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# **Safe water supply – why we need a clear European approach for materials and products in contact with drinking water**

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# EurEau. Watter matters.



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- ~ EurEau : **European federation of national water services associations**
- ~ We represent **drinking water and waste water service providers** in 28 European countries



- ~ We provide a **Europe-wide network to share knowledge and engage with EU policy makers**
- ~ Employing around **600,000 people, the sector (70,000 operators)** makes a significant contribution to the EU-economy
- ~ **€33 billion** water sector investments per year

# Water utilities: targets to meet



**It is a drinking water supplier's duty**

- ~ to provide customers at all times with drinking water of impeccable **quality**
- ~ in sufficient **quantity** and
- ~ at the supply **pressure** that is necessary to properly cover the usual demand in the supply area.

**Overall objective:  
lifetime consumption of  
safe, wholesome and clean drinking water**

# Water utilities: targets to meet



**Water supplier has to have at his disposal**

- ~ personnel,
- ~ technical equipment,
- ~ financial resources

as well as an

- ~ organisation & management

**to guarantee a safe, reliable and sustainable supply with drinking water**

# Set of tasks for water utilities – *links to materials & products*



...

Supply concept; Maintenance concept & strategy; Rehabilitation concept & strategy; ***Planning, construction, operation and maintenance of drinking water supply facilities*** with associated documentation; Monitoring of water protection areas and untreated water; ***Monitoring the quality of drinking water and ensuring an adequate drinking water quality***; Network monitoring & control; ***Risk analysis and its assessment***; Specification of monitoring strategies and control measures; ***Operation and maintenance of technical equipment***; Organisation and implementation of standby emergency service; Preparedness planning for crisis management; Specification of personnel configuration and structure; Targets for advanced and further training of personnel; Occupational safety and health protection, environmental protection; Acquisition and administration of real estate property rights and rights of way; Acquisition of supplies and services; ***Selection and monitoring of service providers***; ***Materials management*** & stock keeping; ***Customer services***; Contractual and legal matters ...

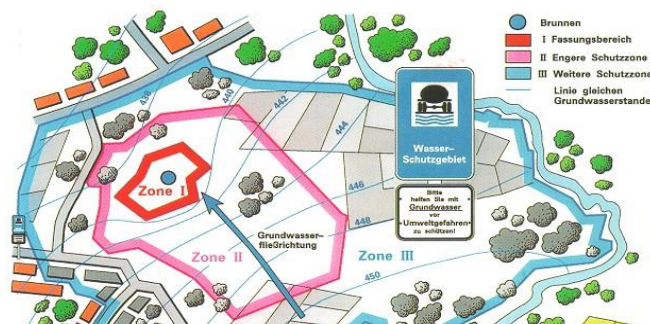
# From catchment to tap: a holistic approach involving all stakeholders



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## Catchment

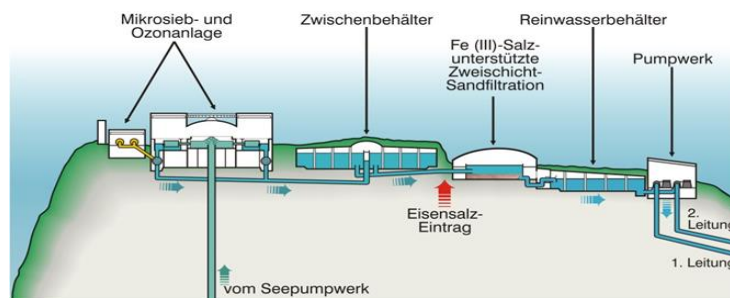
- Drinking Water Protection Areas
- Monitoring
- Cooperation with stakeholders



- Water suppliers
- Environmental agencies
- Health authorities
- Land users etc.
- European institutions

## Abstraction, treatment, storage, transport, distribution

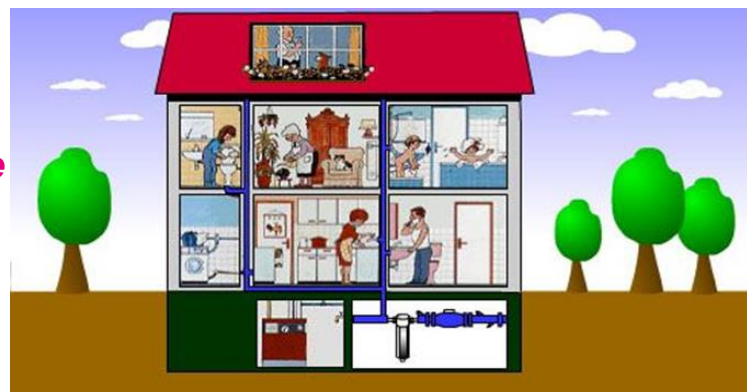
- according to legal & technical requirements
- *Use of products and materials fit for purpose*



- Water suppliers
- Health authorities
- European institution

## Domestic installation

- *Use of products and materials fit for purpose*
- Safety devices
- Professional plumbers

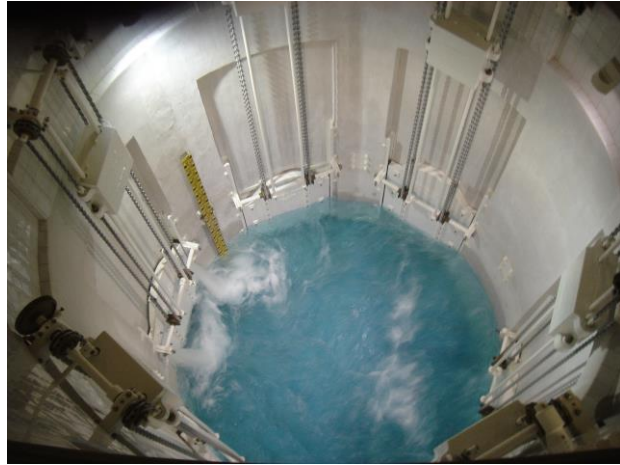


- House owners
- Health authorities
- European institution

# Drinking water – a foodstuff



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*On the way from catchment to tap drinking water*

- *is in contact with a huge set of „packaging“ materials which*
- *are installed permanently for a long lifetime*

# National approach – example



*~ National implementation of the DWD -> requirements are linked to application of technical standards (DVGW)*

*~ a voluntary certification of products has been developed -> criteria:*

- fulfillment of the national hygienic requirements of the components which are intended to come into contact with drinking water = testing of the metallic, organic and non-organic materials*

*as well as suitability for the intended use, safety, functionality and long-term reliability of the products -> provides safety for users*

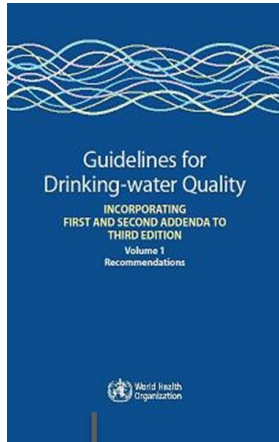




# Topic is also linked to idea of Water Safety Plans (WHO, 2004)

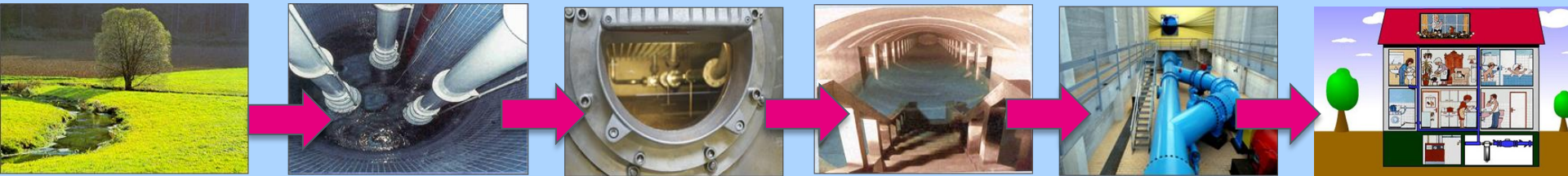


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*Today: regulatory requirements focus on testing of the „end product“*

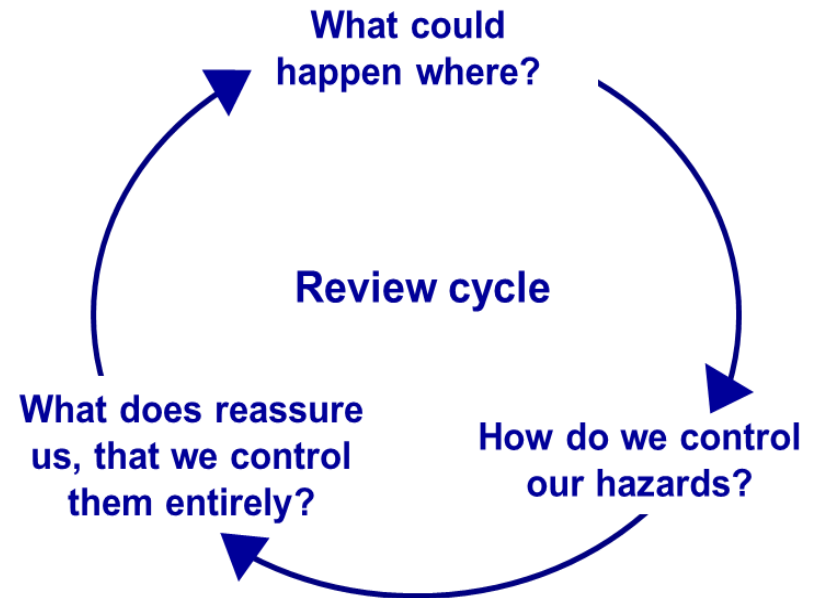
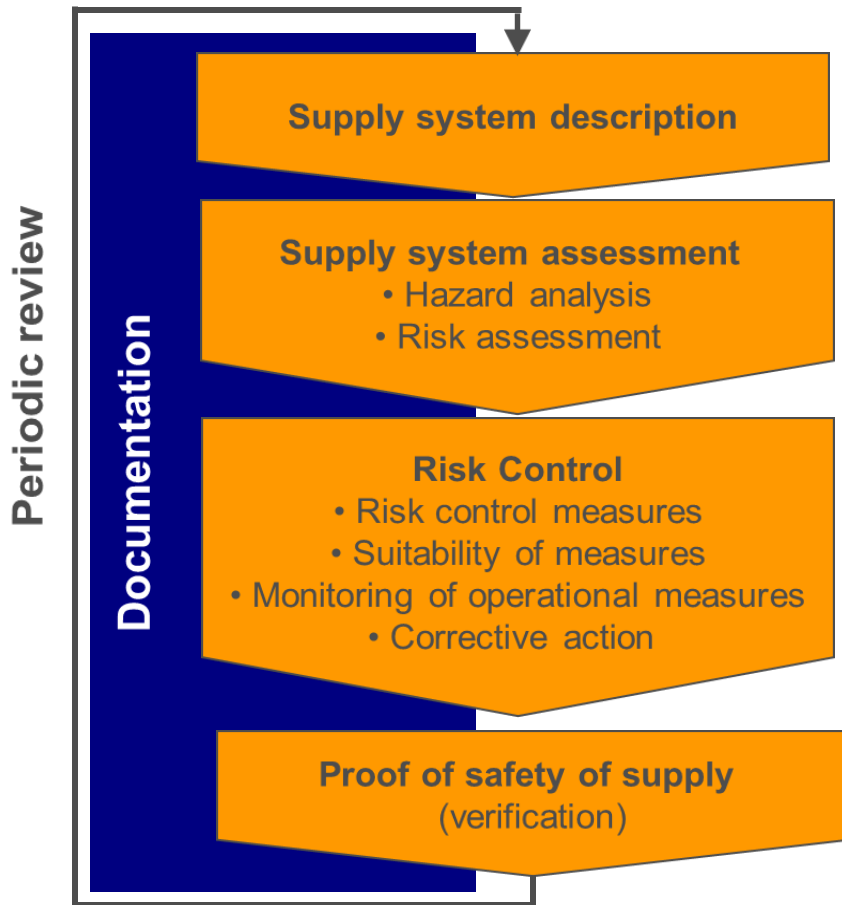
Process-oriented and risk-based management from catchment to tap:



Safe drinking water



# Elements of the WSP approach: *applicable to each and every system and hazards for drinking water safety from catchment to tap*



- *Hazard: products and materials in contact with drinking water?  
Fit for purpose?*

# EurEau's views on materials and products in contact with drinking water ...



~ *safe, wholesome and clean drinking water is of outstanding importance for human health*

~ Strongly **supports article 10 of DWD (1998):**

*“Member States shall take all **measures to ensure that no substances or materials** for new installations used in the preparation or distribution of water intended for human consumption ... **in concentrations higher than is necessary for the purpose of their use** and do not, either **directly or indirectly, reduce the protection of human health provided for in this Directive; ...”***

# EurEau's views on materials and products in contact with drinking water ...



- ~ *Materials and products in contact with drinking water have to be assessed* whether to be “fit for purpose”
- ~ “*fit for trade*” (CE-mark) is not “*fit for purpose*”
- ~ “*fit for purpose*”
  - ~ means meeting the technical requirements
  - ~ means no detrimental impacts on drinking water – no changes in microbiological and chemical quality
  - ~ Cannot be assessed by water utilities due to several reasons



# EurEau's views on materials and products in contact with drinking water ...



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*a question for an European approach:*

*CE (technical requirements)*

+

*Hygienical requirements*

*-> harmonised European standards (done)*

&

*determination of limit values (to be done)*

=>

*Basis to proof that materials and products are fit for trade and purpose*

# EurEau's views on materials and products in contact with drinking water ...



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- ~ Immense efforts have been made since 2000, nevertheless currently patchwork rug of national approaches
- ~ ***We have to step up efforts and we shouldn't spare no effort to achieve an European approach to ensure an unique level of consumers health protection***



# EurEau's views on materials and products in contact with drinking water ...



## ~ *HOW?*

~ *Integrate deliverables* of 4 MS into a legally binding and coherent frame

~ Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004 on materials and articles intended to come into contact with food

-> a *blueprint for a EU-regulation on drinking water hygiene ?*

~ ...





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**Thank you for your attention!**

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[www.EurEau.org](http://www.EurEau.org)



# **EurEau's views on materials and products in contact with drinking water ...**



- ~ Position paper „Revision of the Drinking Water Directive – stakeholder consultation“ (10/2007)
- ~ Position paper „Materials in contact with drinking water“ (09/2008)
- ~ Letter to member associations on support for 4 MS Initiative (03/2013)