

Cities for a Blue Economy

A RISC-proof approach to building a blue economy in cities

What is the issue?

A **Blue City** is one in which economic growth, employment, innovation and social well-being are dependent on marine and freshwater sources, as well as on the preservation and integrated management of water. Water-related risks of too much, too little and too polluted water, exacerbated by climate change, demographic growth and urbanisation, are increasingly affecting the economy, human health and ecosystems.



Why cities?

- ▶ Blue economic activities (e.g. tourism, fishing, and marine biotechnology research) **take place, create value and provide employment** at the local level.
- ▶ **Water infrastructure investments at local level**, responding to water-related risks, directly affect the ability of cities to carry out blue economic activities (e.g. nature-based solutions can limit urban flooding and allow groundwater restoration).
- ▶ **Core city competences** such as land use, spatial planning and waste management **greatly affect the level of water security and quality**, which, in turn, affects the blue economy.

What should a Blue City look like?

The RISC-proof approach

- 
Resilient
 to shocks and risks exacerbated by climate change
- 
Inclusive
 by providing opportunities and protecting the most vulnerable from water-related risks
- 
Sustainable
 environmentally, preserving natural ecosystems
- 
Circular
 to limit GHG emissions and resource extraction by closing material loops, to tackle pollution, and to recover resources from wastewater

Why now?



2020

Green recovery from COVID-19



2030

UN SDG targets



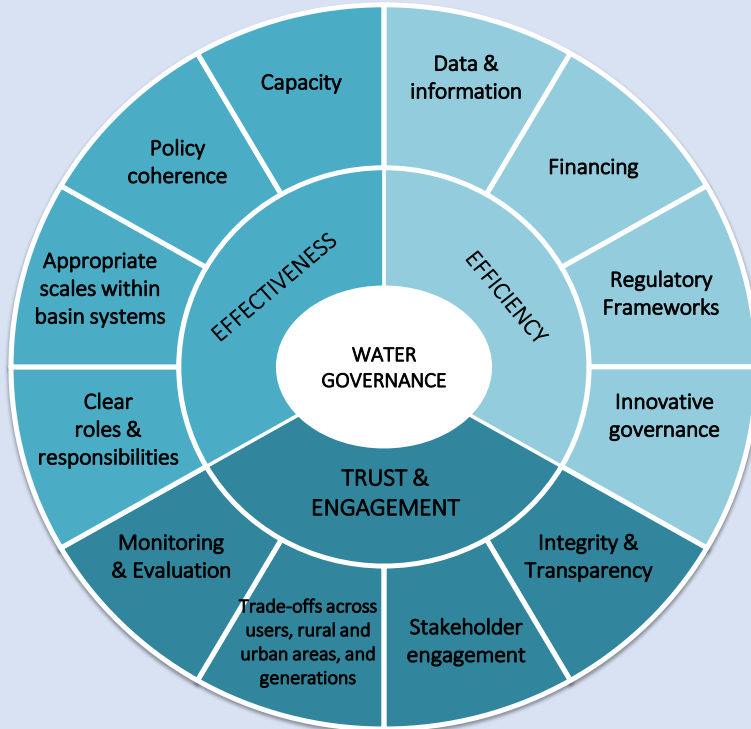
2050

Net-zero GHG emissions

How? Getting water governance right!

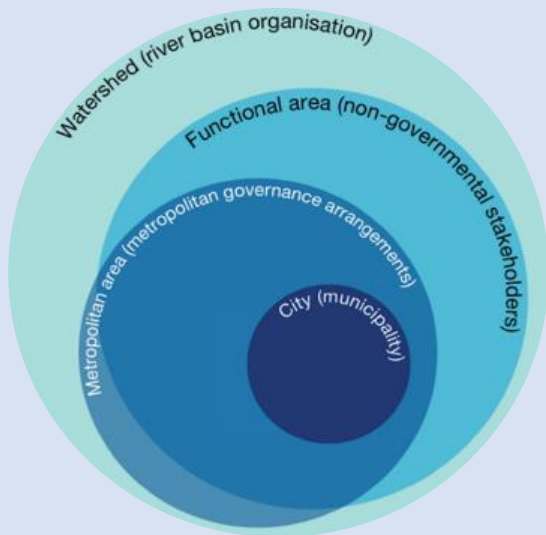
Becoming a **RISC-proof Blue City** implies getting **water governance** right and at the **right scale**. This calls for a functional “city-basin” approach to water resources management.

Check the **OECD Principles on Water Governance**:



OECD (2015), The OECD Principles on Water Governance, [oe.cd/48w](https://www.oecd.org/48w)

Water governance at city-basin scale



The project proposal

The **OECD project *Cities for a blue economy*** will support cities and basin authorities through:

