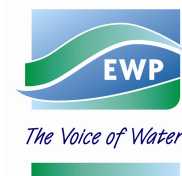


EWP Water Stewardship Program

Public Consultation of the Water Stewardship Standard (version 0.1)



Executive Summary

At present, water is a natural resource that is strongly discussed. Water is getting scarce, in particular in Southern parts of Europe, and it is crucial to keep this resource available on long-term and in terms of quality and quantity. Not only for environmental but also for economical and social reasons.

Together with its partners from business, agriculture, civil society and with support of public authorities, EWP established the Water Stewardship Program in 2008. This program offers concrete response on how to implement and evaluate Sustainable Water Management (SWM) within a local context: based on their water accountancy results, water users receive tools to mitigate their impacts and to establish an efficient operational water management cycle. With that, the Water Stewardship scheme creates positive incentives to change behavior and practices, and concretely supports the actual goal of the European Commission to achieve “Resource Efficiency”.

Meanwhile, the first draft of the Water Stewardship Standard has been edited by the EWP Water Stewardship Program.

This draft standard (version 0.1) represents a first working document elaborated within a multi-stakeholder process including EWP, its partners and the participants involved in four Working Groups established to identify the sector specific needs in agriculture, industry, tourism and urban areas. So far, this document has been reviewed by selected experts.

About the standard

This standard has been shaped within the Water Stewardship Program in order to:

- Define the requirements of Sustainable Water Management in a comprehensive and concrete way
- Provide guidance to water users in Europe on how to become a good water steward
- Create the basis for an objective reporting, certification and communication scheme for Water Stewardship
- Initiate, support and bring forward the discussion within Europe and within the global Water Stewardship movement.

It aims to be pragmatic and implementable by a broad range of water users while still respecting the complexity of impacts linked to water use and therefore:

- Comprises social and economic aspects
- Is valid on global scale but based on local assessment with focus on Europe
- Is valid across sectors.

This standard includes:

- A general outline of principles and criteria of Sustainable Water Management
- A table of potential indicators which may be used by reporting organizations to evaluate and certify the degree of compliance with the referring criteria
- A glossary with referring definitions.