

## The blue economy in Rotterdam, the Netherlands

Source: OECD Global Survey on Localising the Blue Economy (2022)

### FACTS AND FIGURES

#### Fact box

- **Population:** 1 827 805 [1]
- **GDP:** USD 96 billion [2]
- **Area:** N/A

#### Drivers for the blue economy



Reduce greenhouse gas emissions



Adapt to climate change



Local leadership and commitment

### Blue economy sectors

Rotterdam, a European delta city in the Netherlands along the New Meuse River which connects the city to the North Sea, is home to most blue economy sectors, except seafood and shipbuilding and repair. According to [Eurostat](#), the Port of Rotterdam was the first European port both in terms of gross weight of goods handled and in terms of volume of containers handled in the port in the EU in 2021. Water-based renewable energy is also gaining traction as a result of the [Rotterdam Offshore Wind Coalition](#) established in 2016 between the Municipality of Rotterdam, the Port of Rotterdam Authority and private sector companies in offshore wind energy.



Seafood



Water-based renewable energy



Shipping



Port activities



Shipbuilding and repair



Water passenger transport and related services



Water-related tourism



Blue bioeconomy, biotechnology and research and education

### BLUE ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

The main environmental impacts of blue economy sectors in the city of Rotterdam are related to greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity loss. Depletion of freshwater resources due to freshwater abstraction, air pollution, pollution from plastics and waste generation are also important impacts. Port activities are of great economic value to the city but are responsible for a significant share of greenhouse gas emissions.

### Top 3 climate threats to the blue economy in Rotterdam



Changing precipitation patterns and/or hydrological availability



Flood



Subsidence

[1] OECD.Stat (2021) and [2] OECD.Stat (2020)

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### GOVERNANCE OF THE BLUE ECONOMY

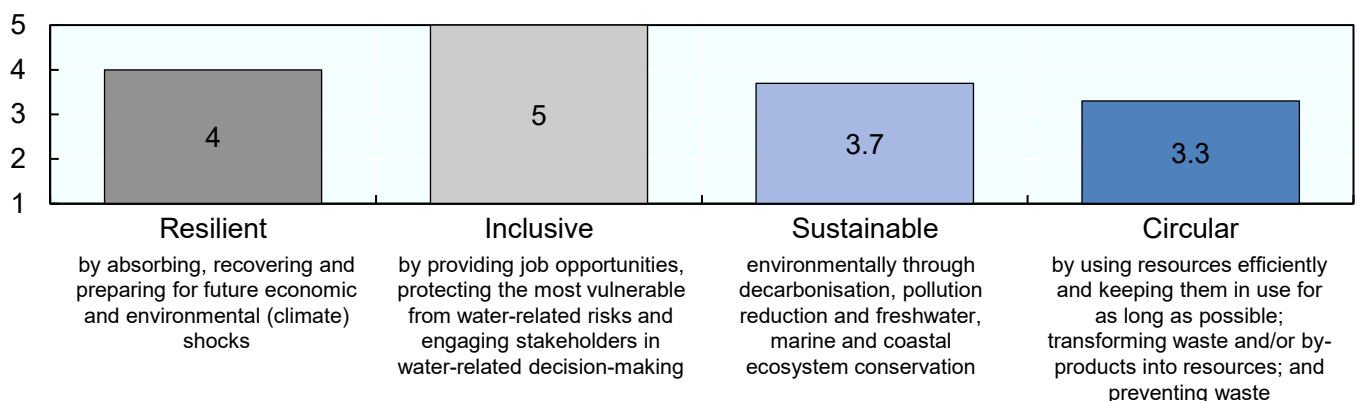
Rotterdam aims to have a fully circular and climate-resilient water system by 2050, leveraging current projects that reuse wastewater and recover phosphate, cellulose, bioplastic and energy. The municipality's [Blue City](#) hub, a platform and accelerator for circular entrepreneurs, will contribute to reducing water pollution from waste (including plastics) by repairing, reusing and recovering existing products and materials. The Port of Rotterdam – whose two sole stakeholders are the Municipality and the Dutch government – is a hotspot for nature, which is seen as key for the city's water resilience. Nature is integrated in the port's plans and projects through the [Nature Vision](#), which itself is part of the Port Vision 2030.

### Funding mechanisms

- International transfers of funds
- Central government transfers of funds
- Local/regional funds
- Central government revenue foregone
- Subnational government revenue foregone
- Subnational government bonds
- Blended finance
- Private funding

### THE RISC-PROOF BLUE ECONOMY

(\*)



(\*) Survey respondents were invited to define their level of agreement (with 5 "Agree" and 1 "Disagree") for statements for each of the RISC dimensions (from question 2.1.1 to 2.1.4 of the OECD Global Survey on Localising the Blue Economy (2022)).

### TOP CHALLENGES

- Inadequate technical and human capacities of civil servants
- Lack of financial resources
- Cultural barriers

### FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Foster decarbonisation
- Enhance resilience to climate change
- Tackle pollution of water bodies
- Foster collaboration between blue economy sectors and others
- Create new jobs and business opportunities