THE 2022 DROUGHT NEEDS TO BE A TURNING POINT FOR EUROPEAN DROUGHT RISK MANAGEMENT



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DROUGHT IN THE ANTHROPOCENE

❷ Respondents

Nr. of responses

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15 - 30

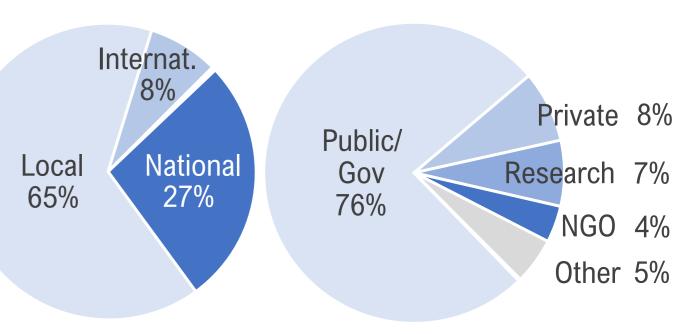
by country

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The Drought in the Anthropocene (DitA) network carried out a Europe-wide survey of water managers involved in the response to the 2022 European drought between March and October 2023. It collected ≈500 responses across 30 countries from respondents operating in a variety of sectors and types of organization.

It emerged that...

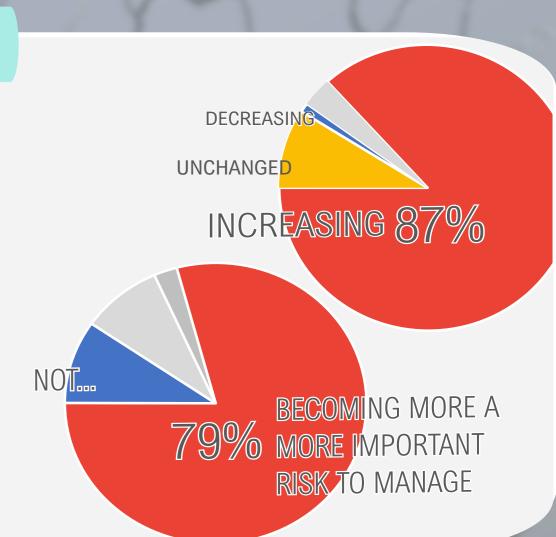
Overview of respondents



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... increasing according to the vast majority of responsponders. This is also indicated by the increased frequency of low precipitation years. Drought is becoming a significant risk to manage for water managers all over Europe.



The drought lasted...

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SURVEY

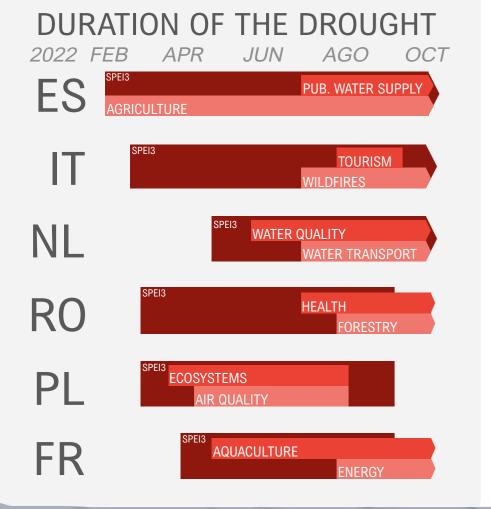
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... a different amount of time depending on the sector and country. Areas in southern Europe experienced over 8 months of drought. The impacts were observed at different times in different sectors, with sectors such as public water supply and forestry showing delayed start of the impact compared to agricutlure.

Northern Spain experienced almost two years of continuous drought with longlasting impacts water restrictions, and reliance on alternative water sources, including groundwater, reclaimed water, and desalination.

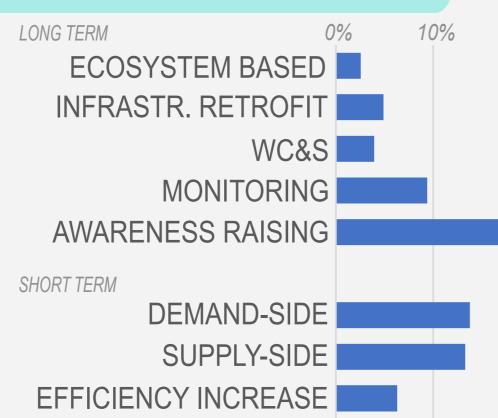
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We need a...

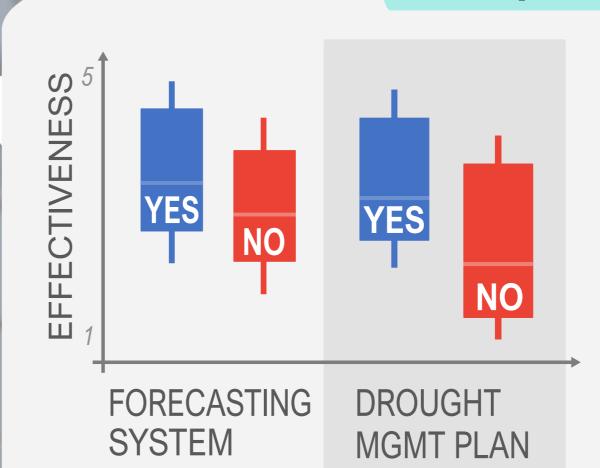
Drought management measures are...

...mostly short-term and supply-side despite the principles reported in the EC Communications. Awareness raising and monitoring are widely applied. Demand-side, effciency-increasing, and ecosystem-based measures remain underused.

Effectiveness varied by region and organization type. Public organizations reported higher effectiveness than NGOs and scientific organizations. Overall, there are **significant differences in effectiveness between**



Drought risk awareness is growing across Europe. The number of organizations with drought risk management plans is growing.



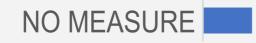
B Preparedness is...

...key! Organizations using preparedness measures (such as forecasting systems or drought management plans) were more effective and faster in responding than those without. This was observed across most sectors and countries.

Organizations with preparedness in place also showed a more positive trend in drought risk management capacity.

Introduction of preparedness is also likely to be the driver behing the growing capacity.

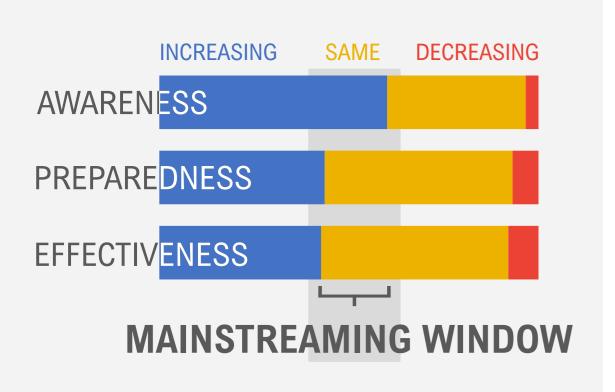
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5 Time is ripe for change!

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Organizations report being more aware, prepared and effective than in 2018. Still, drought risk management capacity varies across Europe, with significant regional differences. Despite increased awareness, preparedness capacity lags behind. A unified European drought policy is needed to address these disparities.

The high drought risk awareness shows that time is ripe to mainstream Drought Risk Governance at the EU level.

European Drought Directive

The European Union does not currently have unified and legally-binding drought legislation. We believe a EU Drought Directive to be necessary in order to:

- Reduce regional differences;
- Manage drought risk systemically;
- Manage drought risk not hazard.
- Put preparedness at the centre;
- Prioritize demand reduction;

Available research from DitA





