

The European WOP Enablers

Tapping the Potential of Operator Solidarity
for a Water Secure World


GWOPA
Global Water Operators Partnership Alliance

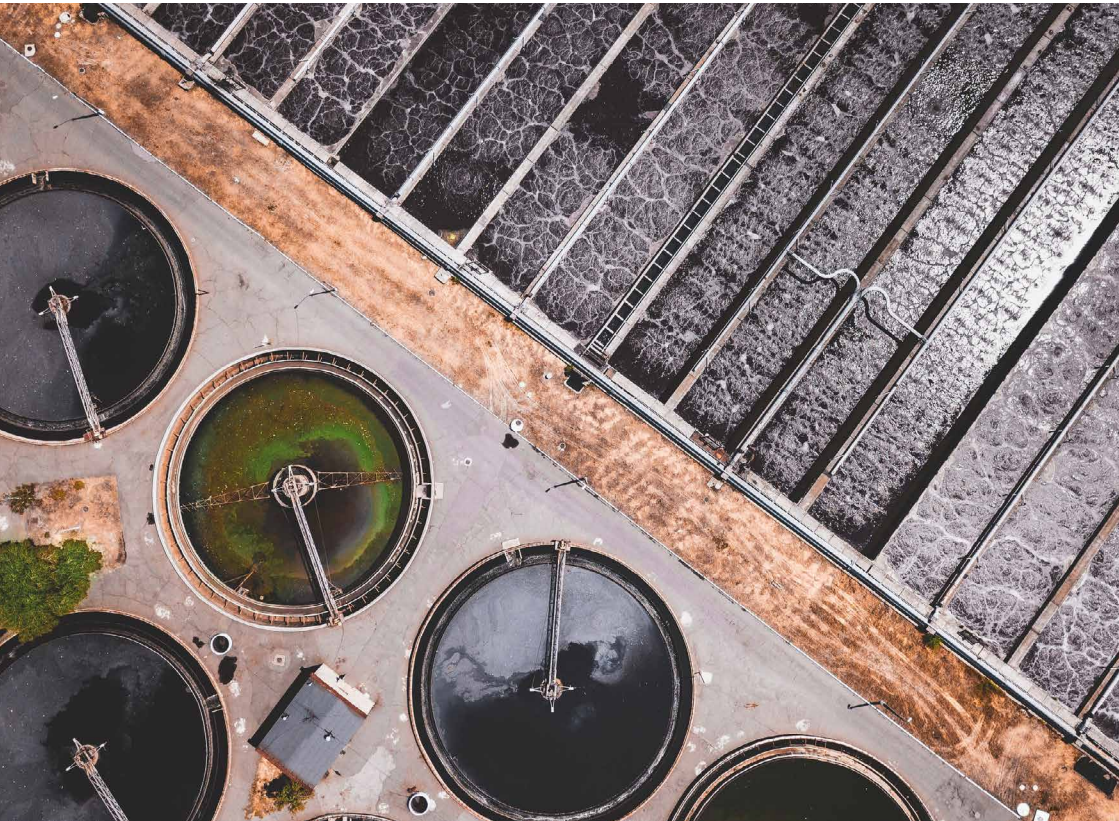
UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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Most of the world's population counts on a public water and sanitation operator for their essential basic services. Their work is fundamental. Yet around the world, tens of thousands of these operators struggle to provide safe services to all who need them.

Strong water utilities can be an invaluable support to others. Water Operators Partnerships mobilize strong water and sanitation operators to mentor their peers, without profit motives. They are highly effective in helping utilities make and sustain improvements, to become more financially sound, socially inclusive, green and resilient.



Why a Platform for Enabling WOPs in Europe?

- Many European operators have the skills and motivations to help their peers by entering a partnership, but face barriers to do so. Overcoming these barriers – legal, financial, political and technical - can unlock the potential of European operators to help millions of people receive improved services.
- The European Union has recently launched the EU-WOP programme with 22 new WOP projects around the world. Yet hundreds more utilities are keen to get involved - over 250 utilities participated in the call for proposals.
- Momentum for WOPs is growing and countries like France, the Netherlands, Spain, Germany and Finland have made headway in enabling WOPs and offer inspiration and lessons for others.
- As climate change and sustainability threats mount, utilities need support. Now is the moment to take these partnerships to another level.
- European institutions are key to unblocking the bottleneck to more of these impactful, solidarity-based partnerships. They can help one another do so.

Who are European WOPs Enablers?

All those that have a role in helping utilities help each other, are invited. This includes:

- EU Member States, regions and municipalities that support or (co) finance utilities' international cooperation activities;
- Governments and regulators whose policies and procedures can enable or inhibit utilities in engaging
- European utilities whose human and financial resources can support their peers
- Development banks that make use of WOPs as a diagnostic tool to identify investment priorities, enhance follow-up of infrastructure investment projects, and improve capacity development
- Civil Society Organisations which support global development objectives and human rights
- Partner organizations in the the EU-WOP projects are strongly encouraged to participate.

What do European WOP Enablers do?

The European WOP Enablers will meet two or three times a year on topics of interest to its members in order to:

- Share and learn with other countries and stakeholders about enabling frameworks and approaches to make WOPs more doable and effective
- Draw insights from experiences emerging from the EU-WOP Programme partnerships.
- Build strategies and momentum to tap into operators' potential to support global development objectives, in solidarity with their peers.

The European WOP Enablers will be facilitated by GWOPA/UN-Habitat.

To find out more or get updates, write us at: unhabitat-gwopa@un.org



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