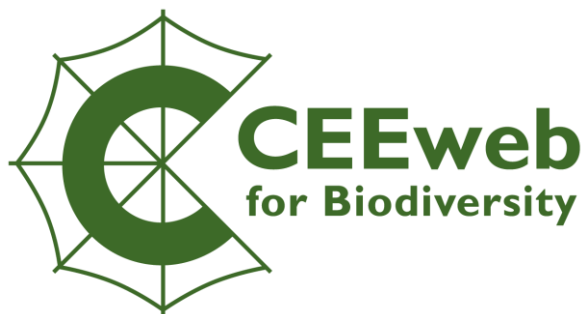


# How does the new target complement the existing tools?

Ildikó Varga



Challenges and potentials of river restoration and conservation in Europe in light of Biodiversity Strategy 2030

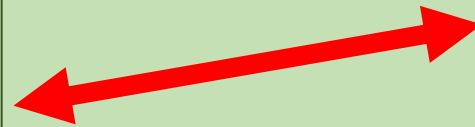
13 July, 2020

## Water Framework Directive

- prevents further deterioration and protects and enhances the status of aquatic ecosystems
- good ecological status/potencial
- water bodies/river basin district
- environmental objectives **(for protected areas as well)**
- programme of measures and River Basin Management Plans (RBMP)
  - ,basic': **measures required under directives (Birds and Habitats included)**
  - ,supplementary': **(vii) recreation and restoration of wetlands areas**

## Habitats Directive

- contributes towards ensure biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and species (fauna and flora)
- favourable conservation status
- Natura 2000 sites
- conservation objectives
- Management plans and Prioritized Action Framework (PAF)
  - **Targets and measures for restoration of habitats/habitats of species**



# Habitats Directive

## Lacks of implementation:

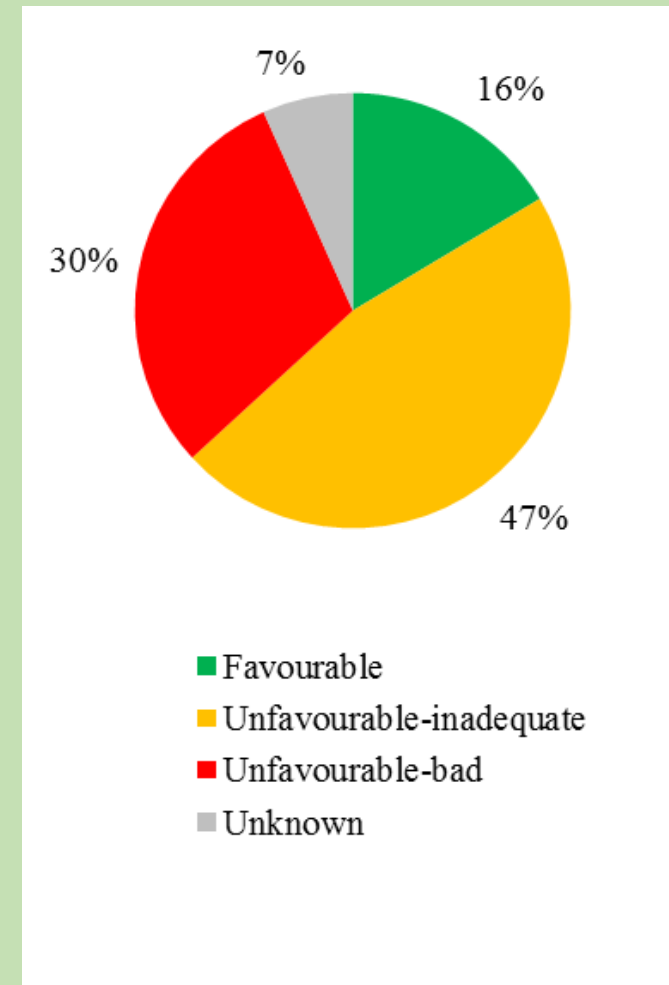
- conservation status (2007-2012): only 16% of habitats are in favourable status, 51% of and 17% of rivers and lakes are in bad status
- establishment of conservation objectives and measures (management plans or any equivalent tools)

## Natura 2000 management plans:

- measures for water management – harmonising with the measures of the RBMP
- measures for habitat restoration

## Prioritized Action Framework for Natura 2000:

- improve or restore the natural water regime
- creation of new habitats
- improving hydromorphological conditions
- ensure the longitudinal connectivity of river sections



# Water Framework Directive

## Lacks of implementation:

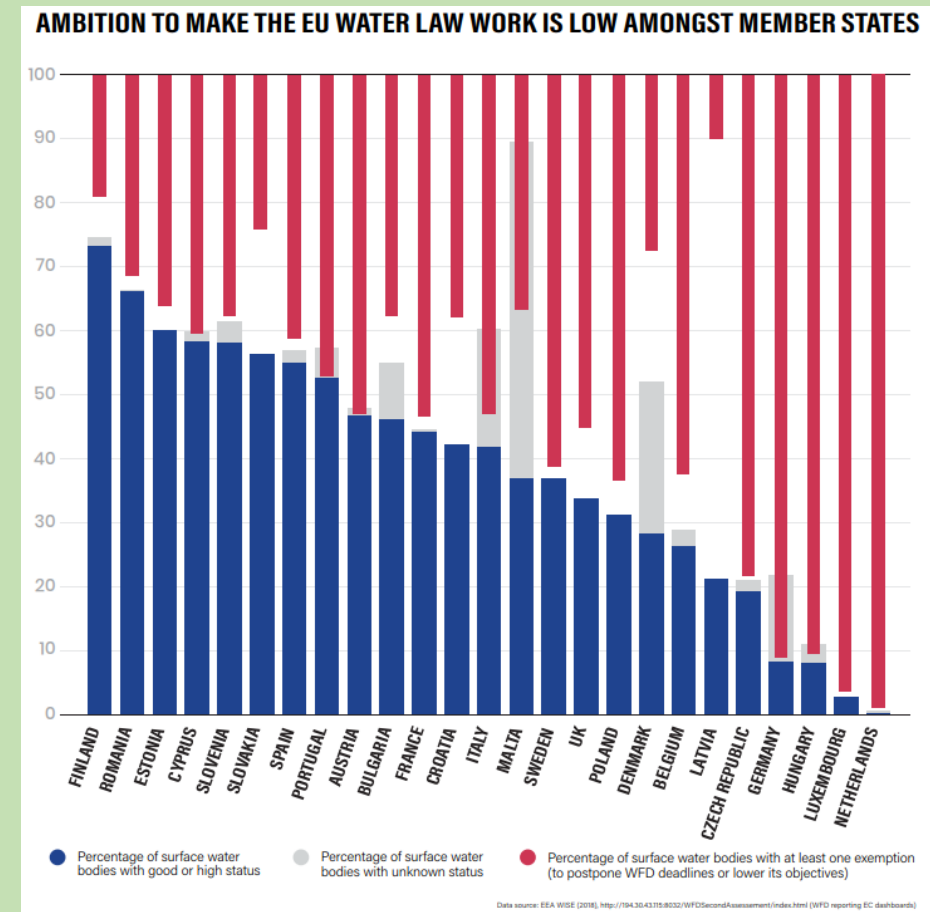
- ecological status of water bodies: MS do not meet the purpose
  - 2nd RBMP: **only 41,9%** of water bodies are in good or high status
- lowering of objectives
- widespread use of exemptions

## River Basin Management Plans (RBMP):

- restoring longitudinal connectivity, mitigation of the impacts of damming
- improving hydromorphological conditions
- promoting natural water retention
- protection of damaged aquatic habitats and wetlands

## Significant Water Management Issues (SWMI):

- need a paradigm change in the water management – focusing on climate adaptation and ecological approaches
- Position of Civil Natura 2000 WG
  - integrated approach
  - water management at landscape level
  - reconstruction of oxbow lakes and river beds
  - alternative solutions



## Which are the difficulties?

- Preferably conservation approach
- Ecological aspects are weak in WFD
- Horizontal goal – incorporate into different policies, but not enough stressful
- Lack of finance for large scale investments, like dam removal
- Insufficient political commitment
- Opposing parties and goals

## Biodiversity Strategy 2030



**Habitats  
Directive –  
Natura 2000  
network**



**Water  
Framework  
Directive**

- **New governance framework**
  - roadmap to guide implementation
  - monitoring and review mechanism
- **financial guaranties**
- **raising global ambitions**

## Green Deal

- **Economic incentives**
- **Nature is part of the economic developments and investments**
- **Dealing with pay-off**

## What NGOs can do?

- Active advocacy work on better implementation of Directives
- Strong positions during the 3rd RBM Planning process
- Lobby activities related to RBMP at different levels
- Continuous advocacy work on Bidi 2030
- Active contribution to the compilation of technical guidance and new law, comment
- Strong civil control of the implementation



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**