

***WFD and Partnerships
clean and sufficient water for all?***

Peter Gammeltoft

EEAC Annual Conference

Lisbon, 19 September 2019

Brief history of WFD - 1

- *Pre-1990: EU legislative focus mainly on water quality related to the use of waters*
- *Late 1980s and early 1990s: Legislative focus on pollution control (urban waste water, nitrates, large industrial discharges)*
- *1990s focus on*
 - *basin management,*
 - *transboundary cooperation*
 - *ecological water quality*
 - *pollution control and physical characteristics of water bodies*
 - *partnership with stakeholders*
 - *Transparency and public consultations*
- *Perspective – supply management (good quality water for all legitimate purposes)*

Brief history of WFD - 2

- *2000: Adoption of the Water Framework Directive (WFD)*
- *2007: Adoption of Floods Directive (driver: climate change)*
- *2007: Policy on Water Scarcity and Droughts emphasising demand management driven by*
 - *climate change*
 - *economic and demographic development*
- *⇒ Integration of management of water-related risks in WFD implementation*

Established Partnerships (water users and water polluters)

- *Water Industry and Farmers (nitrates, pesticides) – well and spring protection (driver: costs)*
- *Water Industry and Farmers: Sewage sludge disposal/recirculation (driver: costs)*
- *Re-use of treated waste water:*
 - *In agriculture (driver: water scarcity)*
 - *In industry (driver: water scarcity)*
- *Concept:*
 - *win-win solutions for the stakeholders involved*
 - *Address potential tensions between environmental planning and silo-thinking in politically powerful sectors....*

Some partnerships are still in their infancy.....

- *Land Use (drivers: subsidies or cross-subsidisation?)*
- *Hydromorphology (drivers: subsidies or cross-subsidisation?)*
- *Aquatic Habitat Restoration (drivers: subsidies?)*
-

Territorial Partnerships

(territorial management authorities)

- *Basin management across territorial boundaries*
- *Transboundary River Commissions: Rhine (IKSR), Danube (ICPDR), Elbe (IKSE), Oder (IKSO), Escaut (CIE), Meuse (CIM), etc.*
- *2 models of co-operation:*
 - *Basin-wide planning and co-operation with stakeholders and adoption of conform national plans*
 - *National planning and co-operation with stakeholders and adoption of basin-wide plan as the sum of the national plans*
- *Basin-wide optimisation & win-win, or national optimisation & win-win?*
- *Second model: double tensions - between planning and territorial as well as sectoral “silos”....*

What do the SDGs change?

- The SDGs
 - quality of life and equitability
 - indivisible
 - apply across all territorial borders
- Attaining the SDGs requires
 - transparency and multisectoral participation and co-operation
- Consequences for water management and stakeholders:
 - a. SDG 6 not overtrumped by other SDGs, other SDGs not overtrumped by SDG 6
 - b. account not only of other environmental parameters, but also resource-efficiency, circular economy and social issues
 - c. co-operation needed between stakeholders, including those in other sectors who do not use or impact on water resources
 - d. consideration of solutions and co-operation across territorial limits – urban/rural, interregional and international borders

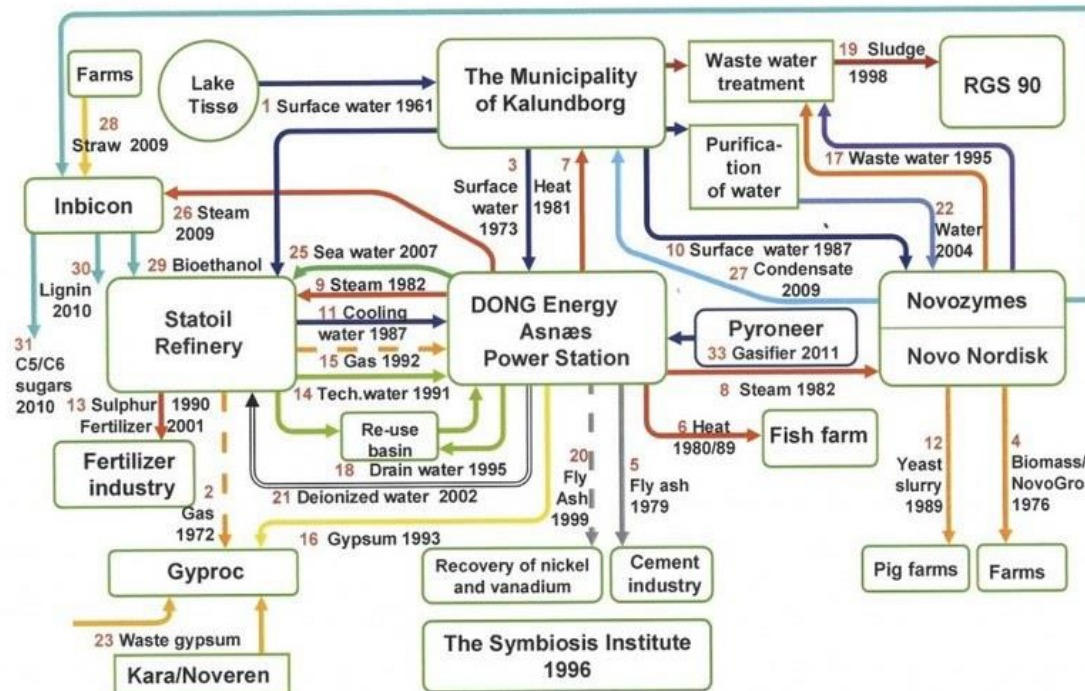
Some partnerships are already delivering.....

- *Resource-efficient technologies in industry (drivers: cost savings and regulatory constraints)*
- *Fermentation of waste (biogas) (drivers: energy efficiency and cost savings)*
- *“Mining” phosphate in urban waste water (drivers: regulatory requirements, cost savings and resource-efficiency)*
- *Industrial Symbioses (drivers: resource efficiency and economic gains)*
- *Re-establishment of drained flood plains in rural areas to protect urban areas from flooding and restore habitats (drivers: subsidies or transfers)*
- *Bringing back fish in rivers: Salmon (Rhine, IKSR), Baltic Sturgeon (Baltic rivers, Helcom) and Atlantic Sturgeon (Garonne, France) etc (drivers: subsidies and regulatory requirements)*
- ***But much more needs to happen.....***

An example of advanced partnerships

...Industrial symbiosis

(urban/rural authorities, various industries, concerns: water, waste, heat, flue gases – main driver: water scarcity)



Why Partnerships?


Partnerships are needed to

- accelerate measures to meet the WFD and cross-sectoral SDG targets*
- Tackle the impacts of climate change on water security, water related risks and ecosystem services more generally*
- Ensure rapid identification and implementation of cost-effective solutions*
- Mobilise multi-sectorial expertise*


Partners need to be motivated to providing significant contributions

Active partnerships are required to make timely change happen – a challenge for water governance!!

OECD WATER GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

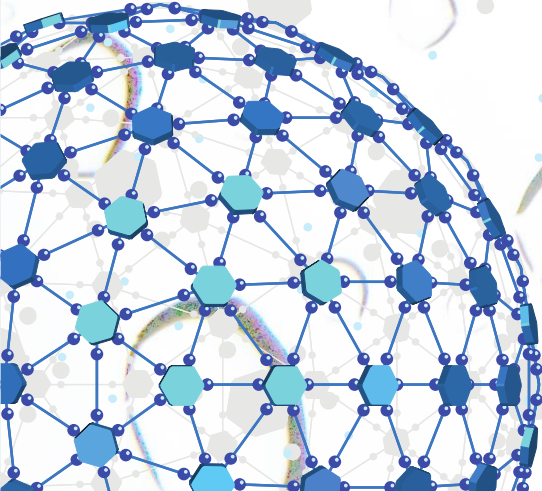


OECD
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES



OECD Principles on Water Governance

Adopted by the OECD Regional Development Policy Committee on 11 May 2015
Welcomed by Ministers at the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting on 4 June 2015
Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities



Challenges to be Addressed

- *Breaking up the “silos”*
 - *Effective implementation across political boundaries*
 - *Multi-Sectoral Approaches*
 - *Changing Business Models – adaptation to SDGs*
- *Enforcing public policy targets and transparency in partnership-based implementation*
- *Ensuring incentives for stakeholders*
- *Mobilising finance for investments in infrastructure and sectoral change – the challenge of benefit fragmentation*

Addressing these challenges requires political courage

What needs to happen?

- *Changes in WFD and SDGs? – **not really!***
- *Incentives in some sectoral policies to change business models – **yes!***
- *Incentives for stakeholder participation in cross-sectoral partnerships for sustainability – **yes!***
- *Create conditions for effective enforcement of partnership agreements that are part of the measures to meet public policy targets for the environment and sustainability – **yes!***
- *Finance for investments in environment and sustainability – especially where there is no clearly identifiable beneficiary – **yes!***

Part of a “New Green Deal”? – **yes!**

Political mobilisation? – **Mayors of Towns/Cities important!**

The background of the slide is a microscopic image showing numerous cells, likely yeast or bacteria, with distinct cell walls and some internal structures. The cells are scattered across the white background, with some appearing larger and more detailed than others.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

peter@gammeltoft.be