**Annex 5**

**Mid-Term Evaluation Report**

**(Individual)**

**Water Joint Programming Initiative**

**2018 Joint Call**

*Closing the water cycle gap - Sustainable management of water resources*

These Project Management Guidelines will be effective from the date of the National funding decisions and shall remain in force until the last final project report is approved in 2022.

**The Mid-Term Consensus Report will be made available to the Consortium as well as CSC and JPI Water GB.**

**MID-TERM INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION REPORT**

**PROJECT TITLE AND ACRONYM**

Name of Coordinator: Michel PAUL

Project code: WaterWorks2017-NEWTS

Duration of project: 36 months

Start date:  **May 2019** End date: **April 2022**

**DETAILS OF THE EVALUATOR**

Name: Gaëtane SUZENET

Organisation: International Impact Partners

Date of review: 8 April 2021

### **Scientific and technological progress**

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| *Progress towards reaching the project objectives has been limited because of a number of setbacks. None of the deliverables due during the reporting period have been completed.*  *WP1: In the Reunion Island, a Working Group on Nudges was set up. It was decided to depart from the original approach described in the proposal to work on BI concerning the water users’ willingness to pay. This activity proved to be difficult because of the lack of previous experiments and the difficulty to recruit additional experts. In Spain and Tunisia, nudges design was only started beyond the reporting period. The lab experiments were also postponed because of COVID 19 and stakeholders’ request to include nudges on the willingness to pay. To offset for the delay, a literature review was undertaken, resulting in redesigning the planned lab experiments. Field experiments were postponed to March 2021.*  *WP2: Only South Africa managed to achieve Milestone 3 on developing the household database. France and Spain had to implement a different data production strategy (on-line surveys). Spain complemented the survey with data collection from previous projects and a literature review on residential water demand. Data collection has also been initiated in Tunisia.*  *WP3: Work on developing the micro-simulation model has been initiated.*  *The multi-disciplinary approach has been limited to collecting feedback at the first workshop involving different behavioural and social scientists.*  *5 publications were issued in peer-reviewed journals. 9 international and national communications were put out. The project was advertised in a number of conferences and magazines.* |

### **Collaboration, coordination and mobility within the Consortium**

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| *The mid-term reports that the coordination and organisation of the project has not been as efficient as it should be, for several reasons: the Coordinator cannot dedicate enough time to the substantial coordination required with 7 partners and The Reunion University’s internal issues hampered carrying out a number of tasks (e.g. website creation), which were considered by the Coordinator ‘approved’ when the project was presented. Only 2 consortium meetings were organised during the reporting period. Nonetheless, to ease progress of the project, it was decided to hold a meeting every two months. And a number of meetings with local stakeholders were organised (e.g. 9 in La reunion and 7 in South Africa). The organisation of local meetings in Tunisia is not fully clear. Collaboration between partners has been effective, particularly between the French partners to progress the activities on nudges design and lab experiments, and between the French and Spanish partners on the water demand econometrics. Close and effective bilateral cooperation has been established to support each other in their tasks completion. The Tunisian partner has however not been fully committed in the task of leading WP 3. To date, the indicators feeding the micro-simulation model were discussed between some partners. The Consortium relies on the Tunisian partner to lead the Evaluation Group on water poverty indicators. Mobility of researchers has been postponed. The transnational aspect is partially demonstrated to the extent of the identification of concerns, features and challenges common to 3 countries, Tunisia having been less involved.* |

### **Coordination with other international project funded by WaterWorks2017, or other instruments**

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| *Some contacts have been established with the project EnTruGo. The objectives and outcomes are however unclear.*  *The NEWTS project fostered the initiation of a new project called ECOGEDE that will build on some of the deliverables of the NEWTS project. It will include training actions using the micro-simulation model developed as part of the NEWTS project, its replication with adaptation to local conditions, and BIs targeted at a good understanding of the pricing system and a reduction of over-consumption. This project was rejected under the SWIM/EuropeAid Call and is currently being submitted to the PRIMA Call.*  *In La Reunion, another project, ECO-GEM, is being built as part of the S3 [Smart Specialisation Strategy to continue the development of the micro-simulation model with (i) the improvement of computer design weak points and (ii) the development of an additional module enabling institutional bodies such as water agencies to have a mapping of demand management policy performance at their level of competence and action. The aim is to build a global dashboard, fed by local dashboards, and develop appropriate analysis tools for targeting the various measurement programmes, particularly those emerging in line with SDAGE (Water Development and Management Master Plan).* |

### **Coverage of the themes and sub-themes of the call**

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| *The NEWTS project relates to Theme 2 ‘Strengthening socio-economic approaches to water management’ and in particular sub-theme 2.1 ‘integrating economic and social analyses into decision-making processes’. It is still early stage to give a thorough analysis of the contribution of the results to the Theme 2 and sub-theme 2.1as the project consortium has been designing the nudges and the content of the behavioural interventions, preparing the lab experiments and starting collecting data, at least in France and Spain.* |

1. **Stakeholder/industry engagement**

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| *The mid-term report gives a very good overview of the stakeholders’ engagement to date, in particular for France, Spain and South Africa. Stakeholders’ engagement in Tunisia has been more challenging, in particular with the local water company. In La Reunion, a project Steering Committee including the local water company and water stakeholders has been set up. The local water company and water agency have been particularly involved in the first phases of the project (i.e. the survey development, the data management plan preparation and the design of the BIs). In South Africa, discussions have been on going with Representatives of the City of Cape Town on both the project methodology and approach and the preliminary results. In Spain, weekly reporting meetings have been taking place with Representatives of the local water company. A webinar on the analysis of water pricing and taxation in Spain was jointly organised with the Institute of Fiscal Studies. In all these 3 countries, data have been accessible to the partners. Interactions in France and Spain have particularly supported the work to be done under Task 1.1 concerning the Nudges design. Industry’s involvement was not reported upon beyond mentioning the participation of one private company in the first workshop in France. At this stage, interactions with the industry would appear to be only through the dissemination activities.* |

### **Recommendations for improvements/amendments of the report**

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1. **Recommendations/ problems and risks**

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| *The project encountered many setbacks linked to the COVID 19 situation, which hampered the recruitment of a Post-Doc in Spain and additional experts in France. It also compelled the project consortium to review its data collection procedures (from face to face questionnaires to on-line surveys). Field experiments have been postponed in South Africa and in Spain. In South Africa, the COVID 19 situation has had an impact on the allocation of potential funding required to collect data on the household water demand functions and the performance of the water policy that is now questioned. In Spain, COVID 19 impacted the data availability, as it was no longer possible to go and read water meters, thereby impeding the assessment of nudges on residential water consumption.*  *In France, delays in the project progress and stakeholders’ engagement process were also linked to the changes in the local water company status, the municipal elections and the changes in the French Regulations on the protection of personal data.*  *There was also a delay in starting off the project because of deferred funding decisions by the Spanish Funder.*  *The project consortium has been encountering difficulties in Tunisia. At the time of the reporting period, the University had not signed the Consortium Agreement. The first year’s budget was not spent, and the equipment still to be ordered. The Tunisian partners have been working with their own resources.* |