

WaterDiss2.0: Dissemination and uptake of FP water research results

Science-policy interface on the EU level

**Prepared: Linking research to policy and
climate change adaptation strategies in the European Union**

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The challenge of communicating science

The challenge of communicating science with the aim of utilization lies in matching

- (a) the creation of products or knowledge, and the context of that creation,
- (b) the target audiences and their specific needs,
- (c) the content, media, formats, and language used in getting the outcomes into the hands (and minds) of those target audiences.

Communication barriers on the science-policy interface

- Interaction between researchers and policymakers is limited by the divergence of these two worlds

Science	Policy
Understanding the world	Managing the world
Uncertainty is a fact	,Yes' or ,No' decision wanted
Clientele diffuse or not present	Clientele present and insistent
Failure and risk acceptable	Failure and risk intolerable
Underestimate the complexity of policy-making	Overestimate the precision of science
„they ignore the hard evidence“	„they should learn about process and context“

(Saner 2007)

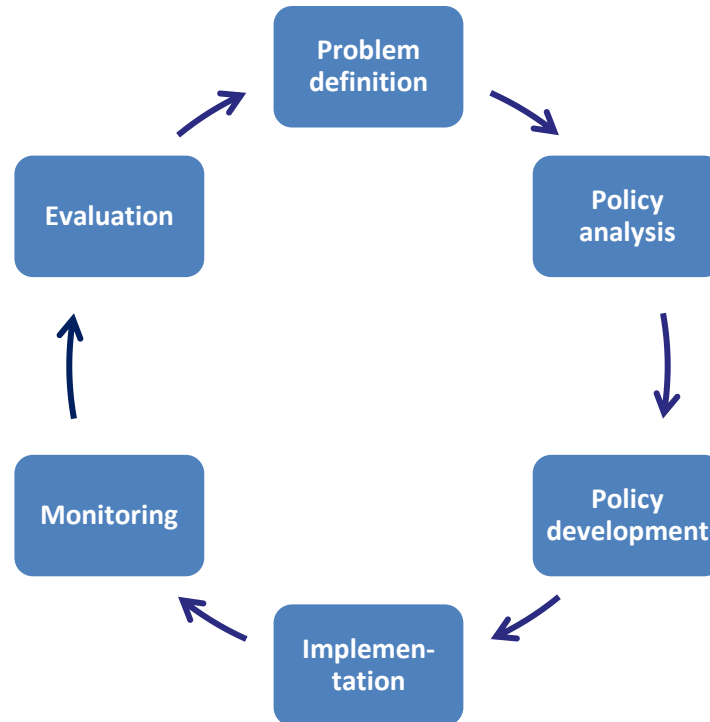
Communication barriers on the science-policy interface

- ▶ **Crucial characteristics of policy makers:**
 - ▶ Are influenced by many factors
 - ▶ under chronic time pressure to ,act‘,
 - ▶ must process information quickly and cover wide thematic fields without in-depth knowledge of every issue
 - ▶ are dependent upon relevant, *generalizable* and credible evidence from science

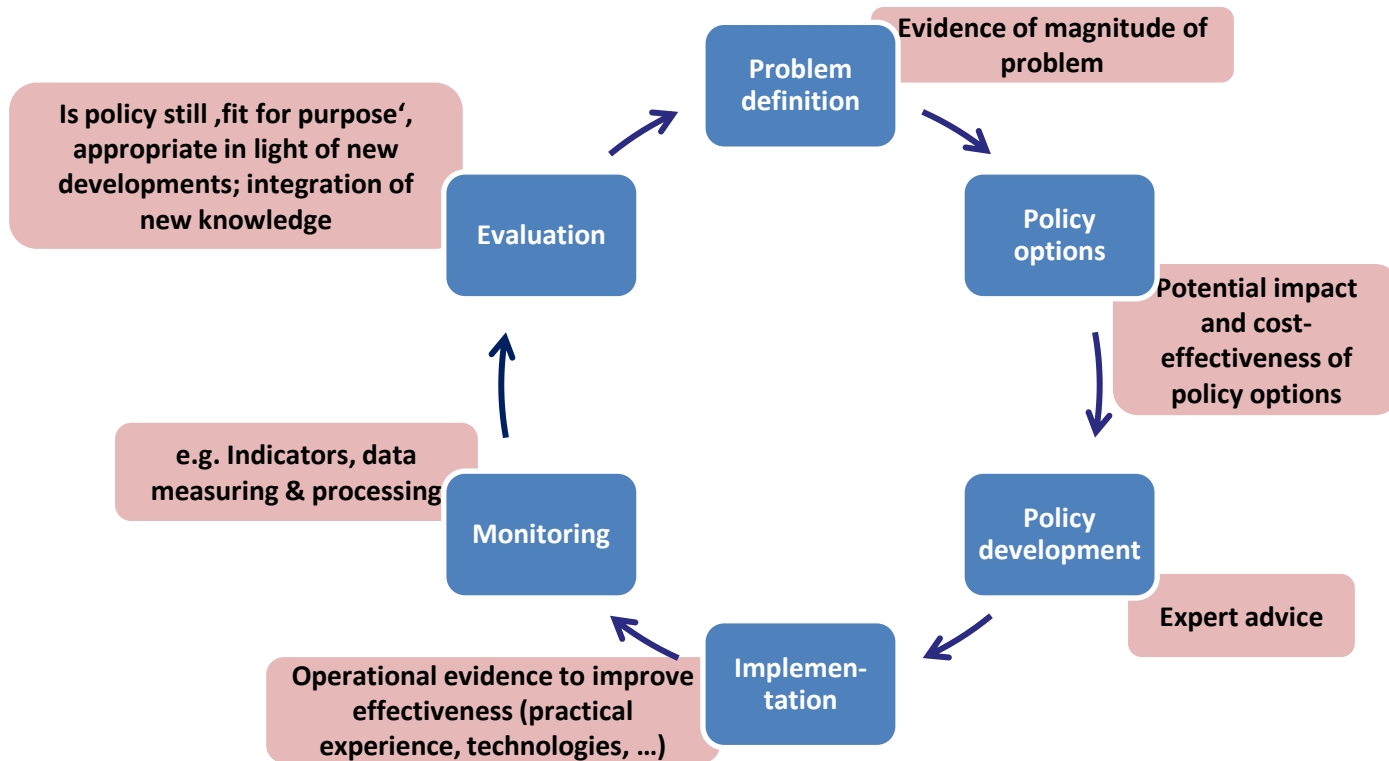


Science for policy must be advocated!!

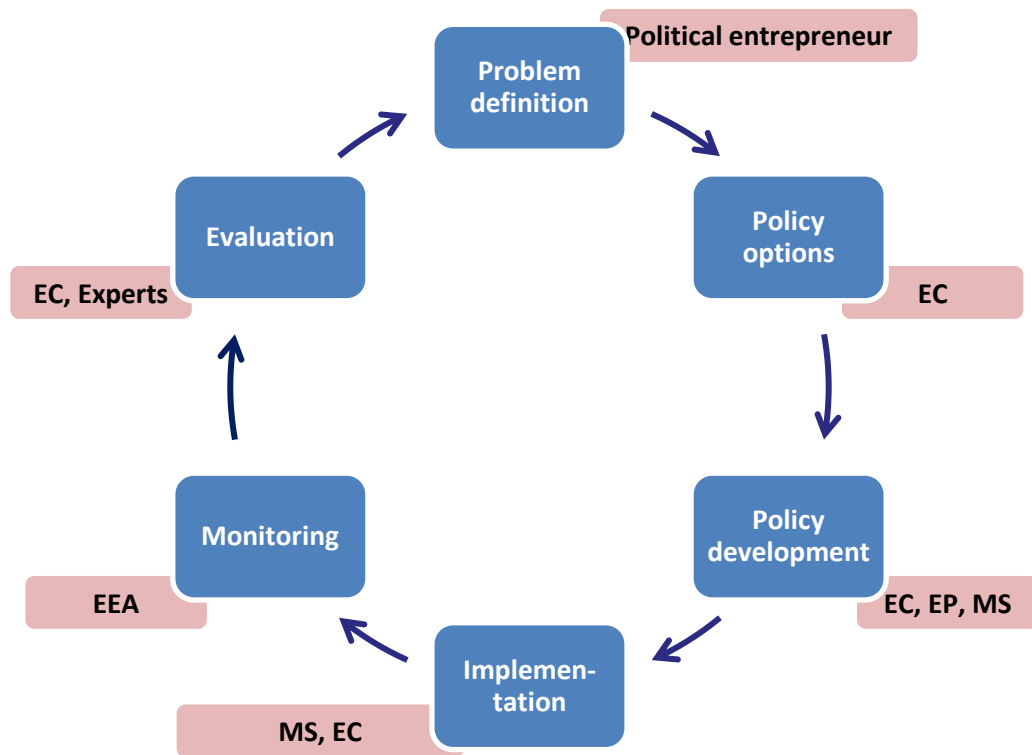
An understanding of the policy cycle



What types of evidence can science provide



Who should be listening?

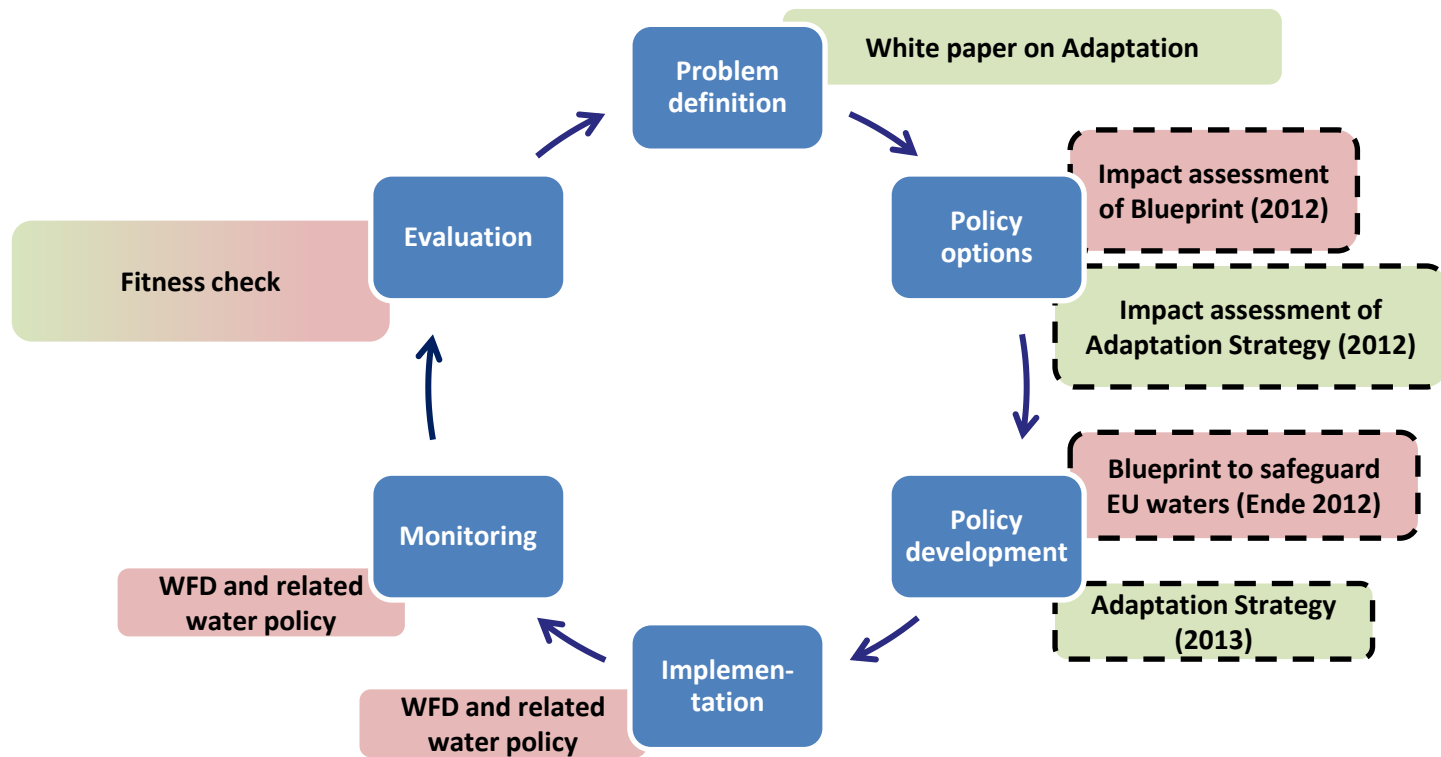


Adaptation policy of the EU

- ▶ **White paper: Adapting to climate change: Towards a European framework for action (EU 2009) (Adaptation takes place on a regional or local level – EU measures provide support):**
 - 1) **building a solid knowledge base on the impact and consequences of climate change for the EU (→ Clearing house mechanism),**
 - 2) **integrating adaptation into EU key policy areas (water, agri, increasing resilience of physical infrastructure, etc.)**
 - 3) **employing a combination of policy instruments (market-based instruments, guidelines, public-private partnerships) to ensure effective delivery of adaptation (e.g. Europe-wide insurance, the use of ETS revenues to finance adaptation).**
 - 4) **Agenda setting for Adaptation Strategy**



Developments in EU water & adaptation policy

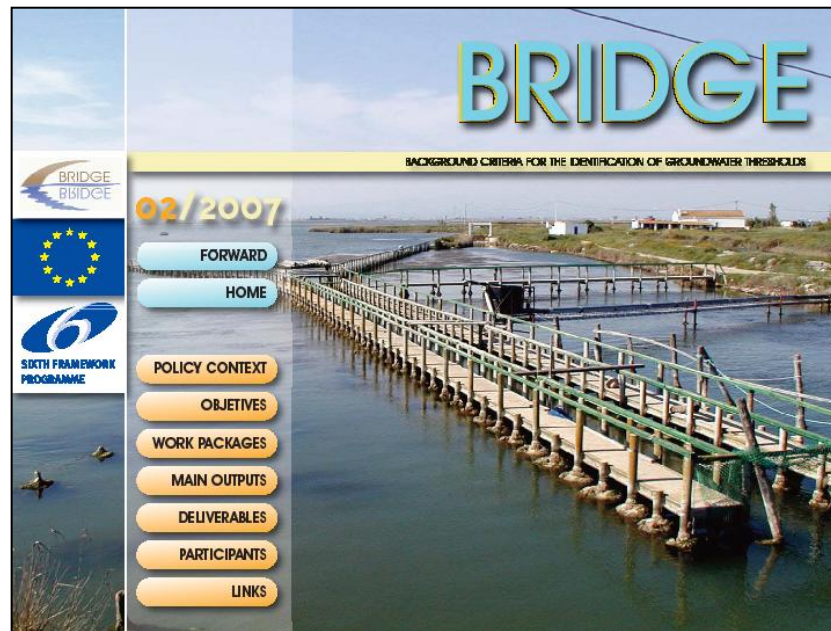


Communication windows: target groups & timeline

- ▶ **Target groups:**
 - ▶ Adaptation steering group (MS & EC) to prepare strategy,
 - ▶ Inter-service group to follow mainstreaming of EU policy (EC) – meets every two months
- ▶ **Timeline:**
 - ▶ 2011-2012: Background studies; informal stakeholder consultations
 - ▶ 2nd quarter 2012: Formal stakeholder consultation
 - ▶ 2nd quarter 2012: Begin of impact assessment
 - ▶ March 2013: Adoption of the Strategy

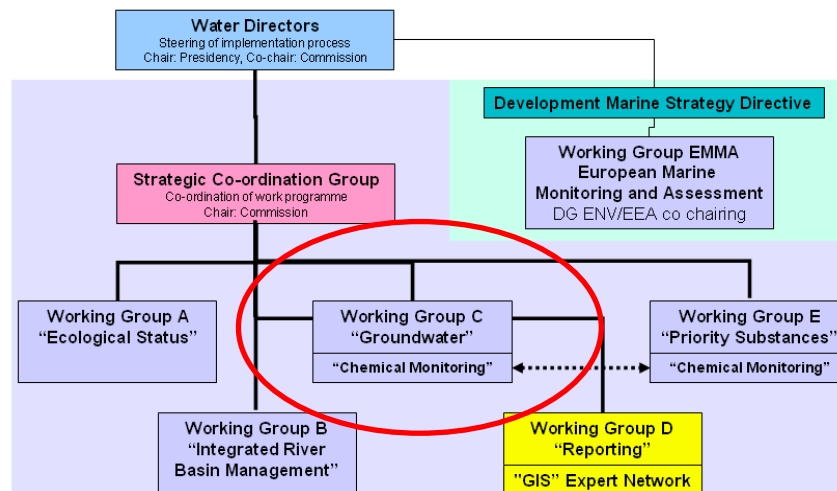
Best practice example impacting policy: BRIDGE (FP6)

- ▶ Policy need and research objective:
European approach/
methodology to derive
environmental threshold values
for groundwater bodies



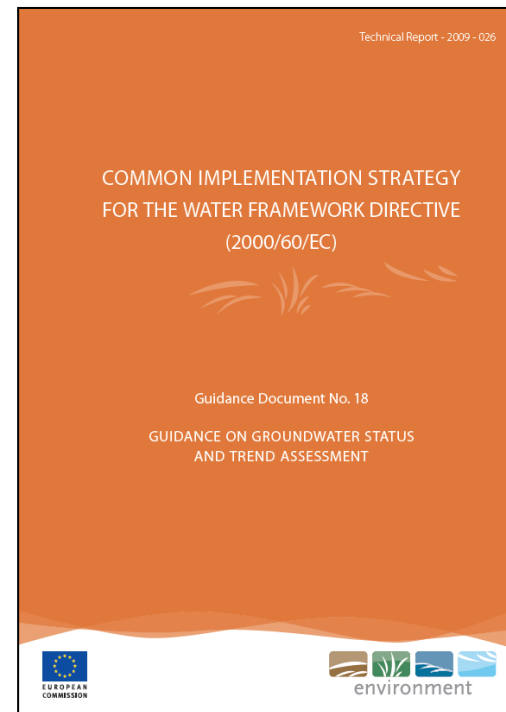
BRIDGE dissemination strategy

- ▶ Target: policy makers in charge of WFD implementation
- ▶ Liaison with implementation Working Group C set up within the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) throughout the project
- ▶ Timing of dissemination activities according to timetable of WGC
- ▶ Strong involvement of DG-Env and DG-RTD in project development and dissemination



Utilization of BRIDGE outputs

- ▶ **BRIDGE methodology and recommendations used by WGC to draft CIS guidance on „Groundwater status and trend assessment“**



Key messages

- ▶ Target groups on the EU level are not diffuse but very specific
- ▶ There must be a common interest in overcoming the science-policy communication barrier to generate policy relevant research outputs
- ▶ Interaction must take place throughout a research project – beginning with design and ending with dissemination

Thank you!

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