

“Water resources across Europe - confronting water scarcity and drought”

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The European Environment Agency

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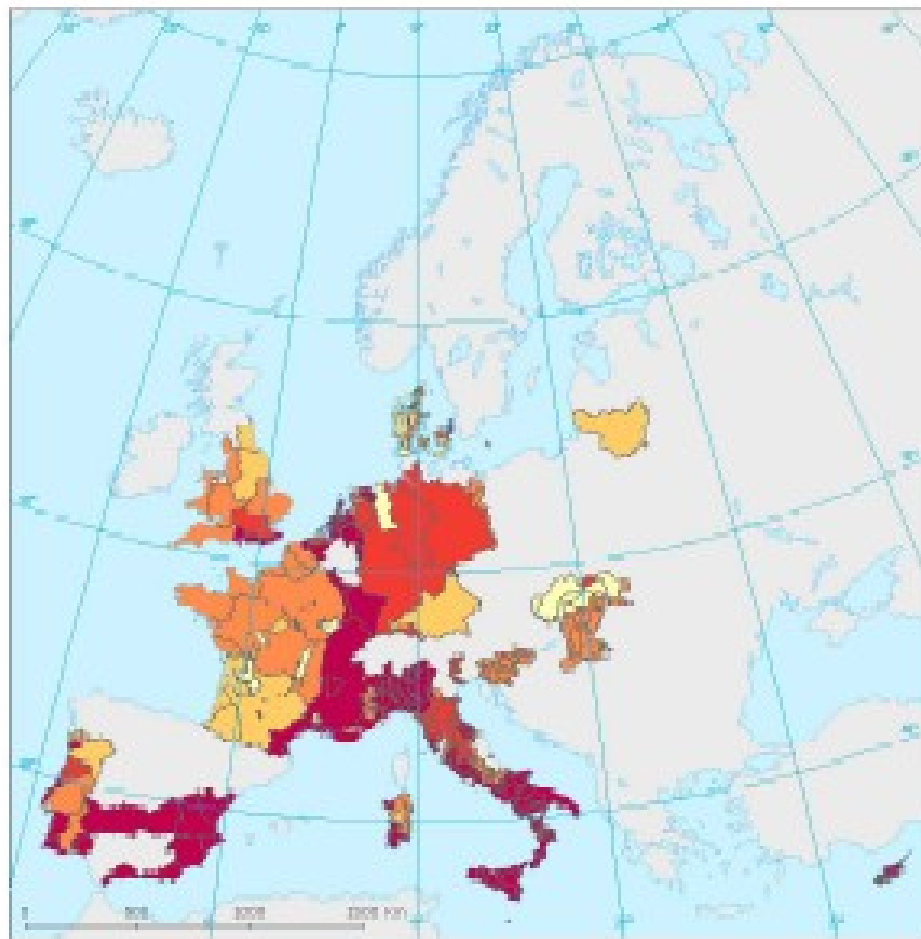


Water Stress has reached a critical level across much of Europe

- Caused by a combination of scarcity and drought
- Scarcity; Overexploitation of water resources
- Drought; has cost Europe EUR 100 billion over the last 30 years.



Regional Water Exploitation Index



Water Exploitation (WEI) in sensitive river sub-basins

WEI

0 - 3

5 - 10

10 - 20

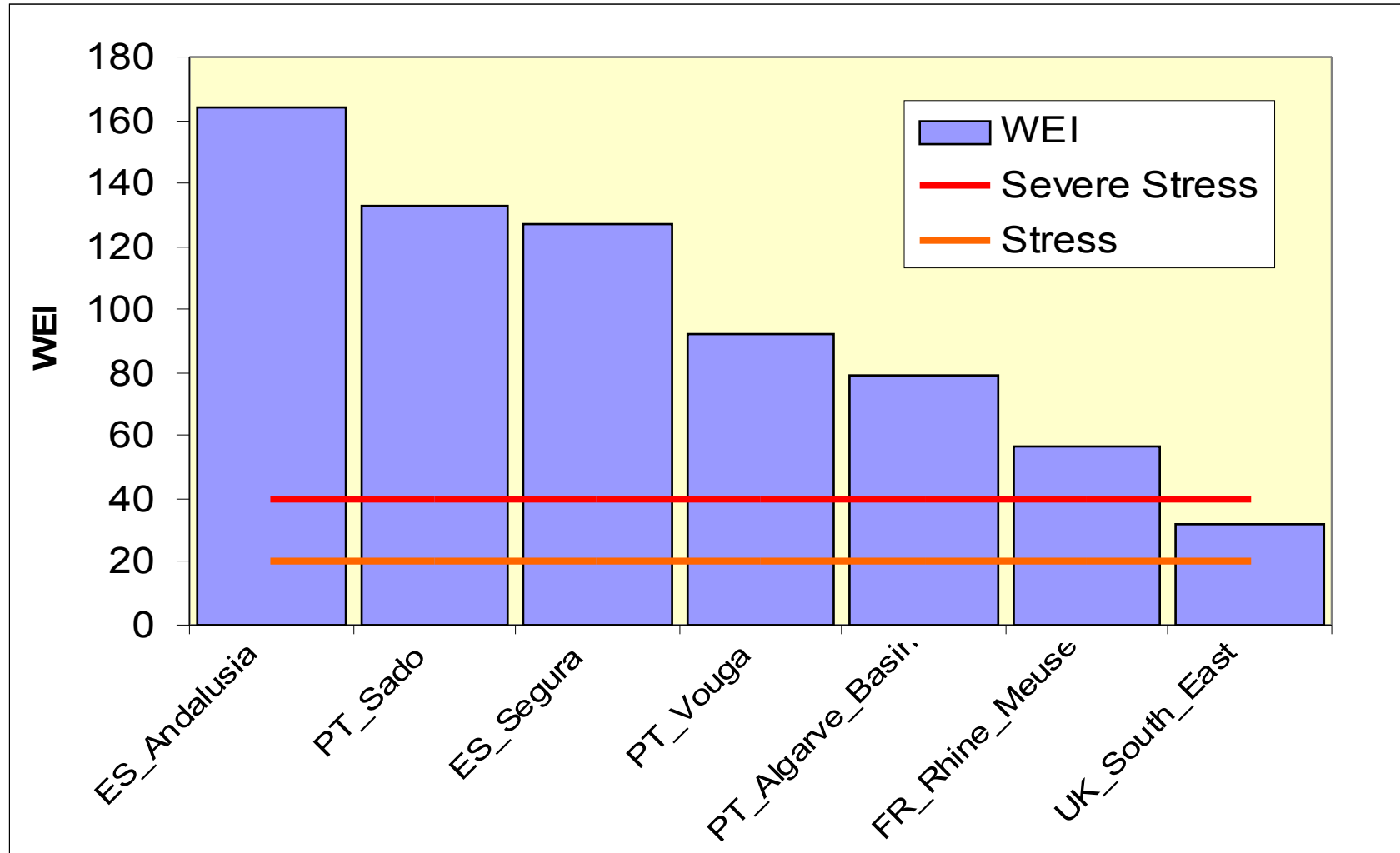
20 - 30

> 30

WEI for the most exploited river basins
Data provided by Member States

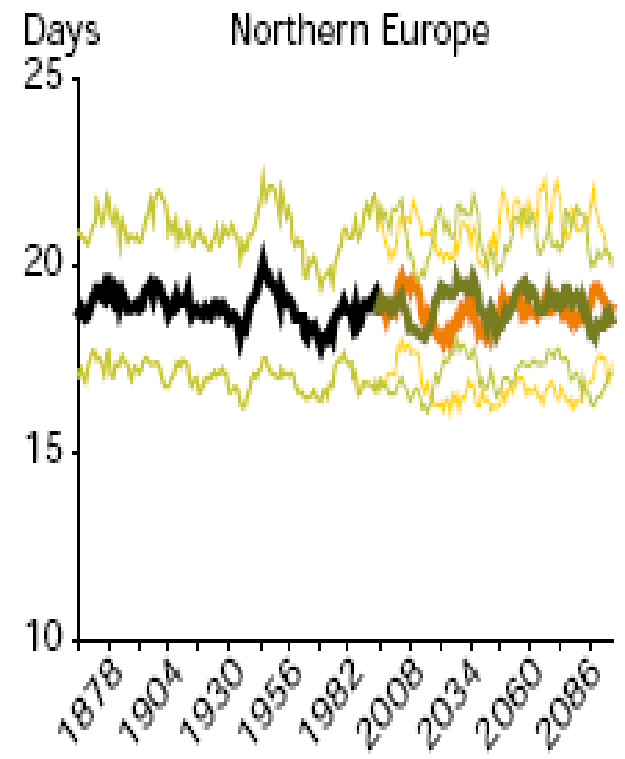
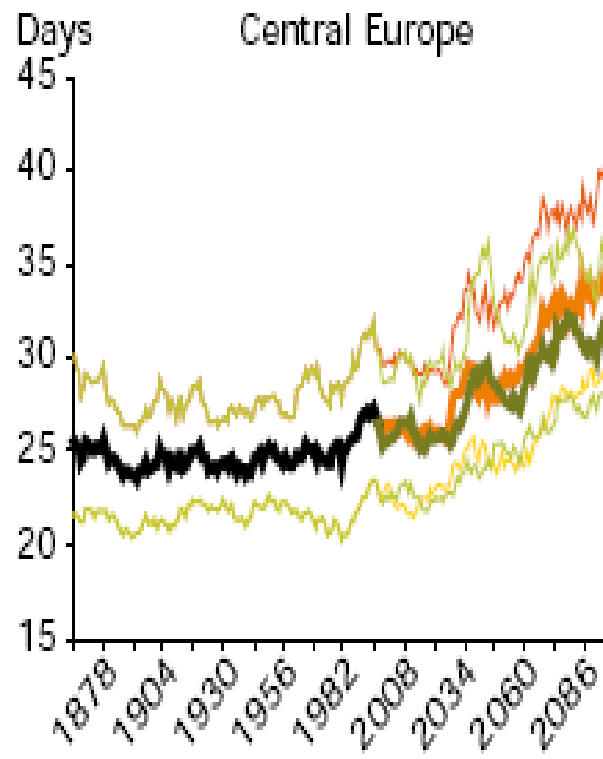
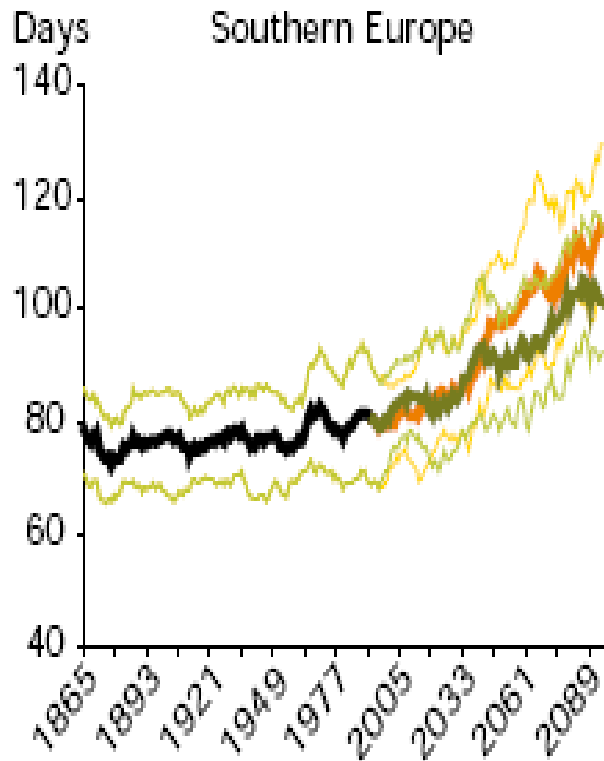


River basin scale WEI's indicate extreme stress



Climate Change will exacerbate the problem

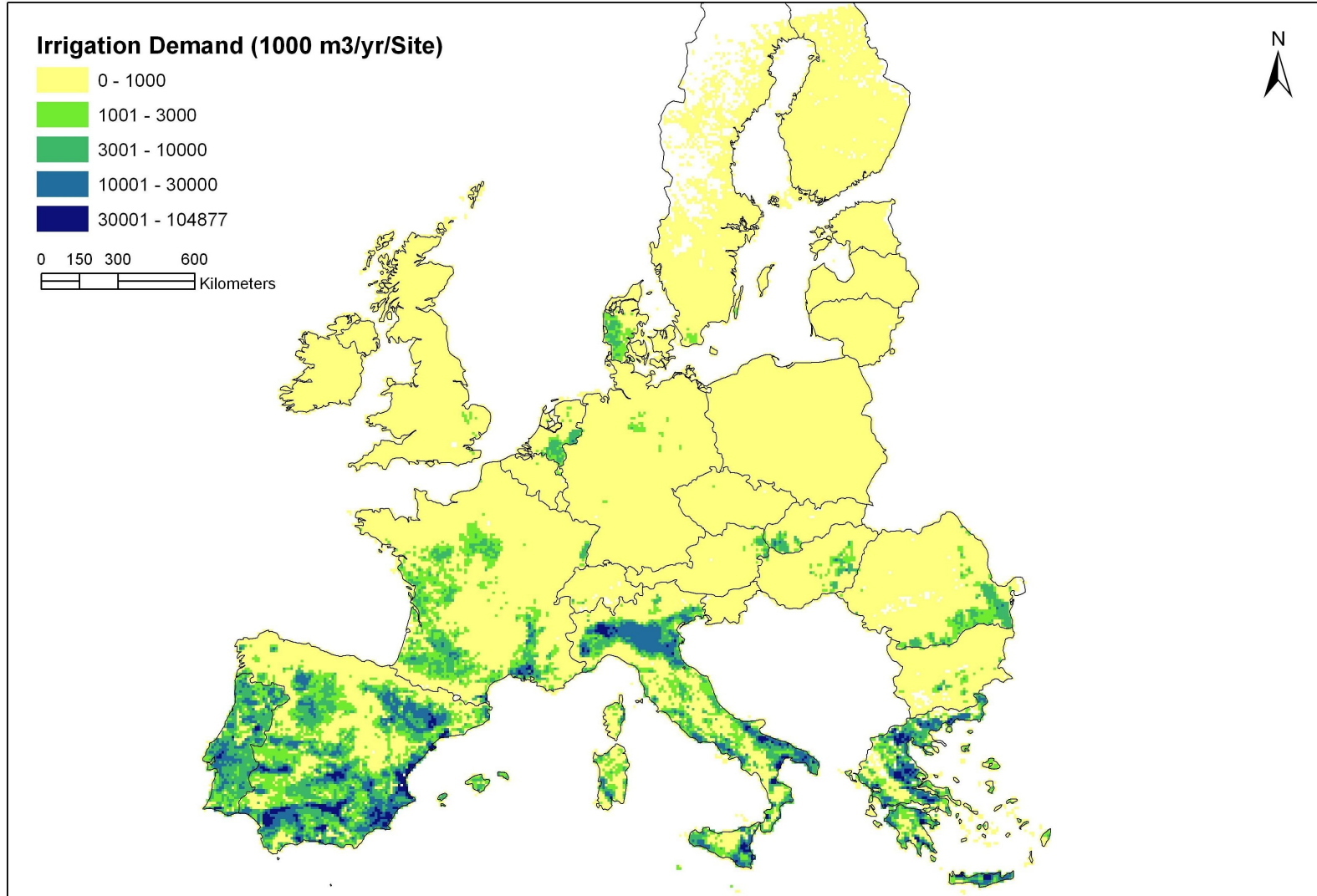
- Drier summers across most of Europe
- Increase in the frequency and severity of drought



Maximum No. of consecutive dry days; Sillmann and Roeckner, 2008



Irrigation; up to 80% of total water abstraction



Source;
JRC 2008



Supply-led management is unsustainable

Reservoirs, inter-basin transfers, desalination etc have provided no incentive to limit use



Sustainable demand-led approach is required to managing Europe's water resources

Focus on conserving water and using it more efficiently

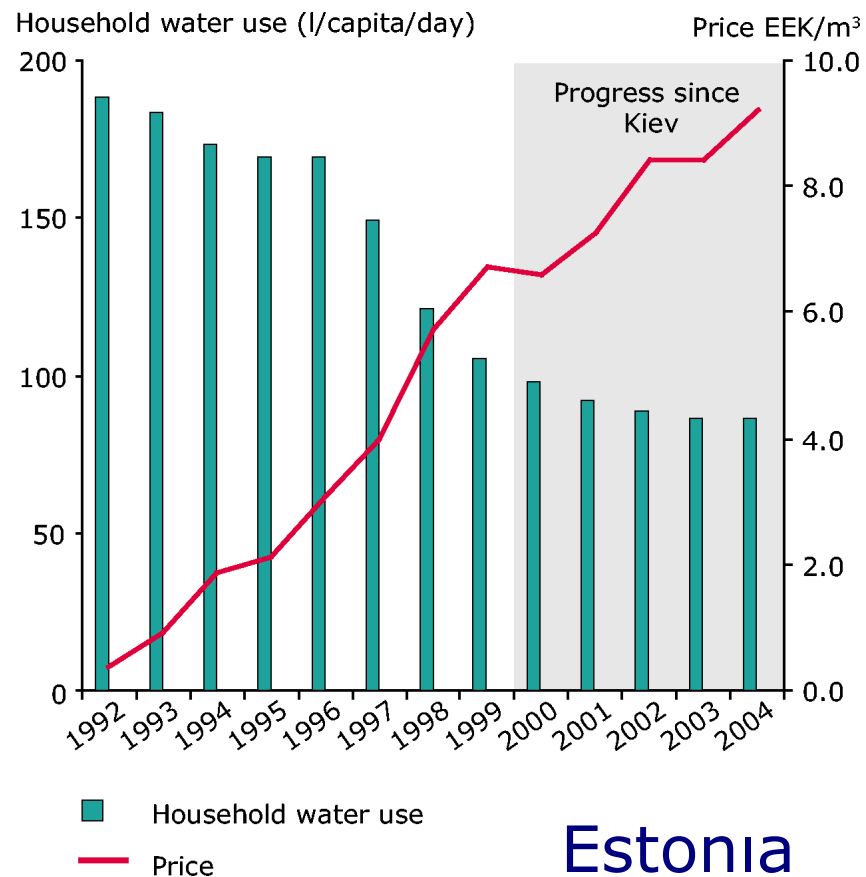
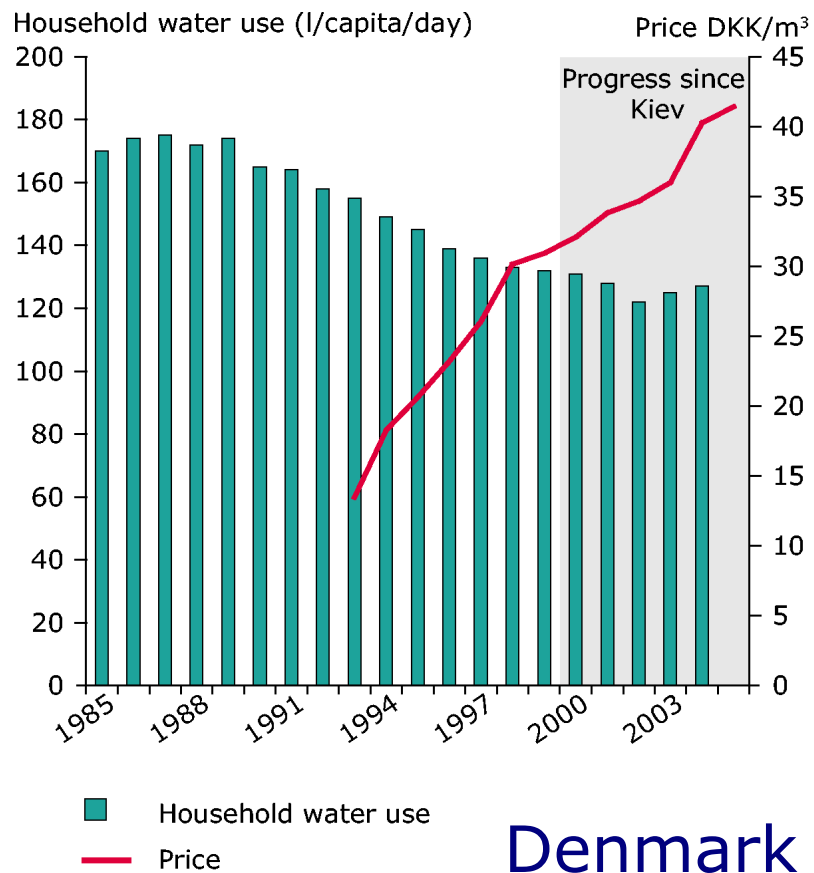
Account for the need for healthy freshwater ecosystems

Less water use also means lower energy consumption

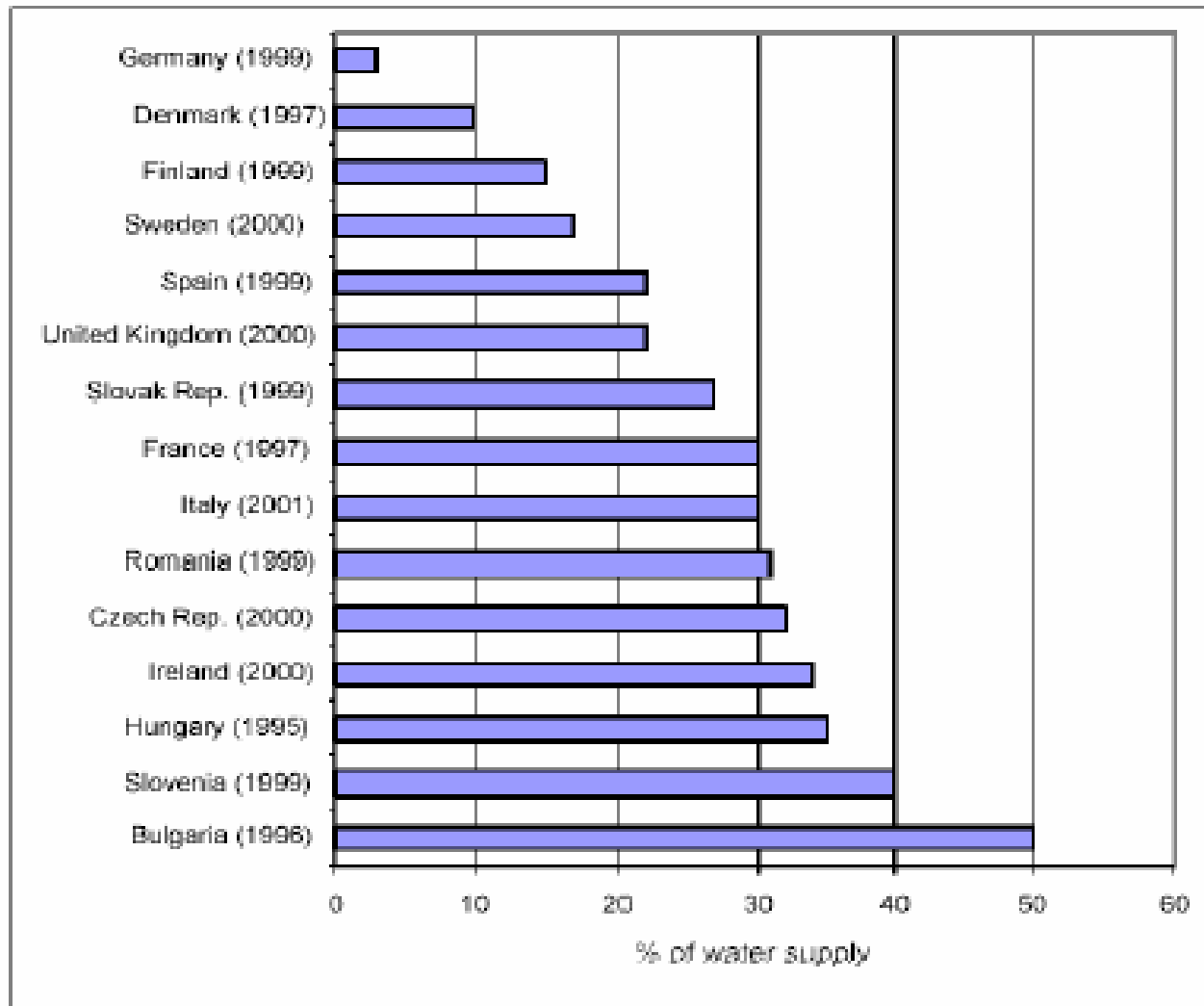


Water Pricing reduces water use

Multi-sectoral, volume based, supported by metering



Improving Efficiency – Public Water Supply



- Significant leakage in public water networks
- Water efficient appliances


Estimated % leakage in public water supply
(EEA 2003)



Demand-led management - Agriculture

- Farmer advisory schemes play a key role
- CAP funds to support good management





Through including businesses; water supply, sanitation and utilities; farmers and fishermen, and by evaluating ecosystem goods and services, we can develop an integrated demand led management approach.



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