



**GWOPA**  
Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance



# Introduction to GWOPA and WOP SEE

Promotional workshop 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Anne Bousquet

## OUTLINE

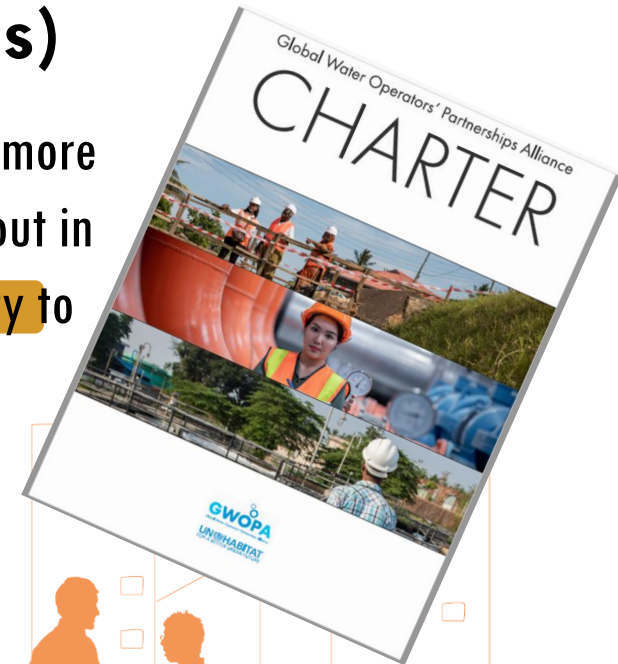
- 1. Concept of WOPs and GWOPA ´s mandate
- 2. How WOPs work
- 3. Financing WOPs
- 4 GWOPA ´s tools and approach
- 5. GWOPA´s membership
- 6. Towards the establishment of a WOP SEE platform



# 1. The concept of WOP and GWOPA's mandate

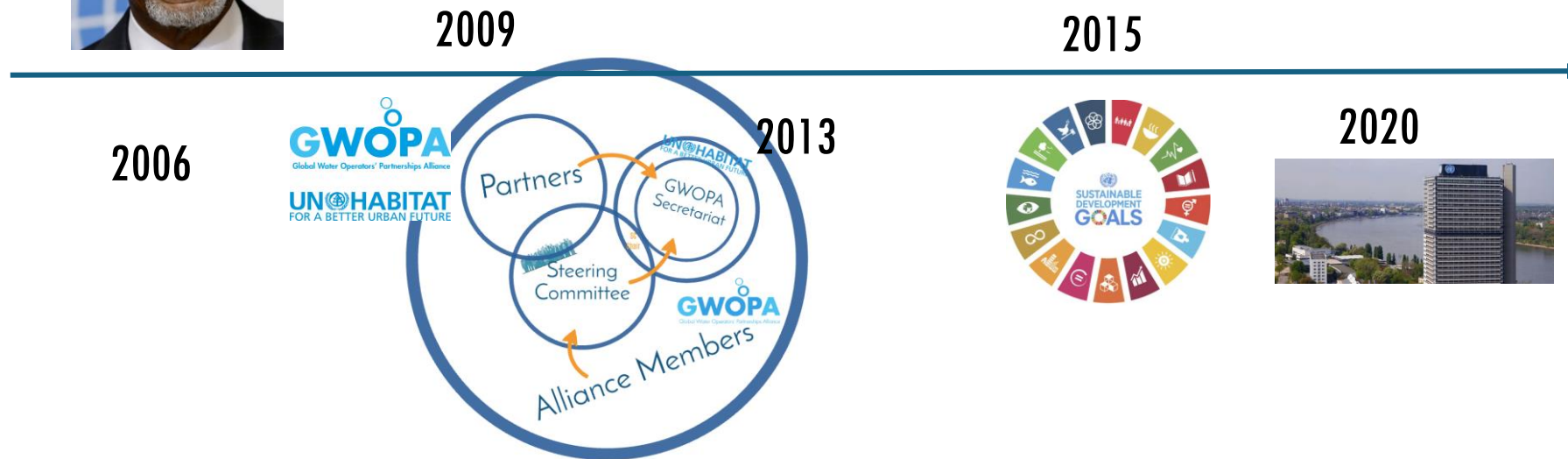
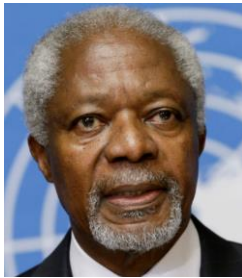
## Water Operators' Partnerships (WOPs)

**Not-for-Profit Partnerships** between two or more water and/or sanitation **operators** carried out in the objective of strengthening their **capacity to sustainably** provide quality services to all.



# A Brief History of WOPs and GWOPA at UN-Habitat

Modest improvements in public water operators will have immense impacts on global provision of services. Operators are effective at helping one another improve. Let's help them help one another!





# What is GWOPA?



The global network of over 100 members is hosted by UN-Habitat, advancing the principles of peer-to-peer utility partnerships, capacity development, and knowledge exchange within the water and sanitation



Find out more about [GWOPA](#)



Enable WOPs to be well-known, widely supported, and funded



Free membership for sector organizations and institutions & individuals



Not-for-profit

Advocates for WOPs as a peer support exchange on a not-for-profit basis



Tool for localizing the SDGs

# GWOPA Governance



## GWOPA STEERING COMMITTEE

Chair (ED UN-Habitat), Vice Chair

- Elected institutional GWOPA members reflecting Assembly constituencies, serving a term of four (4) years.
- Non-elected members/observers: WOPs platforms with active MoU, Donors
- Meets annually



Institutional Members elect their constituency SC representative

## GWOPA SECRETARIAT (UN-Habitat, Bonn, Germany)

Day-to-day administration and implementation of GWOPA's mandate.

## GWOPA ASSEMBLY

Chair, Vice Chair

- Two (2) types of members of the GWOPA Assembly:
  - Institutional Members (categorized into constituencies); and
  - Individual Members.
- Only Institutional Members participate in decision making and are eligible to serve in various Committees.
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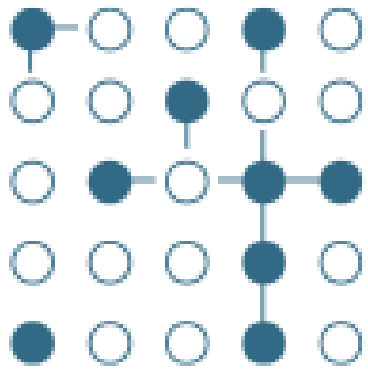


elects



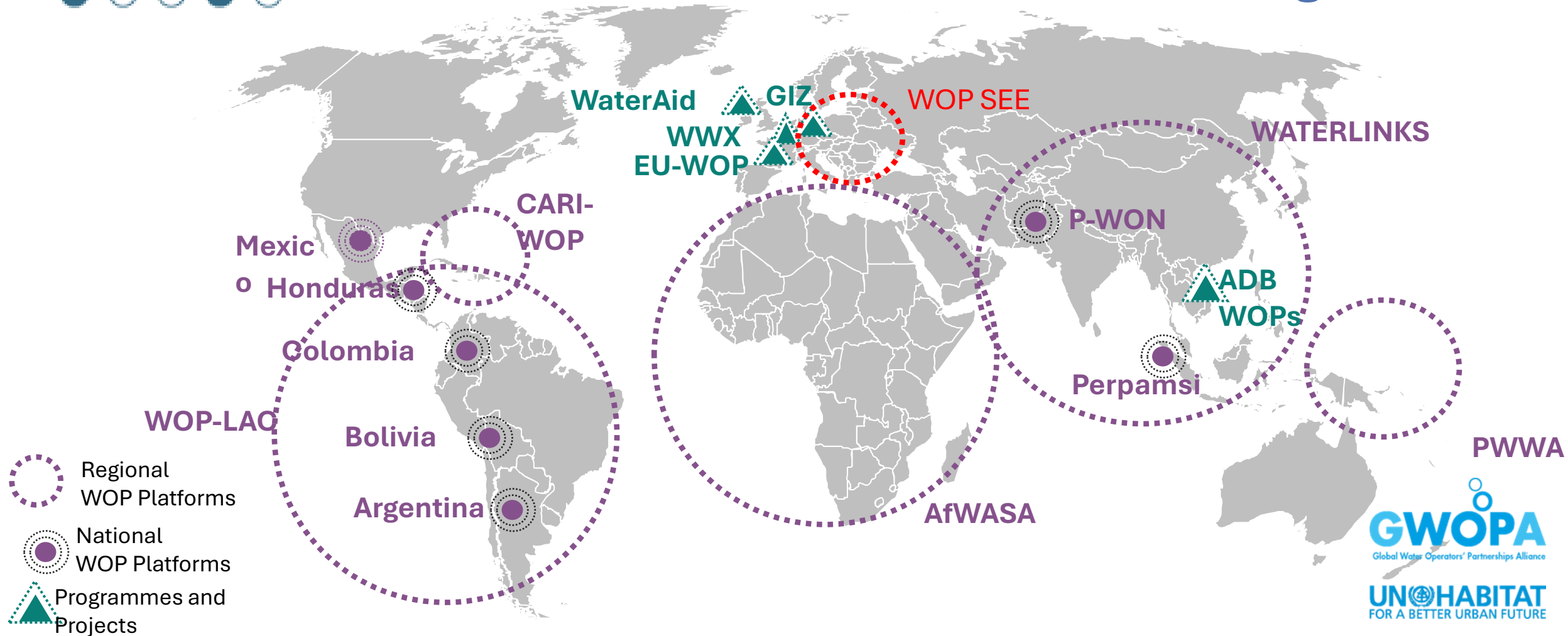
Integrity  
Committee

Election  
Committee



# Mobilize Alliance

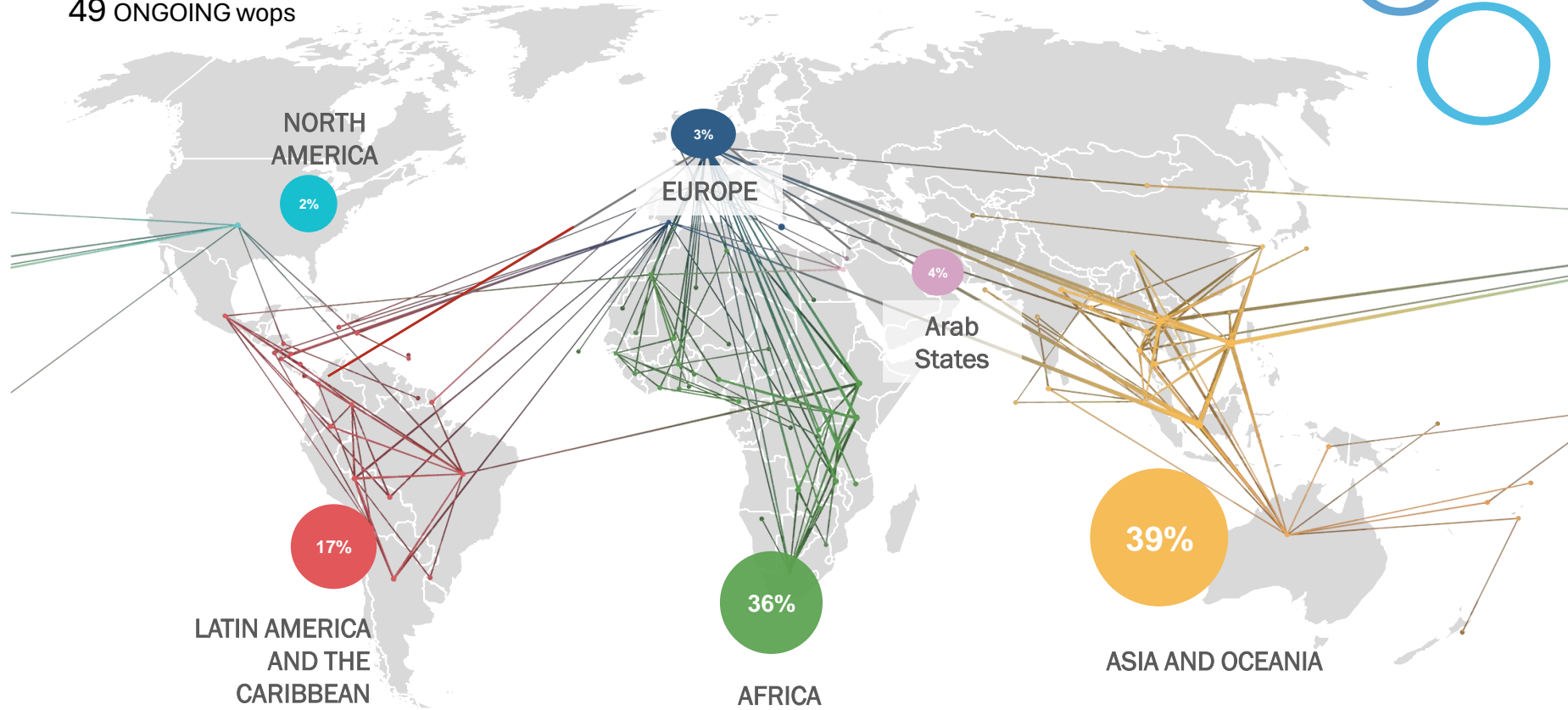
## WOP Platforms and Programmes



# WOPs Globally

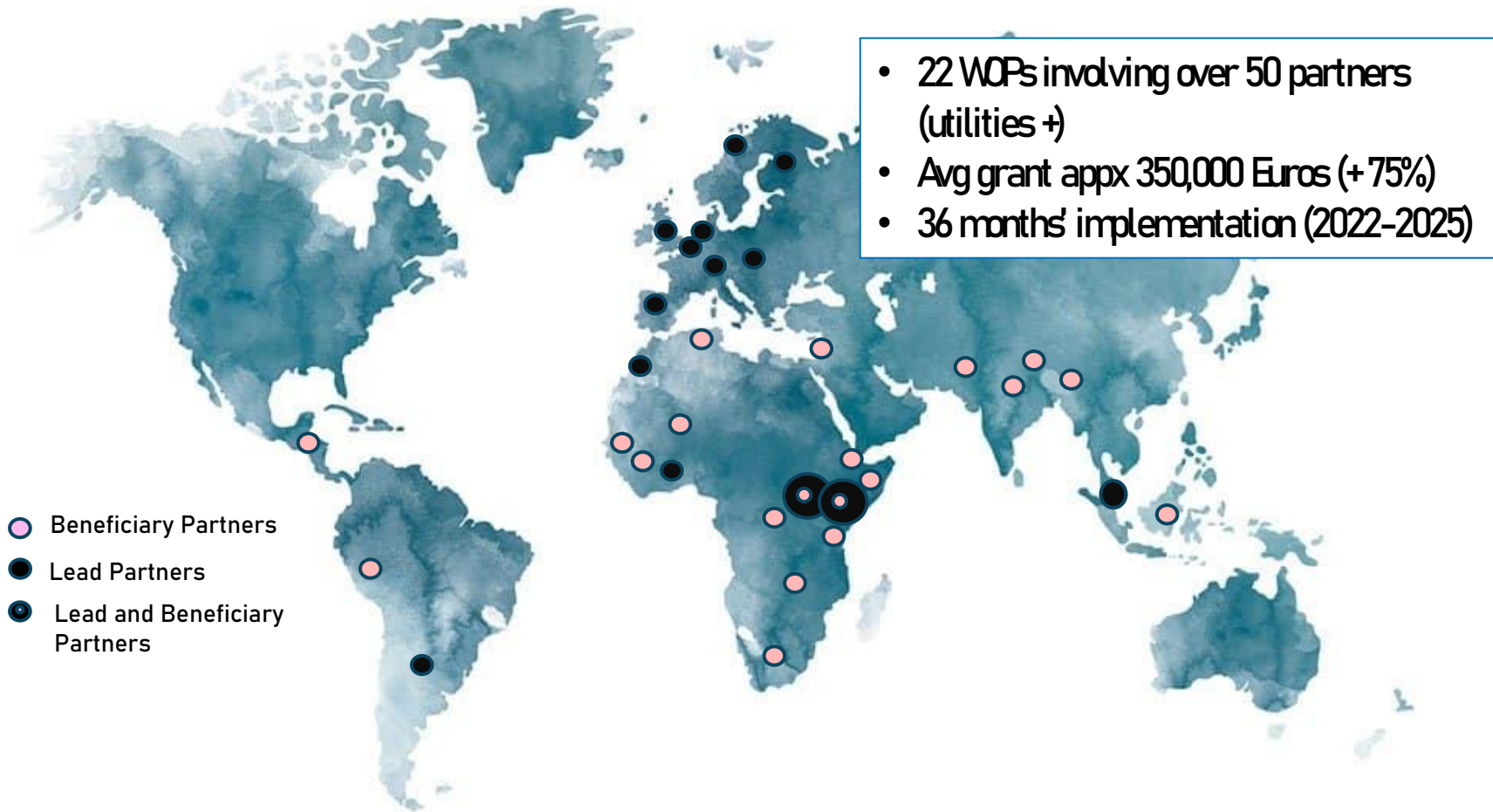
440 WOPs Recorded on the global practice database

49 ONGOING wops





# EU-WOP Projects



## **2. HOW WOPS WORK**

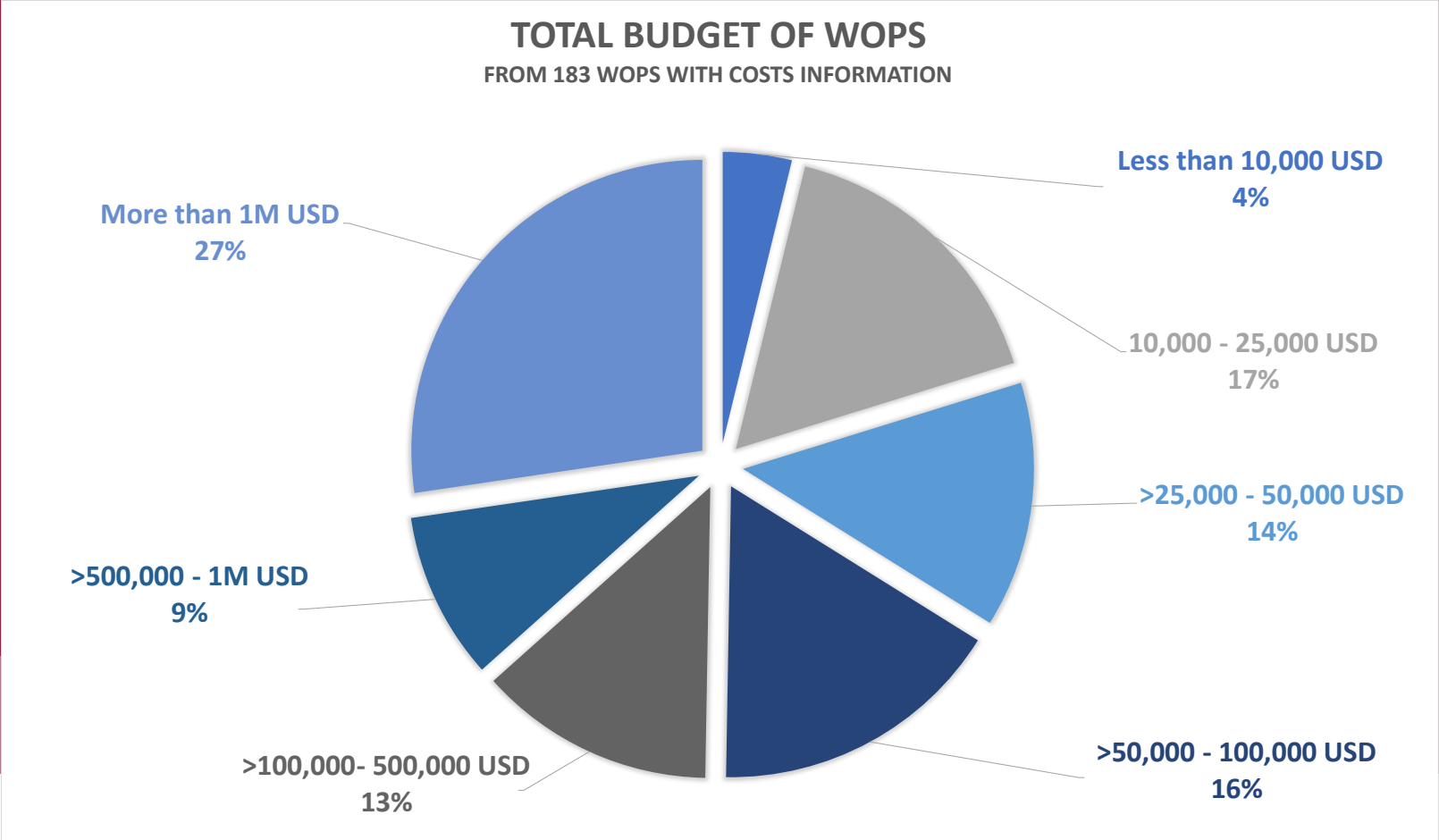
# Typical work plan of WOP over 2 year

1. **Diagnosis mission** (1 week)  
selection of short term and medium term themes for SIP  
**STAPS**
1. **Benchmarking** mission and good practice exposure visit at the mentor's premises (1 week)
2. **Training** mission by the mentor at the mentee's
3. **Training** and monitoring visit by the mentor at the mentee's
4. **Training** and monitoring visit by the mentor at the mentee's
5. Monitoring and validation of the SIP mission



# 3. FINANCING WOPS

## WOP Budgets / Direct Costs



**53%**

Did not report costs

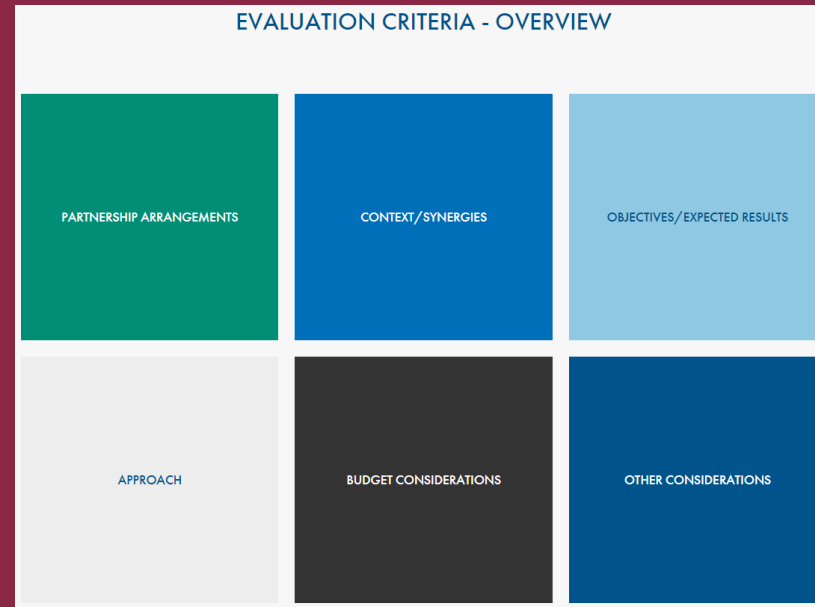
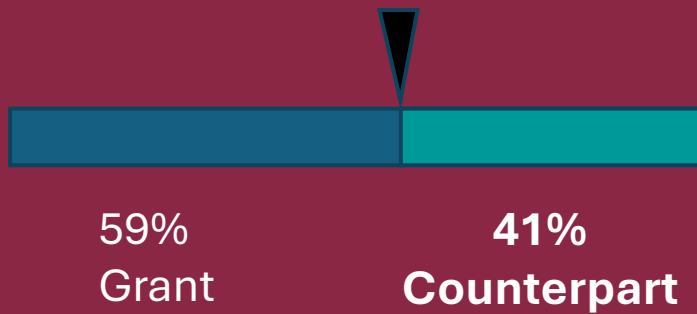


Modalities	Examples
Legislative Support	For Mentors to support WOP costs directly, such as in NL, FR, and FI (1% legislation / solidarity mechanisms / decentralised cooperation mechanism)
National WOP-Dedicated Programs	NL WaterWorX, DE Utility Platform
Donor WOP-Supportive Programs	ES AECID/FCAS, UK WaterAid, FR ADB, EU EIB, BMGF RASOP, OPEC Fund, USAID
WOP-Dedicated TA Funds	Such as those established by ADB (Trust Fund) and IADB (Tech. Coop.)
Multinational WOP-Dedicated Programmes	EU WOP Programme

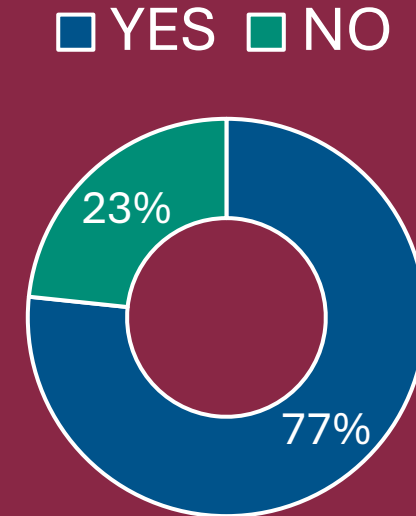
# EU WOP Programme

High leverage and new funding sources

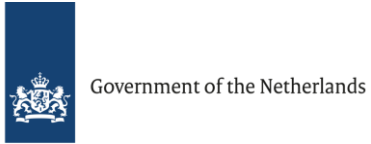
EU-WOPs:



% of proposals identifying links to investment in Phase II



- 4-year initiative, led by GWOPA, funded by the European Commission
- Between USD 250,000 and 450,000 available for each WOPs
- Selection Criteria aligned to GWOPA vision



Government of the Netherlands



BILL & MELINDA  
GATES foundation



WSUP  
Water & Sanitation  
for the Urban Poor



Source: GWOPA  
Database  
List not exhaustive

# WOPS LINKAGES WITH FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES



## Project Preparation

Scoping and Project Sizing (Incl. PIP). Feasibility studies, Engineering documents. Safeguards



## Implementation

Technical Assistance training, Implementation of new management models, provide input to supervisions and mid-term eval, production of studies for further projects  
Institutional development



## Post-Implementation

Mentoring on operations for new infrastructure, capacity-building, training for up-scale of activities, maintain asset





# To be explored....



## **WOP-Dedicated Funds**

Allow for flexibility needed by WOP partners, Separation of WOP and Investment funding, Introduce desired WOPs features. Incentivize financiers to pay attention to WOPs

## **Topic-Specific Funds**

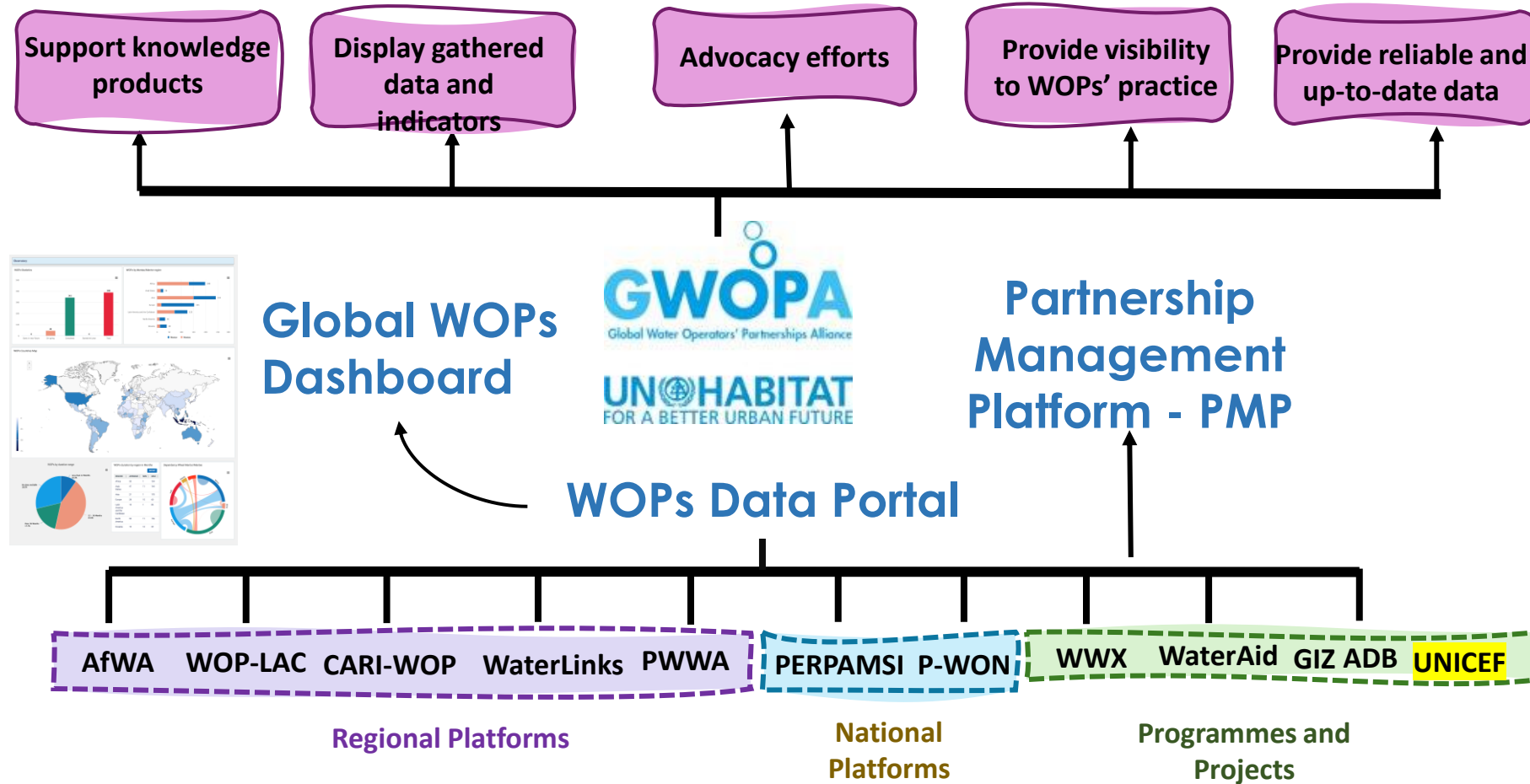
Such as Green, Climate, Sustainability, Sanitation Funds.  
Will depend on the ability of WOPs partners to design WOPs addressing to those specific topics (eligibility)

## **Utility Funds with TA Component(s)**

E.g. the Urban Water Catalyst Fund (UWCF)

# **4. GWOPA Tools and approach**

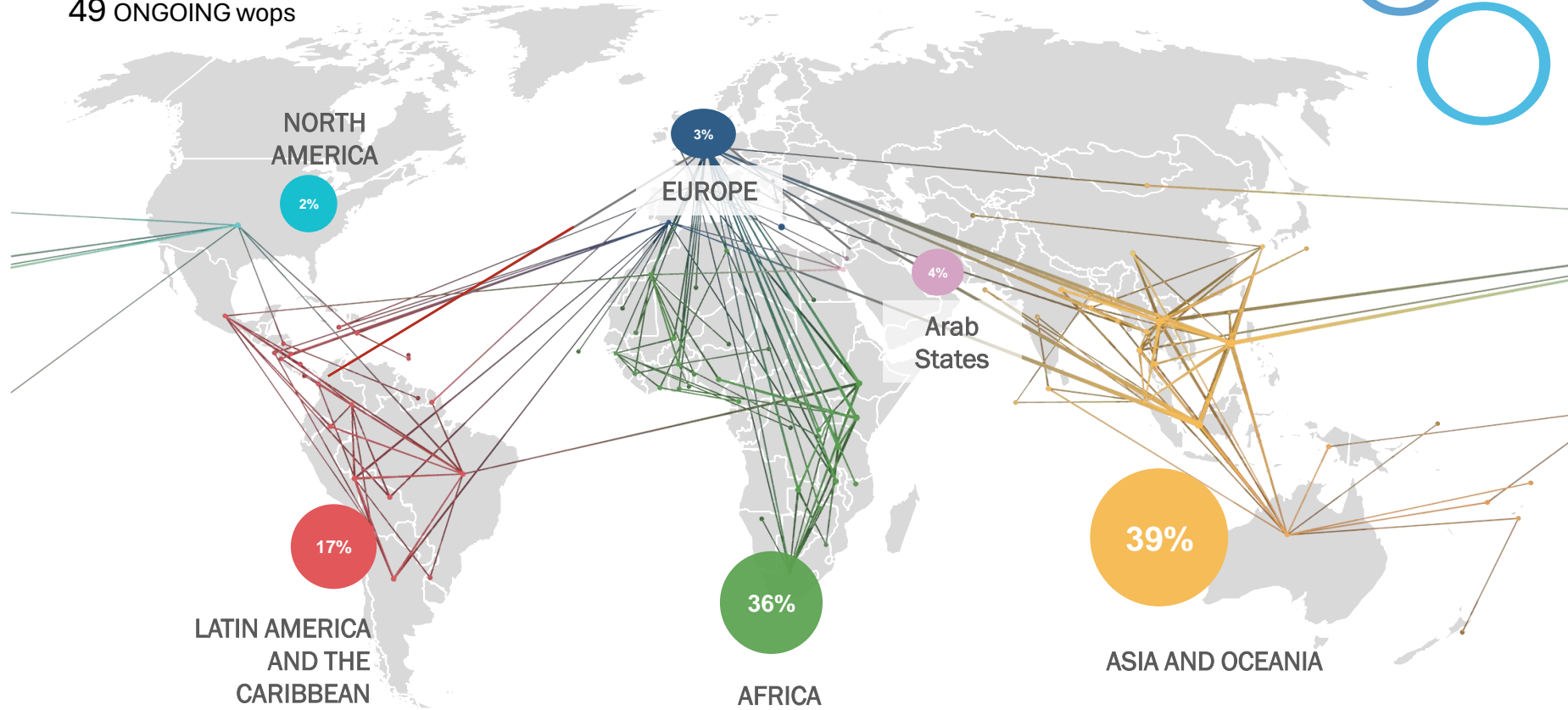
# WOPs Data Portal / Global Observatory



# WOPs Globally

440 WOPs Recorded on the global practice database

49 ONGOING wops





440 # WOPs

713 # Operators

348 # Mentees

157 # Mentors

47 # Operators that have been both mentees and mentors

93 # Mentees more than once

64 # Mentors more than once



Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

6.1  
119

6.2  
67

6.3  
83

6.4  
111

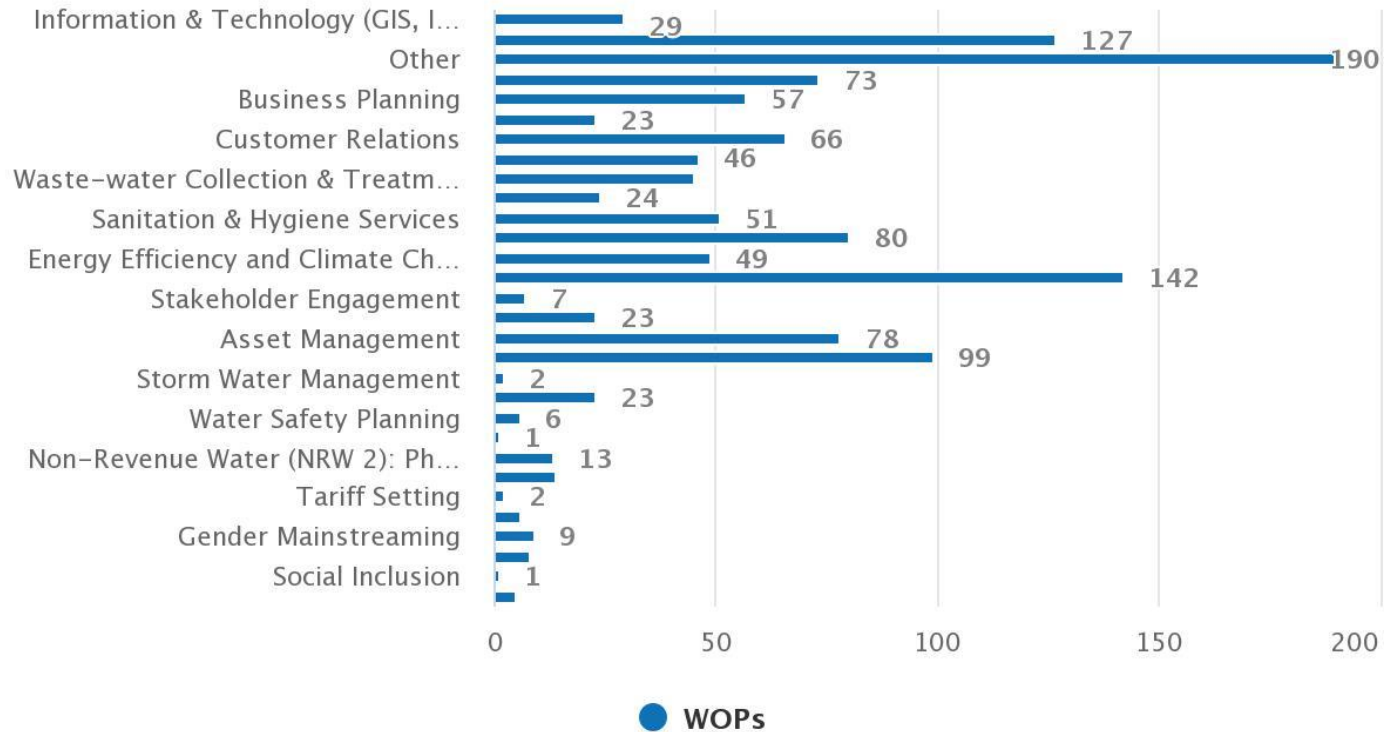
6.5  
11

6.6  
9

6.b  
8

Other  
0

### WOPs by thematic area



# GWOPA Tools

## II. GWOPA Community of Practice

(9) Global WOPs Community | Gr x +

wopsccommunity.workplace.com/groups/767404783453590

Search Workplace

**Home** Create

- News Feed
- Knowledge Library
- See More

**Groups**

- CoP Sanitation, Wastew... 1
- EU-WOP Programme 1
- Global WOPs Community** 1
- CoP Asset Management
- WOPs Community Coordin...
- GWOPA (COVID19) Water... 2
- Create Group

**Global WOPs Community**

Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance  
UN HABITAT  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

**Global WOPs Community**

Official · Open group · 796 members · Welcome to global WOP... See more

Add People

Posts Rooms Files More

Search group...

Write something...

Live video Achievement Image/video

**About**

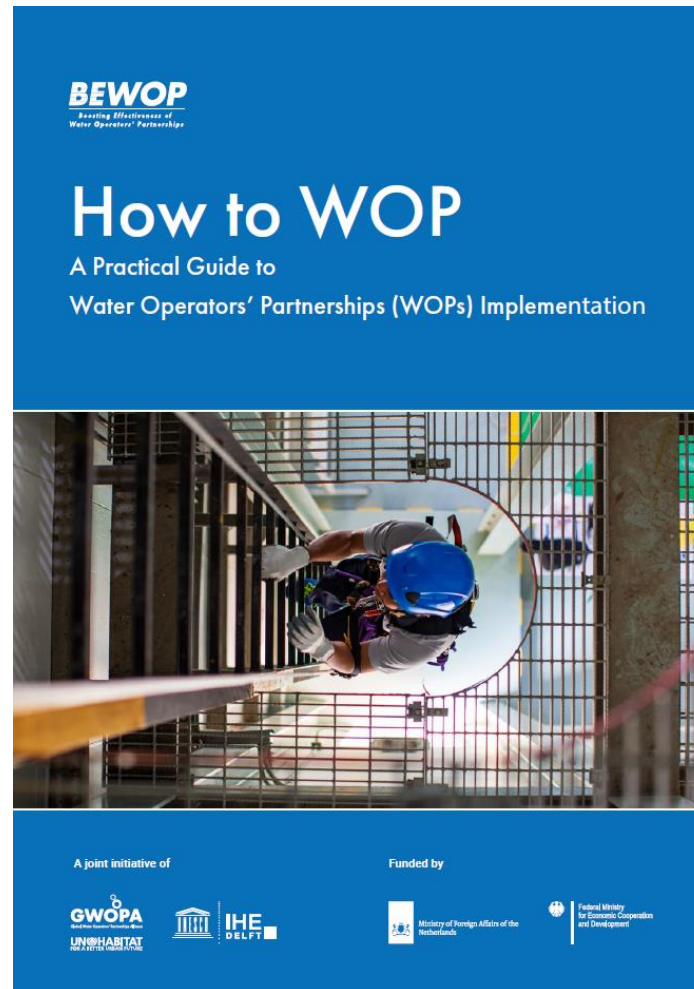
Description

Welcome to global WOPs online Community of Practitioners!

In this group you can find all members of the Community... See more

Chats

# How to WOP manuals



**Part 1: Prepare for a WOP**

**Part 2: Structure a WOP**

**Part 3: Implement a WOP**

# How to WOP Part 1 – Online course

## Step 1 - Identify expectations and motivations



The slide titled "Supporting tool - Typical motivations for doing a WOP" is divided into two columns. The left column, "CONTRIBUTING TO GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES AND/OR TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES", lists: Sustainable Development Goals, New Urban Agenda, Paris Climate Agreement, and National policy goals. The right column, "ADDRESS A PRESSING CHALLENGE THAT THE UTILITY IS FACING", lists: Reducing NRW, Addressing drinking water safety by implementing water safety plans, New mandates (e.g., nationwide sanitation services), and Coping with the impact of climate change.

### Quiz - Step 1

Take a quiz to test your knowledge of step 1. If you do not manage to answer correctly all the questions, we advise you to watch the video once again before re-taking the quiz.

## Self-paced course hosted on The Global WOPs Community

~ 2-3 hours

## Step 4 - Factoring in contextual elements



The slide titled "Example of supporting structures for WOPs" shows a complex diagram of the "Global Network of WOPs Portals". It features a central hub with various regional and thematic nodes, including "Africa", "Asia", "Europe", "Latin America", and "North America", each with associated text and icons. A large play button is overlaid on the diagram.

### Quiz - Step 4

Take a quiz to test your knowledge of step 4. If you do not manage to answer correctly all the questions, we advise you to watch the video once again before re-taking the quiz.

# How to WOP manual outline part II - Structure a WOP

## **Step 1: Assessing the Mentee**

- 1.1. Gathering Information
- 1.2 Conducting a Problem and Opportunity Analysis

## **Step 2: Planning the WOP**

- 2.1 Defining Goals and Working Areas
- 2.2 Determining Expected Results and High-Level Activity Streams
- 2.3 Determining Resource and Budget Estimations
- 2.4 Defining Roles and Responsibilities
- 2.5 Defining a Schedule
- 2.6 Defining Communication Channels
- 2.7 Determining a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
- 2.8 Formulating Initial Risk Management Considerations

## **Step 3: Formalize the WOP Project Proposal or Agreement**

- Dashboard
- WOPs
- Organizations
- Indiv. Members
- Contacts
- Reports
- Administration
- PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT PLATFORM
- PMP Projects

**World Waternet, The Netherlands-SOMAGEP and SOMAPEP, Mali**

Africa, Mali, Bamako

Starts	End	Duration in Months	Reporting Frequency
March 06, 2022	March 06, 2025	36	<b>Biannually</b>

Partnership to build capacity at SOMAGEP SA & SOMAPEP SA to attract co-funding for infrastructural investments, and reduce NRW in three cities in Mali, contributing to improving access to drinking water for 295.000 people.

### Years Breakdown

Year	From	To
Year 1	Mar 06, 2022	Mar 05, 2023
Year 2	Mar 06, 2023	Mar 05, 2024
Year 3	Mar 06, 2024	Mar 05, 2025
Year 4	Mar 06, 2025	Mar 06, 2025

Organization **Water and/or Sanitation Operators**

#	Name	Role	Region	Country
1	Office National de L'Electricité et de L'Eau Potable de Morocco	Mentor	Arab States	Morocco
2	World Waternet	Lead Mentor	Europe	Netherlands
3	Société Malienne pour la Gestion de l'Eau Potable Société Anonyme d'Etat	Mentee	Africa	Mali
4	Société Malienne de Patrimoine de l'Eau Potable SA	Mentee	Africa	Mali

- ### Working Areas
- Water distribution
  - Infrastructure development and investments

# Planning your WOP





# Global WOPs Congresses

GWOPA General Assembly

3d Nov 2024

Cairo, Egypt

**Elections! SCM 1 seat**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Global WOPs

Congress **2025**



WORLD CONFERENCE  
CENTER BONN

## 5. GWOPA's MEMBERSHIP



### MEMBERSHIP



GWOPA membership is open to

**all institutions and individuals**

who have an interest in water,  
sanitation and related issues...



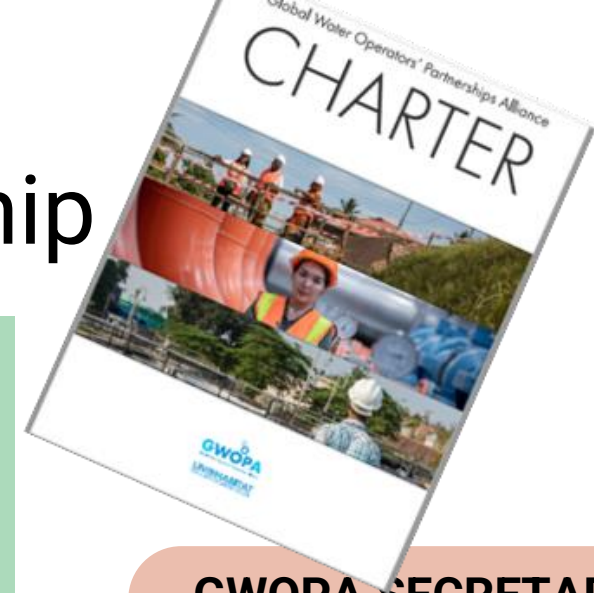
**Strictly non-commercial entities**

Several types of constituencies

1. Public water and sanitation utilities;
2. Community water and sanitation operators and cooperatives and their associations;
3. Private water and sanitation utilities;
4. Associations of water and sanitation utilities;
5. Civil society organizations;
6. Worker and Trade unions;
7. Non-governmental organizations;
8. United Nations organizations;
9. International multi-stakeholder platforms/network organizations;
10. Development cooperation agencies;
11. Development finance institutions;
12. National and sub-national governments (including Public Asset Holding Companies);
13. Research and learning institutions;
14. Water and sanitation regulators.



# GWOPA Governance and membership



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elects



Integrity  
Committee

Election  
Committee

# Benefits of becoming a GWOPA's member

GWOPA membership is free and open to institutions and individuals

interested in water, sanitation, and related issues and who are committed to the overarching objectives and principles of GWOPA.



Access the Membership webpage



### Peer learning

Peer learning/mentorship opportunities between utilities through Water Operator Partnerships (WOPs)



### Knowledge network

Network and knowledge exchange with a global WOPs community through Communities of Practice



### Global Exposure

Participate in the WOPs Congress  
Give global visibility to your engagement for SDGs



### Policy shaping

Contribute to partner and UN policy processes addressing the work of utilities



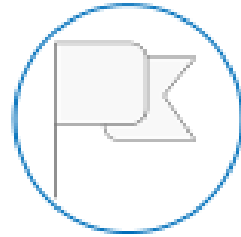
### Governance

Form part of GWOPA's governance structure: GWOPA Assembly, International Steering Committee

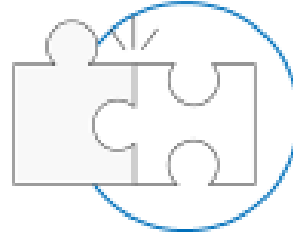
# WHAT GWOPA EXPECTS FROM MEMBERS



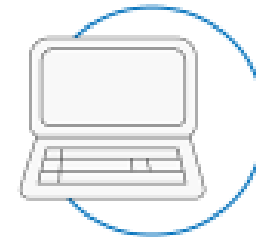
Fully embrace the GWOPA Charter, guiding principles and Code of Conduct



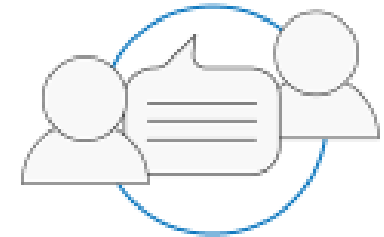
Convey GWOPA's messages and promote the WOP practice/ advocate/ Bring others on board of the WOP family



Engage in discussions during GWOPA Assembly and on other opportunities



Contribute knowledge (sessions, webinars, data collection, documentation, articles...)



Engage in WOPs as mentors or mentees, or both

# HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

Membership registration is quick and  
**free of charge**

All applications for GWOPA membership shall  
be made online through GWOPA's website:

[www.gwopa.org/join](http://www.gwopa.org/join)

For the institutional membership, download the  
application pack, complete and have it signed  
by an authorised representative of your  
organization.

If admissible, the GWOPA Secretariat will inform  
the applicant via email that their application  
has been accepted.



- ✓ Welcome letter from the Head of GWOPA Secretariat
- ✓ Package of key material



# 6. TOWARDS A NEW WOP PLATFORM IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE



Institutional Members
Athens Water and Sewerage Company (EYDAP), Greece
KP-VODOVOD ad Prnjavor, BiH
JP-VODOVOD/KANALIZACIJA-d.o.o, RBiH
KP "Buducnost" a.d. Laktasi, RBiH
PE Water Supply and Sewerage Skopje, N. Macedonia
Vilin Lug, Serbia
Vodovod i kanalizacija, Subotica, Serbia
Tirana Water and Sewerage Utility (UKT), Tirana, Albania
DOO Regionalni Vodovod Crnogorsko Primorje, Budva, Montenegro
Budapest Waterworks Private Company Limited by Shares, Budapest, Hungary



# Definition and role of a WOP Platform

## Definition of a WOP Platform


- 'national, sub-regional or regional public utilities' association with a not-for-profit status;
- or other type of organizations, networks, or institutions with a not-for-profit status in which operators represent the majority of members/partners;
- Their main mandate or activity should be the coordination and implementation of WOPs in their respective areas, in full compliance with the GWOPA Charter and its guiding principles

## Role

- Support, jointly with GWOPA, the WOP practice in their respective countries and regions;
- Support GWOPA's efforts in developing a global knowledge and repository of good WOPs practices, fueled by the local practitioners, and made available globally;
- Articulate and coordinate, jointly with GWOPA, advocacy and communications efforts, including the organization and/or contribution to relevant events at any geographical level;
- Sit as an observer in the Alliance Steering Committee, in compliance with the role of national, sub-regional or regional WOP platform;

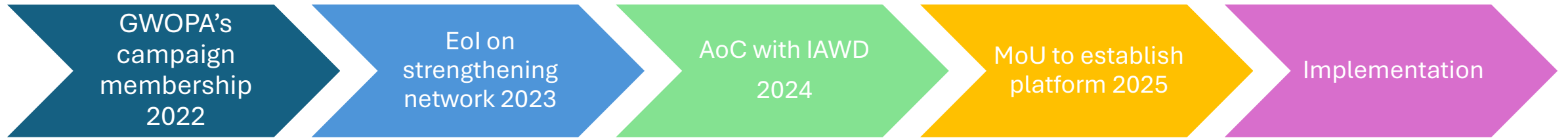
# Expected activities

minimum

- 
- Capacity building activities and exchanges
    - Workshops – CoP –study tours – Webinars etc...
  - Matchmaking for WOPs
  - Coordination and implementation of WOPs (using GWOPA's tools)
  - Fundraising
  - Collaboration with GWOPA on documentation, communications, governance etc.
  - All activities listed in the definition

Fully  
operational

# Steps to establish WOP SEE platform 2024 - 2025









Thank you very much!

Хвала вам

köszönöm

Hvala vam

ευχαριστώ

Благодаря ти

[www.gwopa.org](http://www.gwopa.org)