

## AGUASAN Workshops

# A joint learning experience for strategy development and enhanced cooperation in the water sector



### Region

Switzerland and international

### Partners

seecon international gmbh

### Background information

The annual AGUASAN workshops on water and sanitation are aligned with the goal of poverty reduction and explore synergies with other development sectors, whilst furthering the realisation 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, young professionals, researchers, consultants and other water and sanitation specialists

### Costs

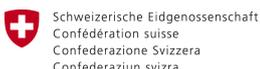
CHF 320,287

### Duration

2019 - 2020

### Contact

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Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

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 provides a space for in-depth exchanges on relevant experiences and new topics. This allows the water and sanitation sector community to prepare 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 in the water sector. They are the annual highlight of AGUASAN, a community of practice and a unique forum for in-depth exchanges on relevant experiences and for exploring new topics. Every other year, biannual international events take the AGUASAN Workshops to another country. In 2019, the 35th consecutive workshop in a series of globally renowned events, will take place and is dedicated to preparing the participants to shape the Water and Sanitation 2030 Agenda on a programmatic and policy level. For instance, the 2018 AGUASAN Workshop developed approaches and validated tools for leveraging data for better decision-making in the water and sanitation sector.

Throughout their 35 years of existence, the AGUASAN Workshops have had a high significance in the community for tackling challenges that go beyond technical issues to encompass sustainability issues (including social, institutional, economic and environmental aspects)

The driving forces behind the workshops are carefully selected themes and the face-to-face format allowing exchanges and opening up the community to experts from abroad,

particularly from developing countries, as well as a space for reflection and learning. In addition to providing explicit knowledge through case studies, the AGUASAN Workshops promote youth-led initiatives, ideas and projects by giving young professionals the opportunity to learn from the interactive learning formats that build on the expertise of the participants. Interactive workshop formats such as world cafés, innovation fairs and group works enable the participants to tap into a vast pool of expertise: participants learn from each other, make use of synergies, capitalise on their combined knowledge resources to jointly generate and validate new approaches and practical tools, and raise awareness of the diversity of aspects related to the water and sanitation Goal. This allowed AGUASAN workshops to produce relevant outcomes, including the following:

- The factsheet on Data-based decision-making processes for WASH
- The publication of "SDG 6 along the Water and Nutrient Cycles"
- The WatSan contiguum for a dynamic interaction between emergency relief, rehabilitation and development work;
- The Blue Health Centres concept enriched with practical experiences and tools;
- The basis for the online toolkit on "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 of Sanitation, Water and Solid Waste for Development (Sandec), HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, the Swiss Resource Centre and Consultancies for Development (Skat) and seecon.

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

