

Workshop outline

Day 2 (2nd February): National and regional platforms for PuPs

Coordinators: Marcela Olivera, Philipp Terhorst, Emanuele Lobina

10:30-12:30 Workshops - first round

Emanuele Lobina: PuP knowledge exchange and matchmaking database

PSIRU is organizing and will host a PuP knowledge clearinghouse and online matchmaking database. The online database will be designed to allow progressive public operators, trade unions and civil society organizations to set up contacts and establish PuPs in light of local capacity requirements and the offered expertise. The knowledge clearinghouse will provide support to all those interested in promoting, supporting and developing progressive PuPs. It will do so by storing data on the existing PuPs, on the relative experience (both positive and negative) on newly established PuPs, and on available sources of funding for PUPs. It will also offer assistance (including training) on writing proposals for the funding of PUPs and on the monitoring and auditing of PuPs.

Regional experiences

In recent years, a number of Central and South American countries have tried to develop PuPs. Drawing from these experiences, a platform for PuPs has been created in Uruguay and is in its infancy. While this platform is being refined in accordance with our regional needs, it is not limited to just the southern part of the Americas. We are trying to involve partners from North America. It is important that we share our experiences and expertise since such a platform model needs the expertise and perspectives of different regions, professions, and social groups. For example, in Latin America such platform development is in the hands of activists and unions. We also need financial expertise, professional management advice, and other water related issue experts. It is important to realize that such development is just beginning with many issues yet to be resolved -- i.e., do we work with a global operator like is being developed at the UN? In this workshop we expect to further this discussion on refining our platform approach, recognizing that this is not a model to be copied but a work in progress.

Discussion

- I. For what do we need these initiatives? How do they fill gaps and add strategic strength to our movements?
 - a) What other regional experiences and debates are there that identify similar projects or the need for such projects?
 - b) What gaps are there in our networks and in the struggle for public-community water that such initiatives can and have to address?
- II. How can we make these initiatives more effective?
 - a) How can activists contribute to identifying potential partners for progressive PuPs?
 - b) How can activists secure political and institutional support for progressive PuPs?
 - c) What are the possible obstacles activists could face in their attempts to secure political and institutional support for progressive PUPs?
 - d) What strategies can be developed to overcome those obstacles?
 - e) How can the PuP platform as developed in the Americas be adapted and/or applied to the needs of other regions in the world?
 - f) How can the expertise from other parts of the world be made available and help to refine the work in progress in the Americas?