

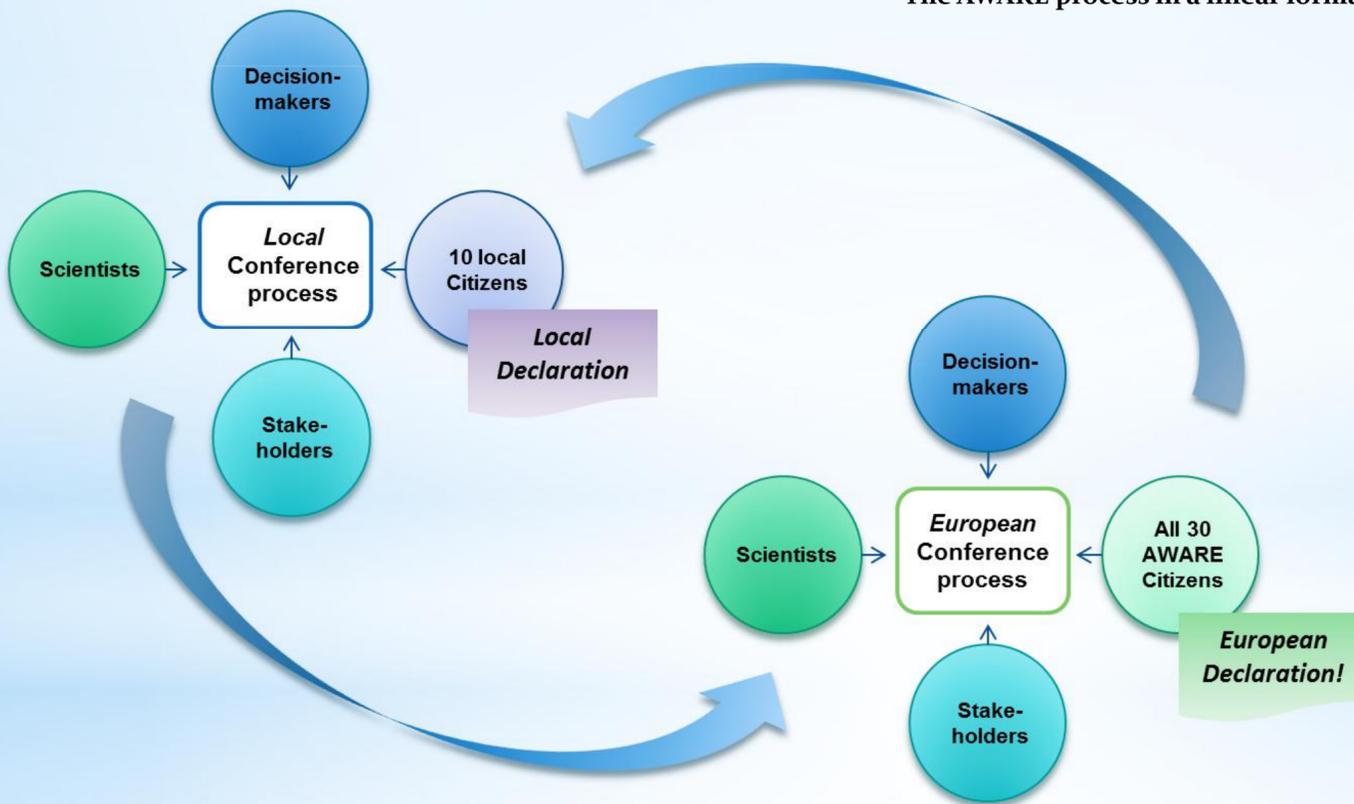
AWARE Objectives

- To foster sustainable water ecosystems management
- To enhance connectivity between research, policy making and the public
- To link research to policy development regarding sustainable water ecosystems management

AWARE Assumption: *there is a potential for better connectivity between actors and there is a need to improve it in the short term*



The AWARE process in a linear format, above, and a cyclical format, below.



Among the recommendations developed by the 30 citizens involved in AWARE, these elements held an important role in their **European Citizen Declaration:**

- A holistic approach to coastal water management
- Continued improvement in the Water Framework Directive (WFD)
- Local solutions are needed, now
- Better connectivity between research, policy-making, and civil society
- Improved information to key actors

Results from the AWARE Evaluation

An evaluation team provided monitoring of all local and European level events throughout the AWARE project. The evaluation was also supplemented by a number of interviews and questionnaires at all levels. The following highlights cover the citizen, scientist, and policy communities.

The citizens

- Are willing to share their experiences, and take in and analyse a variety of information about complex social and ecological challenges
- Through increased awareness they change their behaviour and increase pressure on policy-makers to take sustainable decisions
- Public spaces for open communication between all actors involved are needed, and face to face events should complement any internet-based platforms

The scientists

- Are usually communicating with policy-makers but successfully tailored their research results to citizens and other stakeholders through the AWARE process
- Look for incentives to participate in knowledge brokerage activities, outside of academia
- Suggest a more significant inclusion of socio-economic factors into future participatory projects

The policy-makers

- Are looking for ways to help implement the Water Framework Directive in its entirety, especially Article 14 on participatory engagement
- Lessons learned from AWARE and other similar projects would serve the decision-makers and water managers, especially sharing best practices
- Open communication of complex issues among all actors affected helps decisions taken to reflect a deeper ownership and support due to increased awareness



AWARE undertook 3 pilot experiments in:

- The Gulf of Riga (Estonia and Latvia)
- The Southern North Sea coastal zone (France and Belgium)
- The Po river Delta and Goro lagoon (Italy)

