

Water in de stad,
hoe doen we dat toch?



Delta Programme Commissioner

Elevating Delta Management in National Planning

The Dutch Delta Approach

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OECD Meeting the Water Reform Challenge (2012)

Achieve sustainable, durable and flexible water policy frameworks, requires:

1. Financial stability (public, private)
2. Adequate (multi-level) governance and public participation →
 - adopt horizontal governance tools
 - encourage coordination across sub-national actors
3. Coherence between policy fields



OECD
STUDIES ON WATER
MEETING THE WATER REFORM CHALLENGE



The Netherlands: flood prone and productive



- About 400 km of Rhine river
- International catchment
- About 350 km coastline
- About 9 million inhabitants below flood level
- Invested value 1800 bln euro
- Protection level: 1:10.000 – 1:1250
- 3500 km of flood defences, hundreds of locks, sluices, pumping stations
- Agricultural exports: 2nd largest (80 billion US \$, 2008)

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Dutch water policy, shared responsibilities

- **Ministries** : policy guidelines, management national water system
- **Provinces** : spatial planning
- **Municipalities** : local planning, water and disaster management
- **Waterboards**: flood protection, regional water management
- Private sector: water supply and demand

Instruments:

- National Water Plan (2009)
- Governance agreements on water (2011)
- Water Act, Spatial Planning Act



Prerequisites for future-proof implementation

- Delta Program: measures, yearly update, presented to Parliament *(in prep.)*
- Delta Decisions (strategic, 2015) *(in prep.)*
- Delta Commissioner, supervising adequate (regional) multi-governmental implementation *(2010)*
- Delta Fund : 1 bln €/yr (> 2020) *(2011)*
- Delta Act, "anchoring" Delta-commissioner, program and fund *(2012)*

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.. and a vision, as a framework for decisions

- We stay in the (floodprone) part of the Netherlands,
- Safety against flooding to be based on risk management, including fatalities, economic damage and disruption;
- Solidarity among inhabitants and generations
- Work together with natural processes ("building with nature"), water system approach
- Flexible strategy ("No regret", framework, no blueprint) to deal with uncertain future ("adaptive delta management")
- Multifunctional design of measures → added value for society

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The Delta Programme (2010)



One Aim:

- keeping NL a good, safe and attractive place to live and work for present and future generations (→ long term perspective)

Two objectives

- Safe, now and in the future (2050-2100)
- Fresh water supply guaranteed, also in dry periods

Three Basic values:

- Solidarity, Flexibility and Sustainability

Not in answer to a disaster, but in advance, to be prepared or avoid it

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Multi-level involvement



Multi-governmental process of decision-making, cooperation and implementation, in line with everyone's responsibilities,

In order to:

- Collect creative and innovative ideas
- Combine with local developments (→"synergy")
- Involve local stakeholders and built acceptance

Supervised by Delta Program Commissioner

- progress, uniformity, coherence

Joint fact-finding: Common knowledge base → improve quality of information and acceptance

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Regional Strategies and Key Decisions, 2015

3 national:

- Safety standards (protection)
- Urban and spatial restructuring (=damage red.)
- Freshwater strategy

2 regional

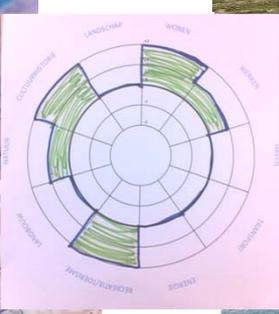




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Rotterdam – Rhine estuary













The Dutch Delta Approach vs. OECD recommendations

1. Financial stability:
 - Deltafund
2. Adequate governance
 - Multi-level governance structure,
 - Public and stakeholder participation
 - Joint fact finding
 - Delta Commissioner
3. Coordinate policy fields
 - integrated approach on flood protection, fresh water supply, spatial planning/urban development
4. Delta- act



a promising approach
to meet
water reform challenges

www.deltacommissaris.nl

Towards adaptive strategies and delta decisions

‘tipping points’ by confronting
s with present day policy and
| policy goals
er-investment, but do now
necessary, “no regret”, “avoid

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7 multi-level governance challenges

Table 3.1. Proxies for measuring multi-level governance gaps in water policy

Multi-level governance gaps	Proxy indicator
Policy gap	Overlapping, unclear allocation of roles and responsibilities
Administrative gap	Mismatch between hydrological and administrative boundaries
Information gap	Asymmetries of information between central and sub-national governments
Capacity gap	Lack of technical capacity, staff, time, knowledge and infrastructure
Funding gap	Unstable or insufficient revenues of sub-national governments to effectively implement water policies
Objective gap	Intensive competition between different ministries
Accountability gap	Lack of citizen concern about water policy and low involvement of water users' associations

More or less problematic depending on country, but
all are relevant