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COFER WASH: Consortium for Education and Research in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Summary

The COFER-WASH cluster is a new collaborative network of seven academic institutions in Switzerland (Eawag-Sandec, UNIBAS-Swiss TPH, UNINE, FHNW, FHO, PHZG and SUPSI) each active in the sector of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) since decades, both in the education and the research sectors. The added values of this COFER are the representation of different linguistic areas of Switzerland (German, French and Italian), the coverage of all different types of Swiss academic institutions and their respective educational and practical expertise related to WASH both in Switzerland and in developing countries.

Access to clean water and improved sanitation are preconditions to survival and good health of people and thus critical to sustainable development. Educational approaches of good quality, taking into account local habits and prior knowledge of students and well-connected to local curricula play an important role in conveying relevant knowledge and skills in the field of WASH.

The COFER-WASH encompasses institutions committed with research, innovation, education and training in the sector of water, sanitation and hygiene, mainly targeting the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) #6 that is to "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all" and SDGs 4 and 3. The COFER-WASH will adhere to the 11 principles of the Commission for Research Partnership with Developing Countries (KFPE). A key feature of COFERWASH is that it fosters a solution-oriented holistic set of operations designed to achieve the aforementioned SDGs.