DEVELOPING SOLIDARITY AND DECENTRALIZED INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION BETWEEN LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN THE WASH SECTOR

At the service of SDG6!
WASH services: the world is not on track!

5 people die every minute because of water-related diseases

Water services
• One out of four people (more than 1.5 billion) uses an improved source of water that is contaminated.
• 844 million people still lack even a basic drinking water service.

Sanitation services
• 2.3 billion people still lack even a basic sanitation service.
• 892 million people worldwide still practice open defecation.

Source: JFM, Highlights from the SDG 6 synthesis report 2018 on Water and sanitation
SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

- **Target 6.1** - By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

- **Target 6.2** - By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation.

- **Target 6.a** - By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water and sanitation related activities and programmes.

Agenda 2030
There is a great need for international aid for the WASH sector

Current level of funding is insufficient, as well as governance and capacity in the least developed countries

- **Multilateral and bilateral development aid**
  States Bilateral agreements, European Union, Investment/development banks...

- **Non-state international actions**
  Foundations, NGOs, ...

- **Decentralized cooperation between local authorities:**
  cities, regions, citizens, water basin organizations,...
We need to foster peer-to-peer exchanges between territories

Local authorities are responsible for water supply and sanitation services, but lack the resources and capacities.

There is a significant need for training and empowering local capacities in project management and to ensure the sustainability of services:

• Governance issues, institutions, administrative organization, participatory processes
• Technical capacities, studies, construction work, maintenance
• Financing, CapEx and OpEx, water tariffs, ...
We need to foster peer-to-peer exchanges between territories

Exchanges and skill transfers are easier between people or organizations that have the same concerns or functions (elected officials, technicians, users ..) :

• Local on-the-ground experiences and knowledge, which takes successes and failures into account
• Sustainable relationship between actors, which allows follow-up, possible adaptation, effective completion of projects
• Projects are often comprehensive, inclusive, multisector (agriculture, health, ...)
• Possibility to mobilize financial support, to complement institutional and technical cooperation
Many initiatives already exist in Europe

- **In France**: the 1% water solidarity mechanism
  (2017: 150 local authorities, 6 water agencies : 30M€)

- **In Italy**: local funds like “L’Aqua è di tutti” in Tuscany, “Acqua bene comune” in Venice and Treviso, and “Soldarietà a Torino” in Turin

- **In The Netherlands**:

- **In Belgium**: Flemish Partnership Water for Development
  Fonds de solidarité internationale pour l'eau Wallonie

- **In Switzerland**:

→ Please contact me to report on decentralized cooperation initiatives in your country! cottet@pseau.org
We all know the great need for WASH services in the world

We all know that NBO = IWRM = solidarity
(upstream/downstream solidarity, River basin solidarity, Transboundary management, ...)

So it would be great if each of us and our organizations:

• bring its own experience and means, at the service of the implementation of SDG6 and greater access to water and sanitation services for all;

• promote and share the existing solidarity initiatives for water and sanitation in Europe;

• generate and support new initiatives;

• bring the Water and Sanitation solidarity cause to the European institutions, speaking with a common voice.
Kiitos
Thank you for your attention
Merci

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