

“CENT PER M3”, FINANCING WATER BY WATER & GLOBAL SOLIDARITY MECHANISMS

Expected date of initiation: 2002 (Jo'burg)

Expected date of completion: 2003 (International Freshwater Year) – for the design phase. To be continued by an implementation phase.

Partners Involved:

Major groups: French government, NGOs (Water Aid, Protos, IRC, Solidarité Eau Europe SEE, Programme Solidarité Eau Pseau, etc), French local governments and twinning committees, Association des Maires de France AIMF, Cercle Français de l'eau, Agences de l'eau (Agence Eau Seine Normandie AESN), professionals (Syndicats des Eaux: SEDIF, SAGEP, SIAAP, AGTHM...), private sector (Vivendi environnement, Ondéo, SAUR)

Leading Partner: pS-Eau

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Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative

The aim of this initiative is to **define an innovative mechanism for mobilizing financial resources** and broaden the financial resources indispensable to provide the poorest with water and sanitation services.

This initiative must **profile the legislative, institutional, legal, financial recommendations for action and the guidelines for reform strategies** within the French partners of the initiative, to build the operational framework of this new solidarity mechanism. Besides, this initiative should **present how to raise awareness among the water users in France/Europe** to have them contribute to and support this new fund raising model. In parallel, this action will aim at **generating political support for the “cent per m3” concept**.

Moreover, during this initiative of action identification, partners will **constitute a platform**. These cooperation linkages will serve **as primary network for supporting the awareness raising actions** later on.

Please also provide a brief description of the relationship of the Partnership/Initiative with the objectives of Agenda 21 as well as relevant goals and objectives of the United Nation Millennium Declaration:

This initiative is tailored to especially contribute to reach the 10th and 11th MDGs, concerning environmental sustainability: « Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water » and « Achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020 ».

Moreover, this French initiative strengthening international solidarity could launch a new dynamic toward the achievement of the 1st goal, poverty eradication.

Besides, this initiative has been conceived to put into action recommendations expressed in the following Agenda 21 principles:

- Chapter 2: “International cooperation to accelerate sustainable development in developing countries and related domestic policies”
- Chapter 7: “Promoting sustainable human settlement development”
- Chapter 18: protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources: application of integrated approaches to the development, management and use of water resources
- Chapter 21: environmentally sound management of solid wastes and sewage-related issues
- Chapter 28: Local authorities’ initiatives in support of Agenda 21
- Chapter 33: Financial resources and mechanisms

Expected results:

The activities of this initiative consist in **reviewing the existing institutional, legal, economic and financial framework** presiding to the management of water resource in France/Europe. Thus, the expected result is the **mainstreaming into relevant national frameworks** (institutional, regulatory, budgetary) of the recommendations and their **full endorsement by relevant partners** (governmental and others).

After **consultation of all stakeholders** involved in water management in France/Europe, this initiative must **describe the prerequisite conditions on how to manage transparently** this new international solidarity financing mechanism (accountability, follow up and control of performance of the programs financed through this resources, respect of core principles like cost effectiveness for all water users and usage, participation, etc.)

The goal of this initiative consists also in **examining with stakeholders from the South** as well as from the North the **feasibility, suitability, constraints and conditions for the implementation** of a new solidarity mechanism, "cent per m3". Besides, from such an initiative could stem the **definition of a new label**, certifying that sustainability requirements are respected when the partners, contributing to the management the "cent per m3" (both in the North and in the South), implement this new model of solidarity.

Specific targets of the Partnership/Initiative and timeframe for their achievement:

Broad multi-stakeholder dialogue during WSSD and WWF3 to take on board demands both from the North and the South. E-conference between water stakeholders from Joburg till Kyoto to continue in-depth dialogue with stakeholders at all decision levels.

Feasibility study and recommendations over legislative actions and awareness raising campaign targeted at local authorities, consumers and private service providers; administrative/financial practical arrangements should be *displayed in 2003, in order to set up pilot projects* (twinning arrangements between French partners and South partners to raise "cent per m3" in France and use these funds for water poverty reduction focused programmes in the South) *during the international freshwater year.*

Coordination and Implementation mechanism

Leading partner, acting as hub for the initiative: pS-Eau (dialogue between actors, gateway to ensure coherence at European level with other awareness raising initiatives).

Arrangements for funding

French Ministries and French development agency could provide some financial support for the inception of the design phase.

Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level (if any)

Decentralized cooperation programs in the water sector have proven to be efficient in many cases. This **initiative will base itself upon this fruitful experience** of solidarity and exchange at local level and seeks to involve further support of local authorities, local water management agencies et consumers toward water solidarity.

This initiative is proposed in parallel with "Water as a leverage for development" project, an awareness raising initiative in Europe.

More broadly, this initiative is a first step toward making up with new mechanisms to finance global and secured access to essential goods. Thus, this initiative fits in the European agenda and its policy for cooperation with developing countries, promoting integrated and sustainable water resource management.

Monitoring Arrangements

Launching multi-stakeholder dialogue in the WaterDome during WSSD, internal progress reports through electronic newsletter on pS-Eau web site, e-conference till WWF3, seminars.

Other relevant information: www.pseau.org

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