

Summary

- **Opening Ceremony: New Thinking and Concrete Action** P. 2
- **High-level officials invited by French President call for implementation of international commitments for water** P. 3
- **Portfolio** P. 4
- **Decision-makers solutions for water challenges** ... P. 6
- **2012 : turning point in European initiatives for water protection and water management** ... P. 7
- **Series of proposals** ... P. 8

> WWDR4 in Figures

- **Since 1990**, 2 billion people have gained access to drinking water
- **2.6 billion** people live with out improved sanitation
- **884 million** people still using unimproved sources for drinking water
- **70%** of global freshwater consumed by agriculture
- **By 2035** global energy consumption is projected to increase by 49%
- **By 2050**, global population is projected to reach 9.1 billion, and global demand to increase by 70%

(Source :WWDR4)

Editorial

Political Leaders Commit

The political process constitutes a crucial component of the 6th World Water Forum, through a ministerial conference, a parliamentary conference, and a conference for local and regional authorities. This latter alone attracts more than 800 participants. A real record.

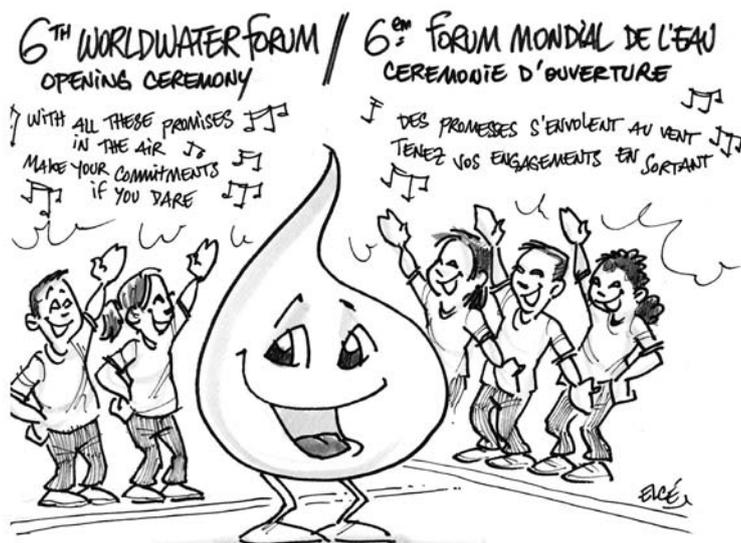
Solutions and commitments must arise from those events: a ministerial declaration, a parliamentary manifesto and a message from local and regional authorities. The whole planet is represented here to address the entire range of water-related issues.



Sujiro Seam

President of the Political Commission for the 6th World Water Forum.

The ministerial conference should define the priorities for water in the perspective of the upcoming Earth Summit 2012 (Rio+20 Conference) : accelerating the implementation of the Human Right to safe drinking water and sanitation, underlining the contribution of water in a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, as well as placing water in a governance and cooperation framework that supports the Millenium Development Goals until 2015 and beyond. ●



The Butterfly Effect at the 6th World Water Forum

On March 12, the «Butterfly Effect» presented the civil society perspective at the Forum Slum Square, this NGO is composed of over 80 other NGOs, networks and women associations. It works to promote local solutions with significant impacts on water and sanitation. The key points presented are the need for stakeholder experience exchanges and for rural community accompaniment to ensure sustainable access to water and sanitation services.

Awarding of King Hassan II Great World Water Price's 4th Edition

Created 10 years ago by the former King of Morocco, King Hassan II, the Great World Water Price is regarded as one of the world's most important distinctions in the water sector. Selected among 33 applications coming from 21 different countries, Sahara and Sahel Observatory has been this year's winner. Chedli Fezzani, Executive Secretary of the SSO, highlighted the key to their success : apart from the scientific contribution, it mainly relies on their innovative political solutions' proposals regarding international cooperation. He precised: "Water is a vector for peace. The management and sharing of water resources are essential to Africa's development and conflict resolution in the Middle East".

7th Environmental Movie Festival

From the 6th of March to 17th, the cities of Aix-en-Provence and Marseille will host the 7th Environmental Movie Festival (EMF), on the occasion of the 6th World Water Forum. Organised by "Image de Ville", the EMF will present nearly sixty fictions and documentaries on the theme "clear waters, black waters".

Opening Ceremony: New Thinking and Concrete Action

High level figures open the 6th World Water Forum in Marseille imploring participants for concrete solutions and actions to the world's water issues. French Prime Minister calls for creation of an international water organisation.

This morning at Parc Chanot, high level officials opened the 6th World Water Forum in Marseille. Jean-Claude Gaudin- Senator Mayor of Marseille, Benedito Braga-President of the International Forum Committee, Loïc Fauchon- President of the World Water Council and Francois Fillon-Prime Minister of France all implore the need for water to be at the heart of international development policy.

It is symbolic that Marseille hosts the 6th World Water Forum given that "the city has succeeded in solving water issues in the past," says Jean-Claude Gaudin. "Water deserves this gathering. Water also deserves new thinking and concrete actions," declared Benedito Braga.

"Securing sustainable supply of water is first the security of a decent life," states Loïc Fauchon. This must include economic, social and environmental security issues that "involve inseparably water and energy, which we will have to both use less and manage more rationally," continues Loïc Fauchon.

Besides coordinating the technical aspects of these sectors, social and political aspects must also play a central role in water security

dialogue. "Promise that tomorrow(...)there will be no schools without drinking water and latrines in my country," pleaded Sid Ahmed Ag Ahmouen, an invitee of World Water Council from Mali.

Ecological concerns and sustainable development have also taken centre stage. "Water is a development issue. But is also an ecological issue. We cannot dissociate these two issues," explains François Fillon. The French Prime Minister has called for a new development model based not only on GDP but also ecological issues. François Fillon also proposes the creation of an International environmental entity to manage global water issues. "The economy has its own international organisation in the World Trade Organisation; why shouldn't the environment have one as well?" questions François Fillon.

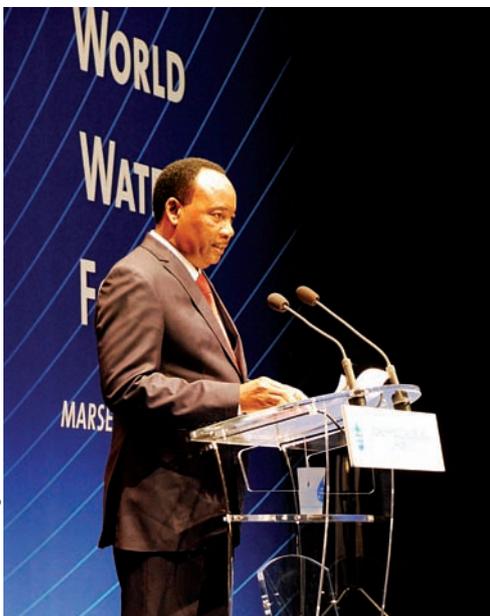
As the 6th World Water Forum unfolds, these and other issues will be tackled, with resulting solutions playing a major role in the upcoming Earth Summit 2012 (Rio+20 conference). The Forum presents the opportunity to "write a new chapter in the history of water," pronounces Loïc Fauchon.

The testimony of two Malians moves international community.



High-level officials invited by French President call for implementation of international commitments for water

Prince of Monaco Albert II, President of Niger Mahamadou Issoufou, Prime Minister of South Korea Hwang-Sik Kim and former president of the Soviet Union (1985-1991) Mikhail Gorbachev have closed the Forum's opening ceremony. All seek to promote practical water-related initiatives, especially in developing countries.



©Photo Claire Vigellie

Mahamadou Issoufou, President of the Republic of Niger, addresses water access challenges

If all the earth's water were stored in a 5-litre container, available fresh water would not quite fill a tablespoon.

Hwang-Sik Kim, Prime Minister of South Korea, the next World Water Forum's host country, drew on this statement to introduce the question of improved water resource management. In order to address this issue, intimately linked to water scarcity problems, the prestigious speakers all insisted on the involvement of populations and civil society as a priority.

In Niger, water is a specific thematic area in the National Youth Forum's agenda. Mikhail Gorbachev, founding president of the international NGO Green Cross, also calls for better civil society participation. Environmental aspects are essential to water management. As Prince Albert II points out, the Mediterranean region is currently threa-

tened by climate change, sea acidification and biodiversity loss.

The situation seems even more alarming in Niger, where Chad lake has shrunk from a surface area of 25,000km² in the 1960s to 1,500km² today. However, effective action can still be taken. In South Korea, a rehabilitation project targeting four important rivers addressed the lack of water and led to a significant decrease of flooding.

Importance of international cooperation

The four speakers insist on the importance of increased cooperation on water issues, both on a regional and international scale, as well as increased capitalisation and knowledge dissemination. The Prince Albert II Foundation acts notably through the Euro-Mediterranean Water Think Tank, which aims at encouraging dialogue on sustainable and integrated water resource management in the Mediterranean basin. In Niger, on January 2012, an initiative, "A l'eau l'Afrique, à l'eau le monde" allowed for the mobilisation of six countries of the sub-region to prepare for the 6th World Water Forum. The Prime Minister of South Korea mentioned important agreements on infrastructures recently signed between five countries of the Mekong basin.

Although the senior officials highlight the importance of international summit meetings, they were emphatic that concrete actions are then needed. Because water is a cross-cutting issue, it is imperative that it is at the heart of upcoming international environmental summits, like Earth Summit 2012 (Rio+20). uncsd2012.org/ . ●

Political commitment for a desalination factory in Gaza

The First label of Union For Mediteteranean has been allocated to the construction project of a desalination plant in Gaza.

This label shows the political commitment of the 43 Union member States. The future of the project will be defined by the feasibility report from European Bank of Investment, expected for the end of april.

This morning French Prime Minister François Fillon reminded France's financial support which could reach 10 millions of euros.

The Forum is an important step to complete the financial concertation for the construction of the plant.

The Citizen's "House of Water" inaugurated

House of Water", a space to identify concrete solutions coming from the stakeholders.

The novelty of this edition consists in paying tribute to two joint proposals that involve the artistic and cultural dynamics: "Water for Africa, Water for the World" and "Haiti: a Tribute to the Vitality of a People".

Four projects of the students from the National School of Architecture of Marseille (ENSA-M) have won the contest for building this year's "Citizen's House".

Repetition of the choral Marseille is dreaming and its 250 children



©Photo 6th Water World Forum / Christophe Taamourte

Heads of States and Governments during the opening official ceremony



©Photo 6th Water World Forum / Christophe Taamourte

Delegation of the World Parliament's of Youth for Water



©Photo 6th Water World Forum / Christophe Taamourte



Children making the Forum funnier

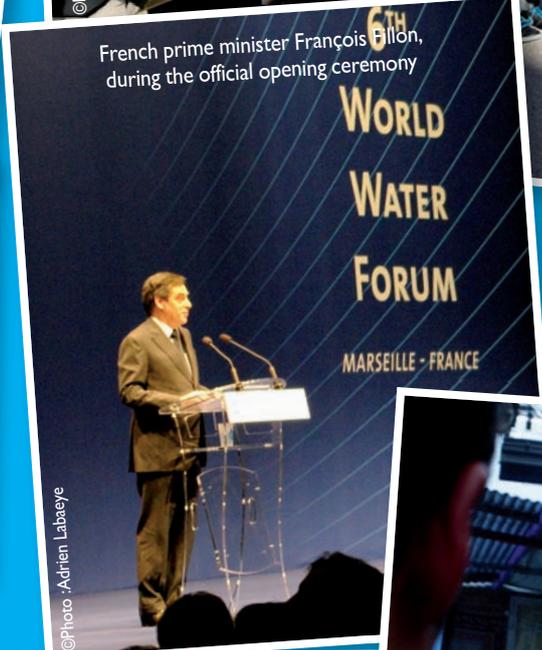
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Youth from Mali, Mai Walette and Sid Ahmed AG Ahmouden, exhorting Forum's participants to find solutions



©Photo Adrien Labaey

French prime minister François Fillon, during the official opening ceremony



©Photo Adrien Labaey

"Time for solutions" in the Marseille's tube



©Photo 6th Water World Forum / Christophe Taamourte

Cool globes exhibition : Art for environment



©Photo Audrey de Bonneville

Benedito Braga, International Forum Committee's President



©Photo Audrey de Bonneville

Jean-Hugues Hermant, Managing Director of Projection Network

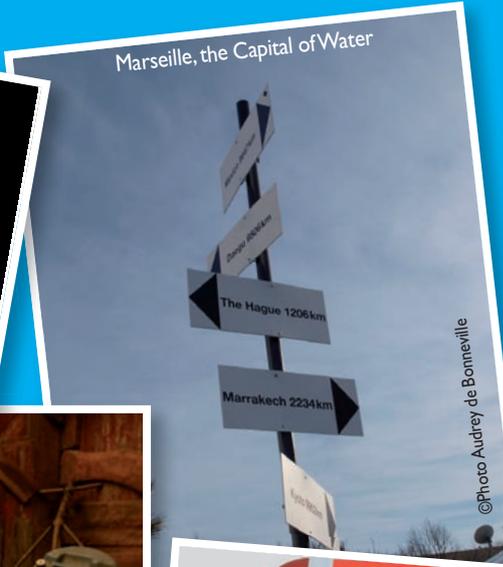


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Jean-Claude Gaudin, Marseille's Senator - Mayor, welcoming the participants



Marseille, the Capital of Water

©Photo Audrey de Bornetville



Ecological lunch with water in recycled glass pitchers

©Photo Helena Goncalves/Photo D.R.



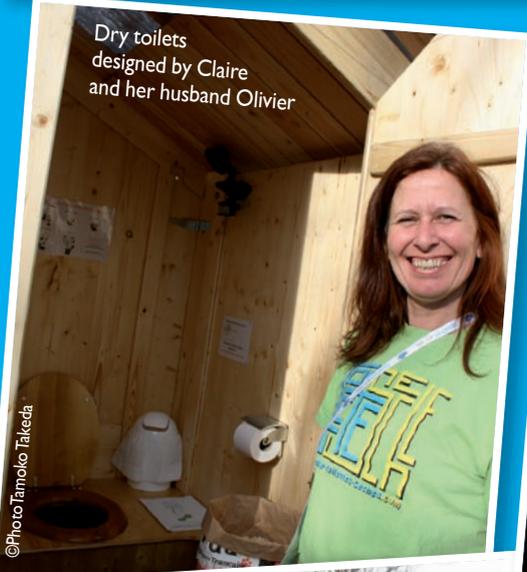
One of the Slum's solutions

©Photo Marine Guyomar



Dr. Bindraban, ISRIC, solution's provider

©Photo Tamoko Takeda



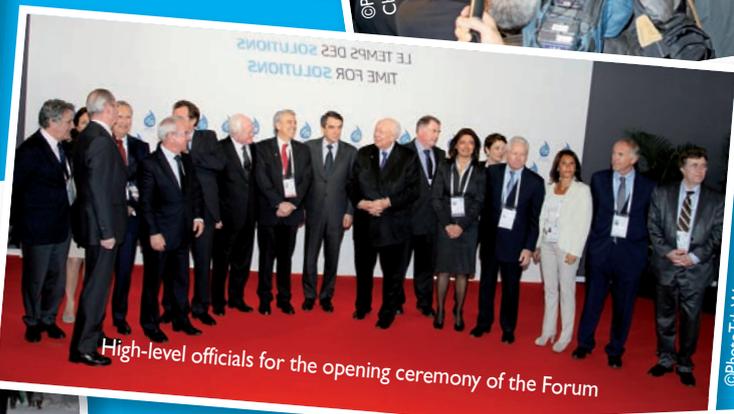
Dry toilets designed by Claire and her husband Olivier

©Photo Tamoko Takeda



More than 800 journalists during the Forum

©Photo 7th Water World Forum /Christophe Taamourte



High-level officials for the opening ceremony of the Forum

©Photo 7th Water World Forum /Christophe Taamourte



With water, Earth is more beautiful !

©Photo Tamoko Takeda



Opening of the French Pavilion by French Prime Minister François Fillon

©Photo 7th Water World Forum /Christophe Taamourte

Saturday Opened For Public

The 6th World Water Forum will be opened for everybody on the 17th of March 2012. The attendees will thus have the opportunity to participate at one of the most important international events, and also to show their interest in pointing out the challenges our planet is facing. A public open space will gather all those who can come up with solutions. The public will also have access to the Drylands and Oasis Space, exhibitions, films, and animations.

The twelve labours of Graffiti

The artists' collective L'Artmada will work on 12 "paintings" on the Forum's esplanade, at the parc Charnot, Marseille to illustrate the 12 priorities of the 6th World Water Forum. The project, titled "Graffiti" honours graffiti's art. Created in Marseille in 2002, Artmada gathers painters and visual, graphic and video artists who work principally on graffiti's arts, be it frescos, artist performances or exhibitions.

Water and Photography

No less than fifteen exhibitions will illustrate the close links between water and photography. These exhibitions will take place all over Marseille (St Charles Station, Cours d'Estienne d'Orves, Natural History Museum...) with the following topics: "Water for All" (Development Research Institute), "Marseille, Longchamp, and water" (Michel Eisenlohr), "Aigo, Water in Marseille" (Camille Moirenc), "A fleur de l'eau" (aquatic photos by Marie Paule Nègre) and "Precious Water, Savage Water"...

Decision-makers solutions for Water Challenges

Kick-Off Speeches for the High Level Events Discourse addresses sanitation, energy and nature constraints as a means to solve global water issues.

Shell recognises the necessity of measuring fresh water usage in the industrial sector", says Peter Vosel, CEO of Royal Dutch Shell. Next to the Agriculture sector, Industry accounts for the largest use of fresh water resources. In an attempt to address increased demand and use, Shell has created a database that maps how global emissions can be absorbed in various models dependent on varying Carbon emissions. For example, Shell has promoted environmentally beneficial water use in Brazil by advocating for source feed water by the rain instead of direct pumping of water from an aquifer for irrigation purposes. In Qatar, the company has converted natural gas to liquid products with technology that does not take fresh water from Qatar's arid surroundings.

Prince Willem-Alexander of Orange speaks on the need to increase human capacity and decrease the financial impact of water access to families. Although the Millennium Goal concerning safe drinking water has been reached, it is important to note that global targets mask regional disparities. The goal has primarily been met by a 50% increase in India and China. However, in the past 20 years the situation is different in Africa. For success in continuing to achieve clean drinking water objectives, sanitation issues must be kept within the forefront of solution dialogues and objectives.

Prince of Orange, Chair of the United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation. (Photo 6th World Water Forum /C.Uche).

Prince of Orange, Chair of the United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation. (Photo 6th World Water Forum /C.Uche).

Angel Gurria, Secretary General of the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) advocates so-



Julia Marton-Lefèvre, general manager of International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

©PhotoA. Labaey.

lutions to sanitation issues via sustainable financing and the maintenance and development of infrastructure in both developing and OECD countries. Strategic growth to financial planning for the future can be sustainably addressed through tariffs, taxes and transfers.

Peter Braheck-Letmathe, Chairman of the Board for Nestlé and Chairman of the Water Resources Group, discusses the importance of the Food-Water-Energy Nexus. He advocates the benefits of public-private partnerships and a need for transparency in research findings in the decrease of water resources and usage by both businesses and governments, alike.

In conclusion, Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Director General of IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), advocates the need to use nature and infrastructure when addressing water sanitation issues. For example, cities can use wetlands as a final cleaning solution to water purification projects. ●

2012 : turning point in European initiatives for water protection and water management

European Union and United Nations representatives meet at the 6th World Water Forum to discuss the state of play and to find new ways concerning water management and protection in Europe and beyond.

Since 2000, the European Union (EU) has been committed to meeting the Millenium Development Goal (MDG) of better access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. 2012 celebrates the 10th anniversary of the EU Water Initiative launched with this aim in 2002. Since then, 32 millions people have benefited from European actions on water and the first MDG has thus be reached already in 2010. However, a lot still needs to be done and the European Union will consequently intensify its efforts on access to sanitation services. Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Cooperation and Development declares that "now, it is time to shift gear (...)". Looking forward to the Rio +20 Conference, the 2012's edition of the European Report on Development puts the focus on management of water, energies and soil towards an inclusive and sus

2012 will also be the year of the 20th anniversary of the United Nation Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. This legal instrument has facilitated transboundary water cooperation in the Pan-European region since 1992. At the occasion of the 6th World Water Forum, Andrey Vasilyev, Acting Executive Secretary of the UNECE, express his wish to have the Convention getting an international dimension in 2012, thanks to numerous new countries joining since the opening to non EU countries in 2003. Cooperation leads to upstream-downstream solidarity and contributes accordingly to an improved and fair integrated water management in transboundary river basins.

Cooperation, the key to adaptation to the impacts of Climate Change

Climate change strengthens the intensity and frequency of water and sanitation related issues in Europe and beyond. Water does not stop at boundaries. Accordingly cooperation is needed to ensure proper management and protection of water resources in transboundary river basins.



Climate change strengthens the intensity and frequency of water and sanitation related issues in Europe.

Women for Water Partnership : encouraging the recognition of women commitment

Women for Water Partnership, a federation gathering women associations from all over the world, tackles gender issues related to the water sector. Together with the 6th World Water Forum's Secretary, WWP co-organised two days of pre-conference activities. Their work will also be displayed on their booth in le Palais Phocéén, and through their participation to the conference about women and water. Its objective: obtain the recognition of women's work, so that they could take part in decision processes. In fact, according to the federation, only 1% of the funds allocated to development reach women associations.

"From the glaciers to the Mediterranean"

The Permanent Centres of Environmental Initiative (CPIE) of the Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur (PACA) are working to strengthen citizen's capacity in sustainable land management through professional training courses, education and awareness-building campaigns. Seven CPIEs have undertaken the initiative "From the Glaciers to the Mediterranean Sea" which brings together environment and sustainable development actors. Delegates attending the Forum are invited daily at 10am to participate in the "Rivermind" game which illustrates the risks of flooding in PACA region.

"We can no longer pursue our economic model"

Mikhail Gorbachev, President of the NGO Green Cross International, denounces the current global economic model, describing the modern economy as unbearable. He believes it "affects our environment". Before emphasizing on the strength of political willings in solving the problems, "even very complex", Mikhail Gorbachev acknowledges the recognition of the right to water by the United Nations and its inclusion in some national laws.

Awards at the International Water and Film Events

The third edition of the International Water and Film Events drew 246 films together. The awards ceremony took place in the evening, 11 March, in the Palais du Pharo in Marseille. The public prize was awarded to *The Differences* by Arbias Lolluni (Kosovo). Three special mentions from the jury were given to *Pluie* by Gaëlle Hersent (France), *Our Water, Their Water* by Félix Vigné (France), as well as *Yakuaya* by the Ecuadorian director Marcelo Castillo.

Organised from March 9 to 17 in Marseille and its area, these screenings followed by discussions contribute to raising public awareness on the water issue.

ConsEAUmmation

The Workshop on Mediterranean Environment coordinating the ConsEAUmmation project aims to bring together the public interested in the environment through practical economic and ecological solutions. ConsEAUmmation features itself as an ensemble of entertaining, practical workshops that allows knowing more about conservation and sustainable management of water. On Thursday 15 March the students of Marseille are learning day-to-day actions for saving water.

Series of proposals

The website www.solutionsforwater.org created to improve debates and reflexions during the World Water Forum, has been registering for months contributions coming from all around the world. About 1400 realistic and promising initiatives have been registered.



©Photo Helena Gonçalves

The Solutions' platform is opened to contributions throughout the Forum.

Although discussions between all participants have not started yet, a commitment seems already well engaged : the 6th World Water Forum will be, indeed, the Forum of Solutions! The platform www.solutionsforwater.org that aims at collecting proposals of concrete answers to water and sanitation issues, registers about

1.400 contributions coming from the whole world. If Europe concentrates almost half of these contributions, Near and Middle East and Asia-Oceania produce about 400, Americas (North and South) 230 and Africa 120.

These reflexions are coming from all kind of actors : experts, companies, elected representatives, donors, NGOs or simple citizens. They all accepted the constraints of the exercise: each solution, either institutional, legal, technical, financial or within the communication sector, has to be realistic and respectful of first established criterions, which are the following: adequacy with Forum's targets, a successful experimentation, a demonstrated efficiency, potential to be reproduced and to generate favourable effects on the long term or ability to convince authorities to implement it.

Contributors bring more than guideline reflexions : they detail how to fix the issues through projects they hold or that made their proof on their territories. They can be consulted in three ways : "targets", "conditions of success" or large geographical areas. The website has counted, since its launch, about 60.000 visitors coming from 189 countries and more than 312.000 pages were viewed! Counting 1.600 active members, the platform stays opened during the Forum and even after, to offer everyone the opportunity to complete the list... ●

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