

HUMAN RIGHTS AND ACCESS TO WATER : ***The case of Wallonia (Belgium)***

THE WATER SOCIAL FUND IN WALLONIA



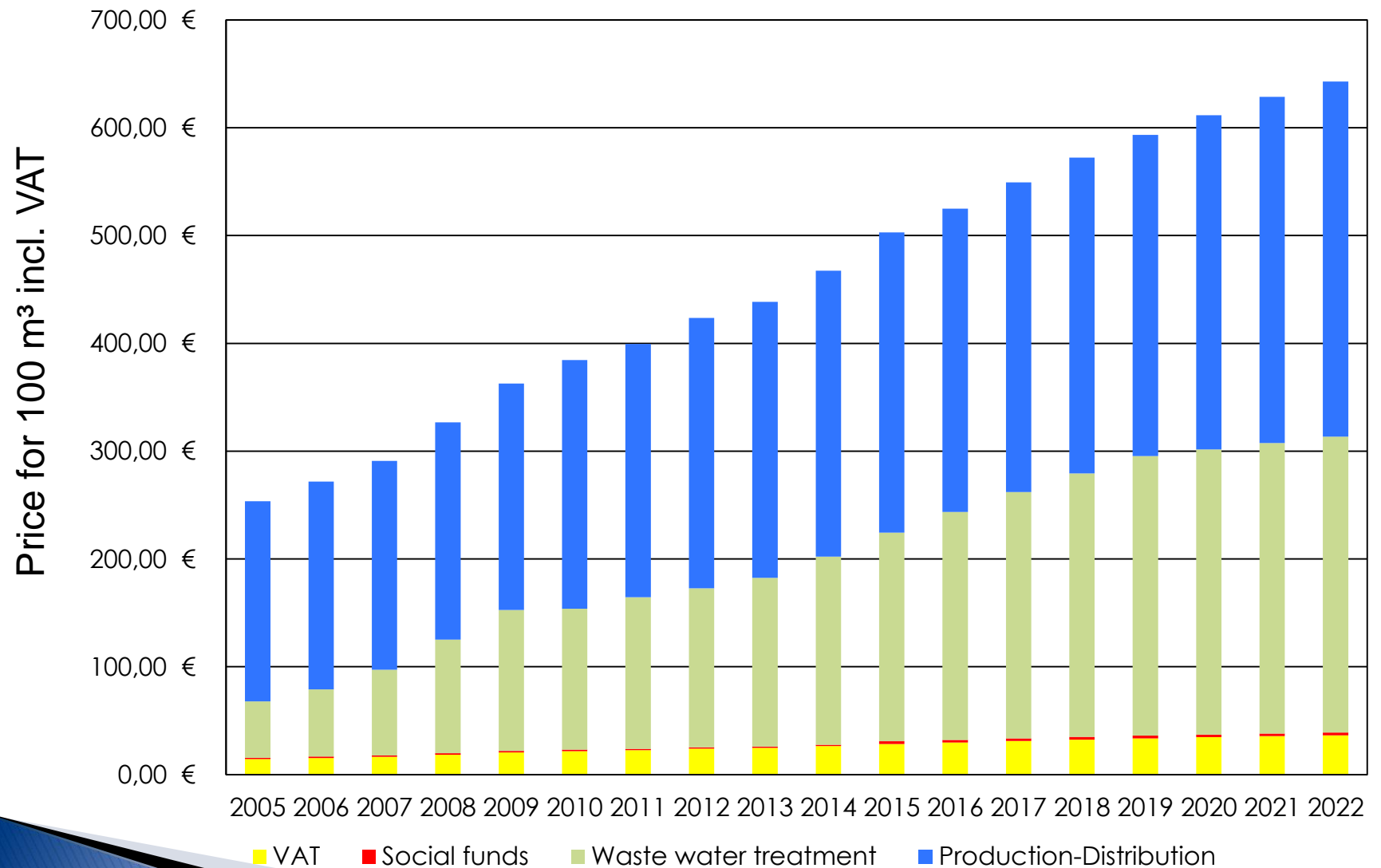
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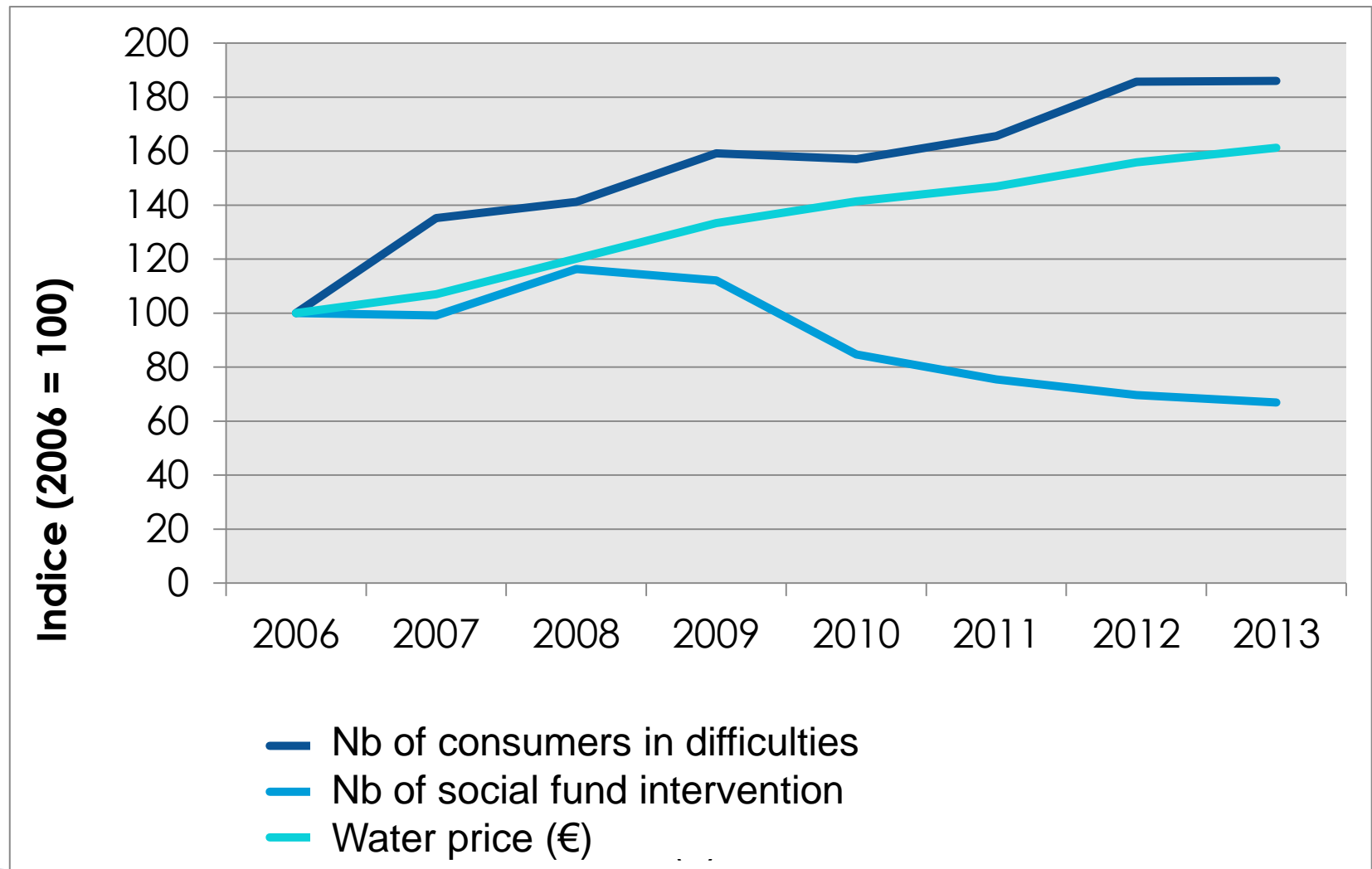
www.spge.be



1. Evolution of water prices

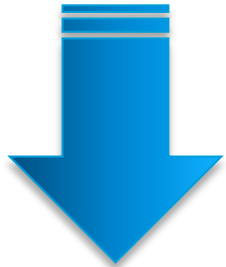


2. Development of consumer payment difficulties



3. Objective of the Water Social Fund

Assist with water bill payments for consumers with financial difficulties



Financial mechanism based on the participation of :

- ❑ ***Water distributors***
- ❑ ***CPAS*** *(Public Centers for social help)*
- ❑ ***SPGE*** *(Public company for waste water management)*

4. General principle of the Water Social Fund

- **Fund created by law** (since 20 february 2003)
- **0,0250 € per m³ of billed water, paid by the consumer** (contribution was doubled since 01/01/2015)
- **Drawing rights = rights of the CPAS on the fund proportionally to the difficulties of their consumers to pay their bill**

WSF = 4 million €/year

5. Procedure of the Water Social Fund

- **Reminder in the case of unpaid bill**



- **Forwarding the lists to the CPAS** (Public Center for social help)



- **Decision of the CPAS**

Intervention of the social fund within the limits of the rules (308 € per household + 92 € per supplementary person being part of the household from the 4th one).

6. Conclusion

1. EQUITY :

The contribution of high incomes is larger than the contribution of lower ones.



2. ETHICS : respect of everybody

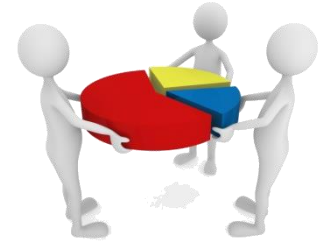
Essentially, it's a question of respecting the human condition : the basic right to drinking water.





3. CONTINUITY :

The WSF is adjusted every year, proportional to consumption.



4. ACCOUNTABILITY :

Each consumer knows his contribution to the WSF.

5. SUSTAINABILITY :

This kind of assistance also includes technical improvements, for example to regulate consumption.

