



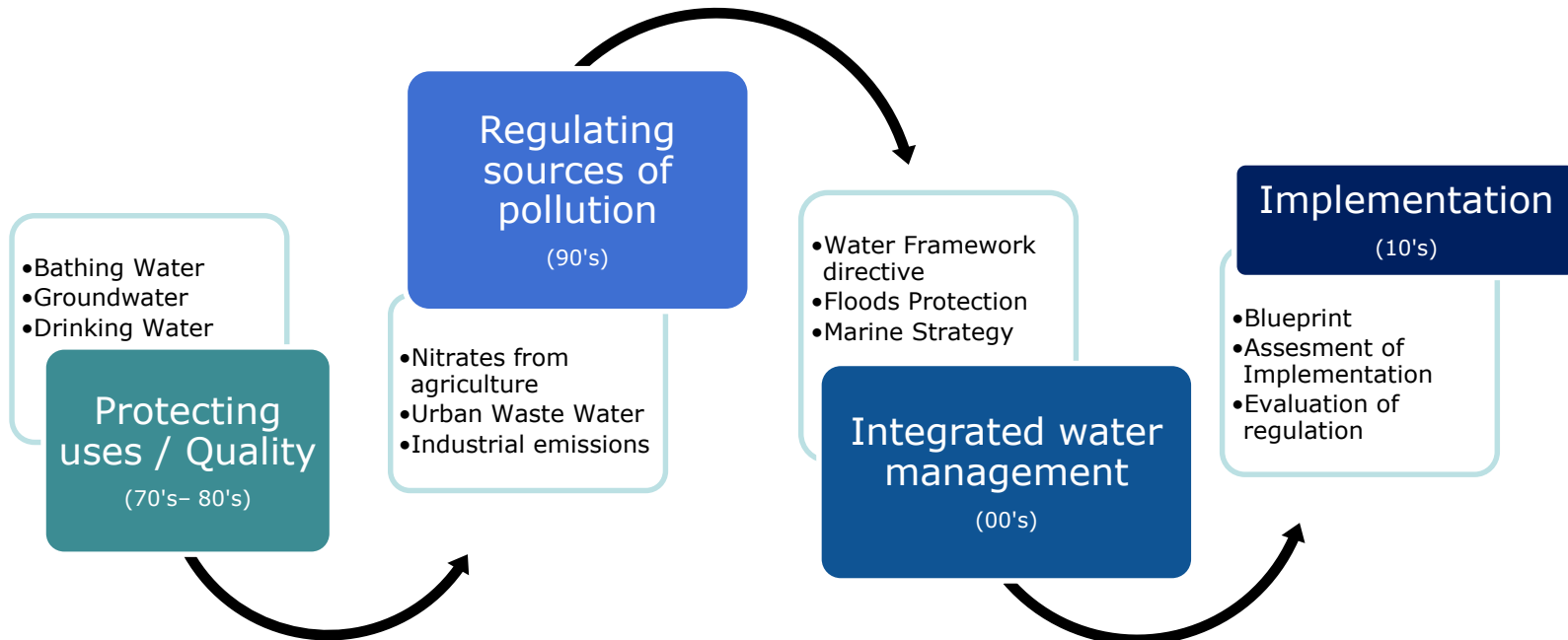
Exchange of Policies on Water Conservancy and Ecological Governance in the Process of Rural Revitalization

Water Saving Policies in the EU

**China Europe Water Platform High Level Meeting
8 November 2018**

**European Commission, DG ENV
Marta Moren Abat**

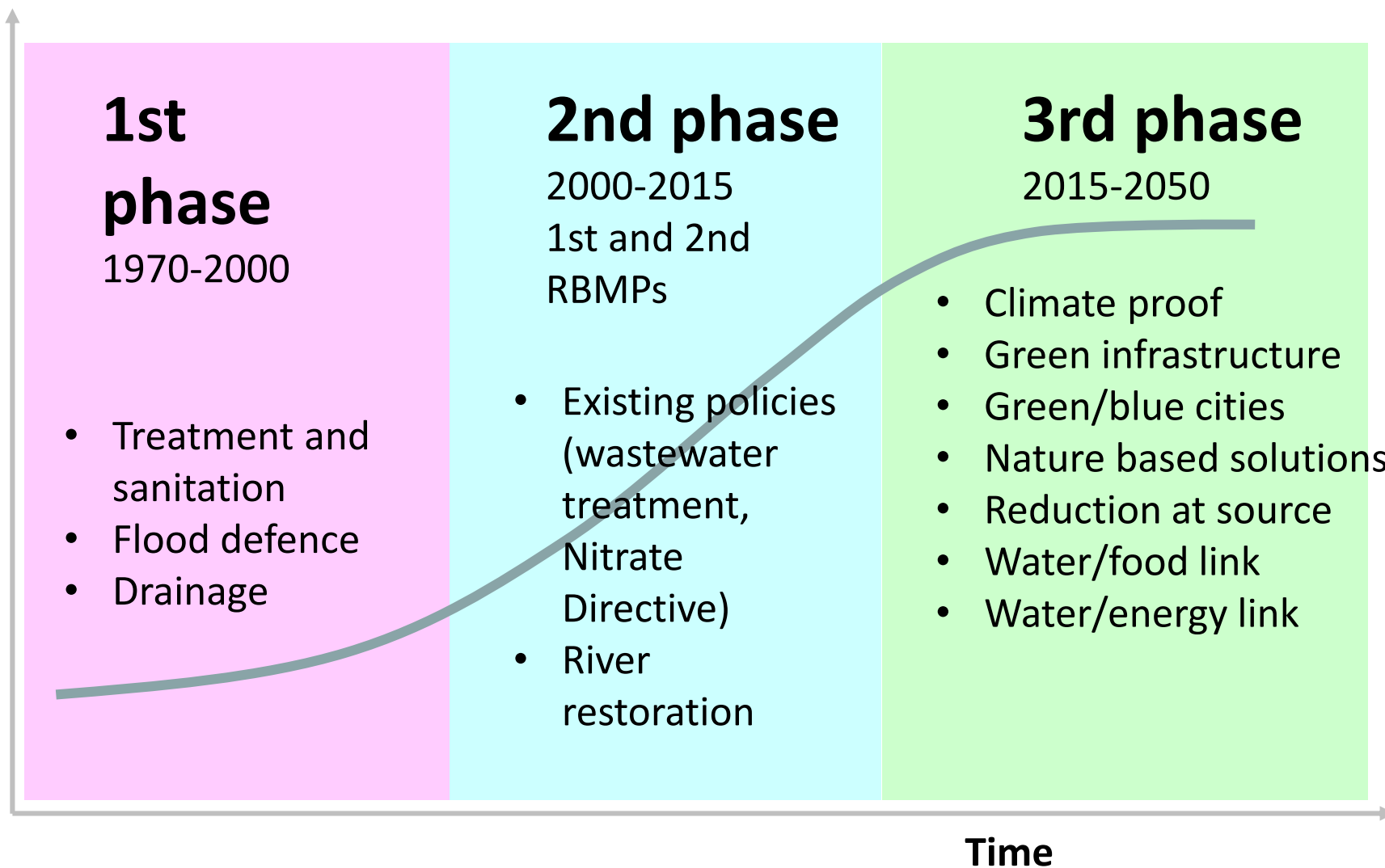
Development in EU water legislation and policy



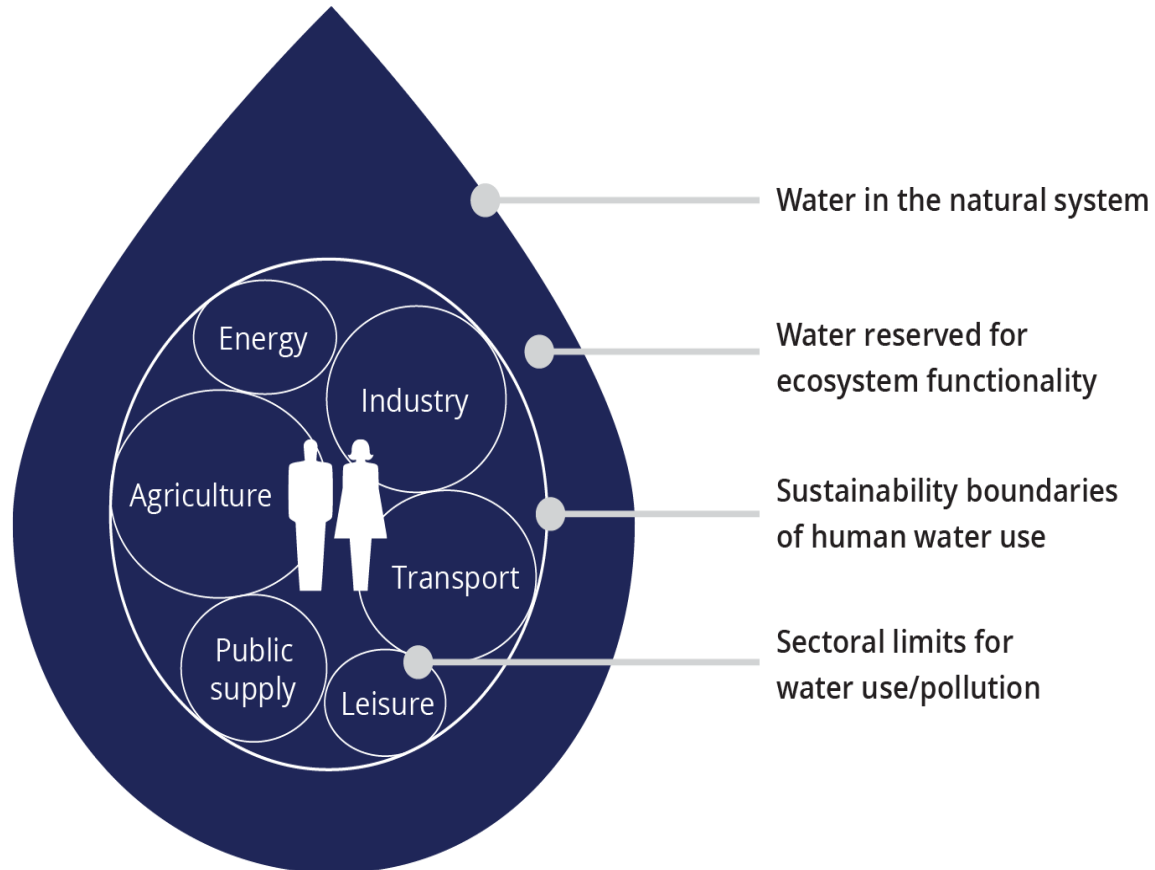
Water management — investing in natural capital



Sustainability

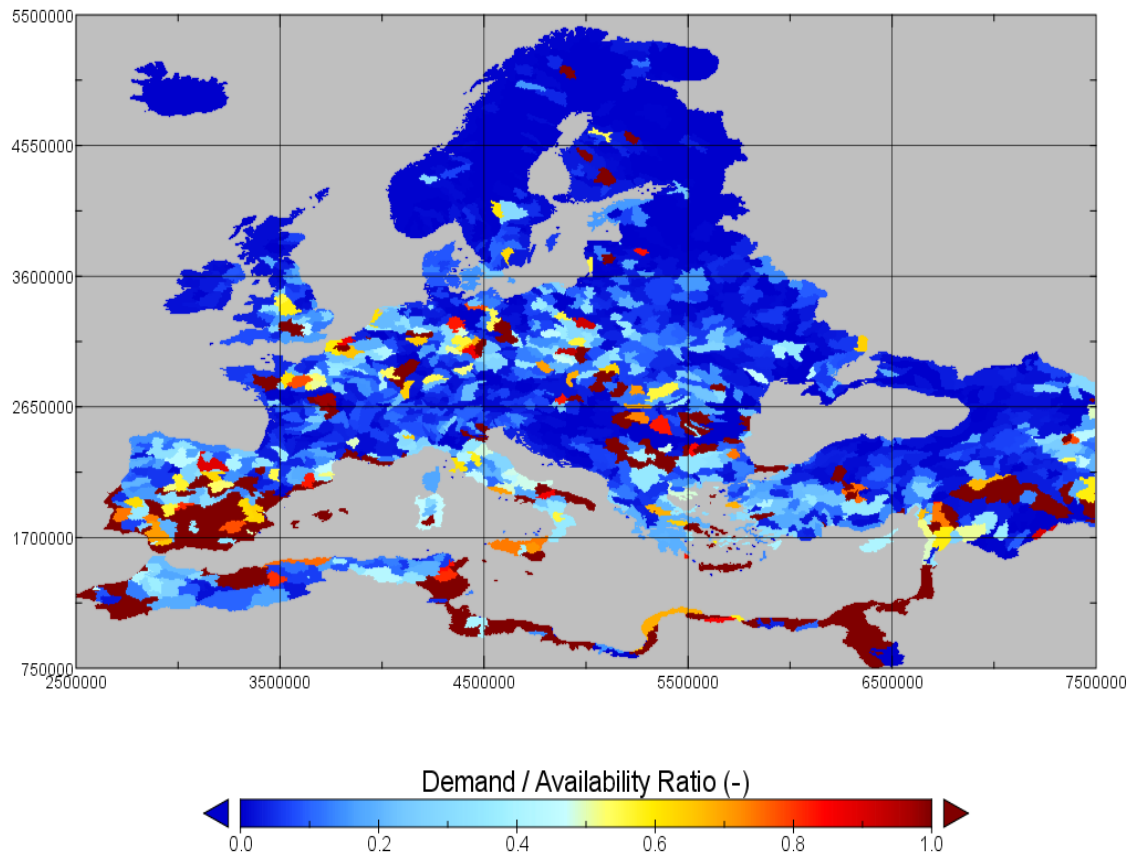


Water management – manage and enhance natural capital



Water scarcity and droughts

- ❑ Water stress **today**: **1/3 of the EU territory** all year round (not just southern Europe)
- ❑ Frequency & intensity of droughts on the rise due to climate change
- ❑ Cost of water shortages 1976-2006 **€100 billion €** (EC, 2012)



Summer 2018



Policy background

- ❑ **Blueprint to safeguard Europe's water resources (2012)** – identified the untapped potential of water reuse
- ❑ **Sustainable Development Goal 6 (2015)** - Ensure access to water and sanitation for all – includes the target of “substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally”



Policy background

- ❑ **Circular Economy Action Plan (2015)** – actions to facilitate water reuse, including a **legislative proposal on minimum requirements for reused water**, e.g. for irrigation and groundwater recharge“



Potential of water reuse in the EU

- ❑ **In 2015** - 1,1 billion m³/year of water reused
- ❑ **In 2025** - around **6 billion m³/year** of water reused

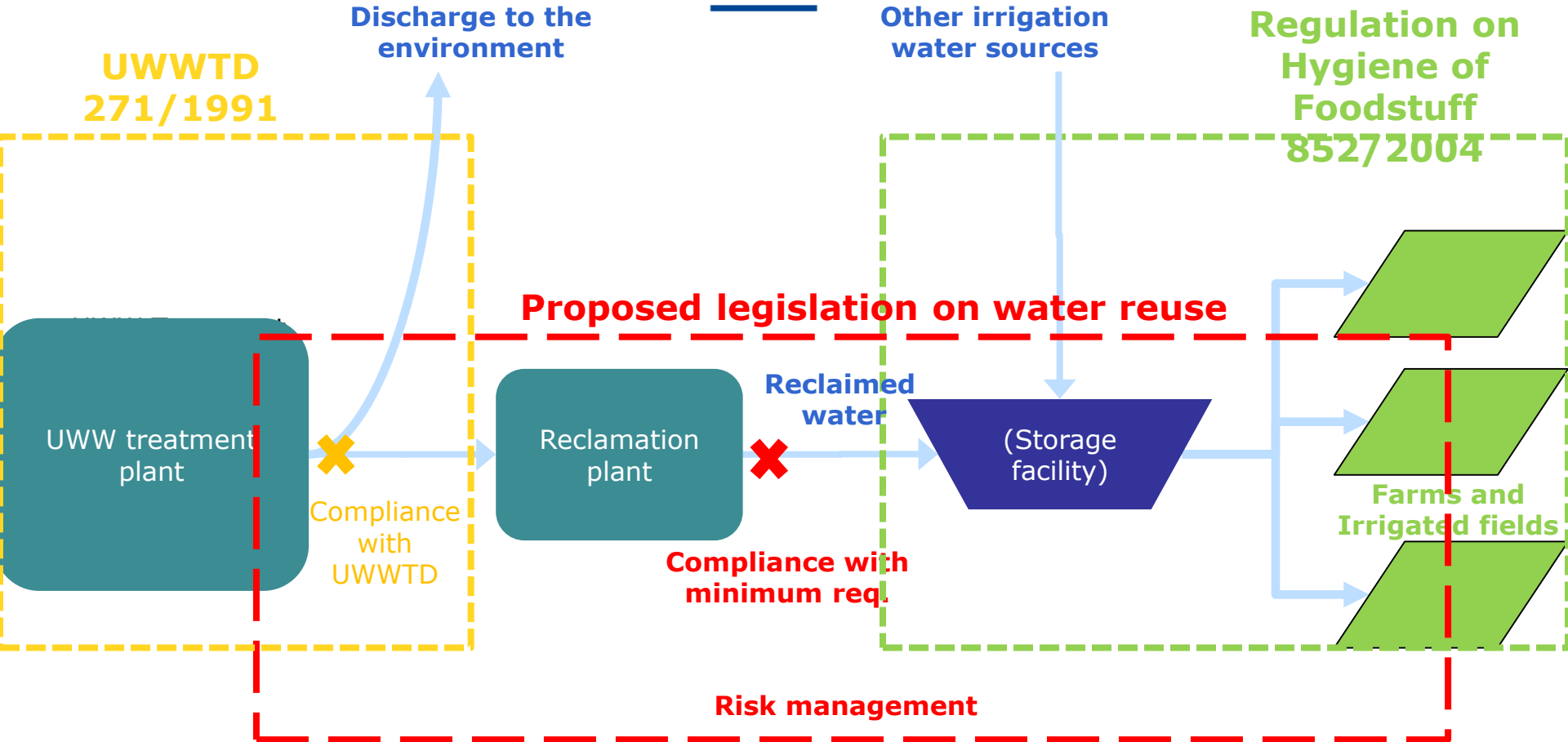
Water reuse – Impact Assessment

- Outcome of Policy Options assessment
 - Agricultural irrigation: **"fit-for-purpose" legal instrument**
 - Aquifer recharge: EU-level legal instrument = not proportionate

- Costs & Benefits:
 - estimated investments \leq EUR 700 M for treating over 6,6 bn m³ water /year at costs \leq EUR 0,5/m³
 - estimated 5% - 10% reduction in water scarcity

PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION

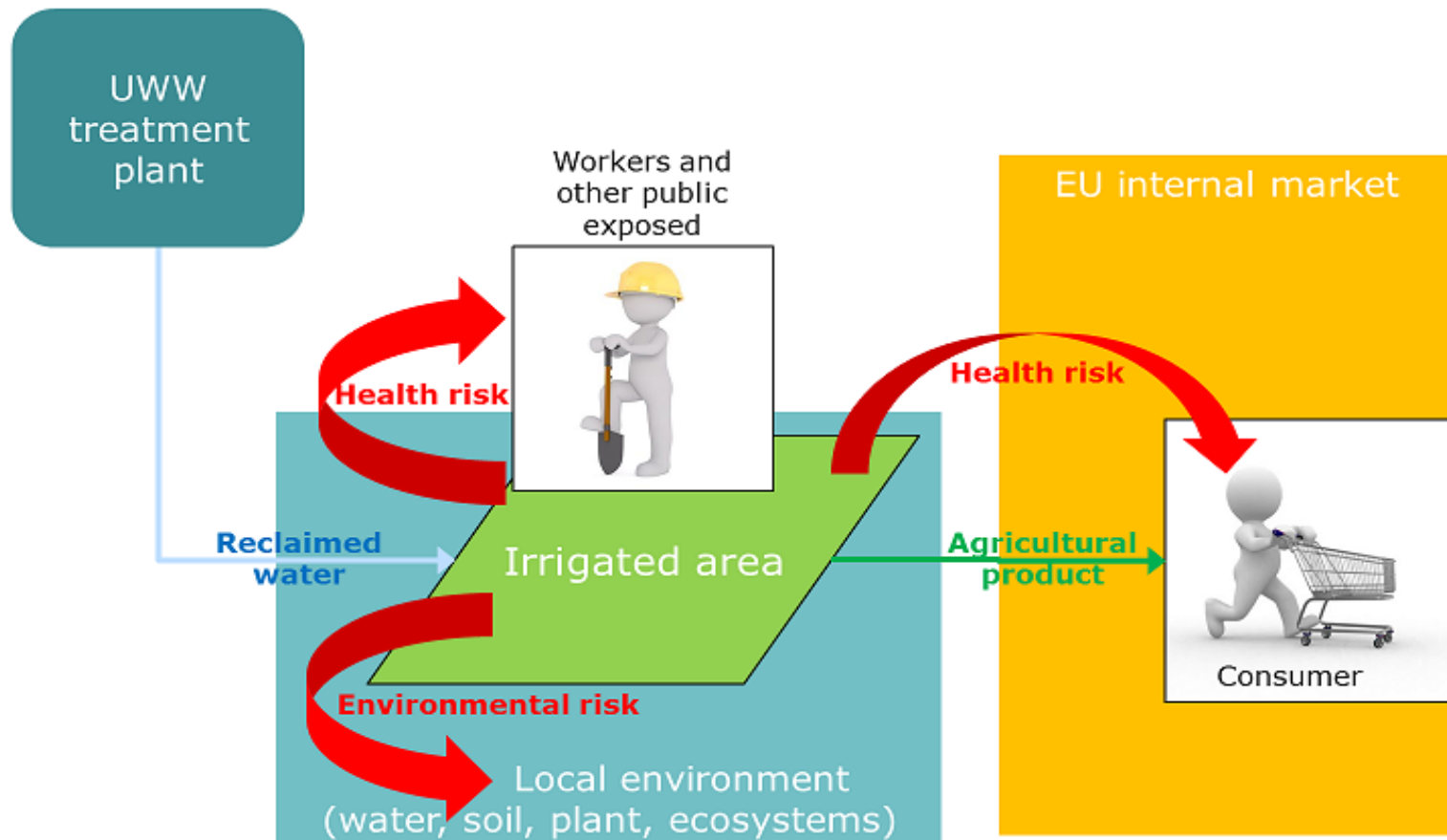




Water reuse – scope of different EU legal instruments

Safety first!

Environment and Health risk



Proposal for Regulation on water reuse

Introducing **minimum requirements for reuse** in agricultural irrigation:

- 1) Parametric values for quality of reclaimed water & monitoring requirements (Annex I) – addressing HEALTH risks**
- 2) Key risk management tasks (Annex II) – addressing ENVIRONMENTAL risks & potential additional health risks**

Annex I

□ Sets out:

- parametric values for quality of reclaimed water
- monitoring requirements (Annex I) –

□ Intends to address health risks

□ Parameters set out:

- per class of reclaimed water, per crop category and irrigation method

□ Minimum monitoring frequencies set:

- per parameter and per class of water

Annex II

- ❑ Sets out the key risk management principles to be followed when preparing a risk management plan
- ❑ Intend to address environmental risks and potential additional health risk
- ❑ Further technical specifications to be developed in conjunction with experts to further guide the risk assessment process



Thank you for your attention!

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/reuse.htm>