EPI Water & ENHANCE projects



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Project - Objectives

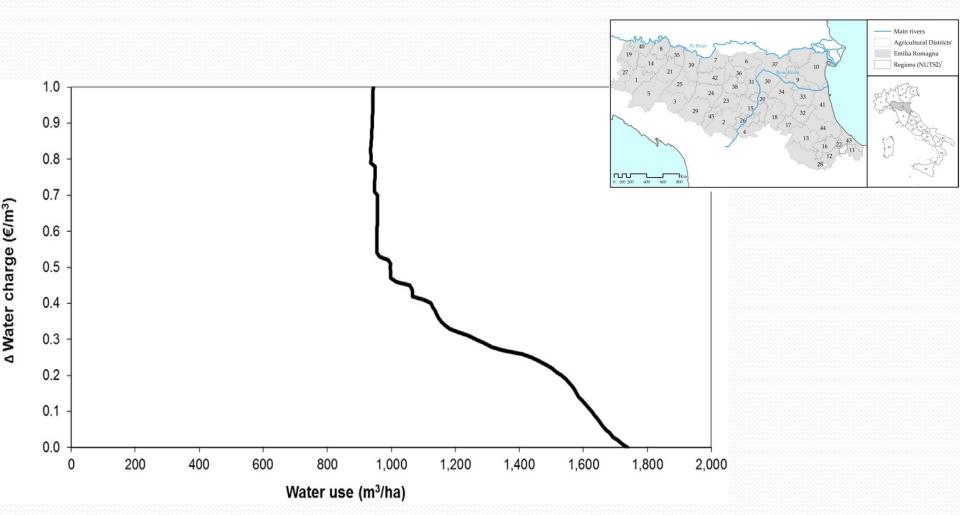
- EPI-Water sets out to assess the effectiveness and the efficiency of **Economic** Policy Instruments in achieving water policy goals
- ENHANCE aims to describe and test through case studies which concepts of economic instruments, including insurance and risk management policies, work for MSPs



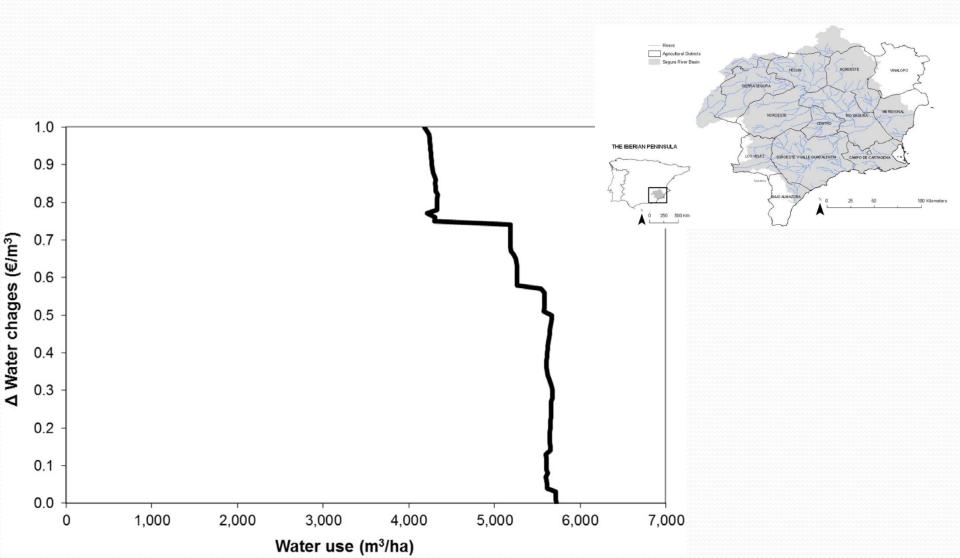
Project insights



#I: No silver bullets



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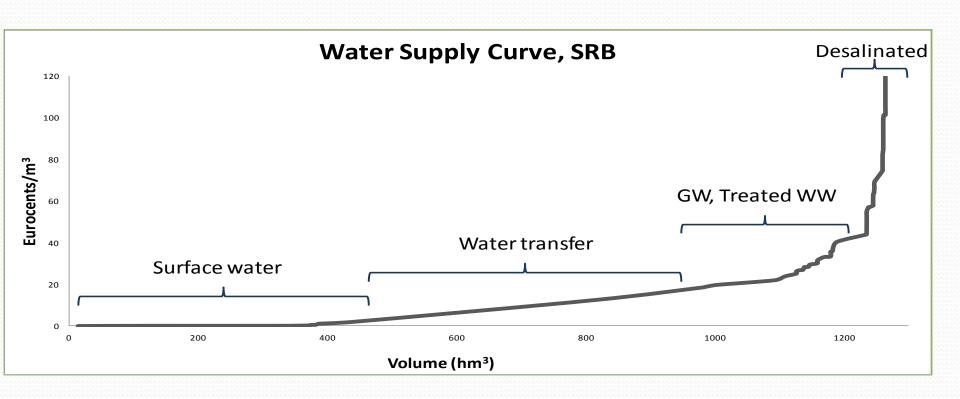


#2:Transaction costs are key

- Subsidies overcome resistance by users
- Caveats
 - Costly
 - Effective?
- May lead to institutional lock-in



#2:Transaction costs are key





#3: Beware of Jevons

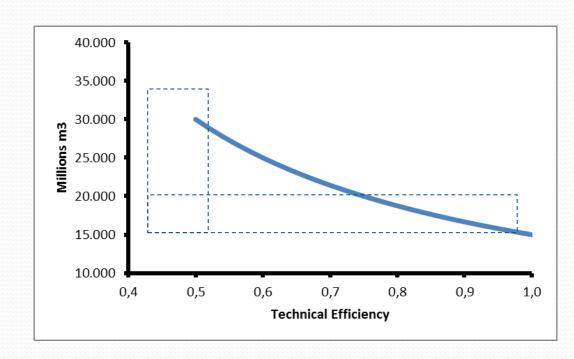
The naïve argument almost any politician is willing to buy:

If you are able to reduce the current efficiency gap by 20% you will save 3.000 million cubic meters of water per year.

The promise: Doing so is easy: increasing technical efficiency from the current 50% to 56% will do it.

The standard CEA: Assume this costs 3.000 million euros. You will receive I m³ from now to the eternity for each euro invested.

In a 40 year time horizon with a discount rate of 2% the yearly equivalent cost is only 3,7€cents/m³ (at a 0% discount rate it is only 2.5 €cents/m³). Better than any other alternative available.

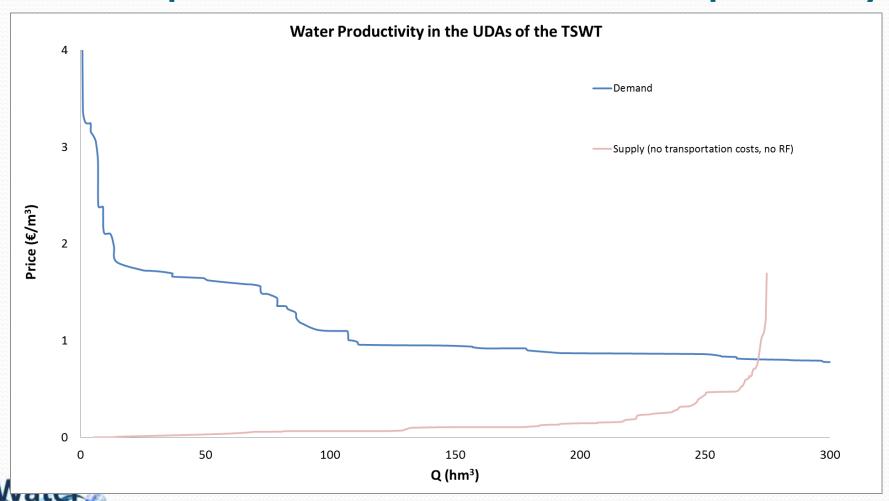


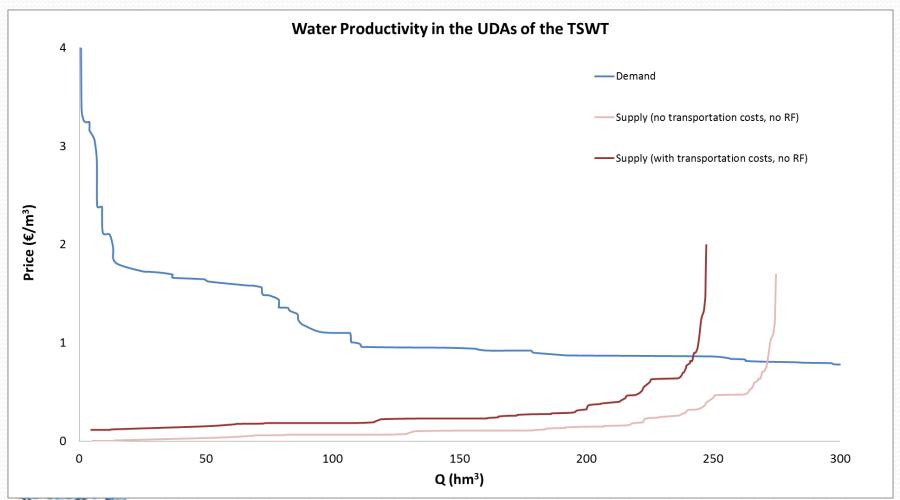


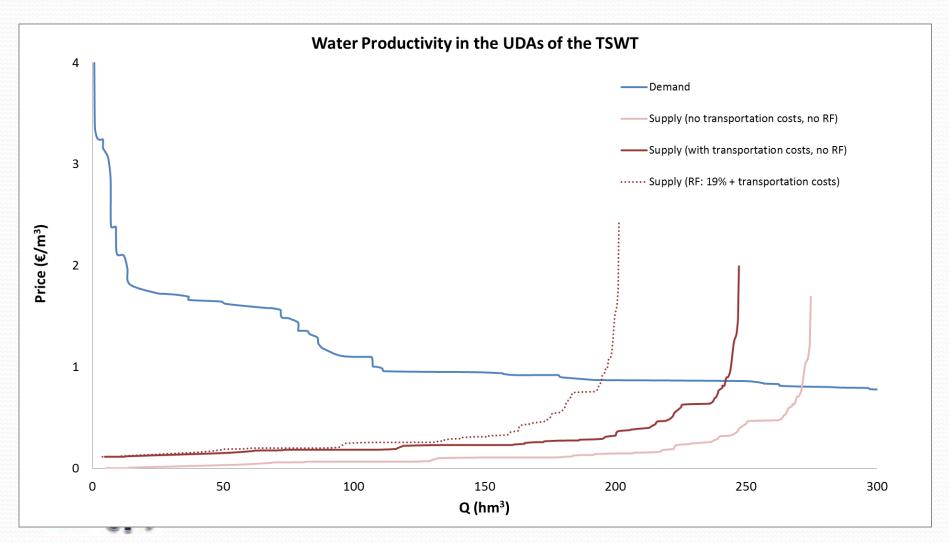
#3: Beware of Jevons

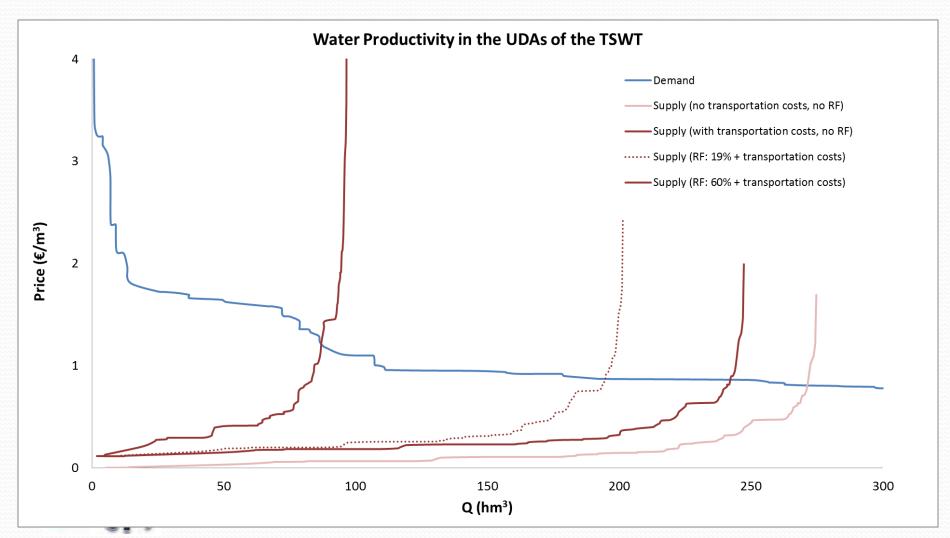
- The many things you may get in exchange of good intentions
- Hydrological paradox:
 - Efficiency improvements may reduce water use
 - However, increased consumptive use, reduced return flows and lost aquifer seepage may result in equal or higher consumption
- Jevons' Paradox:
 - An efficiency improvement makes water a more productive input this may result in an increase, rather than a reduction, in water use
- Sustainability Paradox:
 - As more efficient the use of water more energy consumption
- The incentive/policy Paradox:
 - If all this is true why farmers don't do it by themselves





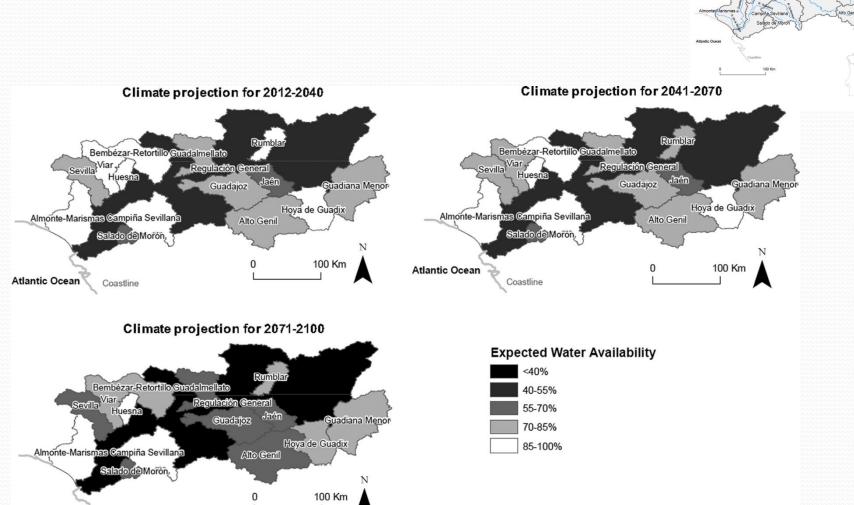






#5:Adaptability and flexibility

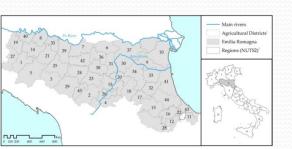
THE IBERIAN PENINSULA

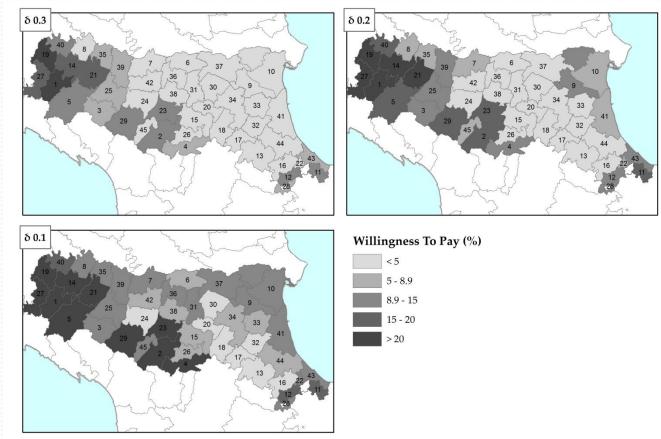


Atlantic Ocean

Coastline

#6:The critical role of PPPs







Synergies with the Water JPI Theme 5

- 5.1.2. Promoting adaptive water management for global change
- 5.1.6. Securing freshwater in the Mediterranean and Baltic basins &
- Whole subtheme 5.2. Strengthening socio-economic approaches to water management



Key Knowledge Gaps

- Economic instruments complement supply and regulatory policies, and other economic instruments as well
- Putting all together is challenging:
 - Institutional setup the peril of transaction costs
 - Policy mix
 - Sequencing and spillovers
- Remember: there are no silver bullets
 - Learn from other experiences...
 - ...but it is the context what ultimately determines the solution



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