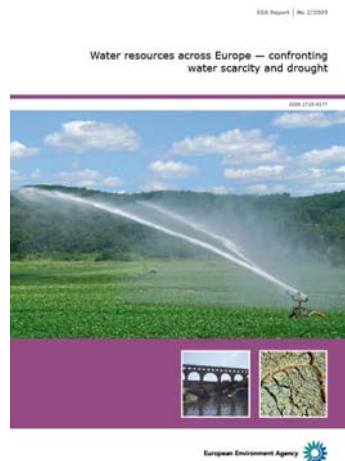
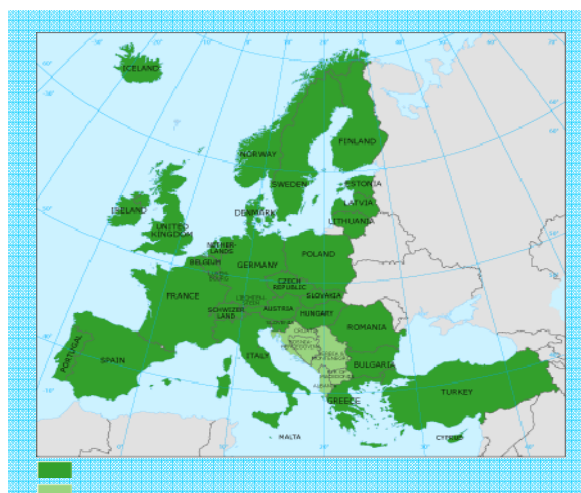


Water Resources across Europe – confronting water scarcity and drought



The European Environment Agency

The European Environment Agency (EEA) is the EU body dedicated to providing sound, independent information on the environment.

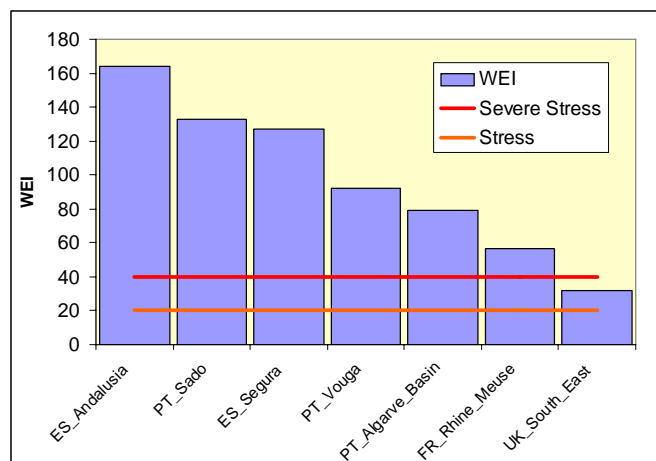


Water Stress has reached a critical level across much of Europe

- Caused by a combination of **scarcity** and **drought**
- Scarcity; Overexploitation of water resources
- Drought; has cost Europe EUR 100 billion over the last 30 years.



River basin scale WEI's indicate extreme stress



Supply-led management is unsustainable

Reservoirs, inter-basin transfers, desalination etc have provided no incentive to limit abstraction



European Environment Agency



Sustainable demand-led approach is required to managing Europe's water resources

- Conserve water, use it more efficiently

How ?

- Financial Incentives
- Raising Awareness
- Legal & Regulatory Instruments

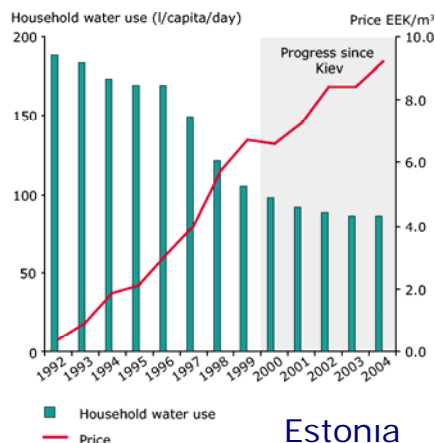
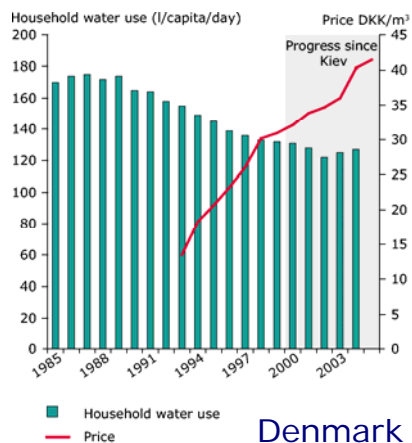


European Environment Agency

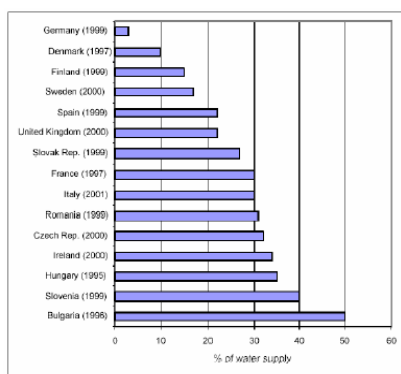


Water Pricing reduces water use

Multi-sectoral, volume based, supported by metering



Public Water Supply



Estimated % leakage in public water supply (EEA 2003)

- Pricing must not only change water use but also provide funds to maintain infrastructure (address leakage)
- Millennium Goals – safe water supply and sanitation
- Pricing is not the only option....

Public Water Supply – Raising Awareness and Regulation

- Pricing is not the only option; Raising awareness/changing behaviour and; Regulation, have to play a role
- Websites, school programmes, leaflets and mass media
- Eco-labelling and Eco-certification
- Regulation e.g. water efficiency requirements for new homes

Improving Efficiency - Industry

- **Cost of discharging wastewater** has led to growth in on-site treatment
- As a result water is re-used and recycled
- Less water used, less energy consumed, less wastewater discharged, reduced costs
- Win-win outcomes



Improving Efficiency - Industry

- Current legislation (WFD/Pricing) to play a role, addressing wastewater discharge & water use at industrial plants
- But there is also the issue of general demand for industrial products that drive growth in the sector - **Sustainability and Consumption**
- How can this be addressed?



Demand-led management; Agriculture

- The success of a range of techniques will depend strongly on water pricing e.g. deficit irrigation (win-win outcome)
- Higher cost of water could drive greater illegal abstraction. Illegal water use must be tackled



Demand-led management - Agriculture

- Farmer advisory schemes to play a key role, capacity building – target farming co-operatives
- CAP funds to support good management, but to what extent will these address the issue? Future uptake?
- Can/should **regulation** play a role ? e.g. requiring the use of sprinkler/drip irrigation where appropriate



Raising Awareness – across all sectors

- Environmental information to inform and empower EU citizens

