

# SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT IN A *Changing Climate*

13<sup>th</sup> BALKANS JOINT CONFERENCE  
AND EXHIBITION



11-12-13 NOVEMBER 2025  
DURRËS, ALBANIA

## Financing water services in the future: can new income streams fill the investment gap?

Oliver Loebel, Martin Silič  
EurEau

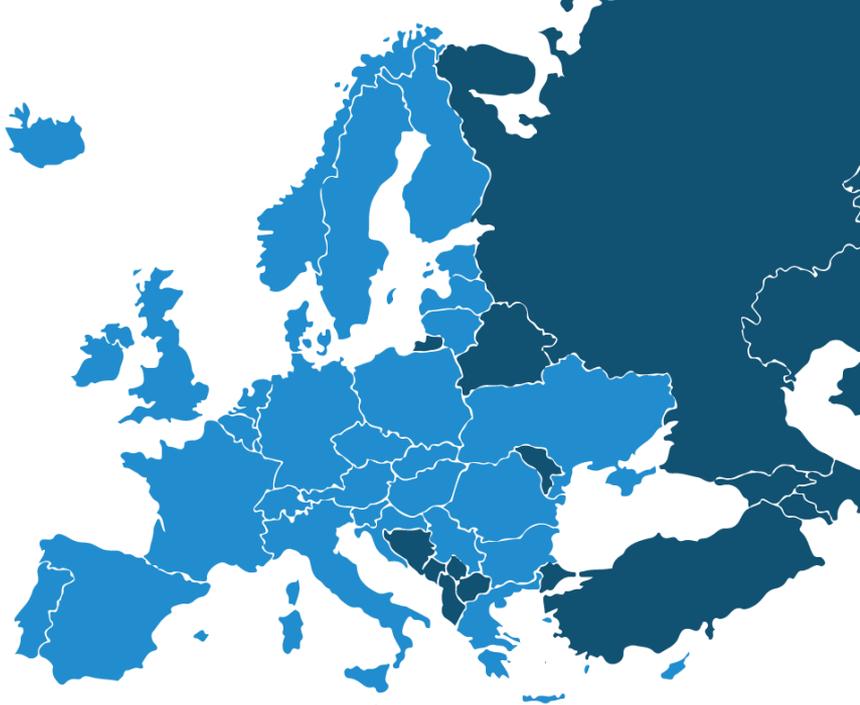
Durres, 12 November 2025

# Who we are

European water services  
association

**38** national associations  
from **33** European countries

**550 million** customers



EurEau

CELEBRATING  
**50** YEARS

# Wider questions

Where do we want to be in 20 years from now?

Is the regulatory framework enabling the changes we want to put in place?



# Our objectives

- Identify the types of **activities or marketable products and services** that water services can develop for the purpose of **generating sources of financial income**;
- Identify and analyse the **constraints**, e.g. legal (EU, national), market, operational, technological, and others, that hinder the deployment or scaling of such activities;
- Propose **solutions**, including recommendations on (EU) regulatory frameworks, policy incentives, investments, and others, that could help enable or incentivise water services.

# 'Traditional' and new 'costs'

DW abstraction, treatment  
and distribution

Energy generation

Water reuse

Urban water management

Climate change

WW collection and  
treatment

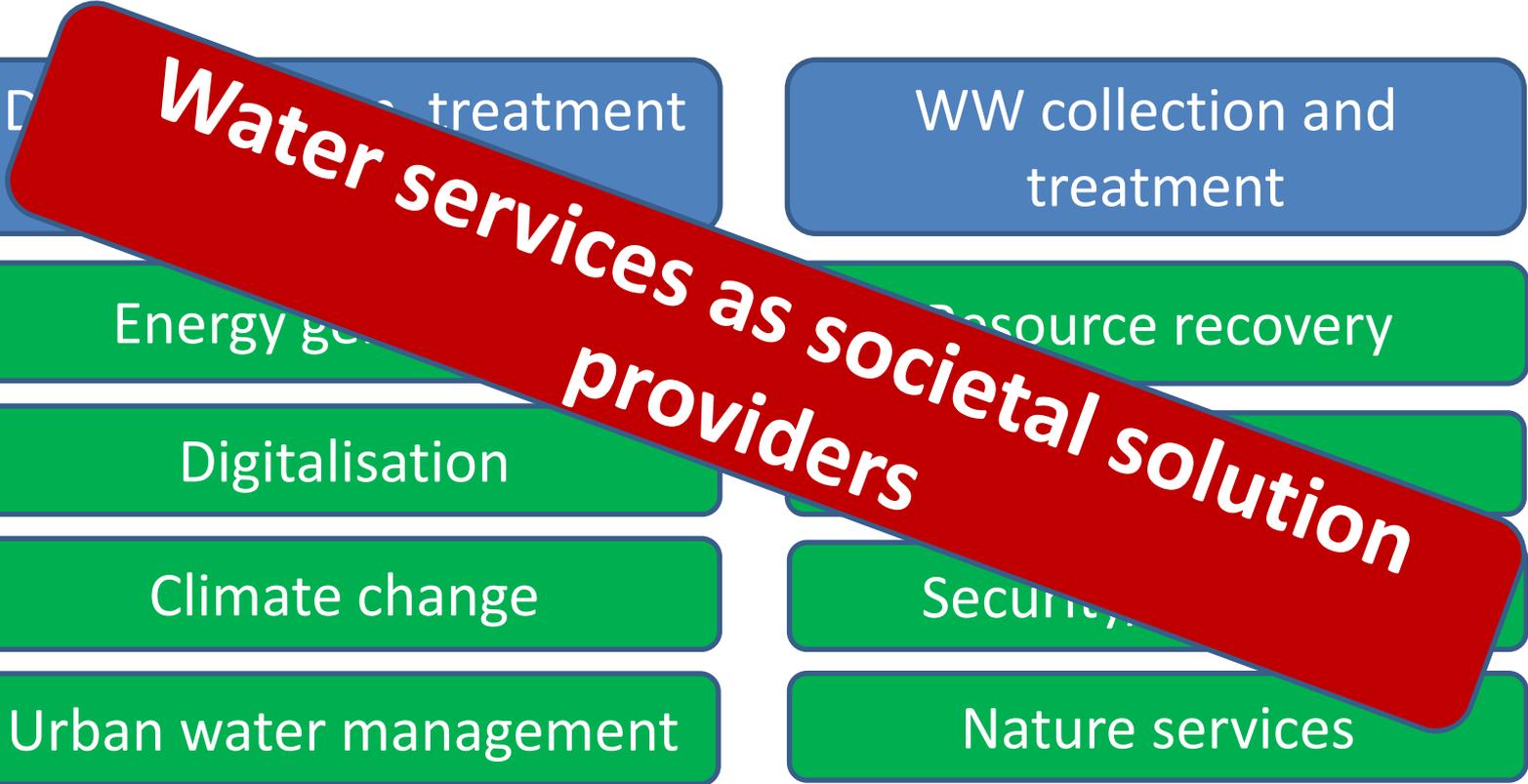
Resource recovery

Nature services

Digitalisation

Security/resilience

# 'Traditional' and new 'costs'



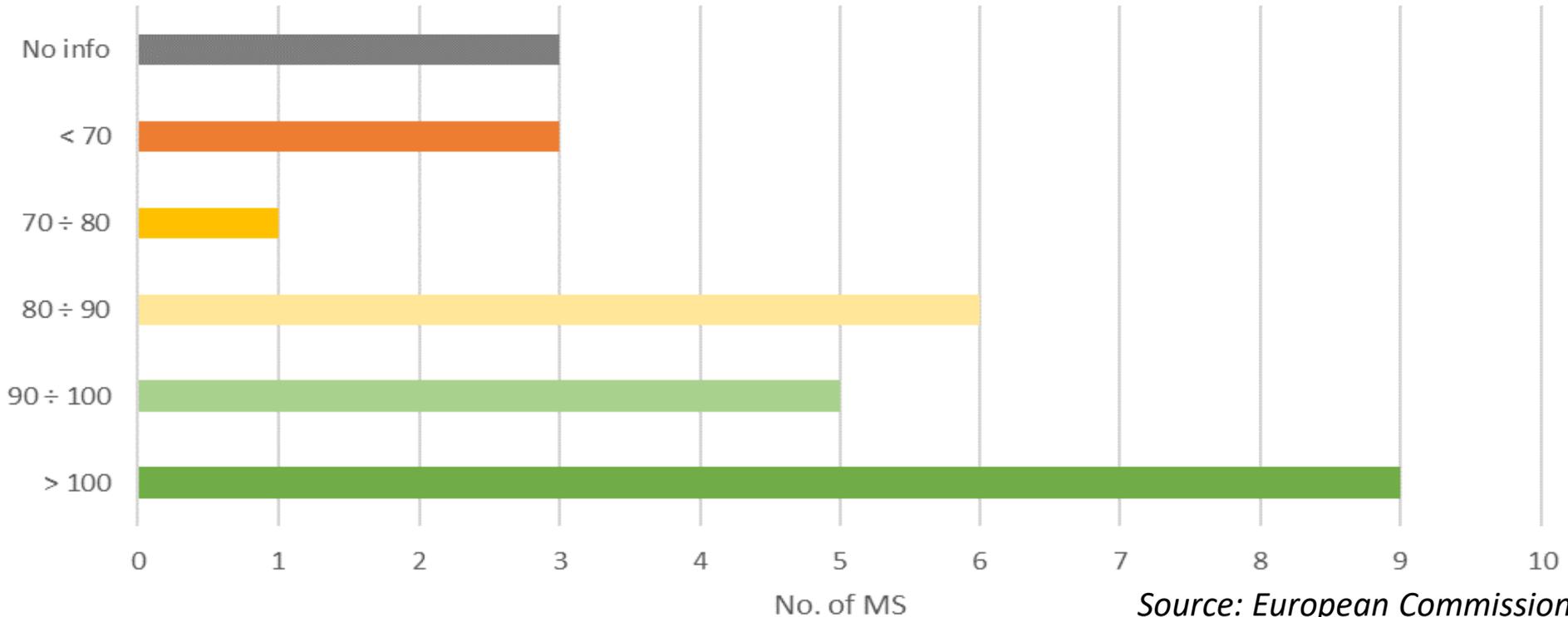
# Financing water services in the **today**



\*WRS: Includes WFD

# Financing water services in the **today**

Cost-recovery levels (no irrigation)

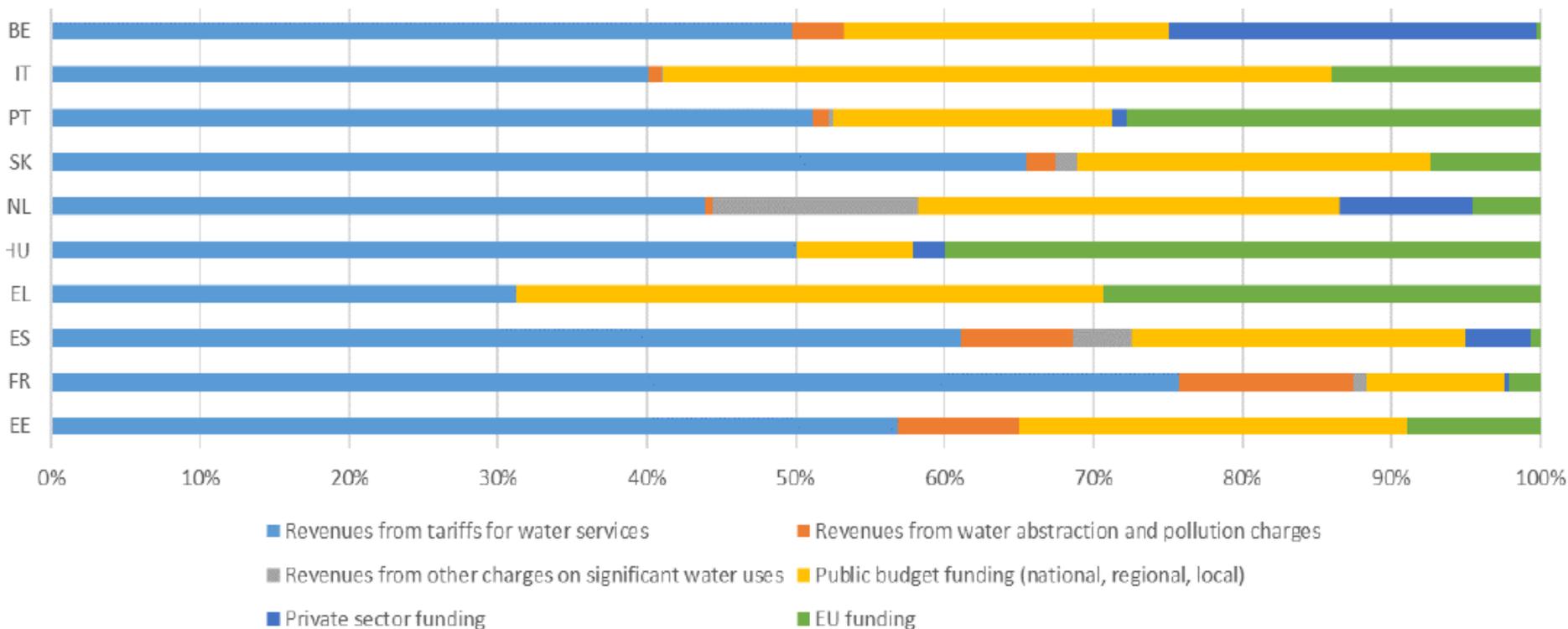


Source: European Commission, DG Environment. 2021

# Share of funding sources for water management in selected Member States

Source: European Commission, DG Environment, 2021

## Share of funding sources over total yearly funding for water management in ten EU MS

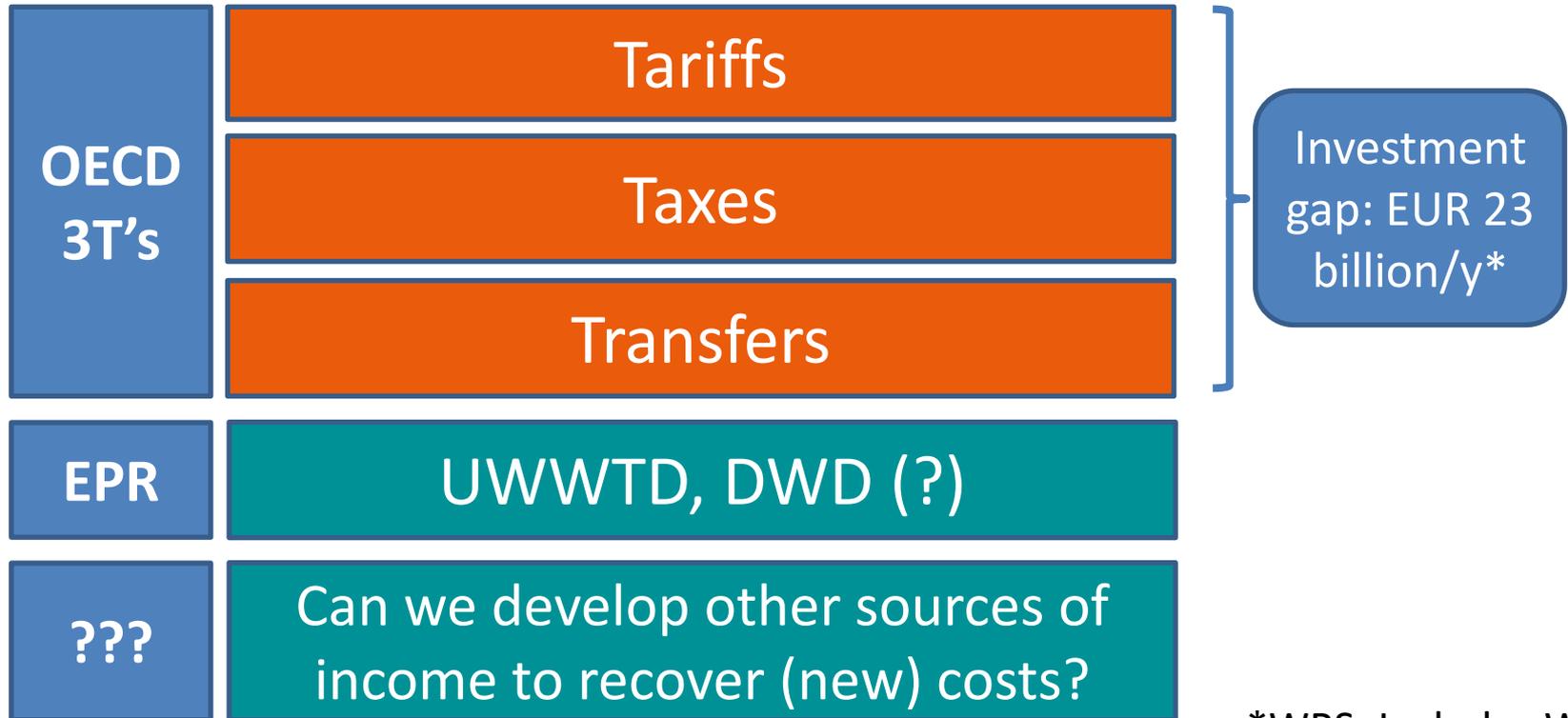


## Financing water services in the future



\*WRS: Includes WFD

# Financing water services in the future



\*WRS: Includes WFD

# What are we talking about?

Example collection by members for members.

Real-life experience or projects.

**Thought-provoking but not imposing solutions.**



# General auxiliary economic activities

1. Soil stabilisation
2. Multi-functionality of water utilities
3. Remote metering services
4. Energy saving certificates
5. Disposal of storm water runoff
6. Photovoltaics
7. Refillable water container service



# Water treatment by-products

1. Resource and nutrient recovery
2. Biochar as soil enhancer and nutrient source
2. Alum sludge
3. Biopolymers
4. Sewer sands
5. Recovery of sludge components



# Energy generation

1. Heat recovery
2. Renewable hydrogen
3. Biogas



# Water reuse

1. Reclaimed water for agricultural purposes
2. Reclaimed water for other purposes



# Constraints

- Regulatory constraints – EU level
- Regulatory constraints – national level
- Market constraints
- Structural – human resources and organisational capacity
- Investment gaps
- Technological constraints
- Public perception

# Weighing up pros and cons

Monopoly position

Strictly regulated

How can I provide added value?

Do I want to / can I do this?

If rules need changing, what are the risks?

# Next steps

- Ongoing: Analysis of obstacles
- Next: Drawing up recommendations
- May 26: Summary report
- And then: Member associations to assess whether national action is needed



# Thank you and Questions

Oliver Loebel

EurEau

[Oliver.loebel@eureau.org](mailto:Oliver.loebel@eureau.org)



EurEau

CELEBRATING  
**50** YEARS

... because Water Matters.