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7th World Water Forum 2015

A key moment for the water and sanitation sector

The 7th World Water Forum (WWF7) held in South Korea in April 12-17 2015 brought together over 40,000 visitors from 168 countries including 9 Heads of State, 80 government ministers and 100 official national governments delegations. The city of Gyeongbuk was the venue for policy makers to take part in the political process, and also citizens and NGOs in a Citizens' Forum. The City of Daegu was the location of the main Expo and trade fair, and also hosted more than 100 dialogue and presentation sessions.

Held every three years the forum is a significant stepping-stone towards global policy development and collaboration on water challenges. This time an ambitious roadmap was formalised, paving the way for the 8th Forum in Brazil in 2018. The roadmap marks a strong formal commitment to ensure that appropriate action is taken by all stakeholders on matters ranging from financing infrastructure to food security. The progress of the roadmap can be followed online allowing the different stakeholders to be held accountable.

Benedito Braga, President of the World Water Council, said, "*The 7th Forum has demonstrated that it is a place where world leaders in the water community come to mobilise political action. The pledges made during the Seventh Forum were carried to the UN Summit in New York as a major contribution to the adoption of a Sustainable Development Goal on water.*"



Mr. Neven Mimica at the 7th World Water Forum



Africa Process at the 7th World Water Forum

Giving water a prominent place on the development agenda

Following the example of several EU Commissioners during the 6th World Water Forum 2012 in Marseille Mr. Neven Mimica, the EU Commissioner for Development and Cooperation, attended the WWF7 to mark the EU's commitment to the political negotiations to make water and sanitation one of the most urgent global priorities. Commissioner Mimica attended the Ministerial Conference at Gyeongbuk along with government officials and Heads of Delegations from 100 countries.



"We must do what we can make sure that everyone can access clean water and sanitation, wherever they live."

Neven Mimica

The Conference issued the Ministerial Declaration, which pledged to place water as a dedicated agenda item in the UN-led Post-2015 Development Agenda and to work for a positive result at the Paris Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Climate Change in December 2015.

At a High Level Panel in Daegu Commissioner Mimica described his DG's efforts and the prospective guidelines for the EU's next financial plan for cooperation and development aid. He explained that over the last 30 years, the EU has been the leading donor supporting development policies and programmes all over the world. More than 2.5 billion euros have been committed in the water sector, and more than 60 countries are currently implementing water projects with financial assistance from the European Union.

Commissioner Mimica took the opportunity to announce the main orientations for the next EU development assistance programme as part of the Agenda for Change which aimed at strengthening the capacity of the DG for International Cooperation and Development to monitor and report results, enhancing the accountability, transparency and the

visibility of EU aid. He highlighted the fact that water as a cross-cutting issue would be addressed through various sectoral initiatives such as urban development. He emphasised that a priority would be placed on the water-energy-food nexus.

After his visit to the WWF7, Commissioner Mimica blogged :

"It was really important for me to be there and show the European Union's strong support to making universal access to drinking water and sanitation one of our priorities. To achieve this, we need to ensure that, when dealing with the growing demand for water, food and energy, we use a comprehensive approach that allows us to avoid negative consequences, for instance, on the environment. This is one of the most important topics we were discussing at the Forum."

In the international context, the EU is promoting the concept of 'water diplomacy', which tries to reconcile the different uses of water resources – drinking water and sanitation, food production, industry and energy."

There are plenty of successful examples, such as a project in a town in Mozambique which has helped to develop the water supply capacity locally and to install two water supply units. The approach here has had a multiplier effect as it has since been replicated in four other towns in the region. Some 600,000 people have initially benefitted from the project."

Although the Millennium Development Goal target on drinking water has been reached, large disparities still remain across regions. In addition, the target on sanitation is still among those that are most off-track."

The statistics are challenging - about 800 million people still do not have access to drinking water and 2.5 billion people lack access to basic levels of sanitation. To really make a difference on this area, we must break the silence around poor sanitation and recognise water not only as an issue on its own but as a cross-cutting issue. I am glad that events like this week's forum will allow us to work together to make this a reality. Quite simply, preserving water means preserving life itself."

We must do what we can make sure that everyone can access clean water and sanitation, wherever they live."



Panel discussion, World Water Forum

The visit of Commissioner Mimica to the WWF marked the EU's engagement with the post-2015 development agenda and sent a clear signal about the importance of having a dedicated goal for water among the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

EU presence at the WWF7

In addition to the presence of European Commissioner Mimica more than ten official EU delegates attended the WWF7, taking part in dialogues and making presentations at various events in the Thematic Process and the Citizen's Forum. Three important EC Directorates General coordinated their efforts to reinforce the EC presence. The DGs for Environment, Development and Cooperation and the Joint Research Centre exhibited their programmes and projects at a stand in the main WWF7 Expo Centre in Daegu.

The stand displayed EC posters and publications, played a trailer video about 10 WATSAN projects funded under the ACP-EU Water Facility Program, and a popular interactive map displaying EU-supported projects over the last 10 years.



Gyeongbuk, South Korea

The Stockholm World Water Week, September 2015



Panel discussion, World Water Week

The Stockholm World Water Week, 25 years jubilee

More than 3,000 experts, professionals, decision-makers and NGOs representatives attended this year's World Water Week in Stockholm organised by SIWI (the Stockholm International Water Institute). The SWWW has been an annual focal point for the globe's water issues for 25 years. This year is the 25th jubilee year for both the Week and its prestigious award the Stockholm Water Prize, attributed to Rajendra Singh, often called "India's water man" who developed innovative water restoration methods and efforts to improve water security in rural India.

This year, the SWWW was dedicated to Water and Development (coinciding with the EU Year for Development) embracing the global agenda towards the revision and setting of new Sustainable Development Goals. Next year the SWWW will be dedicated to Water Jobs and the importance of employment and economic value within the water sector.

<http://www.worldwaterweek.org>

The Annual Multi-Stakeholders Forum (MSF) of the EUWI at the Stockholm World Water Week

In his welcoming words to the MSF, the EC representative emphasised that the future of EUWI has to be seen in the context of the SDGs. In the previous years, the 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, and special attention on the water-energy-food nexus. This year the different regional components of the EUWI presented their views on future orientations, how the 'seed work'

done under EUWI is now integrated in their own regional strategies and programmes, and how it can now play a role in the development of new thematic work, like the new project to support regional dialogues on the nexus which the EU has recently approved in co-funding and cooperation with Germany.

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

The Chair introduced the African component and explained that this was entering a new phase since the 2014 Africa-EU Summit identified water among the priorities for African development. The Executive Secretary of AMCOW underlined that future steps and activities are set around two priority areas: infrastructures and the nexus between the water-energy and agriculture sectors. He 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 (CoEs) 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 Forum about the importance of mobilising partners to identify research priorities together and stressed that the NEPAD benefited from a strong support by political decision-makers and local governments.

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

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.



Bo Libert, UNECE

For the Mediterranean component, the representative of GWP-MED stressed some of the key challenges for the region: to coordinate a multiplicity of initiatives and the need for a renewed EU commitment. For the future, it is important to determine jointly new strategies, in particular by tackling opportunities in the context of the Union for the Mediterranean and in relation to the climate and the nexus agendas. A short Q&A session emphasised the need for continued support to capacity building, and for specific attention to water management in the IGAD region.

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

The group of NGOs associated with EUWI stressed that EUWI was one of the few platforms involving civil society and suggested that in the future the EUWI should boost engagement and collaboration with

civil society to further reinforce trust. They argued that their collective voice could raise 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 regional 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 2015.

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 aeroplane metaphor used before she recalled that the cooperation comes in support of African partners so they can fly and set up a new successful project.

The representative from Sweden reminded the meeting 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. The Chair wrapped up by referring to EUWI's catalytic role leading to an integration into EU-supported regional programmes, as well as in relation to future activities on the water-energy-food security nexus and in the context of the SDGs.

The EU stand at the SWWW

The EU DG Cooperation had an expo stand outside the conference venue in central Stockholm. Most of the stands were located outside and were accessible to the public. The EU distributed the leaflet *More than water* to inform visitors about the EUWI and the MSF meeting and EC activities, and screened a rolling video of the ACP-EU Water Facility projects.



The EC exhibition stand at the World Water Forum

Views and interviews from the SWWW

Women and water



The NGO Women for Water (WfWP) has been particularly active in promoting women's role and impacts on managing water at different levels: policy making, conservation, daily management.

Present at the World Water Forum as part of the civil society component, the NGO also organised sessions during the SWWW with key partners such as the SIWI, the Gender and Water Alliance and UNESCO. The organisation introduced major new challenges, e.g. the eradication of corruption and women's capacities to promote transparency and ethics. For many years, the WfWP has been developing dialogues and ways to implement new policies that would include the gender approach but mostly, women's empowerment and access to equity.

The European Commission has promoted gender as one of its key priorities for its development aid. Commissioner Mimica declared in a

meeting held by Concord (the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development) that he wanted Europe "to be a champion for gender and development".

<http://www.concordeurope.org/shaping-development-policy/eu-development-framework/item/386-concord-holds-first-exchange-with-commissioner-mimica>

It has been estimated that women spent more than 40 billions hours collecting water in Sub-Saharan Africa alone. Throughout the years and in many UN conferences, women have been considered as a pillar of the movement to ensure safe and global access to water and sanitation. As a result, the WfWP is currently advocating a specific year for "Water and Woman" under the auspices of UN Water.

<http://www.womenforwater.org/openbaar/index.php?alinealD=490>

A vision for African Development



After the MSF, Mr. Bai Mas Taal the Executive Secretary of the AMCOW shared his view about future steps and the importance of the Africa-EU partnership to support new development priorities. In the context of the SDGs he expressed his enthusiasm and commitment to a dedicated goal on water and further underlined how water was present in many other goals as a transversal resource that plays a key role in development and economic growth. In this context, he stressed that the actual funding allocated to develop water infrastructures and reach the water goal targeted by the SDGs should be primarily dedicated to Africa to be able to tackle development needs in terms of water and sanitation development. Bai Mas Taal stated African countries are capable of innovation, and of reaching such objectives and represent key partners today.

This year's recipient of the Industry Water Award is the eThekweni Water and Sanitation, serving the Durban South Africa metropolitan area. The eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality is a metropolitan municipality created in 2000 that includes the city of Durban and surrounding towns. eThekweni is one of the 11 districts of KwaZulu-Natal province of South Africa. eThekweni successfully provides basic services to a large and diverse population. Exploring technical and social innovative solutions, eThekweni is considered one of the most progressive water utilities in the world.

<http://www.southafrica.info/about/sustainable/water-300514.htm>



The right to water, a renewed mandate with the SDGs

Since the UN declaration of the right to water in 2010, debates, funding and initiatives have been developing and stimulating water stakeholders to implement the right to water at various levels. The first UN rapporteur on the human right to safe water and sanitation, Catarina de Albuquerque gave a visionary speech on the journey of promoting the right to water among water stakeholders.

Since the start of her work as special rapporteur, Catarina de Albuquerque experienced a change of approach to water and sanitation management. She underlined how voluntary and adaptable water professionals have had to be, since the right to water is a challenging objective. She shared her experience of being rapporteur for the UN for 4 years, and was replaced by Leo Heller as new rapporteur.

Catarina de Albuquerque has been a proactive and dynamic figure in organising consultations of water stakeholders, bringing them together and setting guidelines to accelerate the implementation of the right to water worldwide. She is now Executive Chair of Sanitation and Water for All (SWA).

<http://programme.worldwaterweek.org/event/5270>

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/WaterAndSanitation/SRWater/Pages/LeoHeller.aspx>

Youth engagement in water and sanitation development

The Water Youth Network, the World Youth Parliament for Water and the Swedish Water House organised an event to discuss how to better involve and include younger generations to the water sector. Youth networks have been particularly active and growing over the past ten years encouraging innovation, adapting the water sector to new medias and new practices brought by younger generation affecting and shifting business approaches to managing water resources.

Recent changes have highlighted the need to foster participatory methods, integrating the latest technologies or linking local and global communities in project management for water development. Youth networks plead for stronger dialogue between the youth and seniors so that young generations can benefit from their experience and also avoid intergenerational gaps and misunderstanding that can impact the productivity, engagement and passion of water professionals.

During the SWWW, a group of ten young professionals participated to the EU booth providing information to visitors. It was an opportunity for them to network but also to discover about the EU development activities, project and funding mechanisms. It helped them to exchange views with various water stakeholders and to experiment another types of knowledge transfer.

<http://worldyouthparliamentforwater.com/keys-for-successful-youth-engagement-in-water-for-development-what-happened/>
<http://www.wateryouthnetwork.org/archives/2000>

More than Water: communication of the EU's commitment to water

Leaflet: More than Water

The European Commission published a new brochure "More than Water" summarising the achievements of the EU Water Sector over the past decades, and describing the various financial and technical assistance instruments and programmes that have been undertaken. The brochure describes the changes in emphasis now being developed for the EU's development assistance programmes in the light of the global focus on the water-food-energy nexus and against the backdrop of the post 2015 development agenda and the definition of the new Sustainable Development Goals.

https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sectors/infrastructure/water-and-sanitation_en

The EUWI Annual Report

The EUWI released its Annual Report 2015 during the MSF meeting. Starting this year the Stockholm World Water Week becoming a paper-free forum, the EUWI disseminated the link to participants during the session. This year's report presents the summaries of activities from the EUWI and also brings reflections on next future steps.

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

A new website

The EUWI portal has been transferred to the **Capacity4Development** platform website. Capacity4dev welcomes more than 17,000 development and cooperation professionals throughout the world, with hundreds of Groups dealing with specific thematic expertise, including **Water and Sanitation**. Groups provide a space to form online communities of practice where members share knowledge, ideas and expertise. Each group offers tools to organise and manage content. **Find out more** about these communities of practice and how to manage them by consulting these help sections: **Groups**, **Resources for Group Owners and Group Moderators**, and **interacting on Capacity4dev**.
<http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/>

Water Facility Stories

**our world
our dignity
our future**

Water supply
Sanitation
WASH
Rural development

2015 European Year for Development

**EYD2015 Story of the Week:
New water, new opportunities in Papua New Guinea**

In Kosakosa Village on the northern coast of Papua New Guinea Vincent Bapu is building a new fish farm, thanks to new water tanks and infrastructure providing safe water. Francisca, mother of two, now dreams for a daughter who doesn't have to fetch water everyday. A community-led project funded by the EU has completely changed the socio-economic dynamics of their village.

The project aimed to improve the health of rural communities in Bogia and Sumkar districts through community-led and participatory development to provide access to safe water supply and sanitation facilities. The project helped by providing sufficient quantity of water for basic personal hygiene. For instance, improved access to safe water addressed the issue of washing hands regularly, eliminating bacteria and risks of illness.

Project Name: YAWAK KAKAR RURAL WATER SUPPLY, SANITATION AND HYGIENE PROJECT
Project Goal: Improve the health of rural communities through participatory development to access safe water and sanitation facilities
Community Name: KOSAKOSA
Total Project Cost: K64,873.00
10% contribution: K6,487.30
No. of VFP Tablets: 25
Population: 647
Type of Water System: GRAVITY FED
Donor: EUROPEAN UNION
Implemented by: WORLD VISION

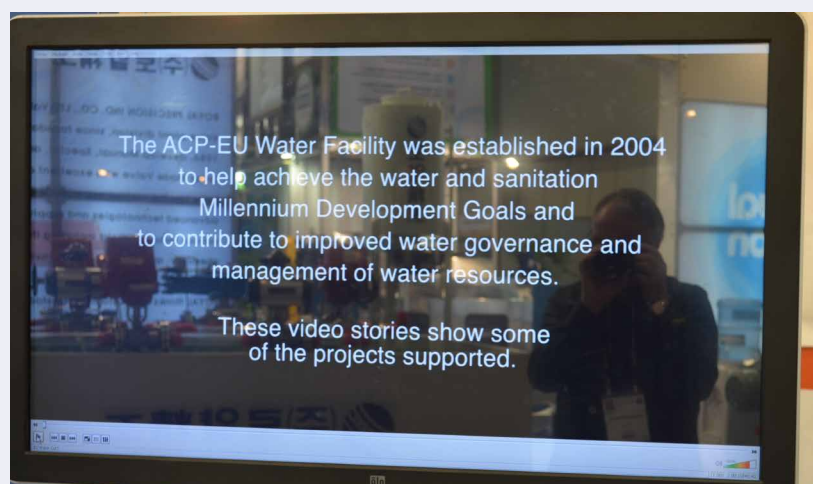
The water committees and families undertook responsibility to maintain the water systems themselves. They have all recognised how access to clean water has improved their lives.

The ACP-EU Water Facility has supported more than 300 water supply and sanitation improvement projects in 50 ACP countries, and 16 success stories from these projects were presented in display and animated presentation formats during the WWF in South Korea.

https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sectors/infrastructure/water-and-sanitation_en

Water Facility Projects: video trailer

14 videos of successful stories from Water Facility supported projects were received from EU project partners and these were promoted in a summarising trailer video shown continuously on the EC exhibition stand at the WWF and the WWW. Video clips were included from Angola, Bolivia, Madagascar, Namibia, Senegal, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The SWWW was the occasion to collect testimonies and contributions from stakeholders and project managers involved in the Water Facility over the last 10 years. A new video documentary video about the ACP-EU Water Facility will be produced at the end of 2015.



Links and references

WWF documents

General access:

<http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/library/forum-documents/>

Documents from thematic sessions:

<http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/library/thematic-publications/>

Forum outcomes:

<http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/forum/daegu-gyeongbuk-2015/>

Presentations from EU representatives at the WWF

Ministerial session: European Commissioner Mimica address at the Ministerial Plenary on the 'EU Vision for Water'.

http://eng.worldwaterforum7.org/program/program.asp?program_seq=471

Ministerial Roundtable on the Water-Energy-Food Nexus and address by European Commissioner Mimica, Session: *The Water-Energy-Food Nexus: Are we finally talking?* Opening remarks and reflections.

http://eng.worldwaterforum7.org/program/program.asp?program_seq=415

Session: *Water Financing for Small and Decentralised Water Operators and Actors* Opening Address by Commissioner Mimica.

http://eng.worldwaterforum7.org/program/program.asp?program_seq=587

EC's contribution to initiatives that are being developed in Latin America and/or the Mediterranean basin, in the field of water governance, with a focus on training and capacity building.

Side Event: *Interregional water cooperation & water management in Latin America, Europe and Mediterranean*, Speech by Paolo Ciccarelli, Head of Unit, C5 DEVCO.

Side Event: *From Assessment to Action: The Nexus in Development Priorities and Programmes*. Speech by Paolo Ciccarelli, Head of Unit, C5 DEVCO.

Water and Sanitation Operators: *Capacity for an Urban Era*. With André Liebaert, EUWI, European Commission.

Panel discussion: "What Capacity for an Urban Era?"

http://eng.worldwaterforum7.org/program/program.asp?program_seq=557

Session: *The EU Water Directives: Efficient tools to reach the ambitious objectives of European joint policy to safeguard water and aquatic environments*.

Presentation: Opening on the 2012 Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources: what solutions for a more integrated implementation of EU Directives? by Mrs. Marta Moren-Abat, Environment Directorate General, European Commission. Concluding remarks by Mr. Andre Liebaert, DG DEVCO, European Commission.

http://eng.worldwaterforum7.org/program/program.asp?program_seq=596

Session: *Managing water scarcity: 5+5 Water Strategy in the Western Mediterranean*

Presentation: *Protecting the environment in scarcity conditions*, by Mrs. Marta Moren-Abat, Environment Directorate General, European Commission

http://eng.worldwaterforum7.org/program/program.asp?program_seq=628

Session: *Transboundary water management: In search of excellence in Europe, Africa and the Arab region / Successful experience of European International Basin Organizations for better managing transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers in Europe*.

Introduction by Denis CAJO, Member of Cabinet of Nevan Mimica, Commissioner in charge of International Cooperation and Development.

Closing Speech by Paolo Ciccarelli, Head of Unit, C5 DEVCO.

Presentation: Regulations and policies to safeguard Europe's water resource, by Marta Moren-Abat, Environment Directorate General, European Commission.

<https://www.google.com/?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad>

http://eng.worldwaterforum7.org/program/program.asp?program_seq=605

Session: *Recommendations for water management in Europe*.

1st panel: *Discussions on the outcomes of the European sessions on EU Water Directives, transboundary management, adaptation to climate change*, with Mrs. Marta Moren-Abat, DG Environment, European Commission.

http://eng.worldwaterforum7.org/program/program.asp?program_seq=605

Session: *Establishing the foundations for success: the science, benefits and relevance of eco-hydrology*.

Presentation: *Interfacing Eco-hydrological Sciences and Policy in the Implementation of European Water Legislation*, by Giovanni Bidoglio, Head of the Water Resources Unit of the Institute for Environment and Sustainability (ISPRA) of the European Commissions Joint Research Centre (JRC).

http://eng.worldwaterforum7.org/program/print.asp?program_seq=569

Session: *Linking Science and Technology for managing global water challenges - Finding ways to overcome the barriers for improved research uptake*.

Keynote: *How can science and technology contribute to solving global water challenges? and European regional discussion - well-functioning science and technology cases*, by Giovanni Bidoglio, Head of the Water Resources Unit of the Institute for Environment and Sustainability (ISPRA) of the European Commissions Joint Research Centre (JRC).

http://eng.worldwaterforum7.org/program/print.asp?program_seq=504

Session: *Efficient water management Post-2015. Discussion / Panel with Sophie Lainé, DG DevCO, European Commission*.

http://eng.worldwaterforum7.org/program/print.asp?program_seq=433

Coming up

Africa Centres of Excellence Phase 2

The second phase of the Centres of Excellence project requested by the AMCOW to DG DEVCO aims at fostering sustainable capacity development at institutional, higher education, technical, scientific and vocational level in the water sector through the NEPAD Africa Union Networks of Water Centres of Excellence in Water Science and Technology (CoEs) by scaling up the approach of the pilot phase.

The project will be implemented by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission and the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme. The main activities project will consist of strengthening the two existing NEPAD water Centres of Excellence networks in West and Southern Africa and creating two additional NEPAD Water Centres of Excellence networks in Central and Eastern Africa.

The project will support the implementation of the African Water Ministers' declaration urging AUC and NEPAD Centres of Excellence to develop a "Human Capacity Development Programme for junior professional and technician level capacity challenges in the water sector". The project will be implemented in 5 countries in Southern Africa, 4 countries in West Africa and 5 countries in Eastern and Central Africa.

The Nexus Dialogues

At the 7th World Water Forum Commissioner Mimica announced that the EC with the support of Germany was developing an EU-led Nexus Dialogue Programme to commence in 2016. EU Member States, the UN family, other donors and international organisations working on nexus dialogue (who have begun to mentor regional organisations, stakeholders and country processes towards operationalisation of the Nexus perspective) all agree that regions across the world should be further supported to help strengthen nexus policy-making and nexus action plans. However, awareness-raising is still needed within regions affected by nexus challenges about the need to come together and discuss solutions to energy-water-food problems.

The Nexus Dialogues programme is designed to strengthen five regional policy dialogues to advance towards concrete outcomes. The five regions include: Africa, Latin America, Asia (Mekong Area), Central Asia and the Mediterranean. The programme will support regional policy recommendations and action plans, feasibility studies to prepare for future investments, pilot projects and the building up of teams of nexus experts from the participating countries and regions.

More than WATER

*Central to life
and sustainable
growth*

