

Sustainable Water Security Towards Mutual Benefit and Win-Win Cooperation: Comparative Analysis of Action Plans on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development between the European Union and China

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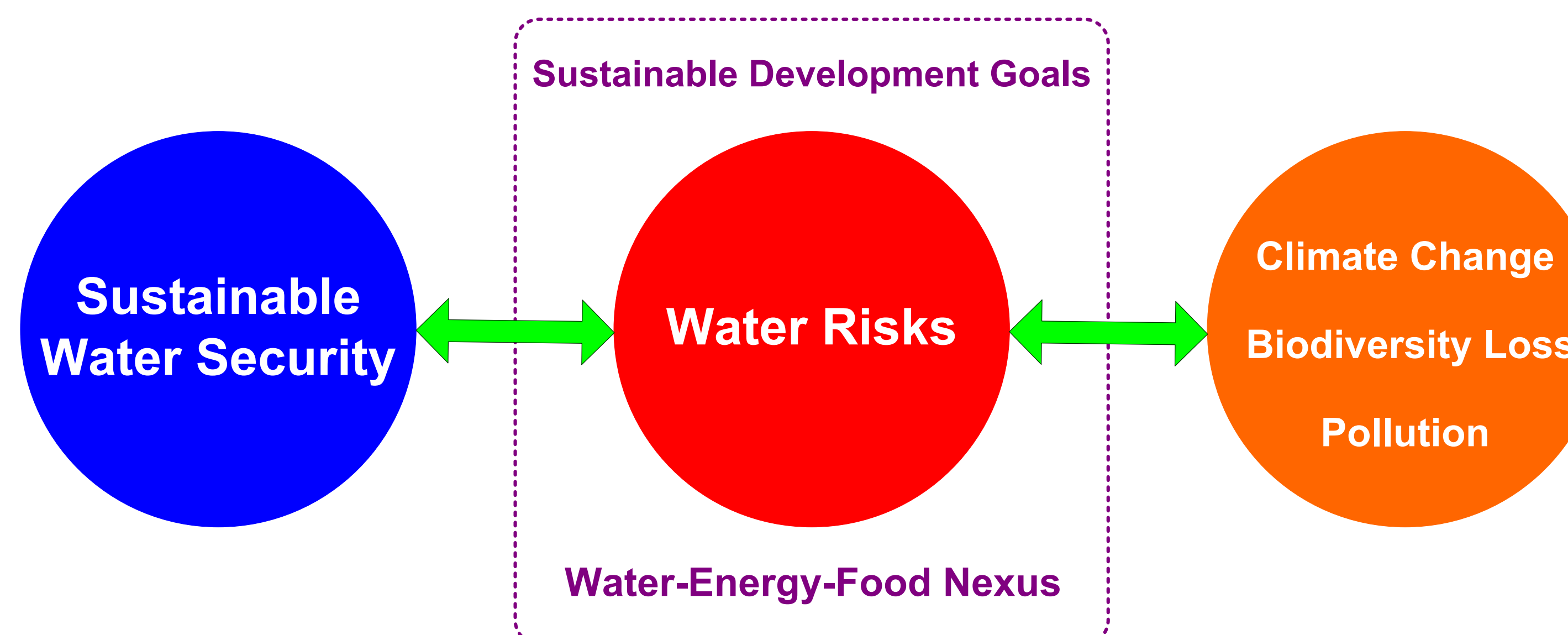
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Background

- Over the past century, the planet's freshwaters have been massively strained by socioeconomic development, driven by the escalating needs for feeding the quadrupling global population, rising living standards, and driving economic prosperity. Growing water scarcity and deterioration of water-related environment and ecosystems worldwide has followed.
- As the global second and third largest economies, the European Union (EU) and China have been addressing sustainable development as an overarching objective for policy-making on the economic, social, and environmental dimensions.
- The China Europe Water Platform (CEWP) provides a unique perspective to explore how the EU and China have been making unremitting efforts side by side for pursuing sustainable water security, in the context of water-energy-food (WEF) nexus.

Challenges & Opportunities



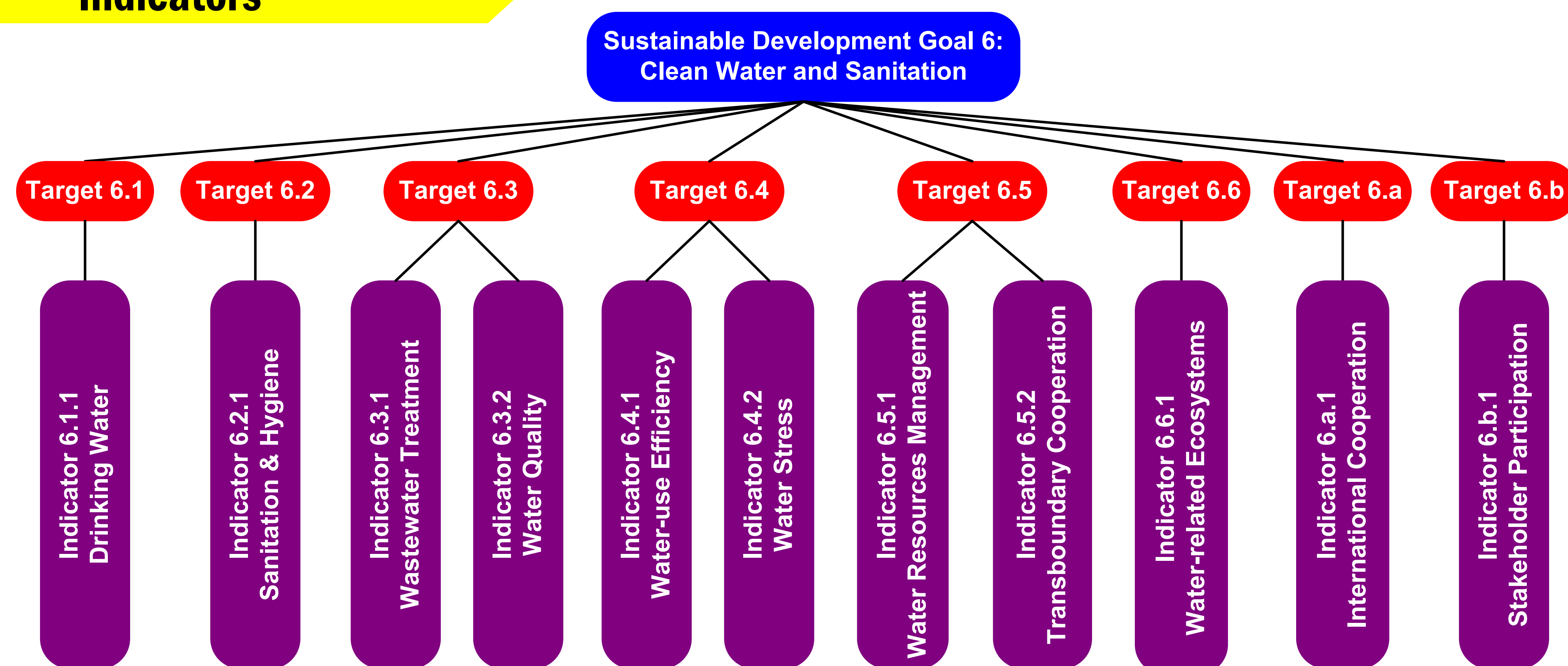
Principal Aim

- Diagnosis of the status quo of the EU and China's progress on SDG 6 targets,
- Recommendations on how the EU and China can foster coordinated policies to enable and accelerate progress towards achieving SDG 6, and
- Recommendations on how the EU and China can go beyond SDG 6 to establish linkages across the 2030 Agenda in the context of WEF nexus.

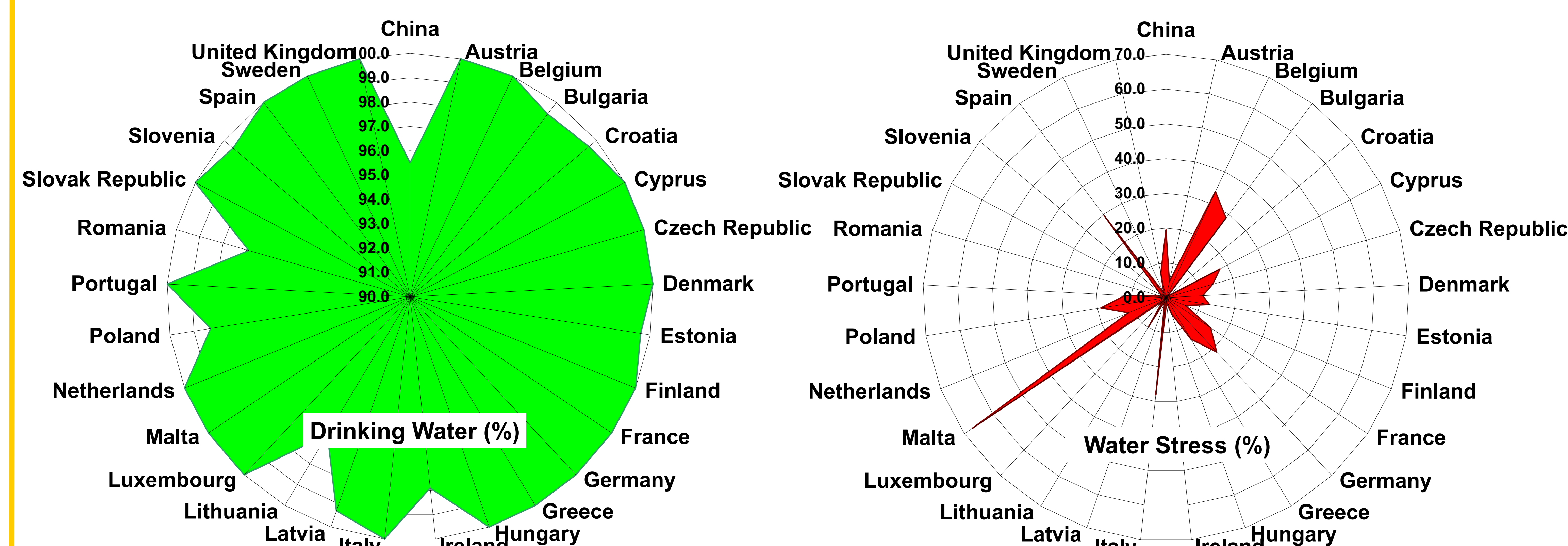
Objectives

- To identify the data availability of the SDG 6 targets' indicators,
- To assess the SDG 6 progress of the EU and China, and
- To reflect on the findings in light of the current policies of the EU and China towards mutual benefit and win-win cooperation.

Indicators



Results



Discussion

China Europe Water Platform

The CEWP, being a regional component of the EU *Water Initiative*, is intended to promote policy dialogue, joint research and business development in the water sector between the EU and China. Therefore, strengthening the partnership through the CEWP shall give both parties an advantage in the process of enabling and accelerating progress towards achieving SDG 6.

- The EU and China to co-develop a national indicator system regarding SDG 6 targets,
- The EU and China to co-establish a national indicator database, in accordance with the national indicator system, and
- The EU and China to conduct a lesson learned workshop together, in terms of equitable, participatory, and transparent SDG 6 policy process.

Water-Energy-Food Nexus

- To untangle the WEF nexus, it is crucial to develop observation types and essential variables, datasets, software platforms, and tools, as well as to identify and model feedbacks among water, energy, and food systems, and correspond with all stakeholders
- By far, most nexus cases still have a clearly water-centric viewpoint, concentrating on the classical water withdrawal aspects of agriculture and coupling these with specific energy sector issues.
- Such water-centrism can be seen to be natural given increasing water scarcity and the critical role that water has for energy and food production, it is likely to be also the single-most challenge for the nexus approach, as its implementation requires engagement of the actors from energy and food sectors as well.

