

Solidarity between citizens for universal access to water

Thursday 18 October 2012, Europe-INBO,
Istanbul



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Access to water and sanitation

- 783 million people lack access to drinking water
- 2.5 billion people are without access to sanitation
- 1.8 million children under the age of five die each year worldwide from lack of access to water and sanitation

Even in Europe:

- 5% of Europeans lack access to drinking water and 10% are without access to sanitation

> Lacking in: financing, competencies, governance

The right to water: a human right

- In July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly recognised the right to water as “a human right essential to the full enjoyment of life and all other human rights”
- There are significant costs associated with implementing this human right
- To meet these associated costs, solidarity between citizens, towns and regions is required to render water and sanitation services affordable to all, particularly the most disadvantaged

Develop non-governmental cooperation to respond to these challenges

- Bi-lateral and multi-lateral financing is insufficient
- Responsibility for water supply and sanitation services is often decentralised
- Taking complementary action at decentralised level is essential and the technical and financial capacity-building of local actors is required

Advantages of decentralised cooperation:
proximity, sustainability, synergies, exchanges

Draw on existing mechanisms to develop innovative solidarity financing instruments

- Institutional cooperation between counterpart agencies
- 1% (e.g. France, Netherlands, Belgium)
- 3T (Tax, Tariff, Transfer), cross-subsidies, progressive social tariffs, Carbon law, rural solidarity fund

To be developed at all levels:

- National solidarity
- Intra-European solidarity
- International solidarity

An institutional framework that enables further progress: recent achievements

- **Encouraging declarations made by:**
 - The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe in October 2011
 - The Parliamentary Assembly Council of Europe Committee on Social Affairs in January 2012
 - The European Parliament in March 2012
- **Topic at the heart of World Water Forum debates**, with the Europe Trialogue, which was attended by both the European Commissioner for international cooperation, Ms Kristalina Georgieva, and the former president of the Committee of Regions, Ms Mercedes Bresso
- **Commitment by the French river basin agencies to achieve the 1% in 2015**

A European platform to promote solidarity financing mechanisms for water and sanitation

- **Objectives:**

- Foster debate and discussions around the different financing and solidarity mechanisms
- Support fledgling initiatives to set up solidarity financing mechanisms
- Promote European initiatives within the UNDP-led international Global Water Solidarity Platform

The European platform is led by **Solidarity Water Europe (SWE)**

> [A website: www.water-1percent.org](http://www.water-1percent.org)

Take part in the discussion

- **Objectives:** to develop international or national solidarity mechanisms (financial aid and exchange of expertise)
- The European platform can organise debates and facilitate discussions in your country

Work in progress:

- Workshop scheduled for 6-7 November 2012 in Moldova
- Discussions underway with the city of Dublin
- Discussions underway with Italian parliamentarians
- Meeting to be held at the European Parliament by early 2013
- Contributing to the UNDP Global Water Solidarity Platform: GWS Conference in Oujda (October 2012), WACAP Forum in Dublin (February 2013)
- Lobbying the EU Council and Commission to obtain recommendations

Thank you

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