

DAM REMOVAL IN LEGISLATIVE WORK:

CASE OF LITHUANIA

 Ministry of
Environment
Republic
of Lithuania



JONĖ LEŠČINSKAITĖ ADVISOR FOR FREE FLOWING RIVER RESTORATION IN THE
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT



4418 rivers longer than
3 km (a river in every
square km)

The highest peak is 300
meter high

1/3 of land is forest area

All Lithuanians love
potatos

Baltijos
jūra -
Baltijas
jūra -
Läänemeri
-
Itämeri
-
Östersjön
-
Østersøen
-
Ostsee -
Балтийское
море

Kliūčių poveikis būklei upės ir baseino mastu

- Didelis
- Labai mažas
- Mažas
- Negalima įvertinti
- Nereikšmingas
- Vidutinis

Labai reikšmingas lokalus poveikis vandens telkiniams

- Ne
- Taip

KALININGRAD
OBLAST

WARMIAN-
MASURIAN
VOIVODESHIP

Liepāja

Klaipėda

Sovetsk

Kaunas

Vilnius

Daugavpils

Lida

GENERAL TIMELINE

2016 - collapse of
landmark dam



GENERAL TIMELINE

2016 - collapse of landmark dam

2018 - Dam removal Europe organised workshop in the Ministry of Environment



June 25, 2018

Dam Removal Europe Workshop – Lithuania

Dam Removal Europe Workshop in Lithuania Date: 2 – 3 July 2018 Next week, Dam Removal Europe along with the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania, will host...

GENERAL TIMELINE

2016 - collapse of
landmark dam

2020 - first
dam removal

2018 - Dam removal
Europe organised
workshop in the
Ministry of
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GENERAL TIMELINE

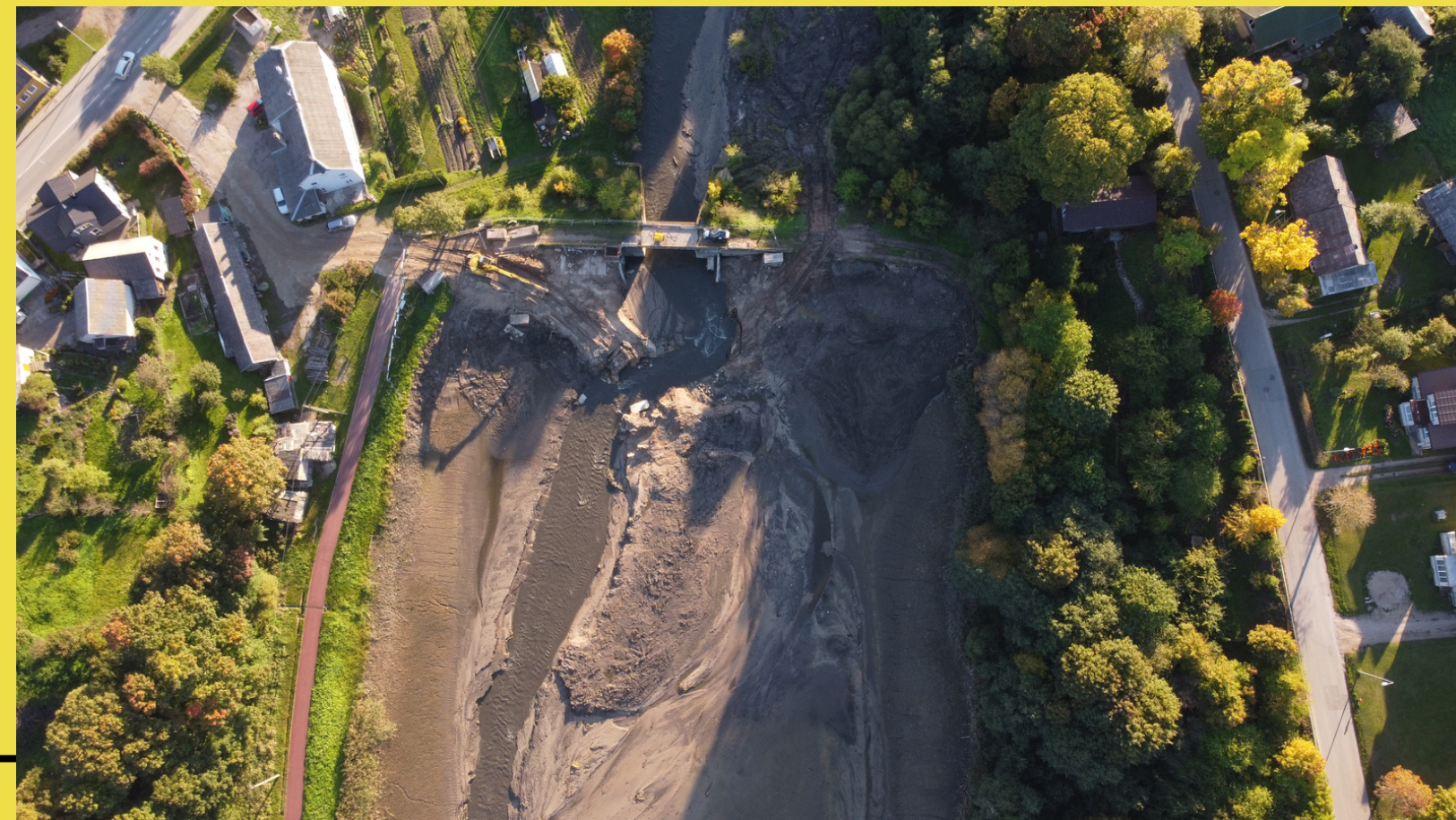
2016 - collapse of
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2020 - first
dam removal

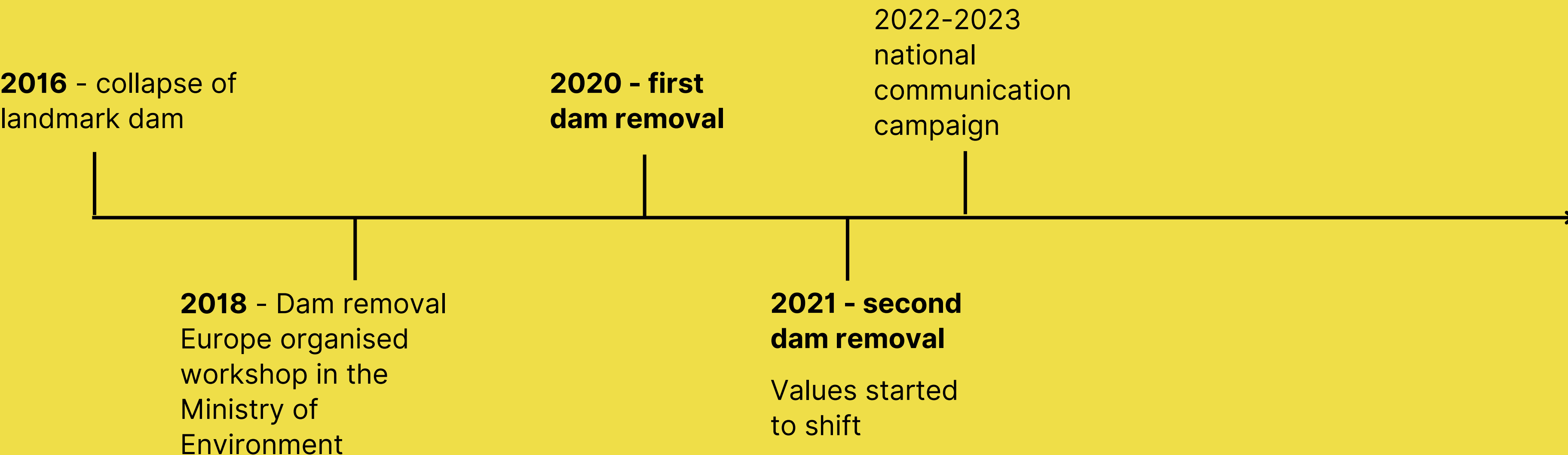
2018 - Dam removal
Europe organised
workshop in the
Ministry of
Environment

2021 - second
dam removal

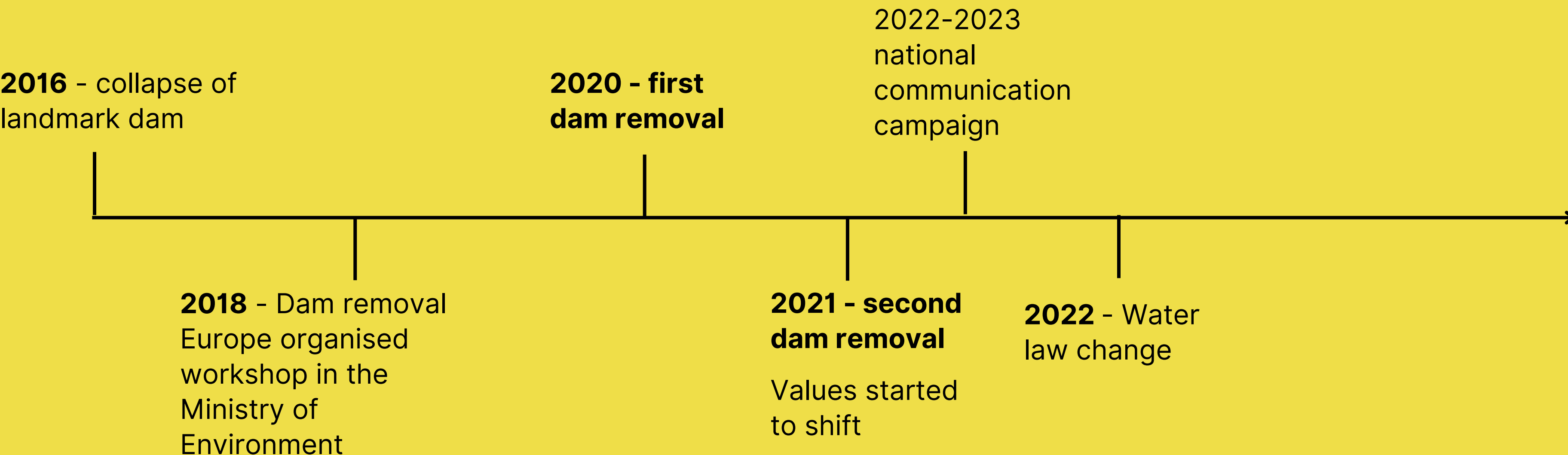
Values started
to shift



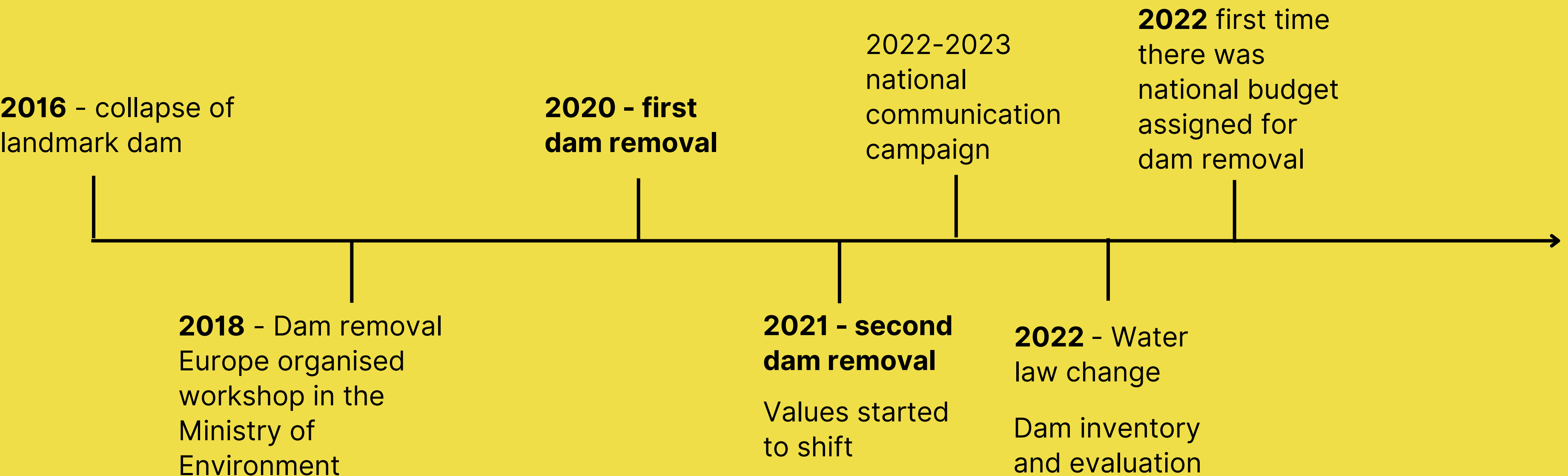
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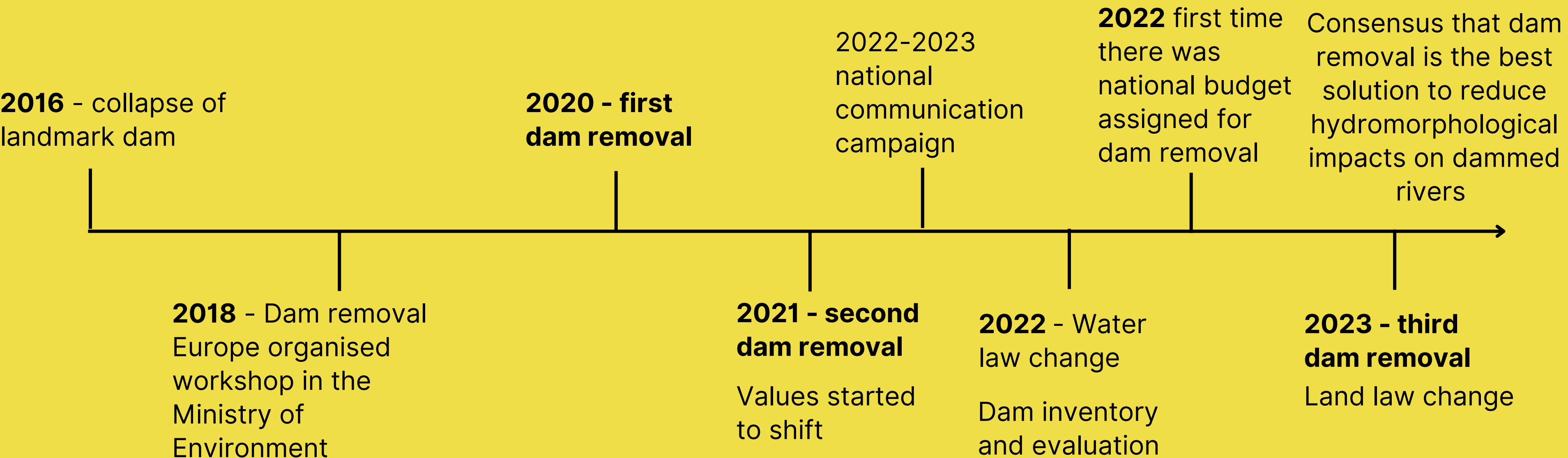
GENERAL TIMELINE



GENERAL TIMELINE



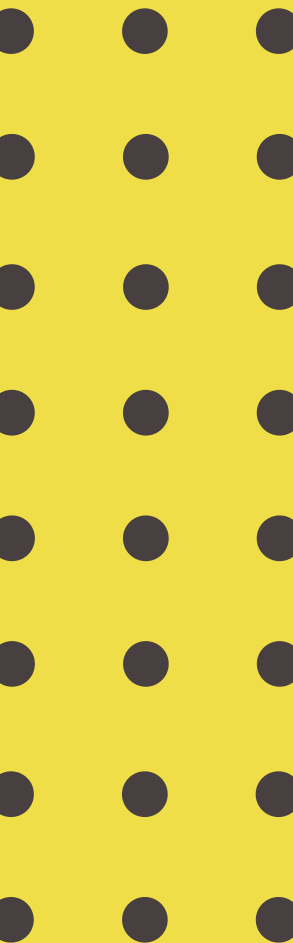
GENERAL TIMELINE





DAM INVENTORY AND EVALUATION

- Took over 1 year
- Gathered fragmented data
- Updated technical data
- Carried out **cost-benefit** analysis
- Evaluation of **ecological** damage
- Evaluation of **socioeconomical** value
- Overlaid evaluations to list dams that have the largest ecological damage and the lowest socioeconomical value
- Dam removal feasibility study on 15 dams



STATUS OF DAMS

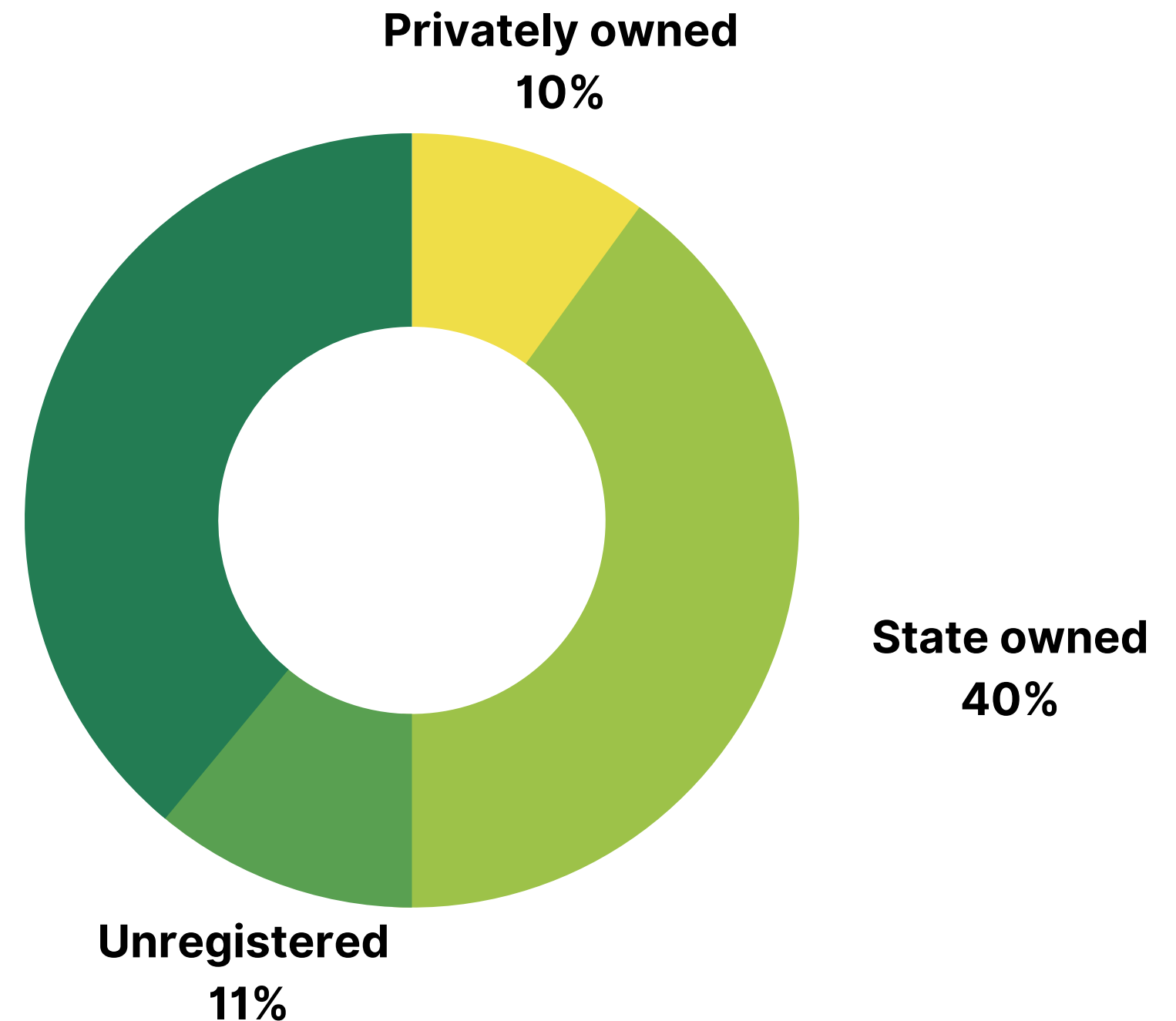
- **FUNCTIONS**

29% recreation
20% agriculture
7% hydropower
2,5% fisheries
0,3% industry
41,2% unknown or no function

- **STATE**

9% very bad state
41% bad state
50% good and average state

Unknown status
39%



STATUS OF DAMS

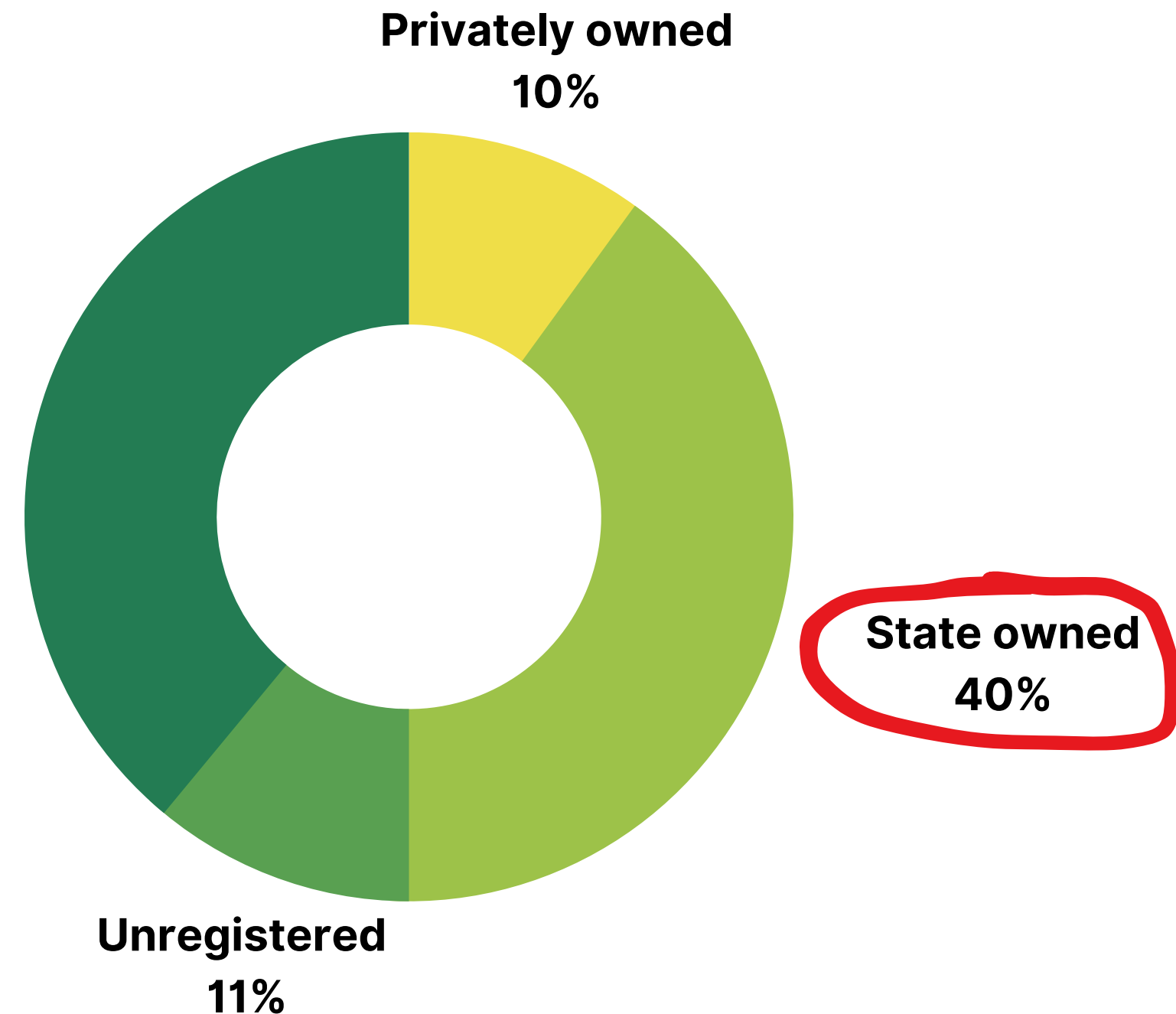
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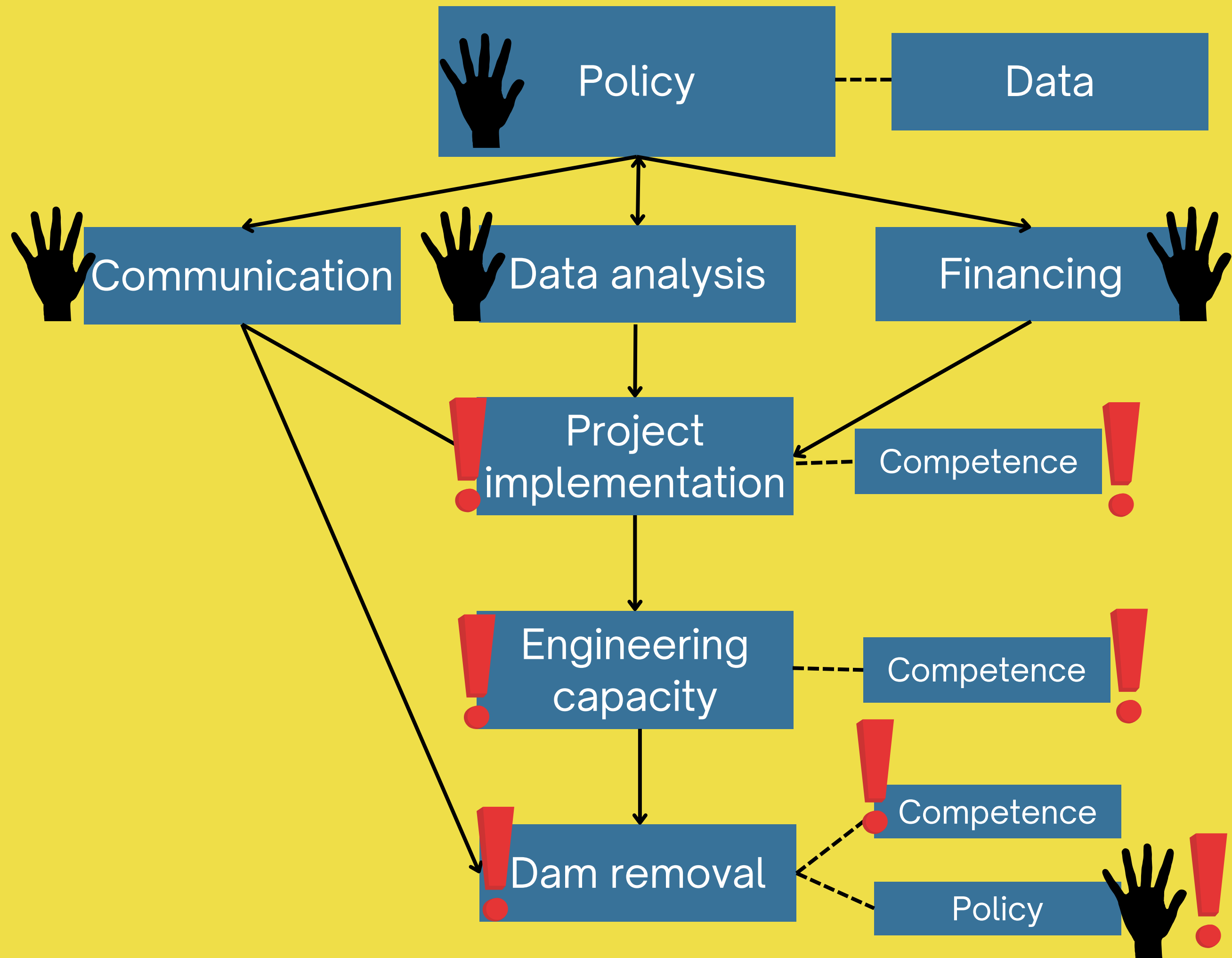
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POLICY

1. Water law states:

- “Structures that fragment rivers, have no function or are economically unviable must be removed”
 - 1.Criteria must be exact.
 - 2.What does “removed” mean?
 - 3.Should it be funded?
 - 4.How should it be removed?
 - 5.How will it be reinforced?
- Most hydropower plants must have effective fish passes by 2030.



POLICY



2. Land Law (changed in this June)

Allows to take the land on which the dam stands for public needs.

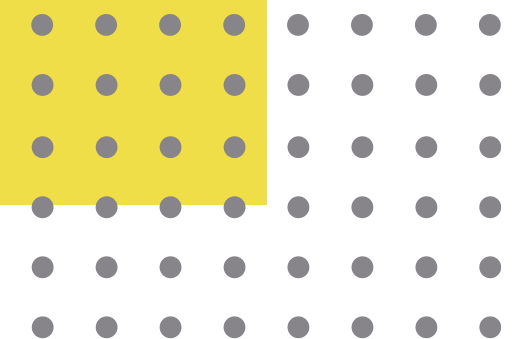
3. Government funds

2022 June - pilot project to open dam removal fund - **1,9 mln** Euros:

1. Removal of the remains of the Kruostas Dam in Kėdainiai District and restoration of Nevėžis 2023-2024.
2. Removal of the Grigiškės Dam (still used for hydropower) in the city of Vilnius and the restoration of Vokė 2023-2026

PROGRAMME OF MEASURES 2022-2027

- Based on River Basin Management Plans and Dam inventory study
- Has been accepted in April of 2023.
- 17 dams (without HPP) to be removed
- 55 dams (with HPP) have to have fish passes, protection measures against harming fish installed.
- Institution responsible for implementation is still not assigned legally.





THANK YOU!