

Management and partnerships of public and community water

As the failure of privatisation has become evident, the time has come to refocus the water debate on how to improve and expand public water delivery around the world. The workshops under this theme will focus on how to develop democratic, participatory, social and environmentally sustainable public models to ensure universal access to water and sanitation. 'Public' does not only mean public authorities and public water operators. Where public authorities fail to serve communities, they often organise themselves to build and manage their own people-centred water systems.

Solidarity-based partnerships among public operators as well as with communities are increasingly becoming popular. Why is this so? How to upscale such partnerships? How to finance public water for all? All workshops aim to build stronger alliances among civil society groups, trade unions, communities and public water operators in order to advocate for public and community control over our water systems.

Thursday 15 March from 10am to 12.30pm, Cabaret Rouge 3

Community-based solutions for water management

Civil society, from the poorest members to the most privileged, can form together and take back the right to water. Effective methods and bold initiatives exist and can promote on-field participatory and equitable management of resources. When public services are impossible to obtain and when the collective demand for water is high, concrete and innovative experience shows that in Peru, Paraguay, Benin, and Belgium, alternative solutions have been found, created by and for communities.

Presenter : Martin Seidl, Valérie Valette

Presentations with videos and diaporamas of civil and community-based experiments :

1- Landscapes Compensating reservoirs of water – Portugal – Tamera Center : **Martin Winiecki, Leila Dregger, Charly Rainer Ehrenpreis**

2- Lac Nokoué project - Benin – Emmaüs International : **Patrick Atohoun, Oswald Quintal, Stéphane Melchiorri**

3- Yrovi project - Paraguay – Asociación Tekoha : **Ceveriano Silva, Pawel Wiechetek**

4- From conflict to partnership : The commons in the middle of the landscape – Belgium – Etats-Généraux de Bruxelles : **Dominique Nalpas**

5- Social management of water and environment - Peru – Asociación para la Gestión del Agua en Cuencas – AGUA-CI : **Fanel Guevara Guillen**

Thursday 15 March from 3.30pm to 6pm, Dock des Suds E

Efficiency of the direct public management

Friday 16 March from 1pm to 6.0pm, Cabaret Rouge 1

Public water models: ensuring universal access, strengthening and building democratic public water systems

This workshop will discuss why and how public water models ensure universal access, as well as equitable and environmentally-sound water provision. Public water operator(s), citizen associations, and trade unions will present how democratic, social, and participatory models can be developed from a diversity of perspective and under diverse conditions. To deepen discussions, we will focus on: 1. How to challenge concrete threats undermining public water, and 2. Financing of public water.

Co-moderators: Kelti Cameron, Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), Satoko Kishimoto, Transnational Institute (TNI)

- **Part 1: Public water models 13:00-15:15**

Eric Grasset, Régie de Grenoble France (a member of Aqua Publica Europea)

Silvio José Marques, ASSEMAE (Associação Nacional dos Serviços Municipais de Saneamento, Brazil)

Thierry Ruf (IRD) and Thierry Uso (CRAUE, France) What solutions to the water crisis in Languedoc-Roussillon?

- **Part 2: Ensuring democratic, participatory, social and environmentally sustainable public models 15:45-18:00**

Shayda Naficy, Corporate Accountability International (USA) How transnational corporations are actively shifting water governance from public to private, or corporatized, systems

David Hall, Public Services International Research Unit (PSIRU) The past, present and future of finance for investment in water system

Forum Italiano Movimenti per l'Acqua and newly established Spanish national platform **Red Agua Publica** will join the panel discussion

Friday 16 March from 10am to 12.30pm, Cabaret Rouge 1

Public-public partnerships: strengthening public water and implementing the human right to water

This workshop provides an opportunity to share diverse experiences with not-for-profit water partnerships, which have achieved very different results compared to Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and privatization. These partnerships are described as public-public partnerships, public-community partnerships and water operators partnerships (WOPs), but are all not-for-profit and based on solidarity. Highlighting the role of communities, trade unions and public operators, this workshop aims to exchange lessons and challenges in such partnerships.

Moderator: Eloi Badia, Enginyeria Sense Fronteres Catalunya

- **Discussion starter**

Darcey O'Callaghan (Food & Water Watch, USA) will present the findings from the new report 'Public-Public Partnerships: an alternative model to leverage the capacity of municipal water utilities'.

- **Round table discussion with**

Jaime Morrell Sastre, AEOPAS (Spanish Association of Public Water and Sanitation Operators)

Milton Machado, OSE (Obras Sanitarias del Estado: State Water Company in Uruguay)

Danilo Urrea and Oscar Olivera (Platform for Public community Partnerships in Americas) Experiences from the National Network of Communal Aqueducts in Colombia and Public-community partnerships in Cochabamba

Jean-Claude Magalhaes (Deputy Mayor of the Ville de Cherbourg-Octeville) and Mario Milanesi (Programme manager WASH Africa, ACRA) Partnership between the French Ville de Cherbourg-Octeville and rural communities in Casamance, Senegal