

Blue Deal

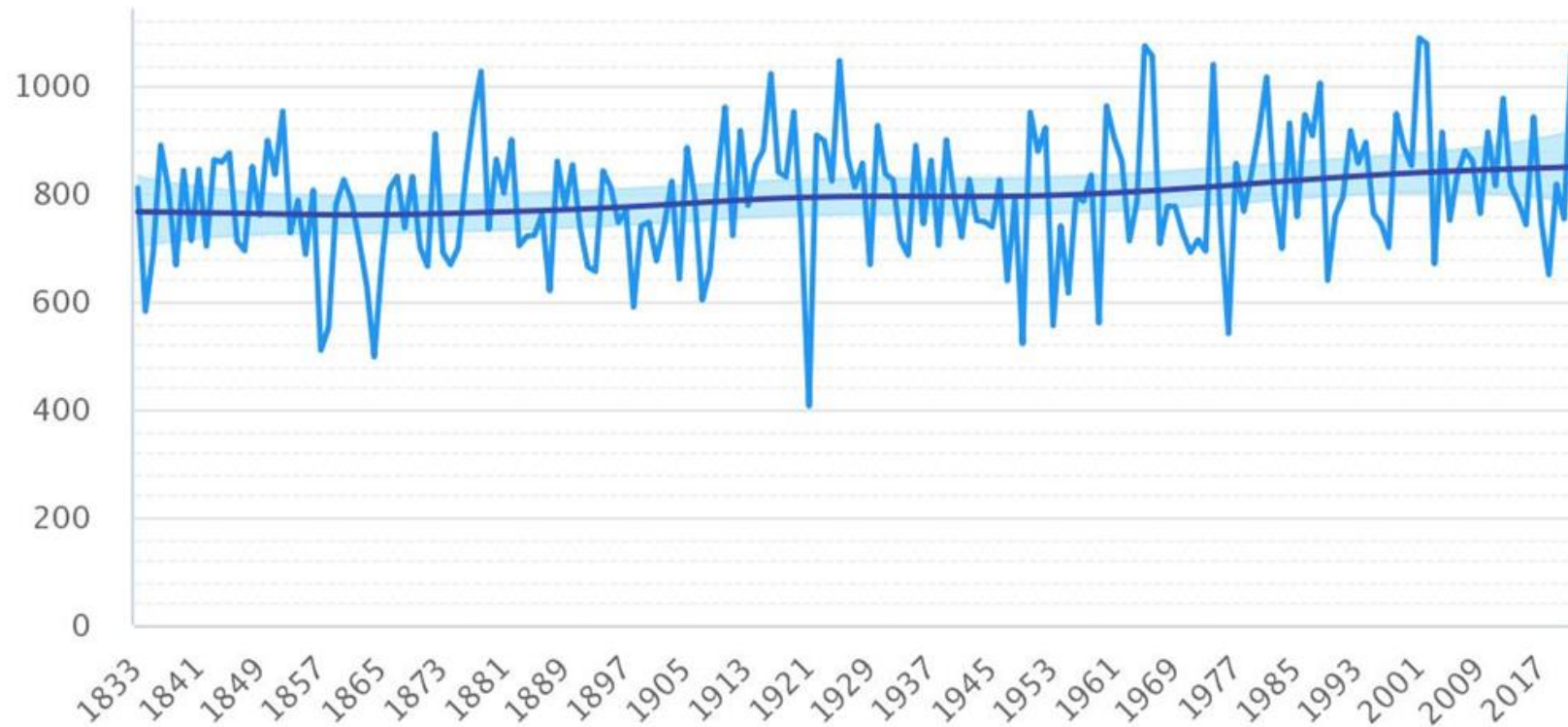
Solving drought and water scarcity in Flanders



Why a Blue Deal?

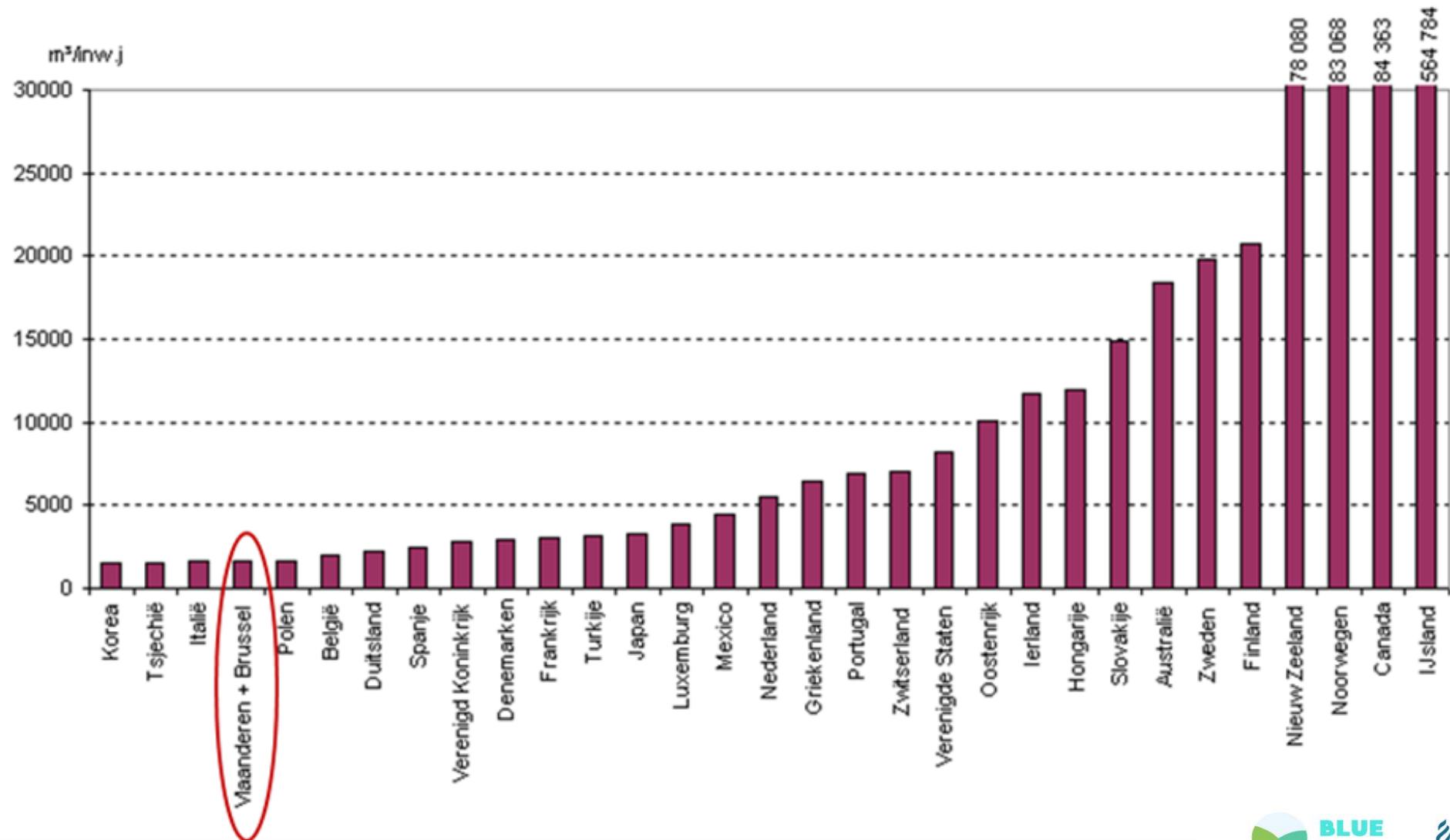


Why a Blue Deal?



Evolution of annual rainfall 1833 - 2021

Why a Blue Deal?



Why a Blue Deal?

- Low water availability
- High consumption
- Many economic activities
- Small area, much of which is paved
- Water management focused on drainage

+ Climate change



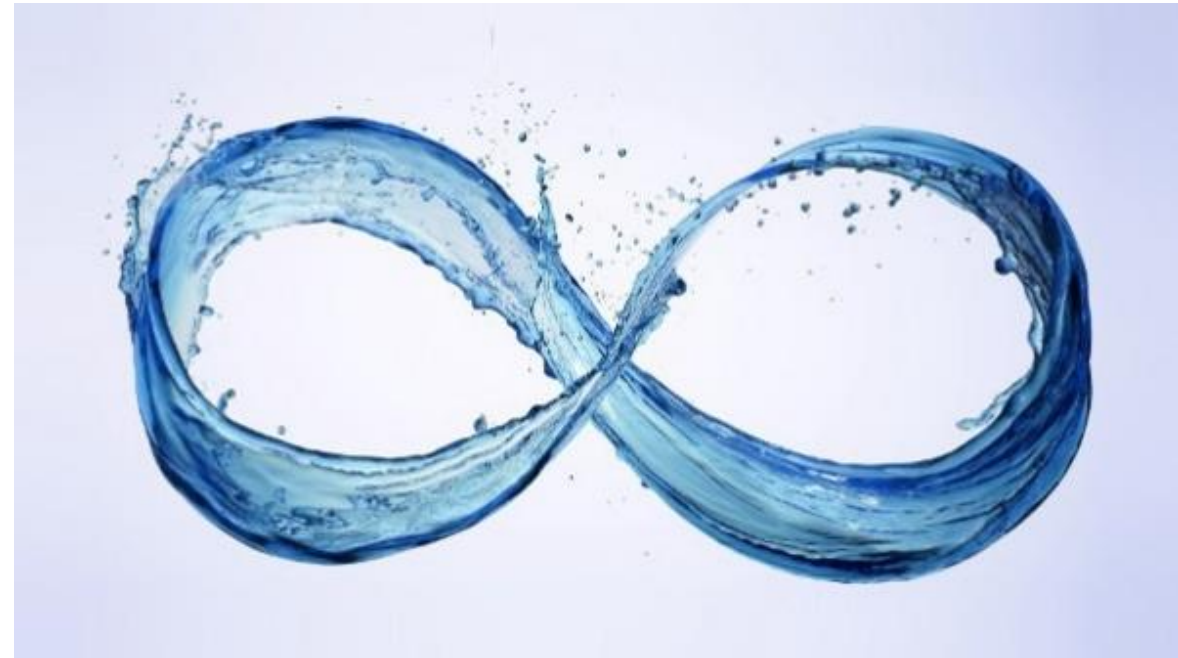
Why a Blue Deal?



- Last 6 years: 5 dry years
- Cumulative deficit of +- 6 months
- Effects already tangible:
 - Peaking drinking water supply
 - Economy: agriculture and transport
 - Nature, environment and recreation

Blue Deal: structural solutions and systemic approach

- **Adress the roots of the problem**
 - ⇒ More infiltration
 - ⇒ Lesser and smarter use
- **Valuing water!**
 - ⇒ Investments
 - ⇒ Stimulating new approaches
 - ⇒ Regulation



Six pillars:

1. Lead by example
2. Circularity becomes the standard
3. Agriculture and nature as part of the solution
4. Sensibilising and stimulating inhabitants
5. Increasing the security of watersupplies
6. Investing in innovation



Nature based solutions



- + 220 mio green-blue infrastructure
 - Restoring wetlands: 1.420 ha realised, + 1.000 ha will follow
 - Co-benefit: 3.900 ha
- = Total: 6.300 ha wetlands



All good now?

- Long term benefits
- Sustained efforts: embedding the Blue Deal
- New challenges

