

The background of the slide is a microscopic view of water droplets. The droplets are of various sizes and are scattered across the frame. They appear as bright, circular or oval shapes with a slightly darker, iridescent border, set against a light, almost white background. The lighting creates a soft, ethereal atmosphere, highlighting the spherical nature of the droplets.

WFD and Partnerships
clean and sufficient water for all?

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Brief history of WFD - 1

- *Pre-1990: EU legislative focus mainly on water quality related to the use of waters*
- *Late 1980s and early 1990s: Legislative focus on pollution control (urban waste water, nitrates, large industrial discharges)*
- *1990s focus on*
 - *basin management,*
 - *transboundary cooperation*
 - *ecological water quality*
 - *pollution control and physical characteristics of water bodies*
 - *partnership with stakeholders*
 - *Transparency and public consultations*
- *Perspective – supply management (good quality water for all legitimate purposes)*

Brief history of WFD - 2

- *2000: Adoption of the Water Framework Directive (WFD)*
- *2007: Adoption of Floods Directive (driver: climate change)*
- *2007: Policy on Water Scarcity and Droughts emphasising demand management driven by*
 - *climate change*
 - *economic and demographic development*
- *⇒ Integration of management of water-related risks in WFD implementation*

Established Partnerships (water users and water polluters)

- *Water Industry and Farmers (nitrates, pesticides) – well and spring protection (driver: costs)*
- *Water Industry and Farmers: Sewage sludge disposal/recirculation (driver: costs)*
- *Re-use of treated waste water:*
 - *In agriculture (driver: water scarcity)*
 - *In industry (driver: water scarcity)*
- *Concept:*
 - *win-win solutions for the stakeholders involved*
 - *Address potential tensions between environmental planning and silo-thinking in politically powerful sectors....*

Some partnerships are still in their infancy.....

- *Land Use (drivers: subsidies or cross-subsidisation?)*
- *Hydromorphology (drivers: subsidies or cross-subsidisation?)*
- *Aquatic Habitat Restoration (drivers: subsidies?)*
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Territorial Partnerships

(territorial management authorities)

- *Basin management across territorial boundaries*
- *Transboundary River Commissions: Rhine (IKSR), Danube (ICPDR), Elbe (IKSE), Oder (IKSO), Escaut (CIE), Meuse (CIM), etc.*
- *2 models of co-operation:*
 - *Basin-wide planning and co-operation with stakeholders and adoption of conform national plans*
 - *National planning and co-operation with stakeholders and adoption of basin-wide plan as the sum of the national plans*
- *Basin-wide optimisation & win-win, or national optimisation & win-win?*
- *Second model: double tensions - between planning and territorial as well as sectoral “silos”*

What do the SDGs change?

- The SDGs
 - quality of life and equitability
 - indivisible
 - apply across all territorial borders
- Attaining the SDGs requires
 - transparency and multisectoral participation and co-operation
- Consequences for water management and stakeholders:
 - a. SDG 6 not overtrumped by other SDGs, other SDGs not overtrumped by SDG 6
 - b. account not only of other environmental parameters, but also resource-efficiency, circular economy and social issues
 - c. co-operation needed between stakeholders, including those in other sectors who do not use or impact on water resources
 - d. consideration of solutions and co-operation across territorial limits – urban/rural, interregional and international borders

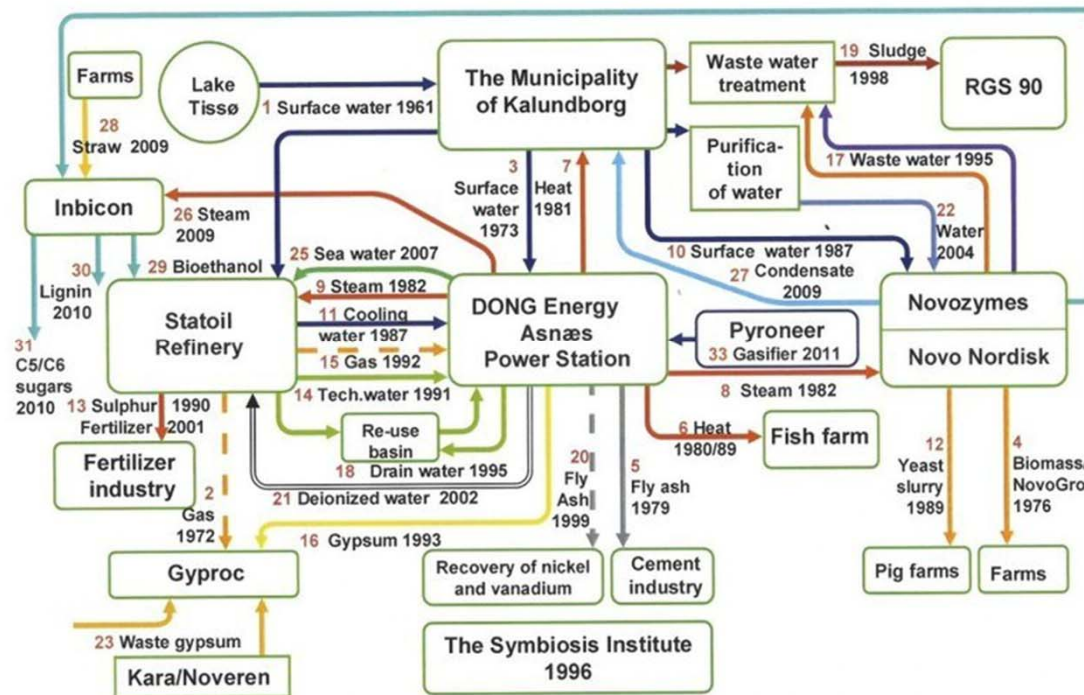
Some partnerships are already delivering.....

- *Resource-efficient technologies in industry (drivers: cost savings and regulatory constraints)*
- *Fermentation of waste (biogas) (drivers: energy efficiency and cost savings)*
- *“Mining” phosphate in urban waste water (drivers: regulatory requirements, cost savings and resource-efficiency)*
- *Industrial Symbioses (drivers: resource efficiency and economic gains)*
- *Re-establishment of drained flood plains in rural areas to protect urban areas from flooding and restore habitats (drivers: subsidies or transfers)*
- *Bringing back fish in rivers: Salmon (Rhine, IKSR), Baltic Sturgeon (Baltic rivers, Helcom) and Atlantic Sturgeon (Garonne, France) etc (drivers: subsidies and regulatory requirements)*
- ***But much more needs to happen.....***

An example of advanced partnerships

...Industrial symbiosis

(urban/rural authorities, various industries, concerns: water, waste, heat, flue gases – main driver: water scarcity)



Why Partnerships?

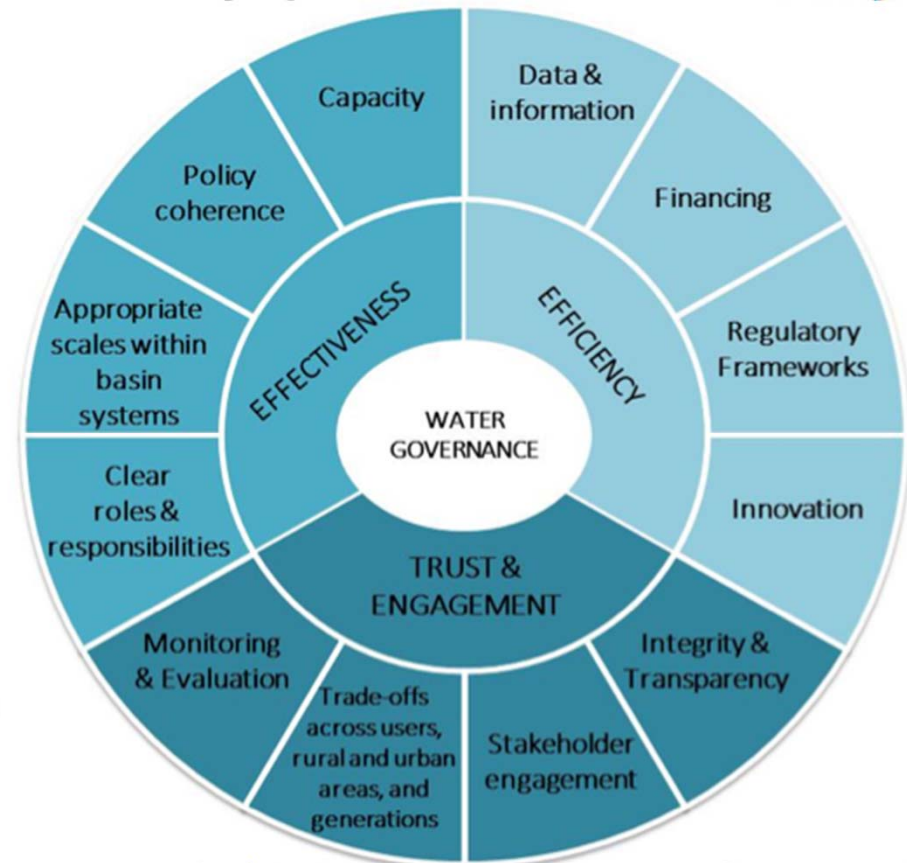
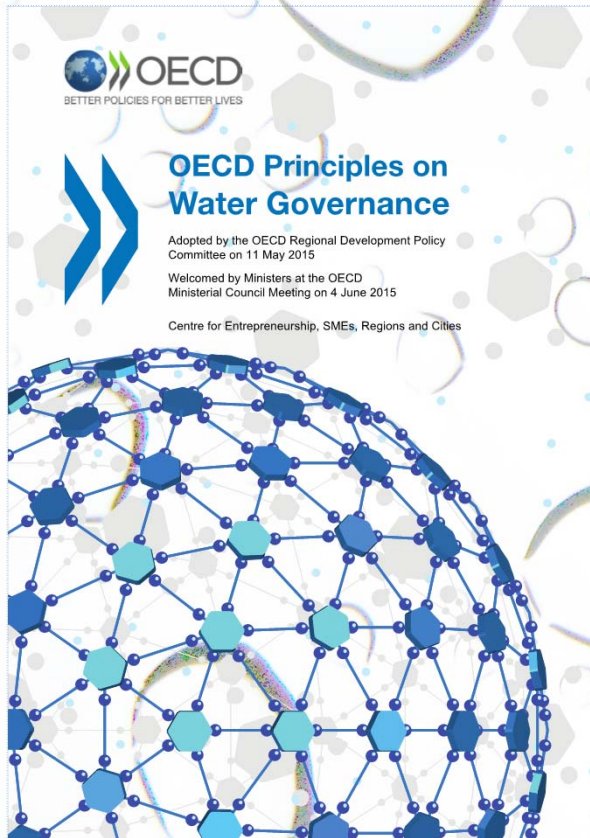
Partnerships are needed to

- *accelerate measures to meet the WFD and cross-sectoral SDG targets*
- *Tackle the impacts of climate change on water security, water related risks and ecosystem services more generally*
- *Ensure rapid identification and implementation of cost-effective solutions*
- *Mobilise multi-sectorial expertise*

Partners need to be motivated to providing significant contributions

Active partnerships are required to make timely change happen – a challenge for water governance!!

OECD WATER GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES



Challenges to be Addressed

- *Breaking up the “silos”*
 - *Effective implementation across political boundaries*
 - *Multi-Sectoral Approaches*
 - *Changing Business Models – adaptation to SDGs*
- *Enforcing public policy targets and transparency in partnership-based implementation*
- *Ensuring incentives for stakeholders*
- *Mobilising finance for investments in infrastructure and sectoral change – the challenge of benefit fragmentation*

Adressing these challenges requires political courage

What needs to happen?

- *Changes in WFD and SDGs? – **not really!***
- *Incentives in some sectoral policies to change business models – **yes!***
- *Incentives for stakeholder participation in cross-sectoral partnerships for sustainability – **yes!***
- *Create conditions for effective enforcement of partnership agreements that are part of the measures to meet public policy targets for the environment and sustainability – **yes!***
- *Finance for investments in environment and sustainability – especially where there is no clearly identifiable beneficiary – **yes!***

Part of a “New Green Deal”? – yes!

Political mobilisation? – Mayors of Towns/Cities important!

A background image showing a microscopic view of water droplets. The droplets are of various sizes and are scattered across the frame. They appear as thin, curved lines with a slight rainbow-like coloration on their edges, set against a light blue background.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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