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SKILLS4WATER

# ABSTRACT TEMPLATE

FOR THE SKILLS4WATER FINAL CONFERENCE

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## ABSTRACT TITLE IN UPPERCASE - MAX 30 CHARACTERS

**Author: Your Name and Affiliation**

### **Abstract- MAX 300 WORDS:**

*(For students)*

**(Context/Introduction):** Briefly introduce your area within the water sector (marine or freshwater) and the general importance of soft skills in this field.

**(Experience/Development):** Describe your personal journey, focusing on the development of your soft skills. This section should cover:

Initial soft skills you possessed at the beginning of your academic or professional path.

How you developed specific soft skills over time, providing concrete examples from your PhD, Master's, Bachelor's thesis, or professional activities.

**(Final conclusion)**

*(For professionals with experience in supervising/hosting students)*

**(Context/Introduction):** Observations regarding the soft skills of students or recent graduates you have worked with.

**(Experience/Development):** Reflect on the soft skills you currently identify as needing further strengthening for your future career goals.

**(Final conclusion):** Provide perspectives on improving the incorporation of soft skills into academic curricula based on your observations.

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### **Formatting Requirements:**

Language: English

Font: Times New Roman

Font Size: 12 points

Line Spacing: Single

Title: Uppercase, max 30 characters (not included in word count)

Main Text Word Count: Maximum 300 words (excluding title and author details)

No special formatting or characters needed within the main text.

### **Example Abstract 1: Student Perspective**

**(Context/Introduction):** My journey through a Bachelor's degree in Water Engineering and current Master's research has highlighted how crucial these non-technical abilities are, not just for academic tasks but for future professional effectiveness.

**(Experience/Development):** Early in my studies, technical performance was my primary focus. However, group projects and laboratory work quickly revealed the necessity of strong teamwork and communication. Successfully completing a complex water quality analysis project depended heavily on our team's ability to coordinate tasks, resolve conflicts, and clearly communicate findings. During my Bachelor's thesis, which involved fieldwork and data analysis, flexibility and problem-solving were vital for overcoming unforeseen challenges, like equipment malfunctions and changing weather conditions. These experiences taught me that motivation is amplified when collaborating towards a shared goal.

**(Final conclusion):** My academic path demonstrates that actively developing soft skills alongside technical competencies provides a critical advantage. Future graduates entering the water sector must prioritize these skills, using academic opportunities like group work and thesis projects as vital





training grounds for real-world collaboration and problem-solving.

## Example Abstract 2: Professional Perspective

**(Context/Introduction):** In the professional landscape of the water sector, encompassing everything from infrastructure management to environmental protection, soft skills are not merely beneficial but fundamental drivers of individual and organizational success. My career progression over 15 years in municipal water management has underscored their irreplaceable value, particularly when mentoring new graduates.

**(Experience/Development):** Early in my career, technical proficiency opened doors, but responsibility and effective communication facilitated upward movement. Leading project teams required significant development in problem-solving and adaptability to navigate regulatory changes and unexpected operational issues. My role increasingly involves mentoring recent graduates; I consistently observe that while technically competent, their ability to integrate effectively often hinges on their teamwork, initiative (motivation), and capacity for flexible thinking when plans change. A recent example involved a young engineer whose strong communication skills enabled smooth public consultations on a new pipeline, demonstrating the direct impact of soft skills on project outcomes beyond technical design.

**(Final conclusion).** Based on practical experience, the water sector urgently needs graduates with well-developed soft skills. Academia should intentionally integrate opportunities for students to practice teamwork, communication, and problem-solving on realistic, collaborative tasks, preparing them more effectively for the demands and opportunities of a professional career.

