

28TH AGUASAN WORKSHOP – 18 TO 22 JUNE 2012

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF WASH SERVICES
About mindset change and an eye for the future

Dear colleagues

On behalf of the AGUASAN group, the workshop steering committee is pleased to inform you about the topic and content of this year's AGUASAN workshop.

Although in recent years considerable effort has been directed towards scaling-up the spatial coverage of water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, it remains crucial and vital to ensure that the services are sustained in the long-term. Current approaches need to be re-considered with that requirement in mind. Providing sustainable WASH services requires all-embracing and future-oriented financial planning so that existing and prospective financial resources are commensurate with investment needs as well as the costs of operating and maintaining services. In the current way of thinking, accounting for all costs in the life-cycle of services is often not practiced and in most cases those responsible for WASH services have only basic knowledge of financial systems and market forces. Therefore learning from established practices and tools for better financial planning, exploring innovative financial mechanisms for capital investments and enabling approaches improving financial sustainability of operations is crucial for the water sector.

Against this backdrop, this year's workshop aims at finding concrete answers to the key question of ***“What kind of change in mindset is required to achieve long-term financial sustainability of rural and small town WASH services - what will it take and how can it be put into practice?”*** More specifically, the practical aspects of *“What are the costs that need financing in the life-cycle of sustainable WASH services?”* of *“How do financial mechanisms for capital investment influence the sustainability of WASH services?”* as well as of *“How can better operation of WASH services contribute to their long-term financial sustainability?”* will be addressed. Next to the participants' knowledge, the workshop will feature topic-related key inputs from thematic specialists and well-selected case studies from different contexts. The **accompanying announcement** outlines the concept of the workshop more in-depth. Please read it carefully up to the end.

If you are interested in attending the event, then please complete the enclosed **pre-registration form** and return it to us as indicated and **not later than 29th February 2012**. If you wish to forward this information to your colleagues and partner organisations, please feel free to do so. Since we have to limit the number of participants to optimise the working environment, the applications will undergo a selection procedure based on the declarations of intent submitted. A well balanced mix among the participants regarding their expertise and their thematic, organisational, operational as well as geographic background is aimed at, whilst ensuring that a communication in English without difficulty can be achieved. As with previous years, the workshop steering committee will bear the overall responsibility for handling this selection procedure.

We are looking forward to your reply.

With warm regards

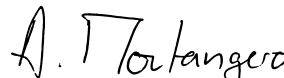
The workshop steering committee



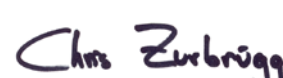
Roger Schmid
Skat



Manuel Thurnhofer / Marc-André Bünzli
SDC



Agnès Montangero
HELVETAS



Chris Zurbrugg
Eawag/Sandec

Enclosures: - Workshop Announcement
- Pre-Registration Form (Declaration of Intent)