

Economic benefits of EU water policy and costs of non-implementation - Collection of existing knowledge

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

- * In order to participate to the call for evidence, please provide your contact details. For more information on the privacy policy of the European Commission please refer to the privacy statement.

Name

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- * Name of the organisation you represent

agw - Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Wasserwirtschaftsverbände in Nordrhein-Westfalen
(EU-Reg-Nr: 286 777 811 592 - 48)

- * Please specify the type of organisation

- Governmental Organisation
- International Institution/Organisation
- Academia
- NGO
- Private Sector
- Consultancy
- Individual expert
- Other

- * What results would you expect from a study on the economic benefits of EU water policy and the cost of its non-implementation?

We don't expect remarkable results. The economic aspects are indeed important, but the aspects of ecology and human health should have priority. "Water is not a commercial product like any other but, rather, a heritage which must be protected, defended and treated as such." We have to keep in mind, that the

value of clean water is much more than just examine hard facts like economical benefits, water covers a number of soft benefits, such as recreation, life-quality and sustainability for people.

* On the basis of the background document, would you consider Task 1 "Water as a key resource for economic growth and well-being of the EU":

- Very relevant
- Relevant
- Not so relevant because already extensively analysed
- Not so relevant for the perceived objectives of the study
- Unrealistic

Please provide comments on Task 1 and its deliverables as described in the background document.

Clean water as basic condition for human health and water as a common good is necessary for well-being and economic growth. Clean water is also a basic condition for numerous industries, An intact environment is important for tourism, which includes clean rivers, lakes and seas. Industrialisation processes in the earlier centuries would not have been possible without adequate water management, including clean drinking water for employees and their families to avoid serious diseases.

* On the basis of the background document, would you consider Task 2 "Cost/benefit analysis of the proper implementation of the EU water acquis":

- Very relevant
- Relevant
- Not so relevant because already extensively analysed
- Not so relevant for the perceived objectives of the study
- Unrealistic

Please provide comments on Task 2 and its deliverables as described in the background document.

A cost/benefit analysis für all Member States is afflicted with many problems. These are:

- Different definitions,
- different historical developments of water management structures,
- different legal systems,
- uneven economic performance in the states and of the users of water services,
- different values in the societies,
- different geological and climatic conditions.

This means, that a lot of preparatory work is required for such an analysis. It leads to misunderstandings, if there is no clarity on definitions and differences. It is pointless to give further studies in addition to many topical studies. It is important that the Member States themselves do

something on this topics. There is no knowledge deficit, not a lack of action, a lack of political will and a lack of political enforcement power. Up-scaling from various examples wouldn't bring reliable results, because the Situation is so different in the Member States.

* On the basis of the background document, would you consider Task 3 "How to maximise the economic benefits of water by identifying its most efficient uses":

- Very relevant
- Relevant
- Not so relevant because already extensively analysed
- Not so relevant for the perceived objectives of the study
- Unrealistic

Please provide comments on Task 3 and its deliverables as described in the background document.

See the answer before. We don't support a water productivity index.

In this context we must always keep in mind the processes of the natural water cycle in a whole. This means, the actually discussed topic "Water Reuse" is neither the solution for non-invest in the water infrastructure to minimize the water losses in the pipe networks nor for the implementation of sustainable irrigation techniques in agriculture.

What sources of information on the economics of water of relevance to the study would you recommend? In case they are linked to a specific task or deliverable, please specify.

Reference to publications

See the comments made by Christa Hecht / aöw (EU-Reg-Nr. 0481013843-28)

Links to websites

Names of institutions, organizations, research centers, academia

See the comments made by Christa Hecht / aöw (EU-Reg-Nr. 0481013843-28)

Other (please specify)

Additional suggestions or recommendations for the study (i.e. on objectives, scope, deliverables, risks, methodology)

If you agree to be contacted by DG Environment for further exchange of information or to be informed on the outcomes of the study, please provide your email address

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Contact

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