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Modena, 28 gennaio 2021

**Oggetto: Certification Alliance for Water Stewardship of Val di Setta potabilization plant
- AWS standard 2.0 – Commitment**

Sustainability has always been a fundamental pillar of Gruppo Hera's business strategy since its founding. The aim is to create and promote a shared value through the implementation of activities and projects that respond to the "call to action" of the UN Global Agenda for 2030. This entails a feasible and sustainable resource management with a particular focus on water.

As manager of the Integrated Water Services, Gruppo Hera has been committed for several years to support and promote national and international initiatives that aim to protect water resources. Not only is Gruppo Hera a participant in the CEO Water Mandate as an Endorsing Company, but also the first multi-utility in Italy to have joined the Ellen MacArthur Foundation. Gruppo Hera is also an active, promoting member of the Circular Economy Network and the Italian Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform.

To further consolidate its commitment to water stewardship and encourage a responsible use of water in the local territory, Gruppo Hera has chosen to undergo the **Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) Certification** journey by implementing and promoting the five AWS Outcomes:

- **good water governance,**
- **sustainable water balance,**
- **good water quality status,**
- **protection of Important Water-Related Areas (IWRA),**
- **provision of safe water, sanitation and hygiene for all (WASH).**

The site undergoing Certification is the Val di Setta potabilization plant of Sasso Marconi (BO), which services the Primary Aqueduct network of Bologna. The implementation of the AWS Certification aims at reducing the site's water footprint in the catchment context, by **improving and continuously adapting water-related mitigation actions and strategies in order to achieve resilient and responsive solutions to face the current and future scenarios related to water availability.**

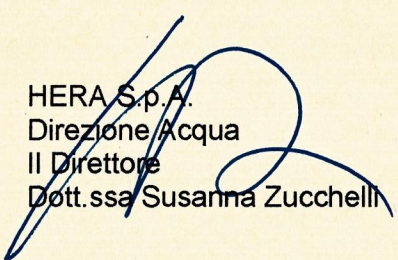
Becoming more resilient means establishing concrete business strategies and actions in order to implement and disclose amongst local stakeholders a water management system that aims in increasing efficiency and optimizing water savings in daily consumptions.

Active engagements amongst key stakeholders is strategic and necessary in order to communicate the AWS philosophy and share best practice solutions with the catchment territory. The aim is to **collaborate with local stakeholders and work together in a transparent and proactive way towards a common water stewardship goal.**

Gruppo Hera's commitment to safeguarding the water resource and the environment are furthermore highlighted by continuous collaborations with local authorities for watershed governance strategies and sustainability plans, as well as their full compliance to National and Regional regulatory requirements.

The implementation and consolidation of the AWS Standard will allow the Val di Setta potabilization plant to become a certified water steward, committed to perform sustainable water-related management practices and promote collaboration engagements with local catchment stakeholders, directly or indirectly dependent on the same potable water resources.

Gruppo Hera's water stewardship journey will be achieved over time, by applying all the necessary organizational capacities to consolidate a multi-disciplinary process that includes not only the implementation of best-practice actions but also performance evaluations and improvements, with involve both the site and the surrounding territory. Certification obtainment will therefore require full commitment from all of Gruppo Hera's company structures that will, however, work together united in an alliance towards the AWS milestone.


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