



WATER GOVERNANCE IN CITIES: AN OECD PERSPECTIVE

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7th Annual SWAN Conference

10 May 2017

London



Water crises are often governance crises

- ✓ **Enough water** for human and nature needs ... if managed wisely!
- ✓ Coping with **water risks**, requires more than financing & hydrology
- ✓ Technical, financial & institutional **solutions exist**, but **implementation** is lagging
- ✓ Governance : **a means to an end** : manage too much, too little and too polluted water

Water, a fragmented sector that is sensitive to multilevel governance

- ✓ Local and global issue, with **multiple actors** at different levels
- ✓ Capital –intensive, monopolistic intensity, **market failures**
- ✓ **Interdependencies** across multiple stakeholders are poorly managed
- ✓ Many countries struggle to understand/clarify (and map) **who does what**

No one-size-fits-all but a need to “mind” and “bridge” the gaps

- ✓ Need for **place-based** policies & **overarching** frameworks, strategy and rules
- ✓ **Taking stock** of what works well and what does *not* work is crucial
- ✓ **Stakeholders** have a role alongside policymakers at different levels
- ✓ Need to match the type of governance structures to the type of water risks to face



A Survey across 48 Cities





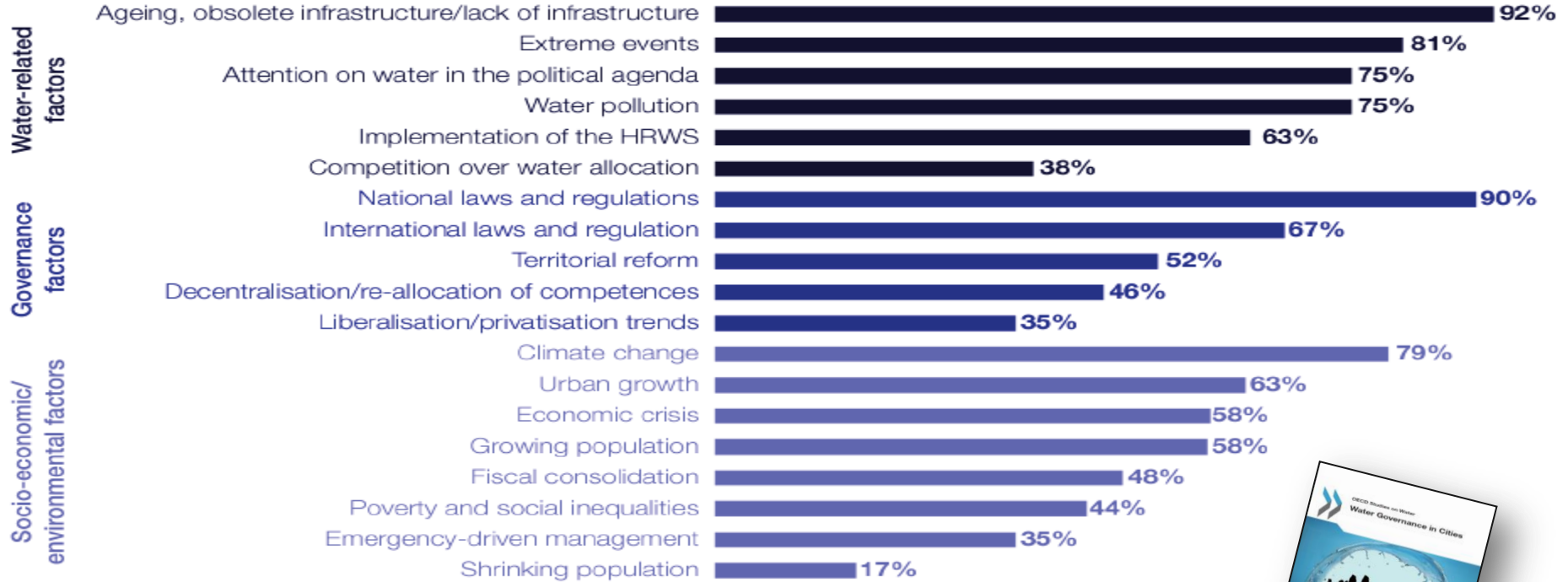
Water Governance key to sustainable and resilient cities



Source : OECD 2016 ,“Water Governance in Cities”
(48 respondents/water departments, top 5 ranking out of 65 words)



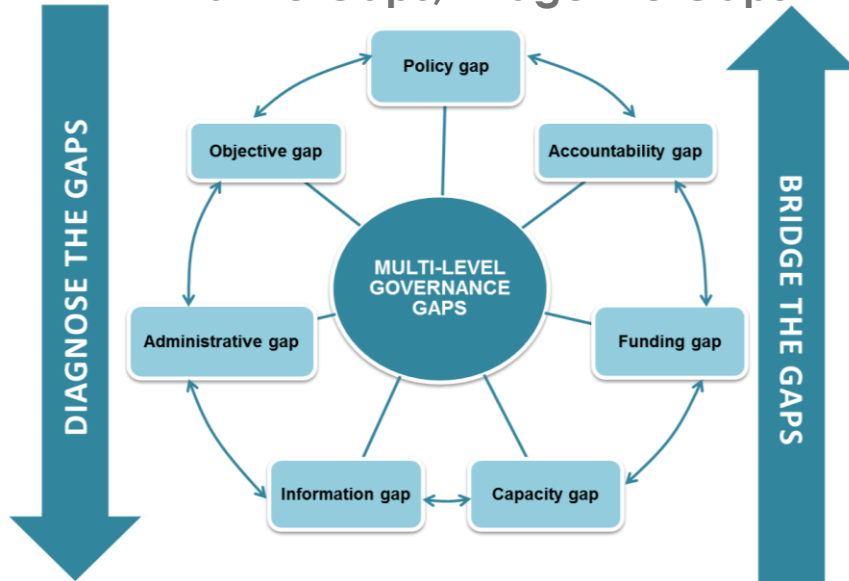
Key Factors affecting water governance (OECD Survey across 48 cities)



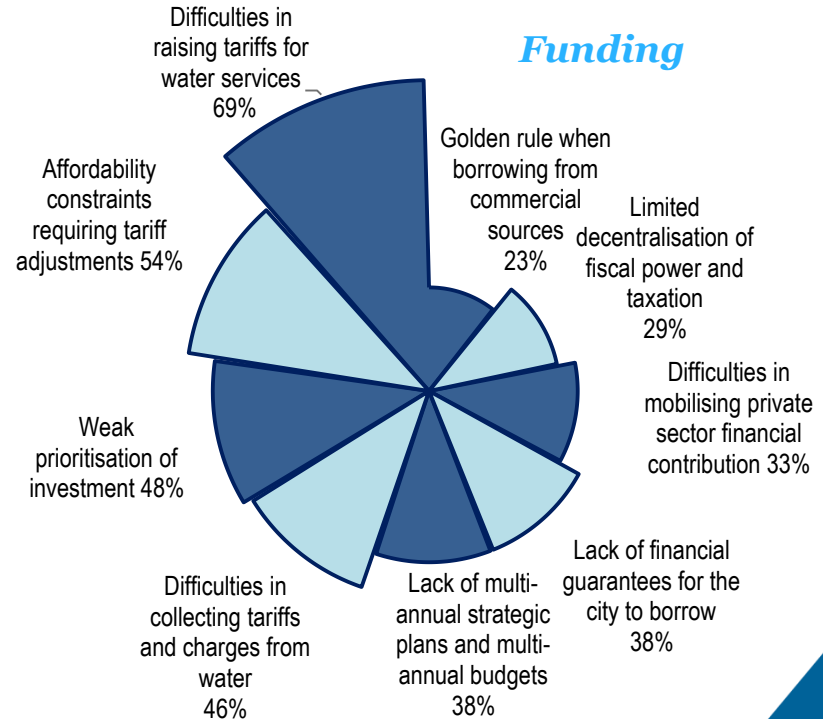


No one-size-fits-all but a need to “mind” and “bridge” the gaps

OECD Multi-level Governance Framework : “Mind the Gaps, Bridge the Gaps”



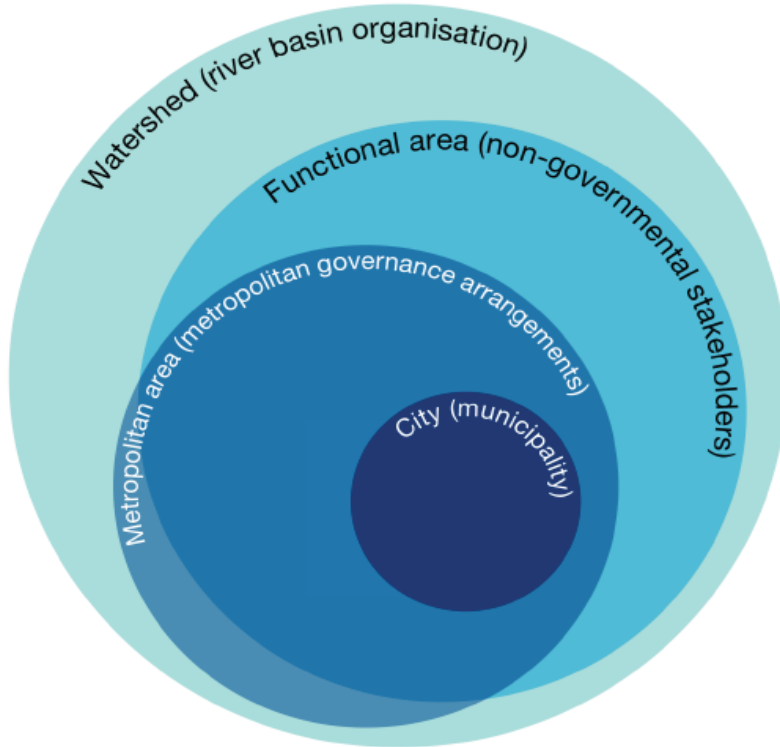
OECD 2011 : Water Governance in OECD Countries : a Multi-Level Approach



- Beyond the question of **WHAT** to do to meet the water challenge, there is a need to think about **WHO DOES WHAT, WHY, AT WHICH LEVEL** and **HOW**



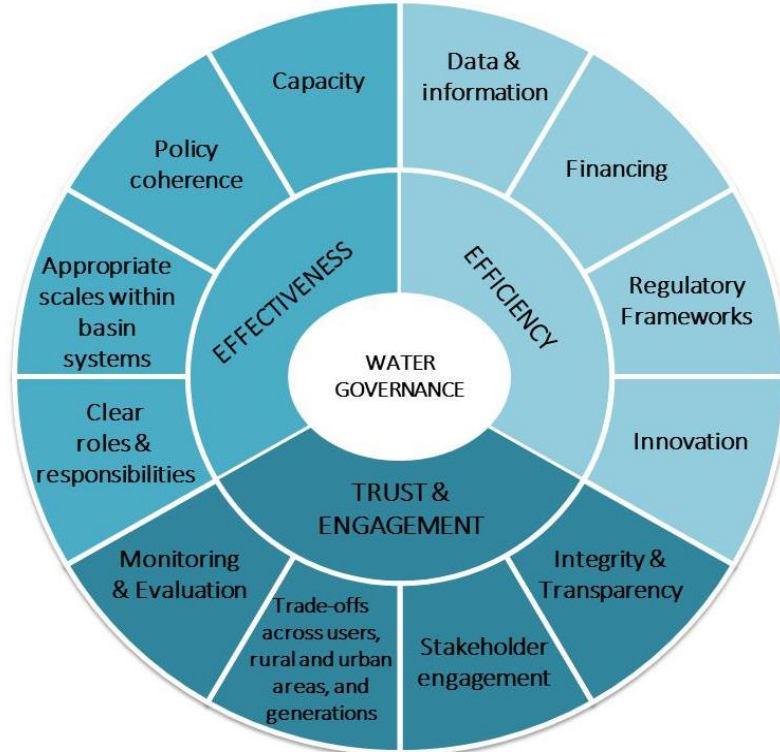
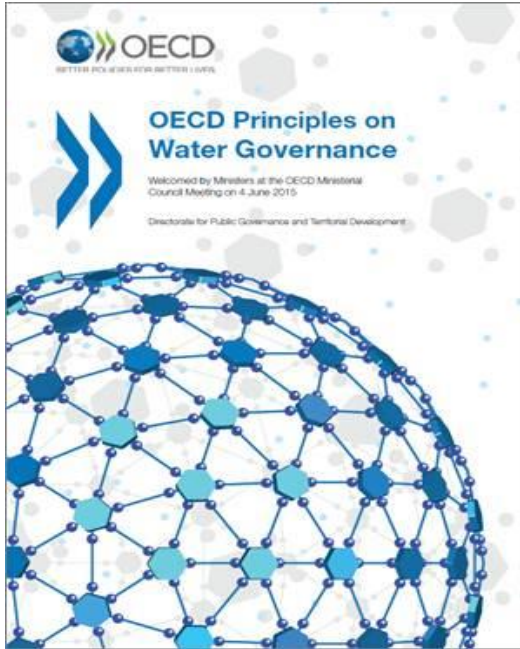
Are cities' governance structures well-equipped to handle the challenges?



- ✓ **Roles and responsibilities** in urban water management are high fragmented → *national-subnational coordination*
- ✓ Urban water management concerns several **scales** → *multi-level functional approach to water functions*



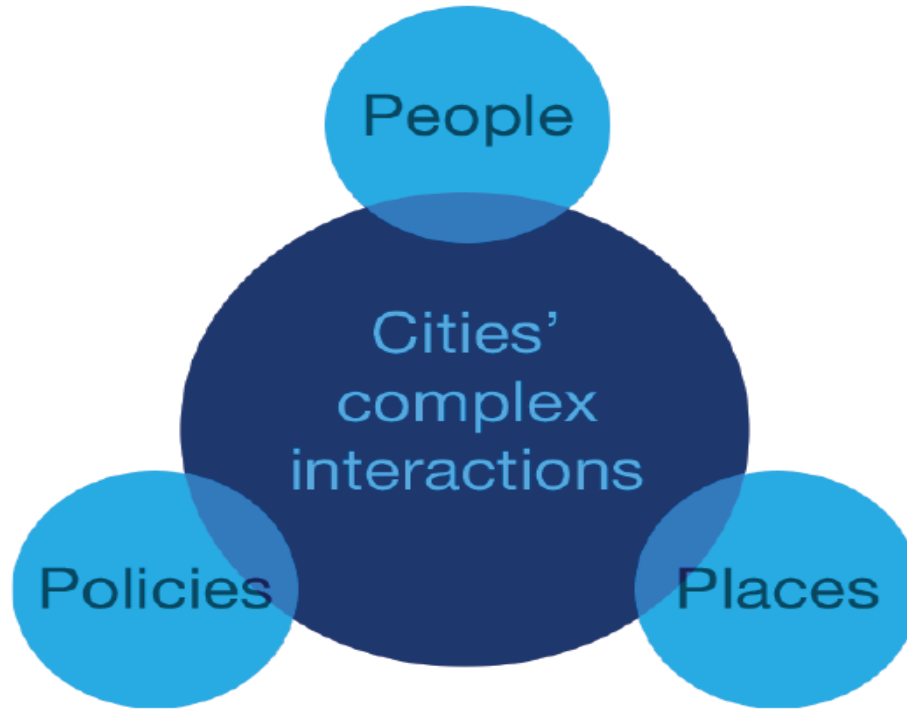
OECD Principles on Water Governance



Endorsed by OECD's 34 Member States at the Ministerial Council Meeting on 4 June 2015



Policy Responses : The 3Ps co-ordination framework





Next steps

- ✓ Develop and test **water governance indicators** that can help local and upper levels of governments assess their water governance systems
- ✓ Showcase and scale up **best practices**
- ✓ Dig deeper on metropolitan cases through **policy dialogues**



THANK YOU

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