

Capacity Development Consortium



Capacity Development Consortium (CDCm)

ABSTRACT

The Capacity Development Consortium workstream aims to develop a global Consortium of providers offering capacity development related to freshwater quality monitoring and management and to provide a platform through which those seeking capacity development in specific topics related to water quality monitoring and management, and/or delivered in a particular style or format, can identify and engage with providers or collaborators. It is envisaged that the platform will be useful for national water agencies, water utilities, local governments, transboundary water bodies, NGOs, aid agencies, educational providers, water training institutes and researchers.

The CDCm hopes to achieve:

- Greater co-ordination and collaboration in the provision of capacity development related to water quality monitoring and management, especially for developing countries.
- Increased capacity in developing countries to monitor and assess water quality through more effective monitoring networks that meet required information objectives and generate meaningful and reliable data.
- Greater global awareness of the potential of different approaches to monitoring water quality in order to provide information that is useful for water resources management.
- Greater understanding in developing countries of the impacts of human pressures on water quality and how to assess them and evaluate the success of any future mitigation efforts.
- Water quality data that enable more effective and targeted management policy and actions.

In the long term, the increased generation of reliable water quality data resulting from this project will enable the targets of SDG 6 to be met, particularly an improvement in ambient water quality as set out in SDG 6.3. It will also provide data to feed into the current and future world water quality assessments.

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UPDATE ON PROGRESS

During 2021, the UNEP GEMS/Water Capacity Development Centre (CDC), working closely with the larger UNEP GEMS/Water team, continued to drive and bolster support for capacity development in ambient water quality monitoring and assessment across the globe under the auspices of the CDCm workstream. The included continued development and implementation of the WWQA Capacity Development Consortium (CDCm), finalizing core membership and terms of reference of the CDCm, and coordinating discussions on the key requirements for the CDCm platform. During 2021, this centered on continued identification and engagement with a wide variety of potential partners, providers, and stakeholders across a range of different platforms, communication, networking and outreach activities on capacity development around water quality monitoring and assessment (newsletters, websites, social media engagement, public engagement activities and talks etc.), progress reporting, staff recruitment, scientific and general publication, participation in secured European funding projects, and international, European and National funding proposals during this period.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Provision and greater understanding: In 2021 the CDC launched a range of free (open access) water quality short courses. Covering key aspects of ambient water quality monitoring and assessment, these courses have been developed by the UNEP GEMS/Water CDC in conjunction UNEP and are hosted on UNEP's eLearning platform (eLearning.unep.org). They are designed to be accessible to anyone across the world with an internet connection, and with an interest in water quality.
- Increased Capacity and greater understanding: 2021 has also seen the development and launch of a virtual Summer School training format for water quality assessment targeted at a global audience. Participants from 10 different countries took part in the initial summer school (See Graphic 1). Each participant received a field kit to their location order to take measurements, instructions, lectures and talks, as well access to key expertise and live Q&A sessions with experts across key areas of water quality assessment, sensing and biological monitoring.
- An extensive list of institutions and potential partners with capacity to develop and deliver a diverse range of education courses around capacity development for water quality monitoring and assessment for different world regions was compiled and shortlisted in 2021. This network will be contacted to seek further engagement with the CDCm in 2022.
- Coordination, Collaboration and Networking: The UNEP GEMS/Water CDC Team also collaborated with and met with many different existing partners across the globe in 2021. Highlights include attending the European Erasmus Water programme meetings and training events in Valencia, Spain in 2021: Partners include VET centres, post-secondary institutes (ITS), Higher Education Institutes and public companies from Italy, Canada, Ireland, Albania and Spain.
- Increased Capacity: Some 22 new students were recruited to the third intake of the PGDip and MSc programme in water quality monitoring for September 2021. Some 40 additional students trained on short courses during 2021, and a successful recruitment drive for short courses to start in January 2022 (See Table 1)

GRAPHICS AND TABLES

Intake Date	Course						Intake Total
	EV6012	EV6013	EV6014	EV6015	EV6016	EV6017	
Jan-19	1	1	6	3			11
Sep-19	1	1	2	1	4	3	12
Jan-20	23	0	25	3	2	3	56
Sep-20	6	5	6	7	3	2	29
Jan-21	1	2	5	3	5	4	20
Oct-21							20
TOTAL	32	9	44	17	14	12	148
Jan-22 (provisional)	7	1	13	8	8	5	

Table 1. Numbers of individuals registered for the short on-line courses in 2021 in comparison at the UN GEMS/Water CDC.



Graphic 1. Location of participants in the virtual Summer School which was developed and piloted by the UNEP GEMS/Water CDC in 2021.



Graphic 2. A selection of highlights from 2021 for the UNEP GEMS/Water CDC, including course launches, graduations, and training activities.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

Outlook for future growth of the CDCm workstream is good, with very active engagement and discussion around capacity development provision initiatives across a range of channels, active collaborator and stakeholder engagement and participation on WWQA CDCm formation, and diverse and numerous scientific and non-technical publications and events. Next steps involve implementation of the CDCm platform to facilitate active engagement between providers and those seeking capacity development products.