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**ELEMENT**  
A European Leap?  
The History of EC/EU Environmental  
Policy, 1980–2000

## **A European Leap? The History of EC/EU Environmental Policy, 1980–2000 (ELEMENT) Case Study 3: Water Pollution**

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As part of the research project [ELEMENT](#), this PhD project will examine if, why and how the EC/EU established itself as an influential actor in environmental issues using the case study of water protection. In particular, the project aims to analyse the EC/EU's efforts to improve water quality in environmental terms to assess whether and how it became a major player in this field. The project will analyse the EC/EU's standing vis-à-vis the member states, while also placing the EC/EU in a global context. The project will explore changes of governance and policy instruments along with the involvement and interactions of different institutional, societal, and economic actors.