

## Mainstreaming Climate Change in Water and Cohesion EU Policy Sectors

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March 19<sup>th</sup> 2013

European Climate Change Adaptation  
Conference (ECCA), Hamburg.



LONDON  
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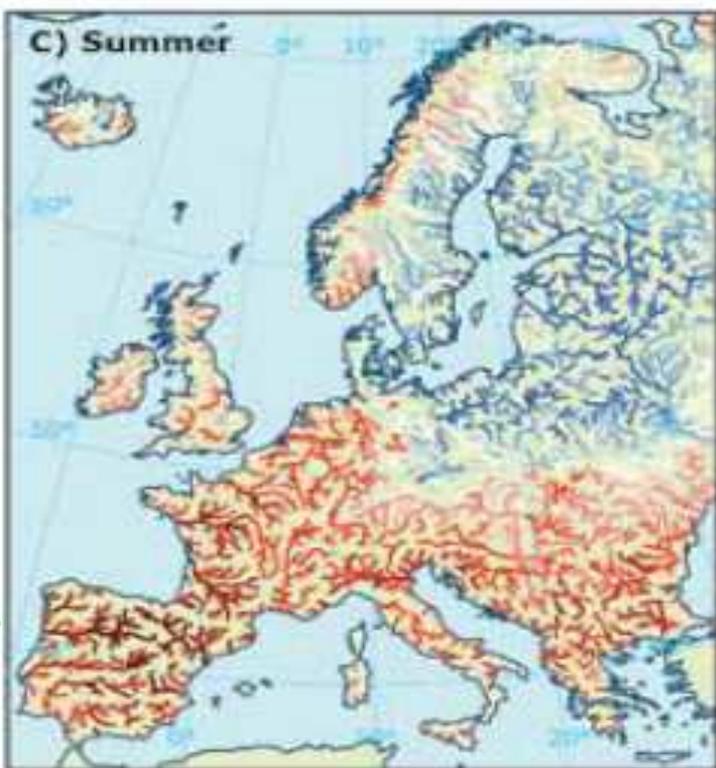
# WE ARE IN DROUGHT

MONKS OF 15c CAN MAKE IT RAIN - BUT WE CAN ALL LIVE LESS WATER



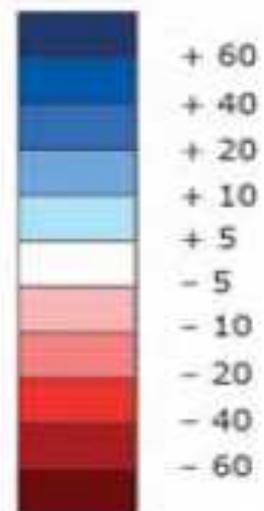
PLEASE  
USE WATER  
WISELY





**Relative change in average river flow between 2071–2100 and 1961–1990 (SRES A1B)**

% change





**“Climate change adaptation should be integrated into existing policy development, in planning, programmes and budgeting, across a broad range of economic sectors– a process generally called “mainstreaming”.”**

UNECE Guidance on water and adaptation to climate change, 2009

**“Integrated Water Resources Management at the River Basin Level is the foundation for progressing adaptation to climate change”**

IWRM Guidelines at River Basin Level, UNESCO, 2009

# Does climate change feature in EU water policy?

- 2007/60/EC, the Floods Directive – 7 references to climate change
- COM (2007) 414 final, Communication on Water Scarcity and Droughts – 8 references to climate change
- 2000/60/EC, the Water Framework Directive – no reference to climate change

## 2000/60/EC WFD, despite lack of mention of climate change, is well designed to support adaptation.....

- Clear objectives
- Well organised monitoring
- Cyclical – flexible to change and uncertainty
- Management of pressures – inherently leads to no and low regrets measures
- Encourages partnership
- Links with flood risk and land management
- (Can also integrate cost of carbon through economic analysis)

COMMON IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY  
FOR THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE (2000/60/EC)

Guidance document No. 24  
RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

- Endorsed by EU Water Directors in 2009
- First distinct product of the follow up process to the White Paper on Adaptation
- RBMP process recognised as primary way to build adaptation to climate change into water management



## The Guidance:

- illustrates ways in which climate change impacts can be integrated into preparations for the second and third RBMP cycles
- Aims to help Member States to clearly demonstrate as a minimum how climate change projections have been considered in the assessment of pressures and impacts, monitoring programmes and appraisal of measures
- focussed on WFD implementation but also includes principles for incorporating climate change into flood and drought management



- The Guidance Document describes 62 guiding principles (including 11 key guiding principles) for adaptation, and relates each to steps in RBMP.
- The principles are intentionally broad to be applicable across all Member States regardless of regional variations in potential impacts.
- Examples are provided to show how the principles might be applied in practice, but still fairly technocratic...!



## Objective setting

- Avoid using climate change as a general justification for relaxing objectives, but follow the steps and conditions set out in the WFD

## Pressures

- Guiding principle - Assess, over a range of timescales, direct influences of climate change and indirect influences where pressures are created due to human activities adapting to climate change.



## Measures

- Given deep uncertainty about regional climate change projections and realised impacts on aquatic ecosystems, RBMP should incorporate management strategies that deliver benefits regardless of the climate outlook.
- Robust and adaptive RBM measures are low regret, or reversible, incorporate safety margins, employ 'soft' solutions, are flexible, and give cross-sectoral benefits.



- Dialogue between Member States on implementation of guidance is ongoing via CIS Interest Group
- So far it is a very variable picture – and level of interest does not necessarily reflect level of risk!

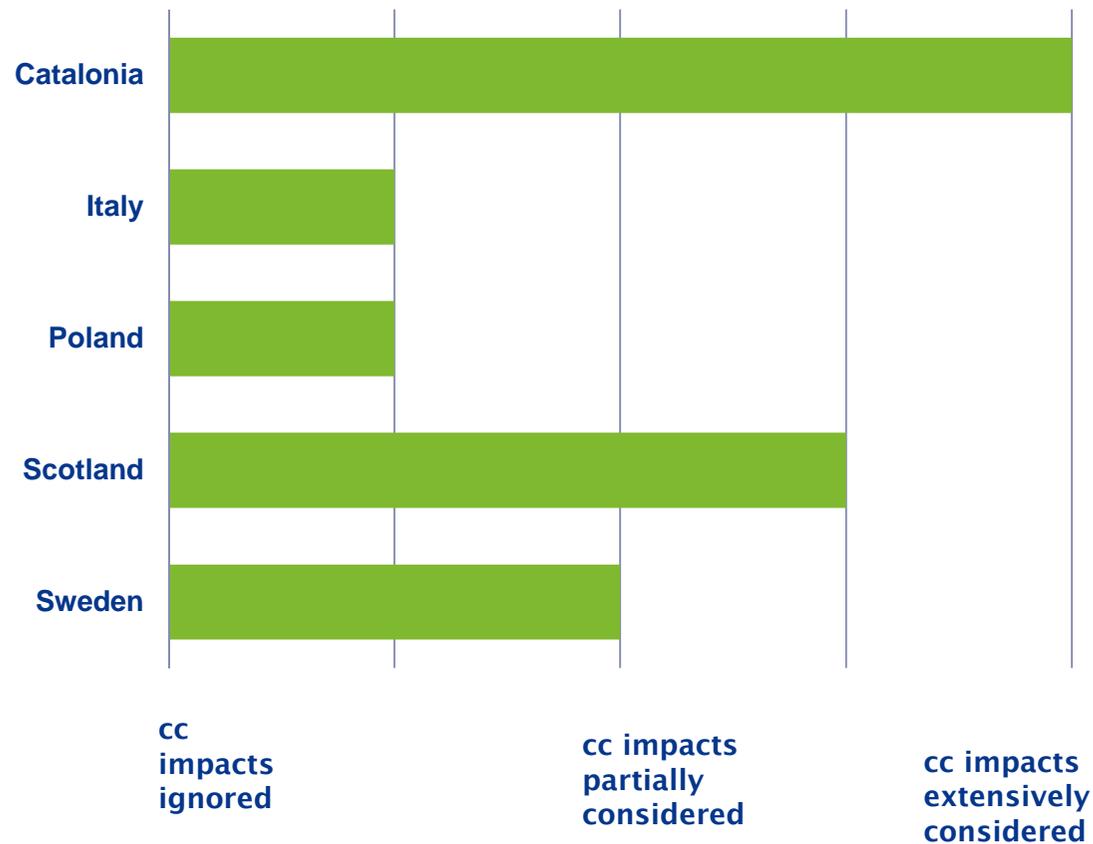
# Stijn Brouwer: 5 River Basin Districts



- Po River Basin District (Italy),
- Scotland River Basin District
- Catalonia (Spain)
- Northern the Baltic Sea River Basin District (Sweden)
- Odra River Basin District, and in particular the Warta sub-basin (Poland)

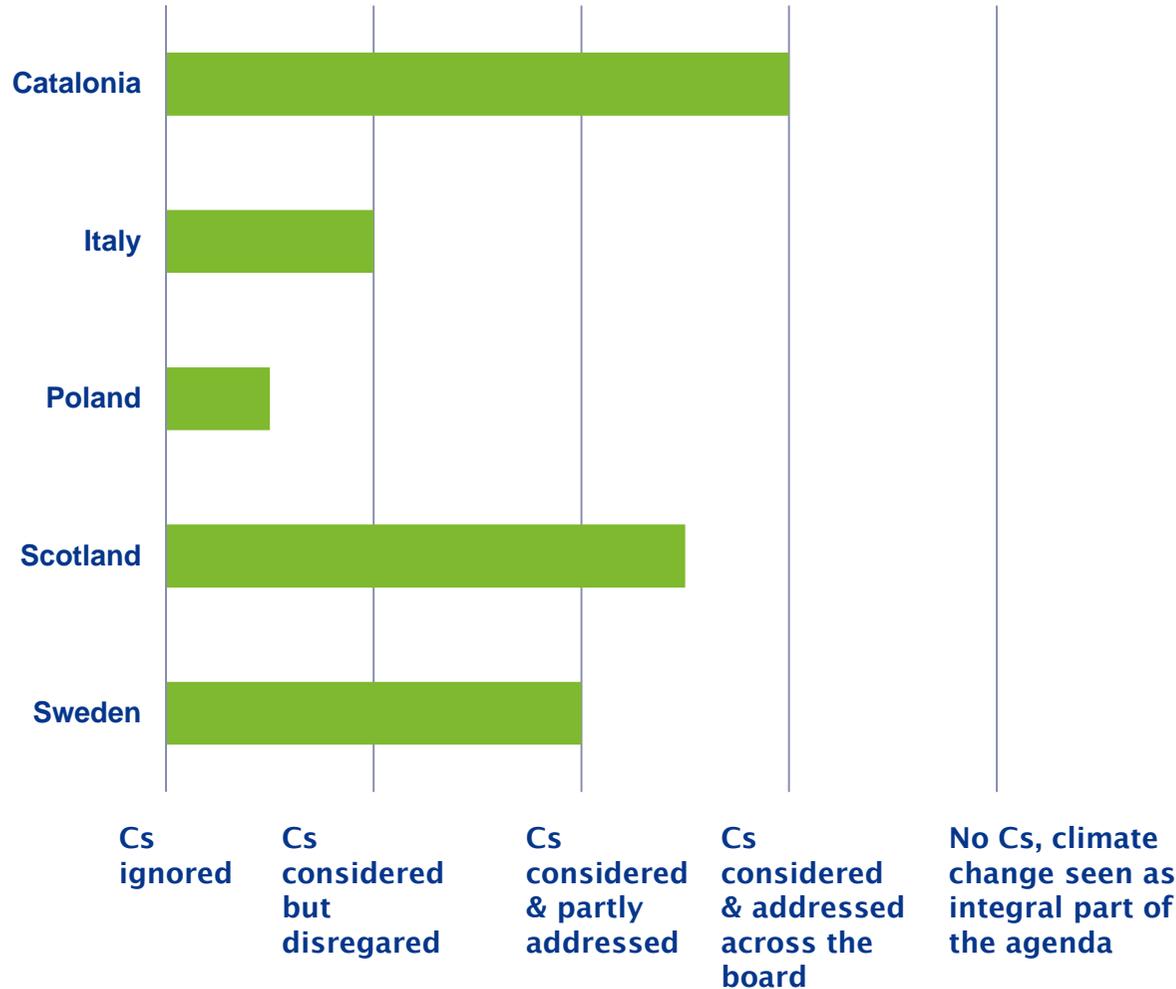
Researched in *Responses* project.

# Criteria 1: Inclusion



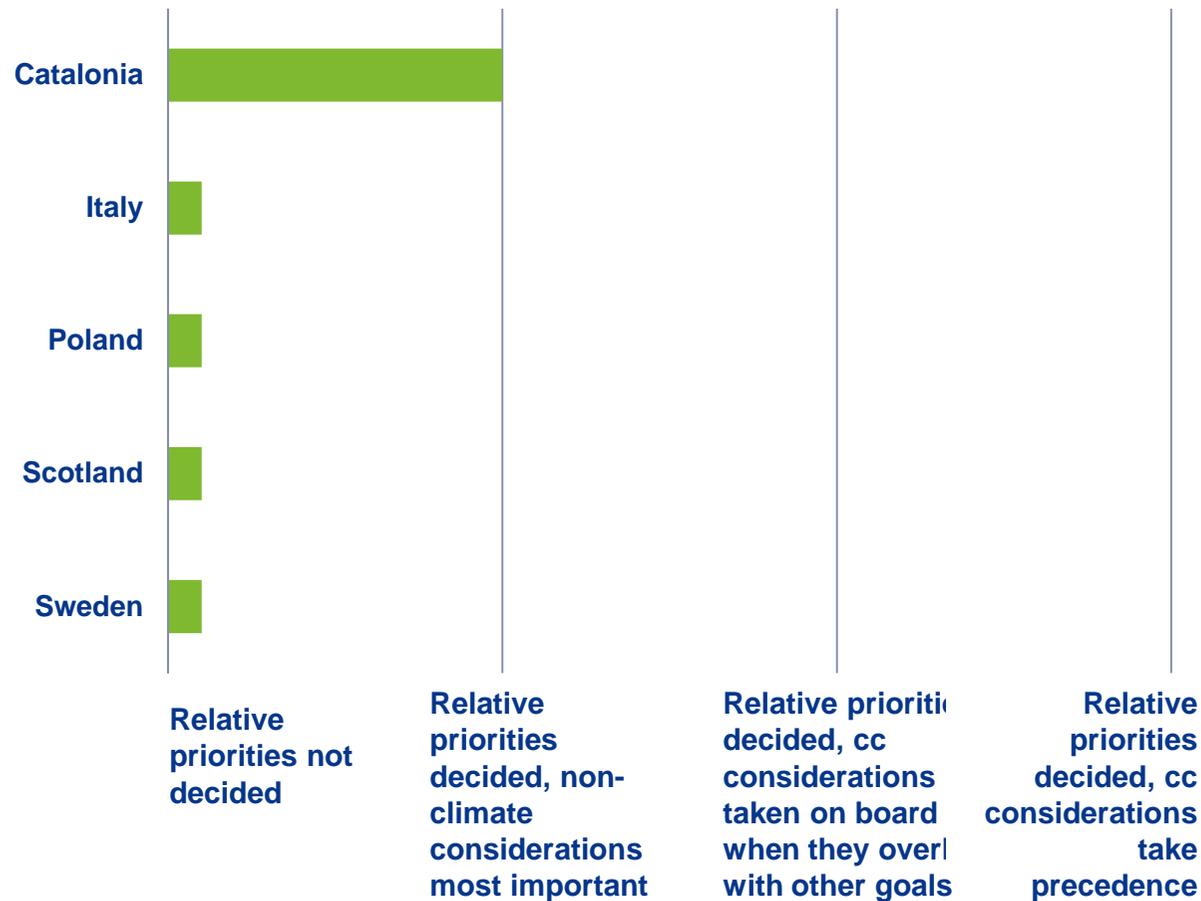
**Q: To what extent have climate policy objectives and/or impacts been considered?**

# Criteria 2: Consistency



**Q: Have the contradictions between policy goals been identified and have there been efforts to minimize any contradictions revealed?**

# Criteria 3: Weighting



**Q: Have the relative priorities of climate change mitigation and adaptation impacts compared to other policy aims been decided?**

# Explanations

- (Perceived) gravity of climate change
- Capacity to regulate (Hey 2002)
- Significant technological potential for win-win solutions (Persson 2004)
- Political will
- ? Hard incentives (Pollack and Hafner-Burton 2010)
- See Brouwer, S., T. Rayner and D. Huitema (2013). Mainstreaming climate policy. The case of climate adaptation and the implementation of EU water policy. *Environment and Planning C* 31, pp 134 – 153.

# Dave Huitema - Cohesion funding

- Analysis of Regional Operational Programmes (OPs) in Greece, Hungary and Romania (Netherlands and Germany to follow)
- Very different field from water. Rather than planning and regulating, it is about planning and funding suitable proposals
- Goal is to add to the analysis in the water sector (-> according to the “most different systems approach”)

# Levels of mainstreaming found

- Climate change is included to a certain degree in all three countries
- Contradictions between cc and development goals are identified, moderate steps taken to correct them (point system for evaluating proposals)
- Climate change (currently) carries a low weight in decisions on cohesion funding (e.g. in Hungary 5 out of 100 points)

# Explanations for low levels of mainstreaming

- Other problems are perceived to be more pressing
- Capacity to regulate not great: a dependency on proposals, capacity for planning limited at the regional level
- Win-win solutions often not possible
- Political will floundering (Hungary)
- Hard incentives are lacking, but are arriving soon (earmarking)
  - But: OPs for 2014-20 may need to be drawn up ahead of high-level political agreement on the detailed working of the Funds.