

EUWI Multi-stakeholder Forum Report

WWW, Stockholm 27 August 2015

In his welcoming words, the representative of the European Commission emphasized that the future of EUWI has to be seen in the context of the SDGs. When EUWI was launched in 2002 Johannesburg, it was designed to contribute to the achievement of the MDGs on water and sanitation, and already addressed also the other dimensions of the water agenda. Now we are at a similar milestone with the agreement on SDGs and a dedicated water goal. We need to assess, in relation with the new water SDG, whether a similar mechanism is needed as in 2002 between EU and its regional partners, whether we can build on what EUWI has established to address the new challenges, and to what extend it would need to be adapted. In terms of policy dialogue and coordination platforms to discuss and align policy orientations, to ensure complementarity of activities, existing components are there to be continued, scaled-up or reactivated.

Between the two co-hosts, the important complementarity generated by the collaboration with SIWI, in different components of EUWI's work, was stressed. SIWI's representative recalled on the key role played by the EUWI to foster collaboration. She particularly underlined the importance of key topics including governance, collaboration and the interest of SIWI in seeing the China EU Water Platform developing cooperation in the region.

In the previous years, the annual MSF has been looking at the achievements – with the 10 years anniversary review and strategy orientations in 2012, exploring new opportunities in 2013 and 2014, with a special attention on the water-energy-food nexus. This year the different regional components presented their views on the future orientations, how the 'seed work' done under EUWI is now integrated in their own regional strategies and programmes, and how it can play a role in the development of new thematic work like the new project to support regional dialogues on the nexus that the EU has recently approved, in co-funding and cooperation with Germany.

The time allocated to the meeting did not allow to go into the details of the work of each regional component. These details are explained in the Annual Report. Following the paperless approach of the WWW, the report was only made available on line on the EUWI website.¹The participants were also informed about the transfer of the EUWI website to the site 'Capacity for Dev' of the EC.

The first part of the meeting was dedicated to the presentations by the different components. The **China-EU Water Platform (CEWP)** was the latest component to join and its representative had the opportunity, with a keynote presentation at the beginning of this session, to highlight how CEWP's work and experience could be an inspiration for the other regional partnerships, looking in particular at the mobilisation of the business actors, and in addressing the nexus.

¹ <http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/euwi-community-space/document/2015-euwi-annual-report>

The CEWP works as a platform accelerating networking and sharing of results among partners, and channel findings at the political level, with a focus on governance, research and business. Its strengths were emphasized, noting the strong commitment from China and the EU (10 EU Member States are involved) to develop joint innovative projects. The presentation concluded on the key Chinese priorities for development that include guaranteeing water quality and fighting water pollution and pointed out the high potential of the Chinese market.²

Before yielding the floor to the Executive Secretary of AMCOW, the Chair stated that the **African component** was entering a new phase since the 2014 Africa-EU Summit identified water among the priorities for African development. The presentation highlighted that the African component had been successful in bringing African and EU partners in a strategic dialogue to define joint priorities and coordinate activities in close cooperation with African institutions. The African component is working on a continuous dialogue basis to fulfill the African Development Vision 2025 and the future SDGs. As future steps, activities are set around two priority areas : infrastructures and the nexus between water-energy and agriculture sectors. AMCOW E.S. stressed also the importance of monitoring and evaluation.

The metaphor of an airplane was used to illustrate the accomplishment of the **NEPAD Centers of Excellence** in Africa. As first steps, the initiative had to put pieces together in order to be able to work together and to manage routes. The presenter reminded the importance of mobilizing partners to identify research priorities together and that the NEPAD benefited from a strong support by political makers and local governments.

Based on the strong network that has been built, a new phase has been approved for EC support the CoEs to engage into more regions and enhance capacity development towards target groups such as young professionals.³

The Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia – **EECCA component** is jointly implemented by UNECE and OCDE. The UNECE representative stated that the EECCA Group has found its model and has been successful in bringing partners and member countries to work on key priorities such as governance, financing, etc. The group faces many challenges during the process including to foster dialogues, to integrate decisions and bridge with other concerned sectors, to channel funding for 10 countries, or to cope with political changes. Further challenges include to promote the nexus approach as well as transboundary projects.

For the Mediterranean component, the representative of GWP-MED stressed some of the key challenges for the region : coordinate a multiplicity of initiatives and the need for a renewed EU commitment. For the future, it is important to determine jointly new

² More information: www.cewp.org; the PPT presentation is also included on the website

³ the PPT presentation is also included on the website

strategies, in particular by tackling opportunities in the context of the Union for the Mediterranean and in relation with the climate and the nexus agendas.

A short Q&A addressed the need for continued support to capacity building, and a specific attention to water management in the IGAD region

The second part of the meeting consisted in sharing of visions and reflexions from different EUWI stakeholders : Civil society, reflecting the multi-stakeholder character of the Initiative, and EU MS whose involvement and commitment is essential to drive this process and make it a true EU initiative.

The group of **NGOs** associated with EUWI was represented by two of its members. They stressed that EUWI was one of the few platforms involving civil society and suggested for the future of the initiative to boost the engagement and collaboration from the civil society and further reinforce trust. They argued that their collective voice could bring water higher on the EU agenda and advocate for more commitment from governments, in the context of the SDGs.

The representative from **Spain** highlighted the main achievements of the Latin America Group: training, mobilising funding for the CODIA (Latin American Water Directors), reinforcing involvement of the countries. She ended with a reference to the new 5+5 Initiative in the Western Mediterranean, for which a joint strategy has been approved in March 2015⁴.

The representative from **Germany** stressed how the implementation of a nexus approach is built on the close relationship between EU and AMCOW. She mentioned a success story in Kenya, and taking the airplane metaphor used before, she recalled that the cooperation comes in support of African partners so they can fly and set new successful project.

The representative from **Sweden** also reminded that most investments are nationally driven, that it is important to drive dialogue at the national level and combine those dialogues with higher dialogue at regional level, and also to involve the private sector and investment banks. He concluded on the key role played by the EU in coordinating efforts, in particular in the framework of the EUWI.

As a short conclusion, the Chair referred to the demonstration of EUWI playing a catalyst role leading to an integration into EU-supported regional programmes, as well as in relation with future activities on the water-energy-food security nexus and in the context of the SDGs.

Annexes :

- PPT presentations on CEWP and Centres of Excellence
- Additional information on the 5+5 initiative in the Western Mediterranean

⁴ More information included on the website