



Meso-level eco-efficiency indicators to assess technologies and their uptake in water use sectors Collaborative project, Grant Agreement No: 282882

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# Abstract

Deliverable 6.6 presents the results of the final scientific event, which took place in conjunction with "The Europe we want", 17th European Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production, on the 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014 in Portoroz, Slovenia. The EcoWater project participants successfully submitted and delivered 12 presentations at the Conference. Several of these products are being further developed into full papers. The abstracts and presentations are included in these proceedings. The draft full papers can be found via this link (https://conferences.matheo.si/getFile.py/access?resId=0&materialId=3&confld=0).

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## **1** Introduction

The EcoWater project aims to achieve broad dissemination of its results. For this purpose, the Project team decided to combine the final scientific event with a relevant scientific conference, as this would attract a larger audience compared to a standalone conference. The chosen conference was <u>"The Europe we want", 17<sup>th</sup> European</u> Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production, which took place on the 14-16 October 2014 in Portoroz, Slovenia, and featured a total of 136 abstracts accepted for oral presentation.

#	Authors	Title	Publication
1	Assimacopoulos D., Angelis- Dimakis A. and Arampatzis G.	Systemic eco-efficiency assessment in water use systems	Full draft available, publication in 2015
2	Arampatzis G., Angelis-Dimakis A., Assimacopoulos D. and Blind M.	An online suite of tools to support the systemic eco-efficiency assessment in water use systems	Full draft available, publication in 2015
3	Levidow L.	Facilitating multi-stakeholder discussions on improvement options through comparative eco-efficiency assessments	Full draft available, publication in 2015
4	Todorovic M., Mehmeti A. and Scardigno A.	Assessing the eco-efficiency of a meso- scale agricultural water system in Southern Italy	Full draft available, publication in 2015
5	Maia R. and Silva C.	Eco-efficiency assessment in the agricultural sector: the Monto novo irrigation perimeter, Portugal	Full draft available, publication in 2015
6	Stanchev P., Dimova G., and Ribarova I.	Complexity, assumptions and solutions for eco-efficiency assessment of urban water systems	Full draft available, publication in 2015
7	Steiger O., Hugi Ch., Assimacopoulos D., and Levidow L.	Towards enhancing whole-system eco- efficiency: case study of a Swiss municipal water system	Intended 2015
8	Angelis-Dimakis A., Alexandratou A., and Balzarini A.	Value chain upgrading in a textile dyeing industry	Full draft available, publication in 2015
9	Blind M.	Improving resource and eco-efficiency of an electricity-heat cogeneration plant using a systemic eco-efficiency approach	Intended 2015
10	Lindgaard-Jørgensen P., Andersen M., and Holm Kristensen G.	Technology options in a dairy plant: assessing whole-system eco-efficiency	Full draft available, publication in 2015
11	Skenhall S,, Nilsson Å., Levidow L., Fortkamp U., Klingspor M. and Rydberg T.	Technology options in truck manufacturing: assessing whole-system eco-efficiency	Intended 2015

#	Authors	Title	Publication
12	Skenhall S., Danielsson L., and Rydberg T.	Comparing water footprint methods: the importance of a life cycle approach in assessing water footprint	Intended 2015

The conference proceedings including those papers denoted 'full draft available' in the table above, are available for via <u>this link</u>.

## 2 Abstracts and presentations

## 2.1 Systemic eco-efficiency assessment in water use systems

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#### 2.1.1 Abstract

Eco-efficiency has recently become an important concept of environmental decision making, serving as a policy objective and linked with resource efficiency it can be a measure of progress towards sustainability. The need for improving eco-efficiency leads to the challenge of identifying the most promising alternative solutions which improve both the economic and the environmental performance of a given system ("eco-innovations"). However, interventions in complex physical systems may lead to large-scale transformations and a systemic approach towards eco-innovation is required, in order to capture the complexity of all interrelated aspects and the interactions among the actors involved.

The goal of this paper is to present a methodology, developed in the context of the EcoWater research project, for the eco-efficiency assessment of a water use system at the meso level and the estimation of the anticipated ecoefficiency improvement from the introduction of innovative technologies, through a set of representative indicators.

A meso-level water use system combines a typical water supply chain with the corresponding production chain. It incorporates both the physical structure of the system and the rules governing the operation, performance and interactions of the system components. In such a system, water is considered in three different ways: (i) as a resource, (ii) as a productive input, and (iii) as a waste stream.

The developed methodological framework consists of four distinct steps. The first step leads to a clear, transparent mapping of the system at hand and the respective value chain, while the second step provides the means to assess its eco-efficiency. The assessment of the environmental performance follows a life-cycle oriented approach using the midpoint impact categories (including the impacts from the background systems). The economic performance of the water use system is measured using the Total Value Added to the product due to water use. One important novelty is the distribution of economic costs/benefits and environmental pressures over different stages and stakeholders in the value chain. The third step includes the selection of innovative technologies, which are assessed in the last step and combined with mid-term scenarios to determine the feasibility of their implementation.

Such as a systemic approach provides a concrete, comprehensive and accurate assessment of the economic and environmental performance of the system but also entails the consideration of the interdependencies and the economic interactions of all the heterogeneous actors involved in these two chains. Furthermore, the meso-level can act as an intermediate step in technological transition; between the technological niches (in the micro-level) and the wide adoption (or rejection) of new technologies (in the macro-level). In the meso level, all involved actors are urged to cooperate in order to (a) propose and build innovative technological solutions that will improve the overall eco-efficiency of the system; and (b) provide the necessary policy framework that will facilitate and promote their uptake. This ensures that upstream decisions in the value chain are coordinated with downstream activities and all potential synergies are identified, leading to the creation of "meso-level closed resource loops" and thus the promotion of a circular economy.

### Keywords

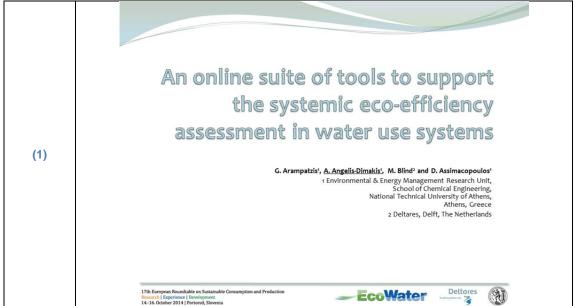
Systemic eco-efficiency, water use systems, value chain, eco-innovation

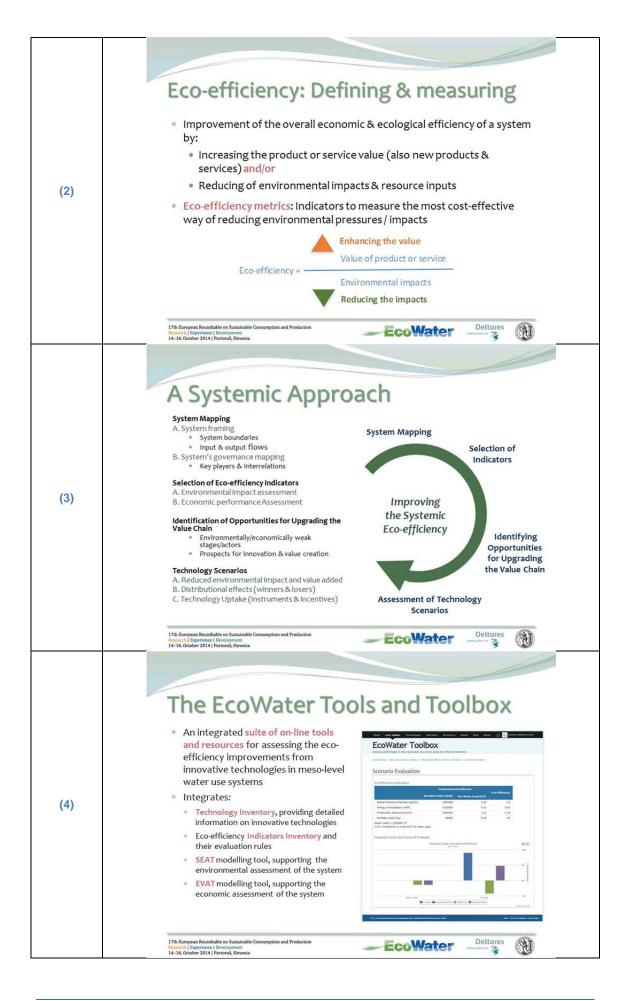
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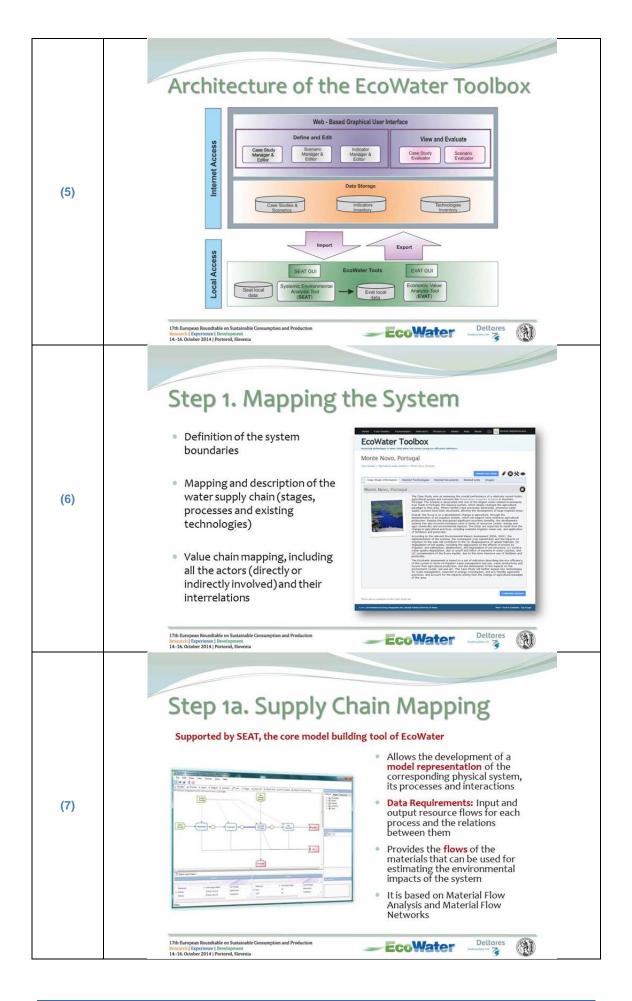
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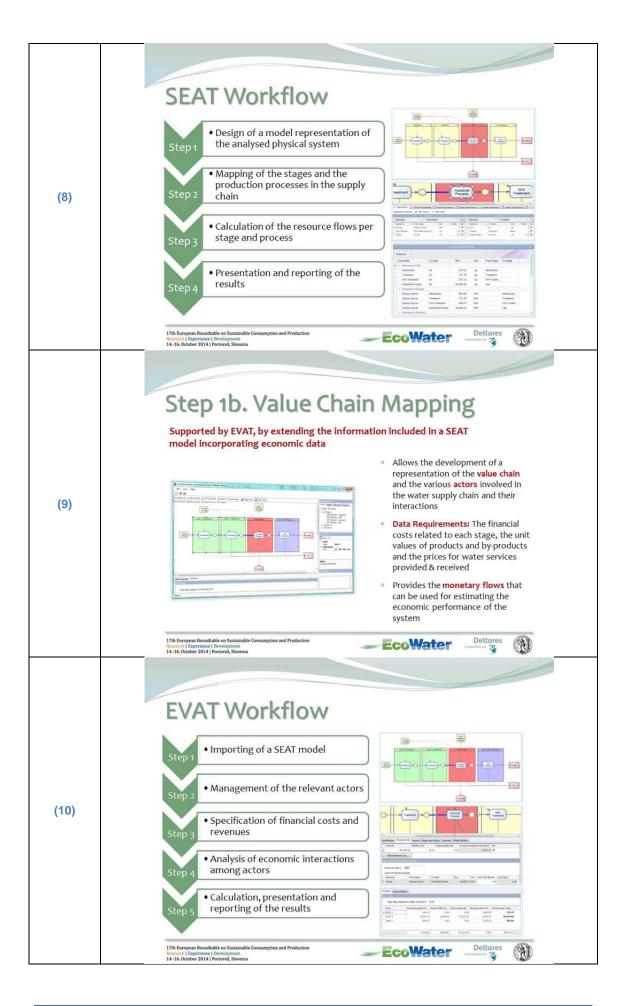
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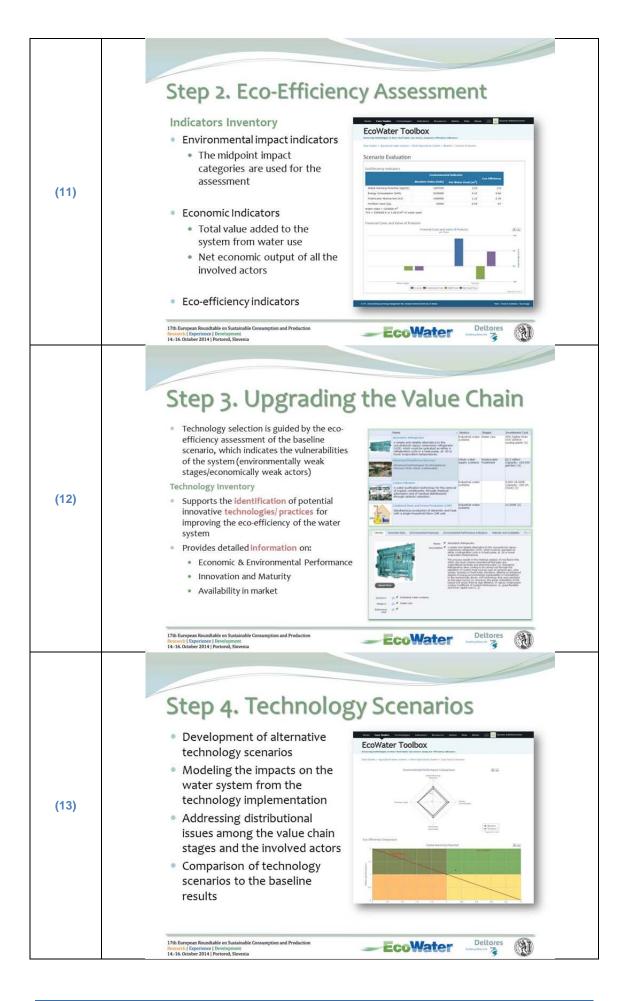


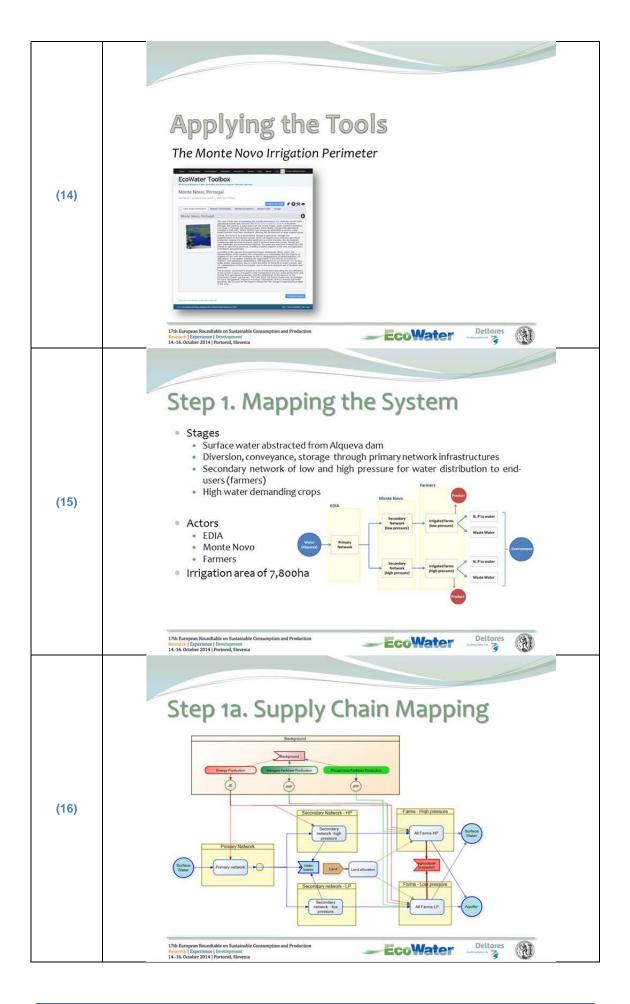


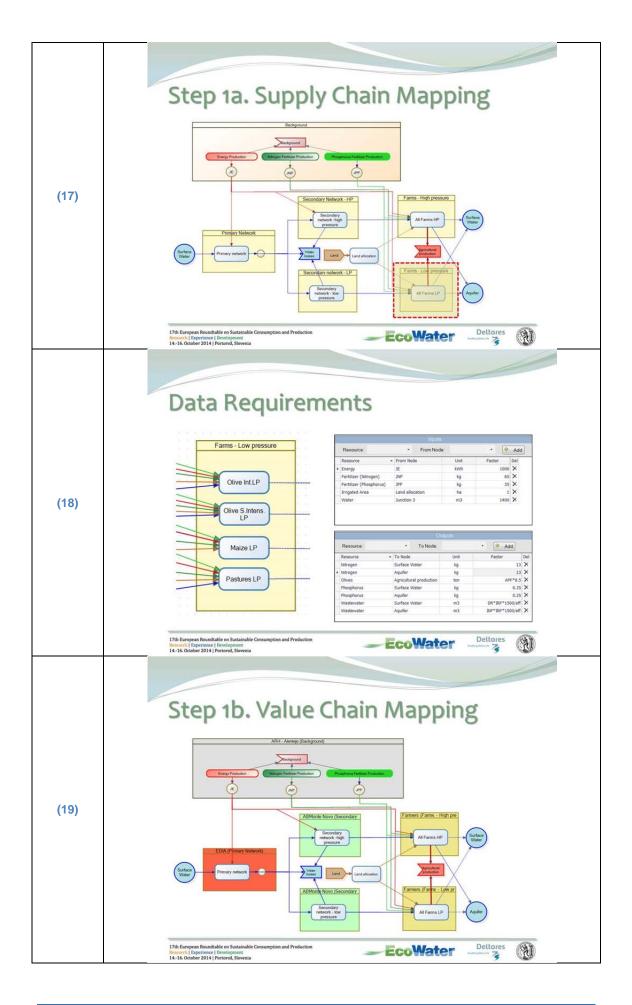


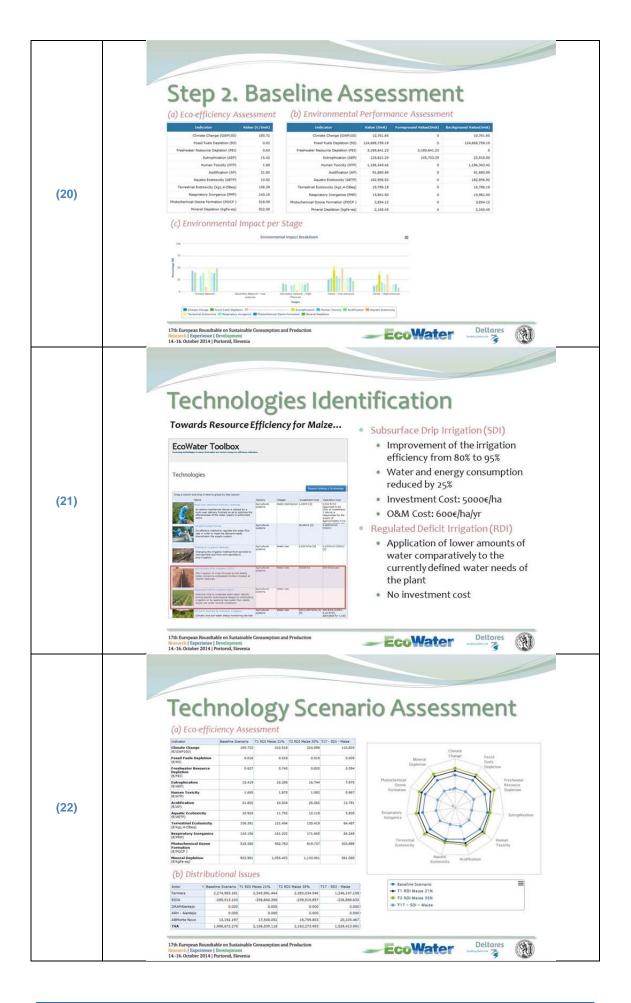














# 2.2 An online suite of tools to support the systemic eco-efficiency assessment in water use systems

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#### 2.2.1 Abstract

Achieving sustainable development of water use systems requires methods and tools to help quantify and compare their performance. In recent policy frameworks, such as the Europe 2020 strategy, resource efficiency and resource productivity have been widely promoted for transforming economy into a sustainable one. Eco-efficiency is a more general concept that has been elaborated as a key instrument for promoting fundamental changes in the way societies produce and consume resources.

The eco-efficiency assessment of a water use system, as well as the estimation of the anticipated eco-efficiency improvement as a result of innovative practices/technologies, is a conceptually and methodologically challenging issue. A systemic approach is required to capture the complexity of all interrelated aspects and the interactions among the heterogeneous actors involved in the system. This involves mapping the behaviour of the system into representative models, structuring the analysis in easy to understand procedures and developing versatile software tools for supporting the analysis. Typical software tools focus on environmental aspects of a production system and their capabilities for simultaneously analysing economic aspects are usually limited. In order to go one step further and include the meso-level effects of technology decisions, models and tools that combine both economic and environmental perspectives should be developed.

In the context of the EcoWater research project, an integrated suite of on-line tools and resources (EcoWater Toolbox) for assessing eco-efficiency improvements from innovative technologies in water use systems at the meso-level has been developed. Equipped with a continuously updated inventory of currently available technological innovations as well as a list of eco-efficiency indicators, the Toolbox supports a comprehensive four-step assessment:

1. Allows the users to frame the case study by defining system boundaries, describing the water supply chain and value chains and including all the actors.

2. Helps the users to establish a baseline eco-efficiency assessment, using the integrated modelling tools.

3. Supports the users in identifying both sector-specific and system-wide

technologies and practices to suit their situation, through the integrated technology inventory.

4. Enables the users to assess innovative technology solutions by developing predictive technology scenarios and comparing these with baseline results.

At the core of the Toolbox are two modelling tools, which combine both economic and environmental viewpoints into a single modelling framework. The first tool, named "Systemic Environmental Analysis Tool" (SEAT), assists in building a representation of the physical system, its processes and interactions. This model forms the basis for evaluating the environmental performance of the system. The second tool, named "Economic Value chain Analysis Tool" (EVAT), supplements the analysis of SEAT addressing the value chain and focusing on the economic component of the eco-efficiency.

The methodology adopted and the operational aspects of the EcoWater Toolbox are presented in the current paper and demonstrated through the assessment of the environmental impacts and the eco-efficiency performance associated with the water value chain in the case of a milk production unit of a dairy industry.

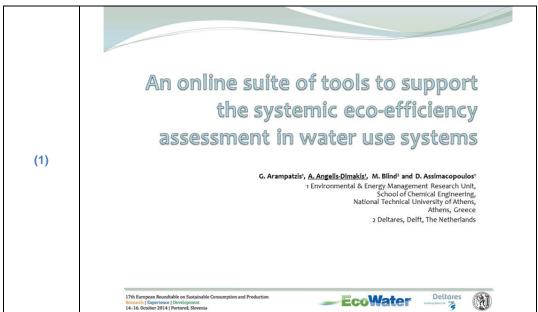
### Keywords

Eco-efficiency, meso-level, value-chain, environmental modelling, innovative technologies

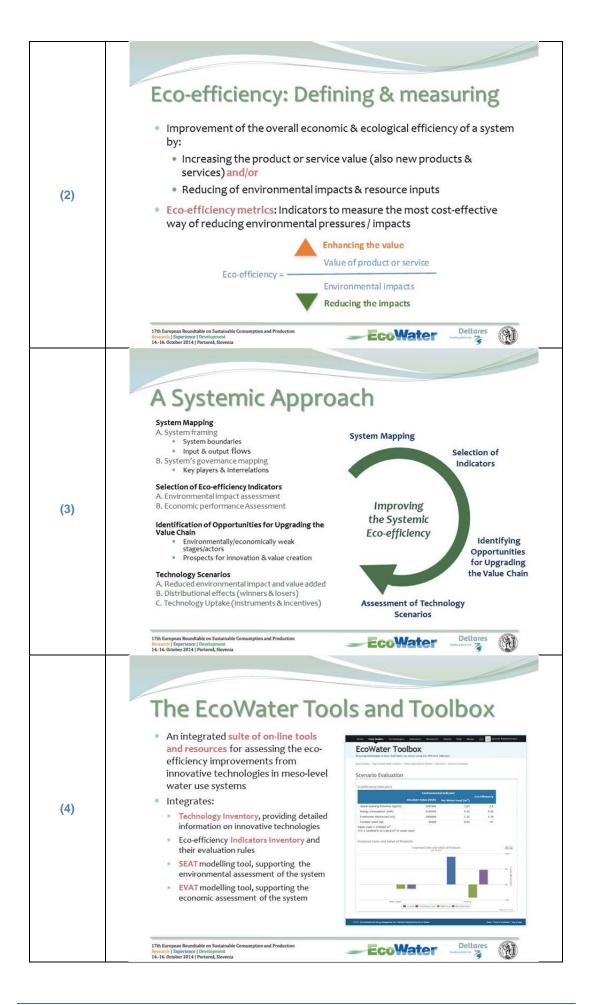
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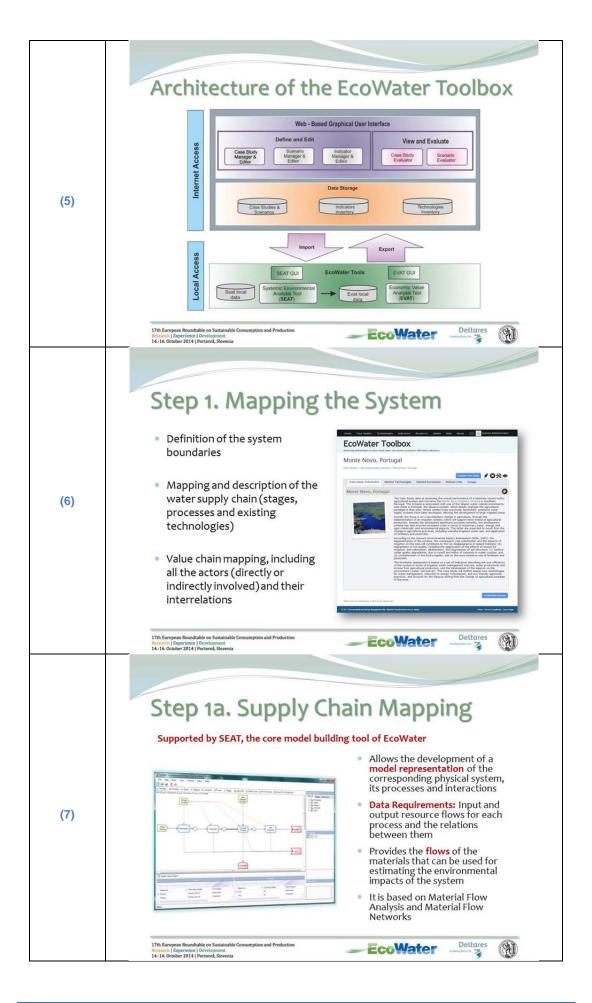
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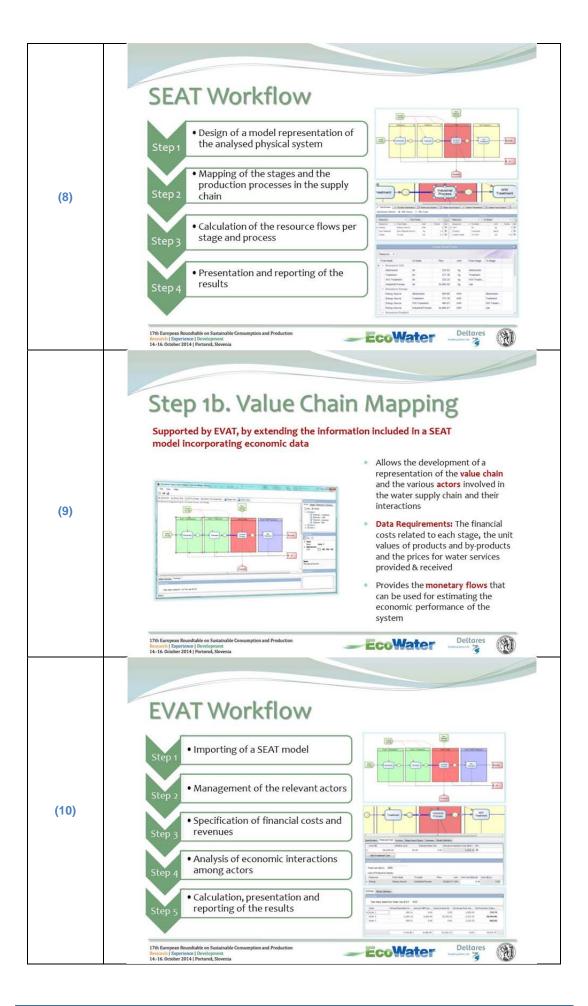
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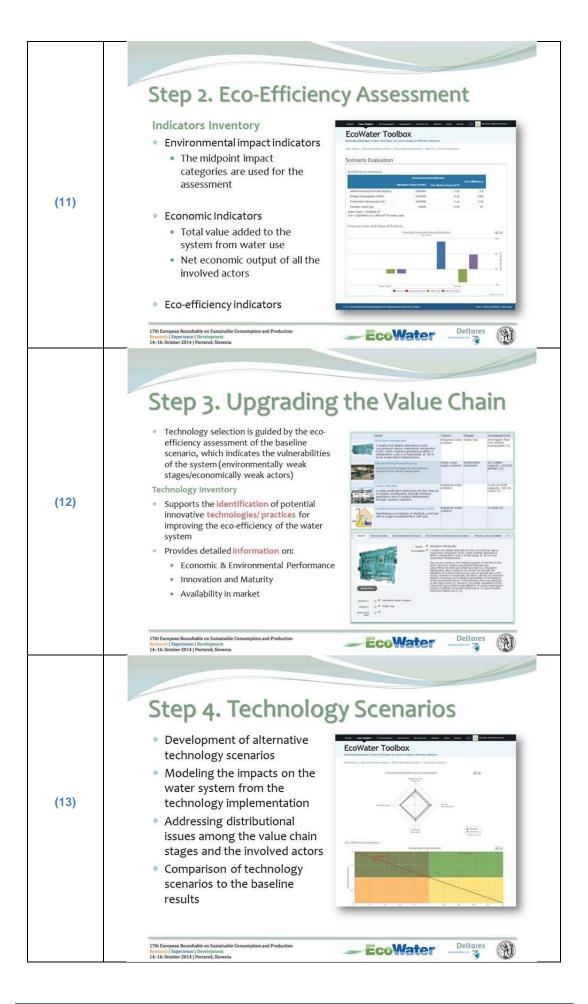


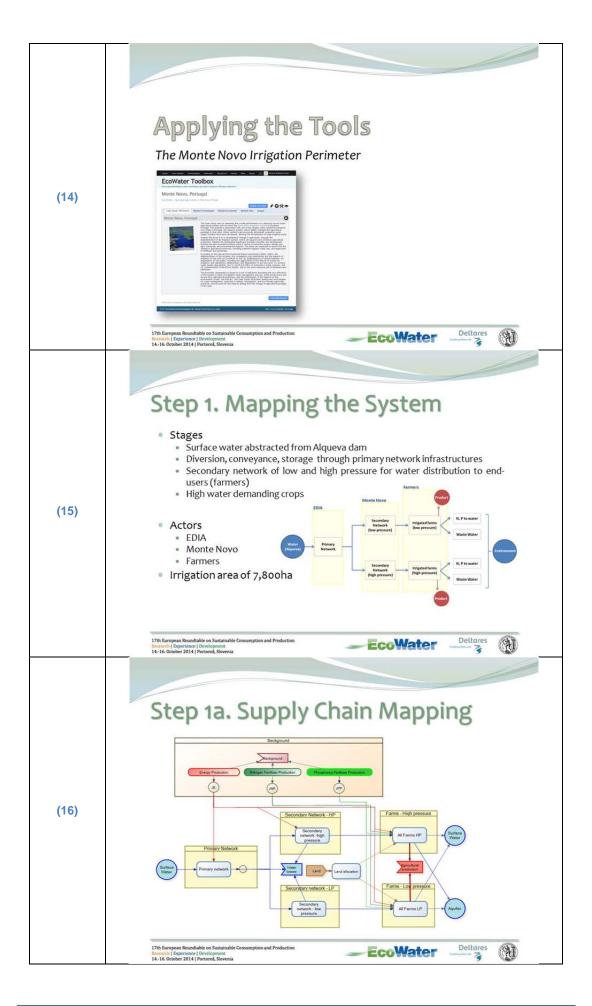
#### 2.2.2 Presentation

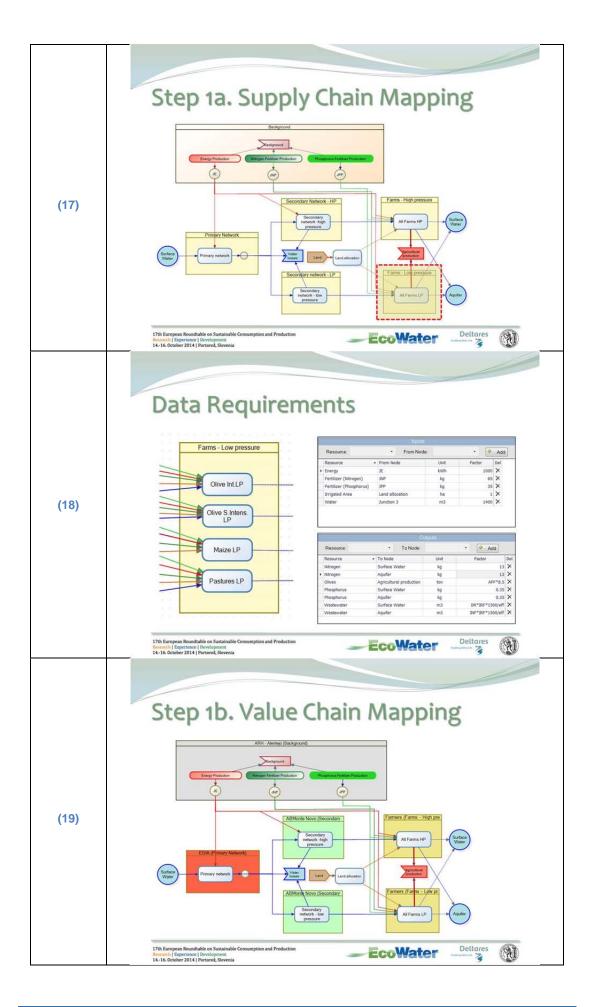


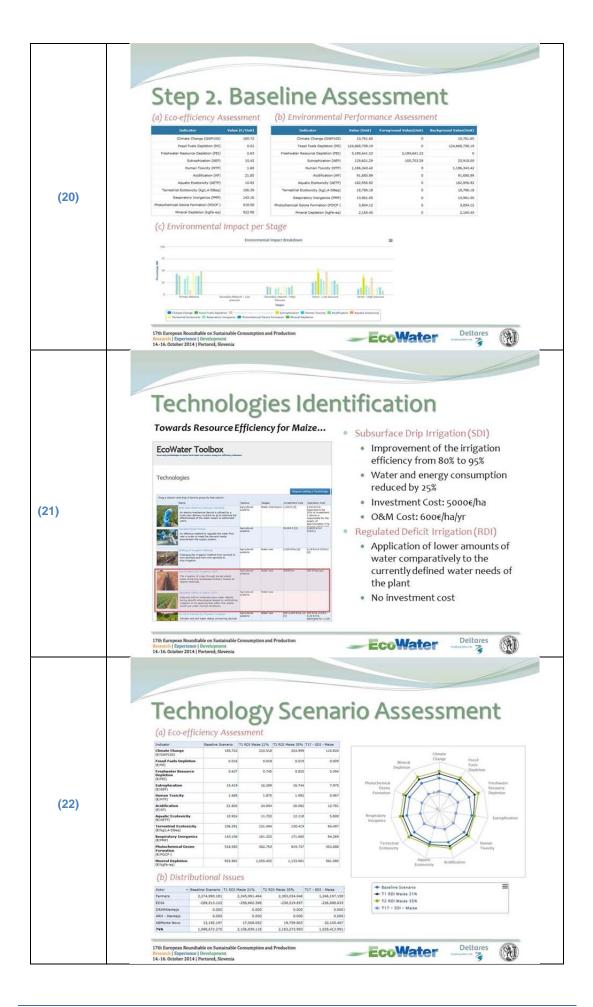














# 2.3 Facilitating multi-stakeholder discussions on improvement options through comparative eco-efficiency assessments

Les LEVIDOW<sup>1</sup>

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#### 2.3.1 Abstract

#### Introduction

EU policy promotes eco-innovation to enhance resource efficiency as a means towards sustainable development. Informing such efforts, the EcoWater project develops and applies eco-efficiency indicators in diverse water-service systems in agricultural, urban and industrial sectors. The project's method compares the baseline situation with improvement options in order to facilitate decisions upgrading the whole-system value chain. This encompasses all relevant stages necessary to generate a product or service.

#### Concepts and methods for stakeholder discussions:

Optimal eco-efficiency improvements depend on stakeholders sharing knowledge and responsibility beyond current institutional boundaries (WBCSD, 2000). According to socio-technical transition theory, actors position themselves somewhere between current and potential future structures – by obeying, neglecting, bypassing and/or transforming the current structure. Each actor needs knowledge of other actors - their interpretive schemas, capacities, normative expectations, etc. They can develop the necessary knowledge and elaborate their future visions through scenario exercises, facilitated by an external agent such as a researcher (Grin et al., 2010). To facilitate such discussions, the EcoWater project analyses interactions among heterogeneous actors, especially water suppliers, water users and wastewater treatment facilities (EcoWater, 2012). For each case study, stakeholders were asked to provide data necessary for assessing whole-system eco-efficiency. Then they attended a workshop for comparing future options, as well as for identifying drivers and barriers, sometimes through a PESTLE-scenario analysis (Van der Heijden, 2005).

#### Results of discussions:

Relative to its overall sector, each case study represents relatively strong eco-efficiency improvements. Workshops prospects for discussed improvement options, their potential benefits, drivers and barriers - but with significant differences in emphasis. For some companies in large-scale industry, participants discussed potential cooperation across the value chain towards common solutions, for example: If a dairy plant adopts in-house wastewater treatment, then this would lower resource burdens within the plant but would bring minimal benefit from a whole-system perspective. In a manufacturing company a change in process would increase whole-system eco-efficiency, but the wastewater treatment plant would lose income. Each for different reasons, those problems warranted further discussion among

stakeholders (Levidow et al., 2014). In the case of textile-dyeing Small and Medium Enterprises, the discussion emphasised barriers from policy frameworks and uncertain markets. In an urban case study, the project team suggested numerous options for improvement, but workshop participants decided instead to discuss politically contentious options, which would be difficult to pursue within or beyond the EcoWater study. For an agricultural area facing groundwater depletion and water shortages, workshop participants initially discussed numerous options for water-use efficiency. But they soon focused instead on external sources of recycled water; this shift signals a weak institutional capacity for sharing responsibility towards common solutions.

### Conclusion:

By assessing whole-system eco-efficiency, the EcoWater method has facilitated multi-stakeholder discussion on investment options. Prior discussion encouraged stakeholders' attendance at a case-study workshop where they learned more about each other's perspectives and future scenarios. Some workshops helped participants to envisage ways of sharing greater responsibility towards whole-system improvements. But in other cases the discussion reproduced current structures and their boundaries. Stronger incentives and opportunities are necessary to overcome such limitations.

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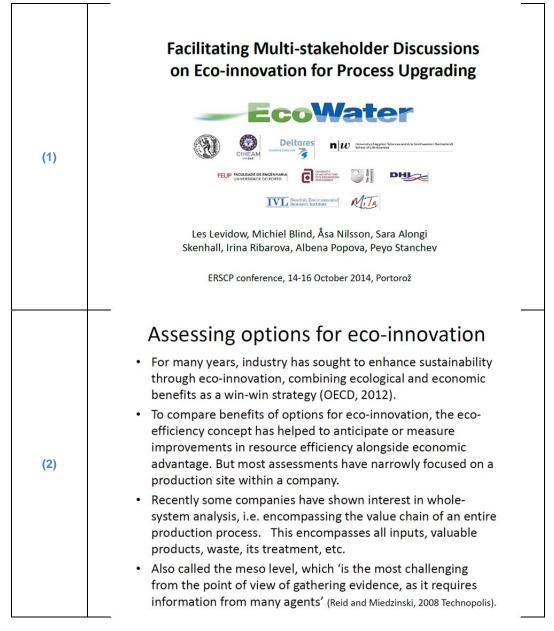
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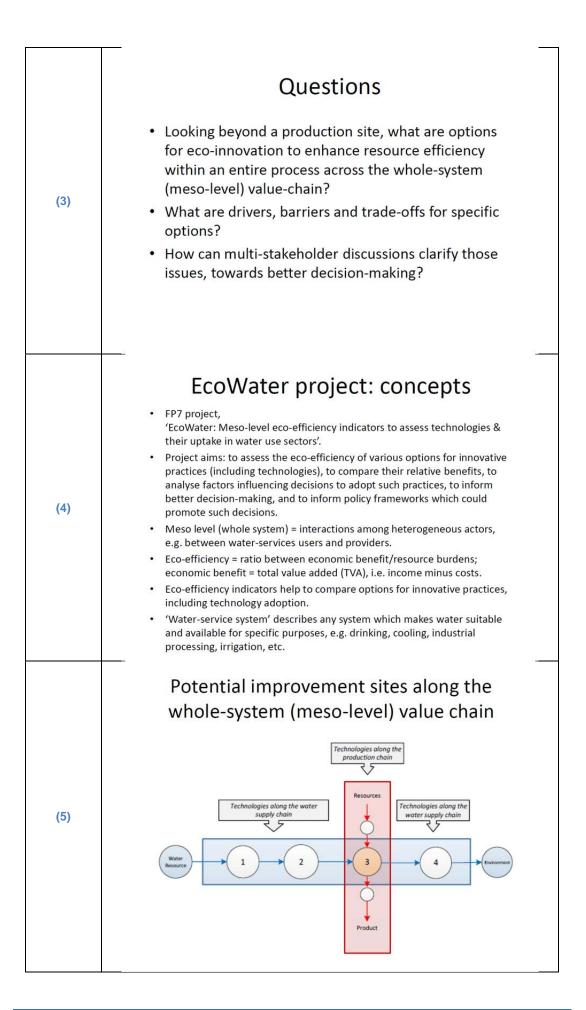
Resource efficiency, whole-system assessment, eco-efficiency, scenario exercises

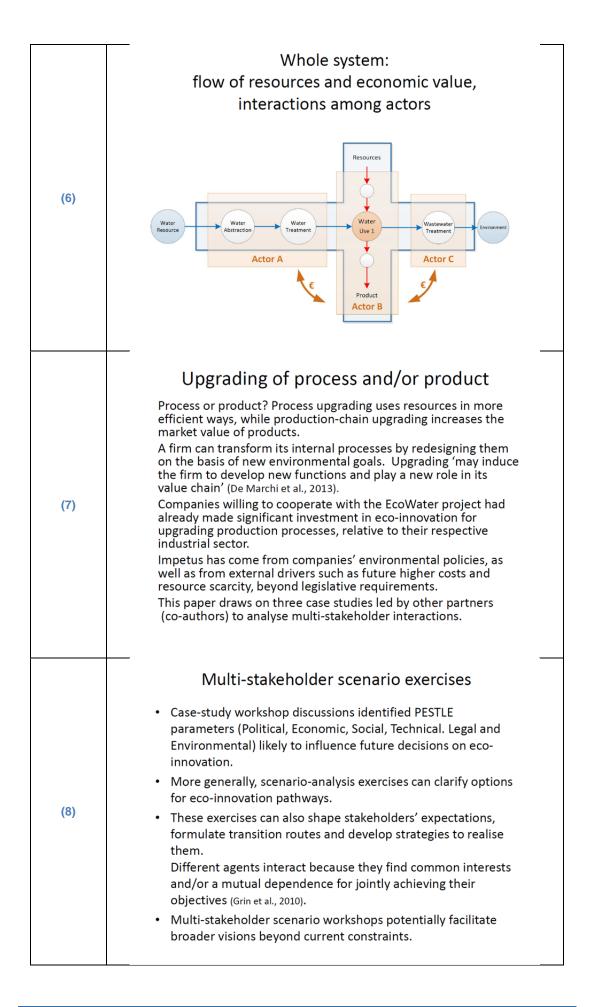
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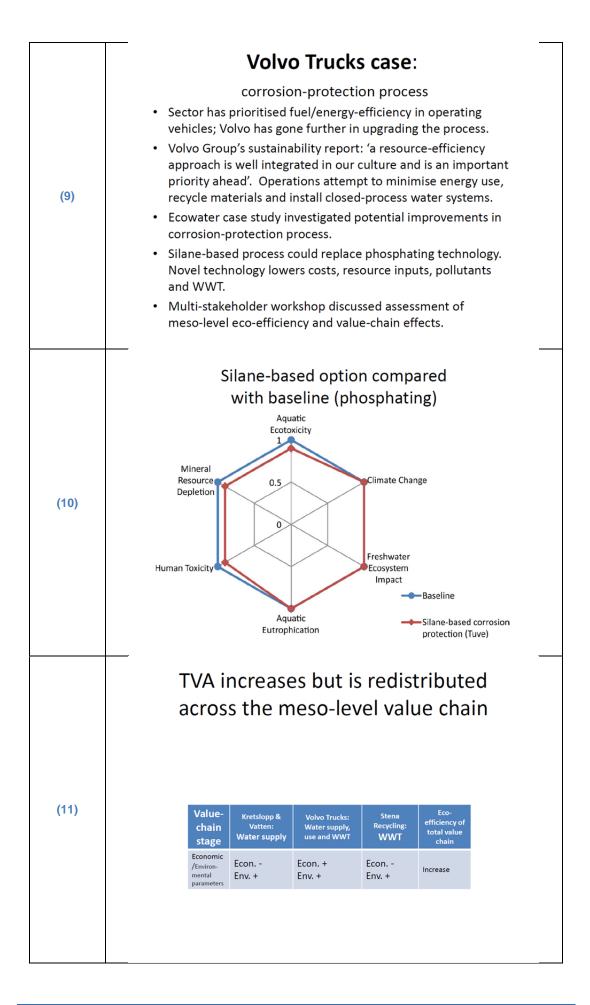
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#### 2.3.2 Presentation

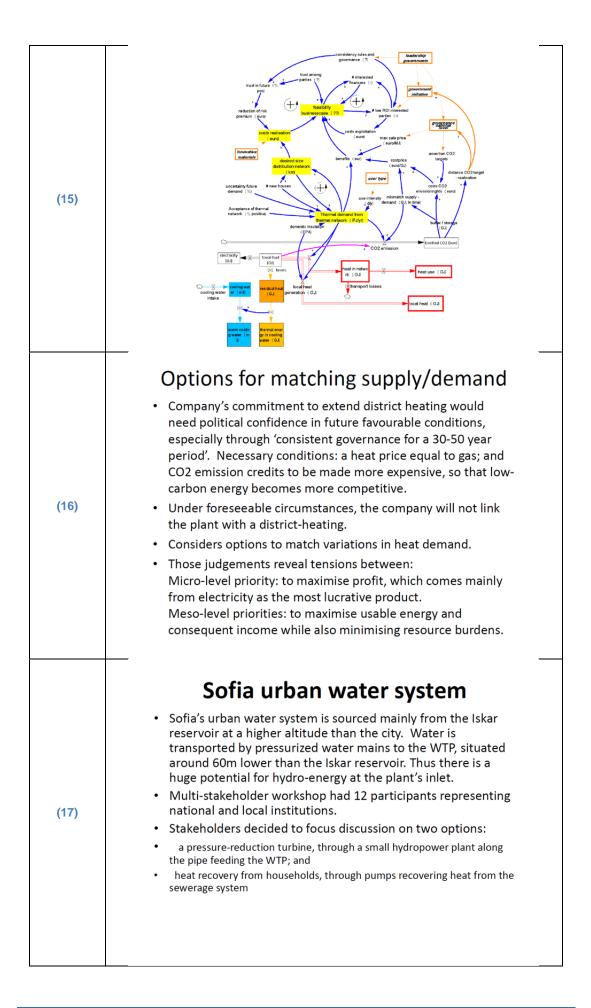


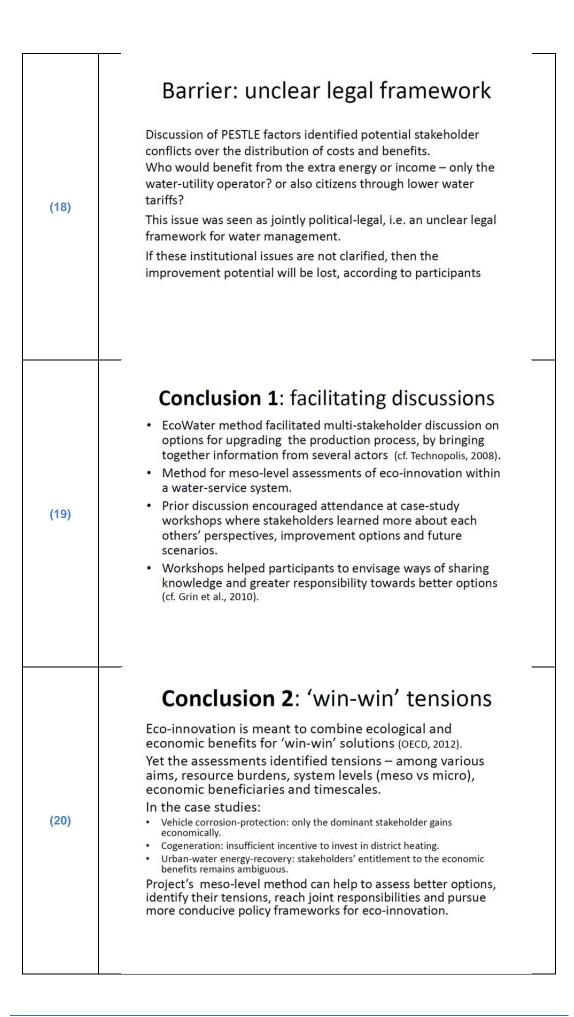






	<u> </u>
(12)	<ul> <li>Stakeholders' conclusions:</li> <li>Technologies should be selected for improving the whole system, not only in the specific processes where they are implemented, in order to avoid sub-optimal investment.</li> <li>Sub-optimisation can be more easily avoided through stakeholder cooperation in evaluating the overall system.</li> <li>Organization of the different players towards a common goal can increase cooperation among actors that share a mutual interest in environmental protection.</li> <li>Meso-level evaluation stimulated discussion.</li> <li>It also gave stakeholders greater insight into where the largest improvements can be made, both environmentally and economically, and how they may influence each other within a common meso-level system.</li> </ul>
(13)	<ul> <li>Energy cogeneration, also known as CHP (Combined Heat &amp; Power), has higher energy efficiency than separate production of each component, provided that there is adequate demand for both power and heat.</li> <li>Key factors in useable heat: use-time variations and temperature options.</li> <li>How to match variable demand with supply?</li> </ul>
(14)	<ul> <li>Workshop focus: thermal network?</li> <li>Plant seeks a new use for excess heat at its current temperature in a larger meso-level value chain.</li> <li>EcoWater study investigated options at the Diemen 33 cogeneration plant.</li> <li>Multi-stakeholder workshop discussed the necessary conditions for establishing a thermal network. District heating systems had been installed in a newly built neighbourhoods in the Netherlands (and elsewhere), but there was little residential building activity near the plant. So this solution would replace previous investment in heating systems.</li> <li>Workshop also discussed drivers and barriers, whose interactions were depicted in an influence diagram.</li> </ul>





	Resource burdens	Energy input in production process	Energy necessary to manage hazards	Eco-innovation option and tensions (example)	
	Water-service roles	in main company	in main and/or WWT company	in main company	
	<ol> <li>Dairy: Milk-powder prodn extracts milky water needing disposal</li> </ol>	Water removal from milk	Treating WW residues to avoid eutrophication	In-house anaerobic WWT would substitute renewable energy and reduce the dairy's GHG emissions. But would bring minimal whole- system benefits, by shifting biogas from the outside to the dairy.	
(21)	2. Trucks: Corrosion-protection needs water to carry inputs, to heat the process baths and to remove wastes.	Water abstraction, purification and circulation. Hot water for high- temperature chemical process.	Treating organic materials which would cause eutrophication. Removing heavy metals.	Silane-based room-temperature process would reduce water and energy use; also would replace heavy metals and so avoid hazardous sludge. But lower-volume WW would lower the value-added for WWT.	
	<ol> <li>Cogeneration (electricity + heat): Requires cooling- water to remove heat.</li> </ol>	Water abstraction to cool the electricity- condensing point	Pumping to remove cooling-water, whose emissions can cause a public health hazard.	Higher-temperature condensing- point would need less energy for water pumps and produce more flexibly useful heat for industry, but would increase costs and reduce electricity income. District-heating system could use lower-temperature heat but depends on expensive investment in a heat network and a long-term policy commitment.	
	<ol> <li>Municipal water system Requires energy for WWT, water purification and heating</li> </ol>	Water purification and heating	Treating WW and sludge	Hydropower plant (along the pipe feeding the WT plant) would subsitute renewable energy for fossil fuel. But the benefits-distribution remain legally ambiguous.	
(22)					
(23)					
(24)					
(25)					
(26)					
(27)					

# 2.4 Assessing the eco-efficiency of a meso-scale agricultural water system in Southern Italy

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### 2.4.1 Abstract

The eco-efficiency of the agricultural water sector encompasses both the ecological and economic dimensions of sustainable agriculture and promotes a simple integrated concept of achieving more agricultural outputs, in terms of income, with less inputs of land, water, energy, nutrients, labour, or capital. This work aims at the assessment of eco-efficiency of the irrigation district Sinistra Ofanto, located in Apulia region, South-East Italy.

The study area represented a meso-scale agricultural water system which covered about 39,000 ha of agricultural land characterized by three specific water supply chains and corresponding irrigation zones. A model was developed through the case study inventory analysis which entails the data about flows entering the system and also the direct and indirect emissions to the environment from the operations of the study system itself throughout the life cycle. The assessment was performed for a normal and a dry year, corresponding to annual precipitation of 514 and 420 mm, respectively. The on-field agronomic and water management practices, water delivery and economic data referred to year 2007. Hence, the baseline scenario adopted the application of deficit irrigation strategy for artichoke, olives, orchards and sugar beet, and full irrigation for other crops except wheat which was grown under rainfed conditions. The eco-efficiency was estimated as a ratio between the economic performances of the system and produced environmental impacts. Economic performances were expressed in terms of Value Added from the agricultural land use and adopted management practices, whereas the environmental performance followed a life-cycle oriented approach using 11 midpoint environmental impact categories which were selected as the more representative ones for the environmental assessment of the system. The analysis was performed by using the new modelling tools, Environmental Analysis Tool (SEAT) and Economic Value chain Analysis Tool (EVAT), both developed within EcoWater the frame of project (http://environ.chemeng.ntua.gr/ecowater/). The environmental impacts on a cluster (crop) level was performed on the basis of the irrigation (water) supply to crops and corresponding agronomic practices. The eco-efficiency of the system greatly depends upon the yields achieved (water use), market prices, the location and sources of water (surface or ground), the hydraulic characteristics of water delivery and distribution network, landscape, cropping pattern and adopted irrigation method. The overall results indicated that the system performances are strongly affected by a non-controlled water withdrawal from the aquifers which is particularly relevant under dry year

conditions. This increases the environmental burdens and requires the uptake of new technological solutions for the enhancement of eco-efficiency of Sinistra Ofanto irrigation scheme.

The system has relevant potential for the improvement of environmental performance. The most relevant solutions are the implementation of on-farm water saving technologies (drip and subsurface drip irrigation methods), the substitution of diesel engine pumps with electric pumps for groundwater abstraction and the adoption of new water pricing policies.

### Keywords

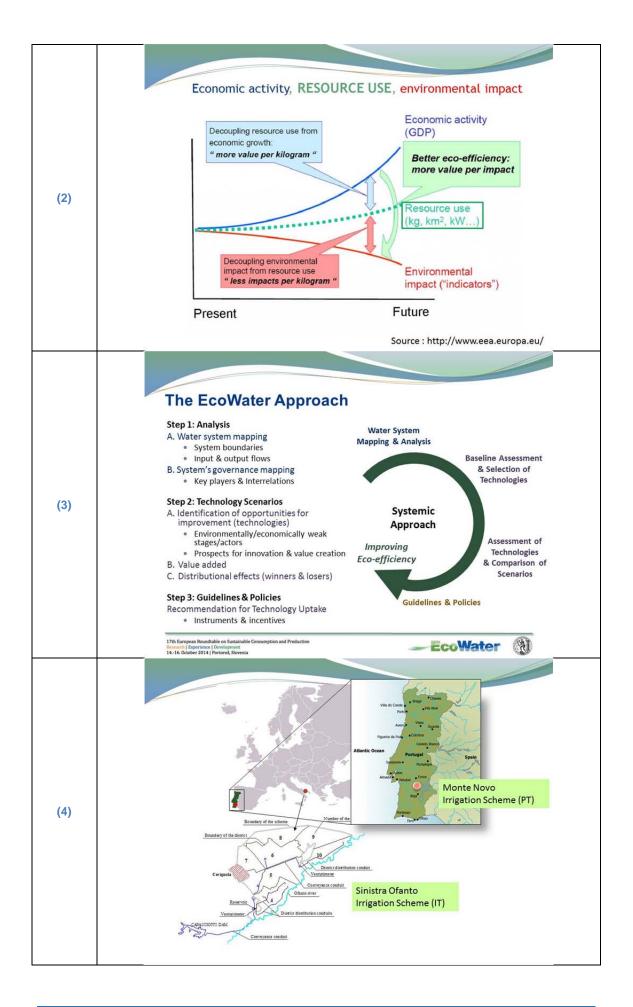
Irrigation, economic performances, environmental impact, water saving technologies, sustainable agriculture.

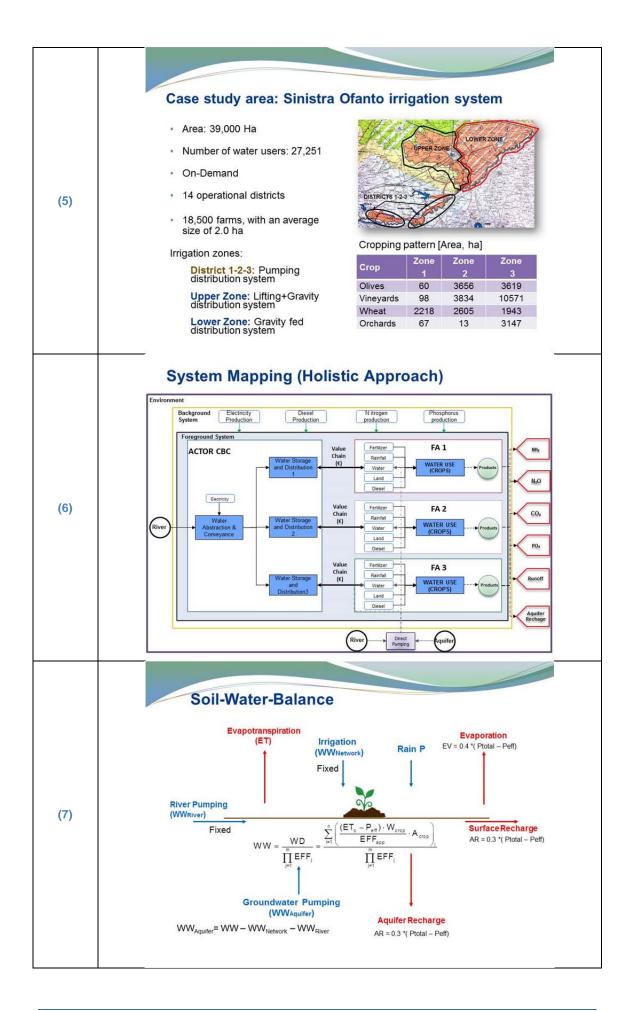
### Corresponding Author

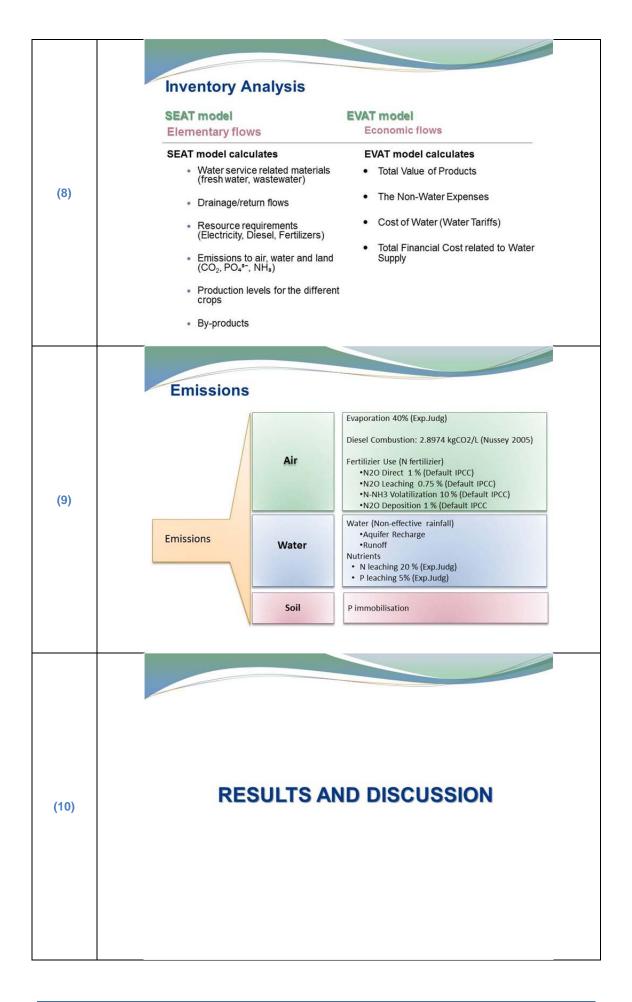
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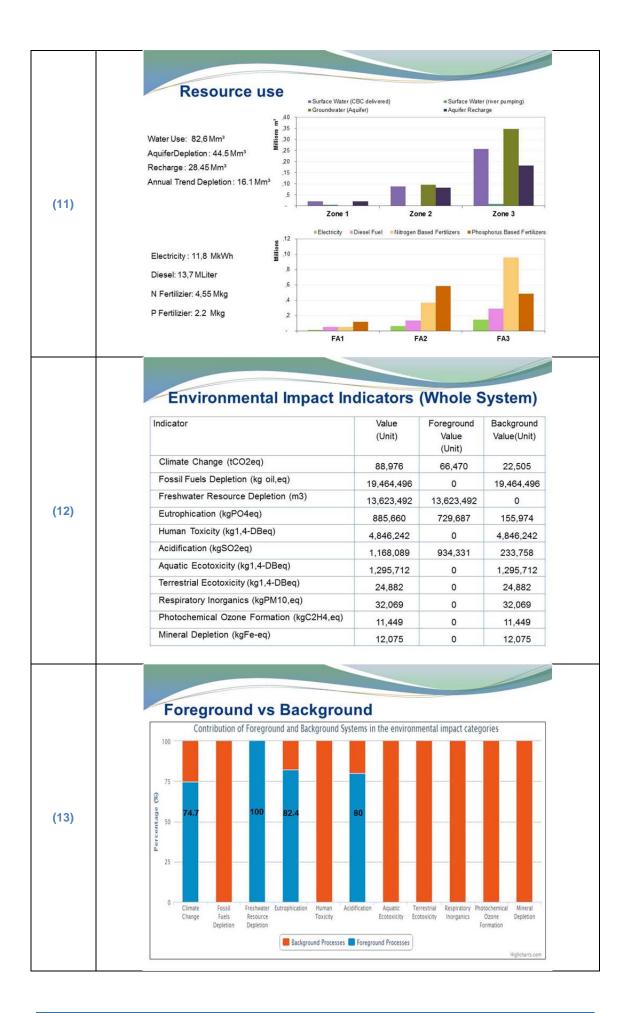


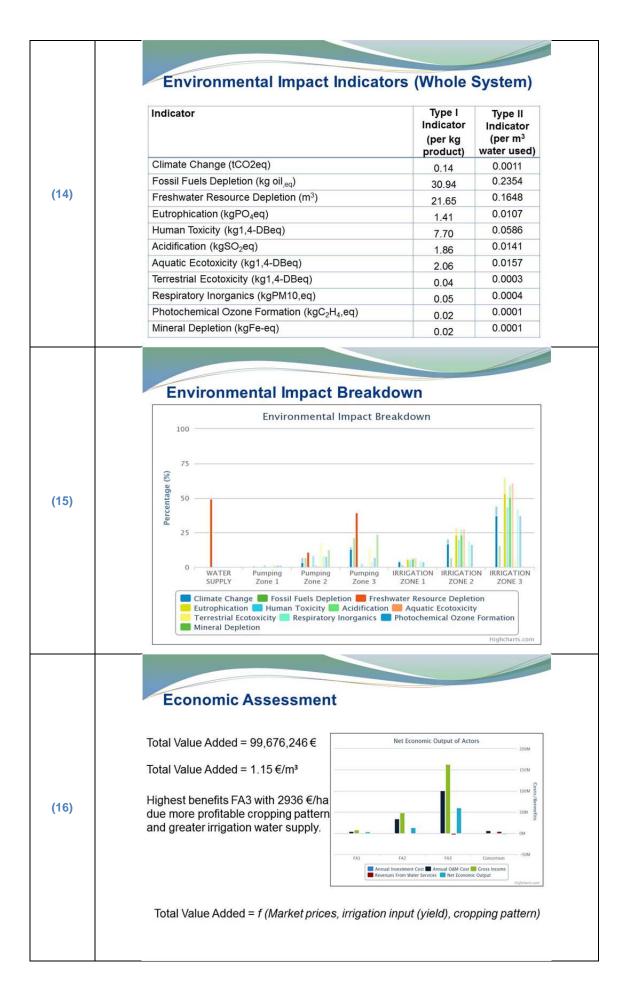
#### 2.4.2 Presentation

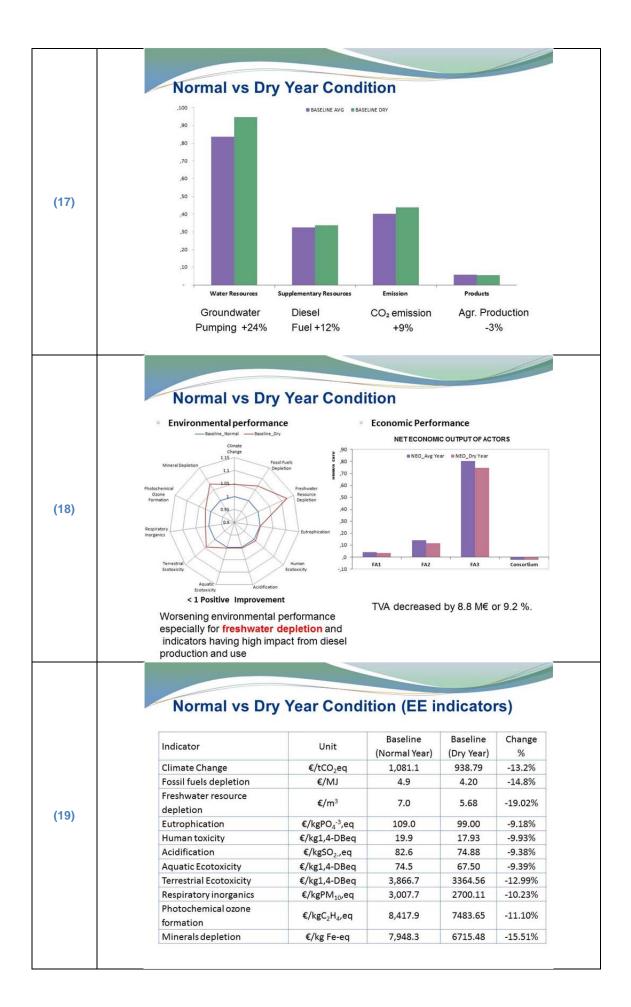


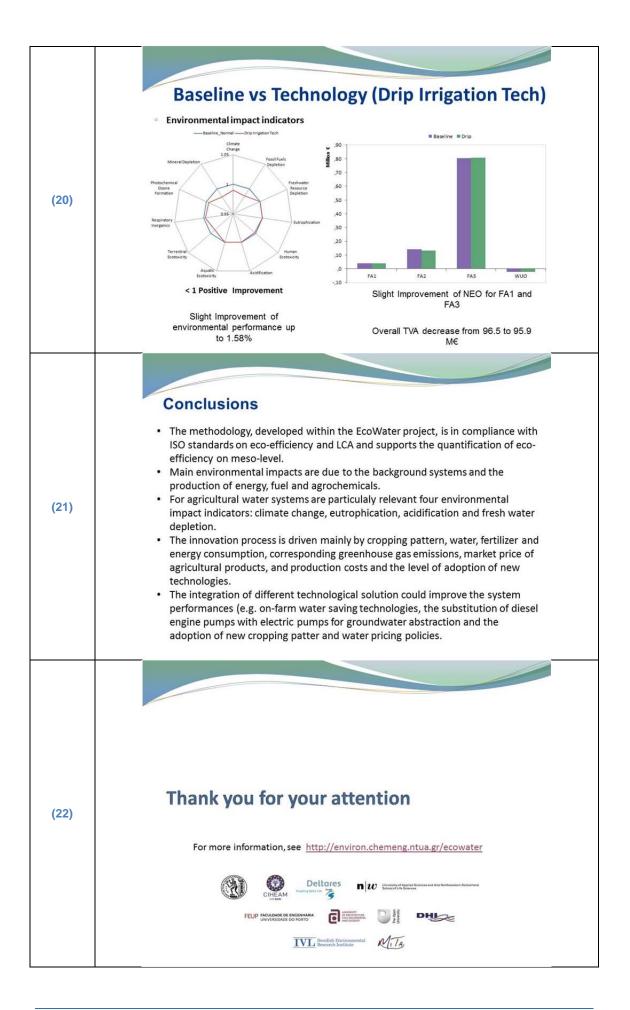












# 2.5 Eco-efficiency assessment in the agricultural sector: the Monto novo irrigation perimeter, Portugal

Rodrigo MAIA<sup>1</sup> and Cristina SILVA<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> FEUP - Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto

### 2.5.1 Abstract

The Monto Novo public irrigation perimeter, located in the southern region of Portugal is part of the Alqueva Multi-purpose Project, with more than 115.000ha of irrigation beneficial area. Besides being the most important investment ever done in the Alentejo region, it is also a challenge for the regional renewal and necessary social and economic development. In a region dedicated, for decades, to rainfed agriculture, the new challenge created by the Alqueva reservoir, the largest artificial surface mass of water in Europe, creates a completely different setting for the future. In fact, for the last 15 years, the Alentejo region has been experiencing a complete change in the agricultural patterns going from low to highly water demanding crops like maize and pastures.

In 2009, the Monte Novo irrigation perimeter, located in the northern part of the Algueva irrigation system, started operating with more than 7.700ha of irrigation beneficial area. This irrigation perimeter is still being managed by EDIA – "Empresa de Desenvolvimento e Infra-Estruturas do Algueva", the responsible organisation for the primary water supply system to the irrigation perimeters of the region, until the Farmers' Association takes the lead with responsibilities of: (i) ensuring the operation and maintenance of hydroagricultural development works; (ii) setting the watering schedule; and (iii) ensuring the collection of taxes for operation and maintenance, and manage the revenues. According to 2012 data, almost 5.000ha were already being irrigated with water. Low water tariffs fixed by law contributed to that with increasing values until 2017, when the total water price is to be charged to farmers. The subsidized water pricing policy aimed at fomenting the transition from rainfed agricultural practices to irrigation. The Monte Novo irrigation perimeter is part of the new paradigm set for the Alentejo region, which focuses on new economic activities, embracing new standards in innovation and technology.

In the context of an increasing commitment to water efficiency in the EU policy and in the current research framework, the EcoWater project has been focusing on eco-efficiency assessment, which goal is to attain economic and environmental improvement, promoting the comparison between different case studies in the different economic sectors. In the agricultural sector, the Monte Novo case study targets the new agricultural paradigm in course of implementation in the Alentejo region, focusing on the assessment of eco-efficiency for both the baseline scenario and a set of potential new technologies that would (i) be resource efficient, (ii) be pollution preventing

and/or (iii) would enhance circular economy.

Taking into account the performed evaluation of the baseline scenario, potential new technologies/innovations were selected and assessed based on stakeholders' involvement and perceptions (e.g. drip irrigation and biological production). The results to be presented will focus on the comparison between each of the proposed innovative technologies' performance and the baseline scenario. The methodology will highlight the environmentally weak stages and the potential needed investments, in order to facilitate stakeholders' decisions. The set of eco-efficiency indicators evaluated will be complemented with an economic performance, leading to some policy recommendations on technology uptake.

### Keywords

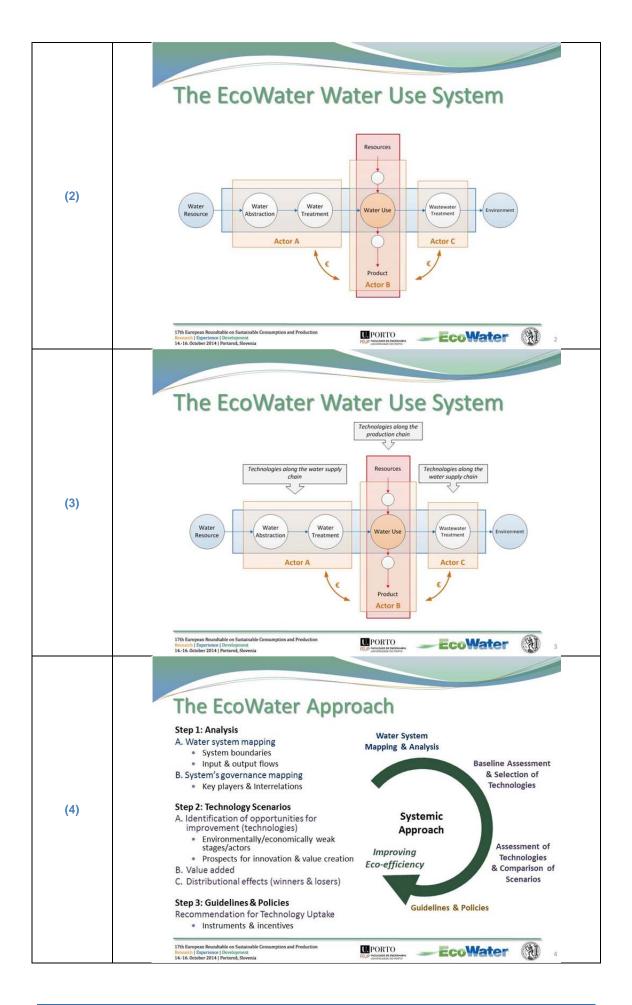
Eco-efficiency assessment, economic performance, value chain optimization

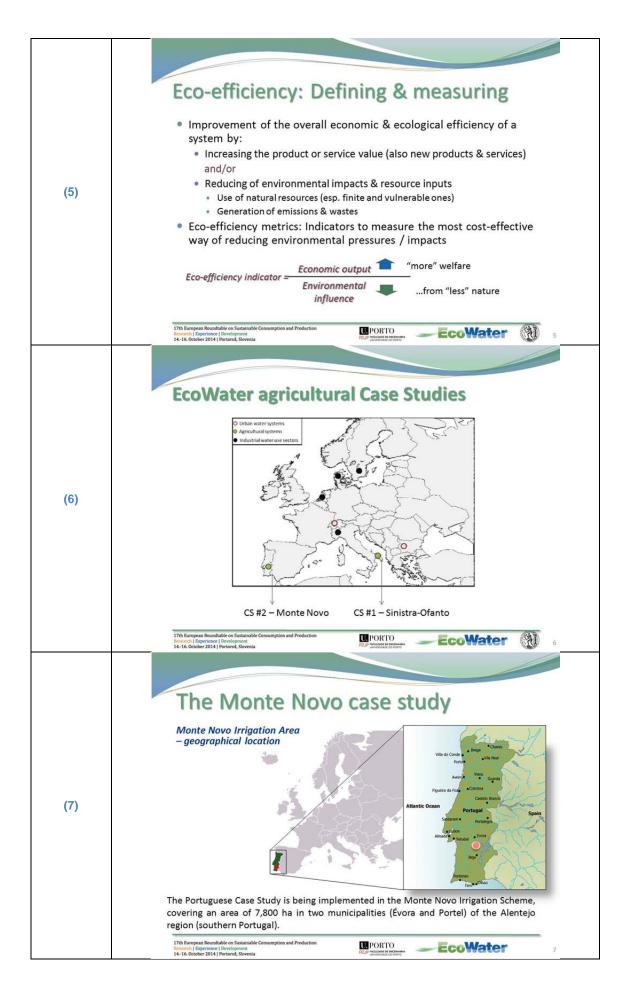
## Corresponding Author

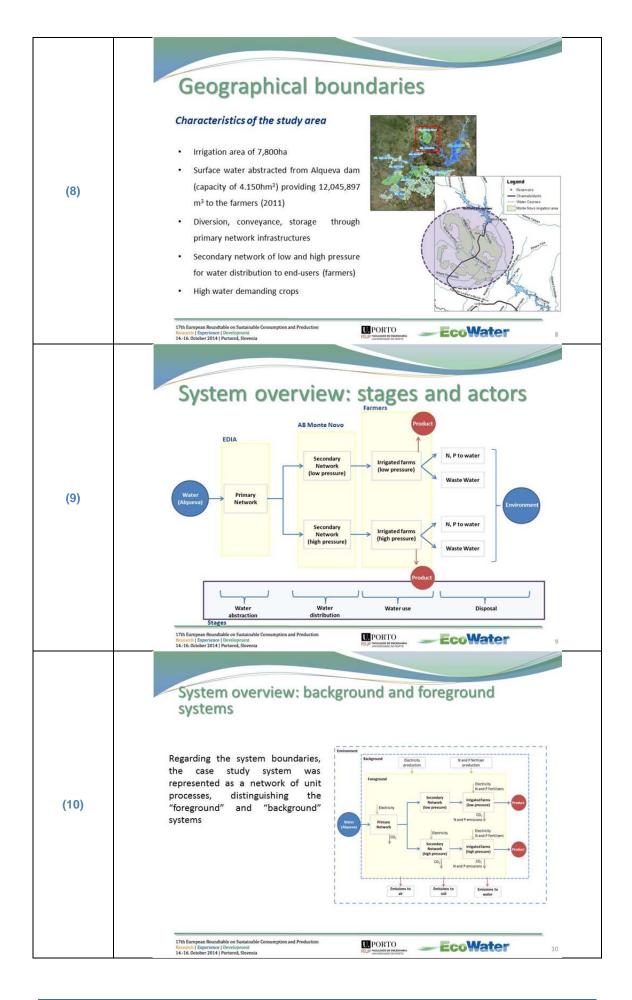
Prof. MAIA, Rodrigo; FEUP - Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto E-mail: <u>rmaia@fe.up.pt</u>

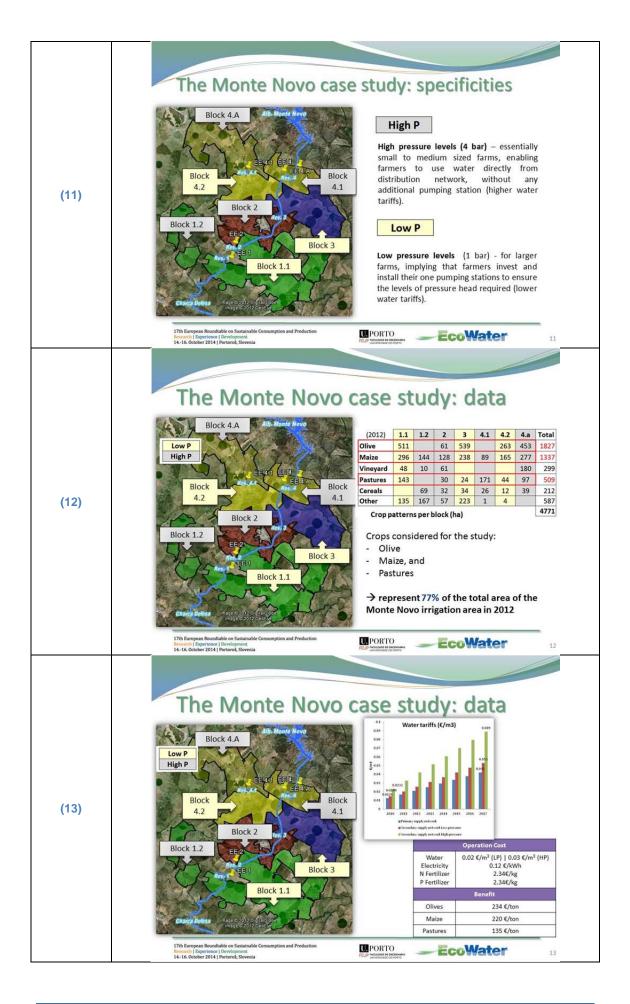


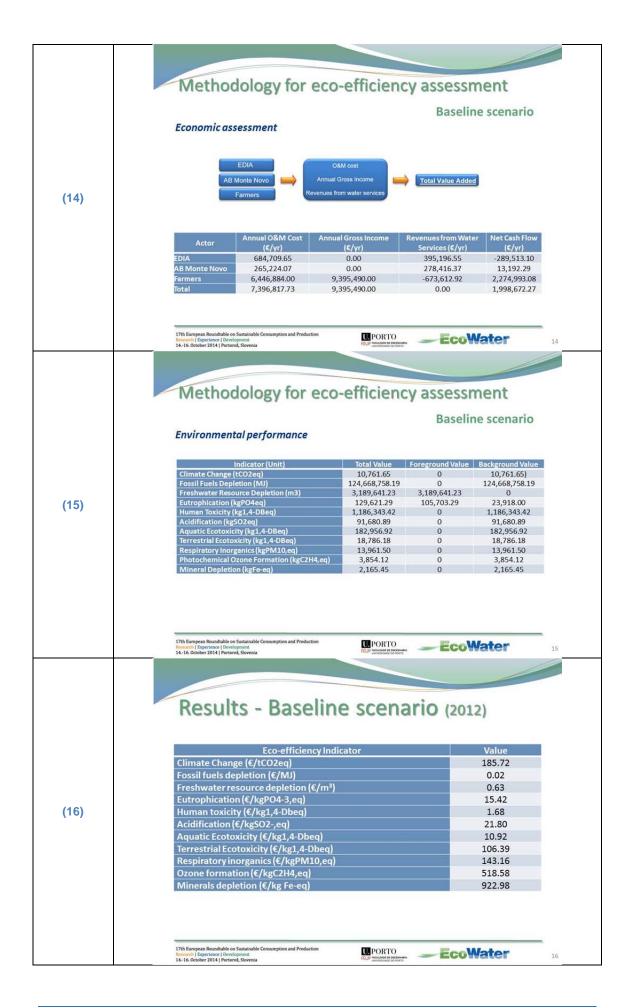
#### 2.5.2 Presentation

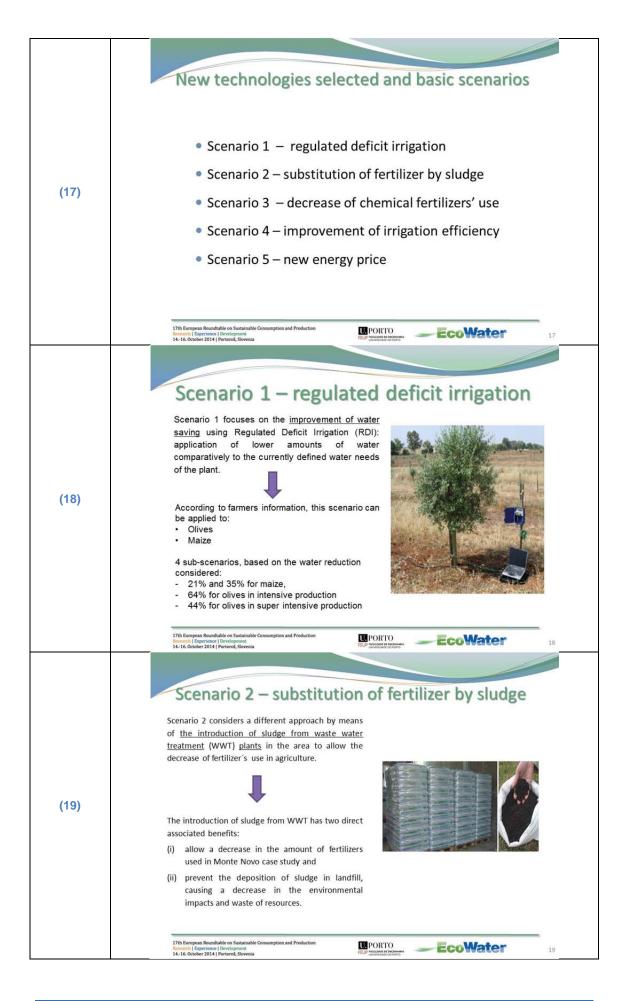


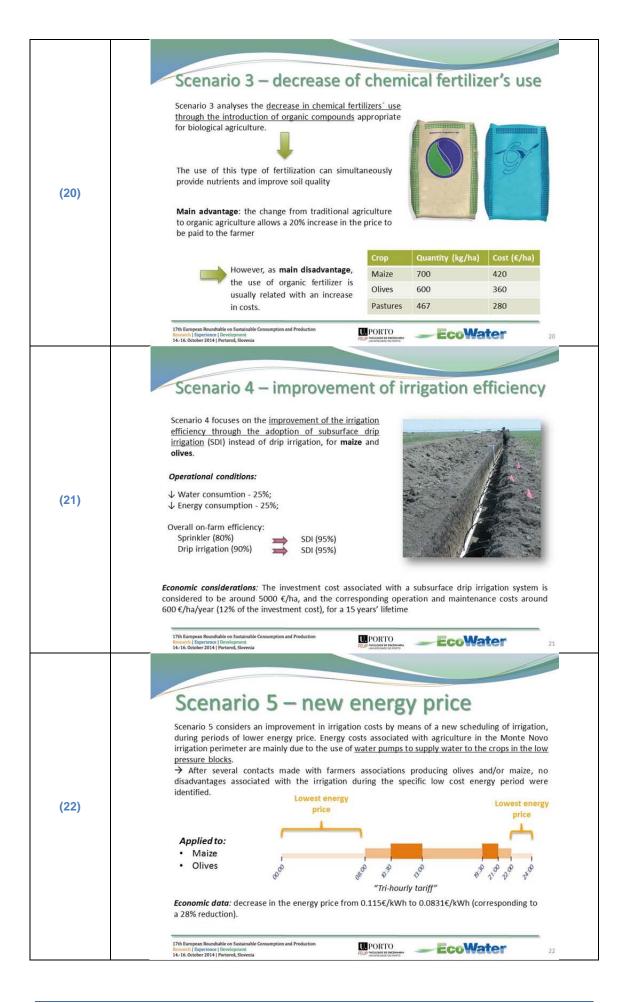


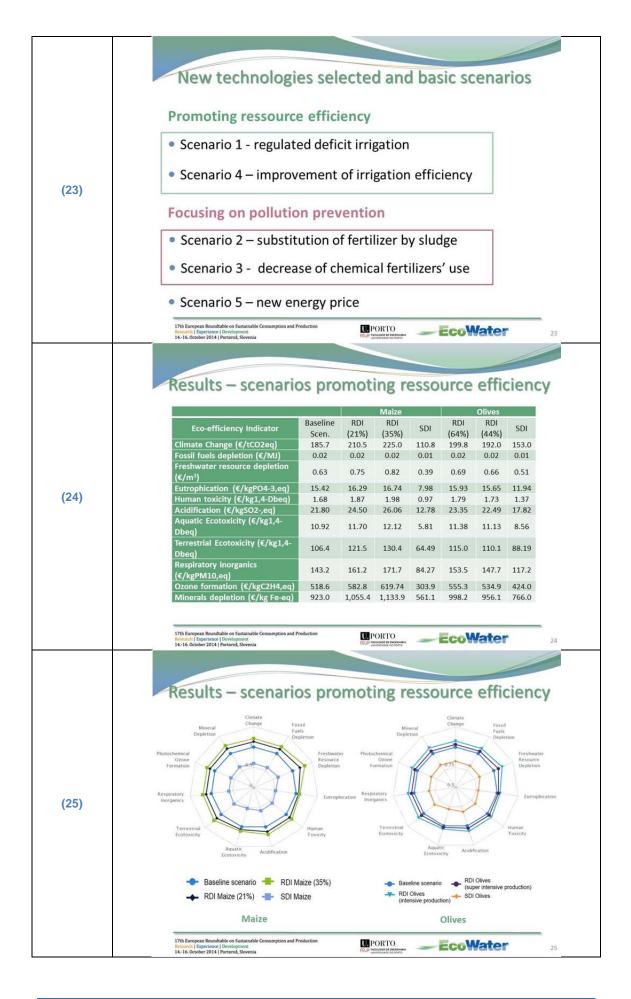


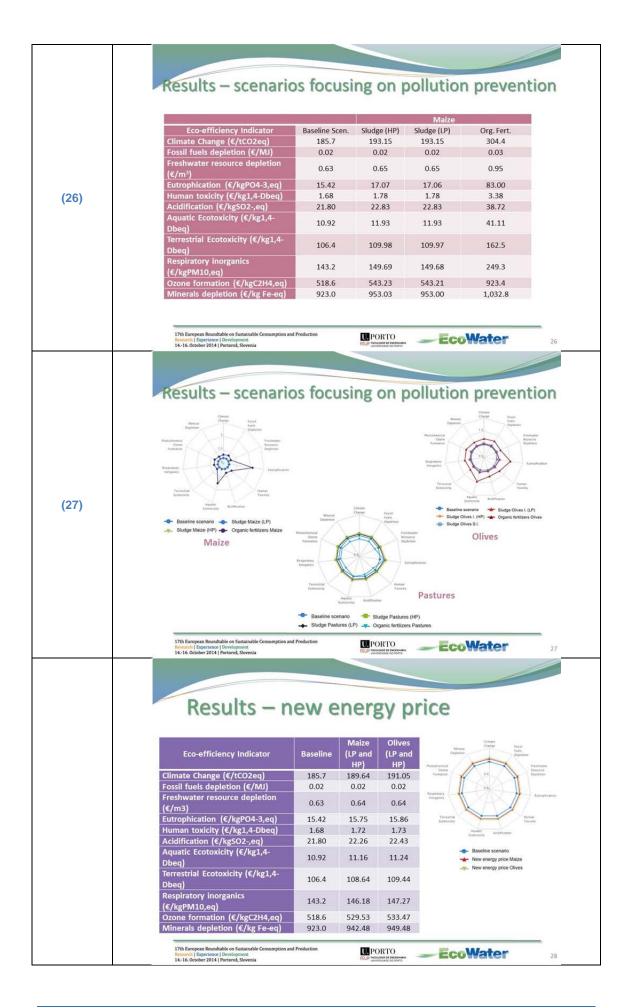


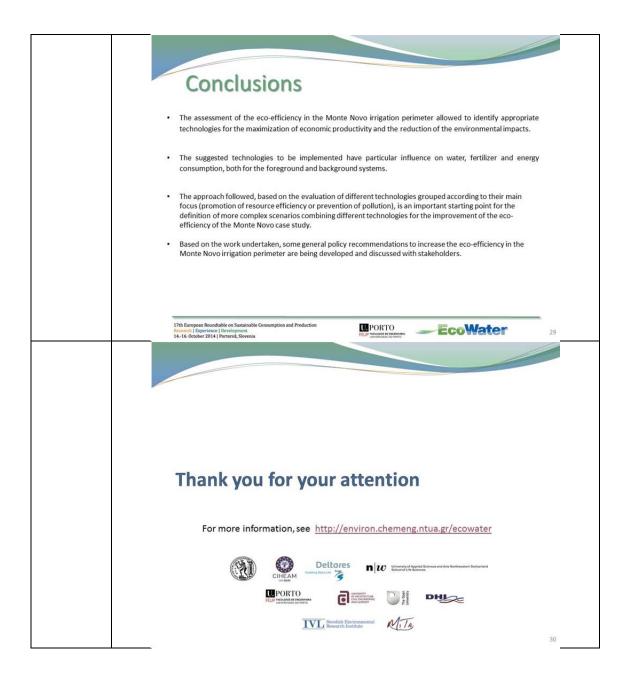












# 2.6 Complexity, assumptions and solutions for eco-efficiency assessment of urban water systems

Peyo STANCHEV<sup>1</sup>, Galina DIMOVA<sup>1</sup>, Irina RIBAROVA<sup>1</sup>

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#### 2.6.1 Abstract

ISO Standard 14045 on eco-efficiency, issued a year ago, provides guidelines for assessment of two of the pillars of sustainability: the economic and the environmental performance as well as their relation. The standard defines only the general framework and requires research approach to be applied for each particular case. This paper presents the approach, developed in EU funded research project EcoWater and its application for an urban water system. It discusses how the difficulties were addressed, the assumptions, which had to be made and the solutions, which were suggested.

The urban water systems are engineering systems, developed to serve one of the most vital social needs - provision of drinking water. Their design, construction, operation and maintenance comprise a number of economic activities which besides their primary social function turns them also into product systems. These characteristics make their sustainability evaluation very complex, since both environmental and economic approaches should be applied in a coherent way to an engineering system that serves different users and has various interconnected social, economic and environmental impacts. At one hand are the domestic water users, who often are socially and culturally guite heterogeneous and their behaviour is difficult to be modelled; on the other hand are the non-domestic users who are even more heterogeneous and the economic value from their water use is often either hidden within the lump sum of the product or is hard to be calculated due to lack of specific measurements. Furthermore the urban water system in general consists of two subsystems: the water supply and the sewerage system, which have guite different functions leading to difficulties in definition of the product and the functional unit of the system. Although lack of measurements is a common problem for most studies, it should be mentioned also here, because urban water systems lack of essential data as direct emissions from the sewerage system to the environment, water demand in households, domestic and industrial wastewater quality, etc.

The Sofia urban water system in Bulgaria, serving about 1,5 million citizens, was selected for testing of the approach. In this system, freshwater is abstracted from two reservoirs, followed by purification in three water treatment plants and transportation to the customers by gravity distribution network. The generated wastewater is collected by gravity and is treated in

conventional waste water treatment plant prior its discharge into Iskar river. The baseline eco-efficiency assessment revealed that: 1) the stage with the weakest environmental performance is the domestic water use, followed by the wastewater treatment stage; 2) the energy is the material flow with the highest impact on the eco-efficiency performance of the system.

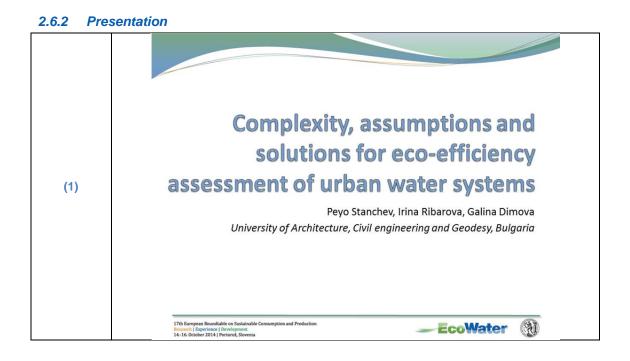
These results assisted in identifying measures for eco-efficiency improvement. The paper presents eco-efficiency of the system before and after implementation of the measures.

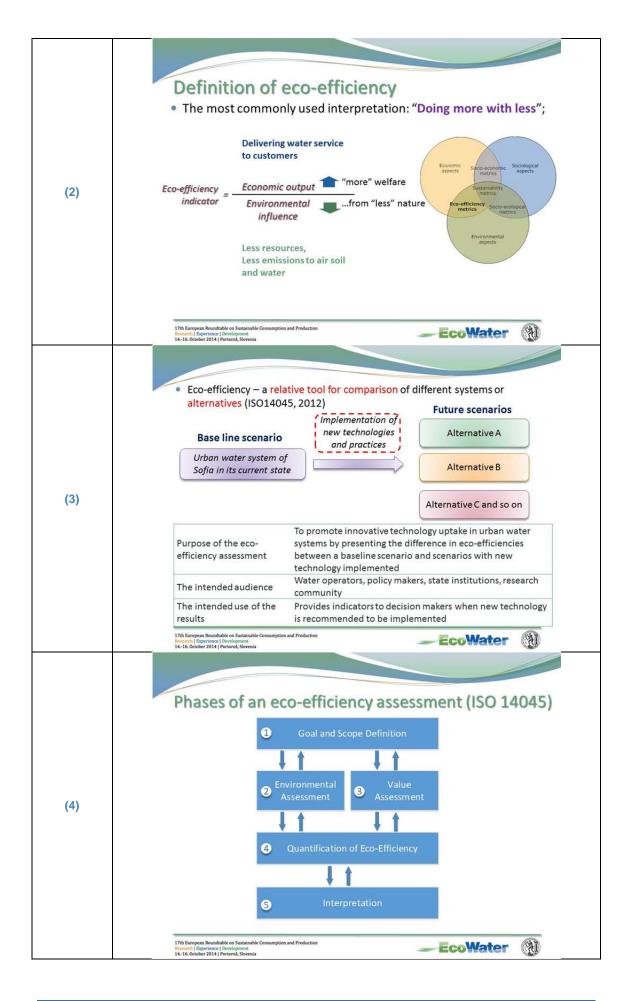
### Keywords

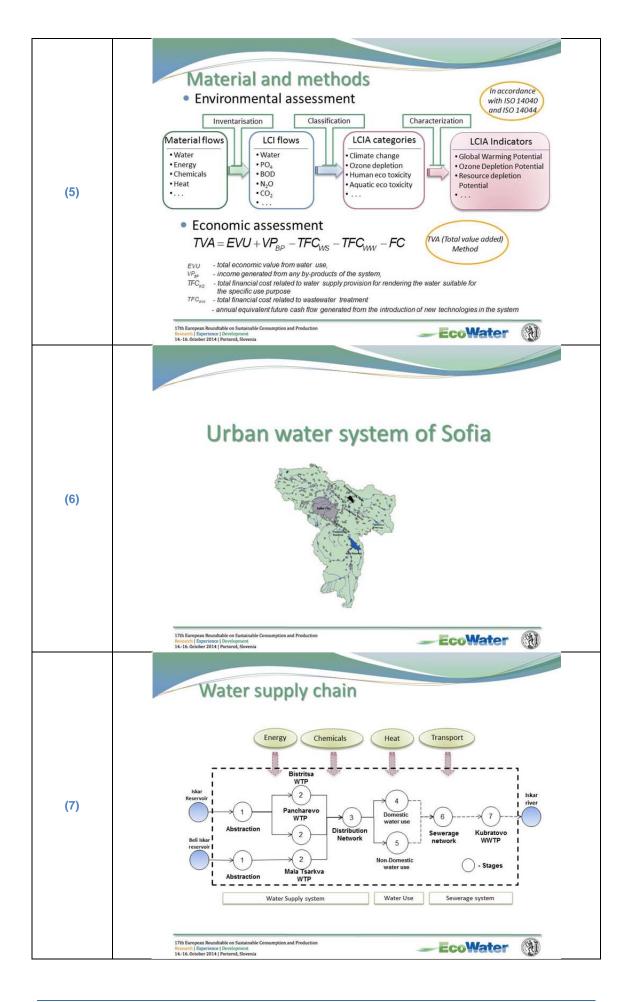
Eco-efficiency, ISO 14045, Indicators, Urban water systems, LCIA

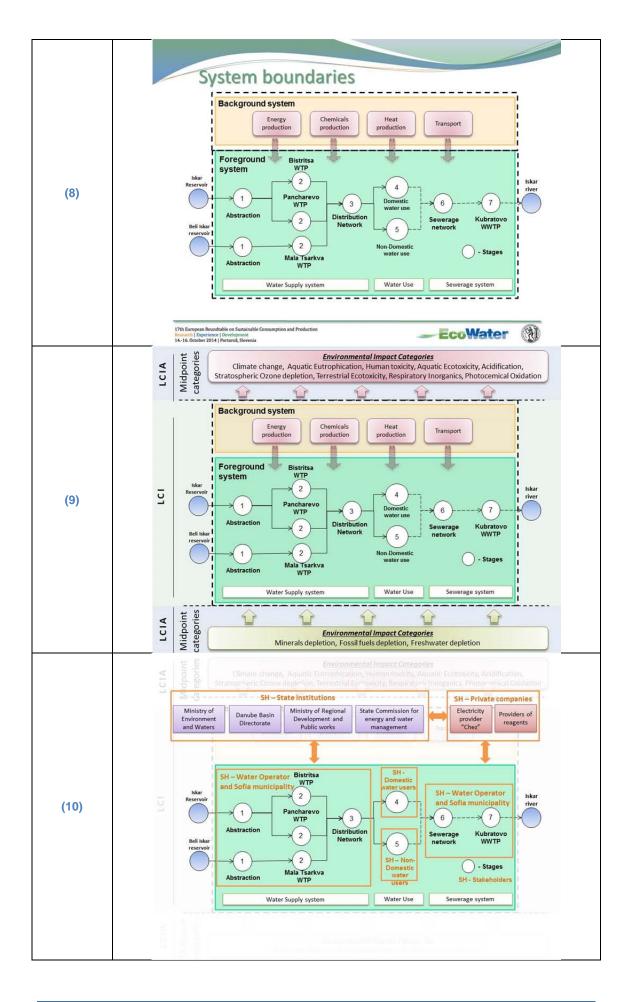
### **Corresponding Author**

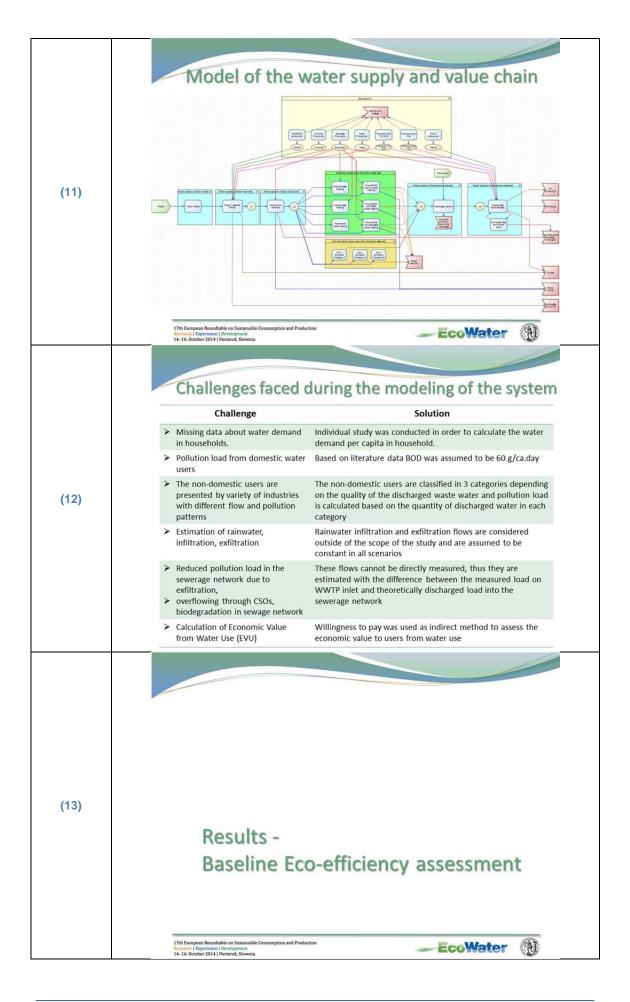
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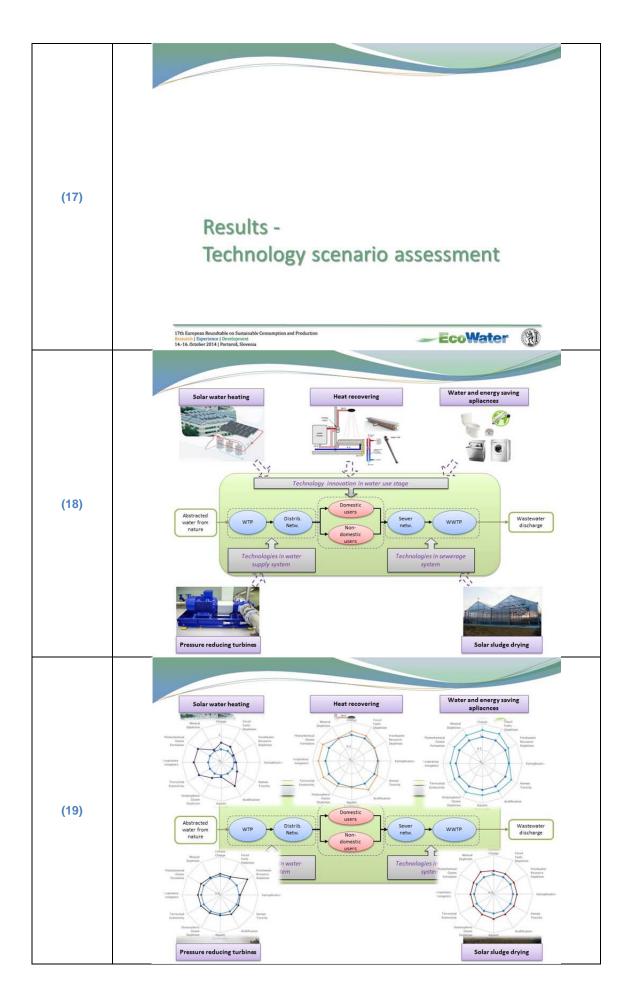


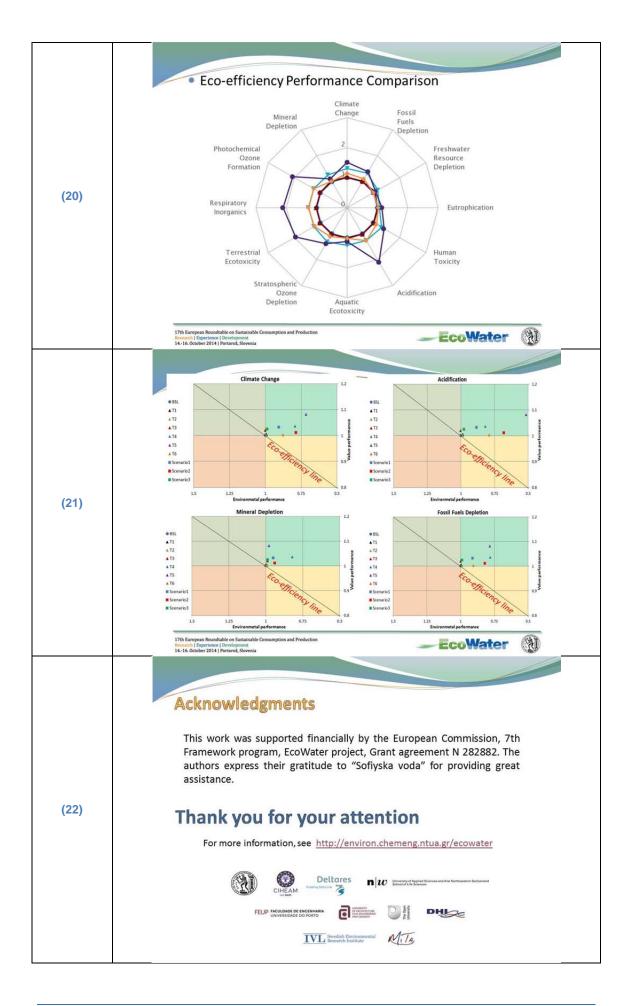












# 2.7 Towards enhancing whole-system eco-efficiency: case study of a Swiss municipal water system

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<sup>1</sup> University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland

<sup>2</sup> National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), School of Chemical Engineering, Environmental and Energy Management Research Unit, Greece

<sup>3</sup>Open University UK

#### 2.7.1 Abstract

#### Introduction and Methods

The EcoWater project develops and applies eco-efficiency indicators for the wholesystem value chain in diverse water-use sectors to assess and support decisions to increase eco-efficiency (EcoWater 2014). Eco-efficiency evaluations generally compare net economic benefit and environmental impacts at a micro level, e.g. at a single production site, as a basis to assess different future options or scenarios. In this project the assessment encompasses all relevant stages of the whole system, especially interactions among heterogeneous actors.

#### Results and discussion

The EcoWater project applies the methodology to several case studies. The urban case study here is a mid-sized municipality in the Canton of Zurich. The lake plays an important role as source of raw water: 60% of drinking water stems from the lake, 40% from groundwater, but also as a sink as all treated wastewater is discharged to the lake. The net economic benefit was estimated from the surplus added to the users from water use minus total costs of the whole system to provide the drinking water and to collect and treat the wastewater. Environmental impacts were assessed through several mid-point indicators from life cycle analysis like climate change potential, eutrophication, acidification, fresh water depletion and others (cf. ISO 2012).

For the whole system's eco-efficiency, the tentative assessment was discussed in a workshop with local actors and stakeholders. As confirmed by the participants, most stages of the system (e.g. drinking-water treatment and distribution, water use by households and industry, and the wastewater treatment) are highly efficient on traditional micro-level metrics, e.g. the drinking water network losses are reduced to around 9%, the wastewater treatment plant recovers heat from wastewater and biogas is generated from sludge and used in a CHP plant. Options for further improvement include water recycling and reuse.

Going beyond current quality standards, new legislation will require approx. 100 out of Switzerland's more than 700 WWTPs to reduce the currently discharged micropollutants load by half. According to the eco-efficiency analysis, available technologies would increase overall costs through capital investment and operational costs and also increase some emissions, while reducing environmental impacts of micro-pollutants. Minor cost savings can be expected in the case of direct reuse of the treated water. As the important overall result, the eco-efficiency increase for micro-pollutants removal is high, while the negative changes in the climate change and the freshwater ecosystem indicator are moderate.

#### Conclusions

The EcoWater method helps to identify potential stages of a system for improving whole-system eco-efficiency, by comparing specific options with the baseline

situation. The results help to coordinate discussions among multiple stakeholders. To facilitate implementation, the project will explore integration into the well-known framework of river basin management.

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http://environ.chemeng.ntua.gr/ecoWater

ISO (2012): ISO 14045: Environmental management - Eco-efficiency assessment of product systems - Principles, requirements and guidelines. International Organisation for Standardisation

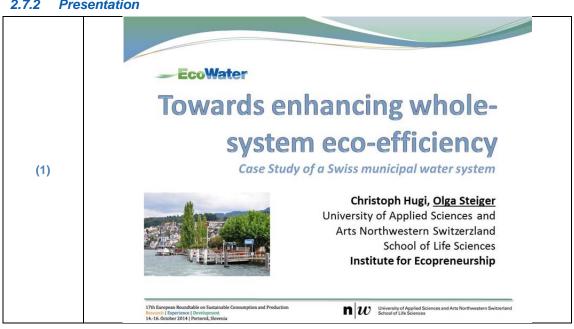
#### **Keywords**

Eco-efficiency indicators, municipal water systems, urban case study

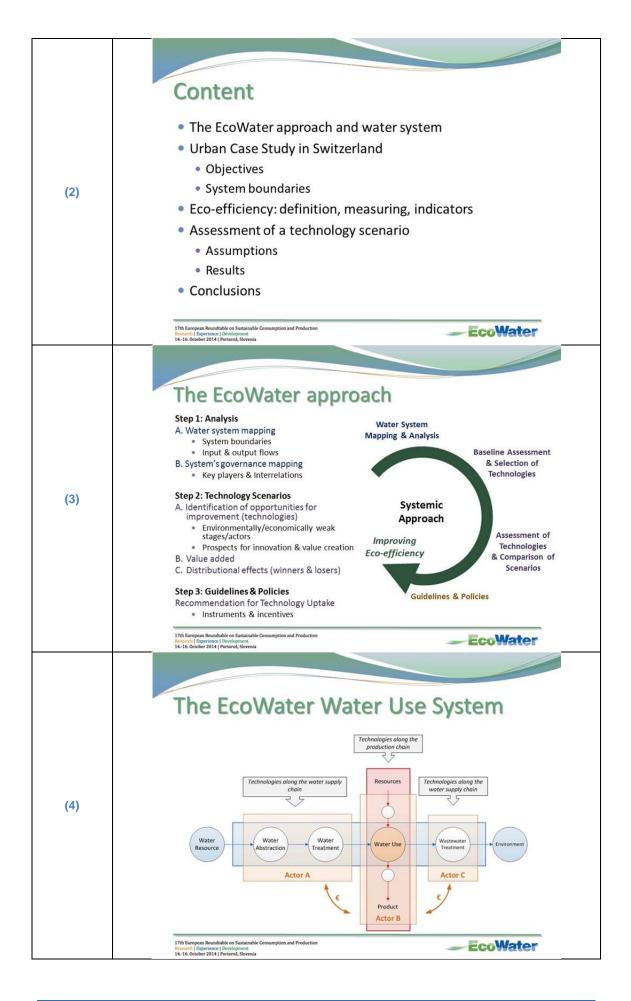
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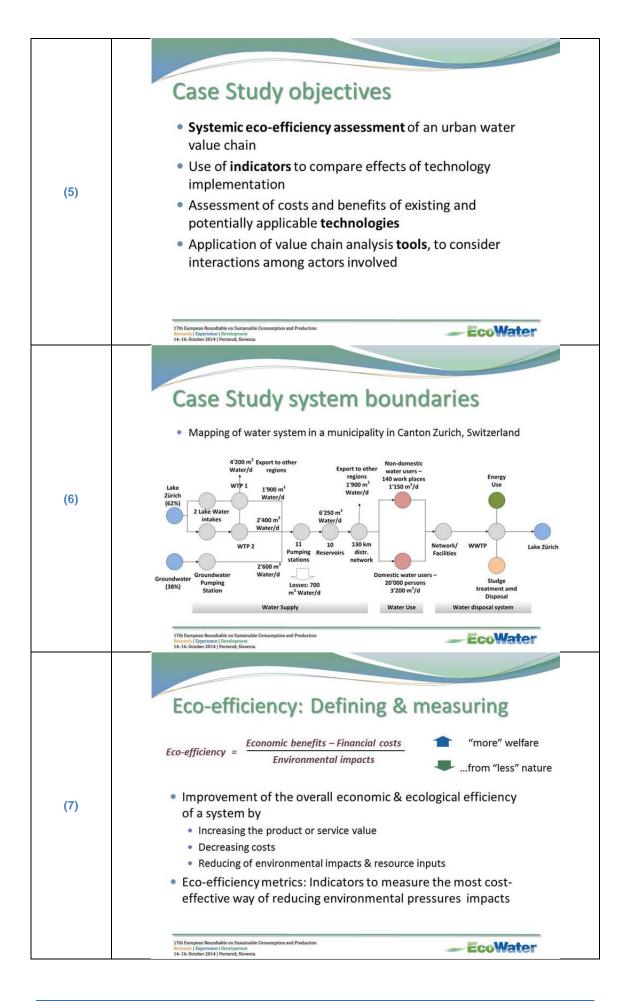
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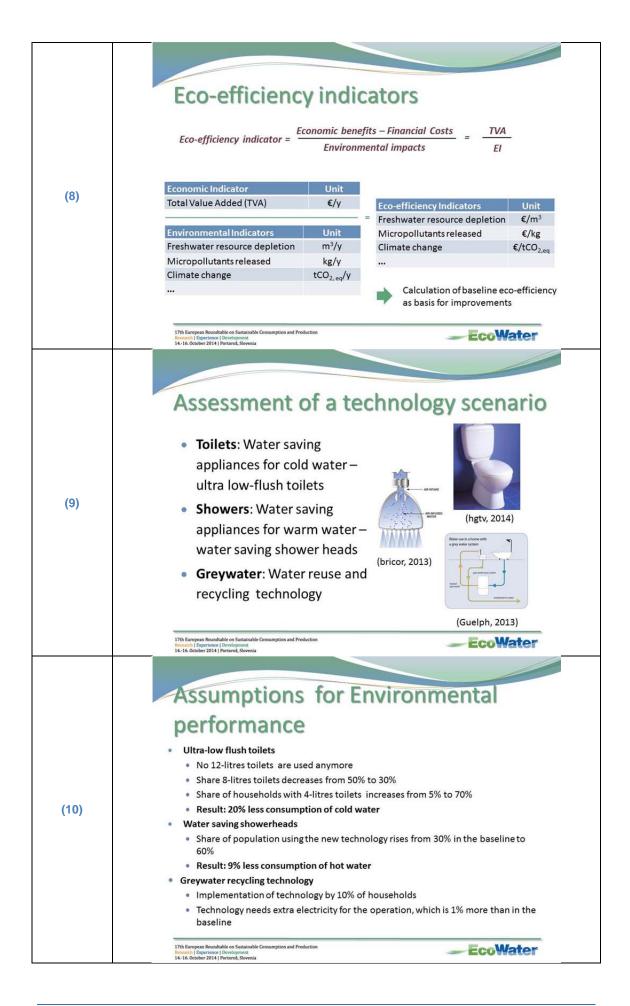
Prof. HUGI, Christoph; University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland



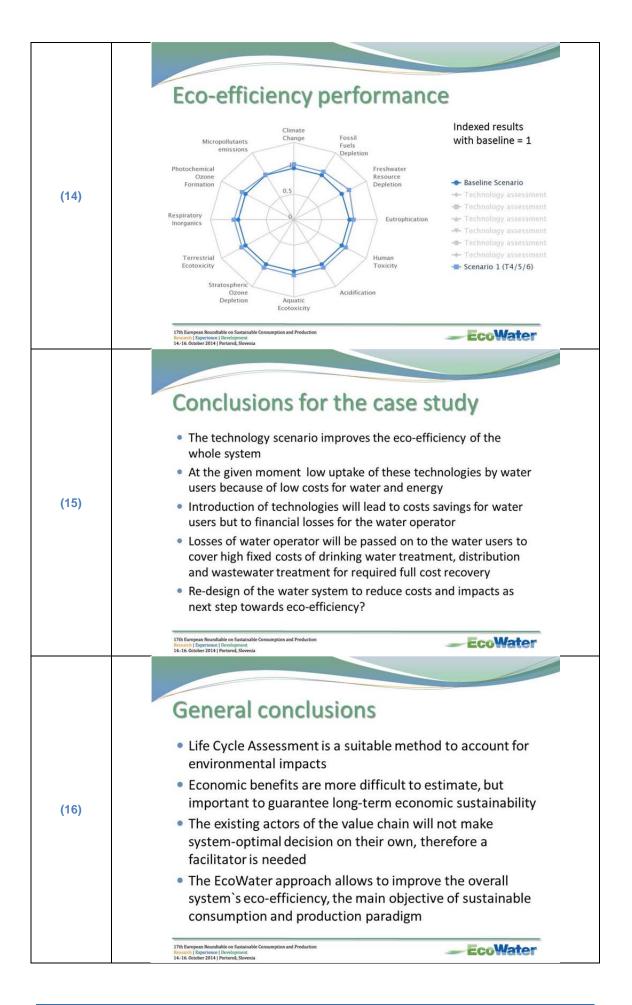
#### 2.7.2 Presentation







	Costs and savings	of hou	seholds		
	Parameter	Toilets	Showers	Greywa	ter Unit
	Investment costs	Toffets	Showers	Greywa	der om
	Investment costs	850,000	27,30	764	,000 €
	Lifetime	30	10	)	15 years
	Interest rate	2.5	2.	5	2.5 %/year
)	Annualised investment costs	40,611	3,119	9 61	.,706 €/year
/	Annual operation and maintenance	cost			
	Fixed costs (incl. maintenance)	0	(	0 11	.,000 €/year
	Cost of productive inputs (electr.)	0		) 3	8,982 €/year
	Annual savings				
	Savings in costs for drinking water	-195,934	and the second se		0,166 €/year
	Savings in costs for wastewater	-211,031	5200*057290		),643 €/year
	Savings in costs for energy Total annual additional costs (+)/ sav	n.a.	-103,790	,	0 €/year
	Total saving	nings (-)		-485	,641 €/year
	17th European Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production				
	Resurch Experience [Development 1416. October 2014   Portorož, Slovenia			EC	Water
	Indicato <del>r</del>	Ba		echnology cenario	Change
	Climate Change (tCO2eq)		4,905,334	4,598,784	-6%
	Fossil Fuels Depletion (MJ)		95,093,418	89,405,149	-6%
2)	Freshwater Resource Depletion (m3)		79,388	69,438	
.,	Eutrophication (kgPO4eq)		505,501	474,476	
	Human Toxicity (kg1,4-DBeq)		558,840	524,260	
	Acidification (kgSO2eq)		11,683	11,002	
	Aquatic Ecotoxicity (kg1,4-DBeq) Stratospheric Ozone Depletion (kgCF6	-11eg)	161,070 1.0129	150,895 0.9518	
	Terrestrial Ecotoxicity (kg1,4-DBeq)	a rred!	418	393	
	Respiratory Inorganics (kgPM10,eq)		1,995	1,879	
	Photochemical Ozone Formation (kg	2H4,eq)	656	617	-6%
	Micropollutants (kg)		60	60	0%
	17th European Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production Research (Experience   Development			Ec	Water
	14-16. October 2014   Portorož, Slovenia				VINGE
	Economic norf	-	000		
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3)	Municipality Domestic water users Non-domestic water users	93 1'451	scenario  10003 1000 1'9 1000 9	42'000 27'000 37'000	-420'000
3)	Municipality Domestic water users Non-domestic water users Total Value Added (TVA)	93 1'451 965	scenario  10003 1000 1'9 1000 9	42'000 27'000 37'000 65'000	-420'000 486'000 -
)	Municipality Domestic water users Non-domestic water users	93 1'451 965	scenario  10003 1000 1'9 1000 9	42'000 27'000 37'000 65'000	-420'000 486'000 -





# 2.8 Value chain upgrading in a textile dyeing industry

Athanasios ANGELIS-DIMAKIS<sup>1</sup> Anastasia ALEXANDRATOU<sup>1</sup> and Anna BALZARINI<sup>2</sup> and

<sup>1</sup> National Technical University of Athens, Greece <sup>2</sup> Geologist, Italy

## 2.8.1 Abstract

Eco-efficiency has been recognized over the last two decades as a measure of progress towards a greener economy as it integrates the concepts of economic welfare with the ecological impact of products or services throughout their lifecycle. Combined with the resource efficiency, ecoefficiency can lead to a more sustainable development of a given system.

The present paper examines the use of eco-efficiency indicators in a wateruse system related to the industrial sector, specifically, the case of the textile industry in the region of Biella, Italy. The Biella region has traditionally been an important wool processing and textile centre. Despite the economic crisis, which has led to the closing of nearly half of the local industries during the last decade, Biella remains one of the more distinguished production centres of wool fabrics for clothing and fine fibres, with more than 500 active industrial units. For the purpose of the analysis, two representative units are selected; one standard chemical dyeing unit with in-house wastewater treatment and one natural dyeing unit, connected to the municipal wastewater network.

Their environmental performance is assessed by using nine relevant environmental midpoint impact categories, while the economic performance is measured by using the total value added to the system's final product due to water use. The assessment of the baseline scenario underlines the most significant environmental problems; increased human toxicity, aquatic and terrestrial ecotoxicity due to the use of dyeing chemicals, and extensive aquatic freshwater depletion resulting from the dye-ing process.

Prospects for improving the system's overall eco-efficiency are also investigated. Through the identification of the environmentally weak stages of the system, as well as the selection and implementation of innovative technologies that would upgrade the value chain, two alternative technology scenarios are formulated and compared to the baseline scenario.

The first scenario aims to increase the resource efficiency, related to energy and water consumption, through a set of technologies applicable to water abstraction and dyeing processes. The second one focuses on water pollution prevention, through the implementation of technologies that improve the quality of textile wastewater released to the environment, combined with the partial replacement of chemical dyeing with natural dyeing.

The analysis reveals that both scenarios improve the overall eco-efficiency of the system, each in a different way. The main impact of the first scenario on the system's environmental performance is the reduction of freshwater and abiotic resource depletion, by increasing the values of the eco-efficiency indicators. The second scenario, aiming at pollution prevention, improves all three toxicity indicators. Human toxicity, aquatic and terrestrial ecotoxicity indicators show a significant increase.

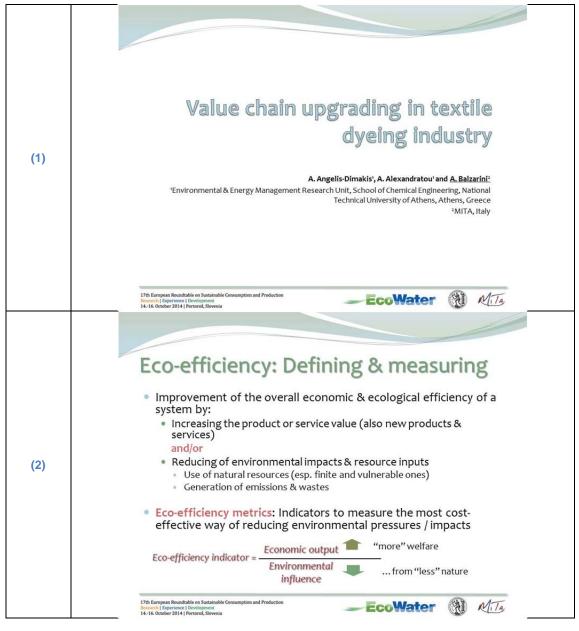
## Keywords

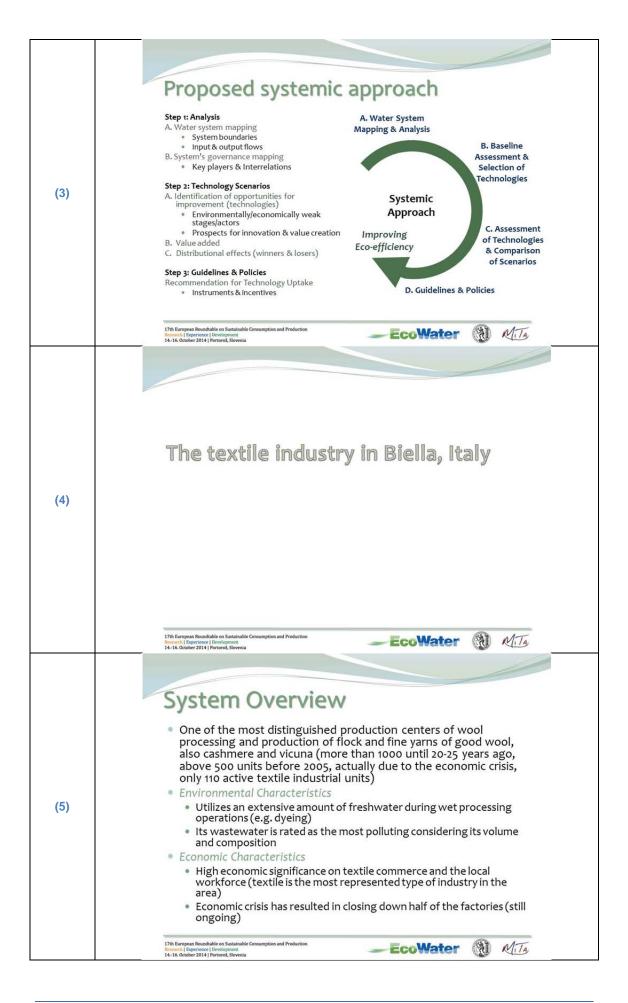
Eco-efficiency, toxicity, resource efficiency, textile wastewater, pollution prevention

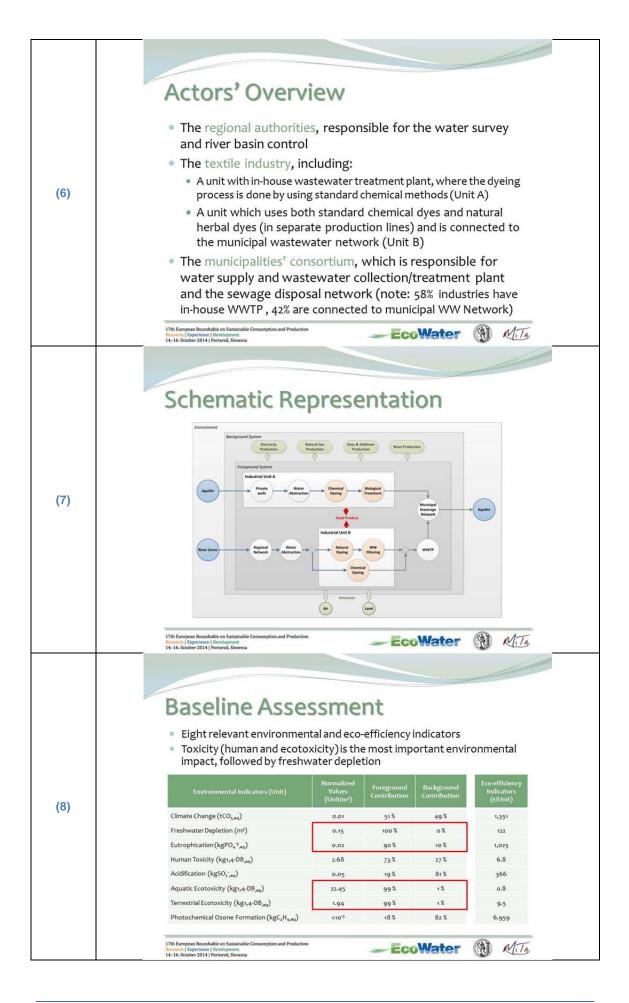
# **Corresponding Author**

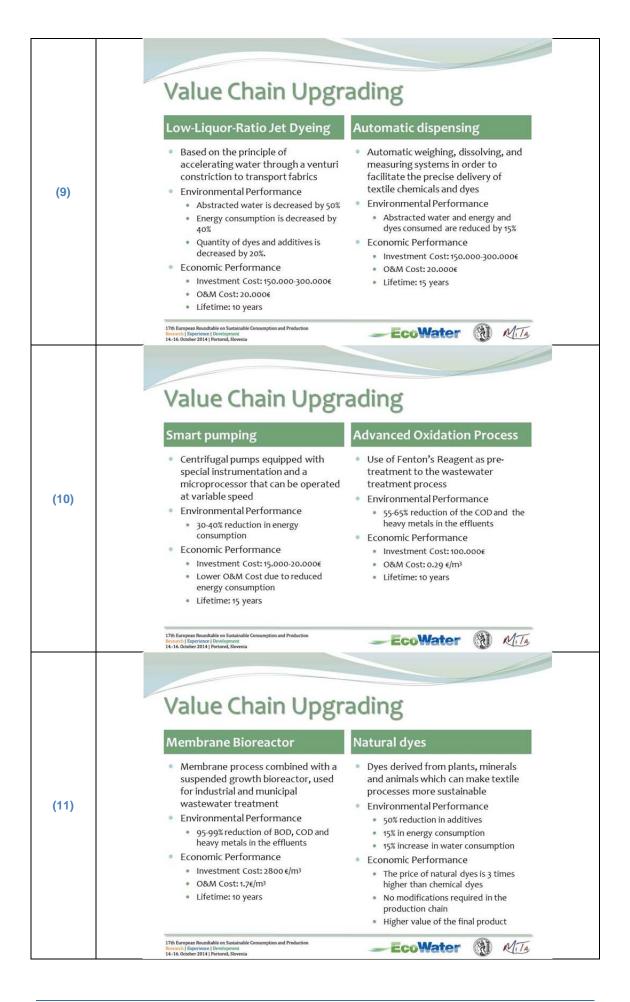
Dr. ANGELIS-DIMAKIS, Athanasios; National Technical University of Athens, Greece; E-mail: <u>angelis@chemeng.ntua.gr</u> Ms. BALZARINI, Anna; Geologist, Italy

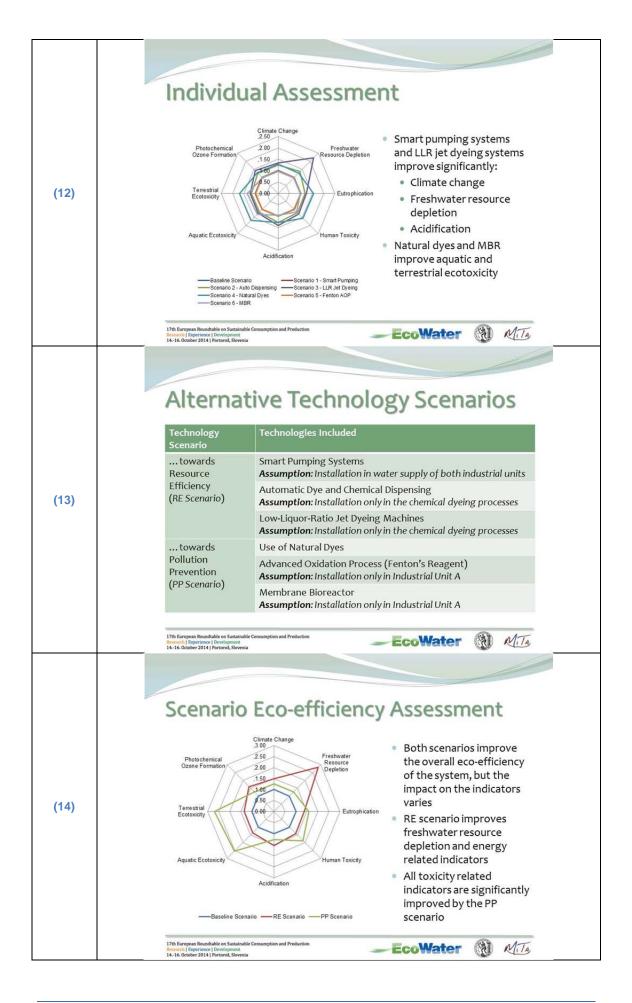
#### 2.8.2 Presentation

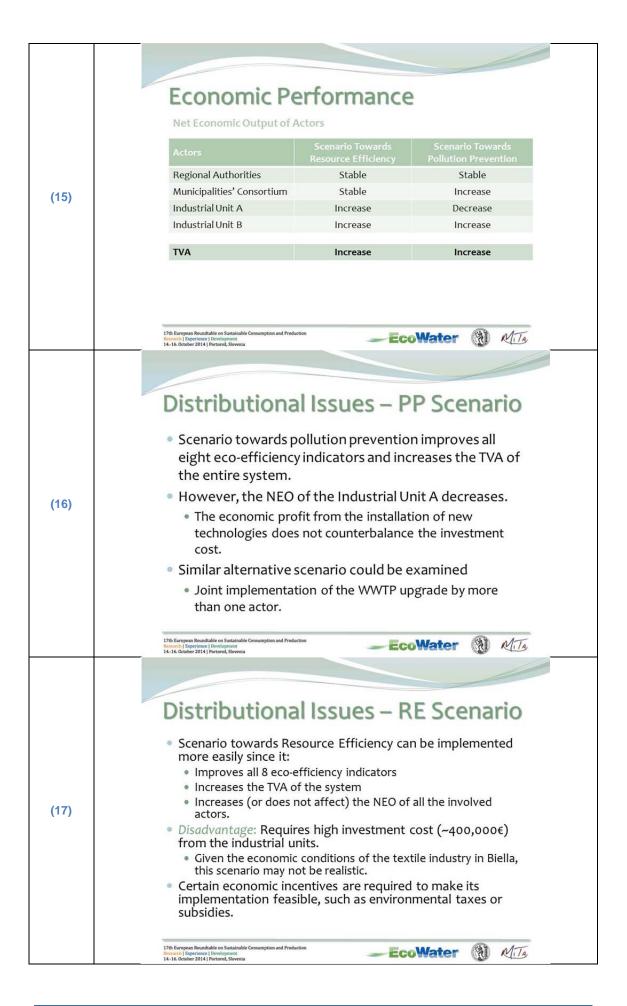


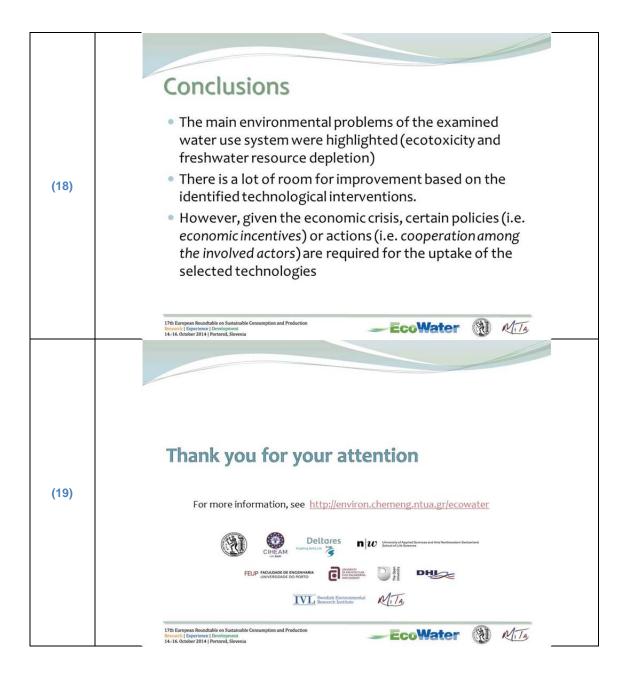












# 2.9 Improving resource and eco-efficiency of an electricity-heat cogeneration plant using a systemic eco-efficiency approach

Michiel BLIND<sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup> Deltares, The Netherlands

#### 2.9.1 Abstract

Innovative technologies and processes typically have consequences beyond the micro-level at which they are implemented. Decisions on implementing technologies should therefore take a systemic approach, including the involvement of stakeholders.

In the EcoWater project tools and methods were developed to assess whole system eco-efficiency, which is defined as the ratio of Total Value Added (TVA) and Environmental Impact (EI). The water value chain, which generically consists of water abstraction, treatment, use, waste water treatment and discharge, forms the basis of the whole system analysis. This study demonstrates the usability of the approach for a case study which core consists of a gas powered electricity-heat cogeneration plant. In this system the water value chain consists of the aforementioned stages. The water use and heat discharge are regulated, priced, and excessive heat discharge effects may have adverse effects on the receiving river basin. Today, the generated heat is used for district heating. Excess heat is mainly discharged to surface water. The TVA of the system consists of the total income generated by the system from which costs were subtracted. The EI of the system is expressed in terms of amongst others resource depletion, fresh water depletion and climate change potential, which are well-established midpoint impact categories in Life-Cycle Analysis. A proxy for EI of excess heat discharge has been developed.

A stakeholder session revealed that the main challenge regarding the use of heat are not technical, but concern the investment costs and the paybacktime. The willingness to invest is dependent on trust in consistent long term policies (30-50yr), including the pricing of energy and heat, and the trust amongst the stakeholders who like in any symbiotic setting develop interdependencies. Nevertheless, technologies are required to increase the eco-efficiency, increasing the TVA, while reducing the El.

Annually the heat demand by domestic and industry users is much higher than the electricity demand, but the demands for electricity and heat vary asynchronously during the year, complicating improving overall efficiency easily. Hence, an important challenge tackled in this case study was capturing essentials of the temporal dynamics of electricity and heat use in a simple model.

Three strategies to improve the eco-efficiency were investigated. The first

strategy concerned technologies improving the energy use of the electricity production and district heating plant and the introduction of cooling technologies. The second strategy concerned tapping higher temperature water from the electricity production, such that the heat is more useful to industry and substitutes local (fossil) fuel use for heat production. The third strategy concerned two means of 'peak-shaving', such that occasional shortages on heat can be met without excess low-value electricity production.

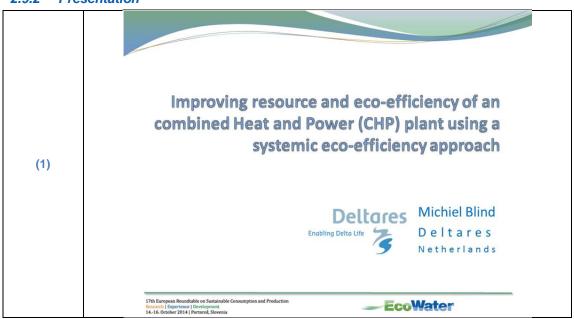
The study demonstrates that a whole system analysis provides essential insights to improve the eco-efficiency of the system. The distinction between foreground and background environmental impacts provides insights even beyond the whole system. The results show that the three option-sets have quite different effects on the overall eco-efficiency. Increasing the effective use of the energy has the most pronounced effects on TVA, the climate change potential, and the excess heat discharge. Investments in energy efficiency and cooling technologies have almost no effect.

## Keywords

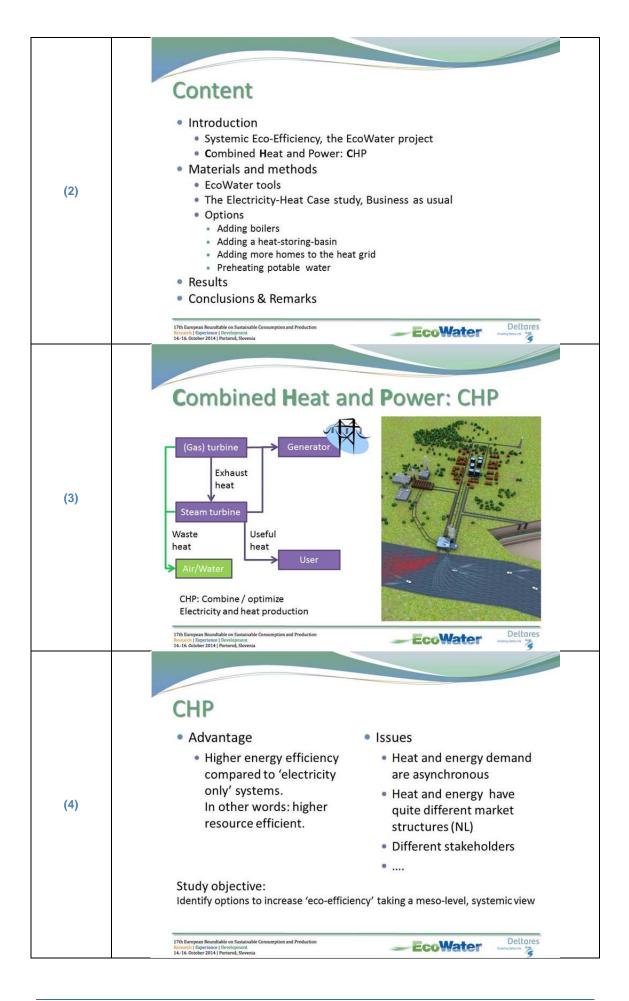
Resource efficiency; systemic eco-efficiency; electricity-heat cogeneration; LCA;

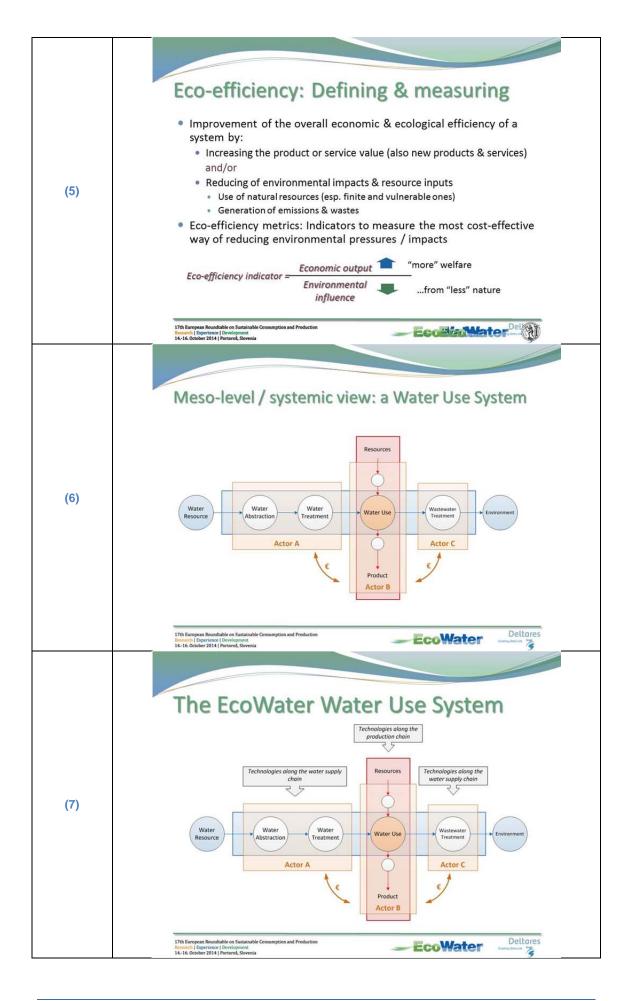
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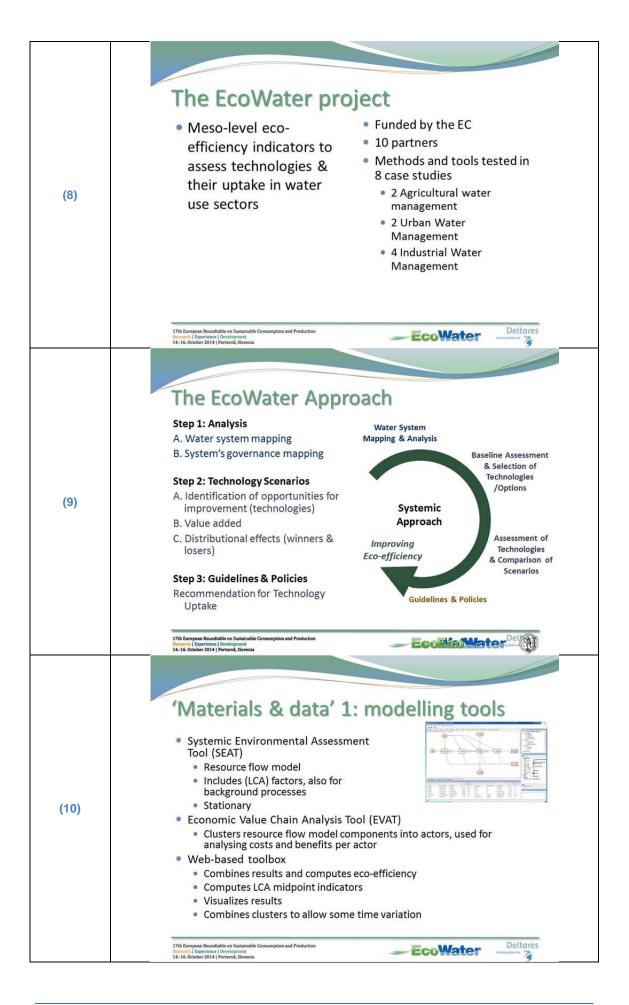
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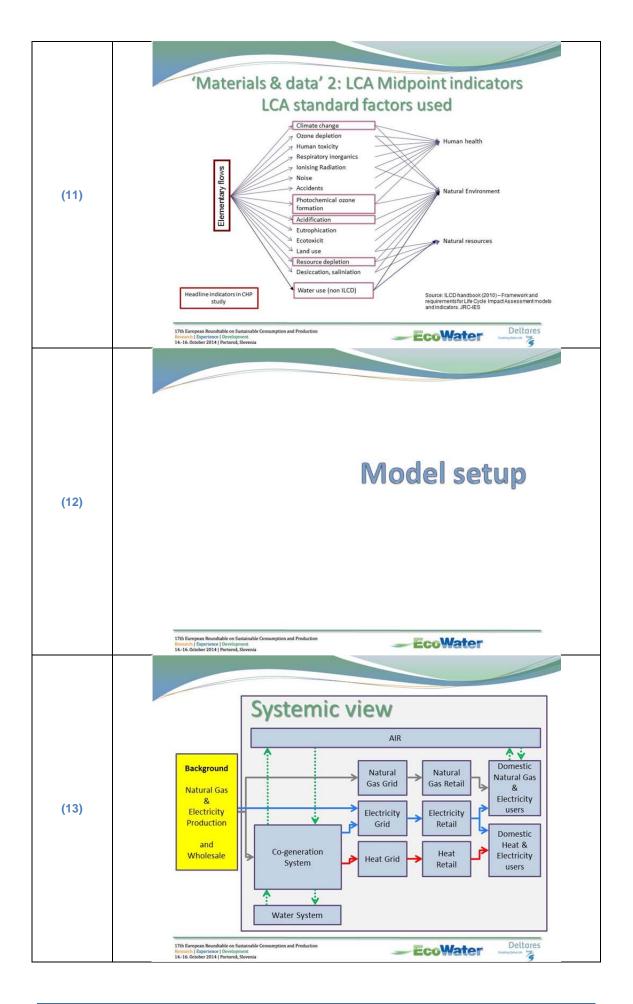


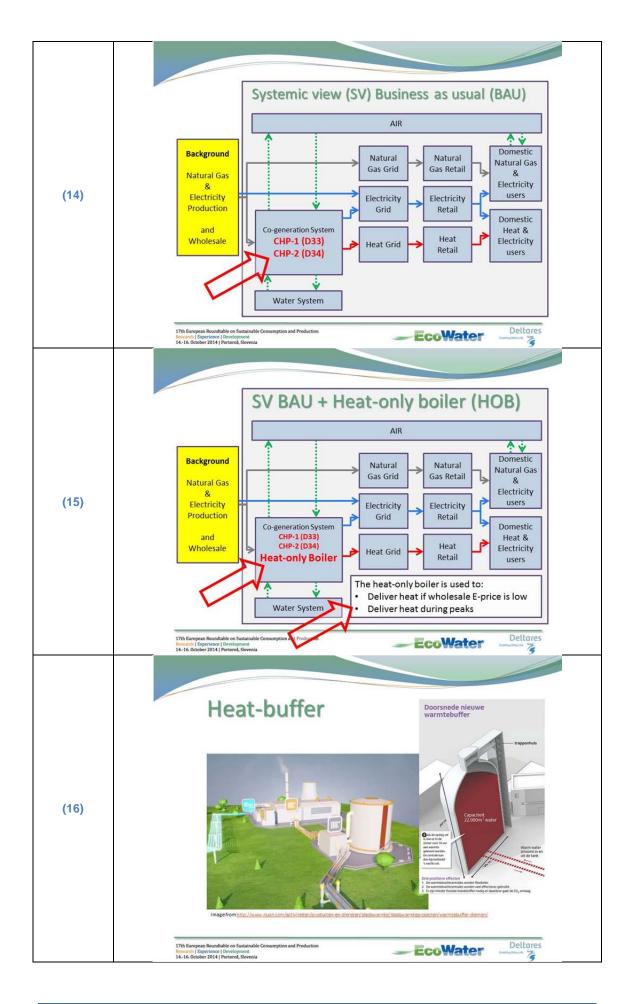
#### 2.9.2 Presentation

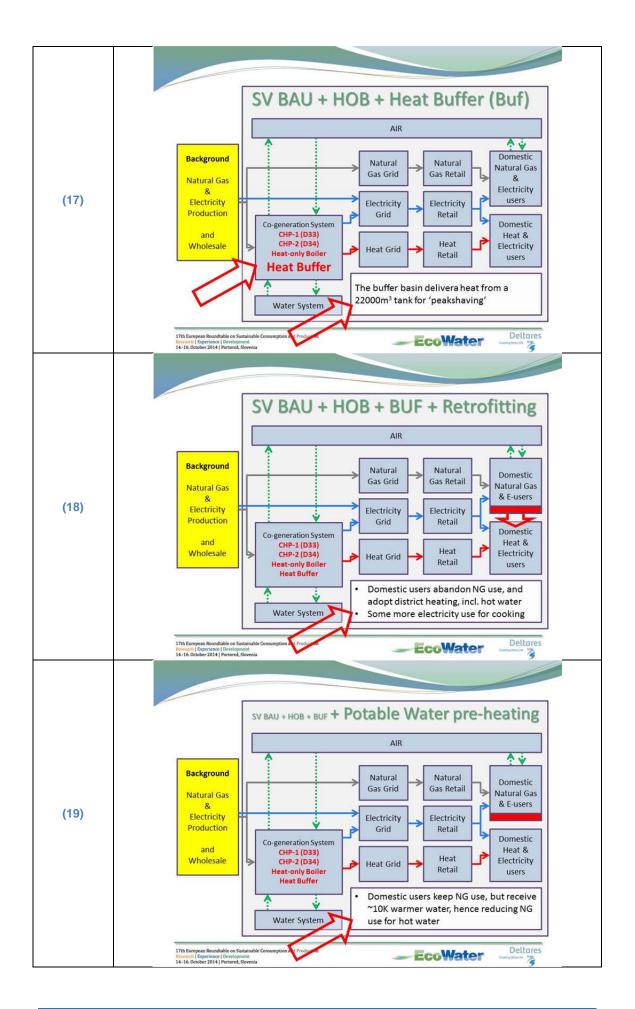


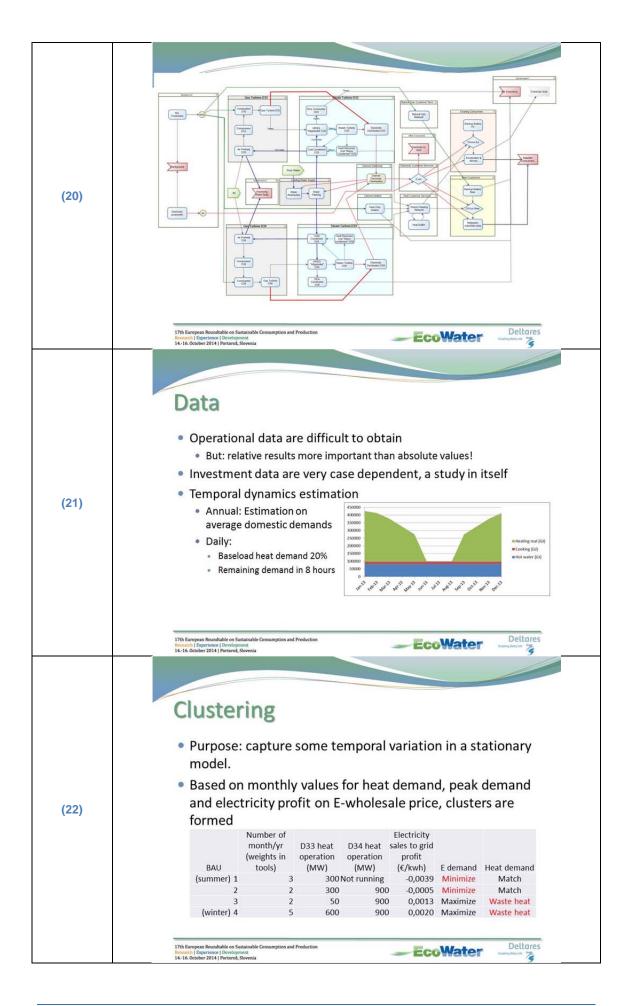


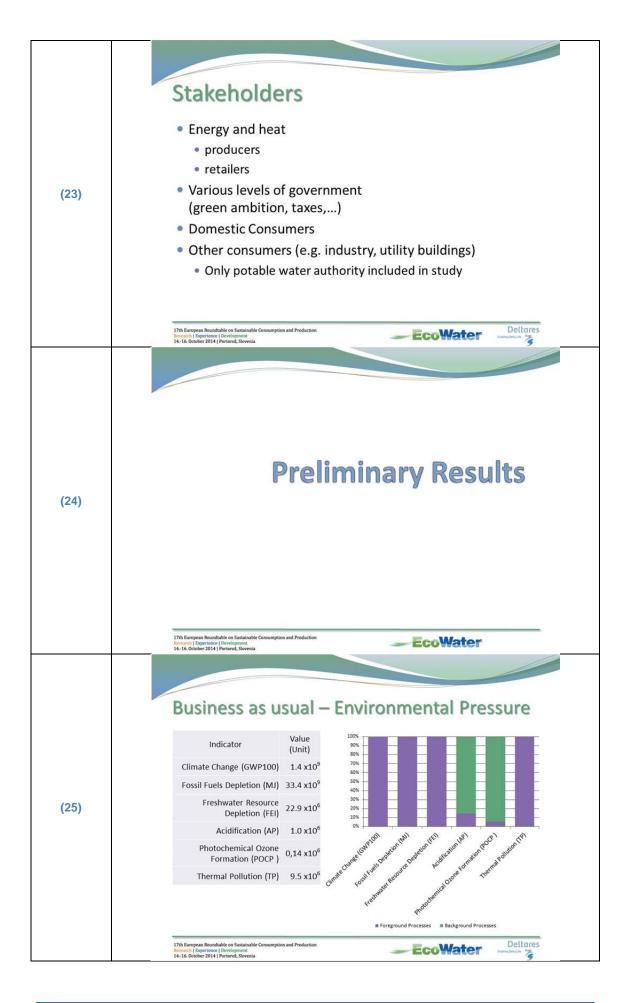


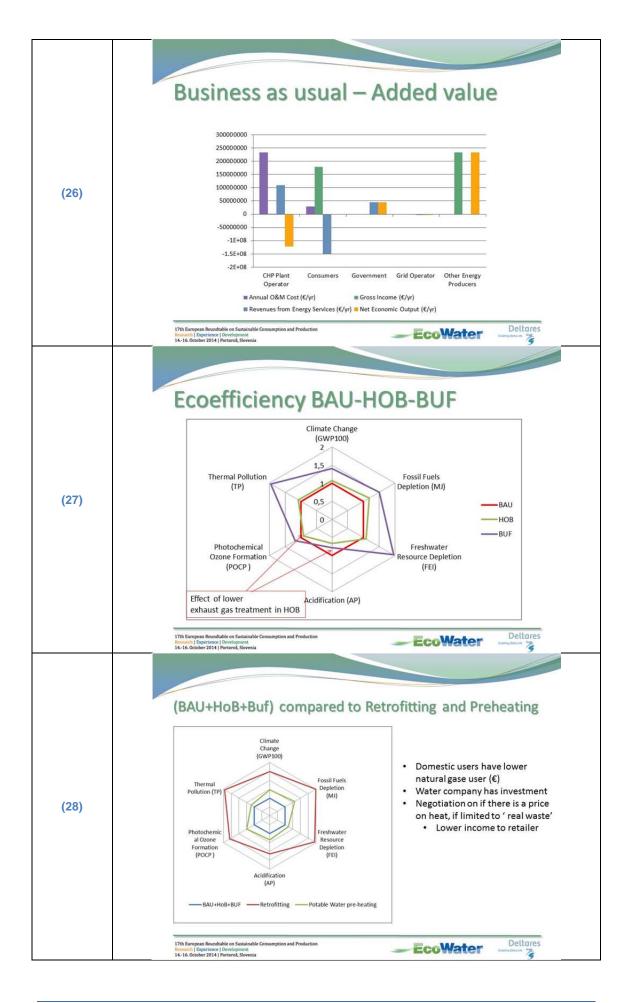


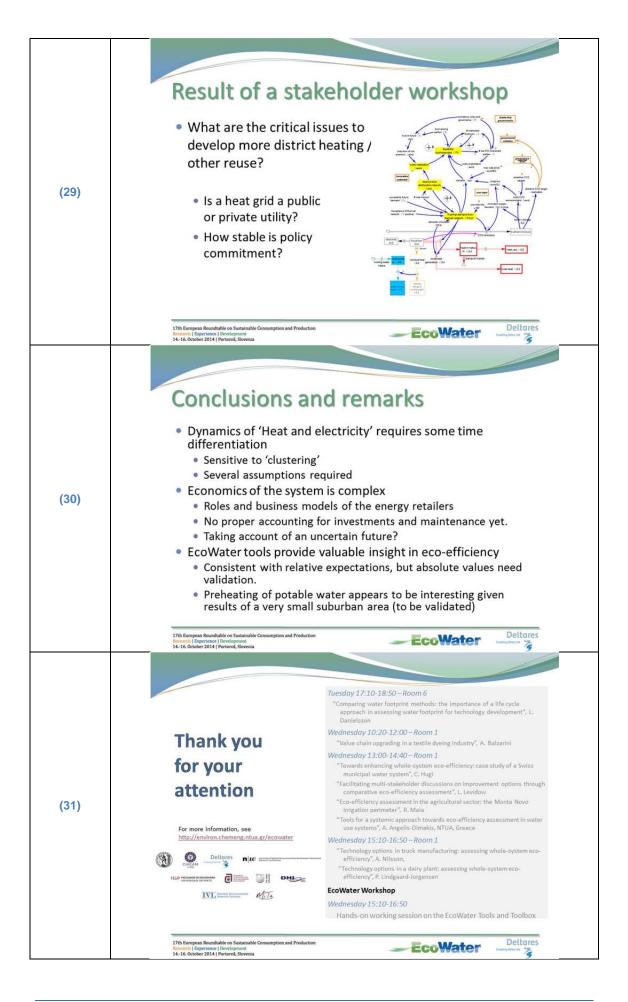












# 2.10 Technology options in a dairy plant: assessing whole-system eco-efficiency

Palle LINDGAARD-JØRGENSEN<sup>1</sup>, 1 and Martin ANDERSEN<sup>1</sup> Gert Holm KRISTENSEN

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### 2.10.1 Abstract

Eco-efficiency assessment is a quantitative management tool, which enables the study of life-cycle environmental impacts of a product system along with its economic value for stakeholders involved in a water value chain- from abstraction to end use (ISO 14045). The FP7 EcoWater Project has developed guidance material and tools for analysing the eco-efficiency of water-service systems. The whole-system analysis includes environmental assessments of the product system, its economic value and its quantitative eco-efficiency along water value chains with different actors (water providers, water users and Waste Water treatment companies). This case study uses the EcoWater tools in investigating options for whole-system eco-efficiency improvement a dairy plant producing milk powder and other upgraded milk fractions. The study focused on a production site in Holstebro, Denmark, which use water in its utility operation and in the process for cleaning (Cleaning in Place, CIP), rinse processes and standardization of products. The dairy has a strong environmental strategy aiming at reducing resource burdens, especially greenhouse gas emissions and water use. It strives to identify technologies which are cost-effective in reducing resource burdens both within their own production system and in the water value chain. The dairy plant has full management control of the dairy production stage and partly of the transport system through contracts with transport companies. For the other stages, different actors control the pricing of services and investment decisions for new technologies and in management and operation.

In this study the water value chain is modelled in five stages: water supply, dairy production, wastewater treatment, energy production (biogas) and transport. The study assessed how several technology options would change the whole-system eco-efficiency, i.e. a ratio between total value added (TVA) and resource burdens. The later were assessed through standard mid-point indicators (JRC, 2011). Data came from the companies and from LCI databases. According to the results, all technology options would lower the whole-system resource use and environmental impacts, varying from minimal to significant improvements. Some technologies would improve the overall system resource use and reduce the environmental impact but would require larger investment costs, especially in the dairy production stage. So those options would lower the whole-system eco-efficiency.

A few technology options would improve the whole-system TVA, resulting

from a greater TVA for the dairy operation stage. but would reduce TVA for the water supply and wastewater operators. Combining actor investment in technologies in all three stages (water supply, wastewater treatment and dairy production) may provide new opportunities to both reduce the impact and optimise the TVA for more actors in the water value chain. The modelling analyses provided a basis for workshops with the actors in the value chain to discuss how to optimize whole-system eco-efficiency and how to anticipate distributional effects. The workshops also drew on the PESTLE-scenario method to discuss drivers and barriers of such eco-innovations, how those factors may change in the future, and how companies could anticipate or influence those changes. The results show how multi-stakeholder discussion can benefit eco-efficiency comparisons and selection of the best technologies from a technological, economic and environmental performance perspective.

# Keywords

Resource efficiency, supply and value chain optimization, cleaner production, sustainability

# References

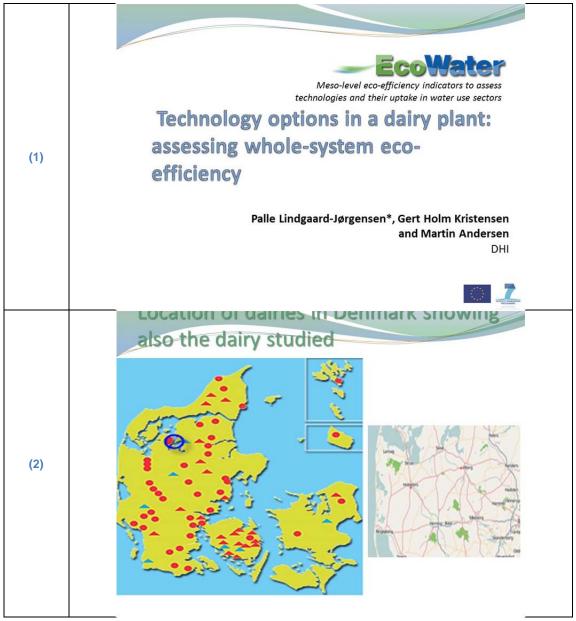
EcoWater Project website: <u>http://environ.chemeng.ntua.gr/EcoWater</u>

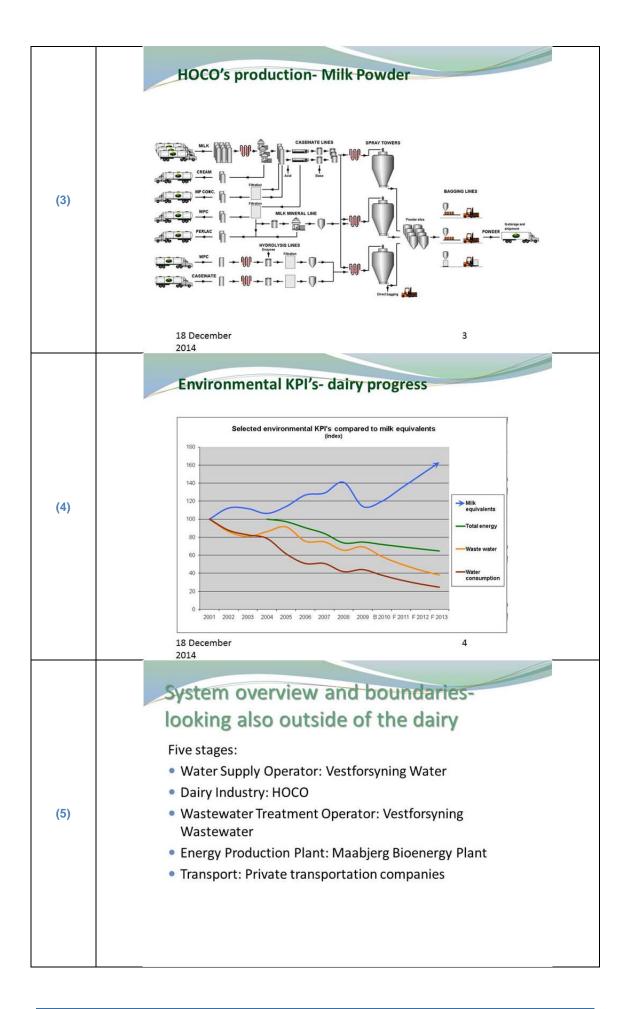
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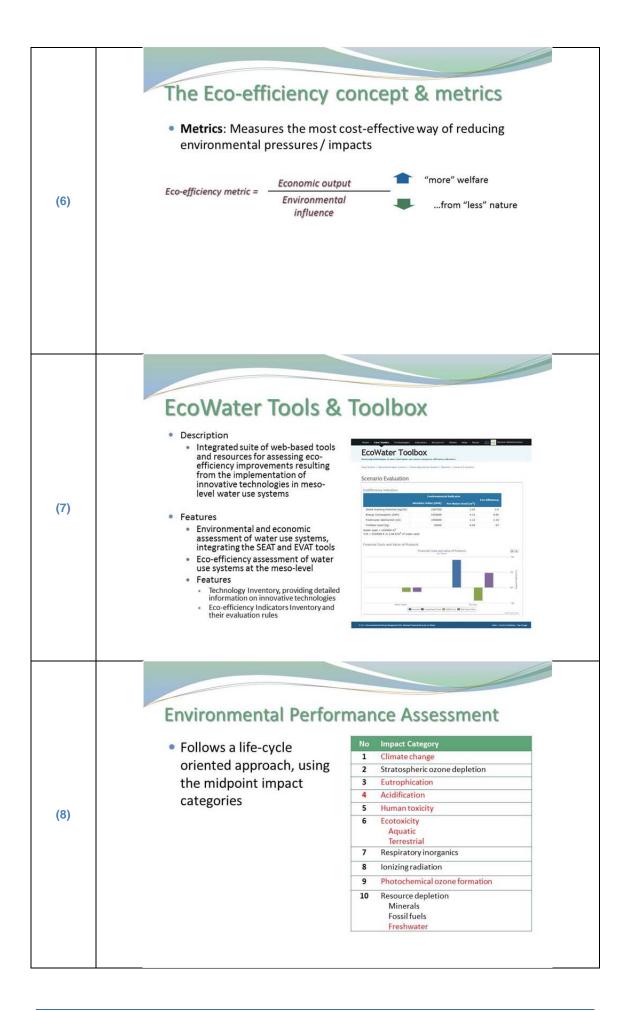
## **Corresponding Author**

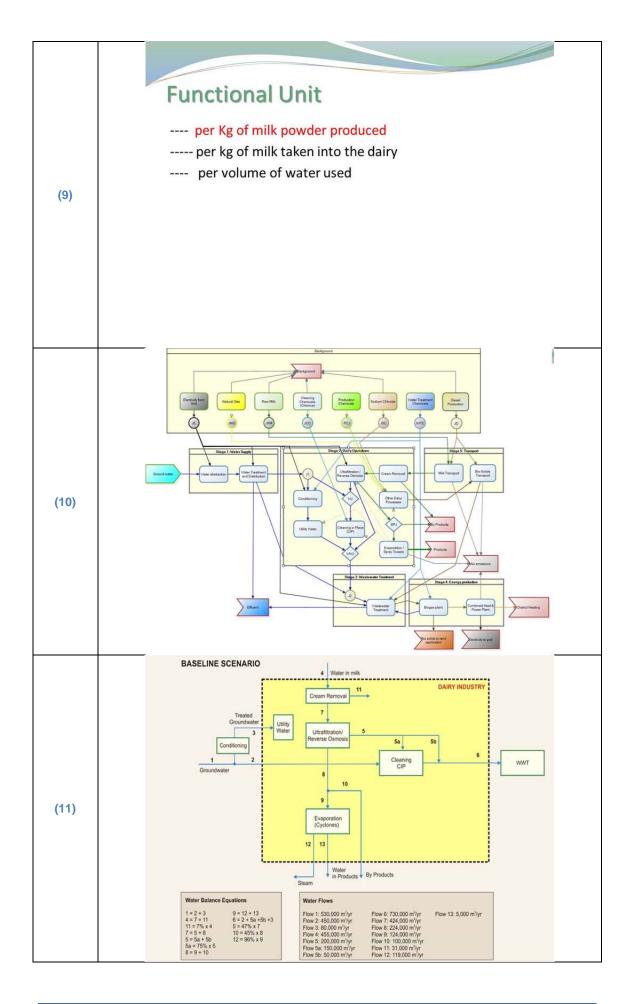
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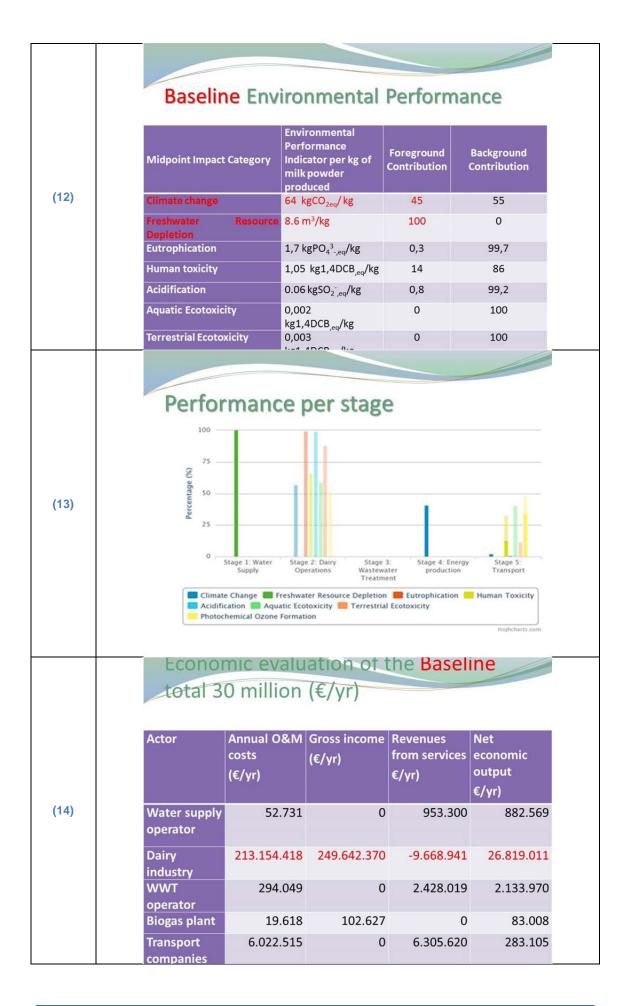
#### 2.10.2 Presentation



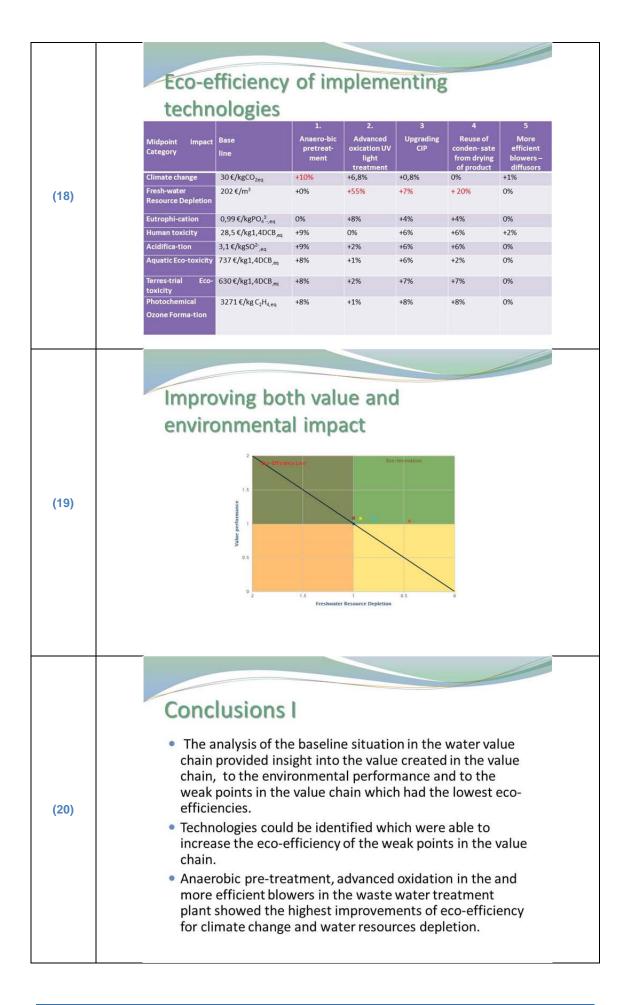


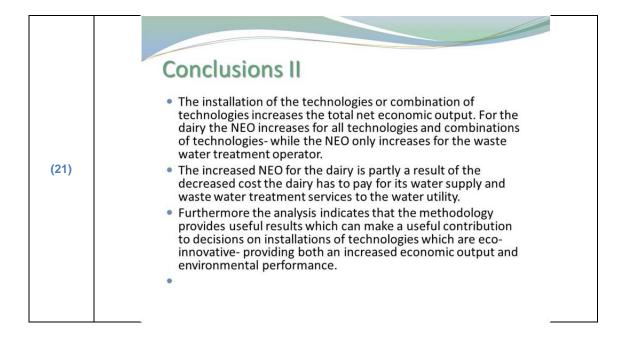






	Baselin	Baseline eco-efficiency								
(15)	Midpoint Impact	Category	Unit		Total for the v	value chain				
	Climate change		€/kgCO		30					
	Freshwater Reso	Freshwater Resource Depletion			202					
	Eutrophication	Eutrophication		3 4 -,eq	0.99					
5)	Human toxicity		€/kg1,4	DCB <sub>,eq</sub>	28,5	5				
	Acidification	Acidification			3,14					
	Aquatic Ecotoxici	Aquatic Ecotoxicity			737					
	Terrestrial Ecotox	Terrestrial Ecotoxicity			630					
	Photochemical O	Photochemical Ozone Formation			3271					
	_									
(16)										
	Technolo	Technologies to ungrade the value chain								
	-	Technologies to upgrade the value chain								
	Technologys	Technology Scenario			Technologies Included					
					Anaerobic pre-treatment of dairy waste water					
	Resource Ff	Resource Efficiency		Increasing the efficiency of the Cleaning in Place operation						
					Condensation of water vapour from drying of milk powder					
	Pollution Pre	Pollution Prevention			Anaerobic pre-treatment of dairy waste water					
	Circular econ	Circular economy		Advanced oxidation and UV treatment						
(17)										
		Net economic output all the involved actors and								
	the total	the total valued added of the system								
			Anaerobic	Advanced	Combined	Combined				
	Net Economic		Pre-	oxidation and UV	technologies scenario 5	technolo- gies scenario				
	Output	Baseline	treatment	treatment		6 and more efficient				
	Water supply	882.569	0%	-54%	-54%	blowers -50%				
	operator									
		26.819.011	+9% +2%	+10%	+11%	+10%				
	Dairy WWT operator	2,133,970	+2.70							
	Dairy WWT operator Biogas plant	2.133.970 83.008	-25%	-17%	-18%	-20%				
	WWT operator				-18% 0%	-20% 0%				





# 2.11 Technology options in truck manufacturing: assessing wholesystem eco-efficiency

Sara SKENHALL<sup>1</sup>, Åsa NILSSON<sup>1</sup>, Les LEVIDOW<sup>2</sup>, Uwe FORTKAMP<sup>1</sup>, Magnus KLINGSPOR<sup>1</sup> and Tomas RYDBERG<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Open University

## 2.11.1 Abstract

Eco-innovation has been generally directed at energy input-substitutes, endof-pipe emissions control, component recycling, etc. Some companies have made investments reducing resource burdens within the production process. Such eco-innovations aim to combine economic advantage with lower resource burdens. These improvements have been often assessed (and compared) as an eco-efficiency ratio within a production unit. Looking further, the FP7 EcoWater project has analysed eco-efficiency on a whole-system level, i.e. among heterogeneous actors across the water value chain (process-water users, providers and WWT companies).

Along those lines, this study investigated technology options for whole-system eco-efficiency improvement in truck-cabin production at Volvo Trucks, which is serviced by companies for water abstraction and wastewater treatment. The study focused on two production sites, Umeå and Tuve, which use water in corrosion-protection processes. Relative to its overall industrial sector, Volvo represents strong prospects for reducing resource burdens in water-use processes, especially from chemical inputs and wastewater. Such ecoinnovations involve more complex interactions beyond the production site, so the options warrant a whole-system comparative assessment, whose flows are shown in the Figure.

A modelling study assessed how different technology options would change the whole-system eco-efficiency, i.e. a ratio between total value added (TVA) and resource burdens. The later were assessed through standard mid-point indicators (JRC, 2011). Data came from the companies and from literature. The results are not conclusive across the set of environmental indicators, i.e. they show both environmental improvement and impairment within the same technology evaluation. Some technology options improve whole-system ecoefficiency, but some offer only minimal improvements or impairment.

The results show options where the TVA would be redistributed across the whole-system value chain: the Tuve site would pay the water-supply company for less water and would pay the WWT company Stena for much less WW to treat. But for the system the TVA still increases.

The analyses provided a basis for two multi-stakeholder workshops to discuss

how to optimize whole-system eco-efficiency and how to anticipate distributional effects. The workshops also drew on the PESTLE-scenario method to discuss drivers and barriers of such eco-innovations, how those factors may change in the future, and how companies could anticipate or influence such changes. The wastewater treatment company stressed the importance of stakeholder collaboration at an early stage of technology changes in industry. Discussions in the pre-implementation planning would highlight e.g. whether potential changes in waste and wastewater composition render a higher treatment service price. The methodology and tools developed in EcoWater can be very helpful in such discussions.

The results show how multi-stakeholder discussion can benefit eco-efficiency comparisons, the scenario method and company strategies. This paper will also evaluate the methods, as applied in an industrial context, and discuss possible improvements.

### Reference

JRC (2011). European Commission – Joint Research Centre – Institute for Environment and Sustainability: International Reference - Life Cycle Data system (ILCD) Handbook – General Guide for Life Cycle Assessment – Detailed guidance. First edition. Luxembourg: Publication Office of the European Union.

### Keywords

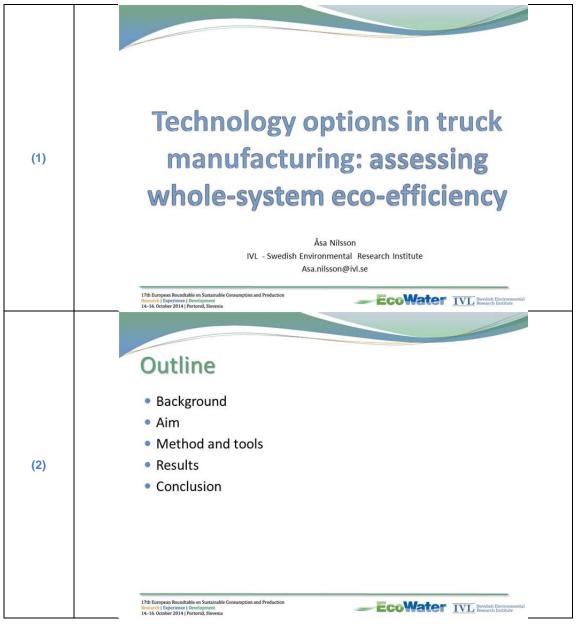
Eco-efficiency, resource efficiency, stakeholder interaction, systems analysis, scenario development

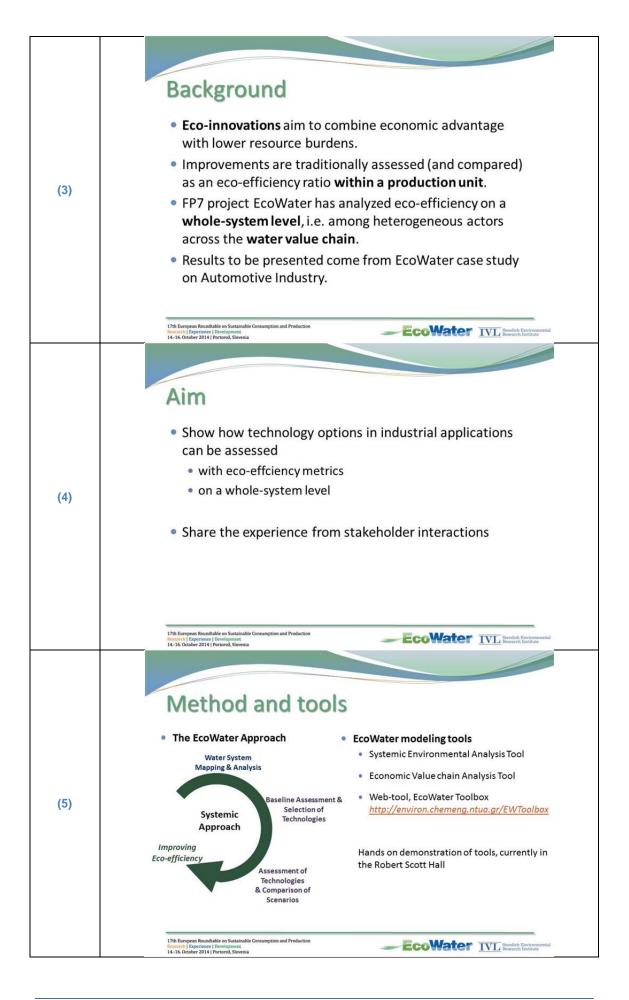
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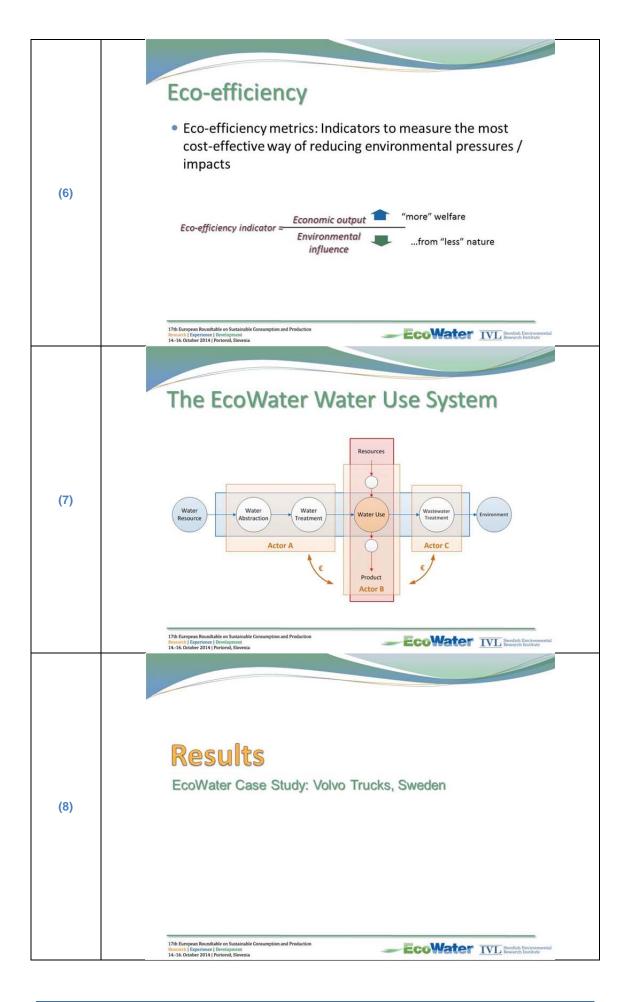
Ms. SKENHALL, Sara; IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute; E-mail: <u>sara.skenhall@ivl.se</u>

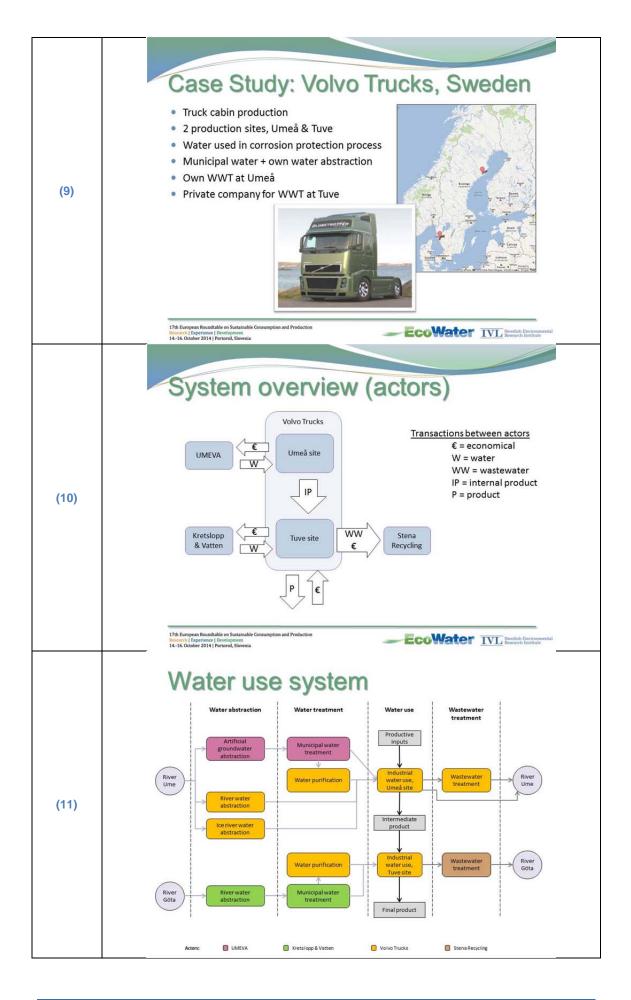
Ms. NILSSON, Åsa; IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute Mr. LEVIDOW, Les; Open University

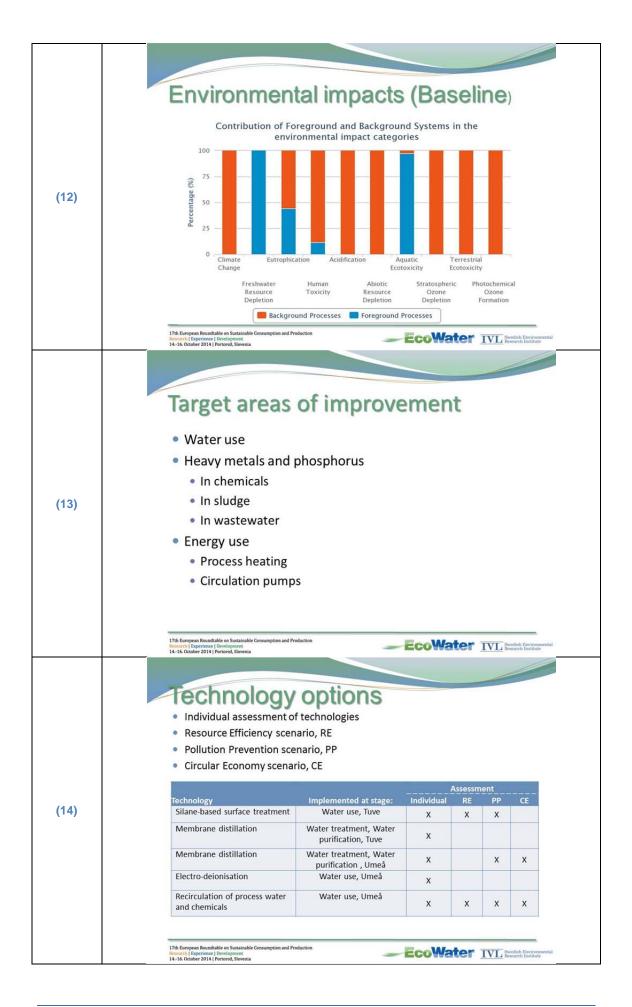
#### 2.11.2 Presentation

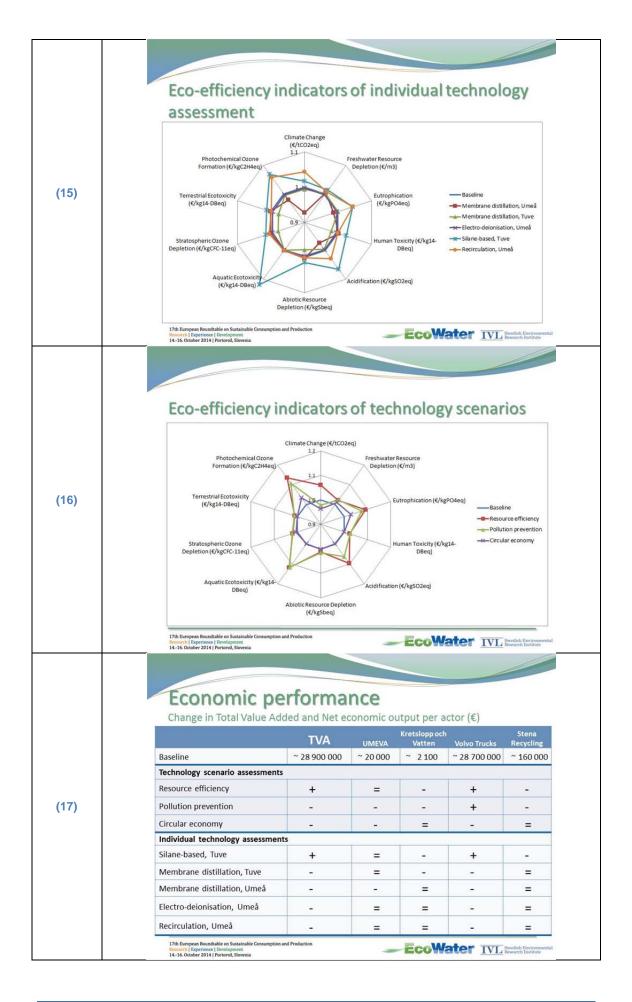


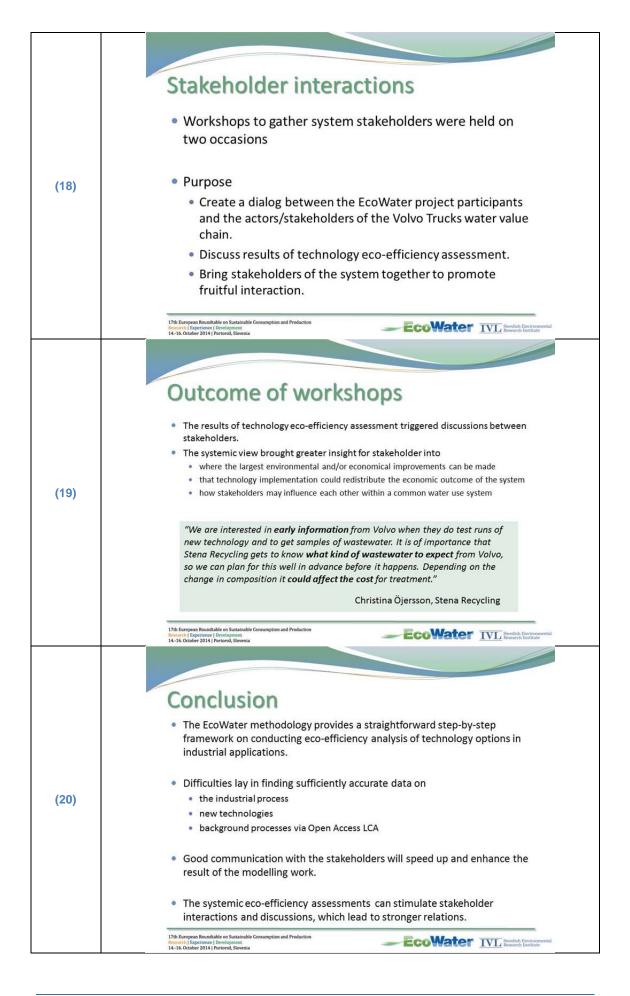














# 2.12 Comparing water footprint methods: the importance of a life cycle approach in assessing water footprint

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### 2.12.1 Abstract

Water footprint (WFP) was introduced as an indicator for freshwater use in 2002. Since then, many methods have been developed to calculate volume of freshwater consumed during production, including both water use and degradation (pollution).

This study applied a selection of WFP methods in a case study on water using processes in truck production at Volvo Trucks, Sweden. This case study is a part of the FP7 project EcoWater that focuses on environmental impacts from water using industries, but as an addition it was of interest to compare WFP methods. A life cycle assessment (LCA) was made on the case study's baseline technology scenario, and the WFP methods were used to assess water use based on inventory data.

The methods to compare were selected based on the criteria that they should include both water use and emissions to water. They were also selected to reflect a general expression of water footprint in terms of volume, instead of focusing on a certain area of protection. The results differ by an order of magnitude of 10 between the methods. Since the input of water was the same in both calculations, the results clearly show a difference between the methods.

The amount of considered emissions is one of various reasons to the difference, where the H2O-method includes a number of emissions while the WFN-method only considers one. Other differences are that the first method counts for the water scarcity situation, based on a water scarcity index (WSI), and relate local water use to global water use, which is not accounted for in the second method. Also, the characterization factors for the first method are based on country level while the characterization factors for the second method, are based on watershed level.

The result indicates that it is not possible to compare WFP calculated with different methods, even if the calculations are based on same data. This may be a problem as the producer can select a method favouring their WFP. For this reason, there is a need for a WFP reference method, which also expresses how to handle geographical and temporal aspects, as well as how to assess degradative water use. Knowledge dispersion would probably improve wider requests and therefore promote actors to work against this reference method.

This study shows that most of the water use in this case study takes place in the background processes of the life cycle. The result illustrates the importance of having a life cycle approach when discussing WFP for a product or production process.

WFP has potential to assess environmental impact from water use. The development of WFP methods indicates an increased interest for sustainable water use and as a possible continuation, the applicability of WFP can be further investigated.

# Keywords

Water footprint, Water footprint method, Water use

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(1)	Comparing water footprint methods: the importance of a life cycle approach in assessing water footprint Lina Danielsson 2014-10-14
	17th European Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production Beautrich Depresent   D

