

Workshop outline

Day 1 (1st of February): **Democratisation experiments, Public-Public Partnerships and remunicipalisation**

14:30-17:00

Workshop overview

This workshop focuses on concrete experiences of advancing alternatives on the ground. These alternatives appear in the form of remunicipalisations, public-public partnerships and in broader sense processes of democratisation of public and community water systems. They have been promoted, struggled for and engaged with by the participants of the RPW seminar.

The workshop aims to be a space for collective learning; where we can share, discuss and take forward the diverse experiences of constructing and fighting for public-community alternatives. We together seek to discuss and develop the conceptual, political and strategic underpinnings of these diverse experiences in order to build a common understanding of the current dynamics of water struggles and such alternatives. The long-term result of the workshop will hopefully be the diffusion of our experiences and struggles amongst our networks; and the development of shared agendas and common strategies.

The themes

Democratisation is a very broad issue that ranges from questions of property, access and decision-making rights to governance and management structures, and extends to labour relations, user rights and sustainability. Democratisation is about how the public and community systems can develop into participatory, effective and transparent public entities that (direct)-democratically and collectively allow workers, citizens and nature to realize their rights.

Public-public partnerships are instruments by which public and community systems can partner with each other; in order to exchange knowledge and capacities, on the basis of a not-for-profit, public-sector-ethos of solidarity.

Remunicipalisations are processes by which privatised water systems are taken back into public hands (at municipal and state levels).

All these alternatives are great opportunities but also pose formidable challenges for political leaders, social movements, trade unions and workers.

The design of the workshop

Part 1: Collecting experiences and progress

- Discussion starters: five minute long presentation, one from each region, to give an initial overview and open up the debate.
- Brainstorm on cases and open floor discussion on our experiences, strengths and challenges; collection on flip charts of cases, strengths, challenges and so forth.
- Open debate

Part 2: Analysing our strategies

- Plenary and/or small working groups: Discussing the experiences in detail and analysing their strengths, challenges and how networks like RPW can support such alternatives

Part 3: Developing proposals for how to follow up this collective learning

- Developing proposals for strategies of RPW