost recovery and the polluter pays principle, and related national water governance.

Address Water Resilience in the built environment, including in the framework of the European Affordable Housing Plan

Governance and implementation

Some key actions

CONDUCT STRUCTURED DIALOGUES WITH MS



Started with 16 Member States
Finished with 2 MS (Belgium and Germany)

LAUNCH THE WATER RESILIENCE FORUM



LAUNCH THE WATER RESILIENCE STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM

VISUALISATION TOOLS -WATER SMART SPATIAL PLANNING



Finance, investments & infrastructure

Some key actions

LAUNCH OF THE EIB WATER PROGRAMME AND ADVISORY FACILITY

- ✓ 15 billion in lendings from 2025 to 2027 + advisory facility

MIDTERM REVIEW OF COHESION POLICY - WATER RESILIENCE A NEW PRIORITY

- ✓ 3 billion reallocated towards water resillience

ADOPTION OF A ROADMAP TOWARDS NATURE CREDITS

- ✓ To mobilize private funding

ESTABLISH A WATER RESILIENCE ACCELERATOR

- 20 pilot projects demonstrating blended public-private financing for nature based solutions

Digitalisation

Some key actions

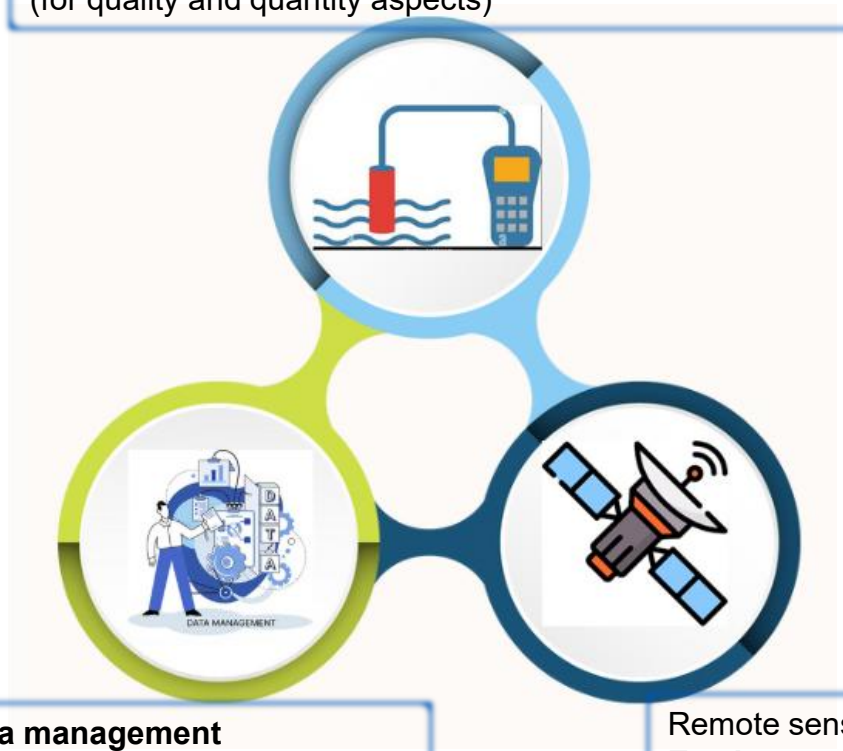
ACTION PLAN ON DIGITALISATION OF THE WATER SECTOR

(Q1 2027)

EU WIDE INITIATVE ON SMART WATER METERING

ONE STOP SHOP FOR COPERNICUS PRODUCTS ON WATER

Internet of things- Sensors-smart metering **In situ monitoring** (for quality and quantity aspects)



Digitilisation of **data management**
AI, Modelling, Destination Earth, Digital Twins

Remote sensing
Ex situ monitoring

Research, innovation & skills

Some key actions

OCEAN & WATER RESILIENCE R&D STRATEGY 

(Q1 2027)

EUROPEAN WATER ACADEMY 



KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION COMMUNITY EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY 



EU water industry:
a global leader that provides essential services and produces over 40% of global patents in water technologies

Security and preparedness

Some key actions

ENHANCE RESILIENCE OF WATER INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CRITICAL ENTITIES RESILIENCE DIRECTIVE



ENHANCE THE USE OF EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS



EUROPEAN CLIMATE RESILIENCE FRAMEWORK

&

THE PREPAREDNESS UNION STRATEGY



✓

✓

European Climate resilience framework : a regulation, a policy communication and innovative new digital tools

The proposed regulation includes :

- A **reference global warming trajectory** to plan for future climate realities.
- The **identification of policy risk ownership:** to clarify who is responsible for preparing for future climate conditions and deciding on the acceptable level of residual risk exposure in their specific areas.
- **Improved and more regular climate risk assessments:** to ensure that Member States' assessments and European Climate Risk Assessments (EUCRA) are comparable and coherent
- **A single strategic plan for climate resilience**
- **Simpler and more effective monitoring and progress tracking:** to understand and assess the outcome of climate resilience actions and how we can improve them.

European Climate resilience framework : a regulation, a policy communication and innovative new digital tools

The digital tools include:

- **The European Climate viewer:** an interactive open-access tool which shows current and future climate conditions through map-based information.
- **The Navigator of Climate Resilience Tools:** to help people, businesses and public authorities identify and use the tools most relevant to their needs.
- **The Solutions Explorer of** the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change: which showcases measures already being implemented across regions, cities and policy sectors, and can support wider uptake.

Water Resilience Strategy Action Tracker

Online monitoring tool focusing on progress in implementing the main actions set out in the Strategy.

https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/water/water-resilience-strategy-actions-tracker_en



Eu Water Initiative

State of the European Union address, 16/09/2026



*"We know the **risks of water scarcity** for our **farmers, energy and supply chains**. Yet, European pipes lose almost one in every four litres Mostly through **leakage**. What a waste. So we will put forward a new **European Water initiative**. Because water is precious. For our industry – and for our food security."*

Focus on :
- addressing water scarcity
- Addressing the growing climate insurance gap.

Sources : SOTEU 2026 address and associated letter of intent

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Thank you

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