

# Study supporting the revision of the EU Drinking Water Directive



[www.safe2drink.eu](http://www.safe2drink.eu)



## Safe Water for Europe: issues and options

***Results of Second  
Stakeholder's consultation  
workshop and proposed policy  
options for Impact Assessment***

***Olga Mashkina (ACTeon)***

***Brussels, 22<sup>th</sup> of January 2015***

# Study supporting the revision of the EU Drinking Water Directive



To support the review of the implementation of the Drinking Water Directive (DWD), the EC has launched a study that focuses on the *ex-post* evaluation of the current DWD implementation and the assessment of options that would enhance the effectiveness of current EU drinking water policy (*ex-ante*).

- *A first stakeholder workshop* in May 2015 in Brussels to discuss the issues to be addressed in the ex-post evaluation phase of the study
- *A second stakeholder workshop* in December 2015 to ascertain the main underlying causes of the current DWD shortcomings, to validate and refine the policy storylines/options

# Identifying “areas for improvement” in the DWD – The process



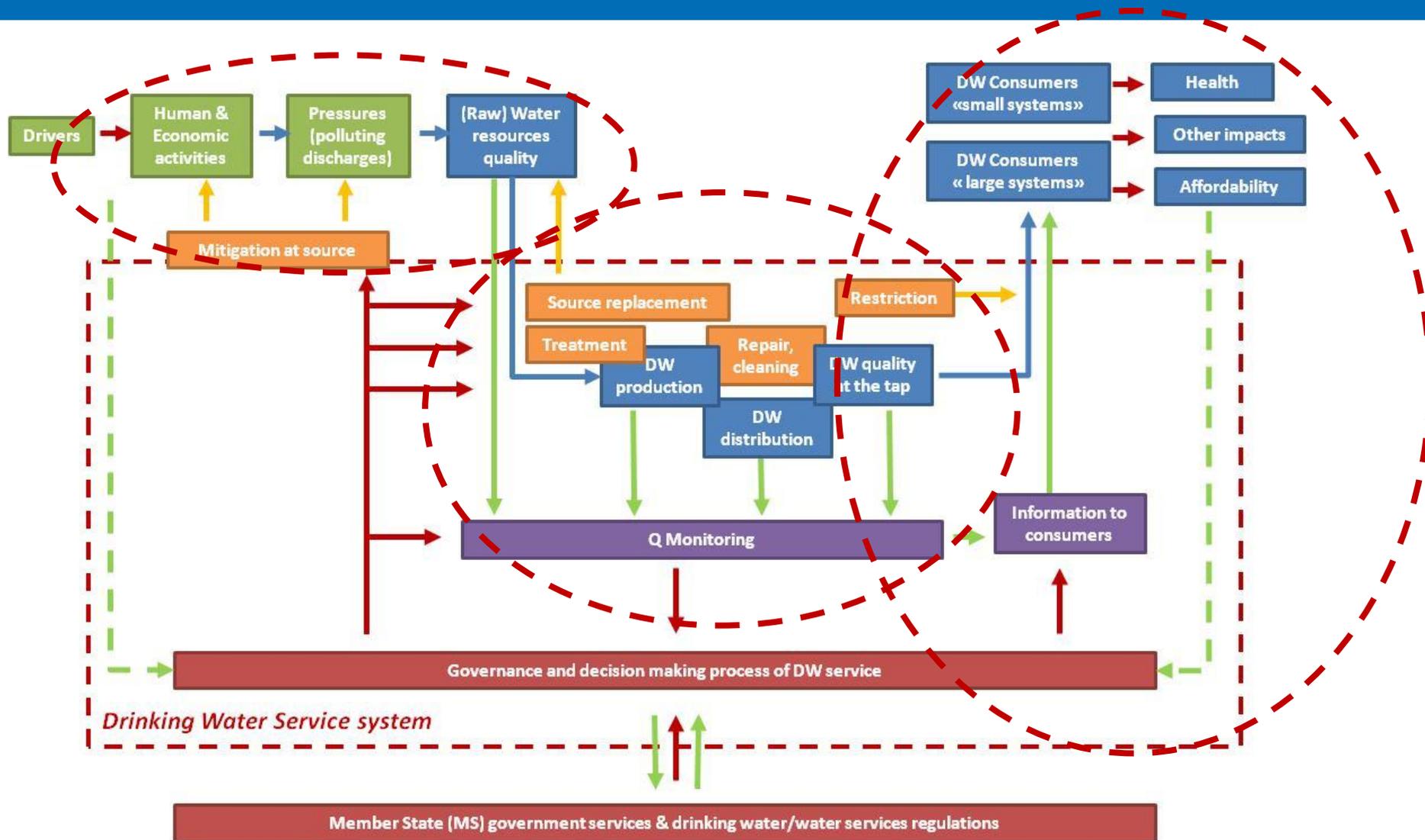
**Different “areas for improvements” in the Drinking Water Directive identified, based on....**

**Assessments carried out under the ex-post evaluation study (EC)**

**Consultation, including two stakeholder workshops (last: December 2015)**

**These have helped prioritizing key “areas for improvement” for *ex-ante* investigation**

# The thematic areas for which improvements could be proposed



## **1. Risk based assessment – beyond compliance at the tap**

*Policy Option 1.1. Water Safety Plan Risk Based Approach*

*Policy Option 1.2. Fully-fledged Water Safety Plan Risk Based Approach*

## **2. Selection of parameters and threshold values**

*Policy option 2.1: A core list of parameters with threshold values*

*Policy option 2.2 A longer list of parameters with strict threshold parameters and accounting for the precautionary principle*

*Policy option 2.3: A wider list of parameters including emerging substances*

## **3. Controlling the risk of pollution from material in contact with drinking water**

*Policy option 3.1 Regulation for products in contact with drinking water*

## **4. SMART information for consumers**

*Policy option 4.1. Access to information for reporting threshold values using IT tools*

*Policy option 4.2. The “Safe Drinking Water Label” of water service suppliers*

*Policy option 4.3. Smart water information systems*

## **5. Ensuring resource efficiency and the efficient management of water services**

*Policy option 5.1 High performance to deliver safe drinking water*

*Policy option 5.2 Responsible drinking water service operators*

*Policy option 5.3 Efficient management of the water (service) cycle*

*Policy option 5.4. Governance: Responsible consumers*

## **6. Safe drinking water for all EU citizens**

*Policy option 6.1. Access to safe drinking water for all*

# Stakeholders' workshop and revision of policy options



1. Workshop had 60 participants, representing a diversity of sectors and countries
2. Group work (4 groups) to work with different focus areas (2 group with thematic areas 1, 2,3, and 2 group with thematic areas 4,5,6)
  - reviewing and clarifying the options,
  - proposing new options (and justifying their relevance),
  - identifying the priority/most appropriate option(s)
3. Evaluation forms

# Analysis fo results of Stakeholders workshop and evaluation forms

From the focus areas 1 and 2 '*Risk based assessment*' and '*Parameters and threshold values*' options were combined together with a new proposed options, and the following were derived:

**Policy option 1. Core list of parameters based on WHO:** Common regulation of quality standards values for a limited number of core parameters posing high risks for human health (following WHO).

**Policy Option 2. RBA holistic approach based on WHO principles:** The risk-based policy holistic approach covering catchment to tap with a regulatory framework based on proven principles of the WHO. All parameters are selected using risk based approach, including parameters for emerging contaminants after examination for their potential effect on human health.

# Analysis fo results of Stakeholders workshop and evaluation forms



- ‘Controlling the risk of pollution from materials in contact with drinking water’ : a separate study by DG ENV to be carried out by November 2016, thus not included in the IA.

- In the focus area 4 ‘SMART information for consumers’, and 5 . ‘Ensuring resource efficiency and the efficient management of water services’ it is proposed to combine options into the following:

### **Policy option 3. SMART Drinking Water information to all EU citizens**

The establishment of smart water information to provide a wide range of up-to-date information to ALL consumers linked to water quality, reliability and continuity (via water label (or excellence label), which can be accesses from smart phone).

**Policy option 4. Responsible Drinking water consumers (governance, information) for decision making** - establishment and delivery of smart water information to ALL consumers which can enhance their role in water management and governance. This will include establishment of consumer boards, different types of information that consumers need to make more responsible decisions (i.e. information on leakages, investments, water tariffs and pricing).

# Analysis fo results of Stakeholders workshop and evaluation forms



In the focus area 5, '*Ensuring resource efficiency and the efficient management of water service*', it is proposed to combine options 5.1 and 5.2 combined:

**Policy option 5. Responsible drinking water service operators.** This option proposes to develop a wider performance system for monitoring the performance of water service operators as key to enhance efficiency

In the focus area 6

**Policy option 6. Access to safe drinking water for all:** this option extends the current obligation to provide human right to safe drinking water and sanitation to all citizens, expanding the drinking water quality standards of the current Drinking Water Directive to all small communities and any person living in Europe (including Roman populations, migrants....).

# The priority “areas for improvement” considered today



2. Hollistic Risk-Based Assessment (includes emerging contaminants)

1. Core WHO list of parameters with common (strict) threshold values

4. Responsible Drinking water consumers (governance, information) for decision

5. Enhancing performance & resource efficiency of drinking water services

6. Access to safe drinking water and sanitation to all

3. SMART Drinking Water information to all EU citizens

Controlling the risk of pollution from materials in contact with drinking water



*To be investigated at later stage, as EC study under way*

# Revised policy options



## 1. Core WHO list of parameters with common (strict) threshold values

Common regulation of quality standard limit values for core parameters posing high risks for human health (from WHO).

## 2. Holistic Risk-Based Assessment (includes emerging contaminants)

The risk-based policy holistic approach covering catchment to tap with a regulatory framework based on proven principles of the WHO. All parameters are selected using risk based approach (including parameters for emerging contaminants after examination for their potential effect on human health).

## 3. SMART Drinking Water information to all EU citizens

The establishment of smart water information to provide a wide range of up-to-date information to ALL consumers linked to water quality, reliability and continuity (including water label or excellence label, which can be accessed from smart phone). (to develop in more detail the level of aggregation of information)

## 4. Responsible Drinking water consumers (governance, information) for decision making

The establishment and delivery of smart water information to ALL consumers which can enhance their role in water management (include establishment of consumer boards, and types of information that consumers need to make more responsible decisions, i.e. leakages, investments, water tariffs and pricing).

## 5. Enhancing performance & resource efficiency of drinking water services

This option proposes to develop a wider performance system for monitoring the performance of water service operators as key to enhance efficiency and the performance of drinking water service operators, including regular national benchmarking between water service providers. Performance will address a range of management and efficiency issues: delivery of safe drinking water quality, water resource management (in terms of quality and quantity) and its efficiency, conveyance efficiency, water savings, energy efficiency and emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>/GHG, satisfaction of final consumers, timeliness and adequacy of responses to problems, etc. Drinking water operators will be responsible for implementing actions that will enhance their overall performance and footprint including in terms of application of measures such as water reuse, water saving, rain-water harvesting, etc.

## 6. Access to safe drinking water and sanitation to all

This option extends the current obligation to provide human right to safe drinking water and sanitation to all citizens, expanding the drinking water quality standards of the current Drinking Water Directive to all small communities and any person living in Europe (including Roman populations, migrants.).

# Questions for participants



1. SH workshop identified focus areas, any additional thematic areas to be considered in the DWD revision process?
2. What are key issues that need to be spelt out when describing the "Risk-based assessment" policy option?
3. In the 6 policy options to focus in the IA, are there options that already implemented or you think will be implemented anyway (already on the way)?
4. What are specific sources of information (studies, databases...) that can be mobilised for the (social, economic, environmental) impact assessment?



1. SH workshop identified focus areas, any additional thematic areas to be considered in the DWD revision process?



2. What are key issues that need to be spelt out when describing the "Risk-based assessment" policy option?

### 3. Implementation of DWD in MS: are any of these options already implemented (partially) or will be implemented)?

	1. Core WHO list of parameters with common (strict) threshold values	2. Holistic Risk-Based Assessment (includes emerging contaminants)	3. SMART Drinking Water information to all EU citizens	4. Responsible Drinking water consumers (governance, information) for decision making	5. Enhancing performance & resource efficiency of drinking water services	6. Access to safe drinking water and sanitation to all
Belgium		X				
France						
Netherlands		X				
Germany						
Denmark						
Spain						
Italy						
Portugal				smart app and label		
Slovakia						
Romania						
Hungary						
Croatia						
Slovenia						
Iceland						
Poland						
Latvia						
Lithuania						
Estonia						
Ireland						
Czech						
Austria						
Finland						
Sweden						
Malta						
UK						
Norway						
Cyprus						
Greece						

## 4. What are the sources of information for the (health, social, economic, environmental) impact assessment? (study, contact person/link)

	Health	Economic	Environmental	Social
Belgium				
France				
Netherlands				
Germany				
Denmark				
Spain				
Italy				
Portugal				
Slovakia				
Romania				
Hungary				
Croatia				
Slovenia				
Island				
Poland				
Latvia				
Lithuania				
Estonia				
Ireland				
Czech				
Austria				
Finland				
Sweden				
Malta				
UK				
Norway				
Cyprus				
Greece				



**Thank you!**

**Forms (implementation of policy options in MS and sources of information) will be also available to complete via CIRCA, and email to Olga**

**Contact:**

**Olga Mashkina**  
**[o.mashkina@acteon-environment.eu](mailto:o.mashkina@acteon-environment.eu)**