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UBA FG II 2.2

# The German SoE Reporting

National structures  
versus  
European requirements?



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# Features of the German SoE reporting

- Refers to the rivers, lakes and groundwater data

- Legal Basis:

National: Administrative agreement about the exchange of environmental data between the federal states and the Federal Environment Agency (UBA) (contains code- and parameterlists)

European: The regulation establishing the EEA (1990)

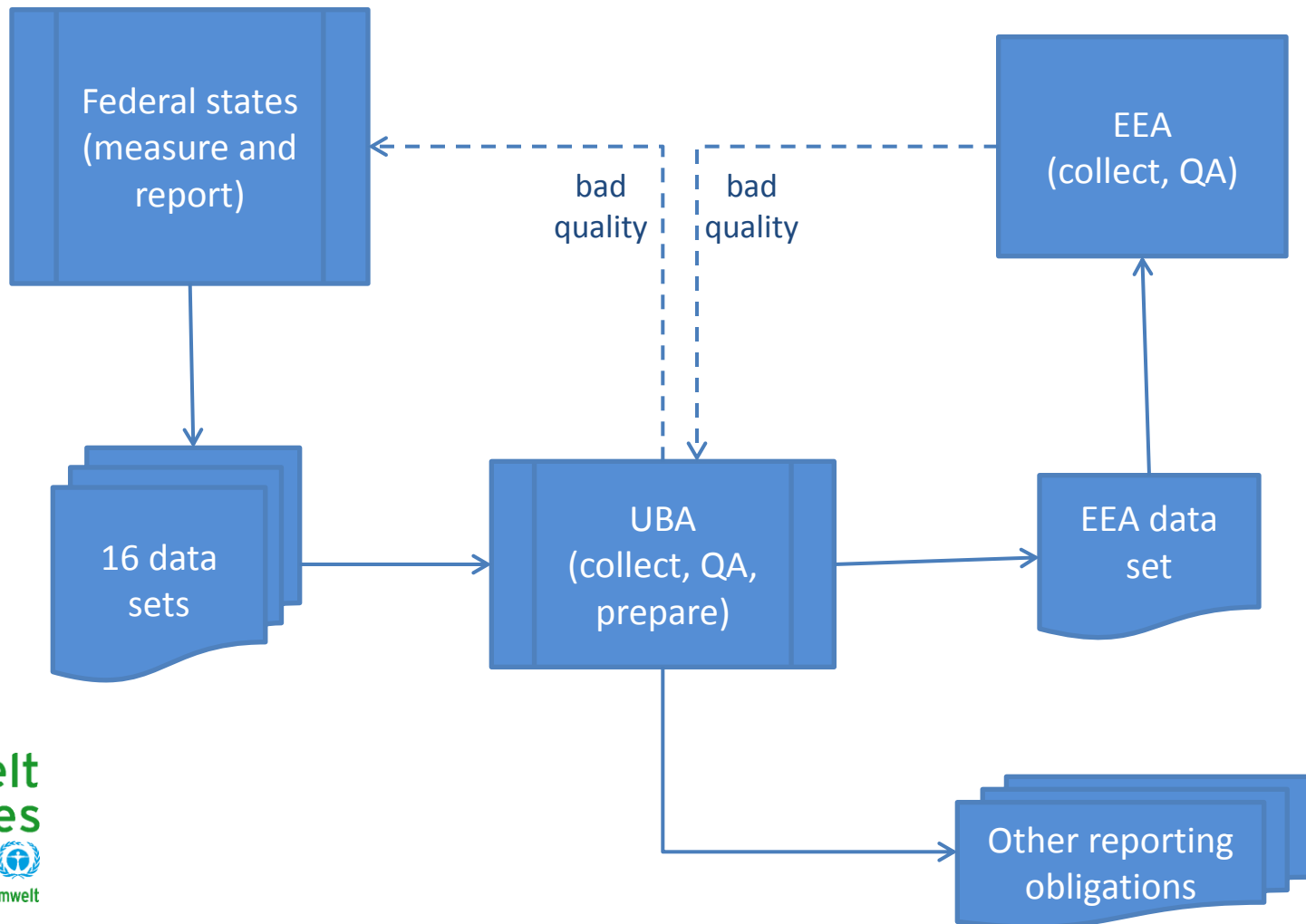
# Features of the German SoE reporting

- river and lakes stations of the WFD surveillance monitoring network
- EEA groundwater monitoring network
- measured values and parameters (data) based on various national legal bases (surface water ordinance, groundwater ordinance)

# Features of the German SoE reporting

- the 16 federal states are the operators of the measuring stations
- the 16 states report the results to UBA in a harmonized format once a year
- reported data consists of:
  - core data set (master data of the station and mandatory measuring values like nutrients and in the ordinances mentioned pollutants)
  - optional data set ( ~ 1600 parameters)

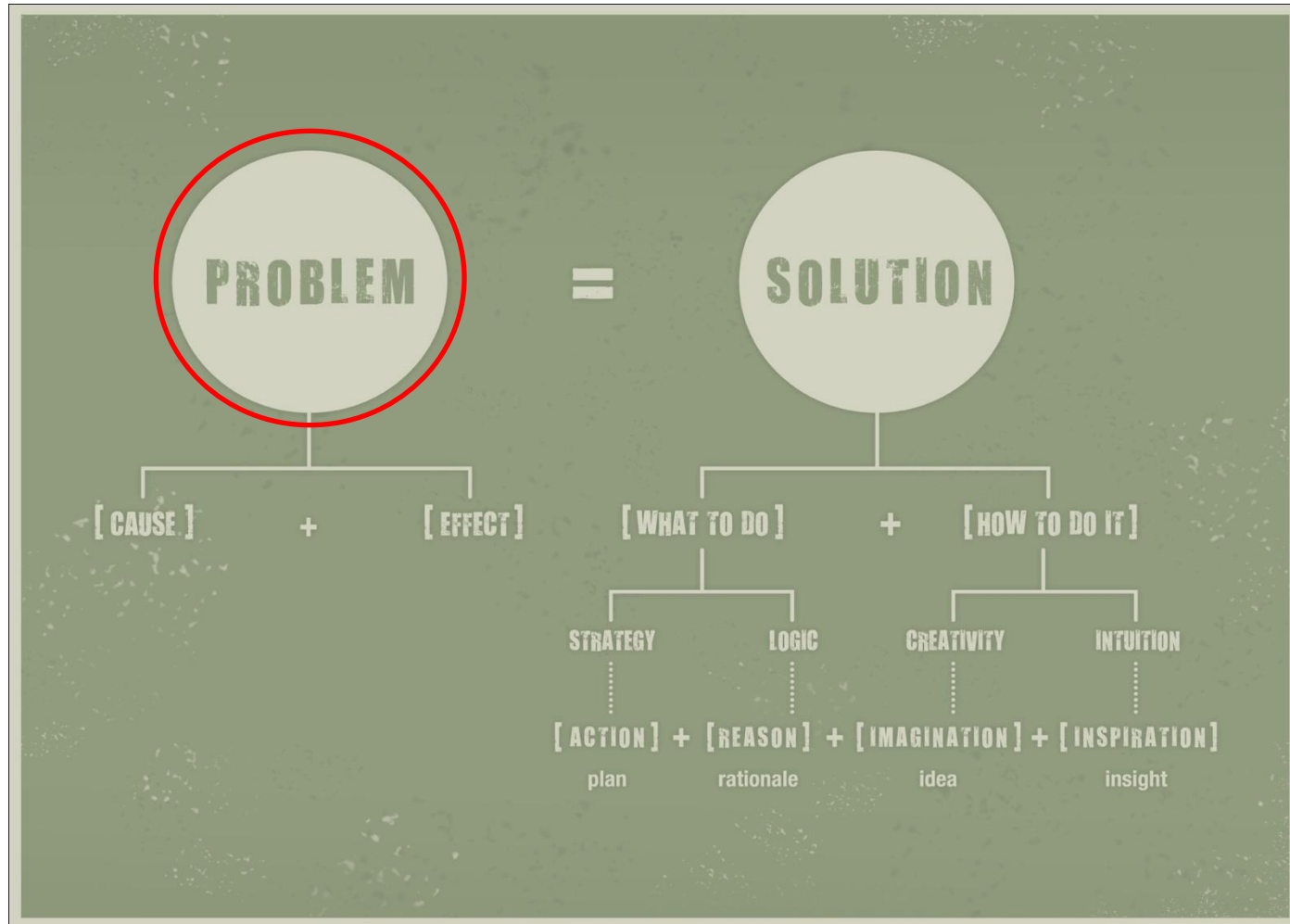
# Features of the German SoE reporting



# This is going well!

- national reporting process is well established, the communication and cooperation with the federal states works well
- the data repository (CDR) is clearly structured and can be handled easy for everybody – good overview about the individual data of each country
- the required time slots for the hole reporting are realistic and manageable in a good way
- most of the communication

# Problems?





# Problems?

## 1. Formats and Codelists

(for us) incomprehensible annual format changes:

- e.g.: changes in the wording of parameters/units and so on (temperature vs. temperature-water – mg/l vs. mg/l C)
- mean values with 2 samples – we leave it empty but it is not accepted
- How to operate with empty fields? -999 ? Empty ?

All these things cause high adaption needs every year!

# Problems?

## 2. Comparability of reported data

- the reported data are very heterogeneous, each country may report different parameters (in quality and quantity)
  - SoE guidance is only a framework, no legal basis
  - at the moment – „Give us anything you have“ (?)
  - Are the data that are reported in this way really comparable?
  - Is it possible to derive real trends with this various data basis?
- We can not recognize a real concept for the evaluation of the data for pan-european trends and analysis.

# Future work and needs!



# Future work and needs!

- We need reliability of the key content of the formats to guarantee the comparability each year.
- unique (clear) identifiers for parameters, units and so on in codelists – it is important for a permanent link to our national databases, to avoid confusion, to keep the data integrity and to reduce permanent adaptations of our database (as less as possible string/text coded content in the codelists!)
- we can accept format changes that are based on a specific scientific need

But: hard to accept new formats based only on new „wordings“ – because in doubt we have to coordinate all changes with 16 federal states

# Future work and needs!

- It is important for us to know:
  - What does the EEA wants to analyse?
  - Which scientific questions should be answered?
  - In which legislations should the results be included or used as scientific basis?
- We recommend to improve the act of cooperation that is already embedded in the SoE guidance
- For a pan-european representative data analysis together we need to answer the following questions:
  - What is possible?
  - What is comparable?
  - How is the process to realize it organized?

So you/we can produce better publications and reports!

# Thank you for your attention!



# Questions to you



1st- addressed to other MS:

What is the opinion of the other MS? Do they have similar problems as described?

2nd – addressed to the EEA:

Is there a statistic about the usage of the reported data and which target group are reached with it?