Decentralized cooperation: a way to finance necessary investments to improve equitable access to water and sanitation

Adeline Mateus
France, pS-Eau

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INTRO. Towards a favorable legislative framework

* 1950s: **Twinnings for peace** between French and German towns
* 1970s: **Twinnings for development** between African and French towns
* 1982: **Decentralisation laws in France**
* 1992: **Decentralized cooperation laws**
* 2005: **Oudin-Santini law**
* 2007: **Thiollière law**
* 2014: **Development and solidarity law**
I/ Decentralised cooperation laws

KEY POINTS

* Complementarity and independence with national government development aid
* Long-term partnerships
* Peer-to-peer exchanges
* Mobilises various stakeholders/competencies from the French local authority
* Leverage effect
* Soft support and subsidies
II/ Oudin-Santini law (1%)  

**TWO MAJOR COMPONENTS**

- Allows municipalities, public institutions of inter-municipal cooperation (EPCI) of all sizes and syndicates in charge of drinking water and sanitation service delivery to **mobilise up to 1% of the resources allocated to the budgets of these services to carry out cooperation actions with foreign territorial authorities**.

- Allows that **water agencies may undertake international cooperation in the fields of water and sanitation** (also up to 1% of its resources), in compliance with France's international commitments and with the approval of the Basin Committee.
II/ Oudin-Santini law (1%)

It also states that:

Private operators can also implement the 1% mechanism if this is included in the legal agreement (contract) that delegated water services from the local and regional governments to the private operator.

The implementation of the 1% mechanism for water is a political choice.
WHAT’S NEW

* Enlarges the competencies of river basin agencies and Water and Sanitation syndicates, who could not finance international actions before

* Enlarges the financial opportunities for local authorities, who already had the right to finance international solidarity actions, but on their general budgets only

* Enables local authorities to mobilize the competencies of their Water and Sanitation technical services on international actions
WHAT CAN BE FINANCED

A broad definition: “Resources mobilised through this mechanism can be used to finance actions that promote access to water and sanitation services”. It can include:

* investments in hard infrastructure
* capacity-building
* technical assistance
* water ecosystem
* services protection
III/ Application of the laws

In 2017
30,5 million euros
* Oudin-Santini law: 27,1 million euros
* Thiollière law: 3,4 millions euros

79 local and regional governments applied the Oudin-Santini law
88 applied the Thiollière law
7 applied both
III/ Application of the laws

Oudin-Santini law

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Funding from local and regional governments</th>
<th>Funding from water agencies</th>
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</tbody>
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Total financements collectivités

Total financements agences

Funding from water agencies

Funding from local and regional governments
* Les collectivités territoriales s’engagent à l’international ! Bilan 2017 des montants engagés Eau et Assainissement

* L’action extérieure des collectivités territoriales et des agences de bassin Eau et Assainissement, Bilan 2016

* L’action extérieure des collectivités territoriales pour l’eau et l’assainissement – guide

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