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# Rescaling and reorganising water supply : a French case study

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# Institutional (un)sustainability

- Resituating the issue of water supply today
  - From universal supply...
    - done throughout the 20th century
    - driven by the departmental administration system
    - legacy : 14,000 water services
  - To securing supply
    - fragility and limits of the system in place
    - how is it possible to guarantee permanently the availability of water of sufficient quality and quantity for all?
- Institutional sustainability
  - Capacity of the structures and operating methods in place to efficiently manage the top social priorities



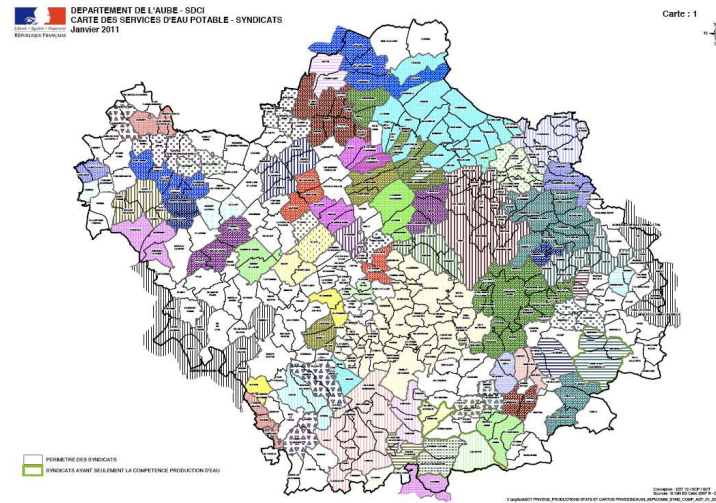
# A long-term program

- **Lynchpin of securement**
  - Hydro-territorial rationalisation
    - Upscaling, up to the departmental level
  - Specialisation in “strategic water resources”
- **Trajectories of rationalisation**
  - Long-term process
  - Resilience of an old institution : department
    - a good “problemshed”
  - Coalition of rationalisation
  - A privileged target : elected water officials
  - Tension with the imperative of proximity to users
- **Two important shifts**

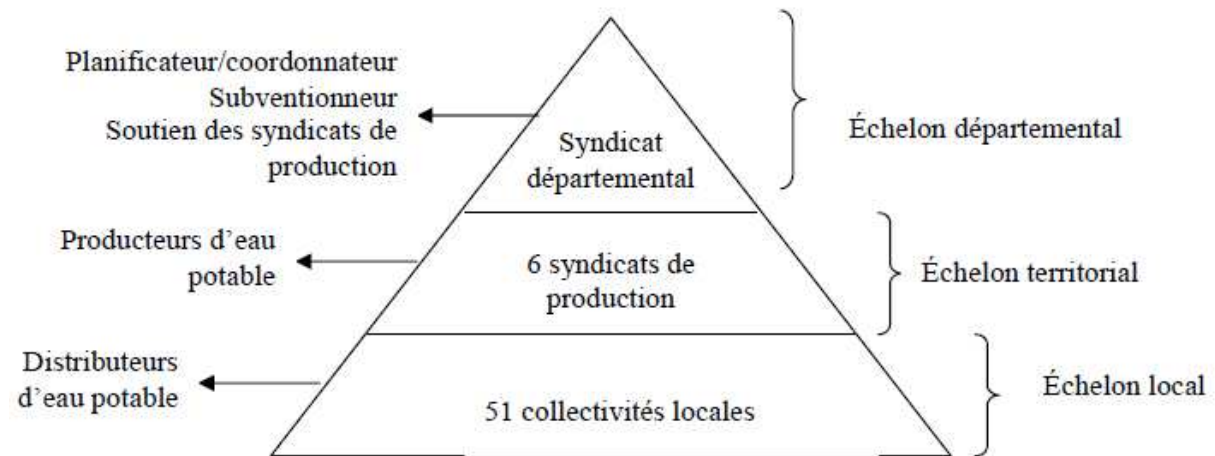


# A few models of territorial arrangements

- Multi-local to centralised



- Federal



# Risks, limits & perspectives

- Efficiency and accountability of technical bureaucracies
- Cooperation or friction
  - with urban areas
  - With watershed institutions
- Legal certainty of territorial arrangements
  - Role of publicly owned companies
- Friction around strategic water resources
- Water quality abandoned to diffuse agricultural pollution?
- A process in midsteram



**Thank you!**

<http://aquadep.irstea.fr>