Reflections on Policy Levers for Restoration

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Improving National River Continuity Restoration
Policies, 27th June 2023

MERLiN

Mainstreaming Ecological Restoration
of freshwater-related ecosystems
in a Landscape context:
INnovation, upscaling and transformation

Sorraia (PT)

Critical source of information on EU policy levers

In-depth comparative analyses of MS water policies (some common cases)

Illustrates the variability between MS

Illustrates which economic sectors are engaged

Community of practice: policy analysts supporting EU & MS policy developments

What has MERLIN learnt from ECRR's study?

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Sharing & shaping good-practice in business

Sharing & shaping good practice in places

18 restoration case-studies

PEATLANDS AND WETLANDS

SMALL STREAMS AND BASINS

LARGE RIVERS

Agriculture

Insurance

Peat Extraction

Water Supply & Sanitation

Navigation

Hydropower

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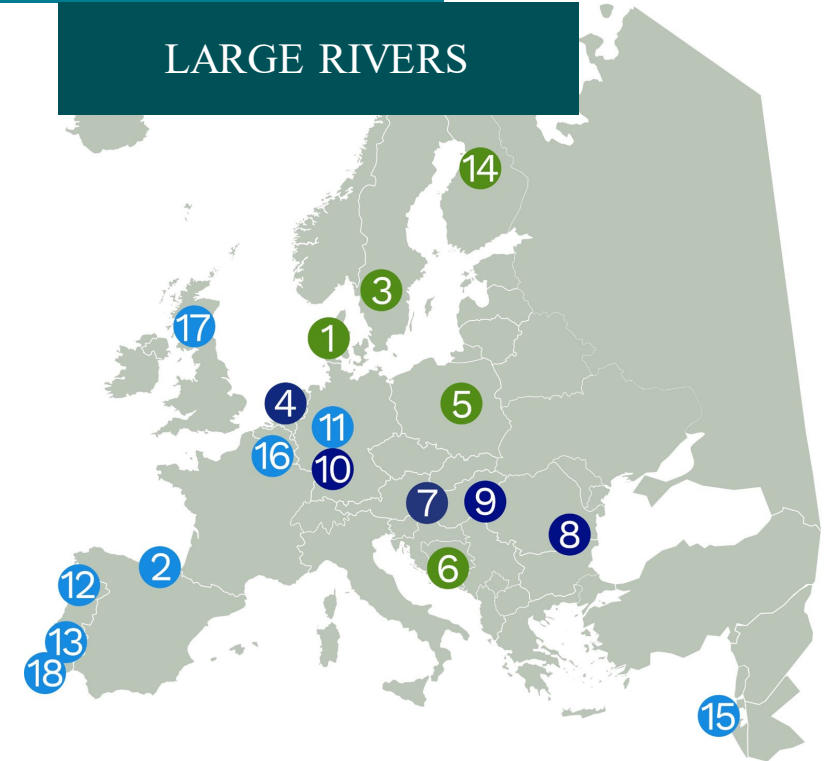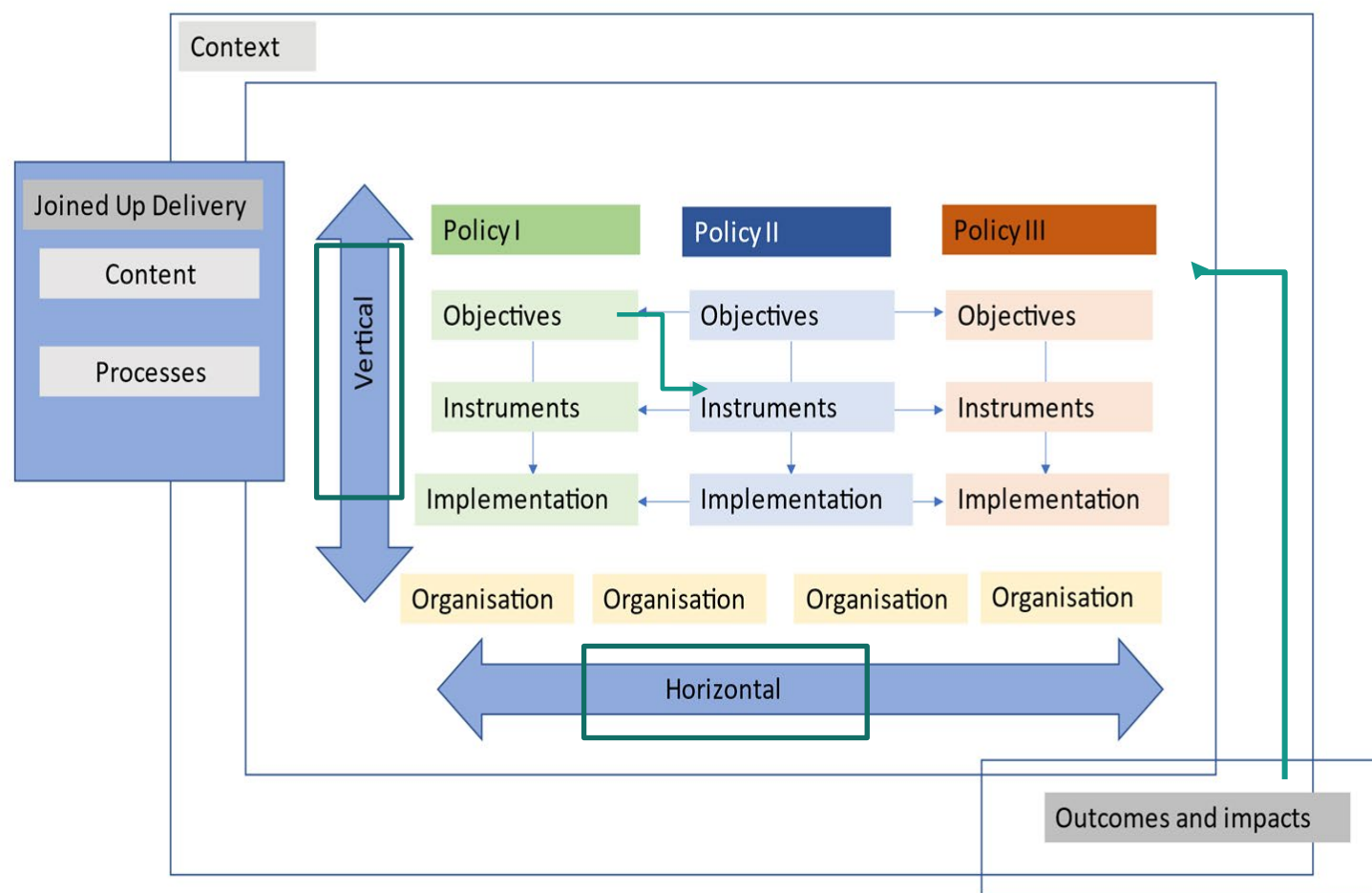
MERLIN Policy Analysis – the concept

- How policy levers support mainstreaming
  - Maintain, create, disrupt
  - NbS & sectors
- Policy coherence
  - Vertical
    → Feedback loops
    → Diagonal
  - Horizontal
- Multi-level
  - EU (WFD, Climate, CAP)
  - Individual MS and Regions

Point of commonality & Ways forward

- Permitting as trigger for change

- Conflicting priorities between ministries, stakeholders, publics

- Attention to multi-functional barriers & debate over 'obsolete'

- Attention to sediment balance and wider catchment dynamics

- Attention to evaluation feedback loop & monitoring budget

- NRL an opportunity if we avoid implementation deficit

- (Sub) catchment and cross-sectoral debates to find common solutions
  - Clear 'good practice' guidance for non-restoration experts
  - Cost, benefit, effectiveness data

- Focus on public & private funding opportunities
  - EIB report medium 'readiness'
  - NbS/Sustainable Certification
  - EU Sustainable Finance Taxonomy
  - ESG investments & crowdfunding (CSRD)

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