

Kick-off Webinar Learning Journey on Innovative Financing for Water Security through an IWRM Approach

Date and Time: 8th of June 2022, 10:30-12:00 AM CEST

Registration link: [10:30 AM CEST Session](#)

Webinar agenda

Time	Activity
10:30 – 10:45 AM CEST	<p>Opening</p> <p>The webinar will be officially opened by Dario Soto Abril, Executive Secretary and CEO at the Global Water Partnership.</p> <p>Introduction to the financing challenge through an IWRM lens by Maija Bertule, Senior Technical Advisor, UNEP-DHI</p>
10:45 – 11:25 AM CEST	<p>High-level panel discussion with thematic experts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helen Laubenstein, Environmental economist, OECD • Phil Riddell, Water Resource Policy and Sector Investment Specialist, Riddell Associates Limited <p>Followed by an audience Q&A</p>
11:25 – 11:50 AM CEST	<p>Interactive breakout rooms</p> <p>Opportunity to share your experience with the experts, ask questions, and interact around the breakout's thematic</p>
11:50 – 12:00 AM CEST	<p>Closing</p> <p>Introduction to the SDG 6 IWRM Community of Practice by the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme team</p> <p>The closing remarks will be provided by Lis Mullin Bernhardt, Programme Officer, Freshwater and Marine Branch, UNEP</p>

Meet the panellists!



Helen Laubenstein

Helen Laubenstein is an Environmental Economist in the OECD's Water team, Environment Directorate. She has been coordinating the OECD's regional and thematic Roundtable meetings on Financing Water over the last two years. In this context, she exchanges with a variety of water finance stakeholders, including national and local government representatives, actors from the financing community, NGO's and experts to identify existing challenges and emerging trends. She is one of the main authors of the recent publication on *Financing a Water Secure Future*, which summarises key findings on current needs and barriers for financing water-related investments and the different opportunities to address them. Previously, Helen worked in the Agriculture and Resource Policy Division, in OECD's Trade and Agriculture Directorate. Helen holds a Master's Degree in Environmental Policy from Sciences Po Paris, France, and a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from University Heidelberg, Germany.



Phil Riddell

Phil Riddell is a well-known international researcher/advisor on water policy and sector investment strategy with almost 45 years of extensive experience gained working in the irrigated agriculture and natural resource sectors. So far, his work has taken him to 45 countries on four continents. He has a Master's degree in Irrigation Engineering. However, his interests have shifted towards policy and sector investment matters. Phil's current interests are strongly focused on: i) the urgent need for increased investment in multi-purpose water sector infrastructure; ii) the modernisation and commercialisation of smallholder agriculture; iii) the need to invest water in value chains that open up trade-based water and food security pathways while contributing to broader economic growth; and iv) the need for scarce water to be economically mobile - all in the context of climate change and unremitting population growth. Phil has authored a wide range of papers including peer-reviewed publications and is regularly invited to speak at international conferences/discourses on water and food security.