

## AGUASAN Workshops

# A joint learning experience and elaboration of strategies for enhanced cooperation in the water sector



### Region

Switzerland

### Partners

seecon international gmbh

### Background information

The annual AGUASAN Workshops on water and sanitation are aligned towards poverty reduction and exploring synergy effects with other development sectors, whilst furthering the realization of good governance and human rights principles and promoting gender sensitive approaches.

### Project objectives

Prepare the water and sanitation sector community to respond to, and eventually contribute to the achievement of the Water and Sanitation 2030 Agenda

### Beneficiaries

International field staff, desk officers, policy makers, researchers, consultants and other water and sanitation specialists

### Costs

CHF 267,387

### Duration

2016 - 2018

### Contact

Global Programme Water  
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AGUASAN is a long-standing Swiss community of practice providing a knowledge platform and think-tank with a crucial role in shaping the response to water and sanitation issues in international cooperation. An annual workshop gathers international experts and offers for in-depth exchange on relevant experiences and new topics. This allows preparing the water and sanitation sector community to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

During the AGUASAN Workshops, water and sanitation specialists from all over the world gather for five days in Switzerland to collectively reflect on a cutting-edge topic of the water sector. They are the annual highlight of AGUASAN, a community of practice and a unique forum for in-depth exchange on relevant experiences and for exploring new topics. 2016 saw the 32nd consecutive workshop in a series of globally renowned events and was dedicated to preparing the participants to shape the Water and Sanitation 2030 Agenda on the programme and the policy level. The 2016 AGUASAN Workshop for instance drafted strategies for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on Water and Sanitation in Macedonia, Tanzania and Haiti based on inputs by country representatives.

Throughout their 32 years of existence, the AGUASAN Workshops have had a high significance in the community for tackling challenges beyond merely technical issues towards sustainability (incl. social, institutional, economic and environmental aspects).

The driving forces behind the workshops are carefully selected themes and the face-to-face format

allowing exchange and opening up the community to experts from abroad, particularly from developing countries, as well as reflection and learning. Besides acquiring explicit knowledge through case studies, the focus of AGUASAN Workshops is on the exchange of tacit knowledge in the form of the expertise of the participants. Interactive workshop formats such as world cafés, innovation fairs and group works allow to tap into the vast expertise gathered: participants learn from each other, make use of synergies, capitalize on the combined knowledge resources to jointly generate and validate new approaches and practical tools, and raise awareness on the diversity of the Water and Sanitation Goal. This allowed AGUASAN workshops to produce relevant outcomes, such as the:

- **Caring and Integrated Management** concept (Business school of St. Gallen) applied to water and sanitation services;
- **WatSan contiguum** for a dynamic interaction between emergency relief, rehabilitation and development work;
- **Blue Health Centres** concept endowed with practical experiences and tools;
- Basis for the online toolkit **Integrating the Human Right to Water & Sanitation in Development Practice**.

The AGUASAN Workshops are led by a steering committee consisting of members from the SDC, the Eawag Department Sanitation, Water and Solid Waste for Development (Sandec), HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation and the Swiss Resource Centre and Consultancies for Development (Skat).

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Additional information: [www.aguasan.ch](http://www.aguasan.ch)

