



DELIVERABLE D 4.6



## EU level online survey report

How to achieve sustainable water ecosystems management  
connecting research, people and policy makers in Europe (AWARE)

Title
<b>EU level online survey report</b>
Author(s)
<b>Liquete, Camino (JRC) and Comardicea, Irina (adelphi)</b>
Report No.
<b>4.6</b>
ISBN
-
Organisation name of lead contractor for this deliverable
<b>EU Joint Research Centre (JRC)</b>
No. of pages
<b>20</b>
Due date of deliverable:
<b>May 2011 (M24)</b>
Actual date of deliverable:
<b>August 2011 (M27)</b>
Dissemination level <sup>1</sup>
<b>PU</b>
Key words

**Title of project:** *How to achieve sustainable water ecosystems management connecting research, people and policy makers in Europe (AWARE)*

**Instrument:** Coordination Action

**Contract number:** 226456

**Start date of project:** June 2009 Duration: 30 months

*Project funded by the European Commission within the Seventh Framework Programme*

**Disclaimer**

*The information provided and the opinions given in this publication are not necessarily those of the authors or the EC. The authors and publisher assume no liability for any loss resulting from the use of this report.*

---

<sup>1</sup> PU      Public  
PP      Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)  
RE      Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)  
CO      Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)

## 1. Context

The motto of AWARE has been “*connecting research, people and policy makers in Europe to achieve sustainable water ecosystem management*”. The project has used a variety of methods and activities to achieve this – including workshops, interactive conferences, online surveys and personal interviews. Local activities took place in the three case studies addressed in AWARE: the coastal zone of the Gulf of Riga (Estonia and Latvia); the Seine, Somme, and Schelder river basins and the Southern North Sea coastal zone (France and Belgium); and the Po river Delta and Goro lagoon (Italy).

Specifically to capture the insights of stakeholders that may not have participated in the AWARE workshops or conferences, surveys were created at both the local and the European level. The surveys also allowed those that participated in other AWARE activities to elaborate on some aspects of the participatory process, or expand their understanding of AWARE’s process. Following a phased, learning process, the surveys at the local level aimed to form a knowledge bridge between the local workshops and conferences. Similarly, the European level surveys took place after the local processes and the 2<sup>nd</sup> European citizen workshop, and before the final conference that presented the Citizen Declaration to the European Economic and Social Committee (see Figure 1), i.e. during May and June 2011.



**Figure 1:** Schematic overview of AWARE participatory activities, highlighting the local and European surveys.

The objectives of the European surveys were to

- inform policy makers, water managers, and others about the goals of the AWARE project;
- gain their feedback on the AWARE approach;
- identify policy and research needs with respect to the overall goal of the project: “to enhance the connectivity between research and policy-making” in coastal water management; and to
- use the survey analysis as input for the final citizen conference and for the AWARE process evaluation.

The institutions targeted by the online survey included national water authorities, the European Commission, national and European parliaments, as well as the offices and secretariats of the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR), the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM), the Oslo and Paris Conventions for the protection of the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR), UNESCO’s International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the Global Water Partnership (GWP), the World Water Council (WWC), the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), and others.

## 2. Process

Several partners of the AWARE project were involved in the design and implementation of the European online surveys. While adelphi took the lead in developing the core questions for the survey, this was based on prior consultations with partners and done in close collaboration with the Joint Research Centre (JRC). It is important to note that adelphi also developed the local online surveys, in consultation with local partners that led the evaluation of the surveys; the European surveys were thus designed keeping in mind the collected experience regarding participation, comments, and results of the three local online surveys undertaken towards the end of 2010. In particular those partners that had been involved with the local surveys then,

were most involved in the development of the European survey – including Bioforsk, Poliedra, and ISIS. While the local surveys were translated into the case study languages, the European surveys were created, distributed, and analysed in English.

## 2.1. Design and Structure of Survey

It was agreed early on that in order to increase participation rates and facilitate a user friendly interface, the survey would contain a maximum of ten questions and be available only in an online format. Also, responses included mostly one-click checks, but further elaboration was encouraged through written comments. Through consultations with partners from Bioforsk, Poliedra and the JRC, issues of clarity, ease of understanding, structure, and meaning were addressed. A particularly challenging issue, given the complexity of the topic and combining several objectives for the survey, proved to be limiting and focusing questions on specific, easy to understand issues.

Assuming that participants were not previously involved in any AWARE activities, the survey thus starts with a short introduction to the project as well as an overview of the survey goals and the planned uses for its results. Although participants were not required to provide their name, institutional affiliation, or email address most of them did so. The survey also asks them to indicate the sector they belong to: professional associations (e.g. farmer association), civil society (e.g. NGOs), scientists or academics, and policy-makers or water managers (e.g. water agencies). A list of potential target organisations was gathered at the beginning of the project (see Section 1 above); however, the survey was distributed widely, and the need surfaced to understand the sectoral affiliation of the respondents.

The body of the survey includes three main questions and one statement that provides further information to the participants. An analysis of each question is provided in Section 3 below, and the complete survey is available in Annex I. The first main question addresses **challenges for coastal water management**, which were identified in the course of the project through local surveys and interviews, and consultations with scientists and stakeholders at European and local levels. Examples include questions on lack of funding, institutional fragmentation, public environmental awareness, etc. Responses were asked based on a four-point Likert-type scale ranging from “disagree” to “agree”; a response of “do not know/ cannot answer” was also allowed.

The second main question deals specifically with the **science-policy gap** and tries to gather insights on the interactions currently occurring between researchers, citizens, and policy-makers. Responses were asked based on a five-point Likert-type scale ranging from “very poor” to “very good”; a response of “do not know/ cannot answer” was also allowed.

After the second question in the survey, a statement provides participants with some of the recommendations already made by the citizens involved in AWARE regarding better coastal water management. In particular this statement lists several communication and dissemination methods suggested by the citizens to improve environmental awareness and public participation. This statement serves as a foundation for the next question.

The third and final question asks participants about their **experience with several means of sharing information relevant to water management decisions**. Examples include TV and radio programmes, posters and public art campaigns, social networking, and public hearings. Responses were asked about which of these means were used, planning to be used, had been decided against, or had never been used. In addition, open questions regarding lessons learned from using these communication means were asked.

The survey was created as a document first, and was subsequently transferred to an online platform. ISIS, the coordinating institute of the AWARE project, took advantage of its existing experience creating and implementing online surveys. The JRC undertook a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the survey results, presenting them in part during the AWARE Citizen

Conference in June 2011, and including their insights also in the overall evaluation of the AWARE process.

## **2.2. Dissemination of the Survey**

The dissemination of the European online survey took place over a variety of channels. As a first step, the survey was announced and linked on the AWARE website as a news item, at [www.aware-eu.net](http://www.aware-eu.net). The JRC used its wide internal network to disseminate the survey. All other AWARE project partners also shared the survey through their local networks, and contributed to the list of participants that received direct email invitations.

Having participated at the European Water Platform (WssTP) stakeholder meeting on 17-18 May, the authors of this report took the opportunity of sharing information on AWARE along with the survey link with the participants of the event; WssTP organisers also announced the survey on their online member platform, widening its reach.

The survey was also shared with the ECOSTAT mailing list, which comprises over 200 experts and institutions' representatives from all Member States involved in the definition of good ecological status under the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD).

The AWARE project is a member of the Land-Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone (LOICZ) network. The survey was thus also distributed through this network, reaching a wide selection of international scientists and water managers.

Finally, the AWARE Advisory Board – composed of 10 policy-makers and stakeholders from the AWARE case studies as well as from the European Commission – also participated in the survey and helped disseminate the call for participation through their networks.

## **3. Results and Analysis**

During the five weeks the survey was available online, we received 61 answers. Respondents belong to the following groups:

- Scientists/academic = 42 (68%)
- Policy-makers or water managers = 13 (21%)  
(including public water agencies, environmental management institutions, and policy-making bodies)
- Others = 6 (9,8%)  
(including communication specialists, advisors, professional associations, and training specialists)

These numbers reflect a relatively high level of participation, especially when compared with the local online surveys carried out during the summer 2010 (see AWARE deliverables 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6 available at [www.aware-eu.net](http://www.aware-eu.net)). It is important to note that even though most of the dissemination activities of this survey were focused on policy-makers and water managers (see section 2.2), the response of this group was relatively scarce.

In the next sections, we analyse the set of answers received per question and, when appropriate, distributed by respondent group.

### **3.1. Analysis of Question 1**

*Based on your expertise in water management or on your personal opinion, what is your level of agreement with the following statements?*

1. *Eutrophication and intensified algal blooms are one of the main problems in European coastal waters*

2. *The present EU environmental legislation is enough to improve or maintain the good ecological/environmental status of coastal waters*
3. *The implementation of the present EU environmental legislation by Member States should be enforced and stricter*
4. *The lack of sufficient funding is one of the main causes of coastal waters' environmental degradation at the local level*
5. *The lack of sufficient funding is one of the main causes of coastal waters' environmental degradation at the European level*
6. *There is an excessive fragmentation of institutional roles and competences related to the water sector, which gives a confused image to the public and to other institutions*
7. *Increasing the public environmental awareness may improve the water quality and may ease the water management in Europe*
8. *Involving the civil society in local or regional water management may improve the water quality and may ease the water management in Europe*
9. *Strengthening the connectivity between researchers, policy-makers, key stakeholders, and civil society may improve the water quality and may ease the water management in Europe*
10. *Participatory approaches are too difficult (time and resource consuming) to be implemented in water management at the local level*
11. *Participatory approaches are too difficult (time and resource consuming) to be implemented in water management at the national/European level*

In general, the highest level of agreement (close to “agree”, see Figure 2) is found in statements 9, 7, 3, 6 and 8. Three of these statements are related to the need of strengthening communication between all the actors involved in water management and use (namely researchers, policy-makers, stakeholders and civil society). These statements claim that enhancing the connectivity between those actors and, in particular, increasing the awareness and involvement of the civil society, may improve the water quality and management in Europe. The other two statements showing very high levels of agreement relate to the need to re-enforce the implementation of the EU environmental legislation and to reduce the fragmentation of institutional roles and competences.

Analysing these results per group of respondents, we can see that scientists and policy-makers are the ones with the highest agreement with the communication and connectivity statements. On the contrary, policy-makers and water managers tend to only “partially agree” with the legislative re-enforcement and reduction of institutional fragmentation.

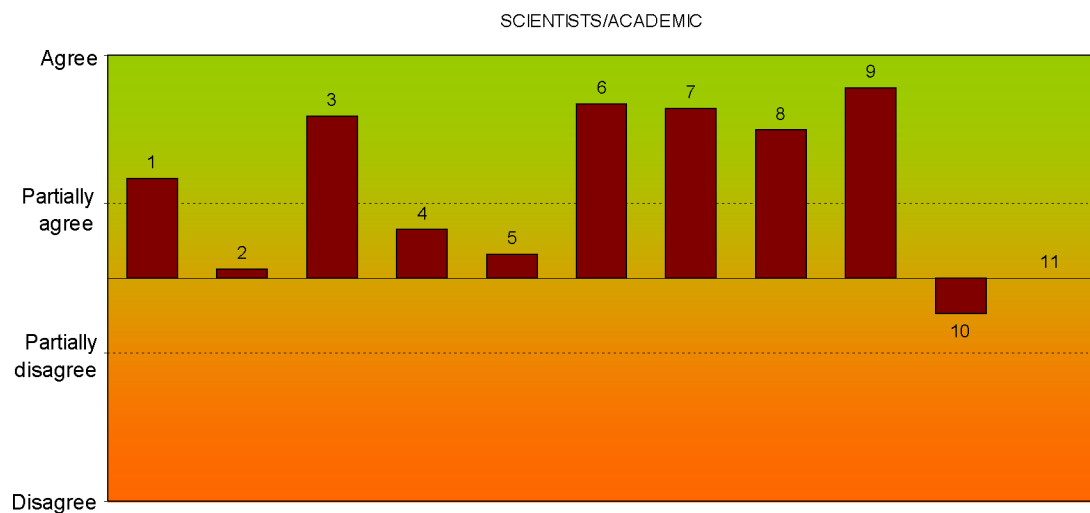
All the respondents show a partial (or even higher) agreement with statement 1, i.e. eutrophication and intensified algal blooms are considered a key problem for the European coastal waters.

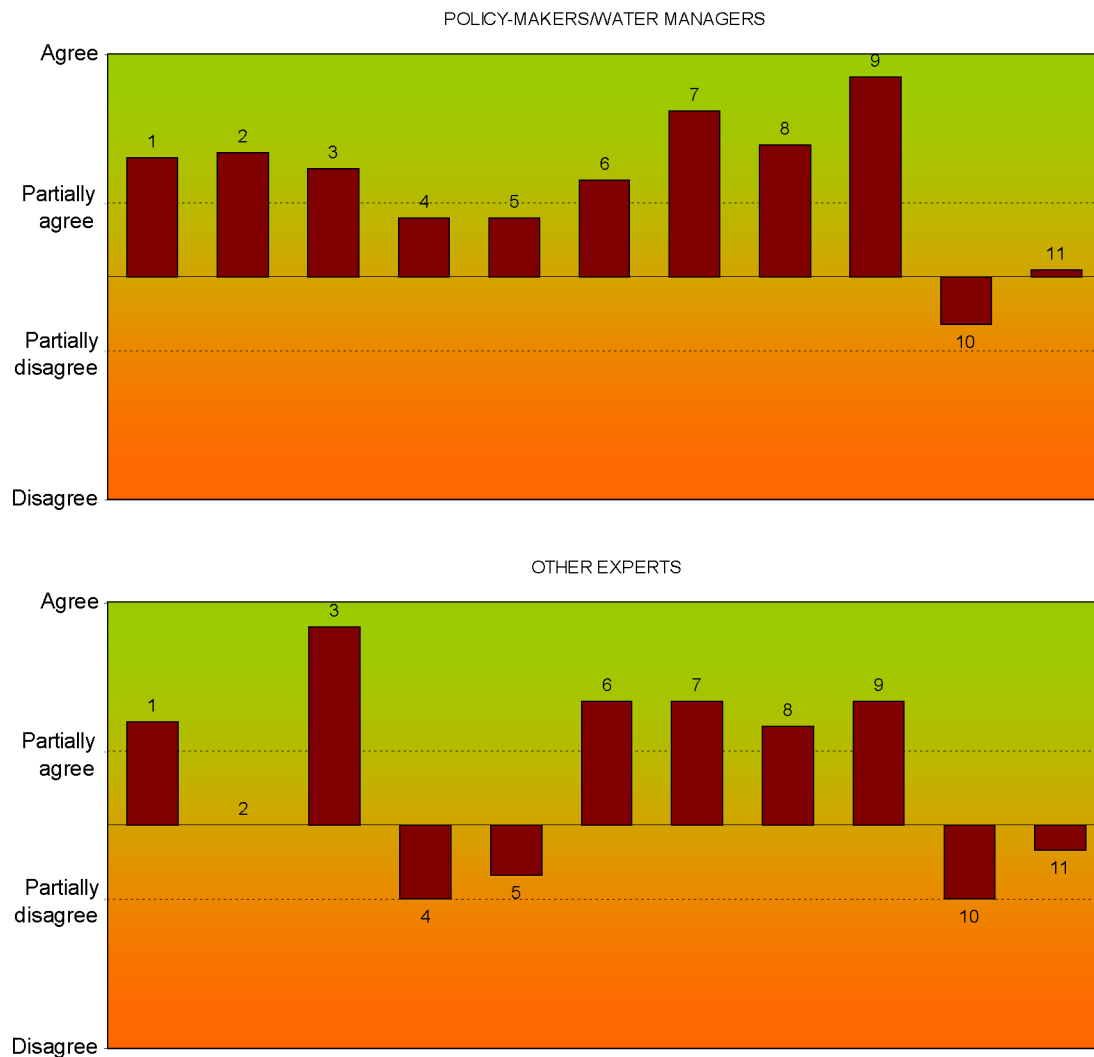
Apparently, there is a general disagreement with statement 10, which claims that participatory approaches could be too difficult to be implemented in water management at the local level. The same process at the national or European level (statement 11) is not considered so simple by the respondents.

There is more controversy on statements 2, 4 and 5 (see Figure 2). Policy-makers and water managers seem to think that the present EU environmental legislation is enough to maintain the good status of coastal waters, while scientists and other experts do not seem convinced of that. Different opinions also emerge linked to funding issues. Policy-makers and water managers partially agree with the fact that insufficient funding can be the cause of coastal waters' environmental degradation. Scientists do not believe funding is so relevant, and this belief is shared even less by the other experts' group. In any case, all the respondents assume that the lack of local funding is more important for the coastal waters status than the European funding.

The following are selected comments from the open question that asked respondents to add any further comments:

- The inclusion of eutrophication as one of the main problems in coastal waters shows a 'northern' point of view. In my opinion, the most important problem, for the whole Europe, is the loss of habitats and biodiversity.
- Coordination of main decision makers and effective actions are more important than further funding. Better and more efficient use of funds and higher circulation of best practices from one member state to another.
- I believe the Commission should be stricter in fixing testing and standards.
- The fragmentation is not IN the water sector, but between the water sector and the other sectors (agriculture, tourism, etc).
- At a local/national level, the perception of both water conditions and environmental problems is still too poor among policy-makers and citizens.
- Participatory approaches are often not really participatory, but only tables of selected participants to discuss already decided solutions.
- The missing link is a streamlined cooperation between all the actors involved, from citizens up to policy and decision makers. This may only be achieved by: simplification of rules and practices; action on key-points; education of the public; outreach from researchers; dialogue between the parties; reduction of fragmentation in approaches, strategies and objectives.
- A combination of rules, best practices, awareness raising and participatory approach should be implemented everywhere. Good practices should be rewarded.





**Figure 2:** Distribution of responses to question1, including responses separated by professional sector.

### 3.2. Analysis of Question 2

*In your current work on water management issues, do you experience cooperation between the following actors?*

1. *Do policy-makers interact regularly with researchers?*
2. *Do policy-makers rely on results from the scientific community?*
3. *Do scientists/technical agencies research those issues that are of current or upcoming importance for policy-makers?*
4. *Do policy-makers interact regularly with citizens?*
5. *Do policy-makers consider the opinions of citizens when making water management policies/decisions?*
6. *Do scientists/technical agencies consider the opinions or information needs of citizens?*
7. *Do citizens provide inputs to the scientific community?*
8. *Are scientific results publicly available to citizens?*
9. *Are scientific results clear and understandable for citizens?*

The first thing that becomes apparent when looking at Figure 3 is that the cooperation between all the actors involved in water use and management is, in general, negatively evaluated by the



respondents. Policy-makers and water managers are the only ones considering certain relationships better than acceptable.

All groups of respondents state that the poorest connectivity is found between scientists and citizens in a bidirectional way (categories 7, 8 and 9). Policy-makers give their lowest rank to the clarity and understanding of the scientific message. However, the consideration of scientists and technical agencies regarding the citizens' opinions and needs (category 6) is evaluated slightly better, especially by policy-makers.

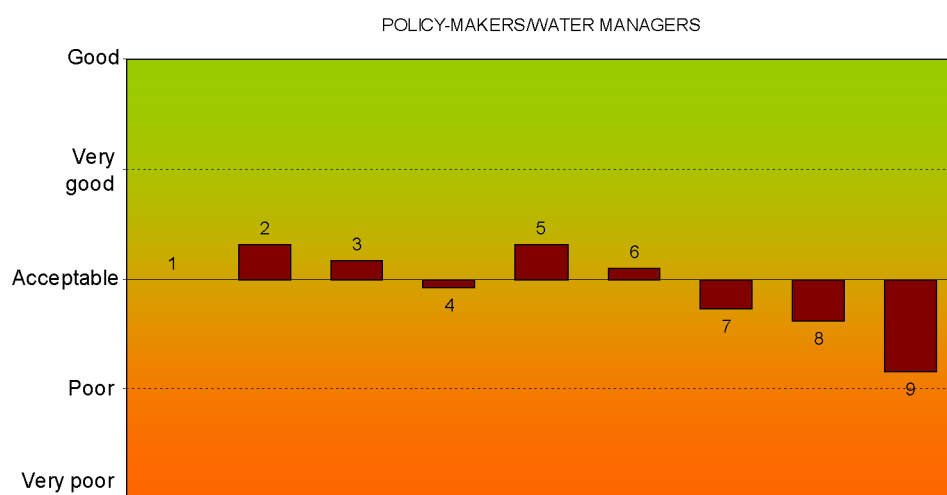
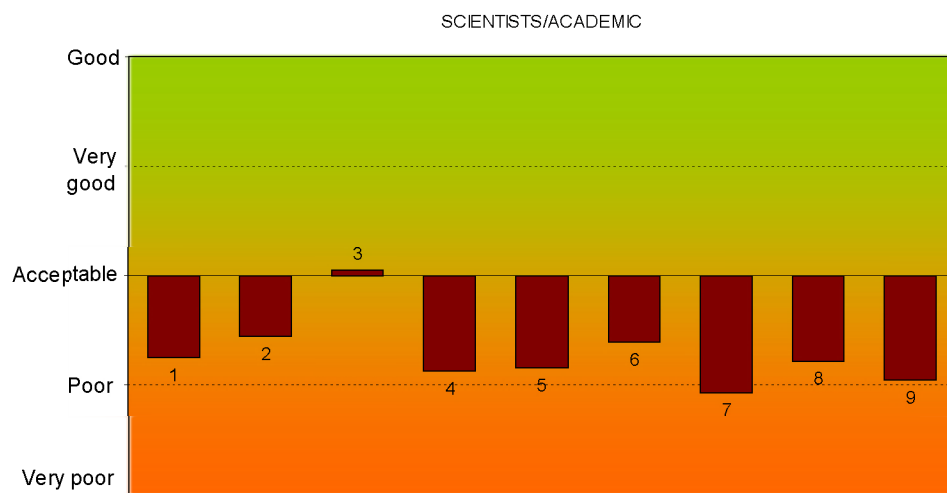
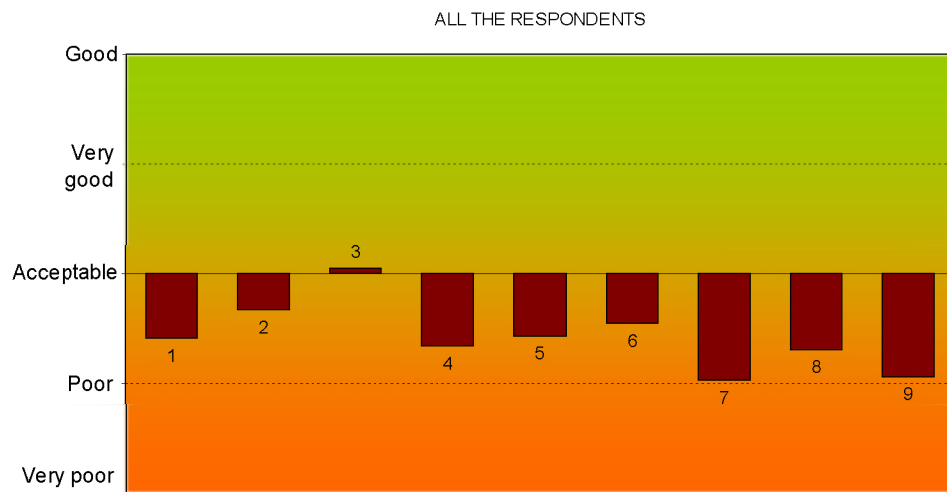
The strongest relation, deemed acceptable, is found when scientists take into account the interests of policy-makers to focus their research activities (category 3). It is the only positively evaluated relationship by the group of scientists and by all the respondents in general. The interaction between policy-makers and scientists (category 1) is close to poor, unless it is evaluated by the policy-makers themselves. On the other hand, the interest and use of the scientific work by policy-makers (category 2) is nearly acceptable, unless it is evaluated by the scientists.

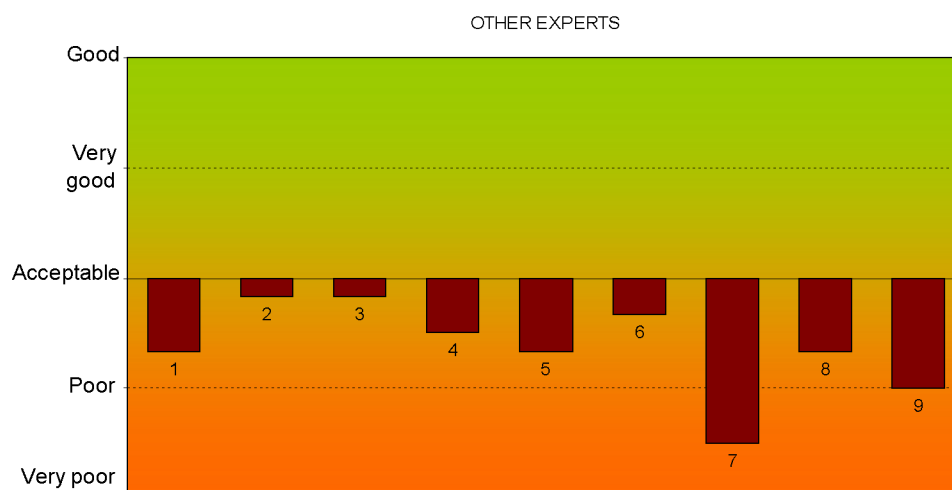
As regards the communication between citizens and policy-makers (categories 4 and 5), the group of scientists and other experts consider it close to poor, while it is acceptable for the policy-makers. In particular, policy-makers give their highest mark to their own consideration of the public opinion when making water management decisions.

The following comments provided in the open question highlight specific experiences from the respondents about sharing information and providing input among scientists, citizens, and policy makers:

- We often rely on the agencies and experts to take the right decisions because it is too much to get involved in all the local decisions. Expecting everyone to be up to speed with all the issues regarding water management, climate change, air pollution etc. would be too much.
- I am on two "Evidence groups" for the UK government Department for Environment where the collaboration between scientists and policy makers is good.
- In Italy, there are wide regional/local differences about the approach on these issues. In the Emilia Romagna Region for example a long tradition of cooperation/interaction is already established whereas in most of the other regions this is not true. Often, if present, it is linked to the local presence of research scientists very active on this issues that personally push the local community, but we lack a national coordination and collaboration.
- Today the problem is at the level of implementation and the local water managers.
- Sometimes there is not enough willingness to improve and change.
- The interactions are not very satisfactory but scientists are also very poor communicators, especially outside of their own domain of interest. Some scientists do not see the need for direct interaction.
- In my opinion, information doesn't flow CORRECTLY through the actors of the water management. Scientists produce information often unclear to citizens and/or policy-makers, citizens cannot form their opinion on clear data and then cannot exert an effective pressure on policy-makers.
- Policy makers tend to select information that is in accordance with their (already taken) decisions. The public is generally lazy in getting information and tends to believe in easily understandable slogans and truths. Scientists tend to conduct their research without considering inputs from other stakeholders.
- These are three closed blocks, often skeptical about each other and holding stereotyped views. Overall, citizens are positive oriented towards scientists but not towards policy and decision makers, and are not empowered to take action on the basis of scientific results. However, I don't think it should be up to the public to do the first move. A policy agenda that focuses on each step of education (from early stage to long life learning, in formal and informal settings) should promote a larger uptaking of scientific

results by the public. Finally, science is not able to interact with the two side parties. Scientists should be able to reach out to both, and be able to listen.





**Figure 3:** Distribution of responses to question 2, including responses separated by professional sector.

### 3.3. Analysis of Question 3

*Does your organisation have any experience with the following means to share information relevant to water management decisions?*

1. Using TV spots to share information
2. Using radio programs to share information
3. Using newspapers or magazines to share information
4. Using a public art campaign to share information
5. Using billboards to share information
6. Using posters to share information
7. Using interactive online platforms to share information
8. Using social networking sites to share information
9. Using awareness campaigns in schools to share information
10. Using public hearings to share information
11. Using letters sent through post to share information

In general, the most widespread communication tools (used in more than 50% of the organisations) are, in this order: posters, printed press, school campaigns, online platforms, public hearings and radio programs (see Figure 4). The preferred tools used by respondent groups are newspapers and magazines for policy-makers and water managers, posters for scientists, and online platforms for the other specialists.

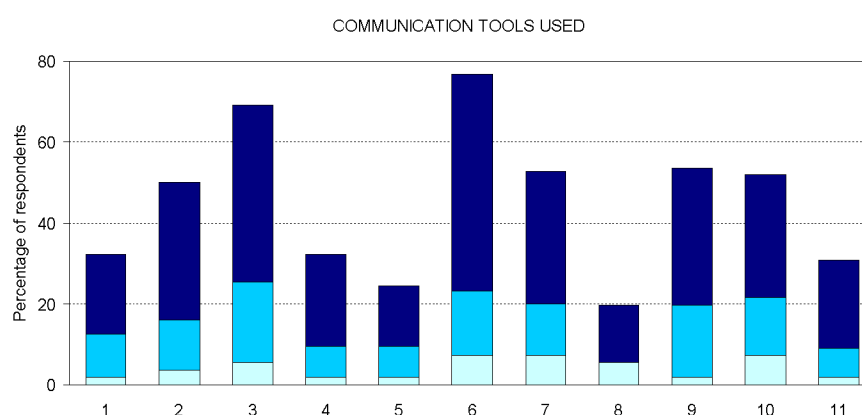
The use of social networking and billboards does not exceed 25% in the represented institutions, the former being totally absent in the policy-making. However, when the respondents are asked about the future communication plans, most of their responses (especially those from policy-makers) cluster in social networking and, secondarily, on web platforms. Surprisingly, only scientific institutions are planning to use school campaigns or public hearings.

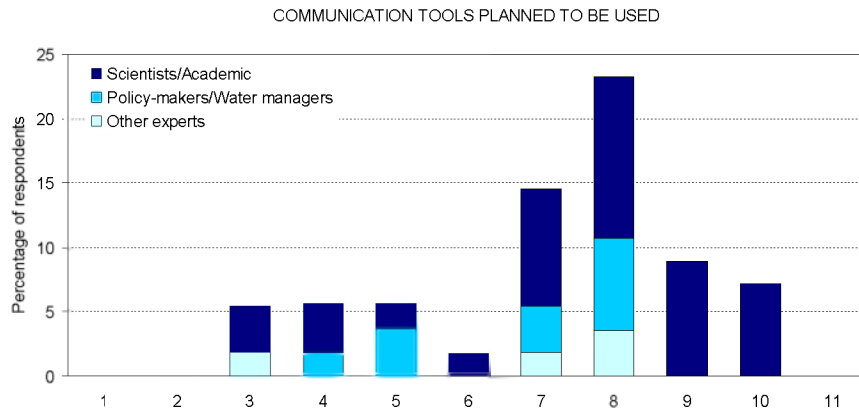
The current usage of TV spots, public art campaigns and letters to share information relevant to water management seems to be in an intermediate level; only the public art campaigns are amongst the plans to be used in the future. The relative use of TV spots by policy-makers is slightly larger than for the rest of the groups.

Most of the respondents could not answer which of the proposed tools will not be used by their organisations. From this question, we can just highlight that between 2 and 3 institutions (representing 3-5% of the responses) have decided not to use letters, TV spots and radio programs.

The following comments given in the open question provide more details about public awareness methods, especially lessons learned about their use:

- A mix of techniques is always working better.
- Awareness campaigns in schools are the best method because scholars are more receptive.
- We are a specialist advisory group of scientists and engineers that carefully chooses its press moments, and we are usually in the background.
- Flyers are not useful at all, posters have more impact. Comics have a high impact on children. Information throughout social networks has an increasing influence.
- I think the best way are campaigns in schools to share information, online platforms, and finally TV spots used in proper way and not distorting the information.
- Information on newspapers and magazines is the most efficient way of communication. The internet is difficult to control, but reaches a large public. Posters and brochures only reach limited numbers of persons already interested in gathering information.
- Interactive online platforms work well and have attracted a lot of contacts. Awareness at schools is a good policy for the long term so that children grow up with an interest in the environment.
- Lectures to schools and movies worked best.
- Posters have used mainly in fairs for general public with great acceptance. Recently we've been using Facebook for sharing information but so far without a great impact. More time is needed to understand if this kind of platform works.
- Using IT is very cheap and easy but it only targets a small active audience. There are large numbers of the public who need to be targeted with more traditional means. If the issue is challenging and complicated then face to face methods are required to talk in detail about issues.
- Communication cannot be done well without professionals and could take sizable time.
- From the University, we mainly share information relevant to water management decisions upon request from media, policy makers, public organizations, or citizens.
- I am a scientist. I work directly with institutions, organisations and authorities, when I am called upon. I write a newspaper article once in a while, to disseminate my research, but not as a public awareness campaign.
- I don't like public campaigns at all, and I think information may circulate involving selected categories of stakeholders.





**Figure 4:** Distribution of responses to question 3.

#### 4. Conclusions

The following discussion summarises some points that stand out from the survey and may be of particular interest for inclusion in the AWARE process evaluation.

Although the policy-makers and water managers group was the main dissemination target of this survey, the relatively low levels of participation from this group leads us to infer that engaging them in public participation processes is difficult, unless it is part of their agendas. Also, there seems to be a general view that participatory approaches are more easily implemented in water management at the local level. The same processes at the European level, however, are viewed as more difficult.

Regarding financing, it is clear that for all respondents the lack of local funding is more important for the coastal waters status than the lack of European funding. Again, as with participatory approaches, what happens at the local level seems to matter more than frameworks at the European level.

In terms of the science-policy gap cooperation between all the actors involved in water use and management is, in general, negatively evaluated by the respondents. There is a large agreement on the need to strengthen communication between researchers, policy-makers, stakeholders and, especially, increase the awareness and involvement of civil society. For all survey participants the poorest connectivity is found between scientists and citizens. Policy-makers and water managers are the only group that rates certain relationships (for instance uptake of public opinion in policy decisions) as better than acceptable.

Regarding communication tools used to share information about water use and management, those most used in more than 50 percent of the represented organisations are posters, printed press, school campaigns, online platforms, public hearings and radio programs (in this order). It is interesting to note that policy-makers and water managers prefer newspapers and magazines, while scientists favour posters. However, policy-makers are planning to use social networking in the future, and scientific institutions are the only ones planning to use school campaigns or public hearings.

*"Participatory approaches are the only way to achieve robust solutions!"*

Survey respondent

*"What I would like to see is a real study of knowledge transfer within the decision making process, between the public, the mass media, politicians and scientists"*

Survey respondent

## Annex I – European Online Survey

### WHAT IS THE AWARE PROJECT?

The AWARE project ([www.aware-eu.net](http://www.aware-eu.net)) is funded by the Seventh Framework programme of the European Commission. This original European initiative jointly engages scientists, policy makers and citizens in creating and analysing scenarios for a sustainable management of coastal water ecosystems in three European areas:

- The Gulf of Riga (Estonia and Latvia),
- The Southern North Sea (France and Belgium), and
- The Po river Delta (Goro lagoon, Italy).

During the course of the project, citizens, scientists, policy makers and other stakeholders concerned by human-caused deterioration of coastal ecosystems actively participate to workshops held at both local and European levels.

AWARE's approach is collaborative and solution oriented, focusing on the dialogue between the key actors to improve the management of the situation.

The AWARE project aims at delivering recommendations and scenarios to European and local policy makers, and ultimately making all stakeholders aware of the urgency for a sustainable management of European coastal water ecosystems. AWARE project's achievements will be presented and discussed in a public conference in Brussels, on 9 June.

### Aim of this Survey

AWARE would like to take this opportunity to

- inform you about the goals and process of the project,
- ask for broad feedback on the AWARE approach, and
- identify ways in which to enhance the connectivity between research and policy-making.

According to the AWARE Citizen Mandate, the group of 30 citizens (10 from each of three case studies) have already produced a set of recommendations regarding coastal water management. The combined declaration covering AWARE's three case studies will be presented to EU policy makers on 9 June 2011. *This survey covers only some of the elements brought up in these citizen recommendations.*

**Name\*:**

**Organisation:**

**E-mail\*:**

**[\* Optional data]**

**Please let us know to which of the following groups you belong:**

Professional associations (farmers, fishers, other) ☐

Civil society (NGOs, other) ☐

Scientists/academic ☐

Policy-makers or water managers (public water agencies,  
environmental management institutions, other policy-making bodies) ☐

Other, please fill in:

--

**1. Based on your expertise in water management or on your personal opinion, what is your level of agreement with the following statements:**

	I agree	I partially agree	I partially disagree	I disagree	Do not know/ cannot answer
Eutrophication and intensified algal blooms are one of the main problems in European coastal waters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The present EU environmental legislation is enough to improve or maintain the good ecological/environmental status of coastal waters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The implementation of the present EU environmental legislation by Member States should be enforced and stricter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The lack of sufficient funding is one of the main causes of coastal waters' environmental degradation:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
a) at the local level					
b) at the European level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There is an excessive fragmentation of institutional roles and competences related to the water sector, which gives a confused image to the public and to other institutions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increasing the public environmental awareness may improve the water quality and may ease the water management in Europe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Involving the civil society in local or regional water management may improve the water quality and may ease the water management in Europe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strengthening the connectivity between researchers, policy-makers, key stakeholders, and civil society may improve the water quality and may ease the water management in Europe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Participatory approaches are too difficult (time and resource consuming) to be implemented in water management:					
a) at the local level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) at the national/European level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please include any further comments here:

2. Among their recommendations, AWARE citizens called for increased cooperation between scientists and other actors. AWARE looks at ways in which to enhance communication across the science-policy gap. In your current work on water management issues, do you experience cooperation between the following actors?

Quality of cooperation	Very poor	Poor	Acceptable	Good	Very good	Do not know/ cannot answer
Do policy-makers interact regularly with researchers? <i>Although we realise that meeting may be ad-hoc or institutionalised, formal or informal, and that "regular" can be defined in various ways, please answer to the best of your ability and add any details at the end of this short section. Thank you!</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do policy-makers rely on results from the scientific community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do scientists/technical agencies research those issues that are of current or upcoming importance for policy-makers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do policy-makers interact regularly with citizens?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do policy-makers consider the opinions of citizens when making water management policies/decisions?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do scientists/technical agencies consider the opinions or information needs of citizens?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do citizens provide inputs to the scientific community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are scientific results publicly available to citizens?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are scientific results clear and understandable for citizens?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please include any further comments here, regarding your experience sharing information and providing input among scientists, citizens, and policy makers:

**3. The citizen groups recommended increasing the public's awareness about many aspects relevant to taking water management policy decisions. (*No answer necessary*)**

Among citizens' suggestions there were the following means of sharing information, although it is clear that some means may be more suitable for certain types of information than others.

- Mass media (e.g. newspapers, TV, radio)
- Posters, billboards, road signs
- Public art
- Internet, interactive online platforms
- Social media/networks
- Awareness campaigns in schools
- Public hearings
- Postal mail letters

“In order to achieve the 2015 target [of good ecological status in surface and coastal waters] it is necessary to BE AWARE, BE INFORMED, TO PARTICIPATE, COOPERATE, AND IMPLEMENT.”

*AWARE citizen group*

Some of the aspects in which the citizens wish for greater awareness include:

- Economic costs of certain measures for improving water quality
- Information about water quality measures, indicators, and policies
- Ecological, economic, and health consequences of taking certain measures
- Ecological, economic, and health consequences of not taking certain measures
- Information on policy changes affecting consumer products
- Ecological and economic information on alternatives, e.g. different agriculture types
- Information on the health and environmental impacts of consumer products
- Common interests of different actors involved in water management

**4. Does your organisation have any experience with the following means to share information relevant to water management decisions?**

	Have used	Planning to use	Have decided not to use	Have not used
Using <i>TV spots</i> to share information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Using <i>radio programs</i> to share information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Using <i>newspapers or magazines</i> to share information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Using a <i>public art campaign</i> to share information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Using <i>billboards</i> to share information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Using <i>posters</i> to share information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Using <i>interactive online platforms</i> to share information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Using <i>social networking sites</i> to share information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Using <i>awareness campaigns in schools</i> to share information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Using <i>public hearings</i> to share information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Using <i>letters sent through post</i> to share information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please share with us any details about the above public awareness methods, especially lessons learned about what methods worked best, which did not work, and why, and the type of information provided.

If you have used other public awareness methods that we have not included, please let us know.