

# Water management in a social context

*A framework for analysing participatory scenario-making*

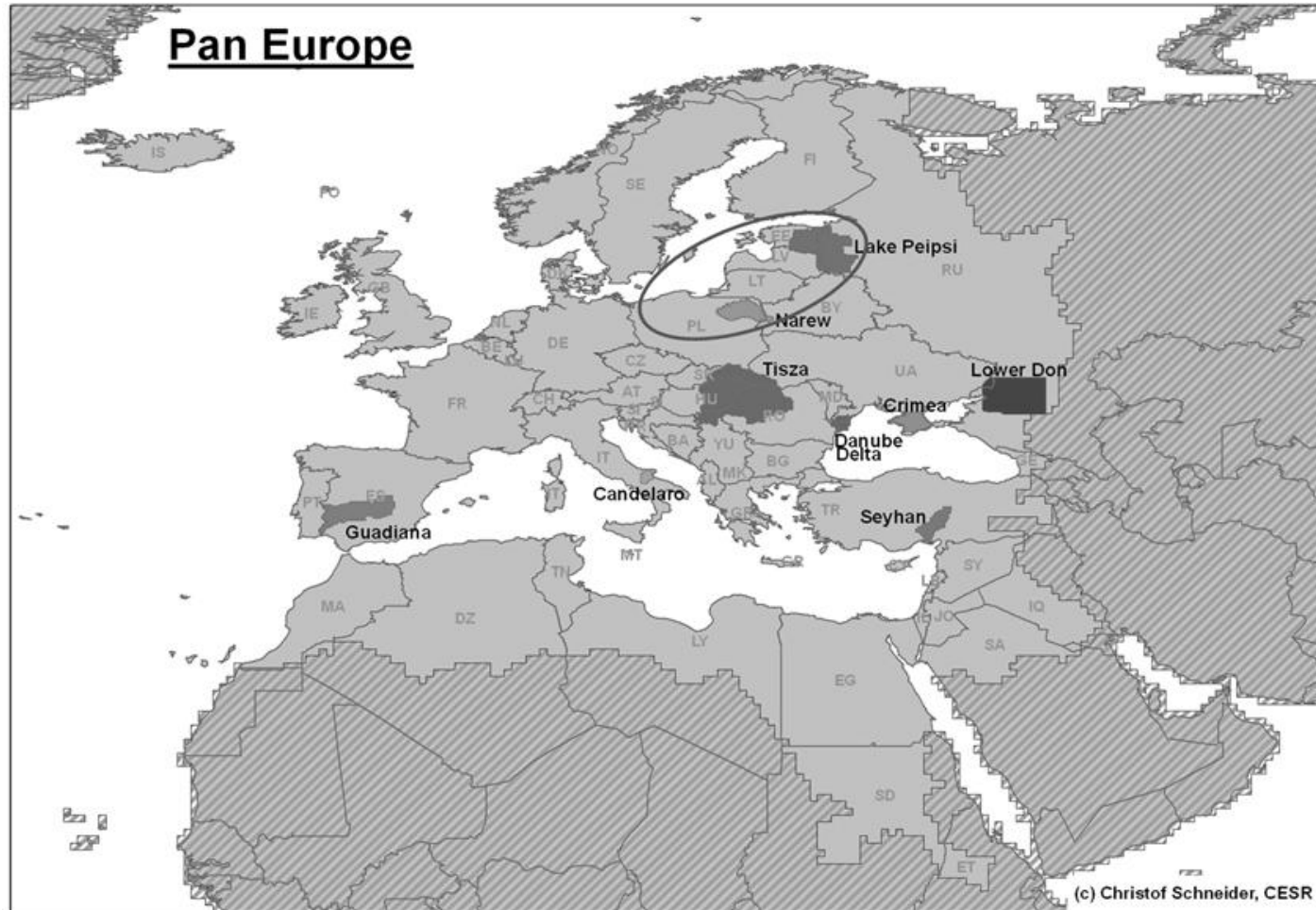
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Finnish Environment Institute  
Governance Studies Unit

TISWA, June 14, 2001

## Structure of the presentation

- SCENES project and process
- Background
  - Conditional and plural policy advice
- Evaluation framework
  - Linkages
- Conclusions

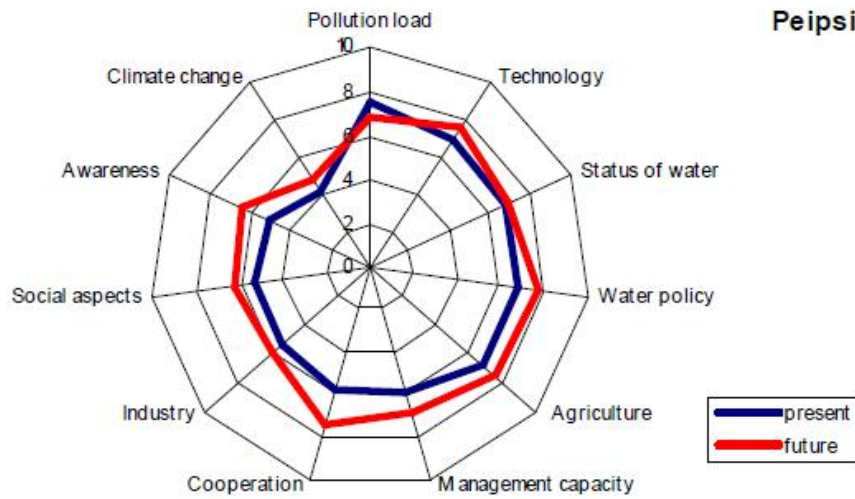
## SCENES - Water scenarios for Europe and neighbouring countries



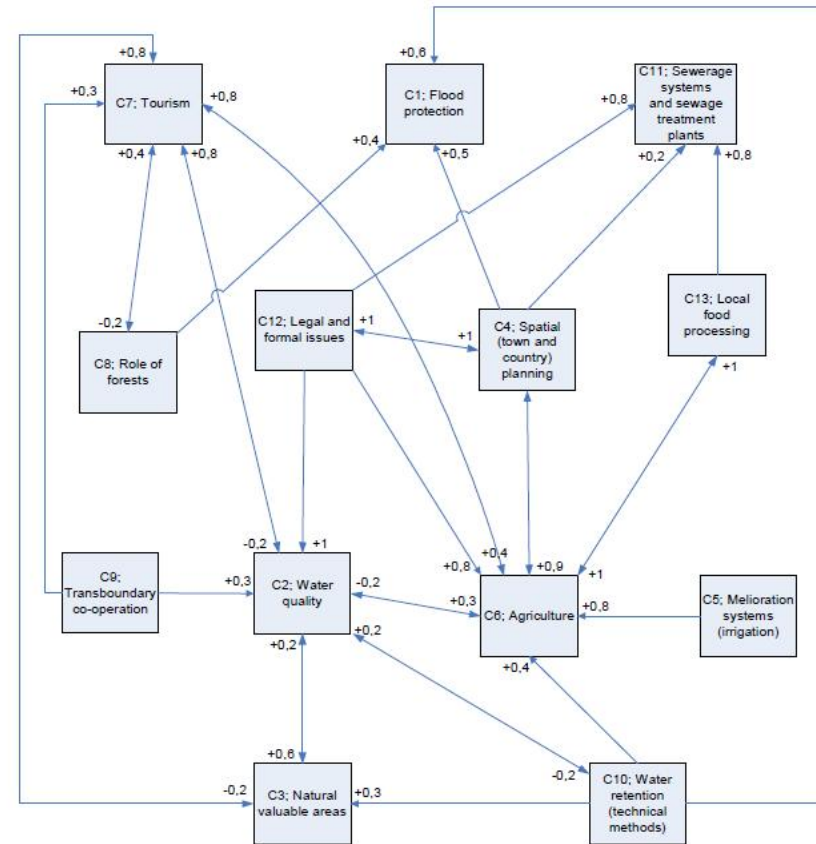
## SCENES process

- Description of the present water system
  - Systemic description of factors and their linkages

# Systemic description of factors and their linkages



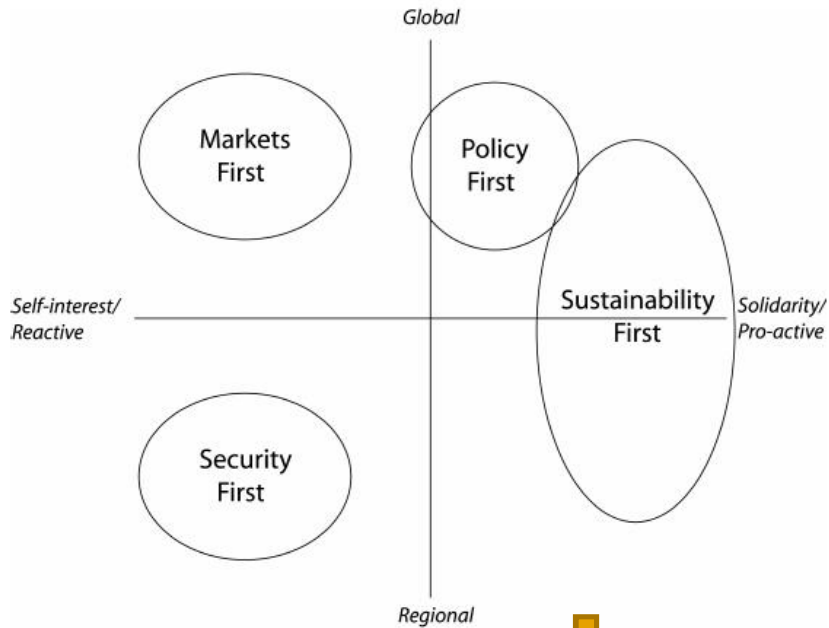
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## SCENES process

- Description of the present water system
  - Systemic description of factors and their linkages
- Future visions - 2050
  - Four scenario storylines (GEO-4)
    - Market First – *Economy First*
    - Security First – *Fortress Europe*
    - Policy First – *Policy Rules*
    - Sustainability First – *Sustainability Eventually*

## Four scenario storylines (GEO-4)



*"International institutions and regimes are weakened. Governments rely mainly on market based instruments (voluntary agreements, tax incentives) rather than legislation. Multinational companies dictate environmental standards/progress. With growing income inequalities, a relatively few rich people enjoy their lives while it becomes harder and harder for the majority to keep their living standards."*

*For water:  
Beginning 2008-2015  
Middle period 2015-2030  
End period 2030-2050*

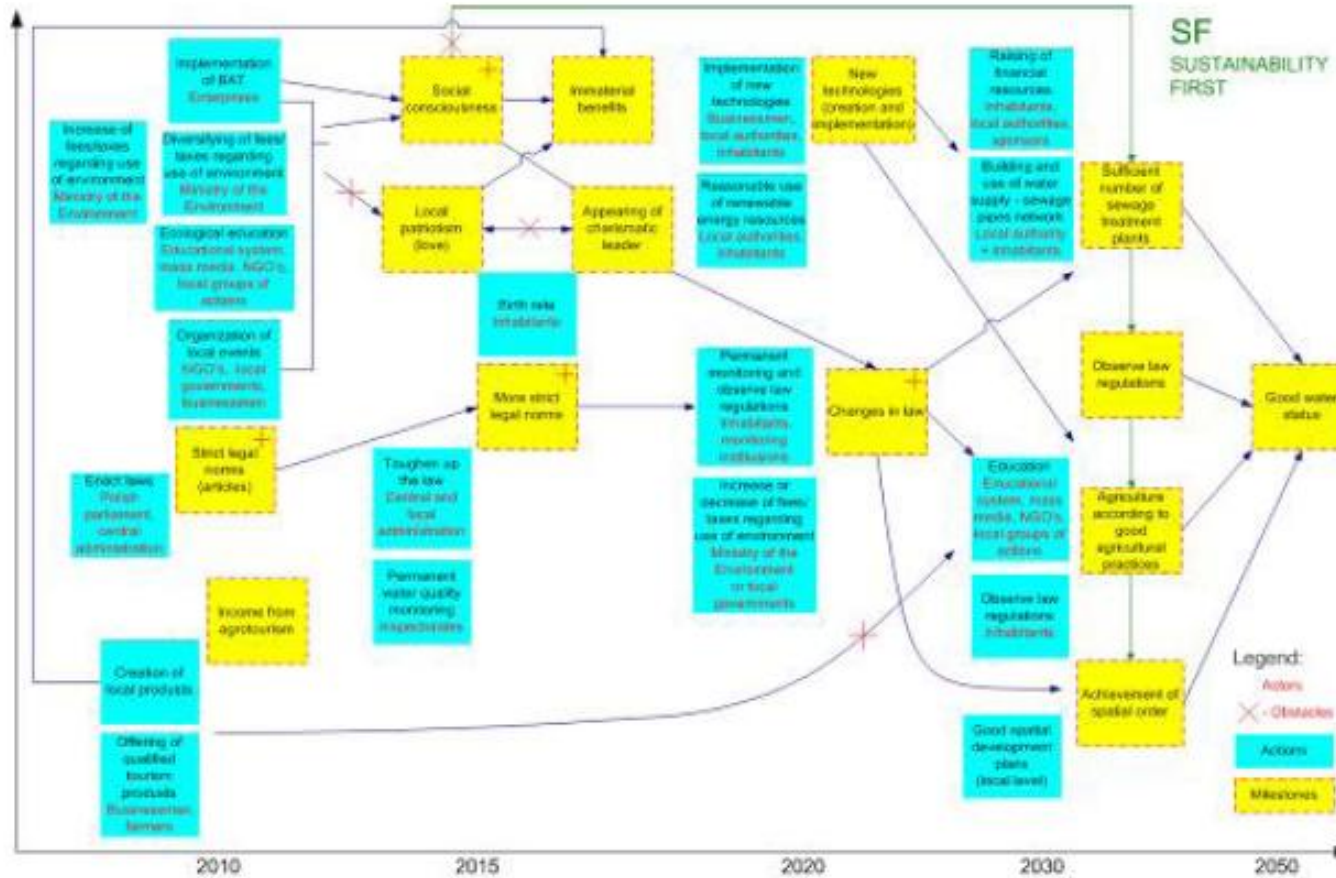


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- Review of the storylines
  - Cross-scale enrichment
  - Modelling
- Policy actions
  - Backcasting from the future to the present



# Backcasting from the future to the present



## SCENES process

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  - Modelling
- Policy actions
  - Backcasting from the future to the present
- Three workshops

## Conditional and plural policy advice

- Socially, institutionally and ecologically contextual processes
- Robustness of knowledge gained by its embeddedness
- Environmental issues are engaging – participants bring commitments not detached perception and values to a process
- Informing and forming policies
  - Appraisal – Commitment
  - Opening up – Closing down
- A participatory process takes place in its context
  - The participants bring the context in
  - The process aims at changing or reproducing the context
  - There is life between the workshops

# Evaluation framework

## Research topics:

**Social linkages**  
Participants and views

**Cognitive linkages**  
Topics and learning

**Mobilisation linkages**  
Usability and networking

## Data:

- Lists of participants
- Questionnaires

- FCMs and storylines
- Questionnaires

- Lists of participants
- List of follow-up activities
- Questionnaires

## Analysis:

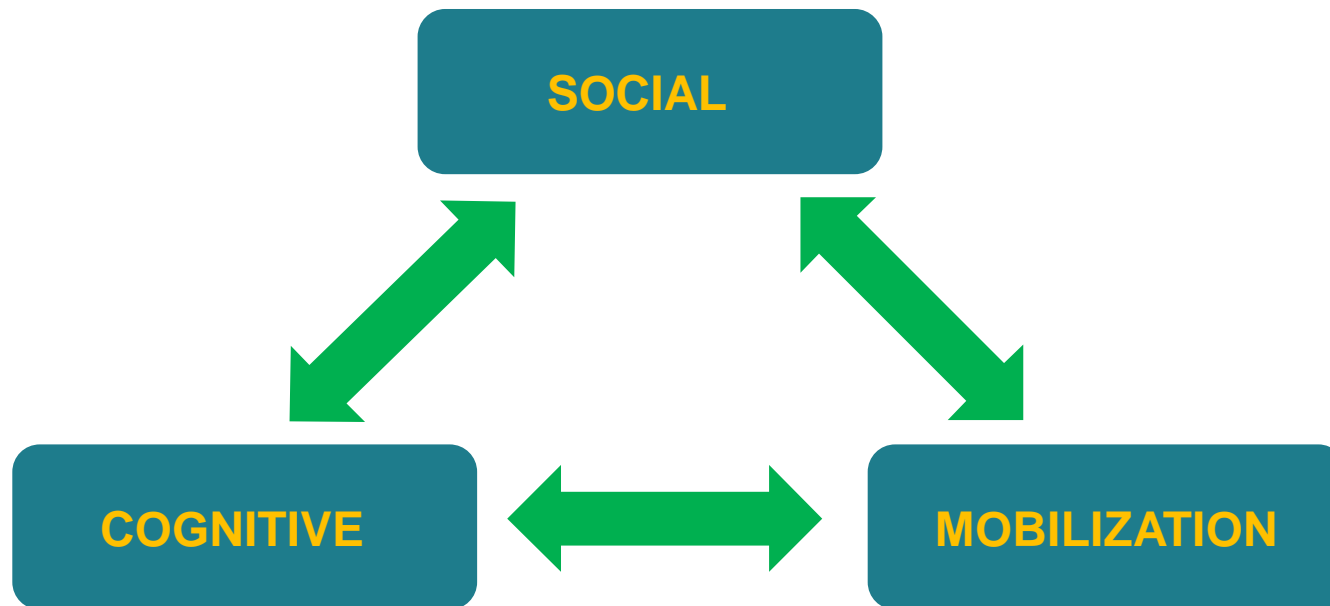
- Scope of participation
- Handling of different views

- Scales and scopes of problem framings
- Learning experiences

- Assessments of usability
  - Networking
- Linkages to policy processes

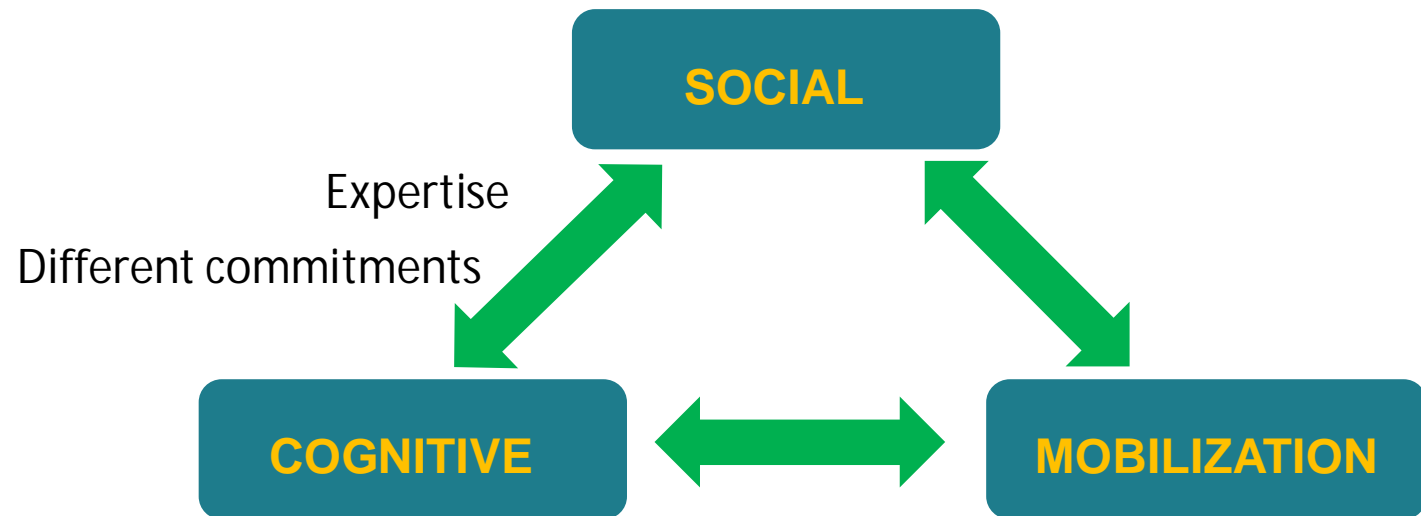
## Dynamic linkages framework

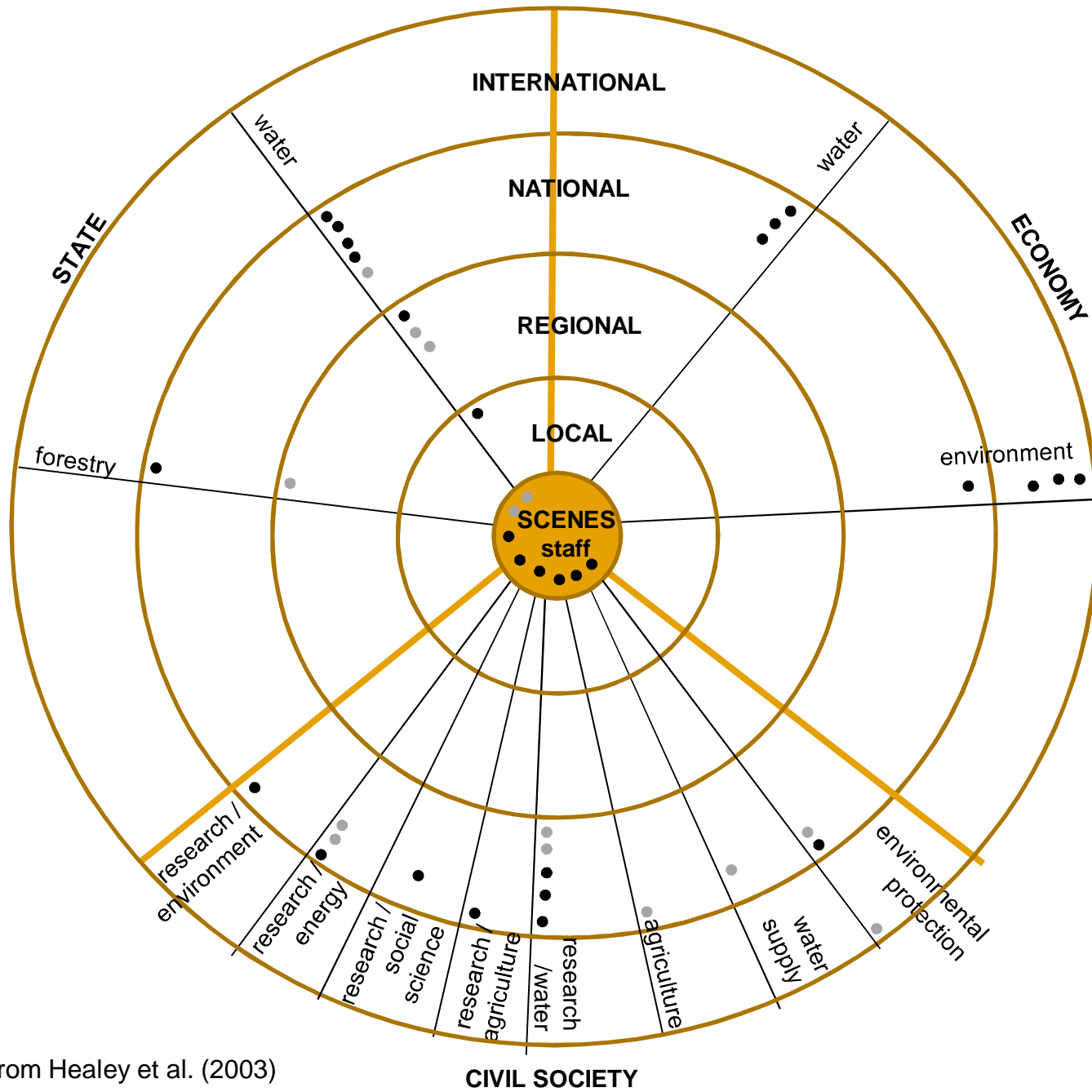
- Dynamic use of criteria  
→ Linkages between the categories in a focus



## Social - Cognitive

- Scope of participation
- Scale of participants



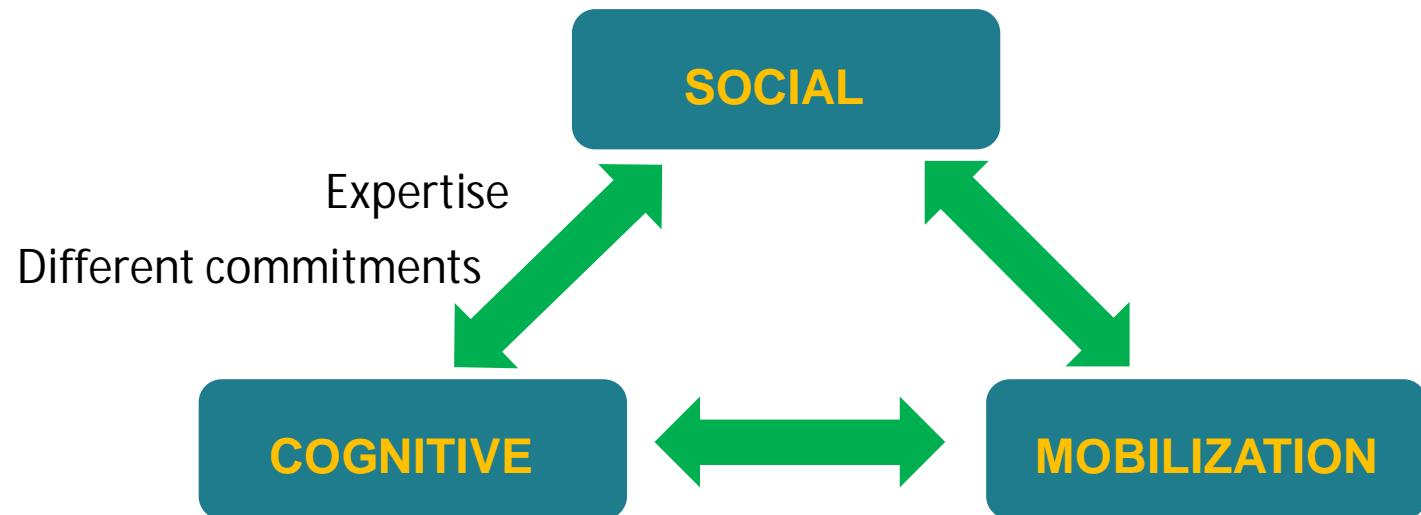


Panel	N:o of sectors represented			N:o of policy levels represented		
	Civil society	Economy	State	Civil society	Economy	State
Eastern Baltic	4	2	2	2	2	3
Narew	4	2	4	2	2	2
Peipsi	3	2	3	3	1	2
Candellaro	4	2	3	4	2	1
Guadiana	5	2	3	4	2	3
Seyhan	6	1	3	3	1	3
Lower Don	4	4	3	3	2	3

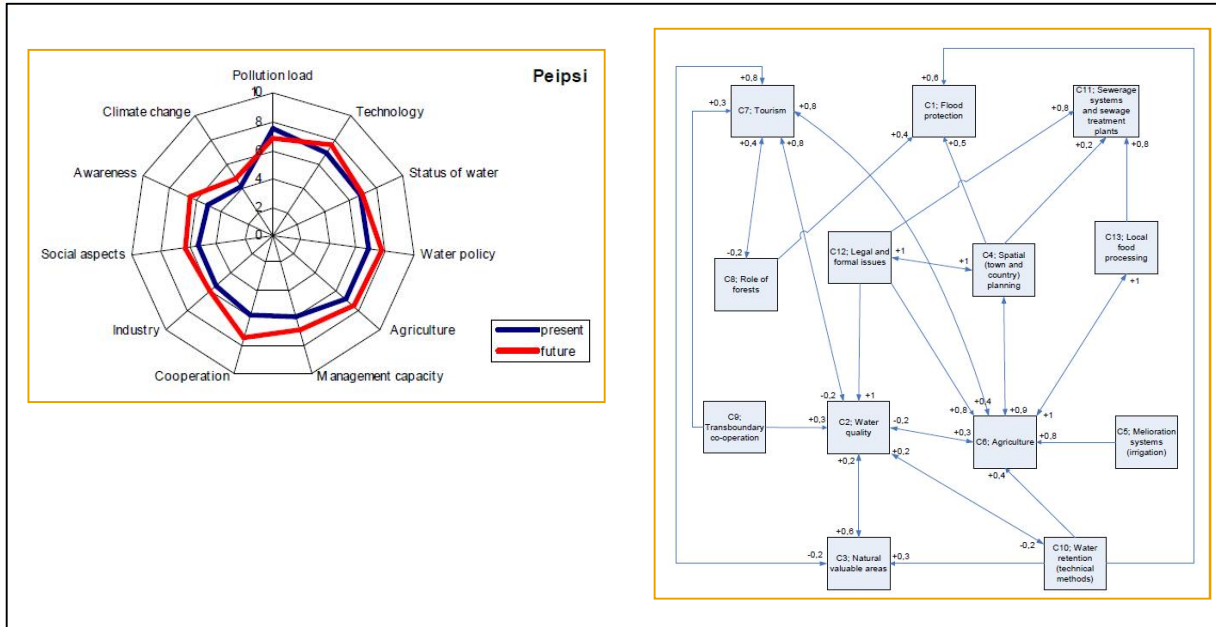
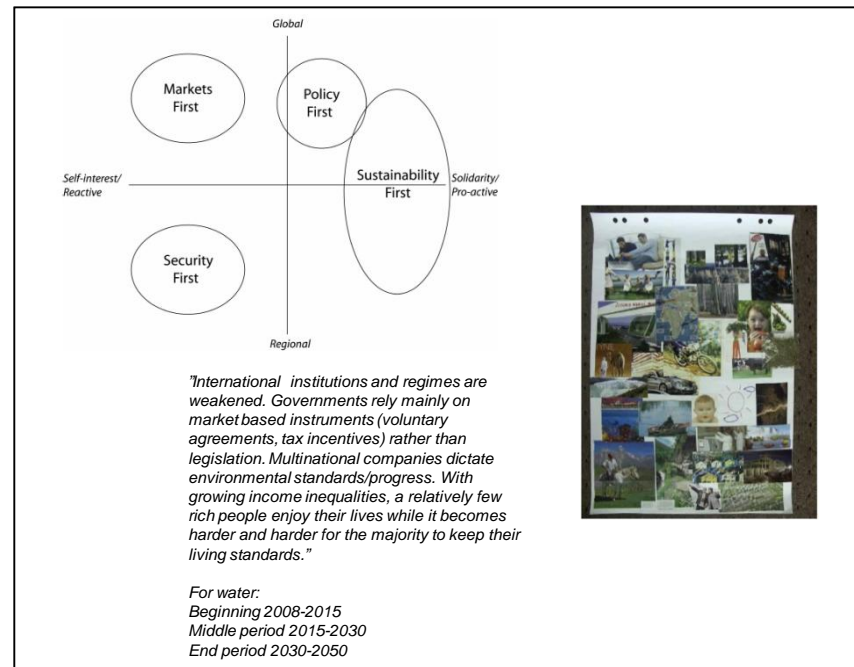


## Social - Cognitive

- Scope of participation
- Scale of participants
- Methods used in knowledge production
  - Which commitments are given a voice?



- Opening up or closing down?
- Cross-scale enrichment

The diagram is a 2x2 matrix. The vertical axis represents the scale: 'Global' at the top and 'Regional' at the bottom. The horizontal axis represents the orientation: 'Self-interest/Reactive' on the left and 'Solidarity/Pro-active' on the right. In the top-left quadrant (Global, Self-interest/Reactive), there is a circle labeled 'Markets First'. In the top-right quadrant (Global, Solidarity/Pro-active), there is a circle labeled 'Policy First'. In the bottom-left quadrant (Regional, Self-interest/Reactive), there is a circle labeled 'Security First'. In the bottom-right quadrant (Regional, Solidarity/Pro-active), there is a large oval labeled 'Sustainability First'.

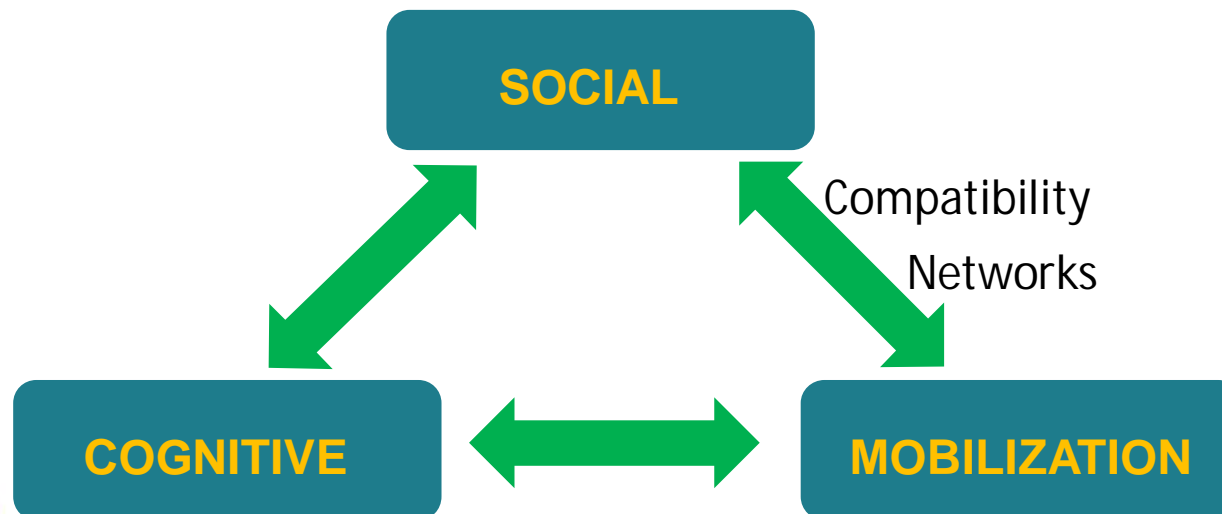
*"International institutions and regimes are weakened. Governments rely mainly on market based instruments (voluntary agreements, tax incentives) rather than legislation. Multinational companies dictate environmental standards/progress. With growing income inequalities, a relatively few rich people enjoy their lives while it becomes harder and harder for the majority to keep their living standards."*

For water:  
 Beginning 2008-2015  
 Middle period 2015-2030  
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## Social - Mobilization

- Scope of participation
- Scale of participants
- Institutional/policy context
- Networks: new and existing
- What kind of commitments can be taken to policy-forming?



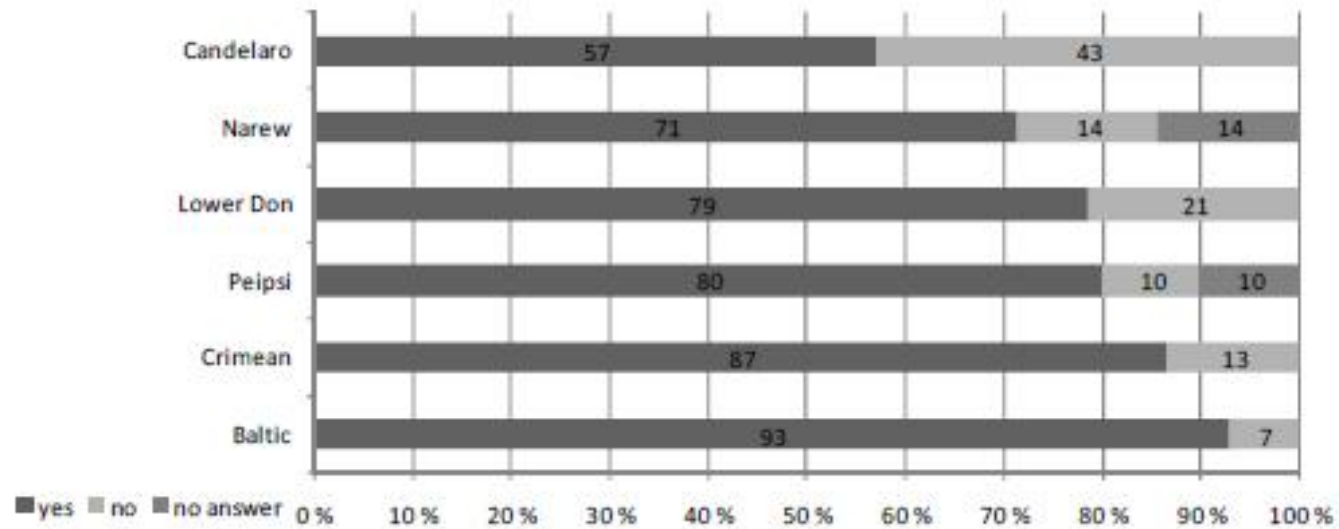


Figure 7. Did you make in the SCENES workshops any new contacts that are useful for your work?

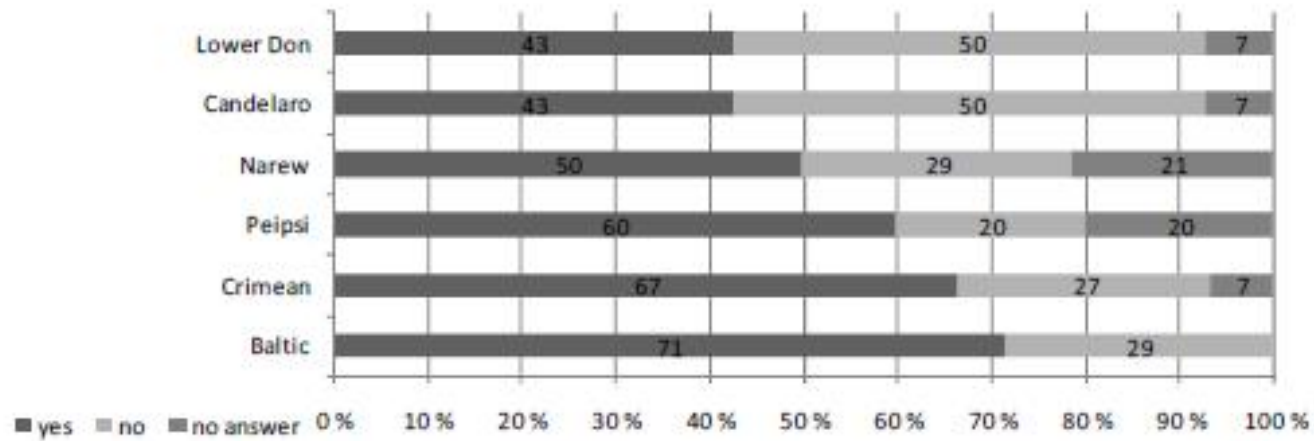
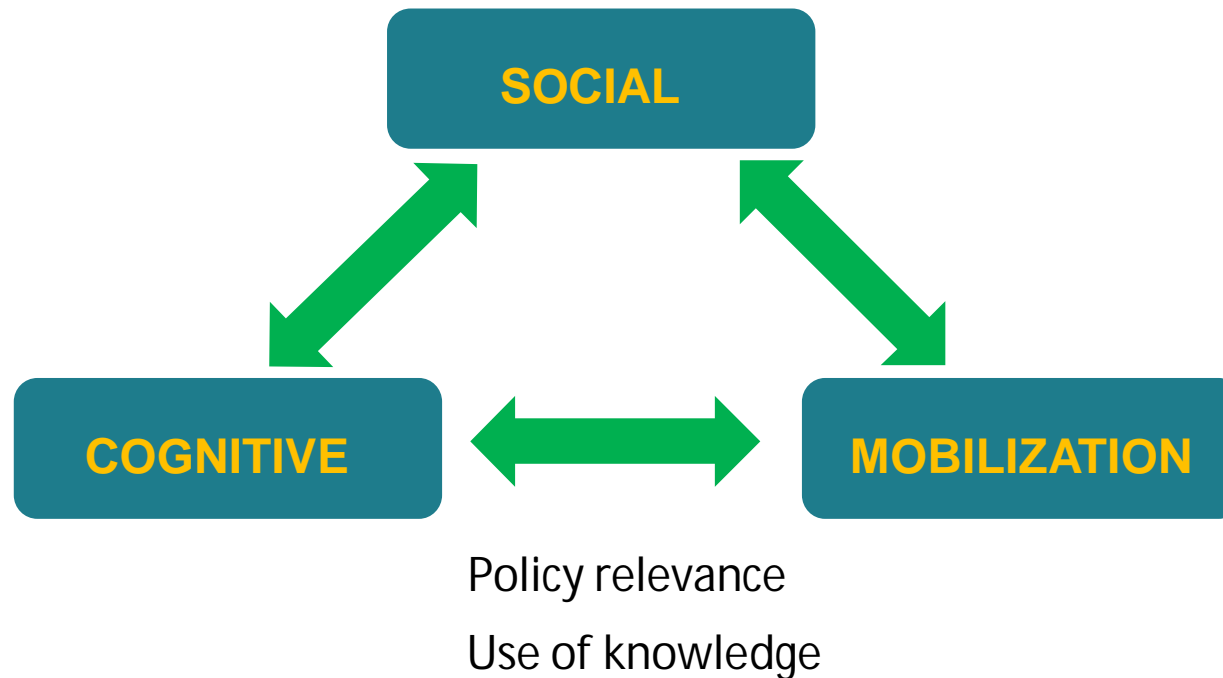
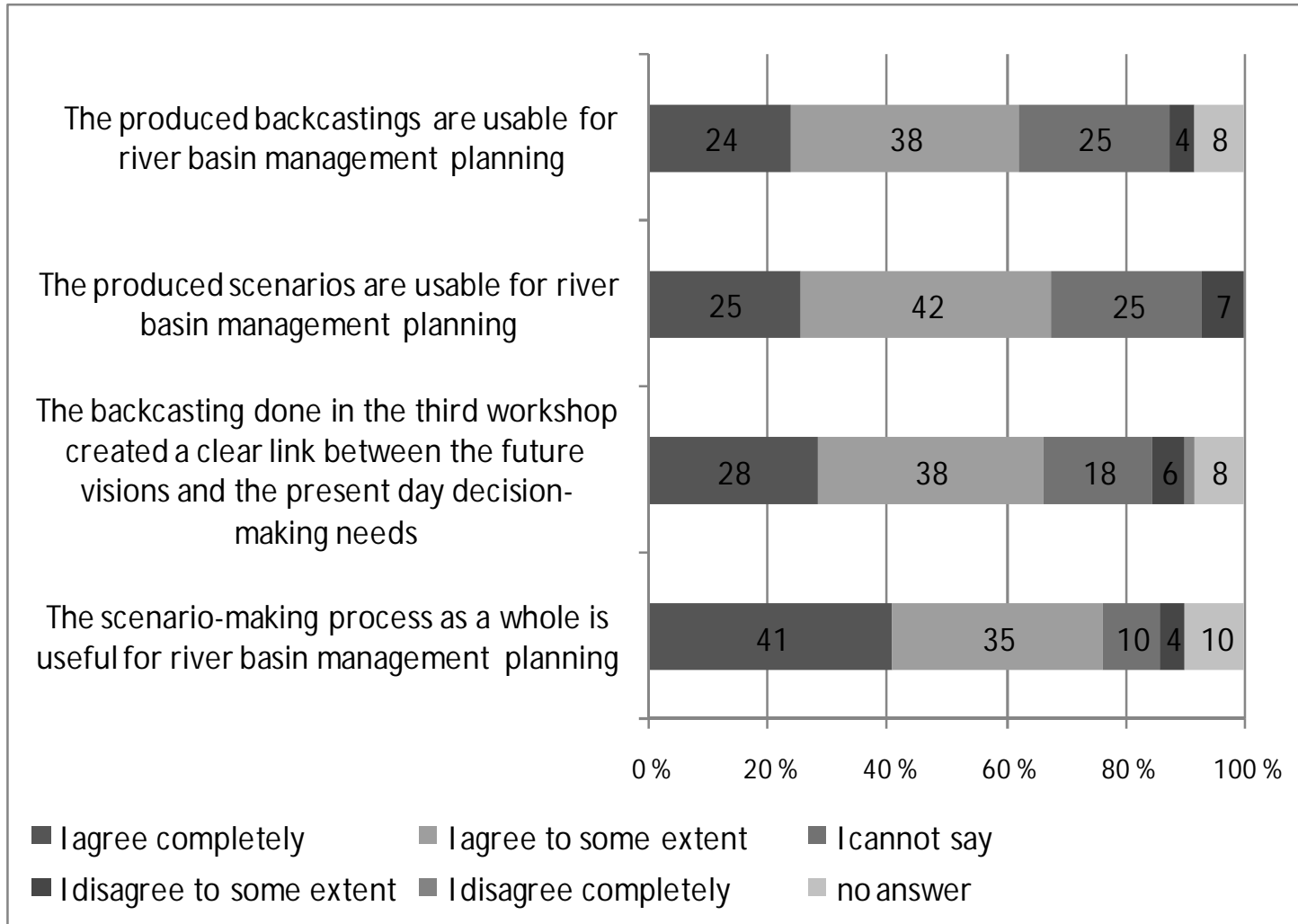


Figure 8. Have you used the contacts you have made in the SCENES workshops in your work?

## Cognitive - Mobilization



- Were relevant results gained?
  - participants' needs, project's needs, institutions' needs
- Usefulness of the knowledge to participants' commitments
  - the process appreciated, more than the results



## Conclusions

- SCENES Water scenarios call for critical attention to public participation
- Public concerns need to be given special attention when enhancing participation in water management
  - Knowledge production practices for articulating the different entanglements with water
- Assisting the articulation of public concerns requires special care and methodologies
  - Public concerns into science: other kinds of ontologies and development of methodologies for capturing and articulating those
  - For policy practice: reflexivity towards politics exercised in various phases of policy cycle; public concerns become articulated along the way
- Devotion to public concerns calls for the extension of concerned parties
  - Participation in research-is broadening.
  - Need to improve the inclusiveness

## Thanks for your attention!

- Further reading:
  - Stirling A., 2008. "Opening Up" and "Closing Down". Power Participation and Pluralism in the Social Appraisal of Technology. *Science, Technology & Human Values* 33, 262-294.
  - Marres N., 2007. Issues Deserve More Credit: Pragmatist Contributions to the Study of Public Involvement in Controversy. *Social Studies of Science* 37, 759-780.
  - Gomart, E. and M. Hajer 2003. Is that politics? For an inquiry into forms in contemporary politics. In: B. Joerges and H. Nowotny (eds.), *Social Studies of Science and Technology: Looking back ahead*. Kluwer, The Netherlands. pp. 33-61.
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