

SUPSI

WASH COMPETENCE CENTRE SUPSI

2015

Annual report



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Index

Objectives of the WASH Competence Centre	2
Staff.....	4
Teaching and training.....	5
Consulting activities.....	6
Memberships	7
Media, communication and events.....	9
Abbreviations	9

"WASH is an acronym used in international development programs and refers to "Water, Sanitation and Hygiene". Access to safe water, adequate sanitation, and proper hygiene education can reduce illness and death from disease, and also impact poverty reduction and socio-economic development.."

Objectives of the WASH Competence Centre

The WASH Competence Centre was founded at SUPSI on the 22. March 2012, in occasion of the World Water Day.

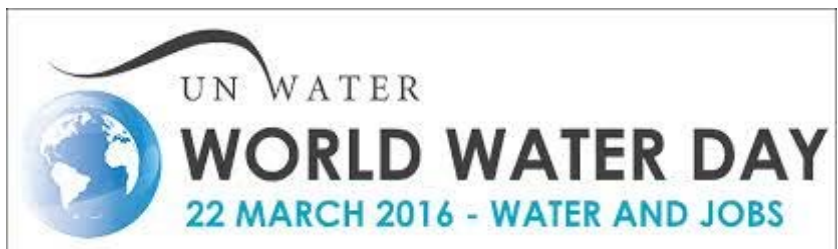
WASH is an acronym used in international development programs and refers to "Water, Sanitation and Hygiene". Access to safe water, adequate sanitation, and proper hygiene education can reduce illness and death from disease, and also impact poverty reduction and socio-economic development.

These areas are treated together as the impact of deficiencies in each area overlap strongly, and so to achieve a strong positive impact on public health, they need to be addressed together. The WASH competence centre, is a network of SUPSI staff members involved in teaching, research and services/consultancies in the field of water resources.

Members have experience in cooperation and development projects at international level.

Remind:

World Water Day is marked on 22 March every year. It's a day to celebrate water. It's a day to make a difference for the members of the global population who suffer from water related issues. It's a



day to prepare for how we manage water in the future. In 1993, the United Nations General Assembly designated 22 March as the first World Water Day.

In 2016, the theme for World Water Day is “Water and jobs”. Today, almost half of the world's workers - 1.5 billion people - work in water related sectors and nearly all jobs depend on water and those that ensure its safe delivery. Yet the millions of people who work in water are often not recognized or protected by basic labour rights. The theme in 2016 — water and jobs — is focusing on how enough quantity and quality of water can change workers' lives and livelihoods - and even transform societies and economies.

Staff

Staff member, Department*	Profession	Main geographic work experience
Sebastian Pera (Coordinator) DECD	Hydrogeologist	Argentina, Cuba, Indonesia, Chad, Pakistan
Claudio Valsangiacomo (Coordinator) DECD	Microbiologist	Zimbabwe, DR Congo, Pakistan, Philippines, Central Asia, Haïti, Caucasus Region
Marcus Hoffmann DECD	Physicist	Azerbaijan, Caribbean, Indonesia, Slovenia
Pamela Principi DIT	Microbiologist	South Africa, China
Enrica Massardi DBEHS	Nurse	Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, Nicaragua, Cambodia, Togo
Paola Solcà DBEHS	Sociologist Anthropologist	South Africa, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Argentina, Romania, Burkina Faso
Fabio Losa DBEHS	Economist	Africa
Renzo Longhi DIT	Environmental scientist	South Africa, Romania, Santo Domingo, China
Jennifer Duyne Barenstein DECD	Social Anthropologist	India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Philippines, Mexico, Nicaragua, Argentina, Haiti
Massimiliano Cannata DECD	Environmental Engineer	Vietnam, Brazil, Romania
Andrea Rizzoli DIT	Control Engineer	Europe
Francesca Cellina DECD	Environmental Engineer	Europe
Lorenza Rusconi-Kyburz , DTL	Pedagogue	Kenya, Togo, Ecuador

*) DECD: Department for Environment Constructions and Design, DIT: Department of Innovative Technologies, DBEHS: Department of Business Economics, Health and Social Care, DTL: Department for Teaching and Learning



From left: Claudio Valsangiacomo, Sebastian Pera, Marcus Hoffmann, Pamela Principi, Enrica Massardi, Paola Solcà, Renzo Longhi (Jennifer Duyne, Massimiliano Cannata, Andrea Rizzoli, Fabio Losa and Francesca Cellina are missing on this picture).

Teaching and training

The WASH CC is involved both in graduate/postgraduate education and in lifelong learning within SUPSI and other academic institutes.

Teaching module and Staff members involved	Content	Target students
Course “Water and sanitation engineering” CHYN/CICIR and CHYN/UNHCR Claudio Valsangiacomo	The Centre of Hydrogeology of the University of Neuchâtel (CHYN) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC - Wathab Unit) propose the course on water and sanitation engineering with the aim to enable the participants to acquire the basic technical skills required to conduct their activities as water and sanitation engineers (Watsan). The same course has been replicated for attendants from UNHCR field officers.	The course is designed for engineers and scientists interested in a humanitarian engagement in the domain of water and sanitation.
CAS Claudio Valsangiacomo and Paola Solcà	A Certificate of advanced studies in development and cooperation has started in October 2014.	21 students interested in development and cooperation with a Bachelor or Master degree are following the CAS.
Courses “Global world, local worlds: practical traineeship”, “International Cooperation” and “Internship in international school contexts” Paola Solcà, Enrica Massardi and Lorenza Rusconi-Kyburz	Courses and practical training are offered at DBEHS and DTL for small groups of students at Bachelor and Master level. The overarching goal of the program is to prepare students to address the traineeship that will be held at projects located abroad in developing countries. Furthermore beside the theoretical courses, a series of events are offered with the aim to interest, motivate and raise awareness on the meaning and value of international cooperation and development.	Health, social work and teacher college students who will experience clinical and educational practices in development and cooperation context.
Workshop “Learning mobility for mutual benefit” Enrica Massardi	Concepts on mobility North/South	Higher education institutions: student mobility and exchange programmes with institutions in the Global South.
Master thesis, Università di Brescia, Italy. Spervised by Sabrina Sorlini, Marta Domini, Pamela Principi, Claudio Valsangiacomo	The cycle of sanitation in developing countries, analysis of technologies and cas studies. Original title: <i>“Ciclo della “Sanitation” nei paesi in via di sviluppo, analisi di tecnologie e casi studio”</i> .	Mario Pistocchini: Master student from Brescia University, CetAMb-LAB.
Monitoring, evaluation, and learning for WASH Claudio Valsangiacomo and colleagues at UNC Water Institute (James Bartram, Pete Kolsky, Shannan George)	Distance learning modules on “Water quality”, “Water testing” and “Water in emergency”. Powerpoints, thinking exercises, tests	International professionals active in developing countries

Consulting activities

Consultancy and main authors	Description	Partners
The WHO Global Task Force on Cholera Control Claudio Valsangiacomo	<p>The Global Task Force for Cholera Control (GTFCC) was revitalized by WHO. The revitalization process was initiated in 2012 and completed in early 2014. First meeting of the revitalized GTFCC has taken place in June 2014 to finalize membership and priorities.</p> <p>The WASH CC @SUPSI is represented in the Working Group WASH</p>	<p>SDC, humanitarian aid (Swiss Corps), co-representation within WG WASH.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 2015: 1st meeting of the WASH Working Groupe of the GTFCC in New Yourk • June 2015: 2nd meeting of the GTFCC in Geneva • June 2016: 3rd meeting of the GTFCC in Entebbe, Uganda

The WHO **Global Task Force on Cholera Control** has been revitalized, SDC shows its commitment. Through a special resolution in 2011, the WHO Director-General decided to revitalize the Global Task Force on Cholera Control (GTFCC) and to strengthen the

collaboration and coordination among relevant stakeholders. The vision is to: i) support accelerated implementation of evidence-based strategies to control cholera; ii) strengthen international collaboration and improve coordination amongst stakeholders active in cholera-related activities, iii) raise the visibility of cholera as a public health issue and contribute to capacity development in all areas of cholera control. The revitalization process has been completed with a kick-off meeting in June 2014, where membership and priorities were finalized. SDC is represented within the GTFCC with a member of the Swiss humanitarian aid unit, Claudio Valsangiacomo, Professor at the WASH Competence Centre of the Swiss University of Applied Sciences. For further information: www.who.int/cholera



Memberships

Membership	Description	WASH staff members
AGUASAN	Swiss Community of practice on WASH issues www.aquasan.ch	Claudio Valsangiacomo, Sebastian Pera, Pamela Principi, Jennifer Duyne and Fabio Losa.
Swiss Water Partnership, SWP	The SWP goal is to bring together relevant stakeholders to promote a sustainable and equitable use and management of water resources and universal access to water and sanitation. www.swisswaterpartnership.ch	Claudio Valsangiacomo, Sebastian Pera (Member of the steering Board until April 2015)
Swiss humanitarian aid unit	Membership in specialized groups WES (Water and Environmental Sanitation) and Med (Medicine) www.skh.ch	Claudio Valsangiacomo, Jennifer Duyne
Solidarit'eau suisse	solidarit'eau suisse is an initiative of SDC, the Aguasan Group and Swiss aid organizations enabling local authorities to support a drinking water project in a developing country in an efficient and transparent manner. www.solidariteausuisse.ch	Claudio Valsangiacomo (Member of the steering Board)
HydroDWG	Hydrology Domain Working Group of the OGC www.opengeospatial.org	Andrea Rizzoli (observer)
iEMSS	International Environmental Modeling & Software Society www.iemss.org	Andrea Rizzoli
Swiss Municipalities	Local energy planning processes for Municipalities. In energy planning processes at the local level, identification of the opportunities for electricity production and thermal energy recovery in waterworks systems and sewage water networks. (FC)	Francesca Cellina
Federazione delle ONG della Svizzera italiana, FOSIT	Member of the steering committee since April 2013, www.fosit.ch	Paola Solcà

Solidarit'eau suisse in the Canton of Ticino.

Thanks to our presence in the Steering Committee of solidarit'eau Suisse, the Canton of Ticino has the highest score of municipalities promoting water projects in developing countries (44 municipalities out of 155).

See www.solidariteausuisse.ch



Institutional partnerships

Institution, WASH member involved	Type of partnership	Internet web-page
FOSIT, Federazione delle ONG della Svizzera italiana Paola Solcà	Memorandum of understanding for joint projects in development and cooperation SUPSI-FOSIT	www.fosit.ch
swissuniversities Development and Cooperation Office Claudio Valsangiacomo	Focal point for development and cooperation within Swiss Universities.	www.swissuniversities.ch
Foundation for Education and Development (since January 2013 Education 21) Paola Solcà, Lorenza Rusconi-Kyburz	The Foundation has supported financially and practically the project "practical internship in the developing countries" at DBSS since 2002. Recently the Department of Teaching and Learning has joined the 3rd phase of the SDC program "partnership Nord-South" (2012-2015).	www.education21.ch
International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of the Effects of Air Pollution on Rivers and Lakes, ICP Waters Luca Colombo	ICP Waters is a programme for monitoring of the effects of acid rain and air pollution on water and water courses. Twenty countries (18 European countries, USA and Canada) participate and supply monitoring data to the programme's central database at NIVA. The monitoring data provide a basis for documenting effects of long-range transboundary air pollutants.	www.icp-waters.no
Associazione svizzera dei professionisti della protezione delle acque, VSA Pamela Principi, Renzo Longhi, Sebastian Pera	The Swiss Water Association is the professional society for water in Switzerland lobbies for clean and vital bodies of water is generalist for all questions concerning water is specialist for sanitation and bodies of water. The association represents the aggregation of the Swiss professionals for water protection. VSA offers professional training programs, defines the standards for security and quality and informs about water pollution control.	www.vsa.ch

BioSweet SCCER Pamela Principi	SCCER BIOSWEET focuses on the biochemical and thermochemical conversion of wood, biowaste/manure and algae to gaseous and liquid biofuels with the vision to contribute additional 100 PJ towards fulfilment of the Swiss Energy Transition by 2050. Research will be directed towards small and medium-size installations in order to meet the needs of the Swiss market and to exploit the high innovation potential in both fields together with Swiss industry.	www.sccer-biosweet.ch
Open Source Geospatial Foundation OSGeo Massimiliano Cannata	OSGeo, support the collaborative developments open source geospatial software, and promotes its widespread use. The foundation's projects are all freely available and useable under an OSI-certified open source license.	www.osgeo.org

Media, communication and events

Subject and staff members involved	Type of media, communication, event	Contents
Univeristy of North Carolina, October 2015 Water and Health Conference Claudio Valsangiacomo and Luca Colombo	Congress	The 2014 Water and Health Conference : Where Science Meets Policy, organized by The Water Institute at UNC, considers drinking water supply, sanitation, hygiene and water resources in both the developing and developed worlds with a strong public health emphasis. Presented paper: "Well cleaning in emergency situations: standard procedure and water quality".
World Statistics Day, 20.1.2015, Olten Fabio Losa	Conference	Key note speaker with a presentation entitled "Better WASH Data for Better Lives. Work experience from Africa"

Abbreviations

COHEP	Swiss Conference of Rectors of Universities of Teacher Education
CRUS	Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities
EU	European Union
FOSIT	Federazione delle ONG della Svizzera italiana
KFH	Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SNSF	Swiss National Science Foundation
SUPSI	Scuola universitaria professionale della Svizzera italiana (University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland).
UN	United Nations
UAS	Universities of Applied Sciences and Arts
UNOSAT	UNITAR's Operational Satellite Applications Programme
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UTE	Universities of Teachers Education
USI	Università della Svizzera italiana
WHO	World Health Organization