



Water quality and water pollution – data for old and new policy questions

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**Session 6.4.2 Data
integration and
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information**

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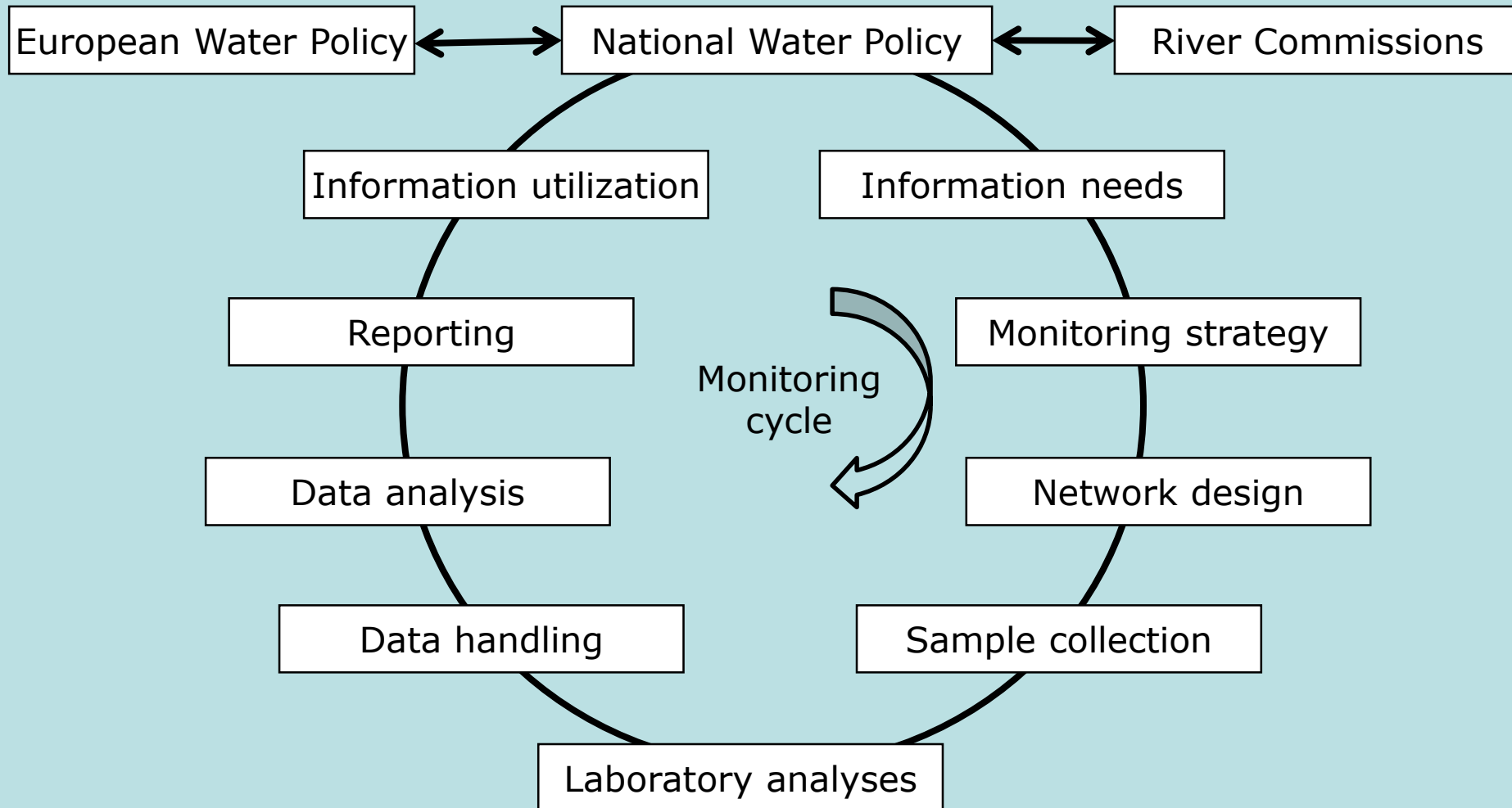


Important Austrian Water Policy Goals

- Surface waters and groundwaters: Good (ecological) status until 2015
- River Basin Management Plan across administrative boundaries
- Flood protection within the frame of ecological goals
- Protection of drinking water resources



Monitoring Cycle → Data Management Cycle



Legal Background and Reporting

- EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC, WFD): Compliance Reporting, Compliance checks
- Austrian Water Act 2003:
 - Legal implementation of WFD
 - §59: Water Information System Austria (WISA)
 - §59a: Ministerial Ordinances to set up water use and wastewater emissions registers
- Selected Ministerial Ordinances:
 - Water quality ordinance
 - Water quality surveillance ordinance
 - Sectoral wastewater emissions ordinances
 - Emissions Register ordinance (EMREG)

Selected characteristics of „classical“ policy relevant questions and indicators

- In the past policy relevant questions were related to the facts that:
 - Pollution of surface waters stemmed mainly from point sources
 - There was a big potential for improvement of wastewater treatment technologies and production processes
- Indicators were the basis for sector-specific regulations on limitation of discharged pollutants, investments, subsidies and other measures
- Indicators were used for monitoring of progress and assessment of achievement of policy goals

Selected characteristics of „new“ policy relevant questions and indicators

- Source apportionment
- Cost-effectiveness of measures to achieve the good (ecological) status
- Socio-economic impacts of sectoral measures
- Sustainable use of water resources:
 - E.g. decoupling of economic output from water use and wastewater emissions
- Impacts of a changing hydrological regime due to climate change on various economic sectors:
 - Agriculture
 - Manufacturing Industry
 - Electricity production
 - Tourism

Key messages

- Water policy and data generation are cyclic procedures
- Regular data collection requires a legal basis and budget
- Different views on water data by different user groups require the application of agreed standards, definitions and aggregation levels
- Countries and regions have different priorities and water management structures – some flexibility in data management is needed
- Data provided to international agencies is usually a by-product of national water management
- Make information easily available to all kind of users:
 - <http://www.environmental-accounting.at>
 - <http://wisa.lebensministerium.at/>
 - <http://water.europa.eu/>
 - <http://www.umweltbundesamt.at/en>