

# **Session 2: Implementation experience - Art. 9**

**Introduction: summary of relevant  
results of the questionnaire /  
interviews & content of session**



# Art. 9

- „Member States shall take account of the principle of recovery of the costs of water services, including environmental and resource costs [...] and in accordance in particular with the polluter pays principle.
- Member States shall ensure by 2010:
  - that water pricing policies provide adequate incentives for users to use water resources efficiently, and thereby contribute to the environmental objectives of this Directive”
  - an adequate contribution of the different water uses, disaggregated into a least industry, households and agriculture, to the recovery of the costs of water services [...]“ (Art. 9 (1)).



# Art. 9

- “Member States may in so doing have regard to the social, environmental and economic effects of the recovery as well as the geographic and climatic conditions of the region or regions affected” (Art. 9 (1)).



# Main obstacles in implementation – Art. 9 (report):

- lack of data – problems in calculating the financial cost recovery for some sectors
- lack of practical methodology to evaluate and in-cooperate environmental and resource costs (mentioned in 6 cases: "A clear definition and methodological approach of both concepts on European level is needed")
- clear specification of the sectors covered (by the cost recovery calculations)



# Main obstacles in implementation – Art. 9 (report):

- difficulties in data forecasts up to 2015
- opposition of stakeholders / policy makers to change pricing system
- affordability problems
- uncertainty regarding the interpretation of some terms/concepts e.g. "water services":



# Polluter-pays-principle (written q.):

- Mentioned in 4 out of 25 replies
- 2 MS: enough incentives to stimulate sustainable use of water given; users pay an adequate contribution to the costs of water use, inclusive of environmental and resource costs. No additional work needed;
- 1 MS: further research studies to develop methodologies of allocation of the costs of water uses/polluters of the different water users.
- 1 stakeholder: economic analysis used to justify exemptions, but not for making sure that the polluter pays



# Content of session 2

- **Aim:** exchange experience on the approaches to implementing Art. 9
- **Focus:** actual implementation, not scientific studies
- Will not provide a comprehensive overview of all MS approaches: preliminary information exchanges to identify common challenges etc.
- Forward-looking presentations, but also link implementation experience to existing information sheets / guidance on the topic (usefulness, practicability, difficulties)
- Objective: to inform later discussions on what future work is needed



# Session 2: Key questions for discussion

- What approaches were taken by Member States?
- What were the main challenges (data/methodological)?
- Was there experience of transboundary cooperation on this issue?
- What are future work needs in this area (also as input to session 5)?

