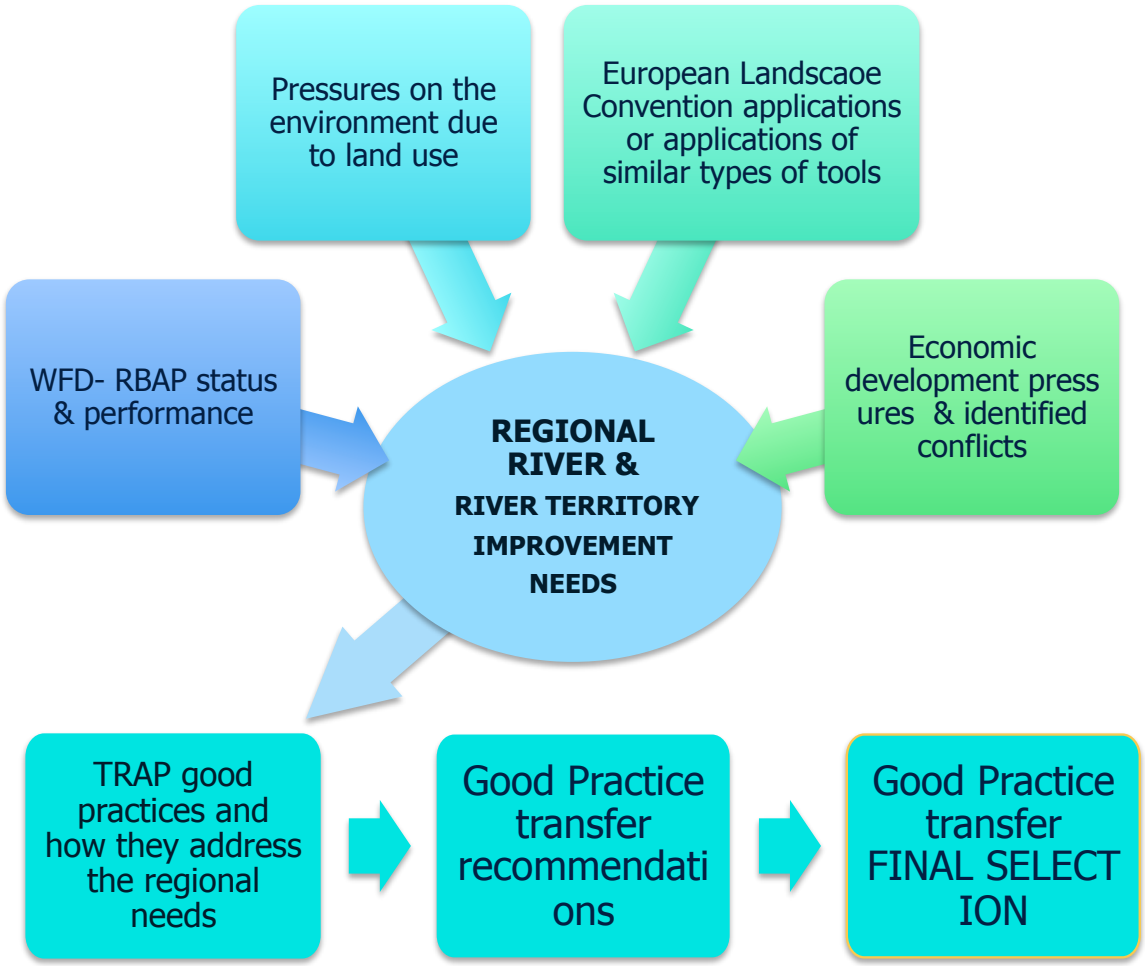
1006R4 TRAP projectc, Component 3: The river & river territory regional needs analysis in TRAP

The purpose of the regional needs analysis in TRAP is to support regions select the those good practices that that aew needed fort heir regions to develop & ensure at the same time good water status through integrated river and river territory management.

To realise this purpose, the regional needs analysis deals with four aspects: the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, the implementation of the European Convention or similar, environmental and ecoonmic pressures on the river & river territories of the partner regions, which can be grouped into two categories: (i) uptake and implementation of the Water Framework Directive through the River Basin Action Plans and the European Landscape Convention (or similar tools), and (ii) understanding the economic and environmental pressures in the region and the potentially resulting conflictual situations from them, Figure 1.

Figure 1 The regional needs analysis as part of the good practice exchange in the TRAP project



Part A Policy uptake

1. The Water Framework in the partner regions

In TRAR the WFD discussion relates to good practice transfer that, in terms of direct policy tools, is meant to invovle the Water Departments of the partner regions, and as specific projects, it is possible tht it involves the Environment or even the regional policy organisations, depending on the regional arrangemetns for project funding.

1.1 WFD status of implementation, issues to cover

- RBAP: The status of the river basin action plans
- Monitoring mechanisms used
- Corrective programmes or any corrective actions
- Vertical integration of the WFD

  - with national (Ministry of Environment)
  - transnational / interregional (e.g. river basins shared by many countries)
  - EU policies (includes participation in networks and information delivery)

- Horizontal integration of the WFD with other regional policies

  - (e.g. spatial planning, development planning, investment incentives, tax incentives, regional education)

1.2 WFD implementation pending issues & challenges in implementation in your region

1.3 Crucial environmental challenges relating to river and river territories in your region

- Gaining the status 'good' by 2015
- Environment and aquatic environment quality trends

1.4 Feedback from DG Environment to the River Basin Action Plan of your region

1.5 Please attach to this report the River Basin Action Plan of your region

2. The European Landscape Convention in the partner regions

The European Landscape Convention (ELC) is a voluntary agreement, which promotes landscape protection in the context of quality development. The pressure to maximise immediate land use for immediate high returns vs. the argument for optimising land use in view of a longer and better quality development perspective are not new. However, as we try to implement the WFD we realise, for example, its impact on the prices of water and the costs of protection per se. Then any valid argument integrating landscape protection with quality – intensive models of development leading to high returns to scale, becomes fundamentally relevant. Conversely, failure to address such integration implies probably stronger needs for governance and policy improvements.

In TRAP the European landscape convention and similar tools are to be transferred to land use and economic development plannng organisations.

2.1 How is landscape protection addressed / taken into account and by which types of institutions in the region?

- Who has the overall responsibility in landscape issues in national level and in regional level? What is the legislative background of landscape protection?

- How have resources (both human and financial) for landscape policies been granted? Where does the money come from?

- Is the data about landscape available for general public? Internet pages?

- Do there exist any landscape assessment documents in the regions? What assessment criteria of the landscape quality and value have been used?

-What are the historical, cultural, and natural landmarks of the river territories in the region?

- Has any Kainuu regional or local authority been awarded by the Council of Europe for introducing a policy or measures to protect, manage or plan landscapes which have been proved to be lastingly effective and can serve as example?

Article 6, B:
- Have there been any training (courses, seminars) combining landscape protection and development issues? Or landscape protection and use of natural resources? Etc.
- Has there been any training for decision-makers?

Article 6, A:
- How has the general awareness raising activities been carried out?

2.2 The European Landscape Convention in the region

- Is the ELC a valid reference at all?

- Are there in national legislation (at national, regional or local level) stricter provisions concerning landscape protection, management or planning than what is stated in ELC?

- How was the European Landscape Convention implemented? Was there any public consultation process included? What about other stakeholders? What instruments have been adopted to implement protection, management and planning landscape policies?

-Are there landscape objective quality criteria in use? Is yes, what are they? With landscape objective quality criteria is meant any guidelines/criteria for measures to protect, manage and plan landscapes and manage them over time.

2.3 Landscape assessment tools

- Are your land & ecoonmic planning authorities utilisng any landscape assessment tools?
- If yes which ones?

2.4 Integration of protection & growth successes and challenges in the region

ELC, Article 5:
- How is the landscape protection included in spatial planning?

- Is landscape protection included in other policies such as cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies?

- Is landscape protection part of the development planning?

- When and how the regional policy makers integrated landscape management in the regional policies?

- How landscape is addressed in integrated (protection & growth) river tourism solutions?

ELC, Article 6:
- What is the selection process of the protected areas? What are the guidelines for classification of different landscapes (natural, cultural etc.)

- Have any of the regional landscapes been awarded with any distinctions? Also from the touristic point of view?

2.5 Integration of landscape protection in the region with international networks (ELC per se, UNESCO, others…)

- Are there any UNESCO sites in the region?

- Is the region a member of any international network relating to landscape protection?

Part B understanding environmental pressures in the regions

3 Environmental and economic pressures

QUESTION : What is the cause biggest environmental, water related problem in your region?

The rational behind this question is to find out whether the TRAP partner region faces potential water sarcity challenges and from which point of view. W

BACKGROUND : The three main users of water are agriculture, industry and the domestic sector (households and services). The overall abstraction and use of water resources can be considered to be sustainable in the long-term in most of Europe. However, specific regions may face problems associated with water scarcity; this is especially the case in southern Europe, where it is likely that efficiency gains in relation to agricultural water use will need to be achieved in order to prevent seasonal water shortages. Regions associated with low rainfall, high population density, or intensive industrial activity may also face sustainability issues in the coming years, which may be exacerbated by natural resource endowments, geographical characteristics and freshwater management systems. A number of Member States receive a significant proportion of their water resources as inflows from upstream rivers: this is particularly the case in the Danube basin and for the Netherlands, and is also the case, to a lesser extent, in Latvia, Germany and Portugal.

One measure of sustainability in water management is the water exploitation index (WEI), calculated as water abstraction divided by long-term annual resources (Cosgrove and Rijsberman, 2000 : Cosgrove, W. and F. Rijsberman. 2000. World Water Vision: Making Water Everybody's Business .Earthscan Publications Ltd., London). A WEI above 20 % typically indicates water scarcity problems in a country or region, and the European Environment Agency (EEA) uses this value as a warning threshold, while WEI values of more than 40 % indicate severe stress on resources and unsustainable water use. Using this measure and subject to data availability, a relatively high degree of pressure exists on water resources in Cyprus, Belgium, Spain, Italy and Malta, with Cyprus being the only Member State to record a ratio of more than 40 %.

In absolute terms total freshwater resources were broadly similar in Germany, France, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Italy, as each of these Member States reported a long-term average of annual freshwater resources of between 188 000 million m³ and 175 300 million m³. When expressed in relation to population size Finland and Sweden recorded the highest freshwater annual resources per capita (around 20 000 m³ per inhabitant or more). In contrast, relatively low levels (below 3 000 m³ per capita) were recorded in the six largest Member States (France, Italy, the United Kingdom, Spain, Germany and Poland), as well as in Belgium and the Czech Republic, with the lowest level in Cyprus (410 m³ per inhabitant). *(source: eurostat,* http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Water_statistics)

Please refer to the

- **LUCAS data base** for land cover & use. Land cover/use data also forms the basis for spatial and territorial analyses which are increasingly crucial for policy planning in many respects. Agriculture, forestry, industries, transport, housing and other services all use land as a natural and/or an economic resource. Land is also an integral part of ecosystems and indispensable for biodiversity and carbon cycle.
  LUCAS methodology link:
  http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/lucas/methodology
  Please make special reference to the forest and water management data from the LUCAS country profiles. Link is here:
  http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/lucas/lucas_2012

- **agrienvironmental indicators related to water**, as per Communication COM(2006) 508 final (http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2006:0508:FIN:EN:PDF). In 2006, the European Commission adopted 28 agrienvironmental indicators (AEIs) to assess the interaction between the CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) and the environment. In the link given below national statistics are available. http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/lucas/lucas_2012

The overall Also the following table could be filled in:

Table 1. Regional profile: summary of economic and environmental statistics in the region

Name of region and country		**Values & trends**
	Value	**Apparent trend (+ : positive, - negative, 0 : stable)**
General information		
Area		
Population		
Gross Value Added		
Economic structure		
Gross value added from agricultural activity		
Indicator A from the income from agricultural activity (2005=100)		
Gross value added from construction		
Gross value added from manufacturing activities		
Gross value added from all types of services		
Spatial structure (urban pressures)		
Population density in the region		
Structure and intensity of urban centres (Urban centres (number and average populaiton per urban centre)		
Land cover / use (LUCAS)		
Waste management	Amounts	
Provisions for the urban and household waste		
Provisions for the agricultural waste		
Provisions for the construction and mining waste		
Provisions for the industrial waste		

4 Conflicts of interest & trade off solutions

In this section, for each one of the partner regions' river basins & river territories, we try to understand the economic growth interests, the interaction between them and socio/environmental values and objectives, solutions found and core trade off concepts.

For example, during the study visit in Groningen, we saw how the national legislation (land reform law) and institutional arrnagement (land bank owned by state, and 2-year cycle market based land prices) paves the way for swapping of unproductive land, consolidation of farming lots, and creation of safe land use in respect to water pressures.

Similarly, in Shannon, we are aware that tax incentives have been granted to tourism developers if investing in certain areas ensuring certain level of quality; in Greece, the development law, promotes by subisidising complete, individual bio waste treatement of the larger hotel units.

These are only examples, and it is important to understand them better, how they function, how well they work, their results, failures and key points. In the following table there is an effort to summarise the various options and the questions that follow are meant as a background reminders for describing the situation in each region.

Table 2. River & river territory protection, develoment, examples and trade off concepts

Protection and development	**Mark the case (-s) relevant to your region** - in relation to the river & river territory- and the solutions found, ***epigrammatically***	**Trade off concept**
Protection through development Compatibility of land use (that is to say protected areas combined with compatible economic development)		
Rehabilitation & re-use		
Land use & economic activities compatibility		
Upper thresholds in land use intensity		
Protection and development Conservation / restoration with separa-tion of land uses (zoning solutions)		
Protection vs development Certain areas are dedicated to develop-ment and growth regardless of other aspects-as a result of special needs, or improtant opportunities or even physical risks (e.g. floods)		
Other?		

- Have there been any challenges in integrating socio(=culturalm, hisotrical, …)environmental protection and growth? Any success stories?

- In the land use and economic development planning,
    - are there ecological & cultural vulnerabiltiy indicators utilised?
    - are land use compatibiltiy criteria utilised? How?
    - are ecosystem and/ or aesthetic and/or cultural upper ecoonmic activity limits set at all?

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