Aqua Publica Europea

THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC WATER OPERATORS

First stakeholder workshop

10/10/2018 - Brussels
WHO WE ARE
About Aqua Publica Europea

- **61** members
- **70 MILLION** citizens served every day
- **8 BILLION** euros of aggregated turnover

APE’s mission

- Promoting public water management
- Providing a platform for mutual learning
WHAT WE DO
Promoting Aqua Publica’s members’ vision

Initiatives, events and reports on key water issues

- **SEMINAR**: *Information in the Water Sector*, Brussels, 2018
- **PUBLICATION**: *Public Water Operators’ commitment to water resources protection*
- **SEMINAR**: *Water and Climate*, Paris, 2015 (COP21)
- **SEMINAR**: *Water and Food*, Milan, 2015 (EXPO)

**Water & Transparency**

- **CONTRIBUTION** to OECD *Water Governance Principles*
- **CONTRIBUTION** to OECD *Water Governance in Cities*

**Water & Governance**

- **PARTNER** in EU FP7 project *WaterPiPP* - innovation-oriented public procurement in the water sector
- **PARTNER** in Horizon 2020 project on *smart metering* (8 APE operators, €4m, started January 2017)

**Tariffs & Economic aspects**

- **PUBLICATION**: *Water Affordability in Europe*
- **SEMINAR**: *Water Affordability in Europe*, Brussels, 2016
- **SEMINAR**: *Setting the right price*, Brussels, 2014

**Benchmarking & Performance**

- **MoU with European Benchmarking Cooperation**
- **Comparative review of members’ “Service Charters”**

**Innovation**

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**International Cooperation**

- **SEMINAR**: *Public-public Partnerships for the Right to Water* with the Commission and UNSGAB Chair, Berlin, 2015
Contributing to EU and international dialogues
The Aqua Publica Platform

Specific tools and initiatives to promote peer-to-peer learning and knowledge sharing to address common management challenges

WORKING GROUPS
Financing & Tariffs – Performance – Communication Innovation – International Cooperation

THEMATIC SESSIONS
Technical meeting open to all members addressing a specific management

Bilateral short-term staff exchange between a ‘visiting operator’ and a ‘hosting operator’ on a specific topic of common interest
Aqua Publica’s vision on the Water Framework Directive
The WFD: the cornerstone of EU water legislation

Aqua Publica fully shares and supports

→ The general objectives (sustainable water use based on long-term protection, reduction of pollution, equitable access) and
→ The methodological approach and key concepts (river basin governance, good ecological/chemical status)

Key principles for correct implementation of the WFD

→ Protection of water bodies for drinking water (reduction level of treatment) – ART. 7
→ Cost-recovery, polluter-pays principle – Art. 9
→ Participation stakeholder engagement – Art. 14
Governance

Challenges

- Fragmentation, incoherence, lack of resources and capacity, etc.

Examples of existing or potential solutions

Methodologies and indicators for governance assessment:

- OECD Principles on Water Governance
- EU Commission-led Environmental Governance Assessments (within *Environmental Implementation Review*)
Protection of drinking water bodies

Challenges

- Institutional uncertainties (interpretation, responsibilities, powers)
- Increasing effectiveness of mandatory/voluntary measures
- Coherence with other EU legislation (DWD, CAP)

Examples of existing or potential solutions

Promotion of existing best practices:

- Voluntary schemes with farmers (removing bottlenecks)
- Responsibilities (and resources) in applying mandatory measures
- (Future) relation between water operators and water authorities, especially regarding risk-based approach (new DWD-WFD)
Cost recovery

Challenges

• Incomplete application, still disproportionate burden on households
• Reconciling economic, environmental, social sustainability

Examples of existing or potential solutions

• Supporting effective approaches: Water Resource Tax in Portugal (all economic resources reinvested in the water cycle)
• Promoting better data collection (and definitions) at EU level on affordability (EU observatory on Water Poverty?)
Participation and transparency

**Challenges**
- Variety of national/local approaches
- Relations with other legislation and reporting obligations

**Examples of existing or potential solutions**
- Extending and clarifying the transparency and participation requirements in WFD (art. 14) – making other water Directives dependent on WFD provisions (hierachisation)
Improving policy coherence

• The Drinking Water Directive (currently being revised)
• The Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive
• The Floods Directive
• The Groundwater Directive

➔ Towards an integrated water resources management Directive?
Further questions?

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