



European Water Resilience Strategy – International Action

UfM - 6th Annual Conference on Water Finance and Investment





Towards Global Water Resilience – Challenges

- We can no longer take water for granted
- 2.2 billion people (3/10 people) still **lack access to safe drinking water**
- More than half of the global population (4.2 billion people) does not have access to **safe sanitation**
- Global **water demand** will surpass what is available by 40% in 2030
- **Wetlands are disappearing** three times faster than forests
- Worldwide, water-related **disasters** displaced 40 million people and inflicted more than EUR 480 billion in damages in 2024
- **Transboundary** competition and conflicts over water are growing
- **Global financing gap** – EUR 6 trillion



EU WATER RESILIENCE

Protect the
water cycle

Build a
**water-smart
economy**

Secure
clean water

European Water Resilience Strategy – Objectives

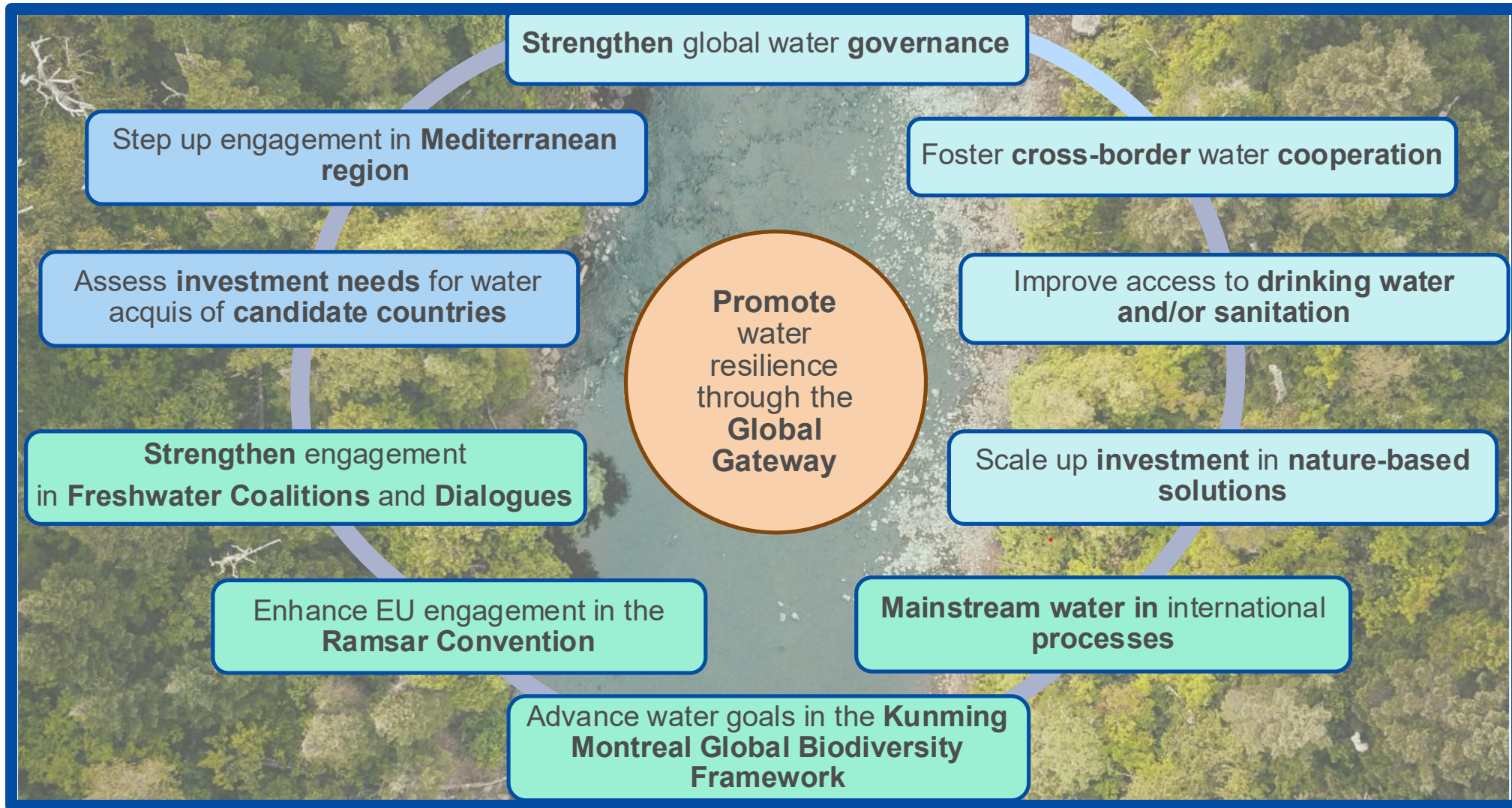
The pathway to water resilience includes:

- **Restoring and protecting the water cycle** as basis for sustainable water supply – green and blue water
- **Building a water-smart economy:** promoting water savings, water efficiency, water reuse and recycling across sectors, while supporting competitiveness
- **Securing clean and affordable water and sanitation:** vulnerable & marginalized groups and empowering citizens for water resilience

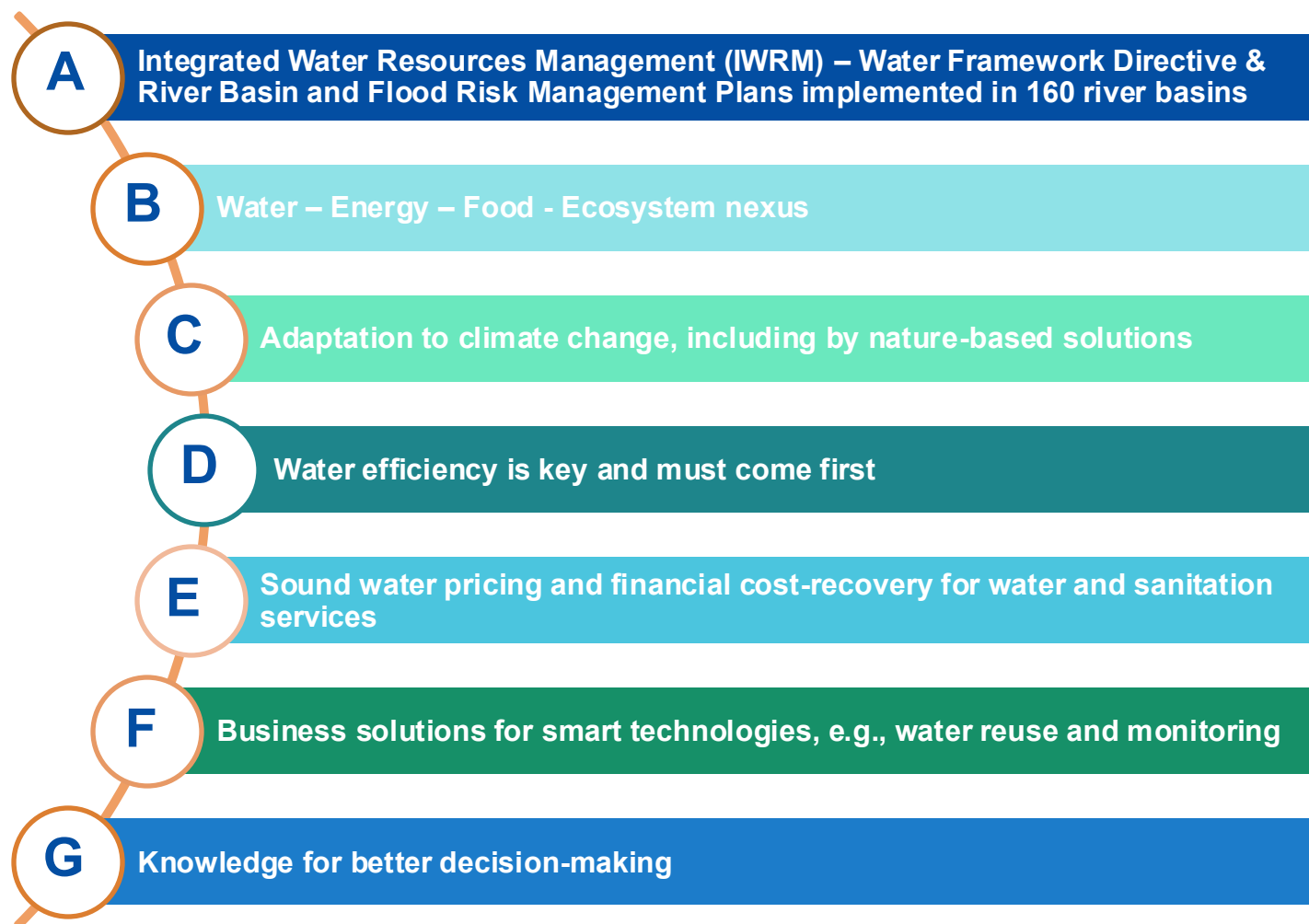
EU legislation and policies provide a strong basis to achieve these objectives



European Water Resilience Strategy – International Action



Building on EU Principles and Experience





The Water Framework Directive (WFD)

- Since 2000, the WFD is the **main law for water protection in Europe**
- Aims for the **long-term protection of available water resources**
- It applies to inland, transitional and coastal surface waters as well as groundwaters
- It is based on a river basin district approach to make sure that neighbouring countries cooperate
- The **6-year River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs)** and their Programmes of Measures (PoMs) shall protect and, where necessary, restore water bodies in order to reach good status, and to prevent deterioration

Sound water pricing and cost recovery

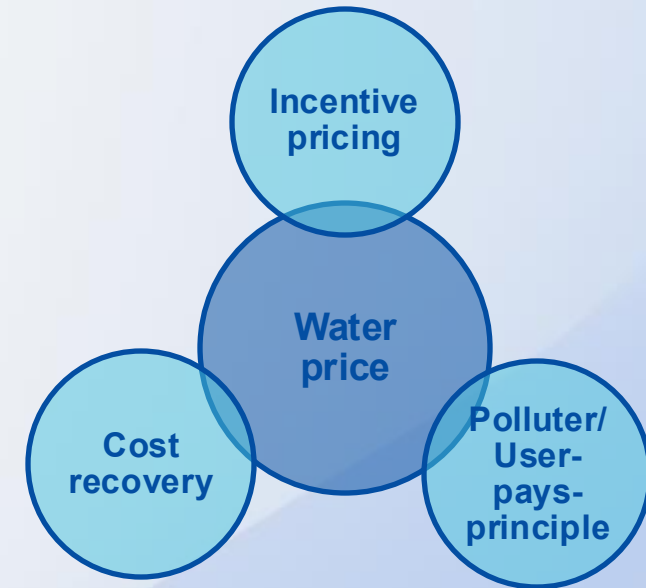


Access to water is a human right.

At the same time, pricing water fairly, equally and sustainably is important for improving water use efficiency, enhancing social equity and securing financial sustainability of water services and thereby sustaining and extending the water and sanitation system.

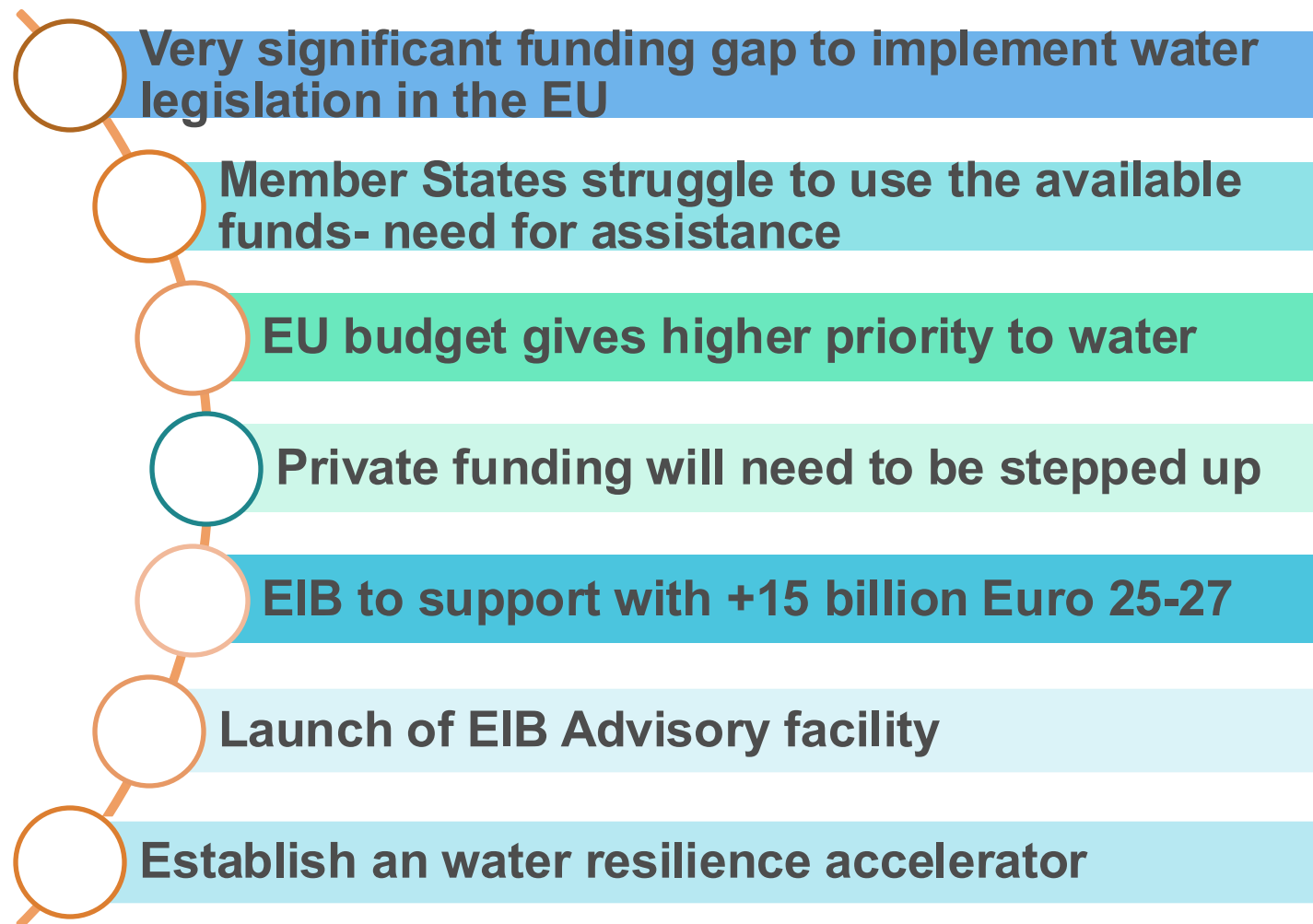
The Water Framework Directive introduces specific requirements regarding the necessary **economic and social analysis**, as well as for strengthening the use of **water pricing as an economic instrument**, leading to more sustainable water management.

Even if implementation remains challenging, the European experiences can support also the ongoing efforts for a **more efficient and social use of water pricing**.



Finance, Investments and infrastructure

WRS - Key messages & tools





Close the Financing Gap- Global action

- **EU remains committed** to help closing the considerable gap in international water financing
- Through **Global Gateway**, the EU and its Member States remain the **biggest contributor** to official development aid, including on water infrastructure and Nature-based Solutions
- EIB and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, together with other multilateral development banks, have **committed to greater levels of financing for water security**
- **EU** will continue supporting investments mainly **through blending mechanisms** and **guarantees** and improving the **investment climate**

An aerial photograph showing a dark blue river meandering through a vast, dry, yellowish-brown landscape. The river forms a large 'S' shape, with several smaller loops and bends. The surrounding land is covered in low-lying vegetation, possibly grass or scrub, which appears parched. The lighting suggests a bright, sunny day, casting soft shadows along the riverbanks.

More Information

- [European Water Resilience Strategy](#)
- [EU Council conclusions on Water in the EU's external actions](#) (2021)
- [EU Council conclusions on Water Diplomacy](#) (2018)
- [EU Human Rights Guidelines on Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation](#) (2019)
- [EU efforts on the global water agenda](#)
- [#WaterWiseEU campaign materials](#)

- [UN 2023 Water Conference](#)
- [UN 2026 Water Conference](#)

Thank you



© European Union 2024

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](#) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

Slide 2: Boys washing face, source: [Pexels](#); Slide 3: EU Water Resilience Graph, source: [EC](#); Slide 5: Drought, source: [Unsplash](#); Slide 5: People walking through a flooded area, source: [Unsplash](#); Slide 5: Water drops on hand, source: [Pixabay](#); Slide 6: Flowing River background, source: [Unsplash](#); Slide 7: Global status of the Sustainable Development Goal 6 on water and sanitation (SDG 6) – own illustration, source: [UN](#); Slide 8: Waterdrop, source: [Unsplash](#); Slide 9: Global River Basins, source: [UN-Water](#); Slide 10: Bubbles in water, source: [Pixabay](#); Slide 11: Flowing river, source: [Pexels](#); Slide 12: A hand holding a small globe., source: [Unsplash](#); Slide 13: Pile of 20 and 10 cent coins, source: [Pexels](#); Slide 14: River from above, source: [Unsplash](#)