

**Project no. 4CE439P3**

**URBAN\_WFTP**

**Introduction of Water Footprint (WFTP) Approach in Urban Area  
to Monitor, Evaluate and Improve the Water Use**

**WP 5.2.2 Identification of Water Footprint improvement  
objective and policy declaration**

**Vicenza Urban Water Footprint Lab**

**Start date of project: 1 November 2012**

**Duration: 25 months**

**Submission date: June 2014**

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## **1 Introduction**

This document provides a brief inauguration to the water footprint improvement action of the Vicenza Lab, as a policy declaration. More detail is provided in output WP 5.2.4 with details of the targets, the measures, risks, costs, stakeholders, expected timelines.

## **2 Identification of the improvement objective**

Based on the prior analysis of the project (especially WP3 and 4), the planned water footprint improvement of Vicenza is twofold: building / planning and environmental education, as detailed below:

- First, the project team aims to improve stormwater management in order to prevent the depletion of the aquifer and the release of rainwater into the drainage system. Specifically, the soil sealing of urbanized areas has to be reduced in order to help water infiltrate into the soil. The corresponding separation of sewerage and rainwater is also a priority.
- Second, the knowledge of the population of the water cycle and water conservation needs to be improved. Prior research highlights the knowledge gaps especially in relation to the processes of wastewater collection and treatment.

It is expected that both the blue and the green waterfootprints of the urban area will improve if the above targets are achieved.

## **3 Measures planned to be applied to improve the water footprint**

The measures to be deployed in order to achieve the objective of improving the water footprints in line with the above targets can be summarized as follows.

### **Planned actions with regard to storm water management and reduced soil sealing**

1. Meeting with the public administrators and city planning in order to disseminate monitoring results and improvement objectives (Open Day).
2. Preparing a document that contains the proposed adjustment to the planning and building regulations, aimed at encouraging a reduction of water consumption and reuse of rainwater where possible, for both private and public buildings. The paper will also consider proposals for a gradual removal of stormwater not contaminated by drainage systems through the reduction of impervious surface for new pedestrian / biking trails or parking areas.
3. Proposal to the political institutions of the City of approving the draft document.
4. Census of private wells for the purpose of future controls and persuasion actions aiming at owners of private wells to stop the habit of continuous water extraction and related monitoring activities.
5. UWFP method dissemination on the website of City of Vicenza and Acque Vicentine to highlight the necessary indicators for monitoring.

### **Planned action with regard to education**

1. Presentation of Model C results and SWOT analysis and improvement targets during a public event (Festambiente).
2. Collection during the event, of names and e-mail contacts of people who intend to adhere to the "Monitoring Plan" (to be contacted at a later date).
3. Redaction of a summary document to be sent to users who have collaborated in the data collection that contains both results and indications of good practices to be implemented in order to reduce water consumption and improve the quality of the water returned to the environment.
4. Redaction of a dedicated page on the website of Acquevicentine and the City of Vicenza containing the results, good practices and a specific section on the treatment that came up from the analyzed data, showing the weak point of knowledge of the user.
5. Preparing a model for data collection that allows the users to monitor their water consumption.

6. Preparing a document containing general information about the project, its objectives, monitoring results, best practices and the invitation to participate in the improvement program, to be disseminated to colleagues of the companies involved in the project (City of Vicenza, Acquevicentine, Centro Idrico di Novoledo, CPV, University of Padova).
7. Sending invitation to users who have given their consent to participation in the improvement program (Festambiente - previous questionnaires).
8. Coincident with the lessons provided in the training program for students, an invitation to participate in the improvement plan will be extended.