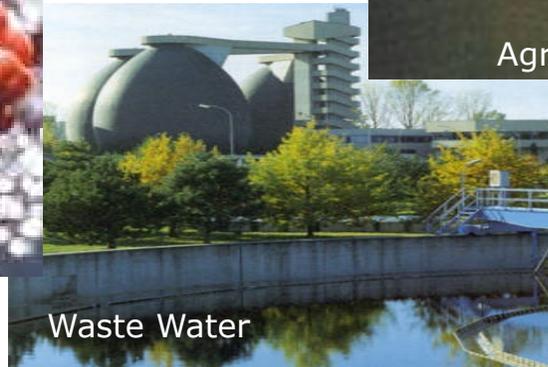
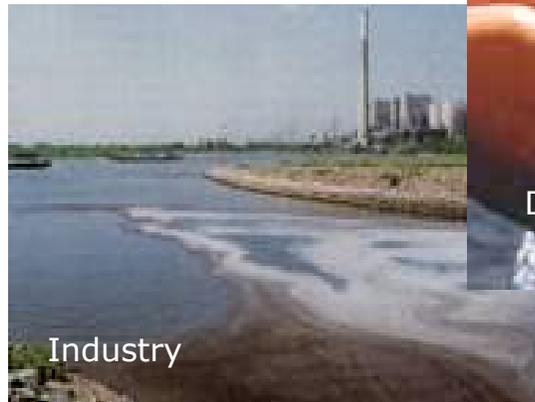
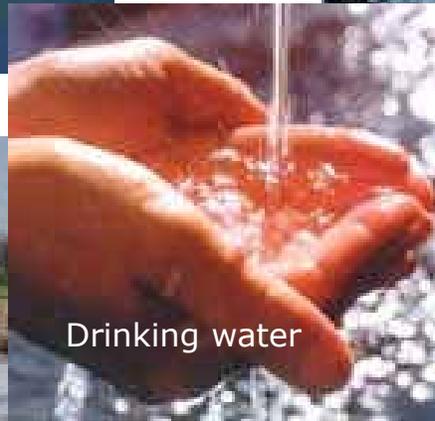
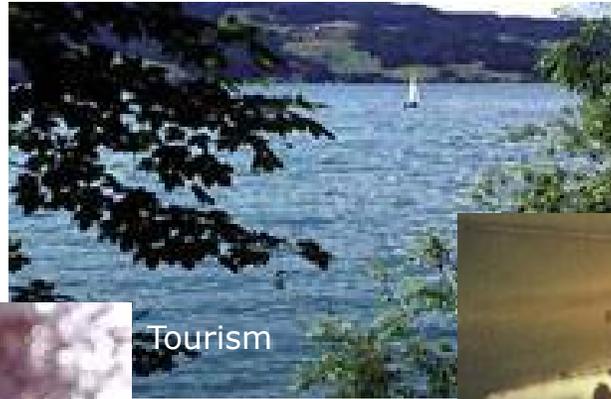


Towards an EU Water Resilience Agenda



Various uses, demands, pressures and impacts

Water is a cross-cutting issue

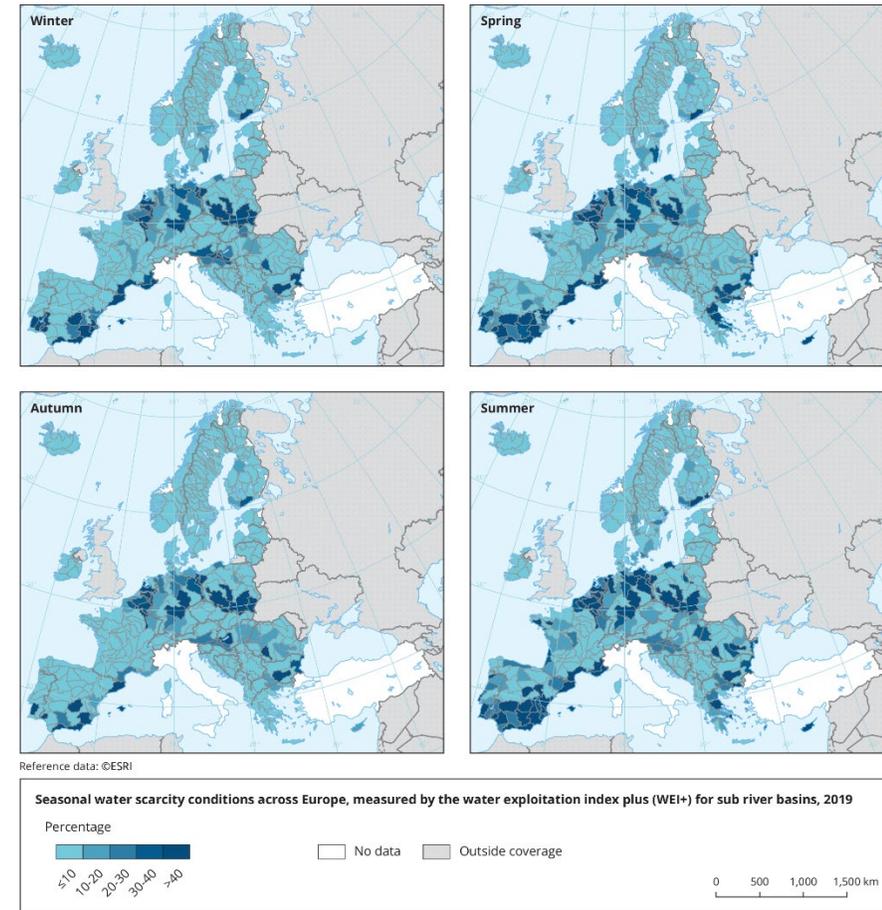
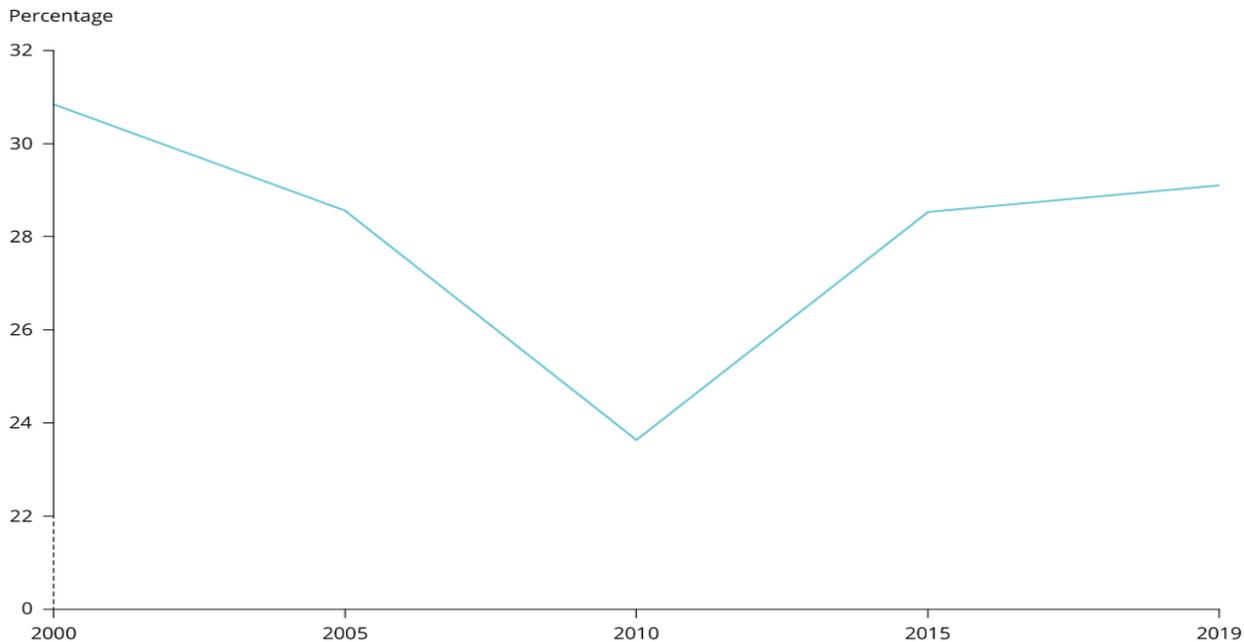


Water scarcity on the rise in Europe

Water stress affects approximately 20 % of the European territory and 30 % of the European population on average every year.

Southern Europe, European metropolises, intensive irrigated areas and popular touristic destinations are becoming vulnerable more and more to the water scarcity.

Area affected during at least for one quarter of the year by water scarcity conditions in the EU, measured by the water exploitation index plus

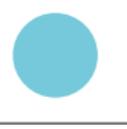
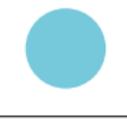
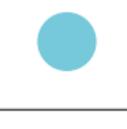
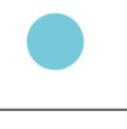
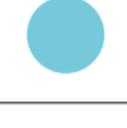
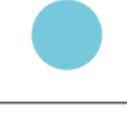
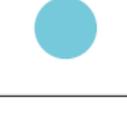
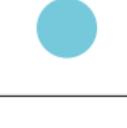
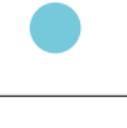
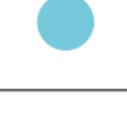


[Seasonal water scarcity conditions across Europe, measured by the water exploitation index plus \(WEI+\) for sub river basins, 2019 — European Environment Agency \(europa.eu\)](#)

[Water scarcity conditions in Europe \(Water exploitation index plus\) \(europa.eu\)](#)

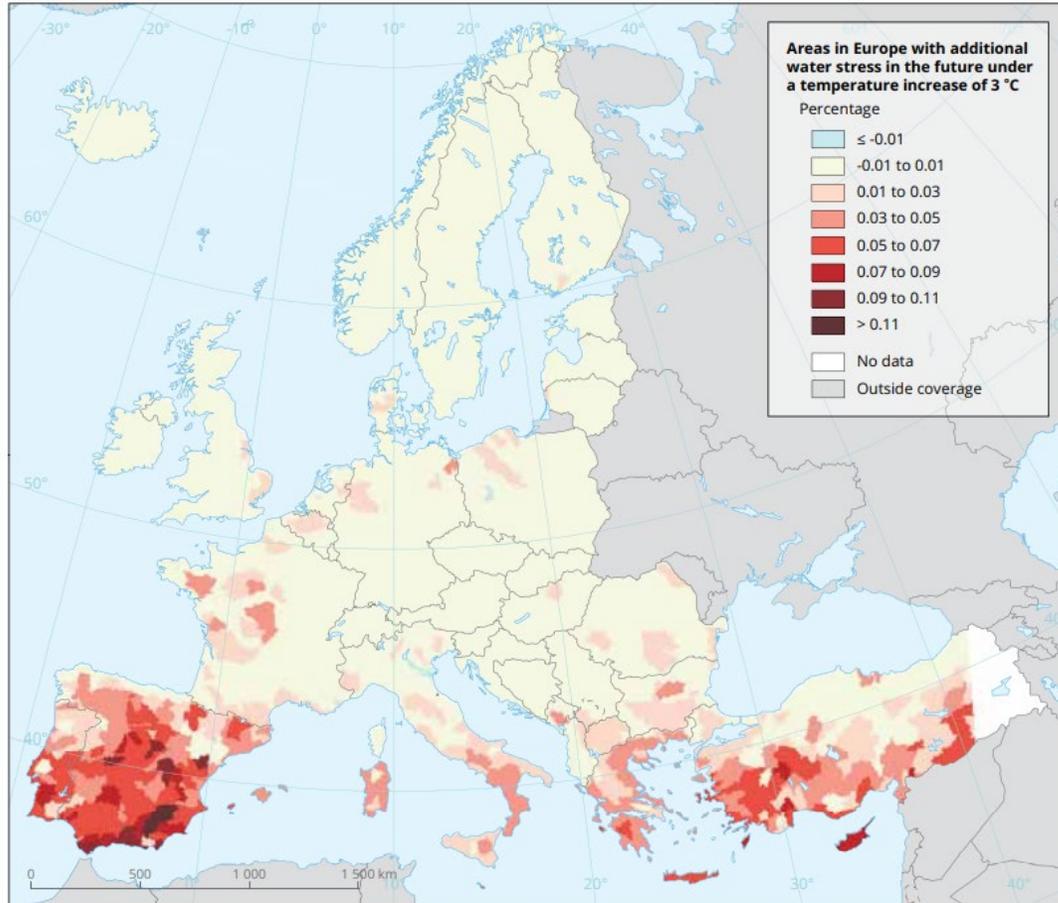
Water scarcity on the rise in Europe

Estimated water availability per capita (m³/capita – 2000-2017)

Country	2000	2010	2017
Austria	 11 298	 9 477	 8 444
Switzerland	 7 728	 6 113	 4 902
Romania	 4 500	 8 159	 4 956
Spain	 4 146	 2 308	 2 042
France	 3 933	 3 286	 2 430
Germany	 2 438	 2 323	 1 629
Italy	 2 120	 3 060	 1 320



Future projections (scenarios) of water stress in Europe

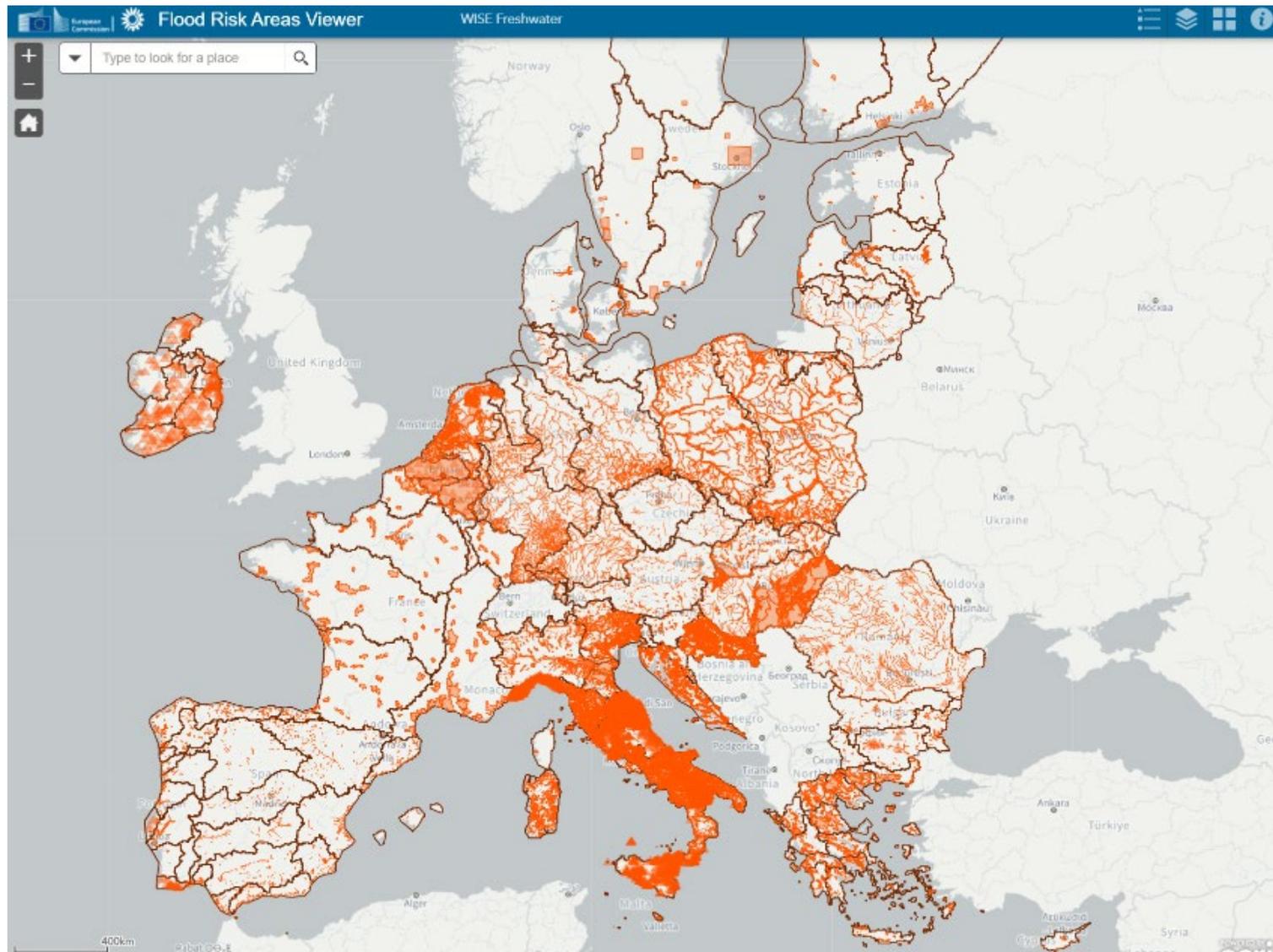


Reference data: ©ESRI

Source: Peseta IV project (Bisselink et al., 2020).

Water stress in Europe is expected to worsen in the future due to;

- ❑ Potential impacts of climate change on water availability in future
- ❑ Urbanisation is expected to concentrate increasing demand for water
- ❑ Intensive tourism
- ❑ Land use land cover changes will affect groundwater recharge conditions





UN WATER CONFERENCE 2023

The EU vision for 2050 Water Resilience endorsed by the College

“In 2050, global society will be water resilient, offering water security for all.

This entails the protection and restoration of aquatic ecosystems, and a fair balance between water supply and water demand responding to current needs, including the realization of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, without compromising the rights of future generations.”

European policy context



European Council - March 2023

It acknowledged “[...] **the need for enhanced EU and global action on water and the importance of a strategic EU approach to water security**”



The European Parliament – Highlights

- Resolution on droughts in 2022
- 2 plenary discussions on water crisis in 2023

The call for a EU Blue Deal by the EESC



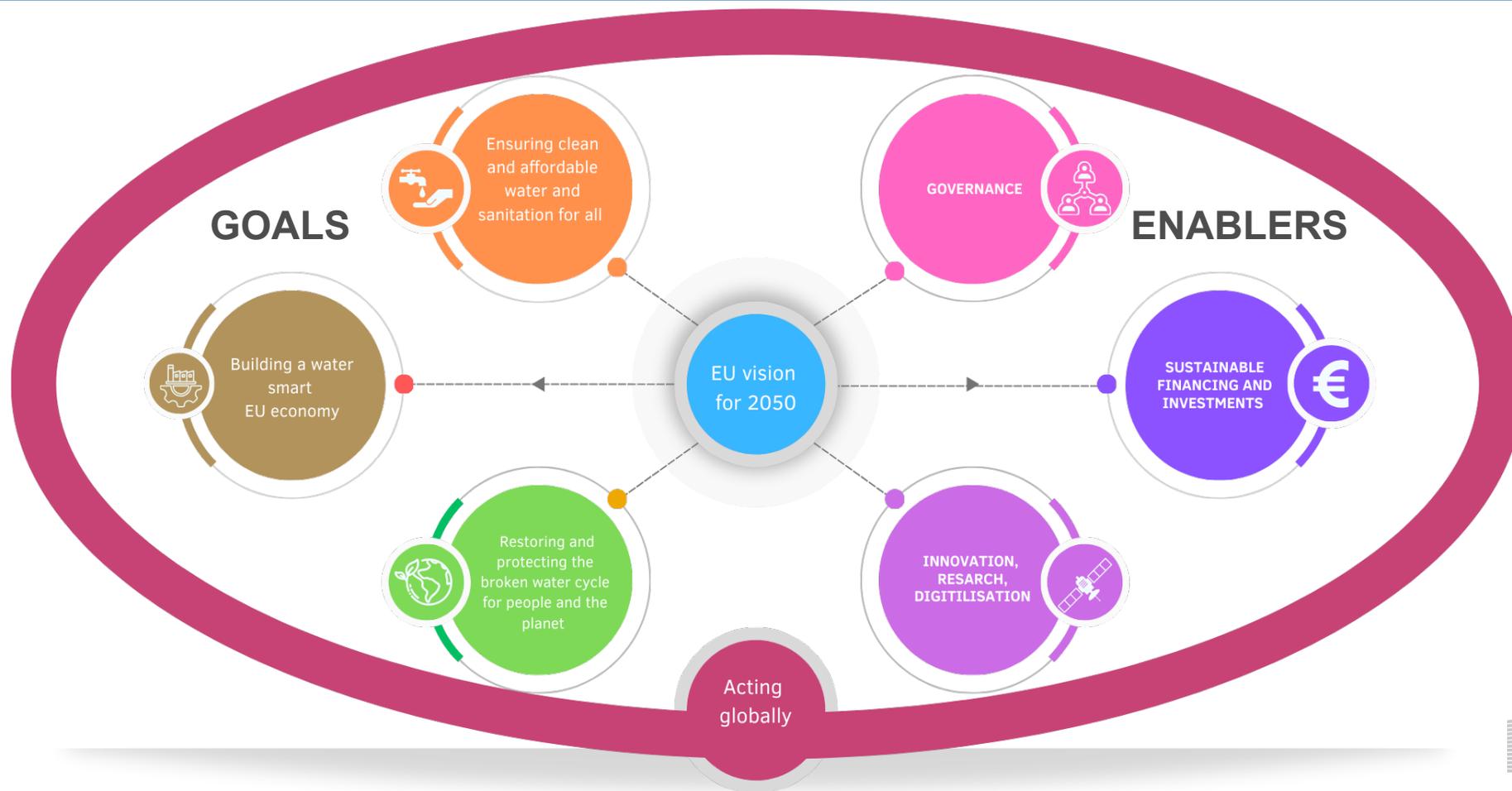
European Economic and Social Committee

- ❑ Umbrella Opinion "A call for an **EU Blue Deal**"
- ❑ Access to water: tackling **water poverty** and its implications for social policy
- ❑ Sustainable and resilient **water infrastructures** and distribution networks
- ❑ Water-intensive **industries** and **water-efficient technologies**
- ❑ **Water scarcity** and climate emergency: circular and other solutions for **the EU agri- food system** in a future "EU Blue Deal"
- ❑ The **economics** of an "EU Blue deal"
- ❑ Water Politics: Between Desertification and Securitization - Time for a **Blue Diplomacy**
- ❑ Water efficient consumption and **consumer awareness** about their **water footprint**

Turn water from a global systemic crisis into a global opportunity

- ❑ Building a water-smart economy: **Integrated & sustainable water management**
- ❑ Securing EU strategic autonomy : **Water efficiency first principle**
- ❑ Safeguarding democracy & peace: **EU water security**

« Towards EU Water Resilience »



Next steps

1. [#WaterWiseEU](#) communication campaign to raise awareness - “See Water Differently”;
2. **Green Week on Water Resilience** (29-30 May), with partner events from 29 May to 1 September (registration closed on 17 March);
3. Commission assessment **report on implementation of the Water Framework and the Floods directives**, as well as Programme of Measures under the **Marine Strategy Framework Directive**; & the **EEA’s “State of European waters 2024”** report (Summer 2024);
4. Forthcoming **evaluations of the Marine Strategy Framework, the Nitrates and Bathing Water Directives**.
5. Internationally, **World Water Forum** (May 2024), **One Water Summit** (September 2024) and **CBD COP16** (October 2024).

Thank you

