



# Innovative water governance practices Insights from Horizon Europe projects

Seminar

INBO General Assembly 2024 October 7th 2024 Bordeaux



Co-funded by  
the European Union



UK Research  
and Innovation



**GOVAQUA**

# Digital Solutions - Background

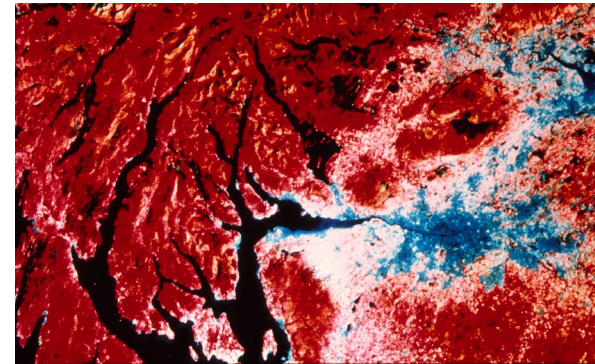
Aim: generating, updating and sharing data and information relevant for supporting sustainable water governance.

Challenges with respect to sharing:

- Diversity of data: in-situ, space-based and citizen environmental observations, modelled data.
- Diversity of data and information sources/providers.
- Diversity of stakeholder needs: multi-stakeholder participation:
  - experts from river basin authorities,
  - policy makers
  - researchers
  - water users from economic sectors
  - public



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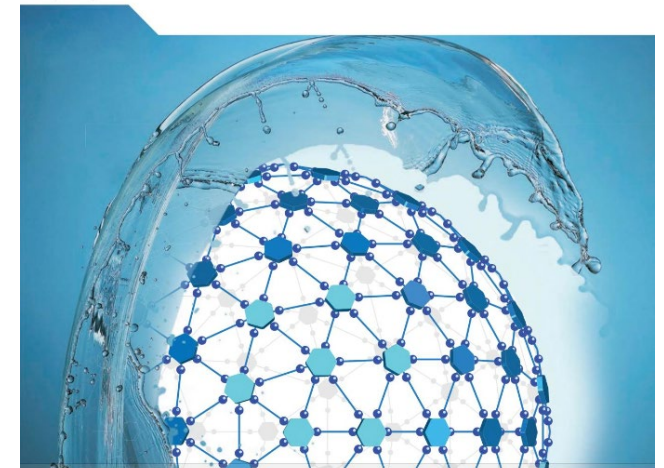
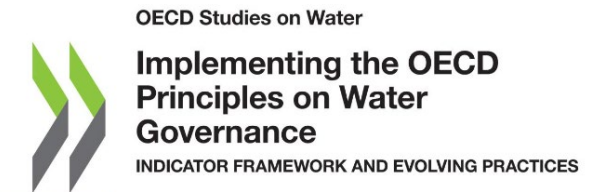
# Digital Solutions – A set of assessment criteria (1)

Assessment tool for digital solutions based on existing:

- data management principles (e.g. FAIR),
- policy recommendations (e.g. OECD recommendations, 2023) ,
- data standards (e.g. PPSR Core for public participation in Scientific Research)
- Frameworks/tools (e.g. STEER conceptual framework)



Source: Paulus & Biskup (2022) doi:10.26434/chemrxiv-2022-jsjnd



# Digital Solutions – A set of assessment criteria (2)

Assessment tool based on four key criteria:

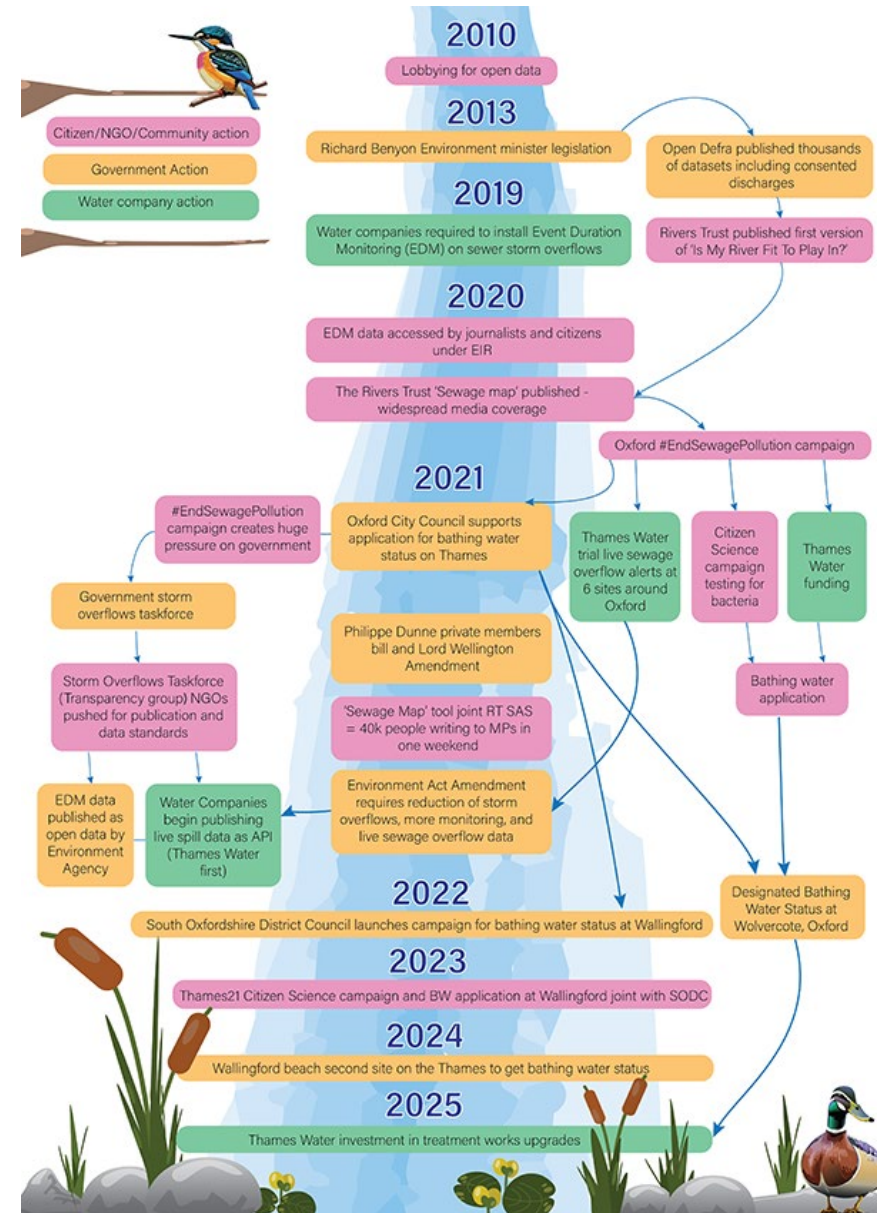
- 1. Transparency and Accountability:** focuses on adherence to FAIR principles to ensure transparency and accountability in governance practices.
- 2. Serving the Purpose of Water Governance:** evaluates how well the tool aligns with water governance principles.
- 3. Contextual information:** assesses the comprehensiveness and relevance of the tool's content, including its aim, description, and information provided.
- 4. Inclusivity:** considers factors such as gender equality, language accessibility, and target audience diversity to ensure inclusivity in tool design and implementation.

**Flexible tool, that can be used to assess existing tools, or at design stage to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of digital solutions**

Assessment criteria	Sub criteria	Score levels and scores	Weight (1-5 scale)
Transparency and accountability	S1	Whether the data have a detailed background or initiative? Standardised Metadata - 3; All the information - 2; Some of the information - 1; None - 0	3
	S2	Whether it supports Findable data? With DOI/ data repository - 1; Otherwise - 0	4
	S3	Whether it supports Accessible data? S3.1. Whether it is downloadable via API With API - 2; With API partially-1; Without API - 0	4
		S3.2. Whether it is downloadable via CSV Yes - 1 ; No - 0	4
	S4	Whether it meets/supports interoperable data ? S4.1. Whether the method/survey protocol used is mentioned? S4.2. Whether it has a consistent data format across datasets? Yes - 1 ; No - 0	4
S5		Whether it supports the Reuse of data S5.1. Is it findable, accessible, interoperable? S5.2. Whether it supports simple or clear data licensing? Yes - 1 ; No - 0	4
Serves the purpose of water governance	S6	Whether it supports public participation S6.1. Whether there is possibility of citizen science data? S6.2. Whether there is any mechanism of reporting for users? Yes - 1 ; No - 0	3
	S7	Whether it has a clear GDPR and data privacy notice? Yes - 1 ; No - 0	4
	S8	Whether it supports cross-sectoral water governance? Yes - 1 ; No - 0	3
	S9	Whether the tool supports understanding or application of policies? Yes - 1 ; No - 0	5
Contextual information	S10	Whether the webpage has detailed background or initiative? All the information- 2; Some of the information -1; None - 0	3
	S11	Whether the data have trustworthiness with proper quality control and data custodian? Yes - 1 ; No - 0	5
	S12	Whether it provides or supports open data? Open data in whatever format - 1; Structured data (e.g., Excel) - 2; Non-proprietary open format (e.g., CSV) -3; URIs to denote things- 4; link data to other data to provide context- 5	3
	S13	Whether it is free to use or even at least with minimal cost? Yes - 1 ; No - 0	4
	S14	Whether it have a start date? With start date - 1; Without start date - 0	2
	S15	Are they still active? Not active -0; Still active but less than 5 years data -1; Still active and more than 5 years data -2	3
Inclusivity	S16	Whether there is different means of user guidance/support? More than one- 2; Only one- 1; None- 0	3
	S17	Whether it supports inclusivity? S17.1. Gender equality Yes - 1 ; No - 0	3
		S17.2. Language Multiple languages including English- 4; Multiple languages but not English -3; Only English -2; Only other language-1	3
	S18	Who are the target audiences (Practitioners, regulators, academics, local people, etc?) One - 1; More than one -2	2

# GOVAQUA – Oxford Rivers Data Portal

- Enhance knowledge & collaboration between the organisations and citizens working to improve river health of the Oxfordshire Thames.
- Developed by UKCEH in collaboration with Rivers Trust and Thames21
- Local stakeholders (policy makers, politicians, local community, water industry, ...) involved from inception



# GOVAQUA – Oxford Rivers Data Portal (2)

- Increase transparency & understanding of sewage treatment and sewerage network overflows to build trust between water company & local communities.

Importance of identifying all stakeholders needs and co-designing digital tools to foster transparency and build trust

Oxford Rivers Data Portal

