

The 6th World Water Forum - Marseille 2012



The “1% in solidarity for water” mechanism: presented, developed and promoted throughout the Forum in Marseille

The “1% in solidarity for water” mechanism has received far more attention in Marseille than at any other previous Forum, being mentioned in the official declarations and debates of a number of sessions.

On the first day of the Forum, in the Village of Solutions, pS-Eau proposed European expansion of the “1% solidarity” mechanism. This solution was one of the more than 1,000 solutions presented selected by the Forum organizers to be displayed at City Hall.

The following day, the solidarity mechanism was widely discussed during the session organized by the UNDP to launch the Global Water Solidarity Platform, a new instrument for promoting decentralized solidarity mechanisms.

The European Trialogue, notably attended by the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response and the President of the Committee of the Regions, also included high-level debate on the potential use of this mechanism in Europe. Both these key figures from our European institutions expressed the wish for debate on this subject to further discuss the implementation of such an approach in Europe.

Finally, a debate was held at the Citizen’s House for Water on implementing the “1% in solidarity for water” principle for the poor as part of the launch of the 1% campaign and the website, www.water-1percent.org. Laying the foundations for a future European platform, this site will provide a dedicated space for presenting and sharing experiences from the various initiatives in place around Europe.

Significant progress has also been made during this Forum week outside of these numerous debates, as, in its resolution of 15 March, the European Parliament explicitly called on its Member States to adopt measures encouraging water and sanitation service managers to allocate up to 1% of the levies collected by users to solidarity actions within the sector.

There are many of us that welcome these achievements and hope their development continues, particularly this year, 2012, designated the European year of water!



European Trialogue, Thursday March 15th

Undertaking the role of contracting authority: issues and resources to be addressed

As a result of the decentralization process taking place in a large number of countries, local authorities in the South are now responsible for managing the water supply and sanitation services within their area. They are in charge of planning, mobilizing human and financial resources for carrying out action plans, constructing facilities, organizing and overseeing the monitoring and control of the service. There is also a transversal approach to be undertaken in parallel to these activities that consists of coordinating all actors and facilitating dialogue with the relevant stakeholders.

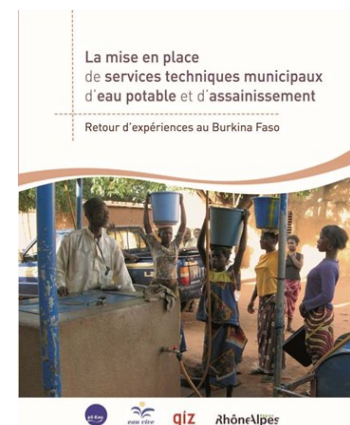
These tasks are not always straightforward for local authorities, which are often newly created and have limited resources available for fully carrying out their

contracting authority role. Due to their experience and expertise, local authorities from Northern countries prove valuable partners, helping their Southern counterparts acquire the skills and knowledge required to fulfill their responsibilities. Actions aimed at building local contracting authority capacities can take several forms: training for the relevant actors on service management (elected officials and technicians); expertise, provided by the technical services from the North; the establishment of monitoring and management tools.

One of the concrete forms of this assistance consists of supporting the creation of a municipal technical service to guide elected officials' political decision-making, coordinate the different management models and actors present within

the same area and undertake social mobilization with the population.

For further information on this subject: Please refer to the document, *'La mise en place de services techniques municipaux d'eau potable et d'assainissement'*, developed by pS-Eau in partnership with Eau Vive and GIZ, with the support of the region of Rhône-Alpes.



Download from: www.pseau.org/burkina
Only available in French

Facilitate access to water for all in rural areas!



covered by the Rural Water Supply Network—RWSN (www.rwsn.ch) at this 6th World Water Forum.

One of the RWSN aims is to identify 'proven and innovative solutions', such as those presented at their Forum in Kampala in 2011. RWSN advocates developing competencies and professional standards, seeking new

Poor rural populations are constantly overlooked when it comes to providing access to water supply, meaning that a large number of rural areas across the globe will fail to achieve the MDG target of reducing by half the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water. There are huge variations in access to water between rural areas presents yet a further challenge. This was the issue

human and financial resources and drawing best practice from existing initiatives. 90 solutions for rural water supply were submitted to the website solutionsforwater.org.

The principles upheld by RWSN and illustrated through these solutions are: the supply of sustainable water supply services that respond to the needs of all; strong and proper leadership of the sector at national level; appropriate and coordinated financing mechanisms.

Meeting the Forum's participants



Abdou Hamani Waziri Insa, coordinator for the NGO RAIL in Tessaoua (Niger).
 "The World Water Forum is a great opportunity to make new contacts and enhance your knowledge, even if it is difficult to organize your day due to the large number of sessions on offer".



For Celestine Ketcha Courtès, Mayor of Bangangté (Cameroon), co-chair of the session: From Istanbul to Marseille: Local and Regional Authorities made things happen, "the Forum provides an opportunity to reaffirm my commitment to making access to water and sanitation a priority action".

What messages have the local authorities' brought to the 6th WWF?

Interview



Henri Bégorre,
Mayor of Maxéville and President of the French Partnership for Water

Mr Bégorre, you have been closely involved in drafting the local authorities' contribution to this 6th World Water Forum. What key messages does it contain?

HB: Firstly, the *Local Authorities' Message* adopted this Thursday, 15 March, echoes the Ministerial Declaration, which itself for the first time clearly recognizes the role of local authorities in the organization of water supply and sanitation services; this represents a great step forward for us since the Forum in Istanbul.

All the more so as this includes recognition of the need to strengthen the capacity of these local authorities to enable them to fulfill this responsibility, as well as a call for the roles of organizational authorities and their operators to be better defined.

I want to emphasize here that we have taken care to ensure there is a clear distinction between the public authorities, who are the political decision-makers, and contracting authorities and the operators, whether private or in-house, who are in charge of service management and operation.

This Forum is billed as the forum of commitments. What commitments have local authorities made at the end of this week of debate and presentation of solutions?

HB: In response to the recognition, by the ministers, of the role of local authorities, these local authorities have agreed to formalize their commitments (see [Istanbul Consensus signatories](#)). The Istanbul Water Consensus is now starting to have real weight and all stakeholders are organizing themselves to obtain the resources to fulfill their responsibilities. Hence the paragraph in the *Message* that highlights the importance of the decentralization process and the need to better align national and international policies with regional development strategies.

The 6th World Water Forum has thus been an important step for local authorities. What are the next major milestones and what messages do you want to continue communicating on the international stage?

HB: We want water and sanitation to be at the center of the Rio+20 proposals and we would like the role of local authorities to be recognized at the summit in the same way as at this Forum. We are confident that French and foreign local authorities will actively participate in this event and campaign on this topic.

Finally, one of the major 'solutions' that we have been supporting during this Forum, and will continue to promote, is the expansion and development, both across Europe and the world, of the '1% in solidarity for water' principle that, for example, exists in France due to the Oudin-Santini Law, and through which local authorities, citizens and water service managers have the opportunity to participate in national and international solidarity initiatives to provide access to water and sanitation for the poorest and most disadvantaged.

The benefits of decentralized cooperation

The session entitled 'Cooperation and International Solidarity', co-chaired by Anne Walrick, deputy in charge of sustainable development for the city of Bordeaux, and Robert Winter, Mayor of Glasgow, enabled participants to gain an improved understanding of people's perception of international solidarity actions and to discuss expanding use of the 1% solidarity mechanism, both within France and in other countries across the world.

The need to promote real decentralization of these basic public services, along with the accompanying transfer of human and financial resources was also highlighted.

Direct cooperation between local authorities has proven to be one of the most effective means of providing local populations with water supply and sanitation services aligned to their needs and adapted to their environmental, social and cultural situations. Indeed, this is the level at which the knowledge, skills and essential political leadership is to be found.

The aim of such cooperation is to build capacities through the training not only of technicians, engineers and elected officials, but also of users and the civil society. The example of the consultation held by the city of Bordeaux to define its sustainable water management policy illustrates the importance of this element within cooperation initiatives.

The Mayor of Kisumu emphasized the need to develop knowledge-sharing platforms for local authorities in the South and to involve the universities.

The Oudin Law was unanimously recognized as being an incredibly useful tool for leveraging additional funds. A national appeal was launched to encourage many more local authori-

ties to participate in its implementation. It was also stressed that the aim of this tool is to supplement other instruments and not replace them.

A survey conducted by the River Basin Authorities has revealed that 75% of the population and 80% of elected officials are in favor of decentralized cooperation for common goods. In Barcelona, during the public debates on reducing the public deficit, not a single person challenged the policy of international solidarity.



www.water-1percent.org