



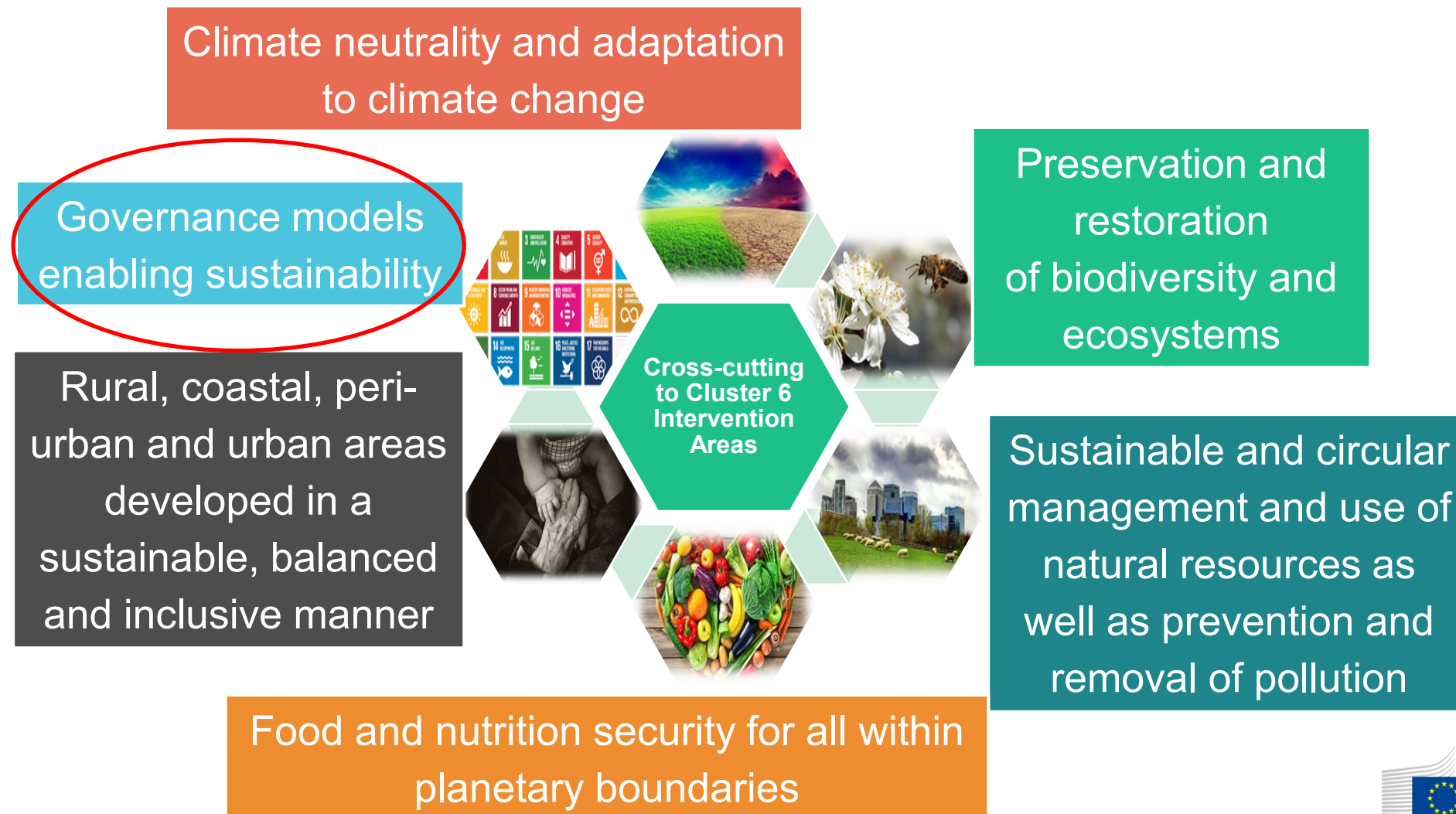
Introduction to the WaterGovernance2027 Cluster

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Horizon Europe Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment



HORIZON-CL6-2022-GOVERNANCE-01-06



• POLICY CONTEXT

- Complexity of multiple water challenges
- Water problems are commonly the results of **governance problems**
- Need to changing the way water is used, managed and shared with **people, our environment and our economy**
- Need to design and implement new **multi-level governance and institutional settings** for the implementation of sound water management



EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- ✓ Improve policy implementation for securing **sustainable water use across sectors**
- ✓ Promote a better **integrated planning approach across water-using sectors**, help to link water management to the economic and social development sectors, support **coordination between water policies and other relevant policies** and coordination of planning measures across relevant EU and national instruments
- ✓ **Empower citizens, help society** to implement through governance, the technological, economic, political, and social measures that will set a course toward the achievement of a desirable, more sustainable and secure water future
- ✓ Support the implementation of the **European Green Deal** and relevant **SDGs**

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SCOPE

- Validate innovative **multi-level water governance practices** among various stakeholders and support the implementation of relevant governance **indicators**
- Assess current **governance approaches and organisational models** in **different river basins** to optimise water governance and integrate it with other sectors (energy, agriculture, land use and urbanization)
- Understand **how different operational governance contexts** at various levels, influence the effective realisation of sustainable water management in practice and explore the interaction among governance approaches at different spatial and temporal scales
- Address ways to **value water and develop appropriate tariffs and pricing** policies and assess the role of appropriate economic policy instruments, financing and business models in governance
- Develop innovative mechanisms to promote **stakeholder engagement** and involvement of **public participation**



INDICATIVE BUDGET

3 mln EUR per project
(10 mln EUR in total)



Important!

SSH flagged topic

Results of the call on water governance

- **HORIZON-CL6-2022-GOVERNANCE-01-06**: Water governance, economic and financial sustainability of water systems (10 M)
 - 7 proposals submitted (one stage)
 - 4 proposals above threshold
 - **3 proposals selected for funding**
- Projects funded under this topic: [GOVAQUA](#), [RETOUCH Nexus](#), [InnWater](#)

→ A strong **synergy** between the 3 projects is needed to define sound criteria for better water governance

Added value of GOVAQUA/RETOUCH Nexus/InnWater cluster from the EU point of view



Synergy group WaterGovernance2027



Added value: impact of the demonstration based on synergies in case studies

6 Living labs
(FR, FI, ES, UK, SE, RO)

5 Case studies
(SP, SK, NL, GE, BE, MT)

5 Pilot Sites
(FR, IT, ES, UK, HU)

Key features of the Synergy group

- Closest scale towards the stakeholders
- Collaborate in a bi-directional way to develop the solutions
- Participate to the creation of the stakeholders engagement process
- Support the development of decision accountability

Updates from EU policy level

Water

- UN Water Conference – 22 - 24 March 2023
 - Adoption of a **Water Action Agenda of around 700 commitments (including 33 EU commitments, 4 of them being R&I related)**
 - Nomination of a special envoy on Water to the SG – still expected
 - Governance recognised as part of the solution
- Initiative on Water Resilience announced by Pr. von der Leyen in her letter of Intent with key priorities for 2024 ([SOTEU 2023 Letter of Intent EN 0.pdf\(europa.eu\)](#))
 - Governance role?



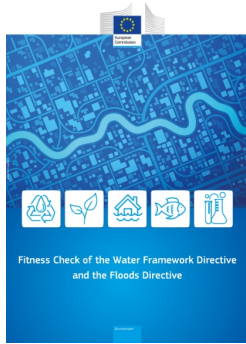
EU Water policy & governance

- EU legislation mainly address water quality
- Water quantity assessment is missing
- Water availability is crucial for economic activities
- Strong competition between sectors (industry, energy, agriculture, transport, households, ecosystems, etc.)
- Economics of water, polluter pays principle, affordability and ability to pay are challenging aspects for good water management
- Additional complexity with transboundary river basins



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EU Water policy & governance



“One of the factors that hindered the achievement of better results was the fact that it proved more difficult than envisaged to establish a **governance framework** that takes into account the specific conditions in each Member State”

“Good status of water bodies also critically depends on the **full implementation of other pieces of EU legislation** (...) as well as better **integration of water objectives in other policy areas** (...). This has not happened yet at the scale necessary.”

[https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/fitness_check_of_the_eu_water_legislation/documents/Water%20Fitness%20Check%20-%20SWD\(2019\)439%20-%20web.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/fitness_check_of_the_eu_water_legislation/documents/Water%20Fitness%20Check%20-%20SWD(2019)439%20-%20web.pdf)



“To realise a boost in water efficiency, both technological development and **improved governance** for water are needed, together with monitoring methodologies such as 'environmental accounting'”

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/state-of-water>



Contribution of the Cluster to policy

- Governance and the future Initiative on Water Resilience
 - Can the projects already formulate recommendation to better include governance issues in the water resilience question?
 - How social aspects and citizen engagement can help Europe to become more water resilient according to the knowledge of the projects?

Gracias, thank you!