

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

BEGINNING OF DAM REMOVAL

2016 - collapse of landmark dam sparked first debates of dam removal

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

2020 - First well documented dam removal

2020 - Ministry created position for free-flowing river restoration

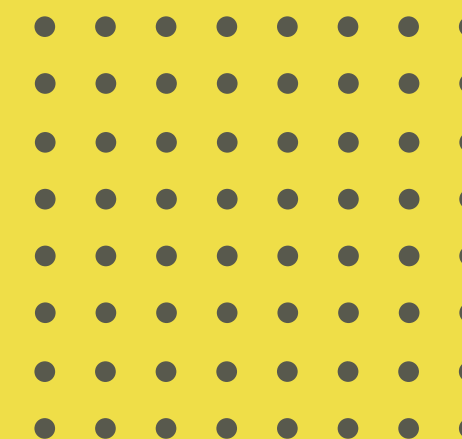
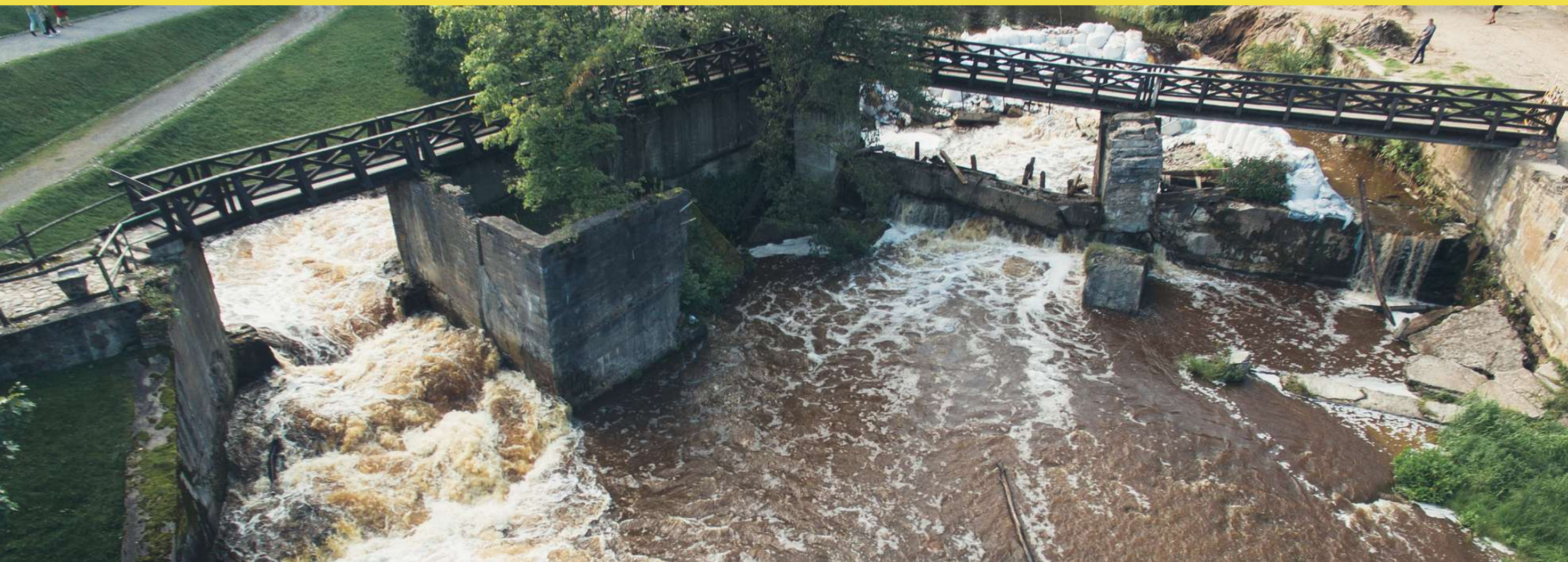
Seminars/ Workshops/ Conferences and Meetings

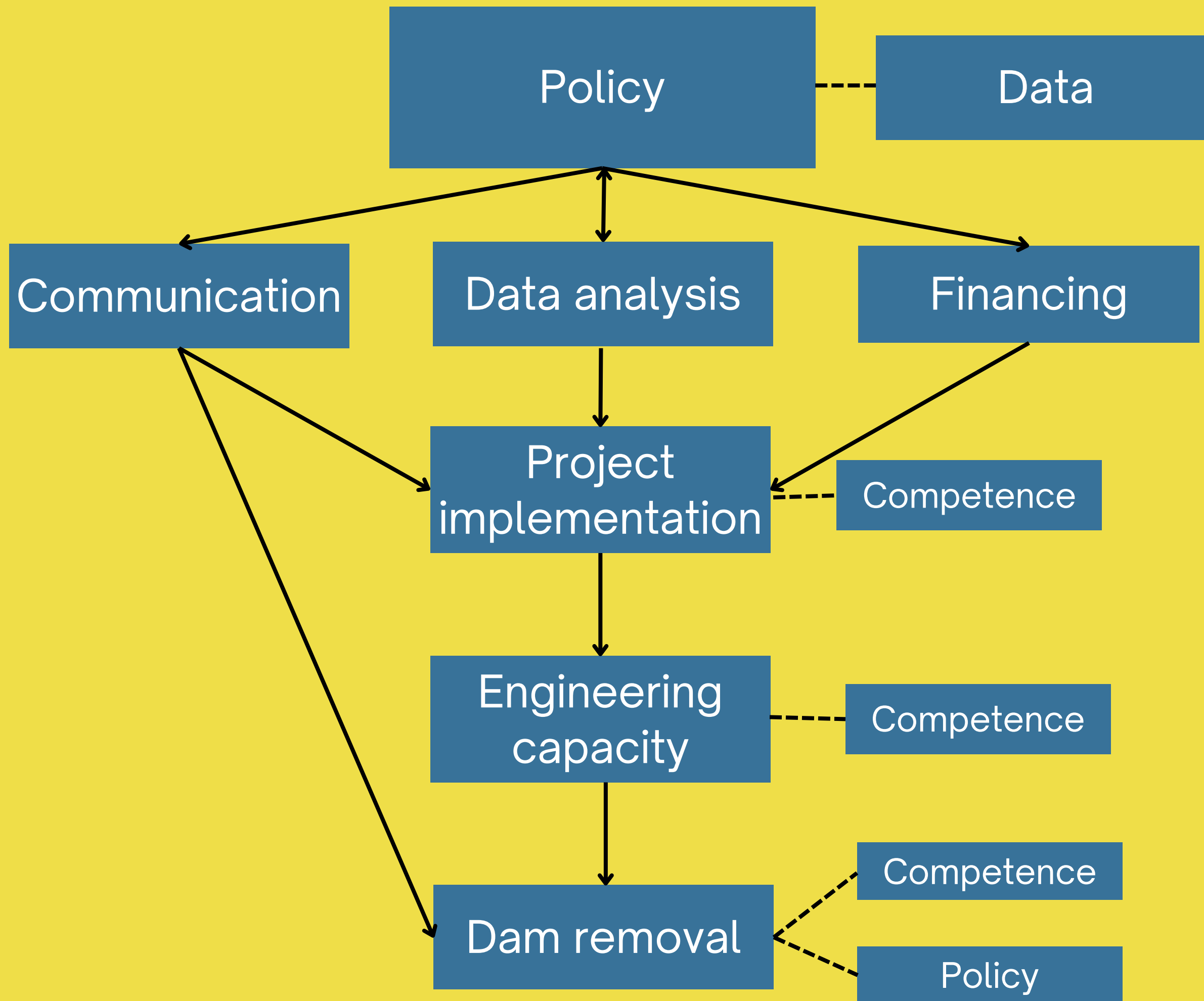


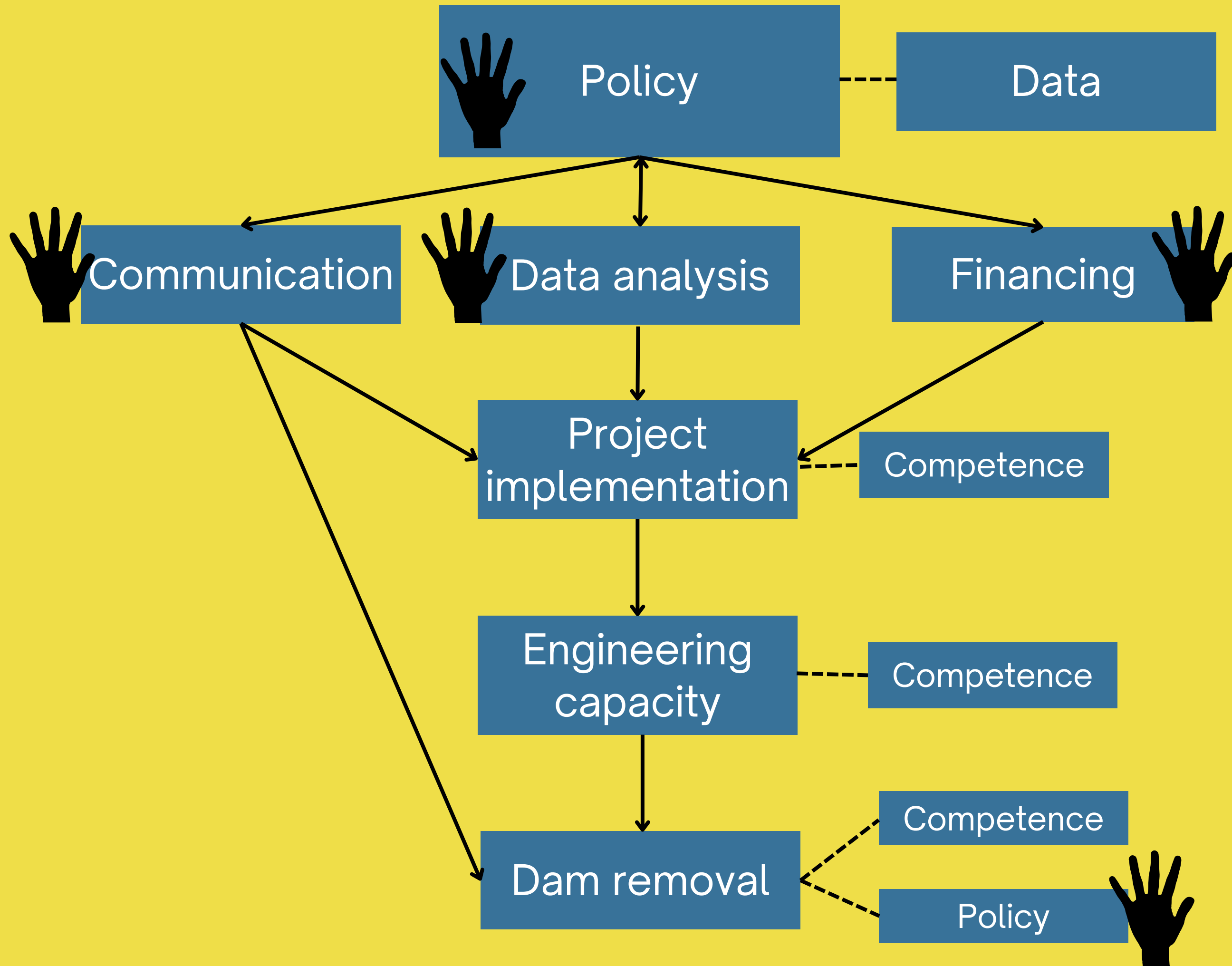
June 25, 2018

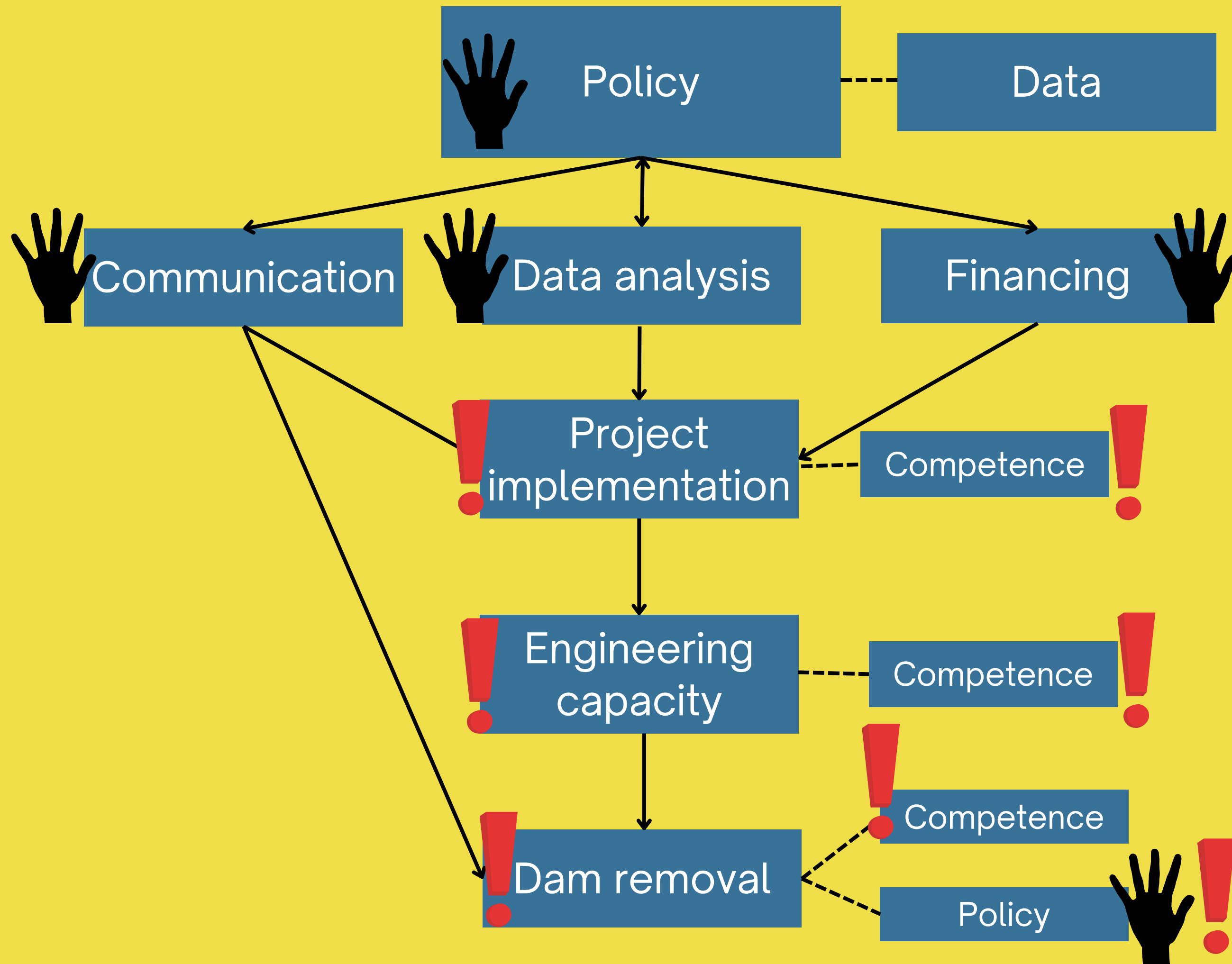
Dam Removal Europe Workshop – Lithuania

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...









DATA

- Study 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

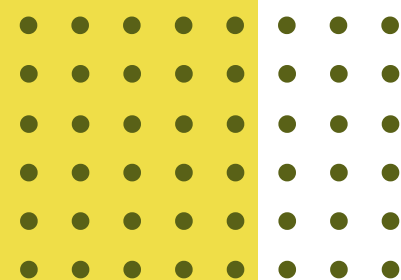
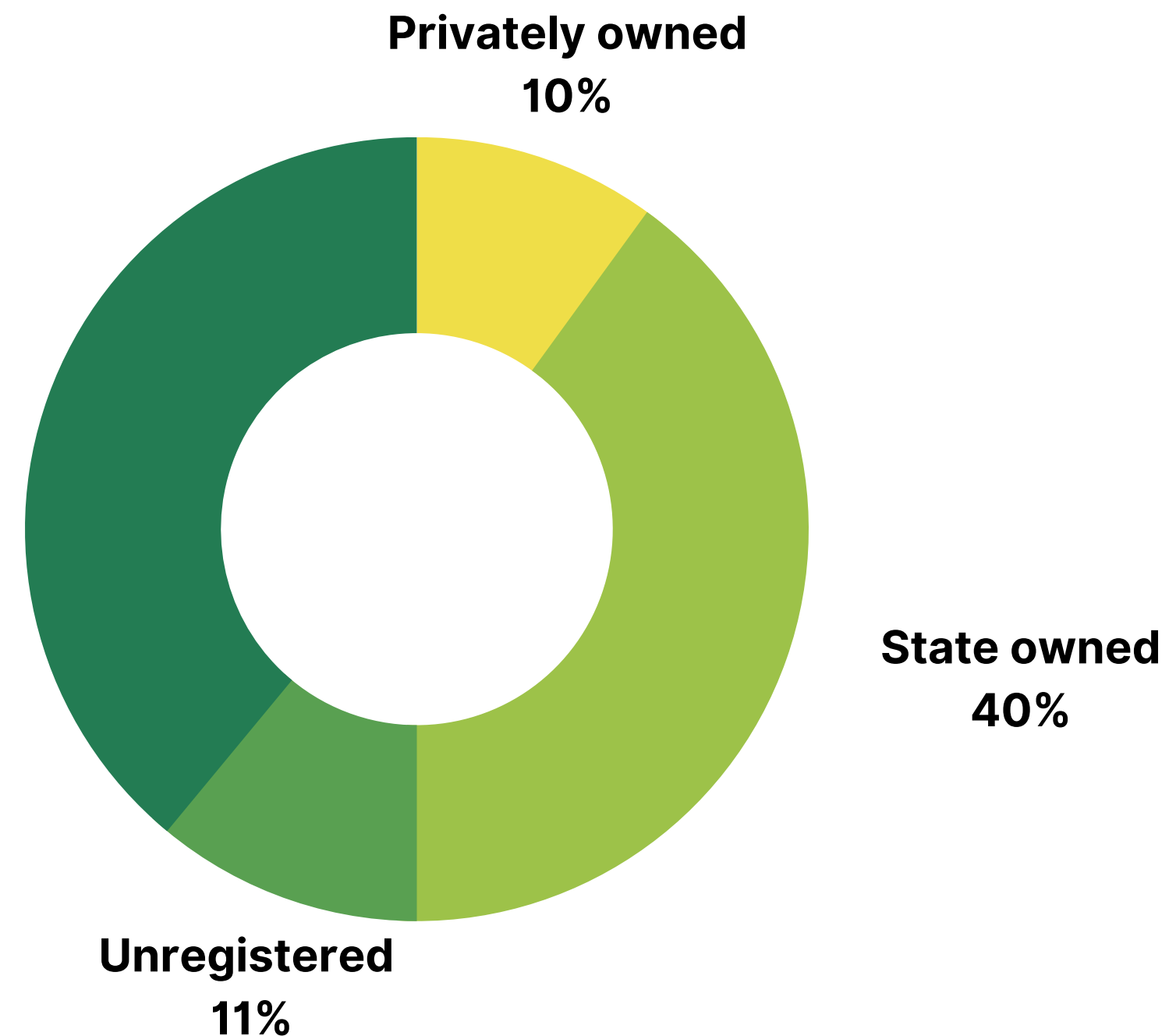
- **FUNCTIONS**

- 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

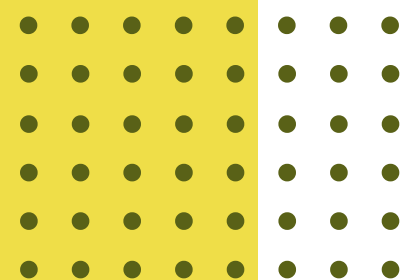
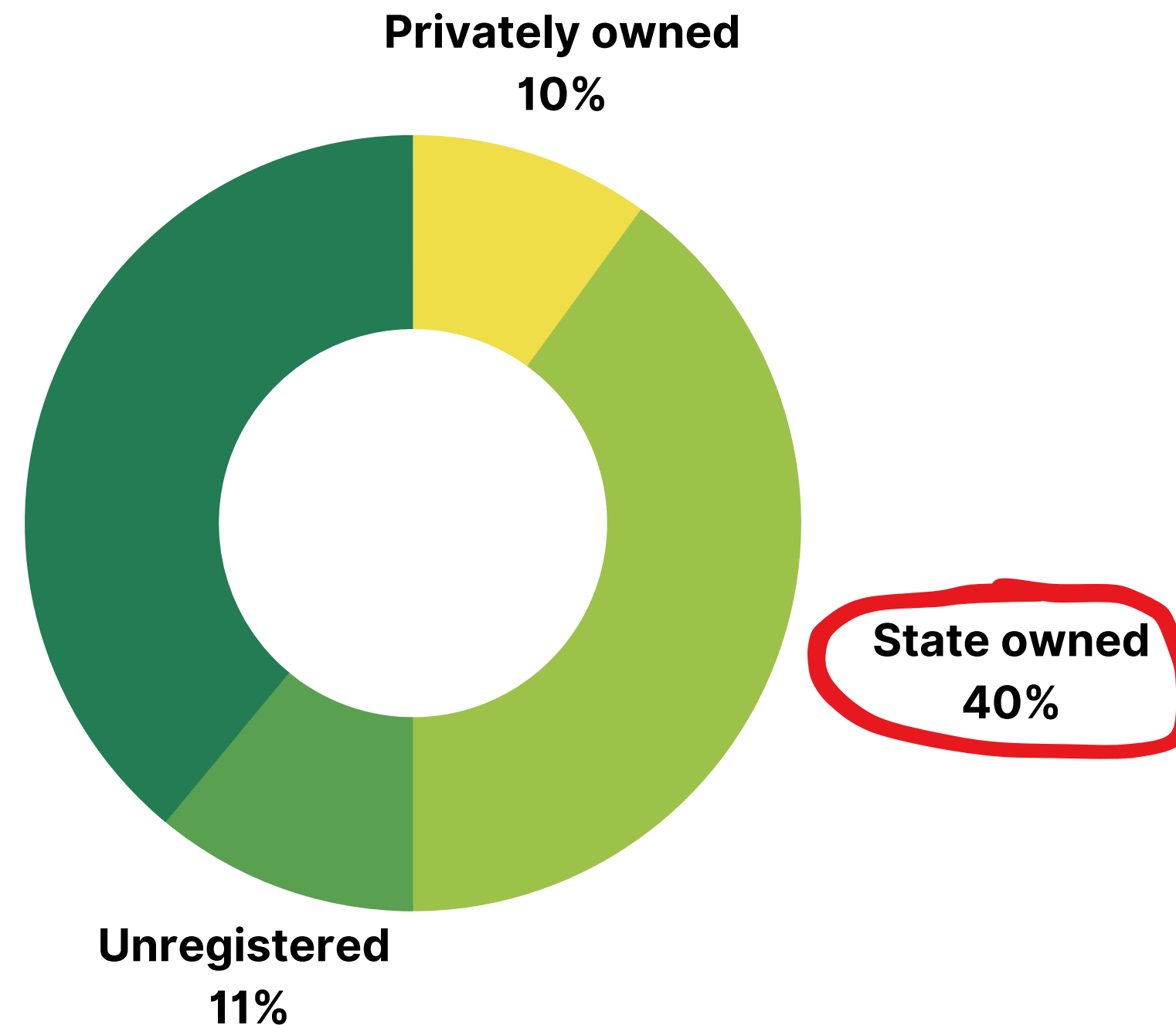
- FUNCTIONS

29% recreation
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0,3% industry
41,2% unknown or no function

- STATE

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

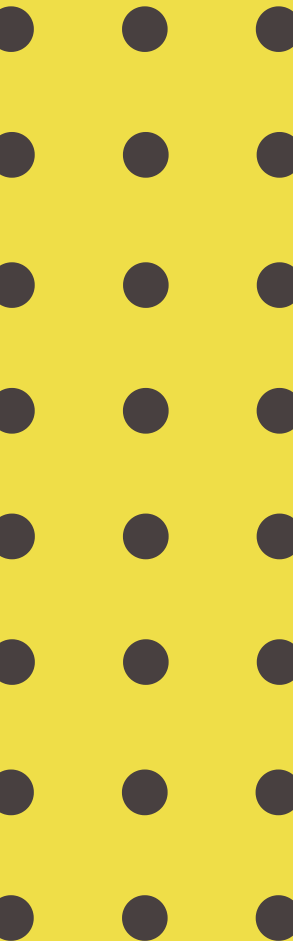
Unknown status
39%



DAM REMOVAL



- Consensus that dam removal is the best solution to reduce hydromorphological impacts on dammed rivers
- Values shifted in 2020-2021
- First dam removed in 2020
- Second in 2021
- No dam removal since 2022, few fish passes installed
- **Water law change in 2022**
- First time there was national budget assigned for dam removal in 2022
- 2022-2023 national communication campaign



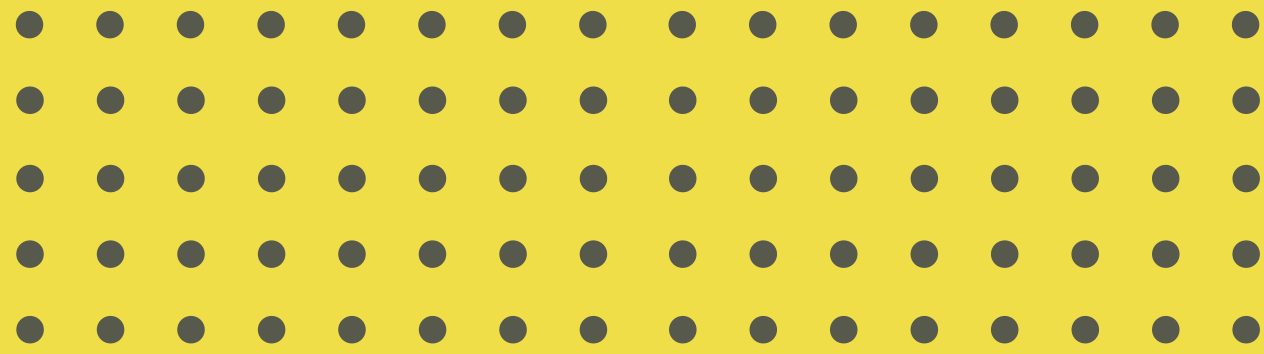
POLICY

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 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

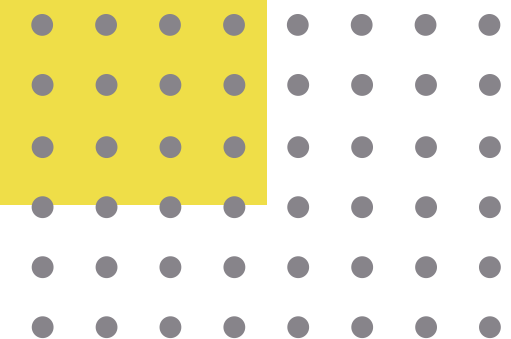
2022 June - pilot project to open dam removal fund - **1,9 mln** Euros:

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) measures to install fish passes, protection measures against harming fish and other.
- Institution responsible for implementation is still not assigned legally





THANK YOU!