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GOVAQUA 2024 Seminar

Social Innovation

7 October 2024 – Bordeaux (France)

- Julie Magnier (OiEau)



INN WATER

Promoting social innovation to renew
multi-level and cross sector water governance



InnWater : in a nutshell



3 Million €	13 Partners	1st March 2023 Starting date
5 Pilot Sites		6 Countries
3 Years		



- ❖ **Funded by the European Commission** under the Horizon Europe Research & Innovation programme
- ❖ **A partnership** made of **stakeholders** with complementary profiles (Research and Technology Organisations (UR, URN, EUI, EUT), SMEs (ETIFOR, REKK), end users (CBB, FIGUERES, WRT, KÖTIVIZIG), associations with EU (WAREG) and international (SIWI, OiEau) coverages).



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Project objective



Support multi-level and cross-sectoral **water governance** for a transition to **sustainable** water systems



By developing a set of digital **tools and services** embedded in a single **platform**

Tools and methods will be **tested and co-developed** in 5 Pilot Sites.



Relying on several approaches

- **Social innovation:** combining technological and non-technological dimensions (governance, capacity building, economics) of innovative products, process or services.
- **Multi-level:** involving stakeholders from different scales (local, regional, national...)
- **Cross sectoral:** considering a wider focus than only water - including food, energy, ecosystem, health

- **Key challenges** in the 21st century: Climate change impact, maintaining the access to water (both in quality and quantity)...
- The emergence of these societal challenges has increased the importance of finding solutions which can **reconcile both**
 - **economic growth and social outcomes** on one hand,
 - their **technological, capacity building, governance** and **economic** dimensions on the other hand.

➔ This is where **social innovation** comes into place.

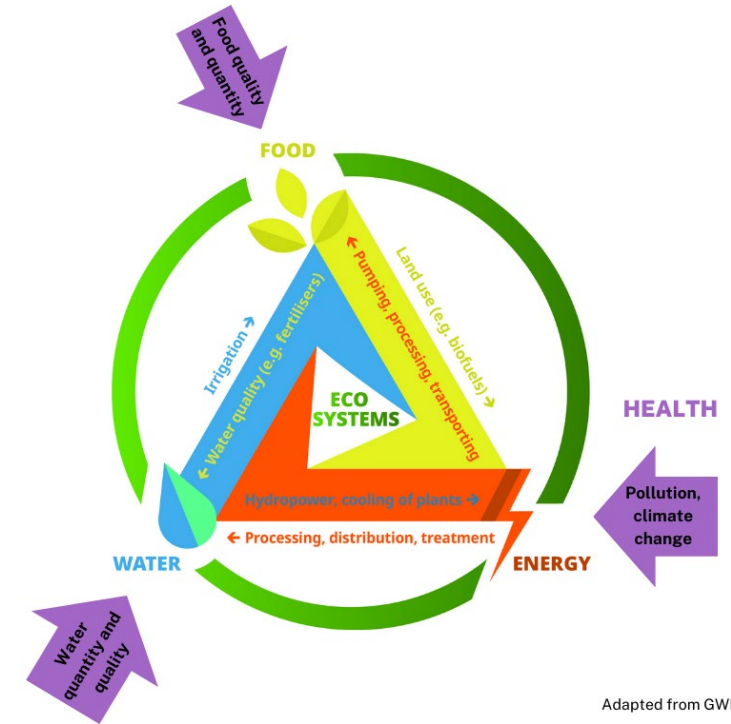
Social innovation - Definition

- Social innovation: design & implementation of innovative solutions which ultimately aim to improve the **welfare and wellbeing** of individuals and communities.
- It means tackling societal, water-related challenges by combining the **technological & non-technological** dimensions (governance, capacity building and economic) of innovation.
- **New combinations** (or hybrids of existing and new) of products, processes and services.
- Aim: to involve the **stakeholders** (final users) and give them a clear **role** to co-develop and experience governance solutions that they will use in an autonomous manner in the end



A collaborative approach

- Social innovation also implies new patterns of **stakeholders' involvement** and learning fully aligned with the **innovative** and **cross sector** governance challenges.
- A **complementary approach** to technological innovation, with the potential to address the complex, societal and environmental challenges by encouraging:
 - novel approaches, collaboration and cross-sector partnerships
 - from all stakeholders including local communities, as well as from different expertise and skills.



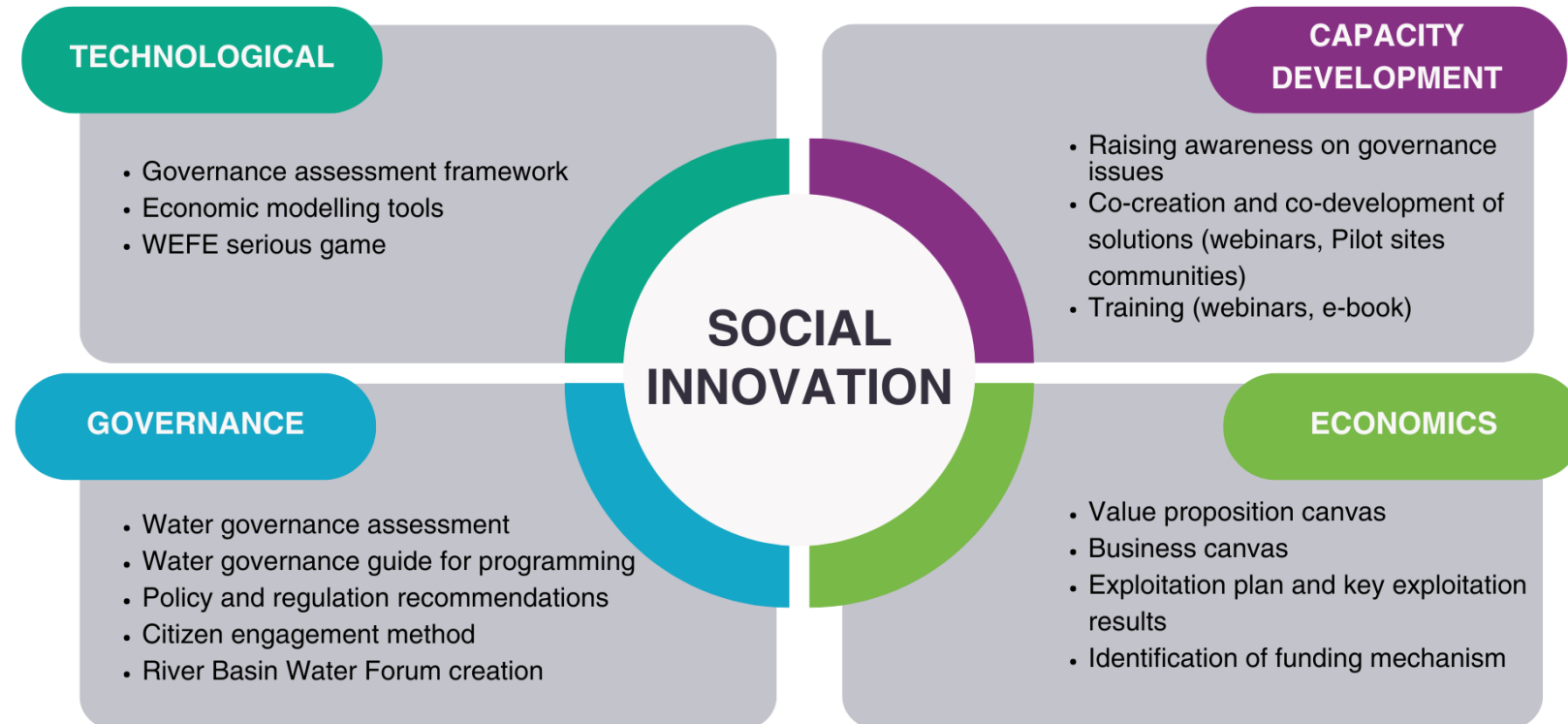
Adapted from GWP

*The WEF+H Nexus.
Adapted from GWP*

Social Innovation in InnWater

InnWater's approach is embedded in social innovation. The project will:

- ❖ Develop a digital platform (**technological** dimension), composed of different tools
- ❖ Develop a series of **capacity development** activities, to ensure these tools are used by stakeholders
- ❖ The **governance** dimension refers to the feedbacks and recommendations that will be delivered from the PS & tools like water governance assessment
- ❖ The **economic** dimension envisages the sustainability of InnWater solutions through an exploitation plan





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Thank you for your
attention !

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