

## Partnership Initiative Wastewater

### What are the objectives of the Partnership Initiative?

Global textile production is accompanied by the use of many chemicals, which lead to long-term negative environmental impacts in the producing countries due to inadequate wastewater management. The aim of the Partnership Initiative is to improve the **plausibility checks of wastewater analyses** in the production countries and thus to ensure reliable **wastewater management systems**. In addition, support is to be provided for the **revision of industry-specific wastewater guidelines** so that compliance with minimum wastewater standards in the textile supply chain can be monitored by all those involved. The overall aim is to establish sustainable wastewater management in the textile supply chain. In the long term, this will reduce negative environmental impacts in the production countries, lower the remainders of hazardous chemicals in wastewater and prevent the use of substances of concern in textile production.

### How does the Partnership Initiative achieve these objectives?

The Partnership Initiative consists of three interrelated modules:

- **Capacity Building** in order to build up the necessary structures for an adapted wastewater management
- Establishing **Improved Frameworks**
- **Networking and Knowledge Transfer** between producers, brands & trade and universities

Additionally, a comprehensive module 0 ensures the harmonization of the three modules.

The members of the Partnership Initiative are involved in one or more of the modules according to their expertise and thus contribute to the achievement of sustainable wastewater management in the textile sector. The best results can be achieved if the strengths and capacities of

the individual actors are brought together and the activities of the individual modules are linked and harmonized. The agreement on a common approach and appropriate external communication towards suppliers creates synergies and increases the effectiveness of the measures.

### Module 1: Capacity Building

The module strengthens the technical knowledge and creates an understanding for the necessity of an improved wastewater management at factory level. Knowledge is also provided to service providers, brands and local authorities. They are supported in performing plausibility checks of wastewater data and in advancing compliance with standards. Furthermore, materials are created to support brands in the implementation of improved wastewater management along their supply chain.

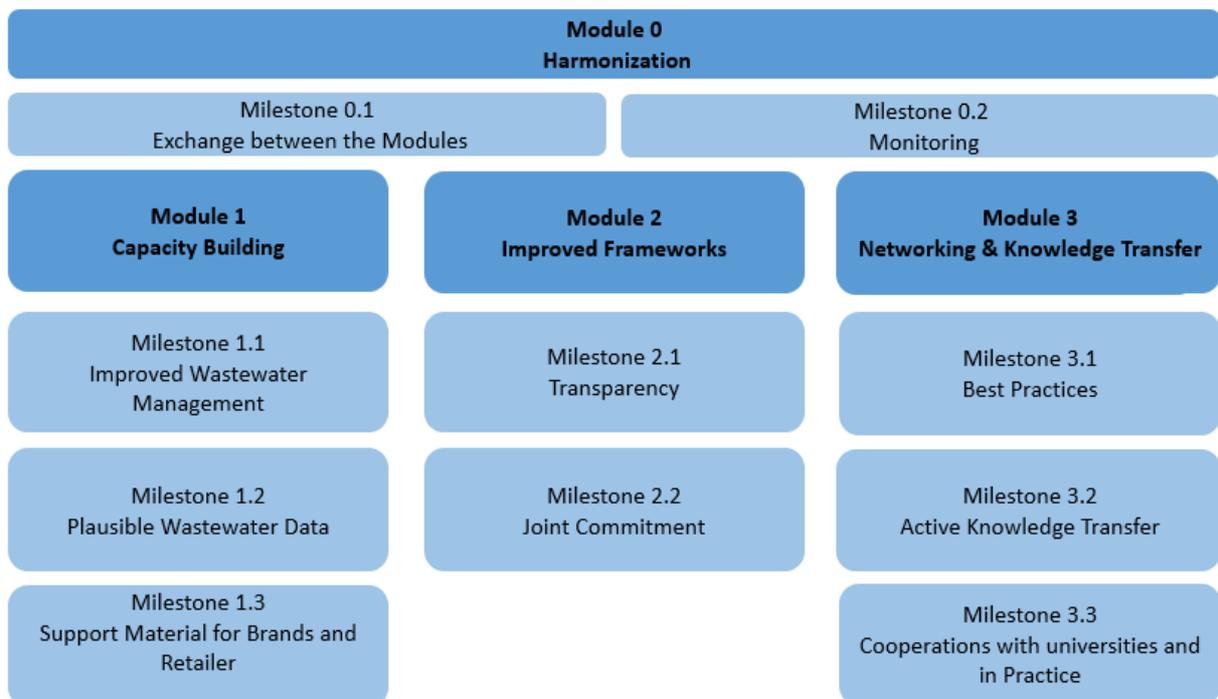
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## Modul 2: Improved Frameworks

The requirements for different limit values and measures present both producers and the demand side with major challenges. Meeting these requirements usually involves high costs for the producers, which in turn is partly reflected in the price of the products. Greater transparency between the stakeholders involved and the mutual recognition of audits can reduce costs and provide clarity for producers. Brands benefit from addressing their supply chain problems collectively.

## Module 3: Networking and Knowledge

The large differences between textile finishing companies within and between the various producing countries shows that knowledge and resources are not available nationwide. It is therefore important to share knowledge about measures that can be conducted locally within the sector. This can be achieved by preparing and communicating best practices or through direct exchange between producers, brands and retail. Collaborations with universities can also help to spread knowledge locally.



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