

# EU—WOP PROGRAMME



Helping water and sanitation service providers  
help one another **reach the SDGs**

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The **EU-WOP Programme**, funded by the European Union and managed by UN-Habitat-led GWOPA, leverages the demonstrated capacity of utilities to help one another reach the **Sustainable Development Goals**



The initiative will fund approximately 30, 3-year-long Water Operators' Partnerships (WOPs) projects in developing countries, with a total funding available of USD 8.3M.

The agreement has been signed between the **EU** and **UN-Habitat**.

[Read more here](#)

## An opportunity for utilities to help one another

### ◆ Towards SDG6 – sustainable water and sanitation services for all

2.1 billion people still cannot count on contamination-free water, available on premises whenever they need it, and 4.5 billion still lack sanitation systems that protect them from disease. Effective local water and sanitation service providers are essential to reaching the Sustainable Development Goal of ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

### ◆ Improve Water Operators' Performance

Many water utilities' services are characterized by poor quality water, frequent cuts, limited coverage, high water losses, among other challenges. WOPs have a proven track record of helping utilities improve their operations, increase their efficiency and effectiveness, and make progress towards access goals.

### ◆ Increase access to needed finance

With an estimated 1.7 trillion USD in funding needed to meet only SDG 6.1 and 6.2 by 2030, building the institutional capacity to effectively access and manage investments for sustainable public benefit is critical. The EU WOP Programme aims to strengthen utilities' financial sustainability and facilitate access to finance for service improvements and extensions.

### ◆ Support the capacity of water and sanitation service providers and their staff

EU WOP projects will progressively strengthen and empower beneficiary utilities on management, financial and technical levels to implement operational and organizational changes that lead to better and more sustainable services. The WOPs will also help improve the skills and job quality of essential water and sanitation workers. Rather than substituting capacity, the EU WOP projects will help local utility staff to make lasting improvements that can continue well beyond the life of the partnership.

### ◆ Funds for new and ongoing partnerships, led by mentors from the North and South

The EU WOP programme makes funding available to either extend ongoing WOPs, or to develop new partnerships between utilities. The programme encourages the involvement of first-time participants to WOPs, as well as experienced practitioners. Utilities from the North and South can apply to be mentors under the EU WOP Programme. South-south WOPs can be particularly effective as partners share common challenges and can adapt solutions.

# Why you might want to participate in the EU-WOP Programme

In order to...

Strengthen or help strengthen the utility's capacity in a cost-effective manner.

Engage in the world of not-for-profit, peer-to-peer partnerships and its global network of solidarity.

Facilitate WOPs and prepare for or accompany large-scale investment.

Contribute to the SDGs and get visibility.



"Peer-to-Peer interaction between water professionals in WOPs generates, exchanges, and transfers valuable insights that may boost the effectiveness of water operators."

**Siemen Veenstra**  
Knowledge Management, VEI

## The Programme aims to:

Enhance the capacity and improve the performance of beneficiary water and sanitation utilities.

Support utilities to become more financially sustainable or to strengthen infrastructure investments.

Get more utilities involved in helping one another meet the SDGs.



## New to WOPs?

**GWOPA/UN-Habitat** is pleased to introduce you to the Water Operators' Partnerships (WOPs) world!

Subscribe to our newsletter to stay up-to-date with the EU WOP Programme and our upcoming webinars

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