



Water Europe

The voice and promoter
of water-related innovation and RTD in Europe.

Who are WE?

- **Recognized voice and promoter of water-related RTD and innovation in Europe**
- **Mission:**
 - Improve **coordination and collaboration** in the water ecosystem in the EU and beyond;
 - Enhance **performance and competitiveness** of the water ecosystem;
 - Contribute to solving **global water challenges** through RTD&I.
- **Water Europe Strategy:**
 - **Multistakeholder** association representing the whole water value-chain
 - **Value-based** organisation: Water Vision

Values & members



College A: Multinational corporations
College B: Research & Technology developers
College C: Utilities
College D: Suppliers & SMEs
College E: Large water users

College F: Public Authorities
College G: Civil Society Organisations

250+ members from 30 countries representing 1 million employees and a €232bn turnover

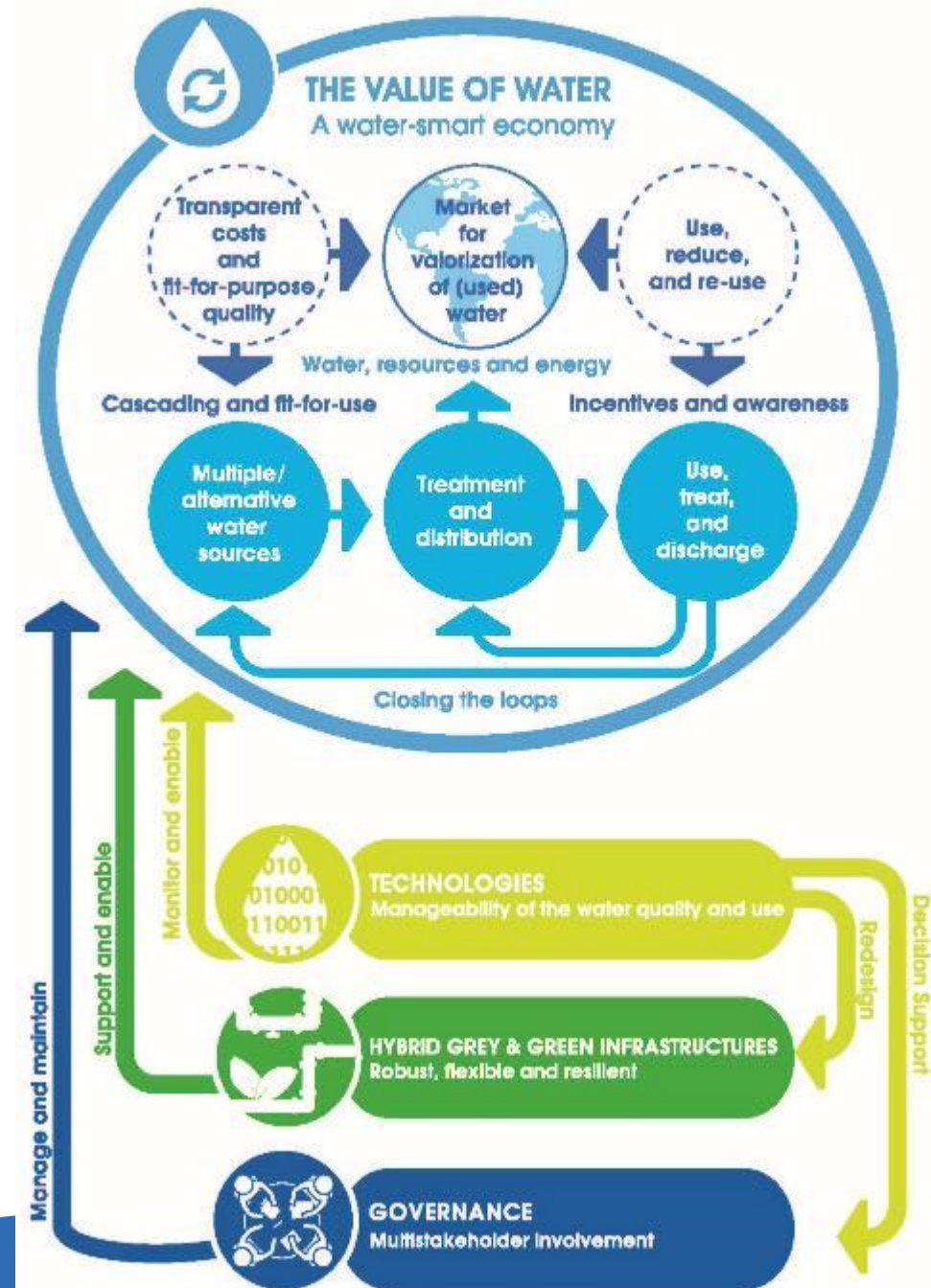
WE Water Vision

Challenges:

- Water scarcity
- Pollution of the environment
- Adaptation to climate change and extreme events

Water-Smart Society:

- a society in which the **true value of water** is recognised and realised;
- all available water sources are managed in such a way that **water scarcity and pollution of water resources** are avoided;
- Water and resource loops are largely closed to foster a **circular economy** and optimal resource efficiency,
- the water system is **resilient** against the impact of climate change events.
- A society in which **all relevant stakeholders** are involved in the governance of our water system.

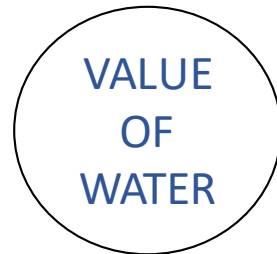


Water-Smart Society

The Value of Water

Water as a Human Right as defined by the UN

Includes 5 standards



1. **Availability:** sufficient water and financial resources to fulfil the requirements of the human rights to water and sanitation.
2. **Accessibility:** physical accessibility of water and sanitation, ensuring that everyone regardless of who they are, their health status, or location is able to access services.
3. **Affordable:** every individual or group must be able to access water and sanitation, regardless of their ability to pay.
4. **Acceptability:** water and sanitation facilities will not be used if they fail to meet the social or cultural standards of the people they are meant to serve.
5. **Quality and safety:** must be ensured to protect the health of users and the general public.

Water-Smart Society

Water Security

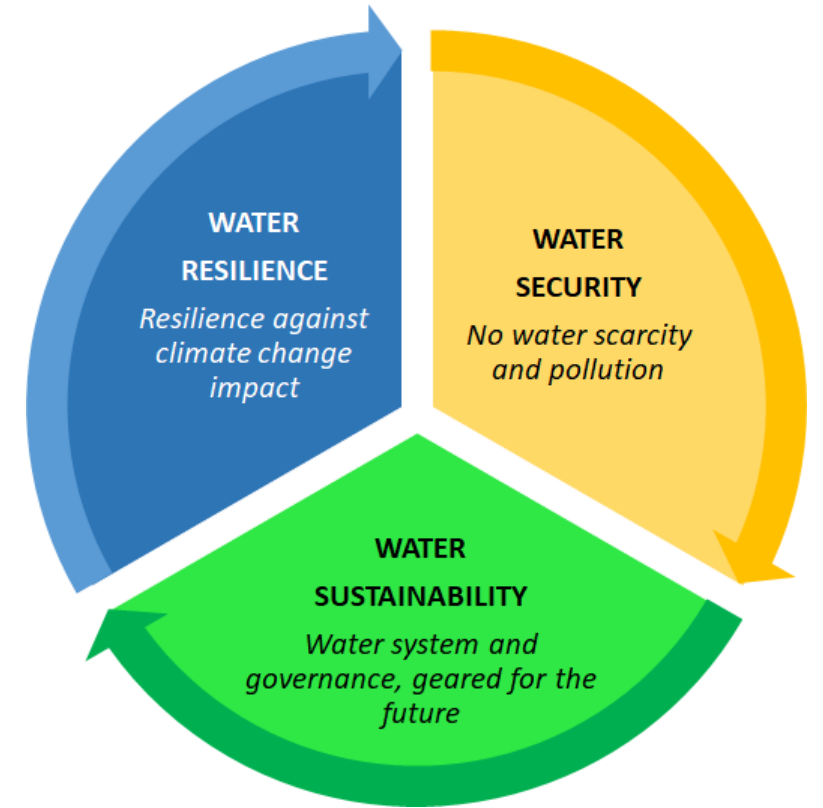
Safeguarding the sustainable access to sufficient quantities of affordable and fit-for-purpose water, in order to preserve the health of the population and ecosystems, foster the socio-economic development of society, and ensure their protection against water-related disasters, such as those resulting from climate change.

Water Sustainability

Ensuring water infrastructure, management and use that are economically and environmentally sustainable, in a way that meets current ecological, social and economic needs, without compromising the ability to meet these needs in the future.

Water Resilience

Achieving long-term resilience, so that natural and anthropogenic water systems can withstand unexpected disruptive events, averting serious consequences, such as droughts and floods, while guaranteeing the reliability of the water system.



Water-Smart Society

- - 3 key objectives and 5 innovation areas -

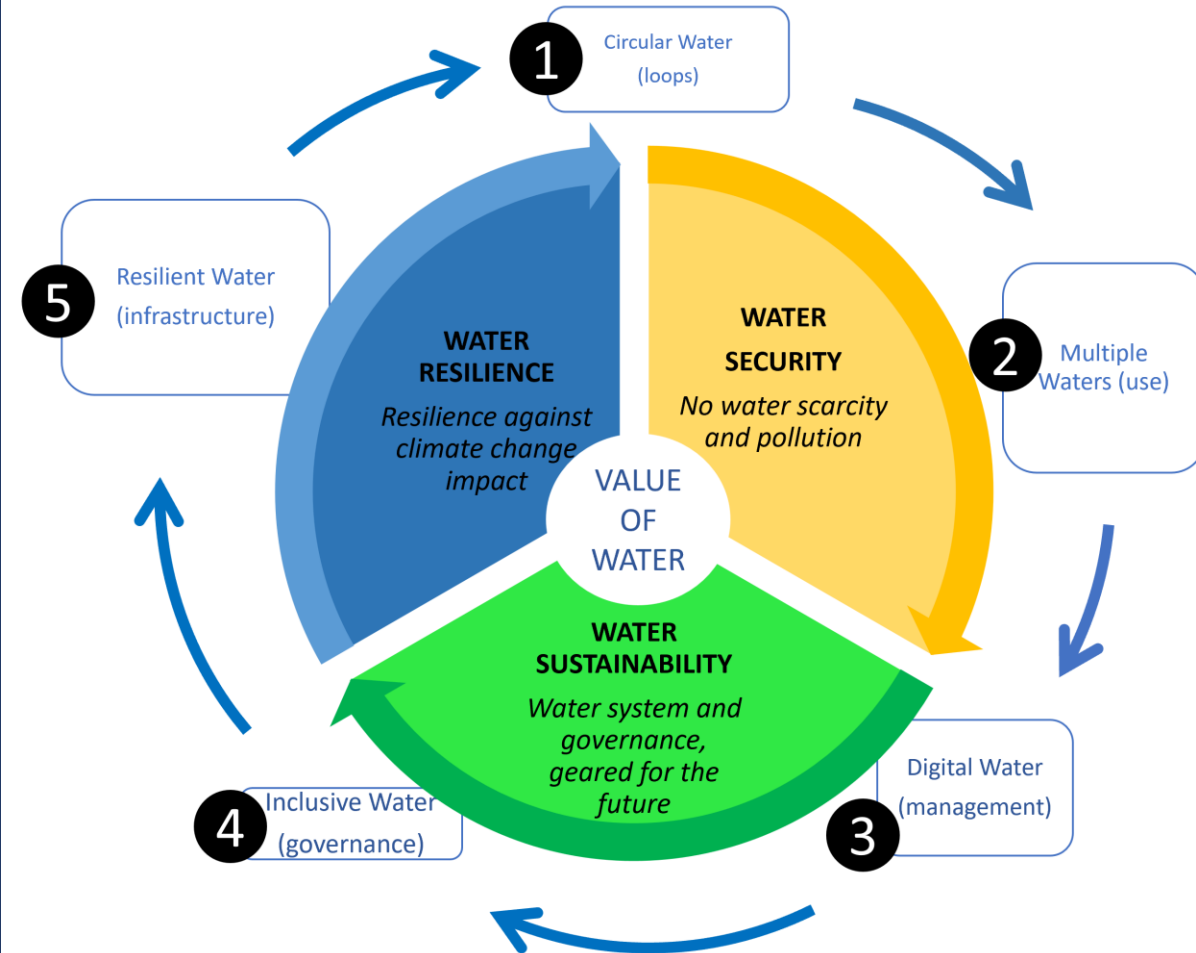
1. **Circular Water:** critical element of the future and circular water system that minimise water losses, captures and exploits the value in water, and fosters a resilient and water-secure system.

2. **Multiple Waters:** incorporates a wide range of water sources and qualities (fresh groundwater and surface water, rainwater, brackish water, brine, grey water, black water, recycled water) into a water-secure, resilient and sustainable water system.

3. **Digital Water:** exploits the benefits of the extreme interconnectivity of people, devices and processes, and create capillary networks capable of monitoring the water system, starting at its multiple sources through to the individual end-user, thus generating continuous flows of valuable data for innovative decision-support systems at different governance levels.

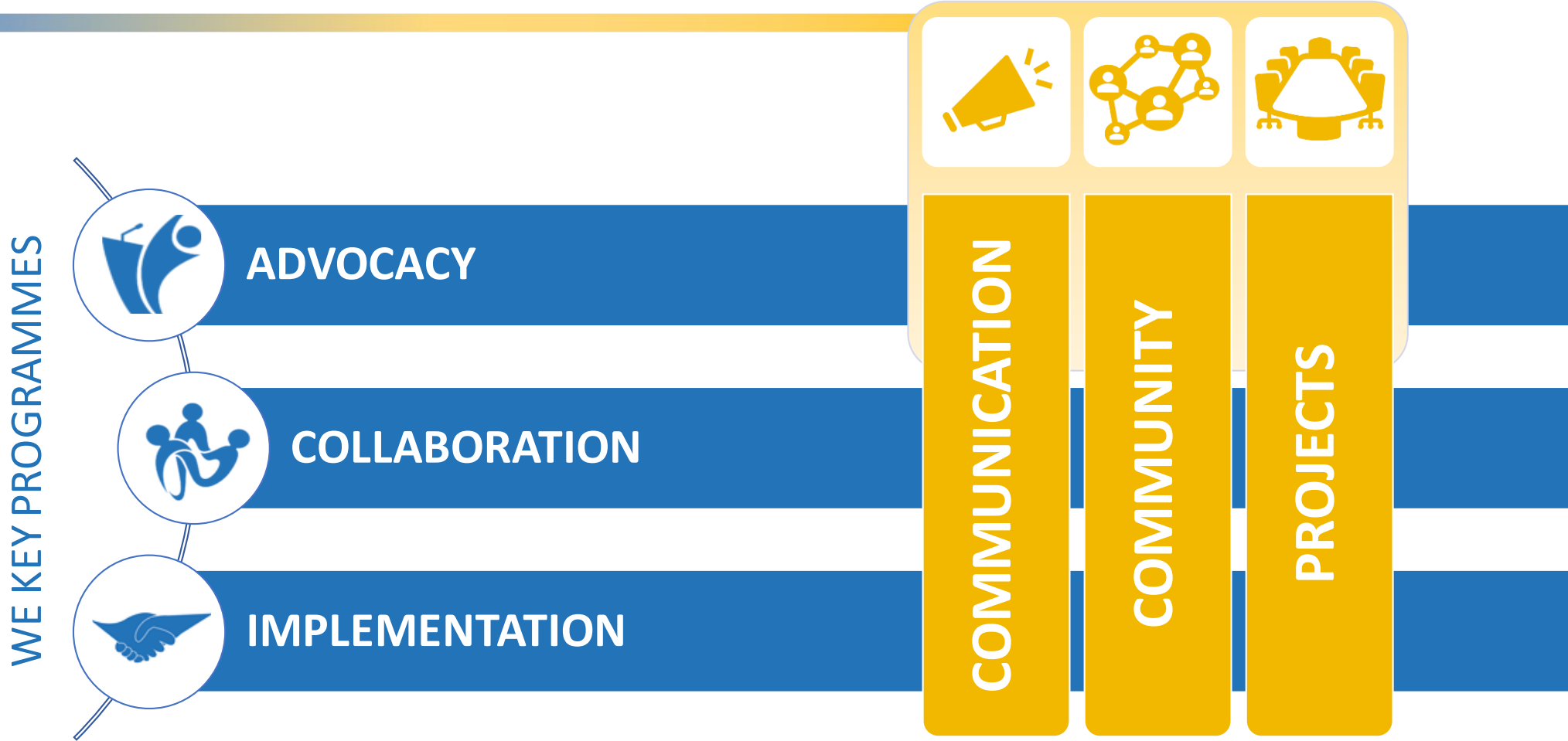
4. **Inclusive Water:** establishes a water system whose governance balances the interests of all stakeholders in its design, management and maintenance.

5. **Resilient Water:** creates a resilient and reliable hybrid grey and green water system, designed to withstand severe external and internal shocks – such as climate-change induced floods and droughts – without compromising essential functions.

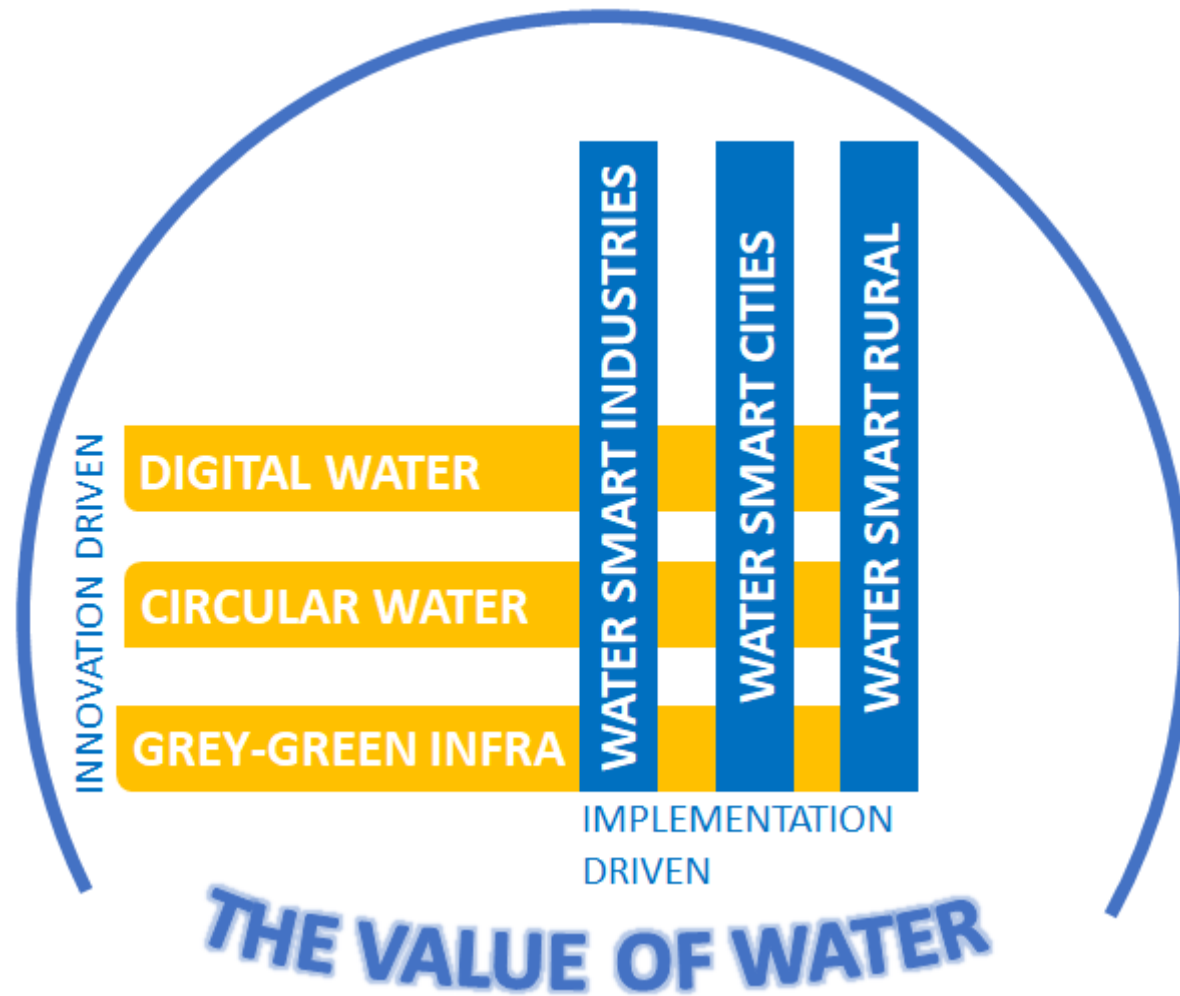


WE organisational matrix

WE KEY PILLARS



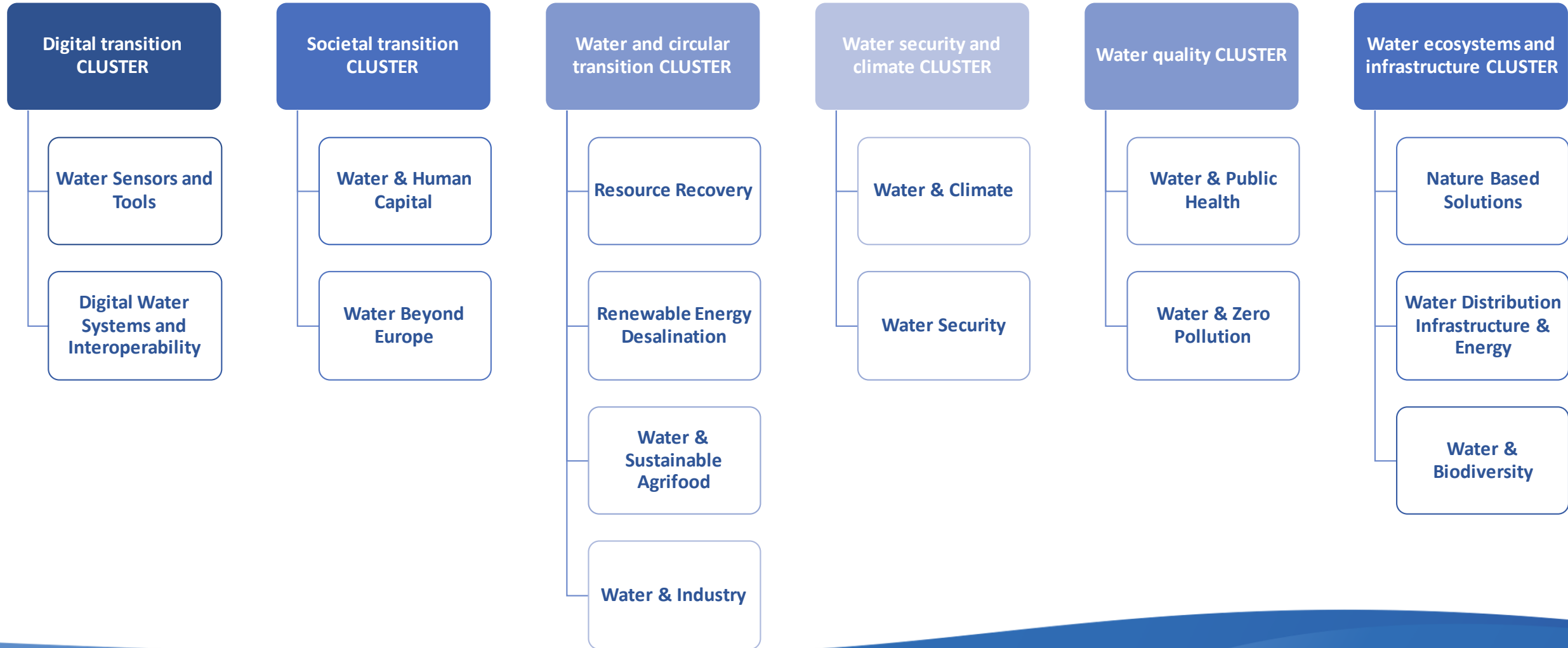
WE Water Vision Leadership Teams



WE Working Groups

2021 - 2024

Working Groups are **the operational level** for members' collaboration and coordination in WE. They are **fully member-driven**, the backbone of our WE community that provides **technical and scientific inputs on a series of themes that voice the water-related challenges, needs and opportunities** of each respective field at a European level.



WE EVENTS



WE Advocacy Programme

WE advocacy principles:

- WE positions must be based on WE vision and values.
- Systemic criteria to evaluate positions:
 - ✓ Societal responsibility
 - ✓ Evidence-based & technology neutral
 - ✓ Financially & economically sustainable

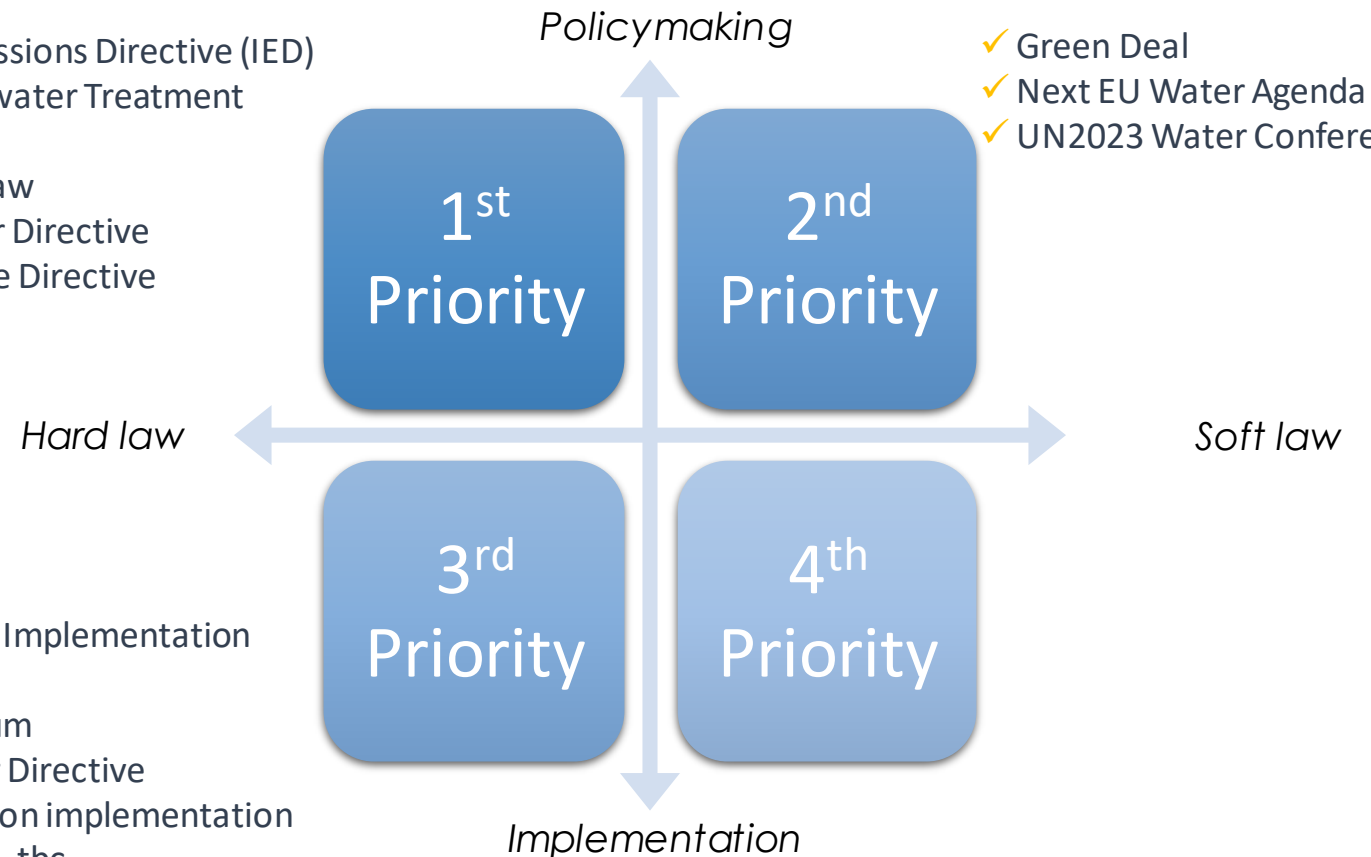
Tools:

- WE strategic publications, white papers, policy-oriented papers
- MEP Water Group, EUWA, Smart Water Alliance, (SPIRE, Process4planet, Water4all).

- ✓ Industrial Emissions Directive (IED)
- ✓ Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive
- ✓ Health Soils Law
- ✓ Bathing Water Directive
- ✓ Sewage Sludge Directive

- ✓ WFD Common Implementation Structure
- ✓ IED Art 13 Forum
- ✓ Drinking water Directive
- ✓ Reuse Regulation implementation
- ✓ Bathing Water - tbc
- ✓ UWWTD Expert group - tbc

- ✓ Green Deal
- ✓ Next EU Water Agenda
- ✓ UN2023 Water Conference



WE in research and innovation projects

Water Europe's support to its members' R&I projects:

- Letter of Support
- Consortium partner
- Subcontractor

Involvement:



Communication & Dissemination



Networking



Policy



Water-oriented Living Labs



75% of participants to successful water-related H2020 consortia are WE members



Completed projects



Ongoing projects

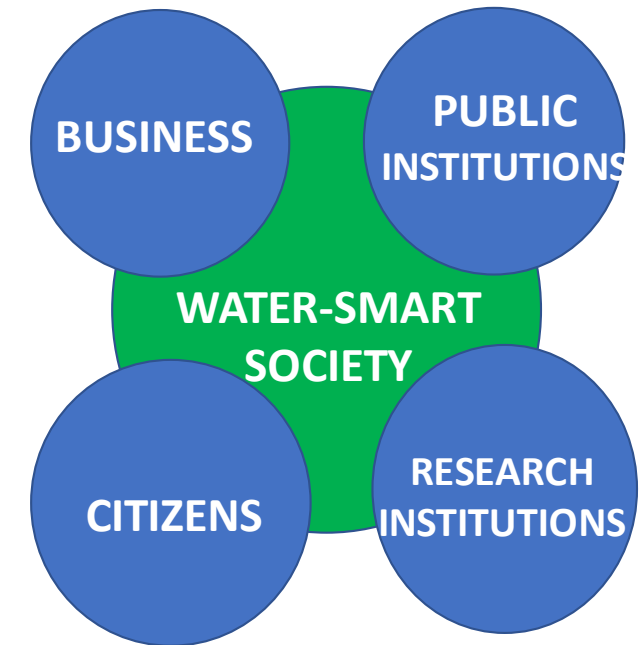


Water-Oriented Living Labs for a **Water-Smart Society**



Water-Oriented Living Labs have been defined by Water Europe as follows:

- 💧 **real-life** demonstration and implementation instruments
- 💧 **bring together** public and private institutions, government, civil society, and academia
- 💧 **jointly build structured grounds** to develop, validate, and scale-up innovations
- 💧 embrace new **technologies, governance, business models, innovative policies**



WE Team - Secretariat

WE secretariat carries out the diverse day-to-day work of the platform and has its headquarters at BluePoint Tech Lounge in Brussels, Belgium.



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