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CIRCULARITY IN WATER: GLOBAL EXPERIENCES AND PERSPECTIVES

Global Water and Sanitation Initiative
Circular Economy for Water Security
16th March 2021

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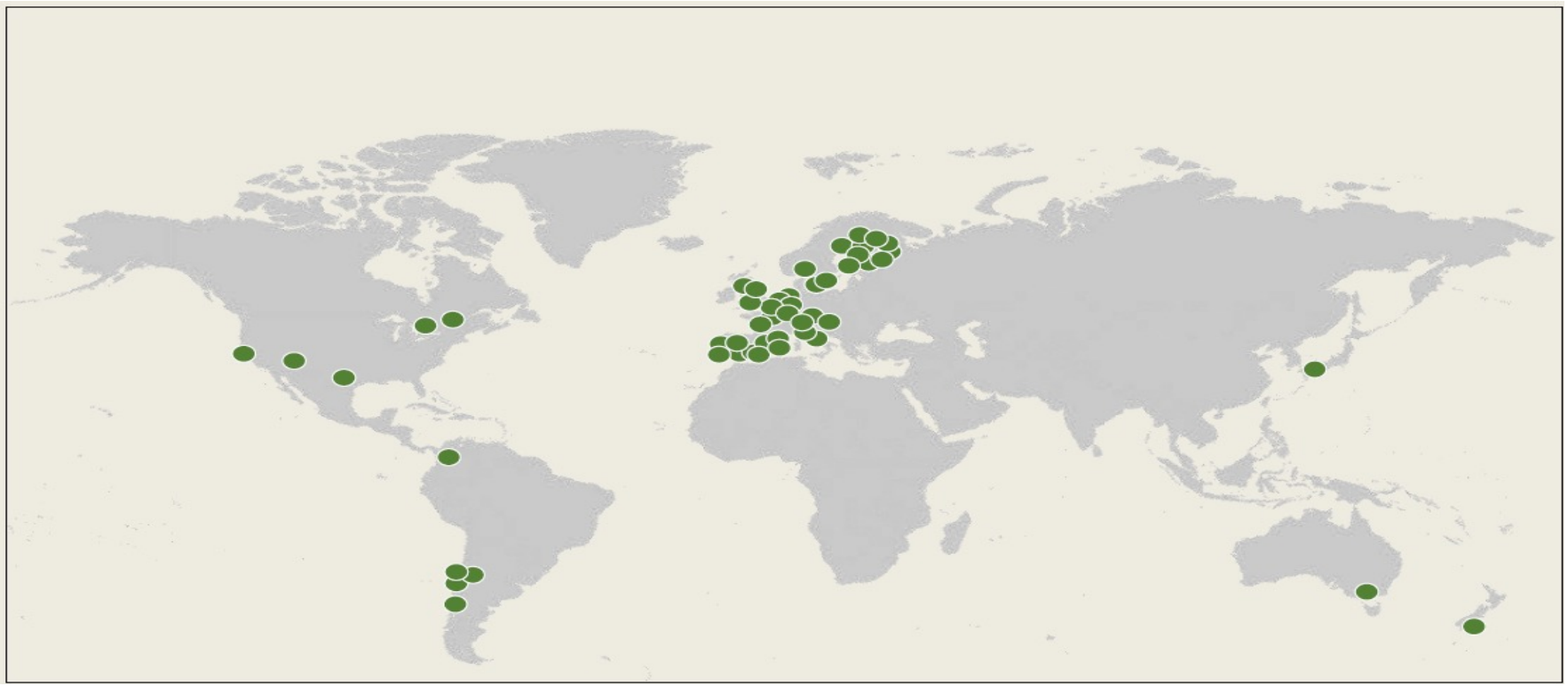
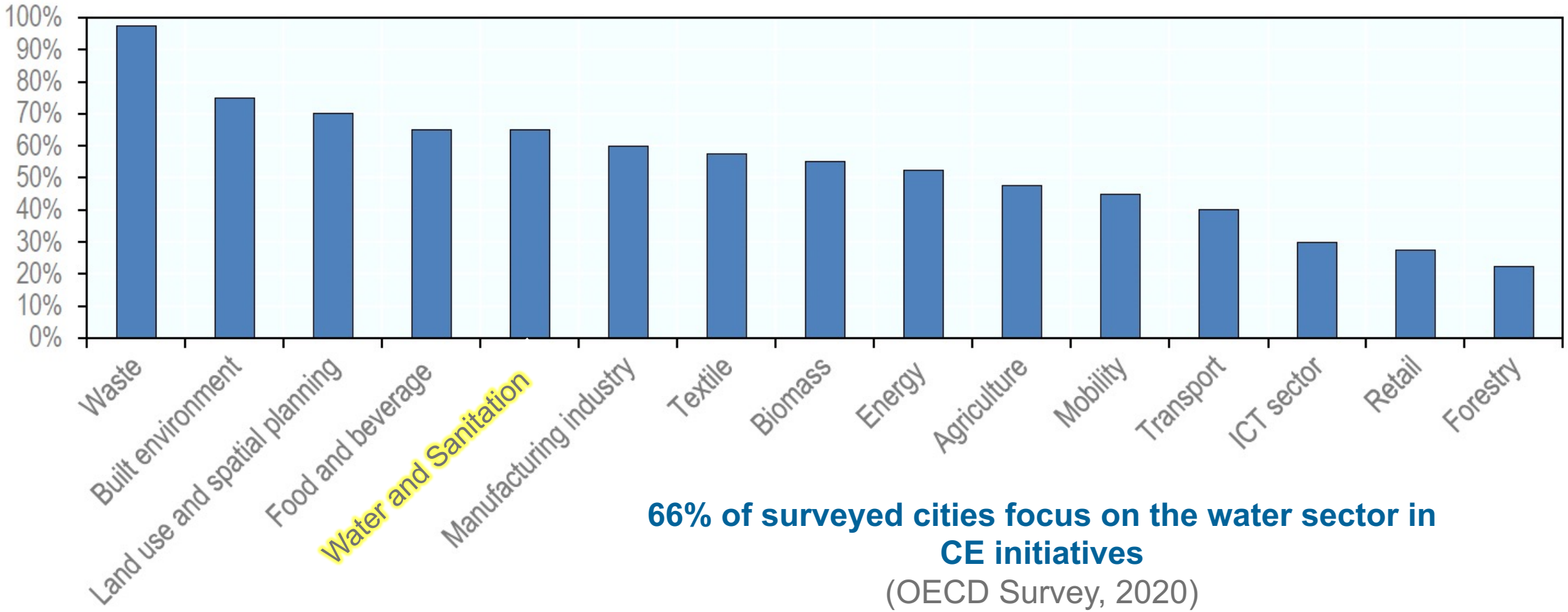
OECD
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

The Circular Economy in Cities and Regions
Survey and case studies



51 surveyed cities and regions
from Europe, Americas, Oceania and Asia
6 Case studies from the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and Ireland
300+ consulted stakeholders

The water sector has been applying circular principles for long!

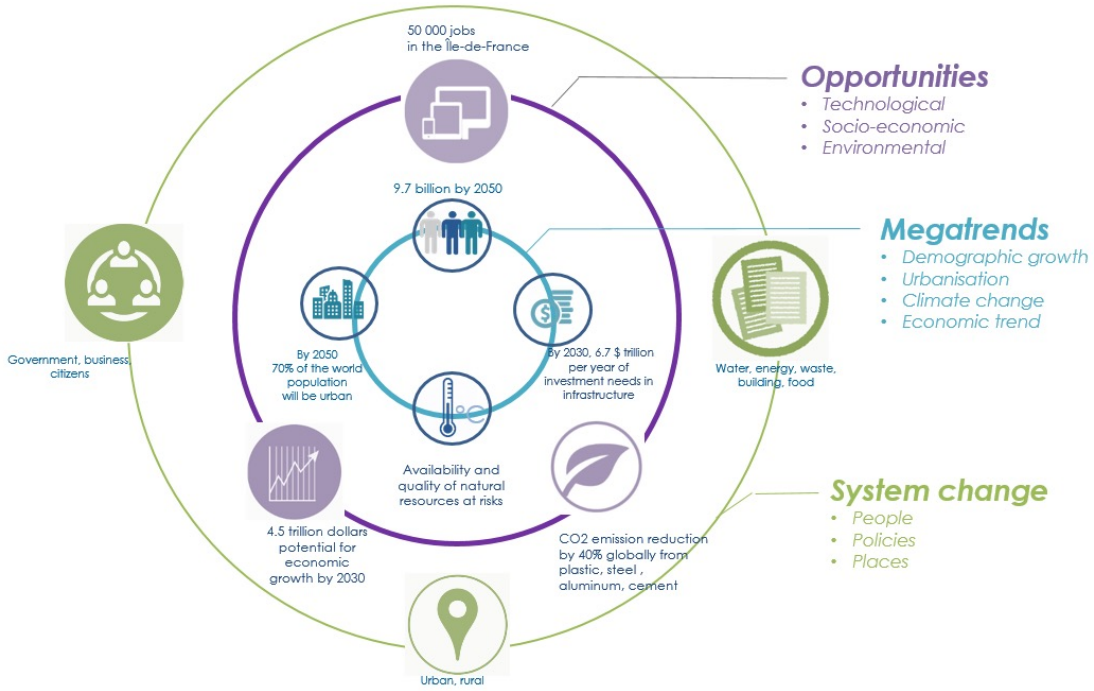


66% of surveyed cities focus on the water sector in CE initiatives

(OECD Survey, 2020)

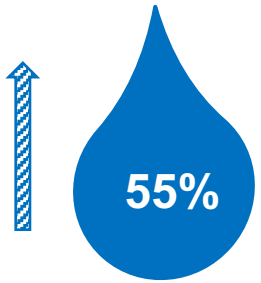
Source: OECD (2020), The Circular Economy in Cities and Regions. Synthesis Report.

Water in circular economy strategies and projects

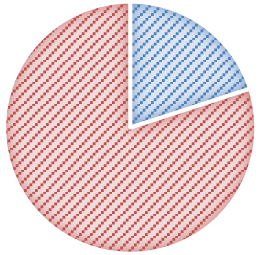


- Closing nutrient cycles (Amsterdam)
- Filtering and reusing medicine residues (Rotterdam)
- Heat recovery from wastewater to head buildings (Paris)
- Reusing wastewater for irrigation (Milan)
- Producing energy and materials from wastewater (Granada)
- Implementing circular procurement (Amsterdam)
- Funding for multi-stakeholder water clusters (Barcelona)
- Building cross-sectoral partnerships to close loops and facilitate demonstration projects (Flanders)
- Engage with the public to raise awareness (Amsterdam)

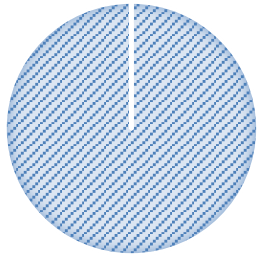
Water and circularity in Asia-Pacific



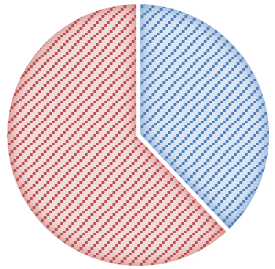
Water demand is expected to increase by 55% to 2050 in Emerging Asia



80% of wastewater is discharged with little or no treatment



Singapore treats 100%

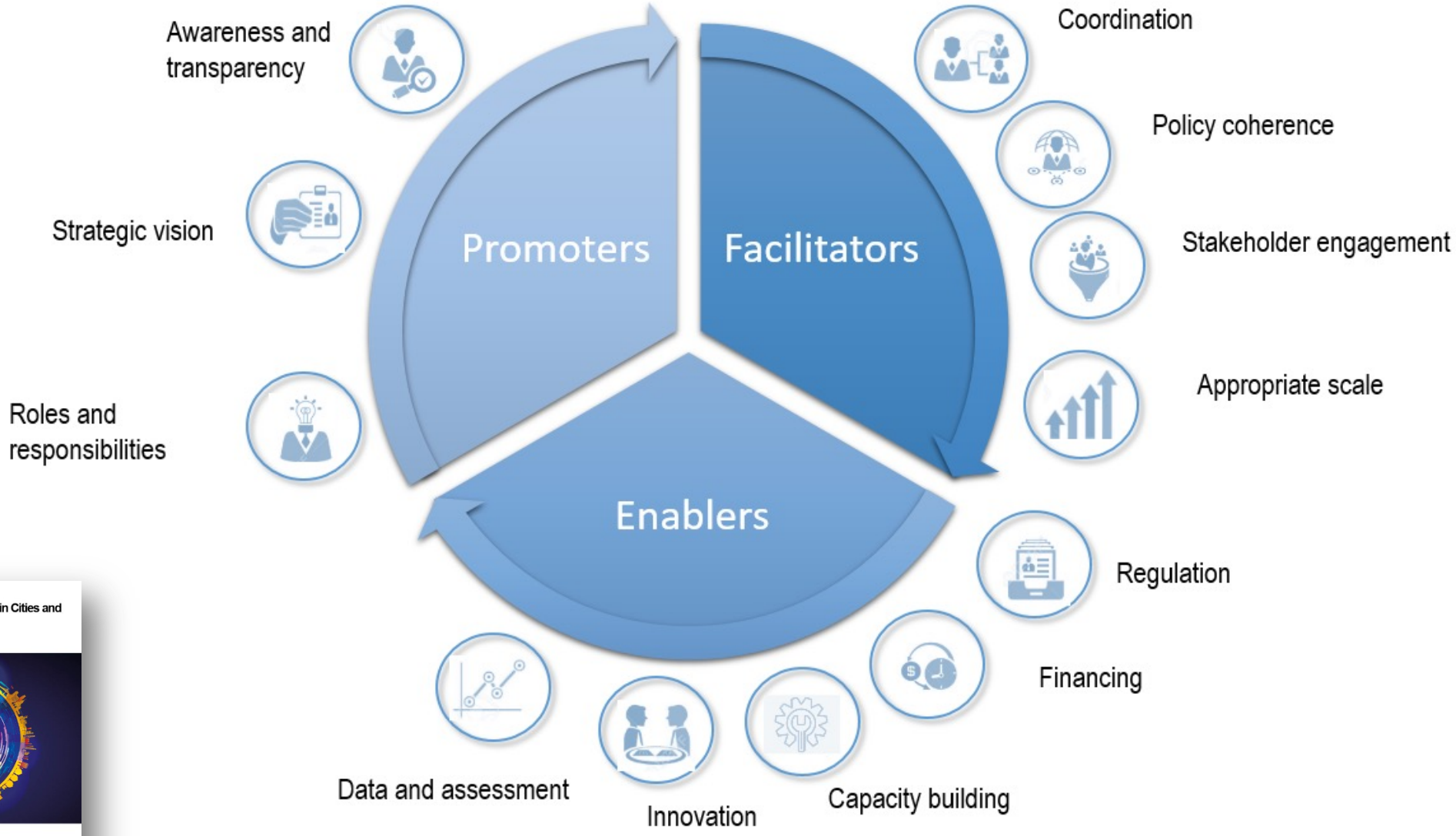


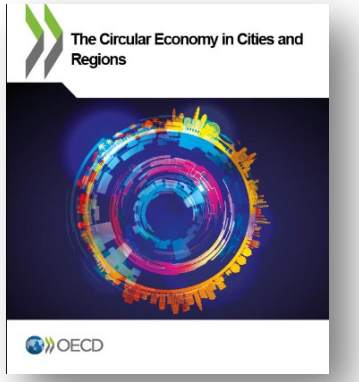
China treats 38%

- Limited use of **economic instruments** to manage water resources
- Lack of **human and financial resources** hampering the implementation of water policies and creating an investment gap
- Lack of clear definition of mandate and powers of **regulatory bodies** for water services

Source: OECD (2021) Water governance in Asia-Pacific

What to do? Promote, facilitate and enable





THANK YOU!

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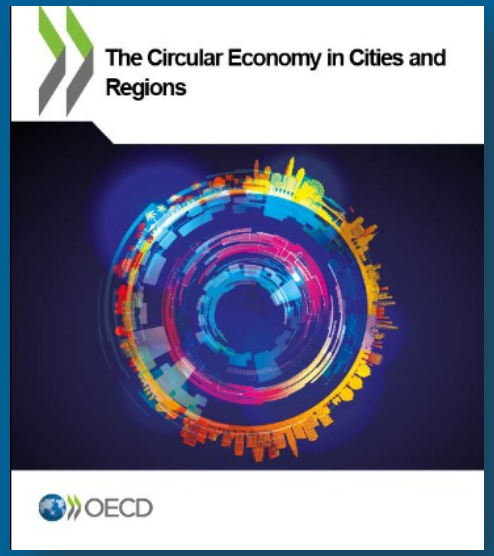

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