



# 15th SWP Steering Board Meeting

<b>Date</b>	<b>March 26<sup>th</sup> 2019, 13:30-16:30</b>
<b>Place</b>	<b>CSD Fribourg, Route Jo-Siffert 4, 1762 Givisiez</b>
<b>Participants</b>	Steering Board: Olga Darazs, Thomas Zeller, Edi Medilanski, Stéphanie Piers (representing Johan Gély), Darcy Molnar, Christian Zurbrügg, Derko Kopitopoulos, Rose Alabaster
	Secretariat: Agnès Montangero, Julie Smolnitchi
	Excused: Eric Plan, Andreas Zysset, Johannes Heeb, Nidal Salim, Soraya Kohler

## MEETING MINUTES

### 1. Introduction

Olga Darazs welcomes the steering board members in the new building of CSD.

#### **Decision:**

- The minutes of the last meeting are approved.

### 2. Review and Outlook 2019

The secretariat presents the review and outlook for 2019 (see PowerPoint, 15<sup>th</sup> Steering Board Meeting). It includes an update on the past months and an outlook of the coming months, highlights and lessons learnt of Phase 2 (2015-2018), and the review of 2018 (operational and financial). The Flagship Initiatives Framework is presented and follows the SB retreat results (January 2019). The draft Youth Strategy was approved during the 14<sup>th</sup> SB meeting (October 2018). The final version of the Youth Strategy now includes additional information on statistics related to ETHZ (2.1) and challenges faced by ETHZ and ETH students (2.2). The SB members take note of the changes.

#### Comments/clarifications:

**Membership base:** after a slight reduction in members, the membership base is now stable. The reduction can be explained by the withdrawal of start-ups no longer working in the water sector. In line with the SWP member acquisition strategy, efforts will be made to attract members from the insurance or finance sectors as a way to diversify membership. The list of potential new members will be distributed again. Support from the SB members will be key in contacting those potential new members.

**Prioritization of SWP activities:** the prioritization methodology used is useful and relevant for decision making.

**Budget:** the proposed budget is tentative and will depend on the success in attracting sponsors. The activities planned for 2019 will have to be readjusted in consequences.

**Decision:**

- The 2018 annual operational and financial reports are approved.
- The SWP Action Plan and budget 2019 are approved.
- The Flagship Initiatives (FI) Framework is approved.
- The final Youth Strategy can be shared with the members.

**To Do / Next Steps:**

- Share the external evaluation report and the new phase Project Document with the new SB members
- Make sure to inform members early enough in case of opportunities such as study tours, exchange with water organisations in Chile, etc.
- Share the list of potential new members with the Board Members
- Consider inviting new possible members to the next GA

### 3. Update on the SWP Financing Facility pilot project

Based on the request of the Board members made during the retreat (January 2019), a FAQ document was prepared and answers the main questions related to the Financing Facility and among others the role and added-value for SWP members and the expectations from the pilot.

Comments/clarifications:

**Milestones and next steps:** The FAQ answers key questions. Additionally, a document presenting the pilot project will be prepared. The document will include among others deliverables, milestones, key opportunities to take decisions / approve the next steps.

**Communication during the GA:** during the GA, it should be communicated clearly that the Financing Facility pilot project is a Flagship Initiatives. The use of acronyms should be avoided in order not to create confusion (eg. FF – Financing Facility, FI Flagship Initiatives).

**Creation of a working group:** a working group could be created once the proposal for the pilot project is available to guide the future steps of the process.

**To Do / Next Steps:**

- Provide a document presenting the pilot project including a) key deliverables/milestones (what and when), b) decision opportunities (when and on what), and c) budget for each milestone.

### 4. General Assembly 2019

The agenda of the General Assembly for 2019 is presented. The meeting will be hosted by the SVGW, the Swiss professional association for water and gas.

### Comments/clarifications:

**Breakout sessions:** objectives of the breakout sessions should be defined including clear questions to be addressed. Both objectives and questions should be included either in the agenda or in a separate document so that the participants can make up their mind to which group they would like to join.

**Dispatch:** refer to the dispatch on “Swiss” international cooperation.

### **Decision:**

- The Agenda of the General Assembly 2019 is approved providing that the requested modifications are made.

### **To Do / Next Steps:**

- Objectives and questions of the breakout sessions will be clarified and included in the agenda or in a separate document to be sent with the invitations.
- Invitation and agenda will be shared with the members.

## **5. Re-Elections Steering Board & Co-Chair**

Darcy Molnar would like to be re-elected as a steering board member. Thomas Zeller announced the end of his mandate as co-chair. The future composition of the SWP Chair is discussed. The value of having a member of the steering board as a co-chair is highlighted.

### **Decision:**

- The re-election of Darcy Molnar for another 3-year term (2019-2021) is accepted.
- In case no member of the board would like to be the co-chair, this position will be opened up to new SB members (identifying a potential new SB member with a vision that this person could become a co-chair).

### **To Do / Next Steps:**

- Steering Board members to consider whether they would like to act as co-chair with Olga Darazs

## **6. SDC Dispatch**

The Dispatch is the bill to the parliament which defines the thematic/budget of the Swiss foreign aid for the next four years (2021-2024). The document will be more concise than the previous one (50 pages) in the view of being more accessible to the public. While the word “water” appears 4 times, migration, education and climate change are general trends that gain most of attention. Going hand in hand with a decrease of attention of the water sector, a decrease of funding in the sector can also be observed (except for the Humanitarian Aid division).

Public consultation will be held between May and August. Some stakeholders (e.g cantons) will be contacted systematically while other stakeholders will have to seek the information in order to take part to the consultation (see attached the list of stakeholders to be consulted). It will be important to actively

mobilize the water professionals to advocate for the importance of the sector. The SWP will have an important role to play in coordinating this process and presenting a strong and unified Swiss Water Voice.

#### To Do / Next Steps:

- Meeting with a small group of board members to exchange on the advocacy strategy related to the dispatch before the GA

## 6. AOB

**Solidarit’eau suisse:** Solidarit’eau is a Swiss platform funded by SDC that connects Swiss municipalities with water projects in developing countries. SDC, seeking to have a more sustainable platform, is currently preparing a new phase with similar modalities of contributions as the SWP (SDC project contribution, SDC funding decreasing towards 50%). Stéphanie Piers informs that a call for proposals for the secretariat of Solidarit’eau will be launched. Solidarit’eau will invite the SWP Board members for a workshop to continue the discussion on potential synergies (an invitation letter will follow). In an earlier discussion between SWP and Solidearit’eau, three main areas of partnership were identified: joint events (in Stockholm for example), joint work on issues of common interest such as models for decentralized cooperation, and joint positioning on strategic issues (e.g. new Swiss Water Strategy).

**SDC Water evaluation:** Stéphanie Piers informs that SDC conducted a full assessment of its intervention in the water sector during 2010-2017. The final report (internal document) highlights the need to work more on sanitation, the difficulties to communicate on IWRM interventions (as compared to WASH) and the need to strengthen the linkages between projects and higher impact level (policy). See as well the GLAAS two pages document presenting a summary of the Swiss “WASH” activities in 2017 (see annex).

**Changes within the SWP secretariat:** Agnès Montangero will take a new position within Helvetas and will be replaced by Bernita Doornbos, Helvetas staff. Bernita has a longstanding experience with Water and Climate Change and financing instruments.

#### Annexes (shared prior to the meeting)

- Minutes of the last SB meeting and the SB retreat
- Budget 2019
- Priorization of SWP activities
- SWP Action Plan
- Financial and operational reports
- FI framework
- GA program
- SWP FF FAQ Document

#### New Annexes

- PPT presentation: “15<sup>th</sup> SWP SB Meeting”
- List of stakeholders to be consulted during the public consultation for the new Swiss Dispatch
- External Support Agency Summary for Swiss “WASH” activities in 2017 (GLAAS)