

Flagship Initiatives – Description and Guideline

1. Background and rationale

The flagship Initiatives (FI) are a new instrument proposed for the new phase of the Swiss Water Partnership based on the promising experience of developing a new concept related to impact finances during the previous phase. Flagship Initiatives aim at **facilitating the development and testing of promising, innovative approaches contributing to achieving the Agenda 2030**, especially the water-related SDG targets. They also represent another way to consider a variety of members' interests, broadening the added value for SWP members. Preliminary ideas for new flagship initiatives are for example related to promoting decentralized cooperation in Switzerland (e.g. facilitating a dialogue on the introduction of a 'Water Cent') and enhancing the efficiency of investments through water integrity.

2. Selection criteria

The FI are selected according to the following criteria:

1. contribute to water-related SDG targets
2. are in line with the human rights to water and sanitation
3. contributes to the SWP's vision and long-term objectives
4. enhance visibility of the Swiss water sector
5. create value for the members
6. should not be used to fund members' activities
7. apply members' knowledge and skills and not exclusively rely on external consultants
8. include an innovative aspect (not business as usual) / open new ground
9. consist of min. 2 or more constituencies to ensure the ownership

3. Operationalization of the Flagship Initiatives

1. A call for FI for SWP members will be launched and the proposals will be discussed at the next GA
2. A proposal needs to include a budget and a funding strategy
3. The duration should be clear and can vary case by case
4. Ideas for Flagship initiatives will be approved by the steering board based on an assessment drafted by the secretariat (based on the criteria mentioned above).
5. FI are implemented by members and/or the board (as in the case of the SWP Financing Facility) with the support of the secretariat if means are available, and external consultants will be included if needed.
6. SWP focuses its resources (seed money) on the first stage of the development of an innovation (idea/concept development) with the idea to leverage other actors and funds for testing/piloting the concept and scaling it up
7. The consideration of the human rights to water and sanitation and equity are key elements of all flagship initiatives (this includes participation, transparency and accountability, non-discrimination, women empowerment)

4. Ideas for Flagship Initiatives

1. **Strengthening young professionals in the global south** through rotational internship: it would aim at professionalizing in an innovative way the water sector in the South with having young professionals doing an internship in different SWP constituencies with the goal to understand how the CH water sector works and to establish good relations. The focus should be more on Swiss governance aspects such as models, concepts and values and less on technologies to avoid creating frustration. It would also benefit the SWP members hosting the interns with having an increased visibility
2. **Climate Change (mitigation)**: More and more funds usually dedicated to the water sector are going to Climate Change. There is a potential risk that water projects are not a priority anymore. Support the SWP members to develop a pitch on how water and wastewater can contribute to mitigate Climate Change. It would benefit the members in getting more funding beyond the water funding mechanism. Look what the French Water Partnership did/connect with SUSANA (like to sanitation, health and nutrition)
3. **Concept of resilient cities**, green/smart cities, city context and water (monitoring energy system, rainwater harvesting, water recycling)
4. **Circular economy**: link with water sector and resource reuse, link to SDGs 11 - 12, pilot with zero waste (circular eco villages close loops (town, watershed), workshops
5. Promoting **decentralized cooperation** – water cent in CH (in collaboration with Solidarit’eau);
6. Promoting **transparency, accountability** (reducing unnecessary cost, lost investments, missed management).

Note: Use the SWP working Group as a tool to develop a Flagship Initiative

The SWP aims at providing its members opportunities to take the lead and/or actively engage in working groups on specific topics or in preparation of a specific event. The creation of a working group must be validated by the Steering Board along the planned objectives and outputs. It needs a host member and 2-3 other members from at least two different sectors. Working groups are a dynamic tool open to any member interested in co-shaping the SWP. WG can thus also be used as a tool to develop promising, innovative Flagship Initiatives.