

## **Agenda: Concluding workshop on the economics of the implementation of the Water Framework Directive and the Floods Directive**

**23rd June 2022**

This agenda is designed to draw together the main messages from the previous workshops, to converge towards next steps, and initiate a process where Member States strength their capacities to implement the economics of the WFD: from knowledge to practical implementation.

The workshop concludes a series of four thematic workshops aimed to facilitate the implementation of the economics of the Water Framework Directive in European Member States. The workshop series is co-convened by the OECD and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Environment.

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Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

## Workshop agenda

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022

09:30 – 13:00 CEST

This final workshop concludes a series of thematic workshops aimed to facilitate the economic aspects of implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD) in the EU Member States (as well as the water acquis in neighbouring countries). It is co-convened by the European Commission and the OECD.

The final workshop draws the threads together and builds on the outcomes of the four previous workshops on respectively water investment planning and financing; the implementation of the Polluter Pays Principle; water scarcity; and cost recovery. Recurrent and emerging topics that hinder – or facilitate - the implementation of the WFD were identified and discussed during the four workshops.

The final workshop aims to establish a series of actions that the Member States and the European Commission may wish to consider to accelerate the implementation of the WFD, benefitting from a more robust economic dimension. The workshop will focus on the cross-cutting challenges faced by Member States and what initiatives could be put in place to strengthen the Member States' capacities to implement the WFD, in particular as regards the economic aspects. These initiatives could vary depending on Member States' requests and priorities, such as cross-country research, pilot testing of new economic instruments at basin level and setting a knowledge exchange platform on specific topics for Member States.

The focus of this workshop will be on moving from knowledge to implementation, acknowledging that the use of economic instruments to pursue the environmental objectives– has only disseminated rather slowly in the last two decades and that it has had a limited impacts on the design and development of programmes of measures. Most of the actions suggested for discussion have a strong inter-sectoral dimension, reflecting the message coming from the thematic workshops that further implementation usually requires collaboration across sectors. The horizon of the discussions will be 2027 and beyond, assuming that a longer term perspective is relevant and required.

## Workshop structure

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09:30 – 10:00	<b>Introduction and overview</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction by Veronica Manfredi, Director DG Environment the European Commission;</li> <li>• An overview of key messages from the four thematic workshops, OECD.</li> </ul>
10:00 – 11:30	<b>Session 1: What initiatives could support cross-sectoral methodological and economic assessment?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving economic assessments to underpin investment planning and funding and finance decisions;</li> <li>• Methods and tools to address the climate change adaptation challenges into resilient water decision making (water allocation regimes, scarcity pricing, investment planning);</li> <li>• <a href="#">Water management as a condition for the transition towards sustainable agriculture</a>; and</li> <li>• Assessing whether the condition of disproportionate costs applies: inconsistency across time horizons and geographic scales.</li> </ul>
11:30 – 11:45	Morning tea
11:45 – 12:45	<b>Session 2: What knowledge exchange and capacity building could support a better implementation of the economic dimension of the WFD?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience-sharing between Member States on selected topics, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Diversifying revenue streams to finance programmes of measures;</li> <li>○ <a href="#">Water pricing and cost-recovery (including the impact of the water sector structure; political acceptance; equity and broadening the base for cost recovery)</a>;</li> <li>○ Pollution prevention over remediation and abatement; and</li> <li>○ <a href="#">Co-ordination and consistency across sectors, territories and the various planning horizons (including the 2027 WFD deadline and the 2050 vision)</a>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Which modes and platforms are best suited for peer-learning and capacity building?</li> </ul>
12:45– 13:00	<b>Concluding remarks</b> by the European Commission and the OECD

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