

River continuity restoration policies and Freshwater ecosystem restoration

focus on river continuity restoration

EU policies call for greater nature/river restoration efforts

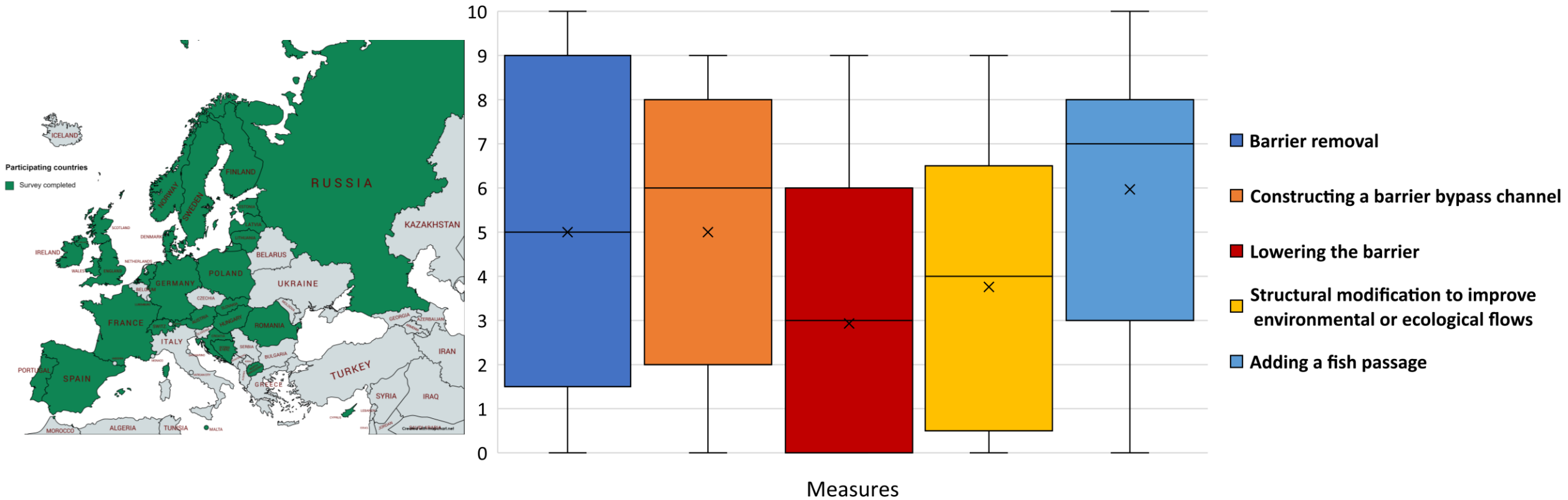


- remove (primarily obsolete) barriers to longitudinal and lateral connectivity,
- Inventories barriers, conduct necessary research and quantify the area that needs to be restored,
- prepare and submit national restoration plans.
- More attention to hydro-morphology, water flows, sediment and nutrients transport and climate adaptation.

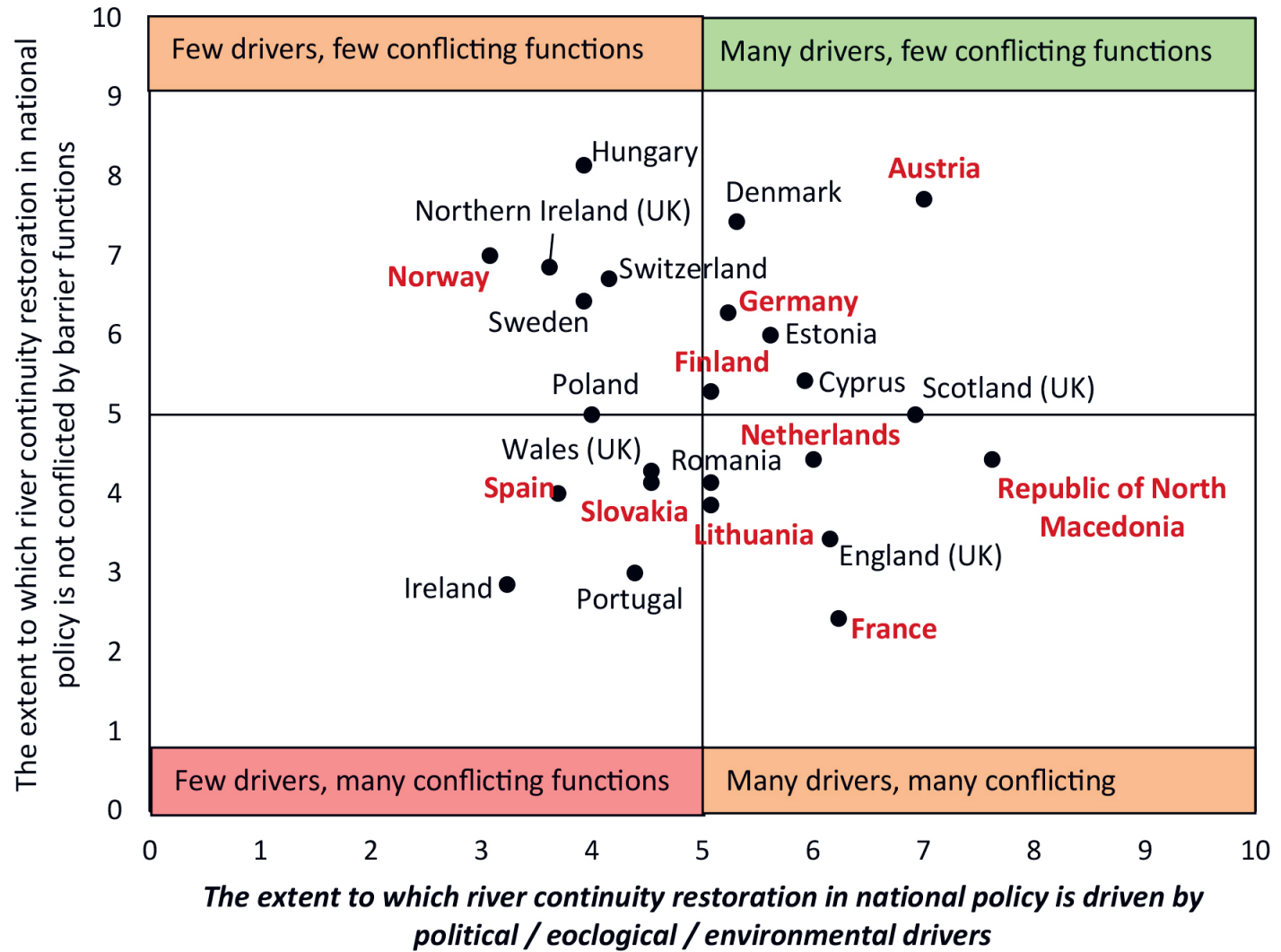


Which measures are applied to restore river continuity?

Scale: 0 (not considered) to 10 (highest priority)



A European national river continuity restoration policies review



In depth study of laws and interviews with policymakers and planners and policy implementers by Clara Schmidt, STOWA. Publication Clara Schmidt and Bart Fokkens, ECRR.

Findings on policies

**River continuity
part of water law**

**All policies
updated in the last
3 years**

**No shared
terminology**

**Goals hardly
specific for
continuity**

**Prioritisation
driven by fish
migration and
Natura 2000**

**Only very few
countries have a
barrier data base**

**Harmonisation in
data management
/ data base
needed**

Findings on implementation

- Implementation method by policy criteria and **circumstances**
- Highest ecological impact is popular **but lack of knowledge**
- Restoration plans and measures **in a few countries**
- Public participation differs from more to less **top down**
- Financing only public and **unstable**
- Monitoring and evaluation of the policy is **hardly done**
- Project monitoring **very limited**



Recommendations

- River continuity restoration more integrated in **other sector policies**.
- River continuity restoration should include **other river functions**:
 - a. **waterflow**
 - b. **maintenance of food webs**
 - c. **transport of sediments and nutrients**
 - d. **hydro-morphological processes**
 - e. **climate adaptation**
- Prioritisation should include all aspects of **ecological, economic and social nature**
- Completeness of the policy is less important for its effectiveness than **the existing circumstances**

Balanced approach !?

- **Top-down policy approach allows the prioritisation according to all criteria**
- **The centralised approach provides a certain overview of a catchment or even a whole country**
- **Bottom-up and decentralised approach enhances the willingness and cooperation of stakeholders**
- **Existing evolving river continuity restoration policy processes should be supported**

Conclusions

Empower nations, build institutions

- Improving legal frameworks
- Strengthening organisational structures
- Enhancing human resource capabilities
 - Improved management
- Promoting participatory approaches
 - Demonstrate practices

Thank you for your attention!

