

Workshop outline

Day 1 (1st of February): **new forms of privatisation and commercialisation**

14:30-17:00

Coordinators: Al-Hassan Adam, Martin Pigeon, David Hall

Facilitation:

Reporting:

The purpose of this workshop is primarily to share information on the most recent water privatisation forms in order to have a clear image of the trends at stake. This discussion will hopefully lead to identifying the most crucial challenges ahead of us. Although urban and rural water are not separated and it is important to not separate them in the discourse, it can be convenient, for the sake of our political analysis, to first deal separately with collective drinking water systems, found mostly in urban environments and for a long time the main target of water policies. We will then enter a broader discussion about the privatisation of the water resource itself.

We have thought to split the workshop in three main topics:

- global policy developments: the situation within International Financial Institutions (IMF, World Bank etc.). How has evolved the political discourse of development banks' as far as urban water systems are concerned? What is the situation with other heavy-weight political institutions (UN, the EU... ?) What are the main examples exemplifying this?
(discussion starter: David Hall)

- corporatisation of public water services: causes and consequences of public water companies behaving like for-profit undertakings or buying other public companies in a for-profit motive... coupled with a focus on water knowledge privatisation: privatisation of public labs testing water quality, sponsorship of water chairs in selected universities, and the effects of knowledge treated as a commodity (contracts secrecy, patented technologies preventing solidarity...)
(discussion starters: David Hall, Martin Pigeon, Al-Hassan Adam)

- privatisation of the resource itself: we split the issue in three here :

– outright privatisation of water bodies: examples of surface and underground water bodies being sold or abused, creation of water rights markets, irrigation rights markets...
(discussion starter: Carmen Sosa, Uwe Hoering)

– “indirect” water privatisation 1: the case of payment for environmental services (PES) (discussion starter: Daniel Moss)

– “indirect” water privatisation 2: privatisation/commodification of water through resource pollution and scarcity ("new sources" from desalination, ultra-filtration, water reuse...) (discussion starter: Martin Pigeon)

The time allocated to the workshop, three hours, is not very long to browse such an immense subject, however we will try to keep 30 minutes towards the end of the workshop to prepare our reporting and identify the key challenges we will have identified during our discussion.