



belini

LIFE Platform meeting The Water Resilience Strategy

LIFE Strategic Integrated Projects implementing River Basin
Management Plans practices

Day 2.

Workshop A

Governance, Enforcement and Compliance

Chair: Federico De Filippi

Moderator: Yael Meroz

Rapporteur: Christina Rauls

LIFE CLIMAX PO -
Selena Ziccardi & Alessandro Scibona

14-15 October 2025

Brussels

This meeting is
organised by





CLIMAX PO

CLIMate Adaptation for the PO river basin district



RBMP targeted: Po River Basin District

Who we are: The River Po Basin District Authority is a non-economic public body, operating under the supervision of the Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security, which merged the pre-existing River basin authorities and the Po River.

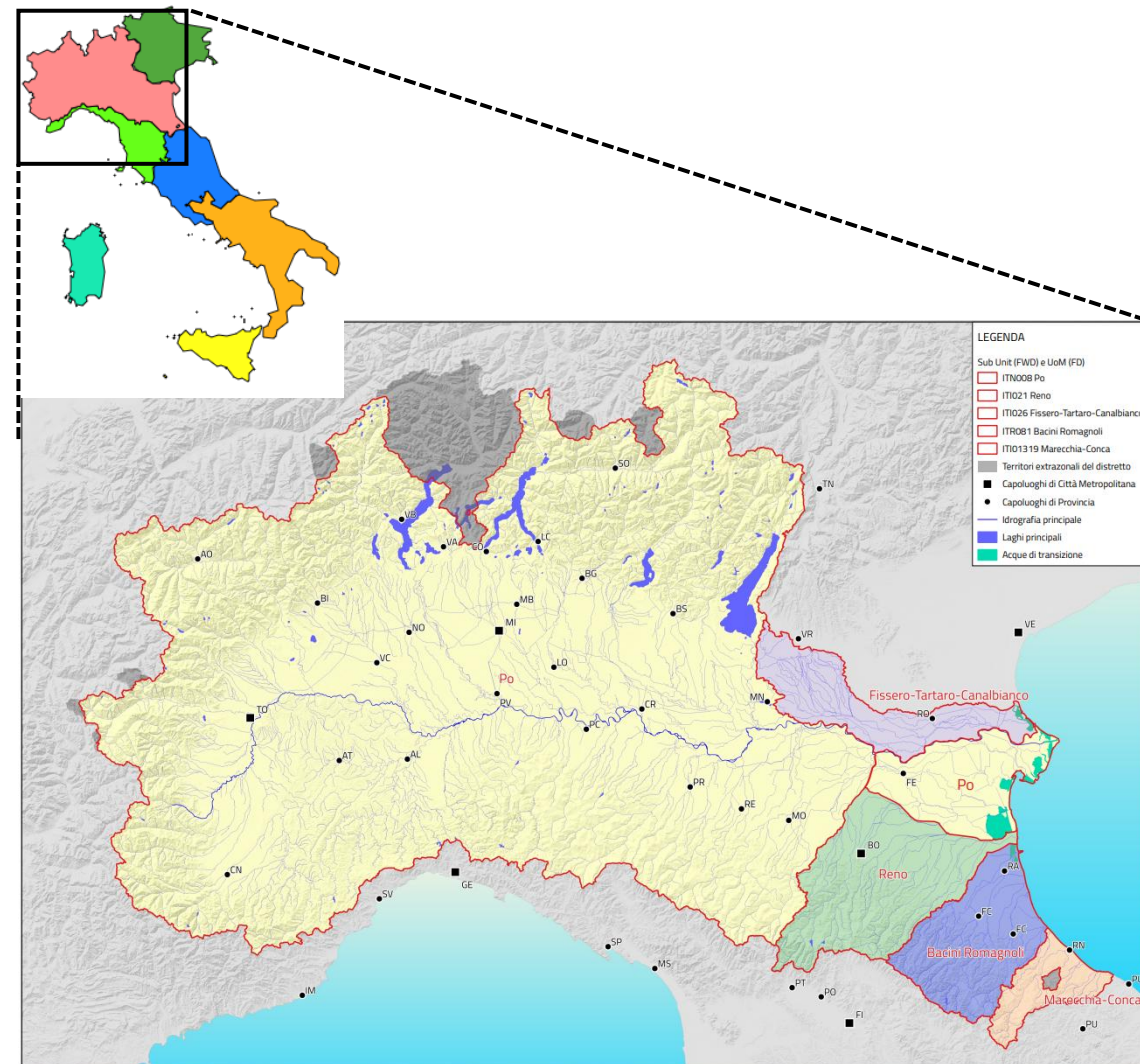
What we do: water planning for Po River district.

Adaptation to Climate Change: is a challenging topic for our territory, which is also recognized as a hotspot for climate change in the Mediterranean region. Adaptation must be incorporated into future planning for 2027, and with the LIFE CLIMAX PO project, we can establish a roadmap leading up to 2032.



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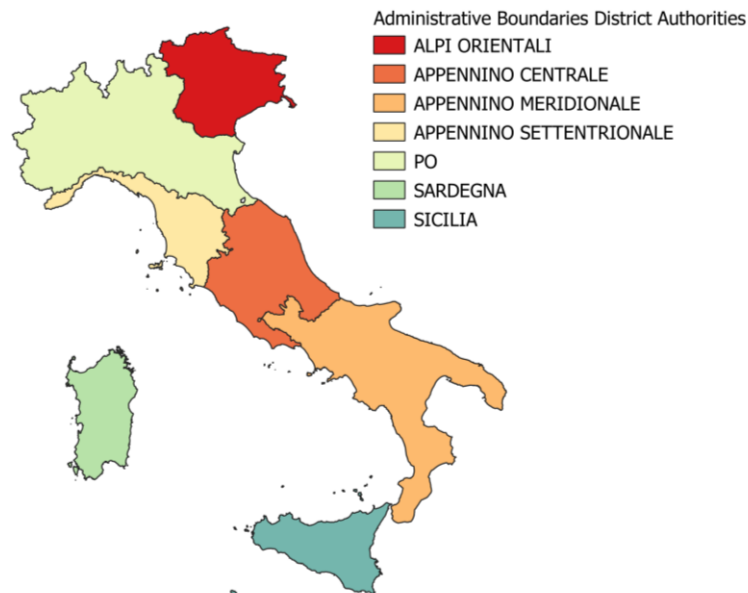
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Po River Basin District Government contest



About us



Administrative Boundaries District Authorities

- ALPI ORIENTALI
- APPENNINO CENTRALE
- APPENNINO MERIDIONALE
- APPENNINO SETTENTRIONALE
- PO
- SARDEGNA
- SICILIA



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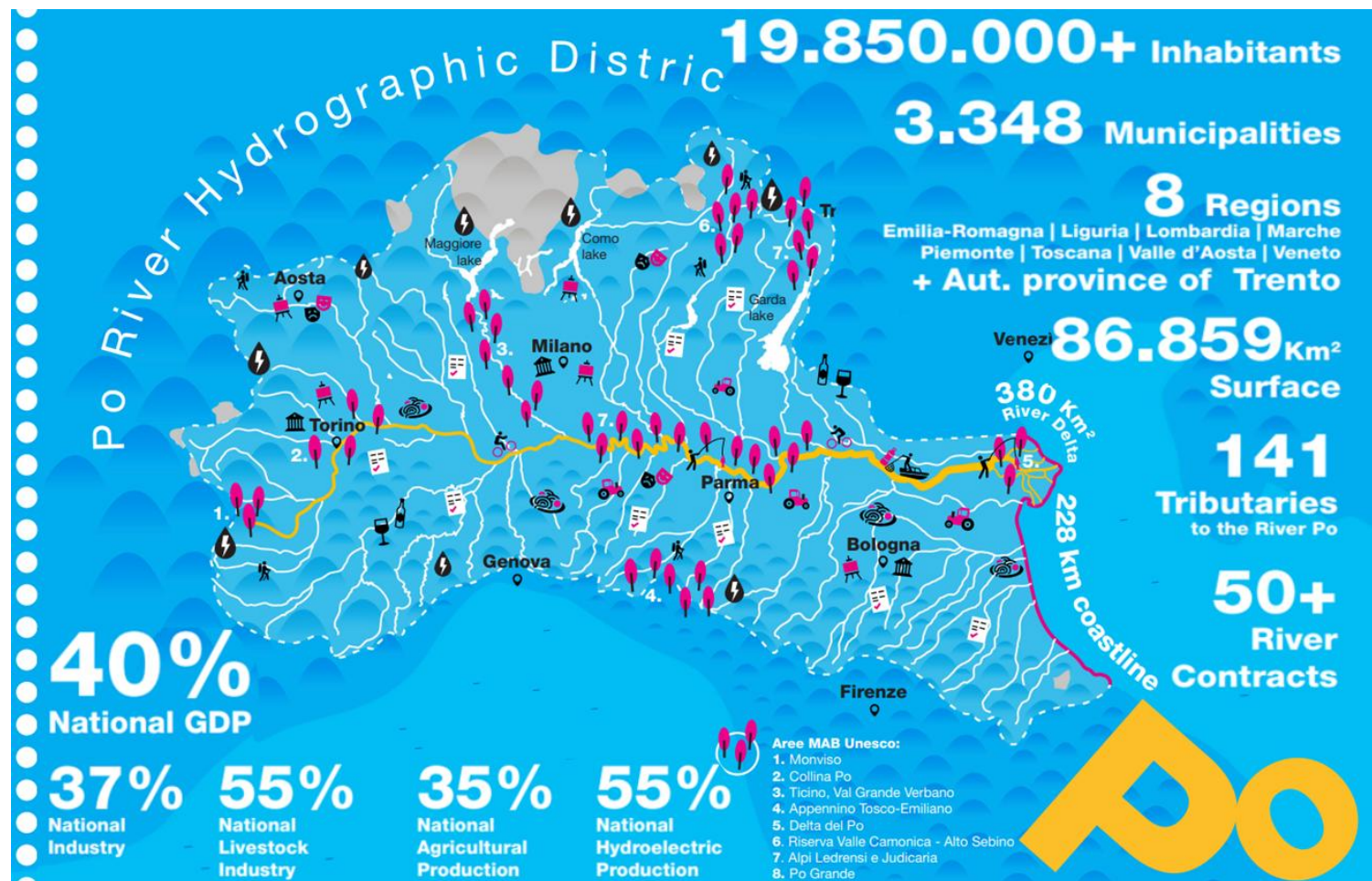
Po River Basin District Territorial framework



About us

A strategically important area in terms of:

- Geographical
- Economic
- Social



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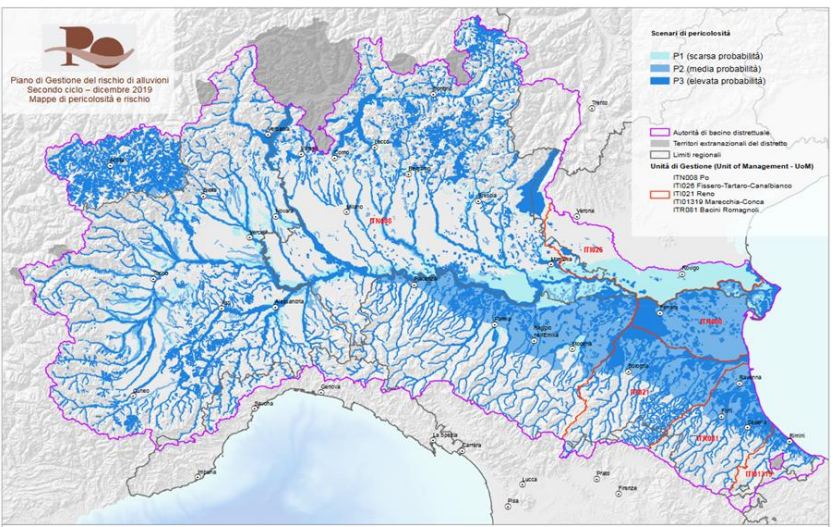
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Po River Basin District

Main challenges



Many areas potentially prone to risk of flooding, since the Po Valley is an alluvial plain.



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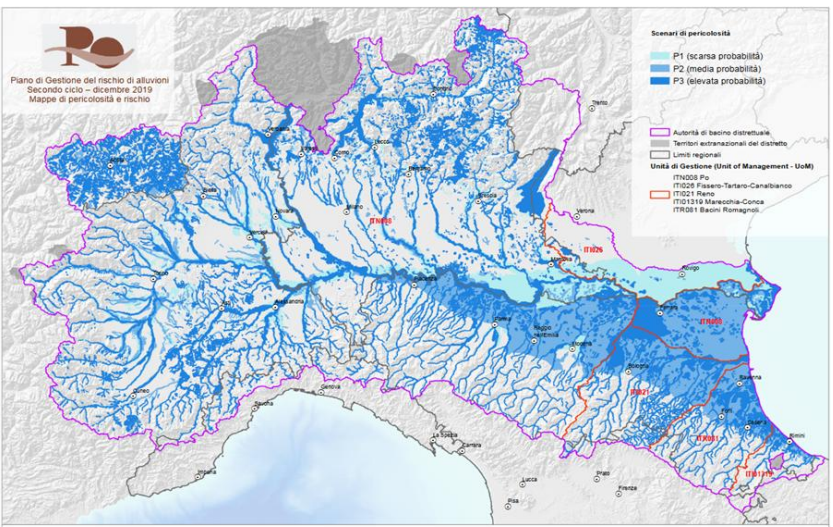
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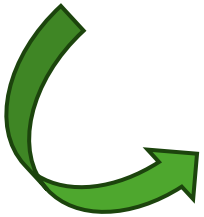


Po River Basin District

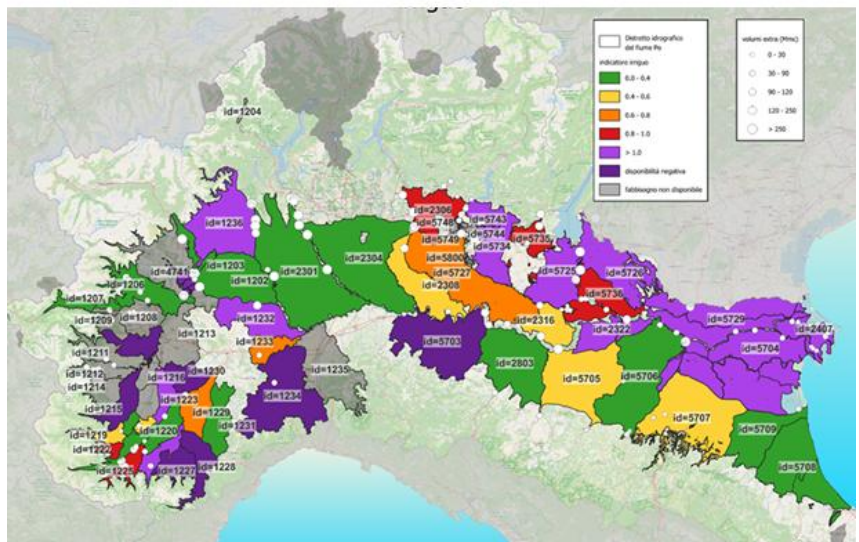
Main challenges



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Ratio of irrigation use to water availability in 2022 for each irrigation district



Mainly used for agricultural purposes (65%). The ratio between water availability and consumption is not always easy to manage.



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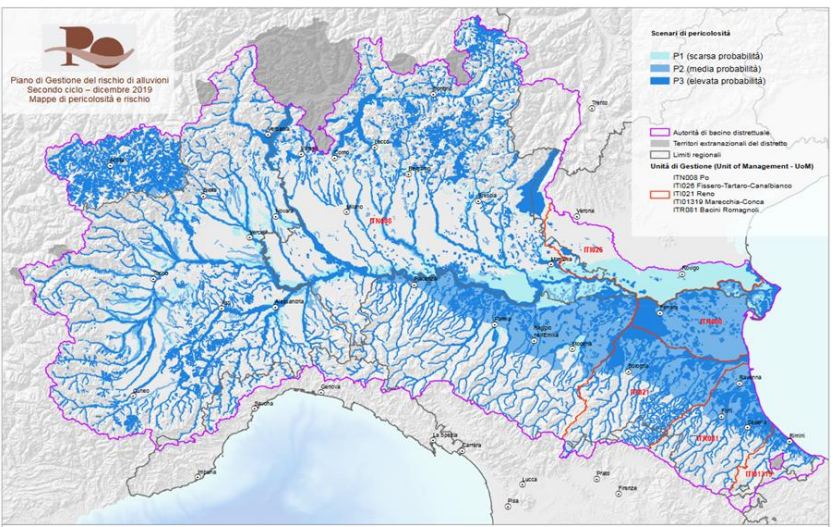
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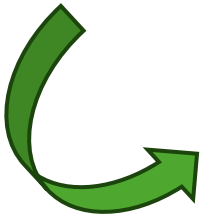


Po River Basin District

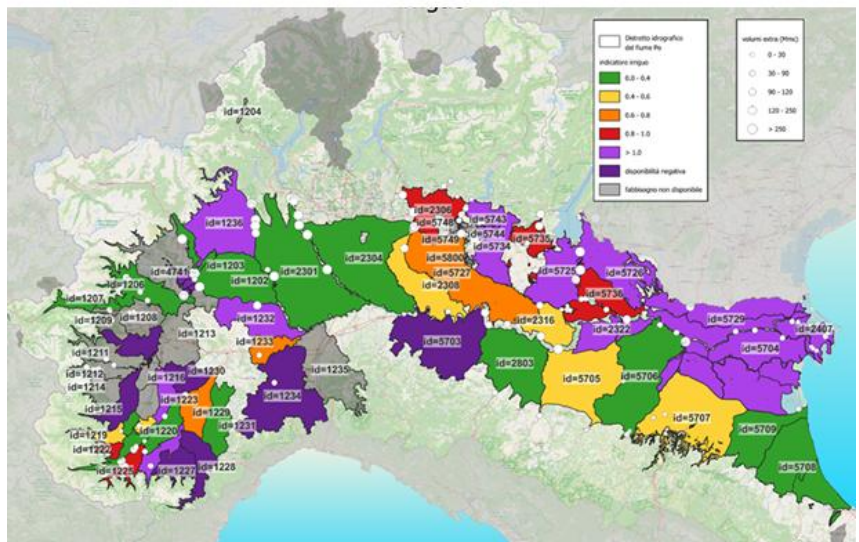
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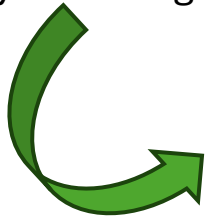
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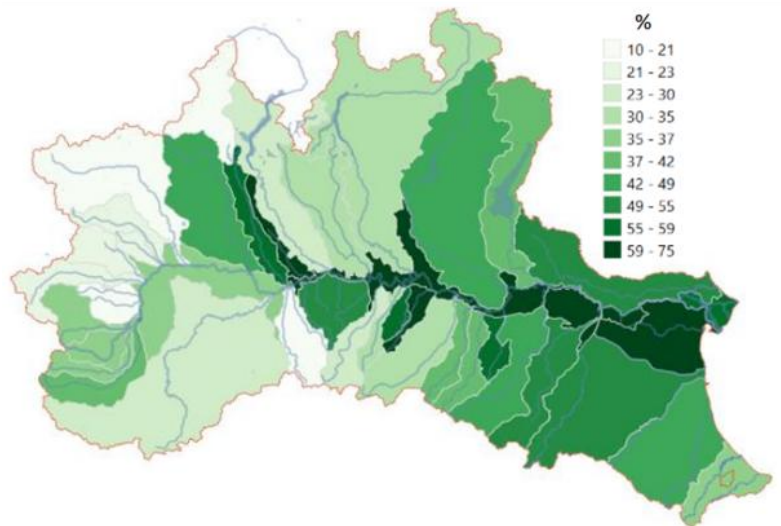
Ratio of irrigation use to water availability in 2022 for each irrigation district



Mainly used for agricultural purposes (65%). The ratio between water availability and consumption is not always easy to manage.



UAA: 32.600 km² (39% of total)



Agricultural uses involves considerable coverage of UAA. Risk of water eutrophication from fertilizers and livestock waste.



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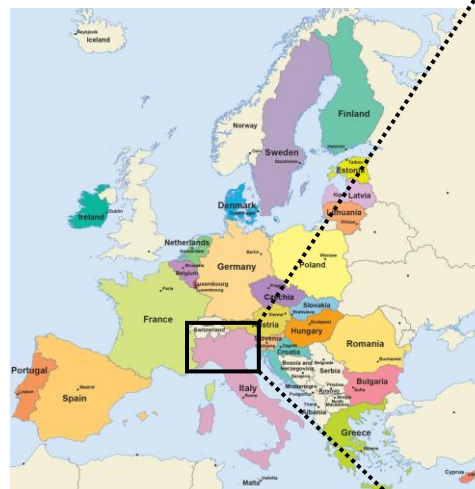
Beneficiaries: Po River Basin District Authority and other 20 + 4 associated partners, involving all levels of governance in the District, public and private stakeholders, research organizations and major associations.

Total Budget: €17,890,937

LIFE grant: 60%

Start and end dates: 02.2023 – 01.2032

Presented by: Project coordinators
Alessandro Scibona & Selena Ziccardi
climaxpo@adbpo.it



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The project in a nutshell



CLIMate Adaptation for the PO river basin district



General aim

Promote adaptation to climate change through smart water management.



Governance



Shared climatic knowledge



Cooperation and integration



Water security and climate resilience



Climate Adaptation for the Po River District



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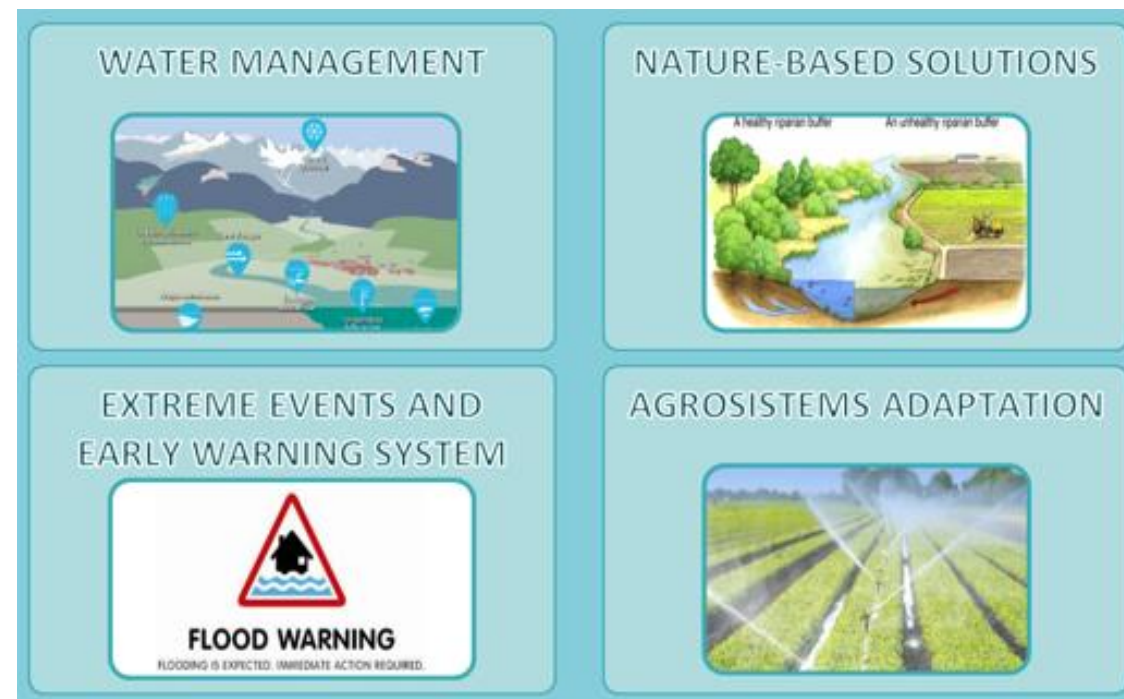


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The project in a nutshell: main expected results



In addition to activities engaging the public, stakeholders, and training for public administration, the Project addresses four main areas:



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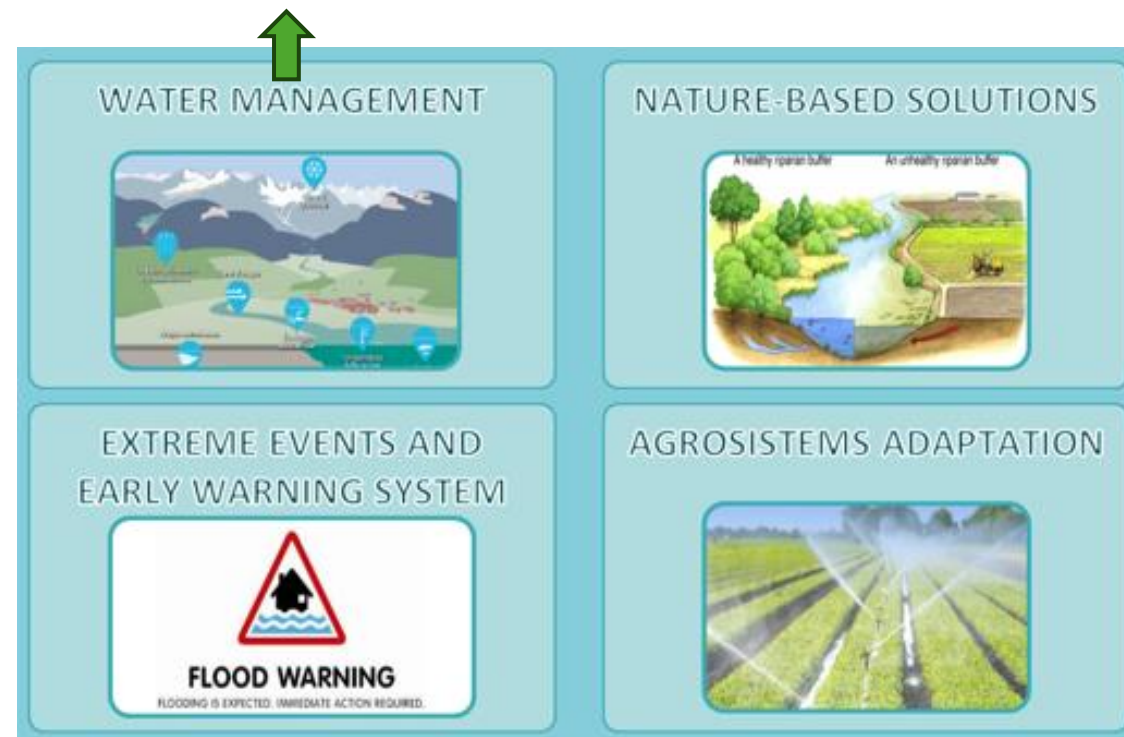
The project in a nutshell: main expected results



In addition to activities engaging the public, stakeholders, and training for public administration, the Project addresses four main areas:

1. Optimization of water resource management in reservoirs;

Reservoirs and lakes



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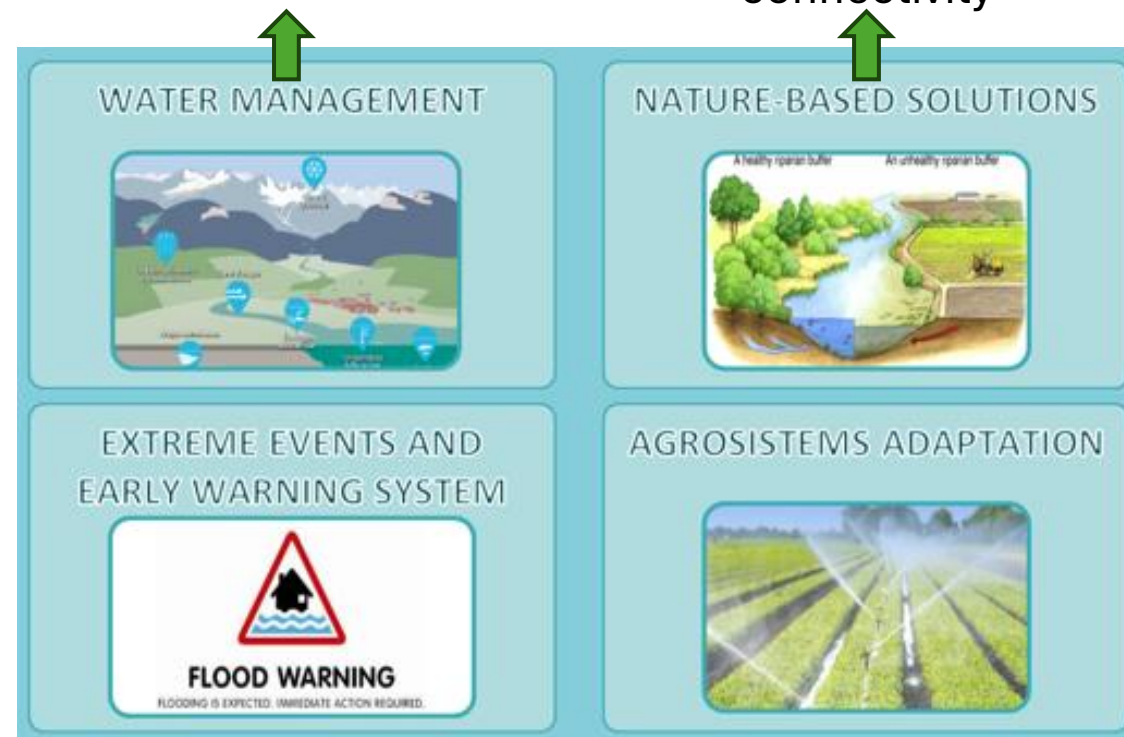
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Reservoirs and lakes

Po plain ecosystem connectivity



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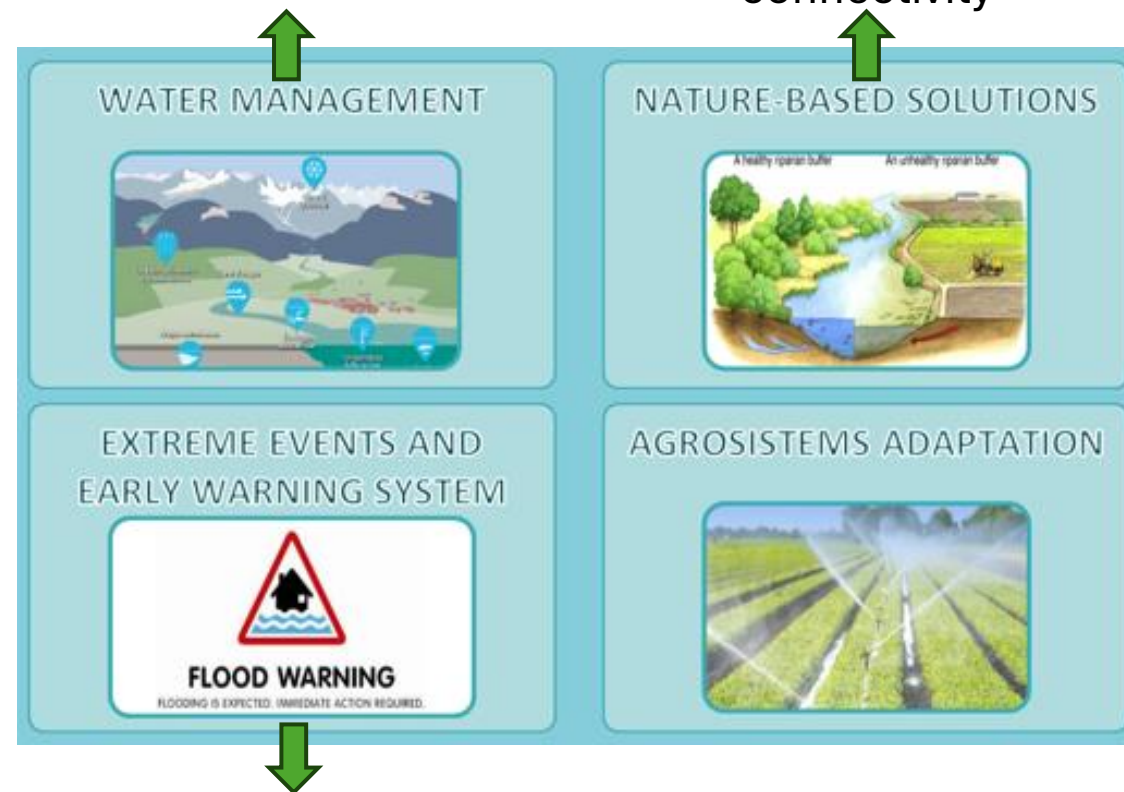
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3. Development of approaches and tools capable of supporting administrations, decision-makers, and communities in tackling the increase in extreme precipitation events;



Reservoirs and lakes

Po plain ecosystem connectivity



Forecasting and management of extreme rainfall events

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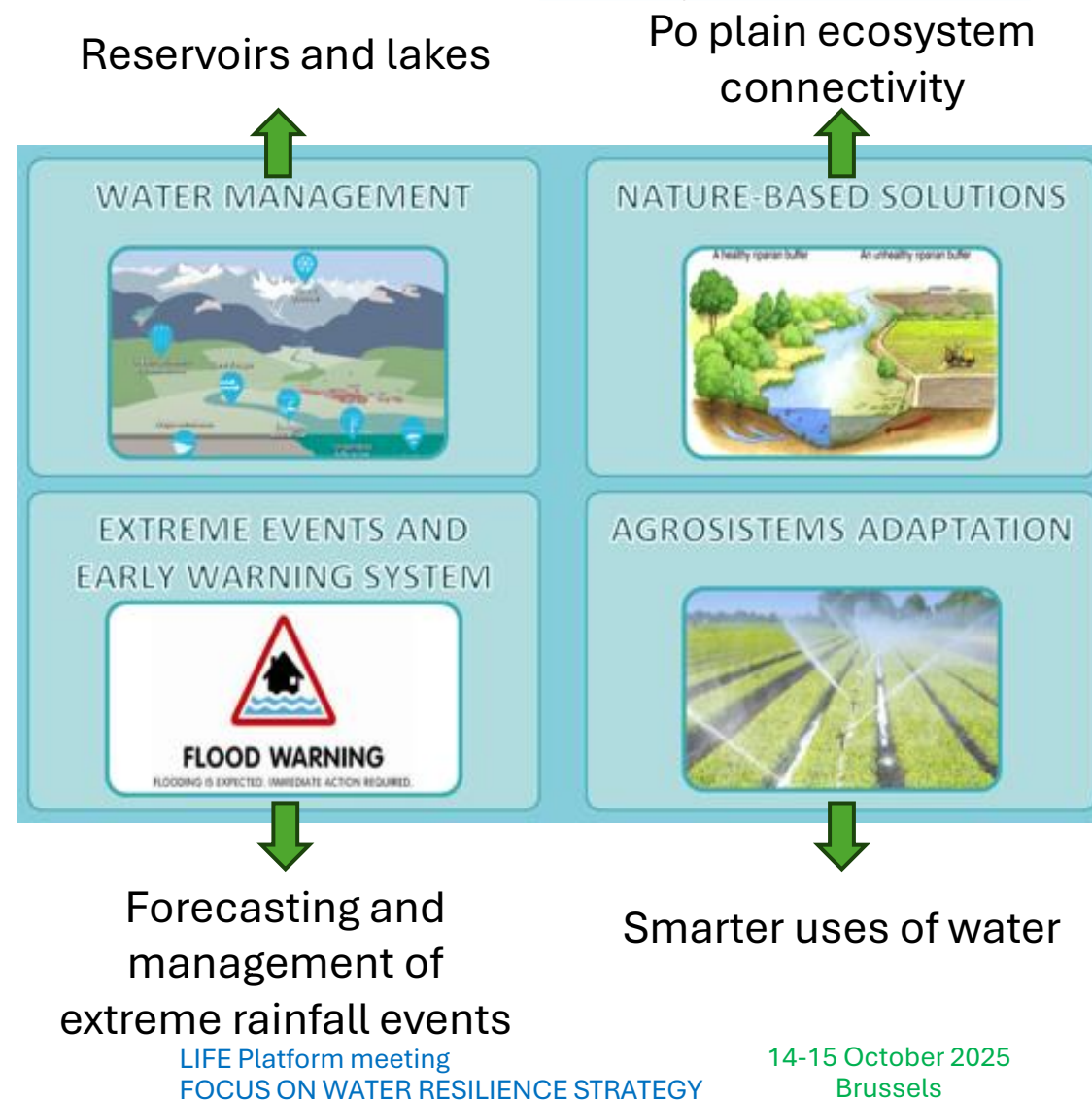


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The project in a nutshell: main expected results

In addition to activities engaging the public, stakeholders, and training for public administration, the Project addresses four main areas:

1. Optimization of water resource management in reservoirs;
2. Enhancement and increase of natural and ecosystem-based solutions;
3. Development of approaches and tools capable of supporting administrations, decision-makers, and communities in tackling the increase in extreme precipitation events;
4. Optimization of irrigation water management, including the assessment of soil conservation techniques and land degradation neutrality.



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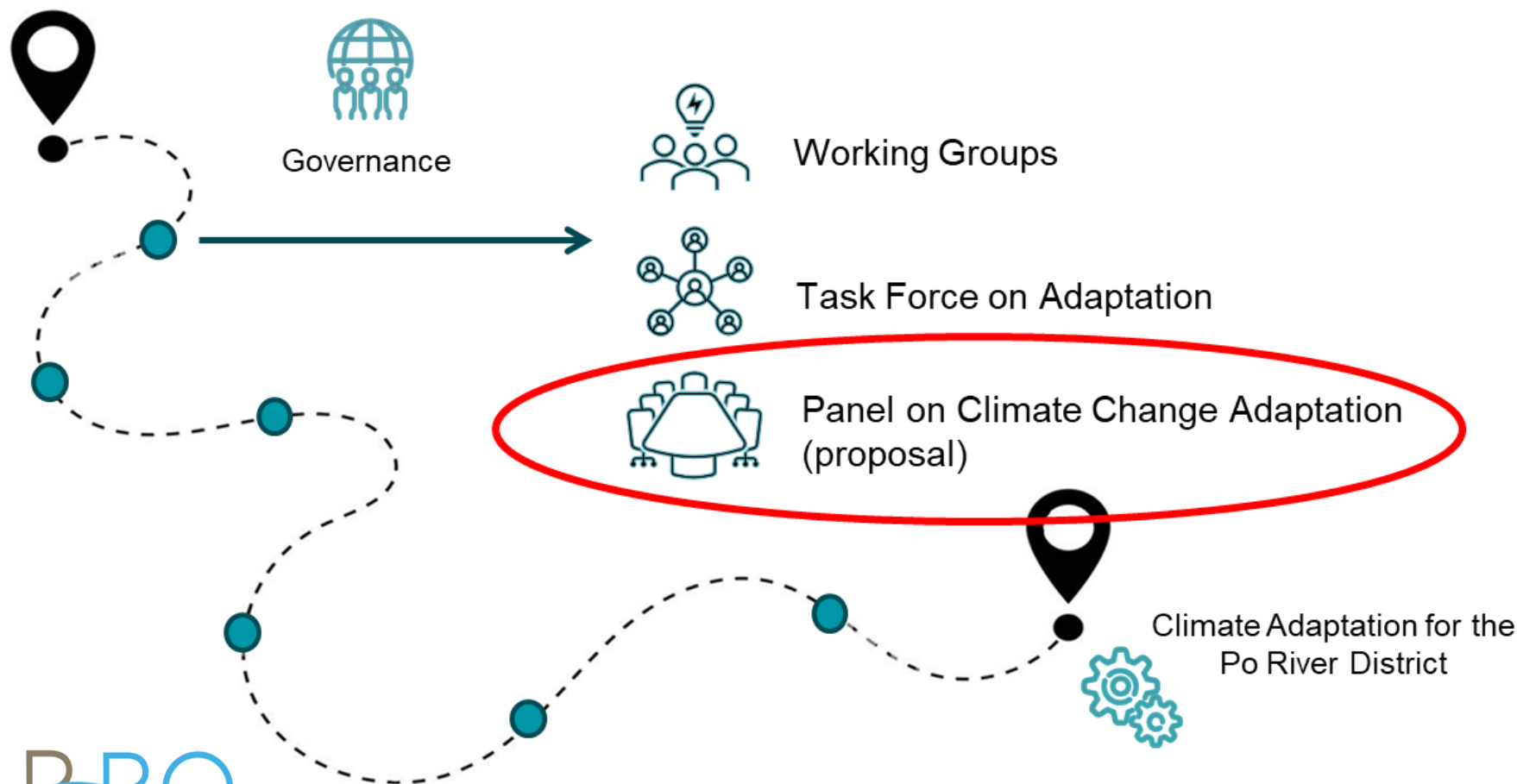
Governing a River Basin Management Plan:

1. Monitoring, assessment, reporting and review



Objectives

Create a multi-level district governance for climate change adaptation that can effectively support water planning for the Po River basin.



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Governing a River Basin Management Plan:

1. Monitoring, assessment, reporting and review



✓ **What went well?**

- Existence of **common objective**: achieving homogeneous and shared management
- **Strong collaboration** among partners with different backgrounds
- **Knowledge** exchange
- **Shared vision** on the importance of climate adaptation
- First steps toward **standardization** of monitoring and reporting practice

⚠ **Obstacles/Critical issues**

- The main challenge lies in **governance complexity**
- **Fragmentation** of competences between national, regional and local levels
- Need for **stronger involvement** of municipalities to bridge the gap between recommendation and **local** implementation
- Lack of **shared methodology/data to link monitoring** and local action



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Governing a River Basin Management Plan:

3. Stakeholders' engagement



✓ **What went well?**

- More **inclusive decision-making** processes
- Greater **transparency**
- **Collaboration** between multi-level bodies
- Alignment with RBMP and EU policy
- **Co-creation** of practical solutions

⚠ **Obstacles/Critical issues**

- **Complex** governance **structure**
- Difficulty **maintaining** constant **engagement**
- **Differences** in **priorities** among stakeholders
- Need for **conflict mediation**

Around **240 stakeholders** involved



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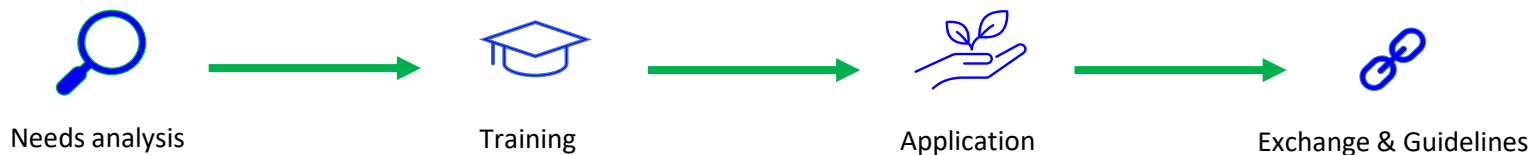
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Governing a River Basin Management Plan:

4. Capacity building



✓ **What well went?**

- **Promoting coordination** between national, regional and local strategies and plans
- Strenger **awareness**
- **Collaboration** between multi-level bodies
- **Address gaps** in vocational training, adaptation skills and public perception of climate risk
- **Development** of shared capacity building tools

⚠ **Obstacles/Critical issues**

- **Difficulty** maintaining **constant engagement**
- **Differences** in **priorities**
- Risk of low adoption without **stable incentives**
- Need to **integrate results** into decision-making processes



Governing a River Basin Management Plan:

5. Cross-sector collaboration among authorities



✓ **What well went?*

- **Shared vision** on role and responsibilities
- **Improved information** flow between levels
- **Efficient** political/technical **alignment**

⚠ **Obstacles / Critical issues*

- **Complex** governance **structure**
- Difficulty **maintaining** constant **engagement**
- Differences in **priorities**
- **Need** to **integrate results** into decision-making processes



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Lessons learned and Way forward



We think that, following discussions, **exchanges** and **shared decisions**, a tool for adapting to climate change will be adopted at district level.

Local → coordination between municipalities

Regional → inclusion in RDPs

National → contribution to guidelines

European → evidence for future revisions of the WFD/CAP



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