

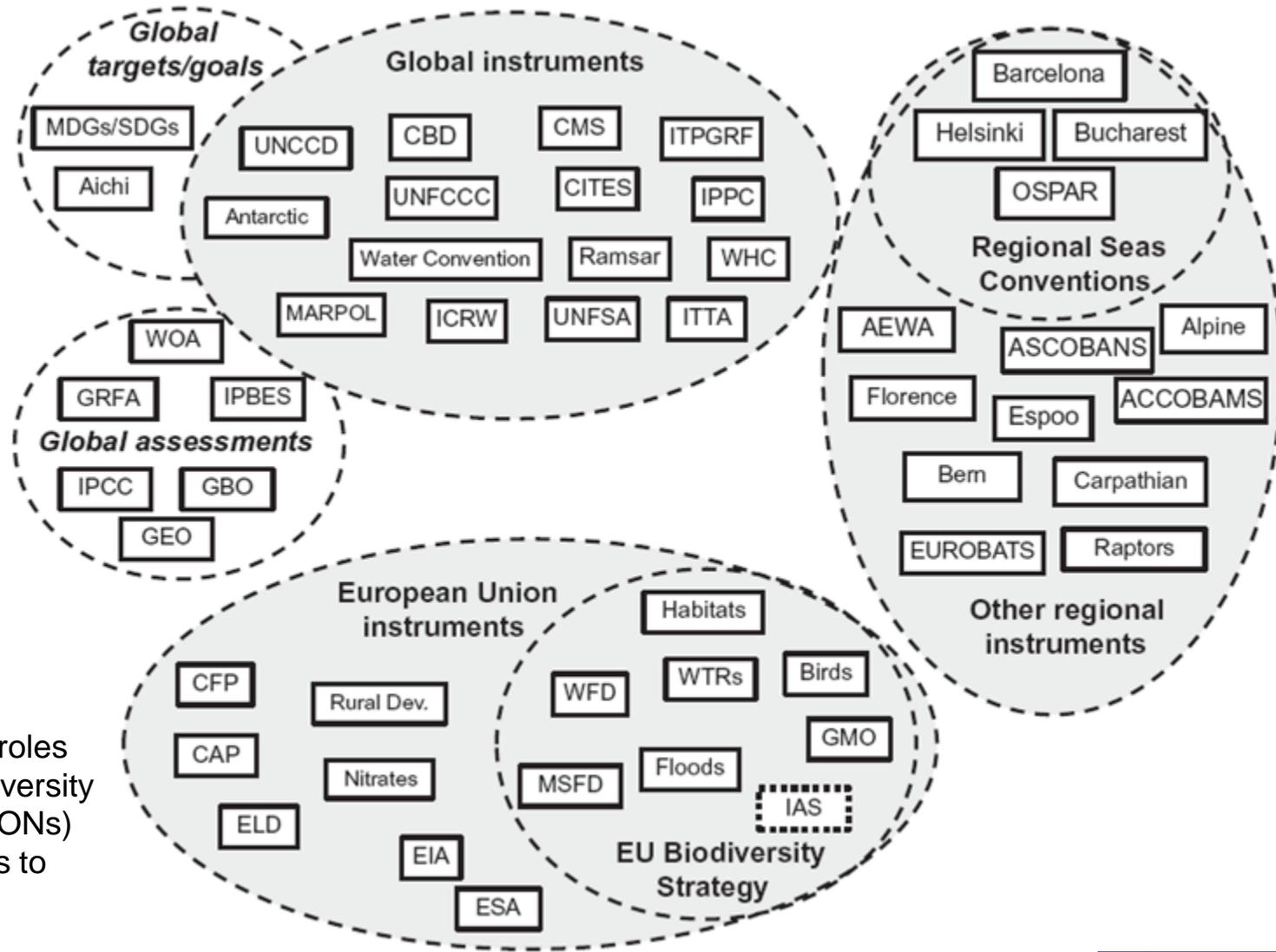


**MATCHING INFORMATION TO NEEDS –  
ON THE CHALLENGES OF FITTING "SQUARE PEGS INTO ROUND HOLES"**

Dr. Corinne S. Martin, Senior Programme Officer

# A Euro-centric view of biodiversity-related policies and processes

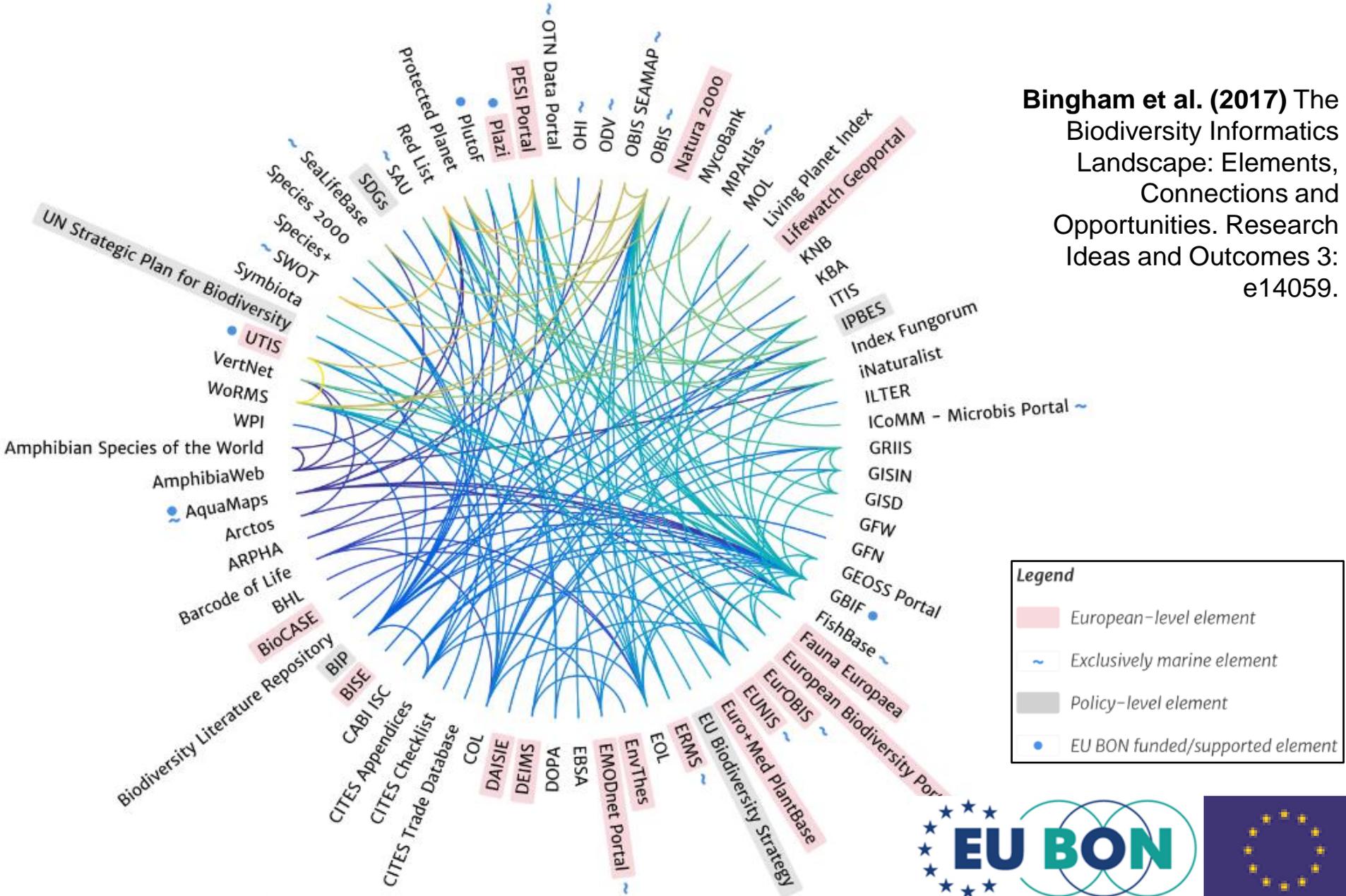
*Reporting is a major undertaking for the typical EU Member State*



**Wetzel et al. (2015)** The roles and contributions of Biodiversity Observation Networks (BONs) in better tracking progress to 2020 biodiversity targets.

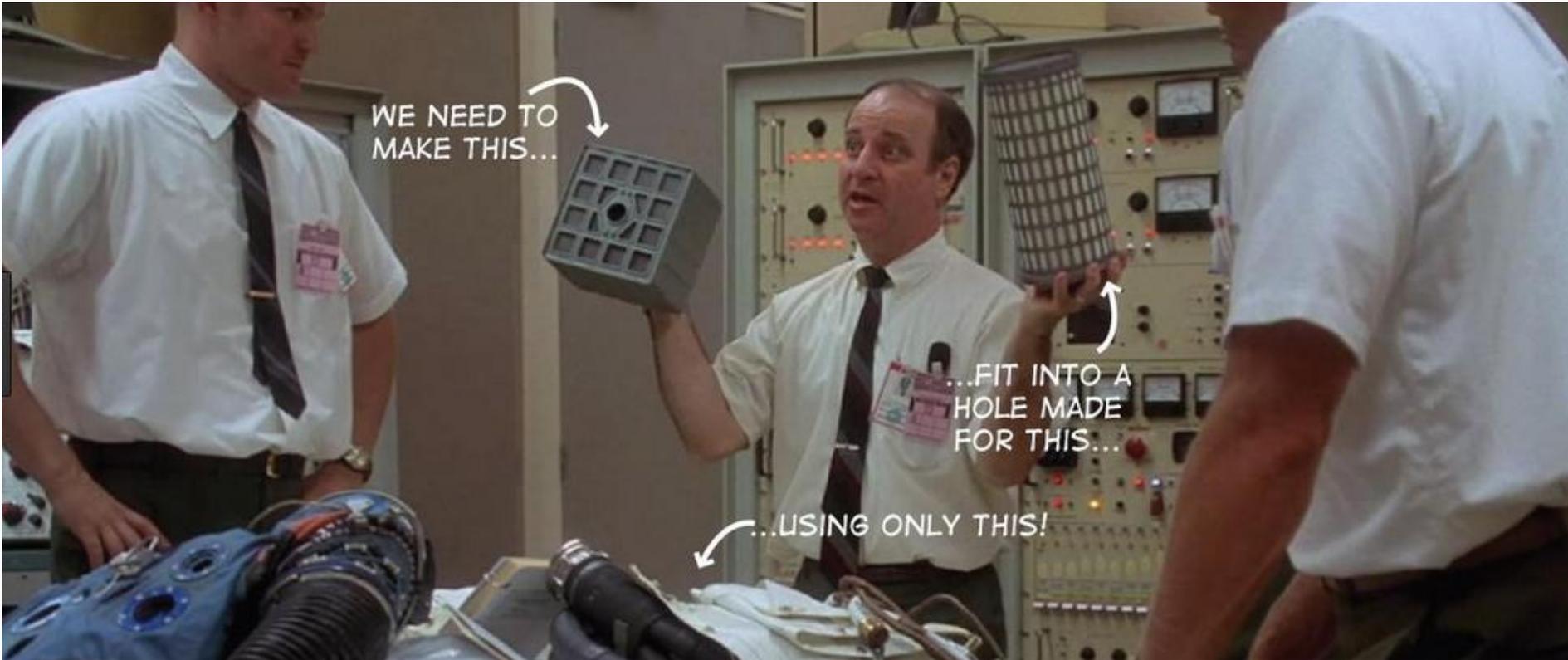
*Biodiversity*

# There are numerous datasets/-bases/data portals out there...



**Bingham et al. (2017)** The Biodiversity Informatics Landscape: Elements, Connections and Opportunities. Research Ideas and Outcomes 3: e14059.

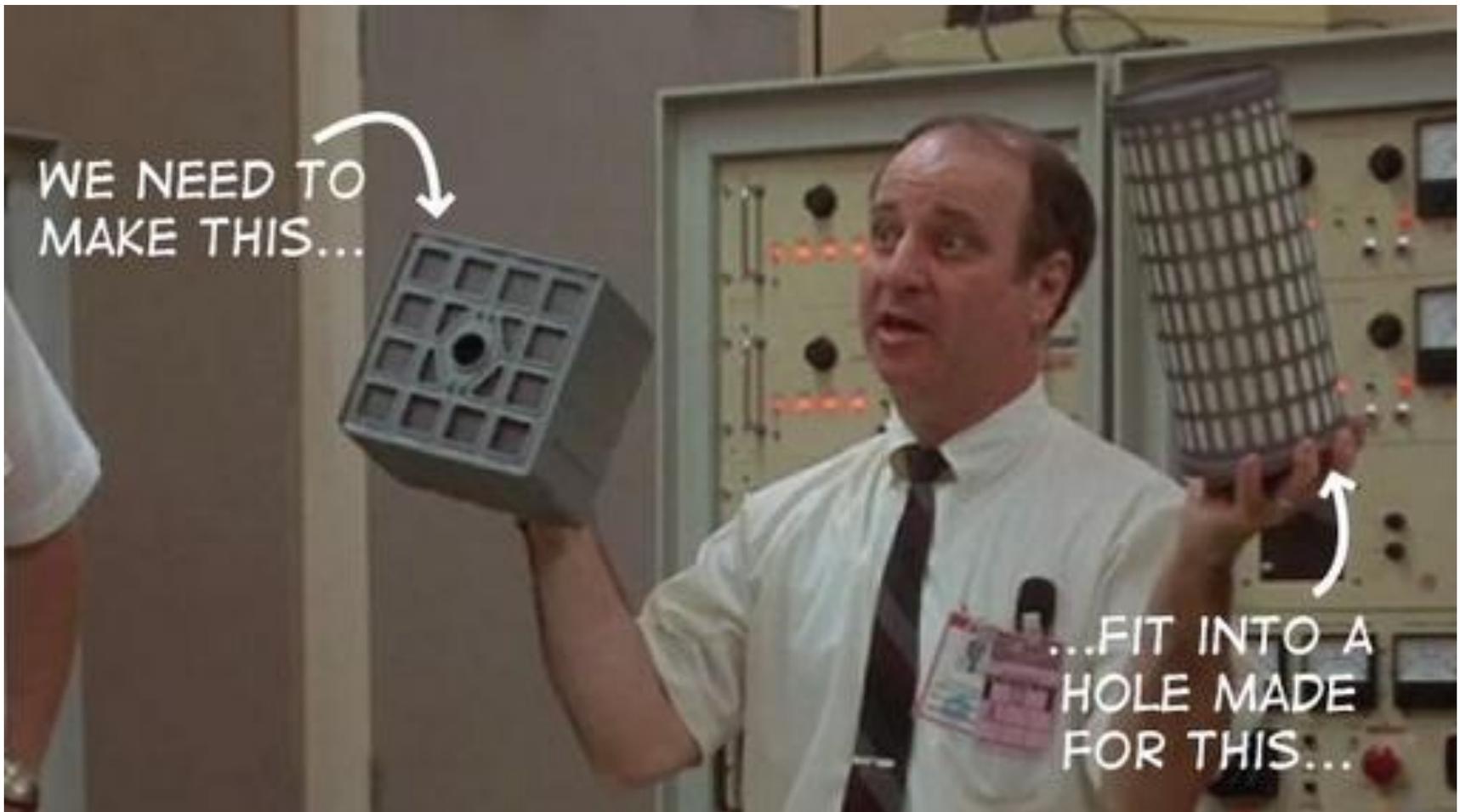




# Reporting under a policy instrument:

*what it can feel like for the ones who actually do the reporting...*





Some of the challenges of “recycling” data collected for given primary purposes (*e.g. scientific*), into secondary uses (*e.g. policy*):

- Collation might be difficult if spatio-temporal scales are incompatible
- The data collected were often fitted to a particular scientific “question”



Often the data/information/knowledge “exist” but are “unavailable” for use in policy reporting...

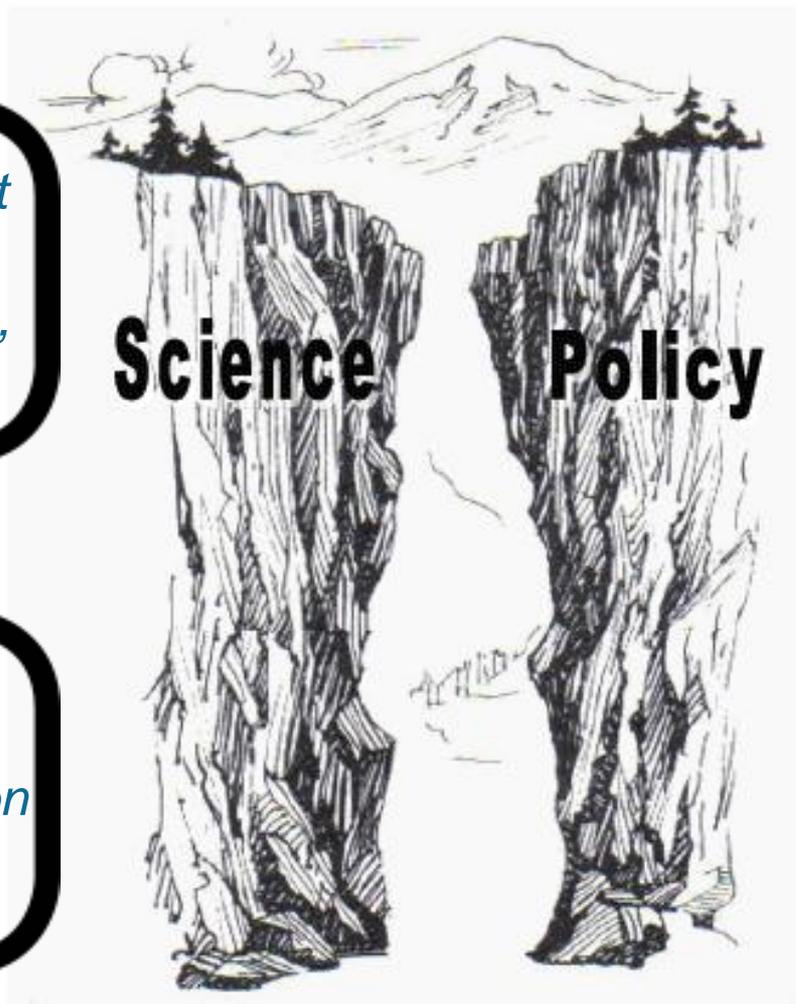
... and reasons include (*not an exclusive list!*):

- scientific papers are behind “pay walled” journals (subscription)
- permissions are required from the owner/curator
- datasets require expert processing
- datasets are in “un-user-friendly” formats (“packaging” is needed)
- datasets cannot be traced (e.g. reside on “people’s laptops”, not in public databases)
- etc

# Science-policy interface sometimes feels like a “canyon”

*We need to collect more data, on longer timeframes, to determine this*

*This sort of information is not attractive publication material for peer-reviewed journals*



*What are the status and trends of listed species and habitats?*

*Do we have comprehensive distribution maps of important species and habitats?*

# Reporting on 'eutrophication' across several instruments (1)

*Frequency  
of  
reporting*

		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
MSFD Art. 8, 9, 10		■						■						■				
MSFD Art. 11				■						■						■		
MSFD Art. 13						■						■						■
WFD <sup>35</sup>					■	■					■						■	
Nitrates		■				■				■				■				■
UWWTD			■		■		■		■		■		■		■		■	
Barcelona	LBS		■		■		■		■		■		■		■		■	
	MED-POL	■		■		■		■		■		■		■		■		■
Bucharest	LBS	■		■		■		■		■		■		■		■		■
	PMA	■		■		■		■		■		■		■		■		■
	BSIMAP	■		■		■		■		■		■		■		■		■
	DP	■		■		■		■		■		■		■		■		■
	CBD	■		■		■		■		■		■		■		■		■
HELCOM	PLC	■		■		■		■		■		■		■		■		■
	COMBINE	■		■		■		■		■		■		■		■		■
OSPAR	RID	■		■		■		■		■		■		■		■		■
	COMPP		■					■					■				■	
	88/2				■			■		■			■				■	
	EMP <sup>36</sup>	■		■		■		■		■		■		■		■		■
	CAMP	■		■		■		■		■		■		■		■		■
EEA-WISE-SoE	Marine	■		■		■		■		■		■		■		■		■
	Rivers	■		■		■		■		■		■		■		■		■

**MRAG, UNEP-WCMC, URS (2014).**

Development of WISE-Marine for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC. Final report on activities in 2013. European Commission, DG-ENV. Project number ZF1523. London (UK): MRAG. 268 pp.

# Reporting on 'eutrophication' across several instruments (2)

## *Spatial coverage*

	Land		Internal waters		Territorial sea		Exclusive Economic Zone		Continental shelf (seabed & subsoil)	High Seas		
MSFD		<i>Freshwater limit</i>		<i>Baseline</i>		<i>12 nm limit</i>		<i>200 nm limit</i>				
WFD												
Nitrates <sup>37</sup>												
UWWTD												
Barcelona												
Bucharest												
HELCOM												
OSPAR												
EEA-WISE-SoE												



# Opportunities for improving reporting include:

- Harmonisation (e.g. amend requirements)
- Streamlining (e.g. avoid duplication of reporting)
- Ensure consistent visions...



	<b>Vision or objective (Cf. eutrophication)</b>
Marine Directive	Achieve or maintain good environmental status
Water Framework	Good surface water status
Nitrates	Reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and - preventing further such pollution
Urban Waste Water Treatment	Protect the environment from the adverse effects of [...] waste water discharges
Barcelona	Protection of the marine environment and sustainable development of the coastal areas of the Mediterranean
Bucharest	Preserve the ecosystem as a valuable natural endowment of the region, whilst ensuring the protection of its marine and coastal living resources [...]
HELCOM	A healthy Baltic sea environment, with diverse biological components [...]
OSPAR	A clean, healthy and biologically diverse Northeast Atlantic, used sustainably
Habitats & Birds	Favourable conservation status

# Questions

