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### Progress Report: March 2005

By the end of February 2005 the Watertime team had published 29 case studies on urban water systems as well as a report (*City in Time*) on the longer-term historical issues in the case studies. This completed work packages WP1, WP2 and WP3 of the EU-funded project. Also published were a range of supporting materials, including reports on the context for those case studies, analysed at national, international and European levels, and the Analytical Framework used. All materials are freely available on the Watertime website, [www.watertime.org](http://www.watertime.org).

The final stages of the project (WP4 and WP5) are now underway, which involves the synthesis of the results of the 29 case studies and *City in Time*, and on the basis of this the elaboration of best practice and the development of a decision-making model. The guidelines on best practice on decision-making on the urban water sector will include criteria, mechanisms and techniques to improve the sustainability of future decisions in the sector. The guidelines will be aimed at supporting government decision-makers, and will include a substantial role for participatory principles. The decision-making model is to allow the comparison of different options on a multicriteria basis (fiscal, economic, social, environmental, technical, legal and political). This will provide for enhanced transparency, accountability and participatory approaches in the decision-making process as well as the monitoring and review of decisions made.

The model and best practice are to be tested and refined in three European cities, and the final results will be distributed to stakeholders and public authorities across Europe as well as freely available from the Watertime website. The project's final results are to be available by December 2005.

A final conference for the project will be held in London at the end of November, bringing together stakeholders and academics from across Europe and beyond to explore ways to take forward Watertime's results and models to improve future decision-making on urban water systems.

**Watertime Final Conference,**  
25 November, 12.30-7.30pm, Greenwich, UK

Contact [watertime@watertime.org](mailto:watertime@watertime.org) for details



University of Greenwich

### WaterTime Publications: February 2005

The WaterTime case studies on 29 urban water systems were published in February 2005. Also published was WaterTime's *City in Time* report, which describes and analyses the historical aspects of WaterTime's 29 case studies. All reports are freely available on the WaterTime website, [www.watertime.org](http://www.watertime.org).

- **Case Studies**  
Case studies on decision-making in 29 urban water systems in 13 European countries.  
[www.watertime.net/wt\\_cs\\_cit\\_ncr.asp](http://www.watertime.net/wt_cs_cit_ncr.asp)
- **City in Time**  
Describes and analyses the historical aspects of WaterTime's 29 case studies.  
[www.watertime.net/WP3/D45\\_City\\_in\\_Time.pdf](http://www.watertime.net/WP3/D45_City_in_Time.pdf)

Country	Case study city
Estonia:	Tallinn
Finland:	Tampere, Hämeenlinna
France:	Grenoble
Germany:	Berlin, Munich
Hungary:	Budapest, Debrecen, Szeged
Italy:	Arezzo, Bologna, Milan, Rome
Lithuania:	Kaunas, Vilnius
Netherlands:	Rotterdam
Poland:	Gdansk, Lodz, Warsaw
Romania:	Bucharest, Timisoara
Spain:	Cordoba, Madrid, Palma de Mallorca, Gran Canaria
Sweden:	Stockholm
UK:	Cardiff, Edinburgh, Leeds

Also available are a range of documents that supported the completion of the case studies and *City in Time*, including reports on the International and European Context, on the relevant National Contexts, and



the Analytical Framework used.

- **National Context Reports**

There are 13 WaterTime National Context reports, one for each of the 13 countries covered in the study. The reports cover the recent history of national policy influences and other country-specific factors on decision-making in each country's urban water sector.

[www.watertime.net/wt\\_cs\\_cit\\_ncr.asp](http://www.watertime.net/wt_cs_cit_ncr.asp)

- **International and European Context Report**

The WaterTime report covers the recent history of international and EU influences on decision-making in Europe's urban water sector. It provides the widest context for WaterTime's 29 case studies, supplementing the National Context Reports.

[www.watertime.net/Docs/WP1/D7\\_Int\\_Context\\_final.pdf](http://www.watertime.net/Docs/WP1/D7_Int_Context_final.pdf)

- **Analytical Framework**

WaterTime's Analytical Framework provides the basis for carrying out the 29 case studies, and for later synthesising their results to produce WaterTime's final outputs.

[www.watertime.net/Docs/WP1/D4\\_Analytical\\_Framework.pdf](http://www.watertime.net/Docs/WP1/D4_Analytical_Framework.pdf)

#### Fourth WaterTime workshop: 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November 2004, Lübeck, Germany

The fourth WaterTime workshop took place in November 2004 in Lübeck, Germany. A series of presentations were made by a number of invited speakers, followed by discussions, which included the participation of the steering committee as well as Watertime partners and visiting experts. The topics were planned to address the theme of participation, aiming to cover such questions as:

- What are the different national experiences with participation and transparency in water policy?
- What is the impact of increased participation and transparency on urban water decision-making?
- How has participation evolved over the last 100 years? How will it further evolve in the future?
- What is the impact of a lack of participation and transparency?
- What are the reasons behind the pronounced differences in participation traditions in Europe?
- Is there a need to limit participation and transparency?
- Which instruments might be recommended to improve participation and enable transparency?

The presentations (now available on the Watertime website) were made by:

- **Andreas Kraemer**, Ecologic, Berlin, on participation as a pivotal element of EU water politics
- **Arne Panesar**, W&A, Freiburg, Germany, on experiences with participation and access to information at the local and regional level in Southern Germany
- **José Ramon** and **Andrés Caballero**, Universidad Complutense Madrid, Spain on the Spanish experience with participation in the water sector
- **Leandro del Moral**, Fundacion Nueva Cultura del Agua, and Seville University, on the role of information and participation in water management and the EU research project ADVISOR.
- **Emil Bojin**, member of Watertime Steering Committee, Bucharest, Romania on the contemporary Romanian experience with civil society participation in decision-making on urban water management
- **Christelle Pézon**, Engref, Montpellier, France on users' participation in drinking water services management and regulation in France from the mid 19th century to 2000, through the jurisprudence of the Conseil d'Etat.

A precis of Andreas Kraemer's presentation is provided below.



The presentations were followed by lengthy discussion involving guest speakers, research partners, and the steering committee, which provided further useful inputs. For more details on the Lübeck workshop, including downloadable presentations, see [www.watertime.net/wt\\_november\\_2004\\_presentations.asp](http://www.watertime.net/wt_november_2004_presentations.asp).

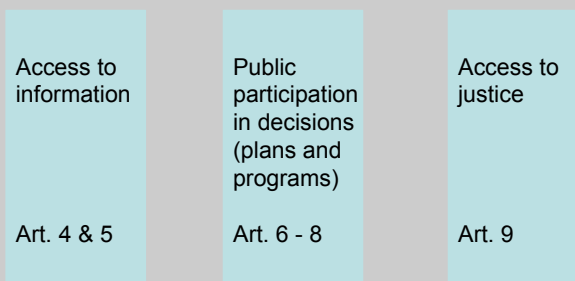
*Watertime thanks International Water Affairs (IWA) for their warm welcome, and for their work in making the workshop a success.*

**“Participation as a Pivotal Element of EU Water Policy”, R. Andreas Kraemer & Nicole Kranz Ecologic - Institute for International and European Environmental Policy, Berlin - Brussels**

Water management was one of the first environmental policy areas to consider the interests of stakeholders. Water resources needed to be managed collectively in order to effectively tackle the issues involved, for example in Spain (water scarcity), Netherlands (flood protection), and Germany (mill authorisations). The involvement of the public was however dependent on the overall political climate and cultural landscape, as well as the nature of the challenges faced.

Over the last twenty years, public awareness of threats to the environment has grown, and the reaction has been an emerging citizens’ movement and the creation of environmental NGOs. Public participation has also become increasingly institutionalised in integrated planning procedures, partly in reaction to these growing demands. However, the situation still varies across the EU, and challenges and shortcomings still exist.

At the international level, the Aarhus Convention (signed in 1998, entering force in 2001) is a key influence on EU and national policy-making. Article 14 (‘Public Information and Consultation’) of the EU’s Water Framework Directive is inspired by the Aarhus approach, with guaranteed access to information and consultation during the planning process, and active involvement to be encouraged. A CIS working group also produced ‘Guidance on Public Participation in the WFD’, with explanations of Article 14, and recommendations, instruments and techniques for implementation, as well as case studies.



*Three pillars of the Aarhus Convention*

**Functions of Public Participation**

- Improving policy-making
- Increasing transparency in decision-making
- Increasing the efficiency of the implementation of planning decisions
- Improving the acceptance of decisions by stakeholder groups
- Creation of awareness for environmental issues
- Social learning
- Using existing experience of stakeholder groups

Challenges for achieving this include the need to create the capacity to ensure public access to participatory approaches, as well as support for participation itself.

**Best Practice**

- Early involvement
- Stakeholder analysis
- Wide range of stakeholders
- Clear rules for interaction
- Transparency
- Using existing potentials

This leads to successful public participation, better decisions, and better environmental quality.



### Selected Publications and Events

On 18 February 2005 the **European Declaration for a New Water Culture** was signed in Madrid by close to 100 people from across Europe. It is the product of several years' cooperation among academics, aiming to support the citizens' movement for a New Water Culture which has been developing in the EU in recent years. It looks at water governance issues in the context of "the ever worsening crisis of social and environmental unsustainability in the world."

[www.unizar.es/fnca/euwater](http://www.unizar.es/fnca/euwater)

#### **Juuti, Petri & Katko, Tapio (eds.): From a few to all: long-term development of water and environmental services in Finland. KehräMedia 2004**

This collection of articles examines the history of water services in Finland, in a context of Finnish environmental history in general. It covers technology development as well as institutional issues (legislation, consultancies, etc) and issues of how decisions on infrastructure investment are made.

#### **A formalism for a case study in the Watertime project: the city water system in Grenoble, from privatization to remunicipalization (2004)**

*Ephraim Nissan, David Hall, Emanuele Lobina, and Robin de la Motte (University of Greenwich)*

The formal representation for legal or other narratives as introduced by Nissan (2001; 2002; 2003a; 2003b; 2003c; 2003d) is adapted to the analysis of a case study in WaterTime, a project developed by David Hall and his collaborators in view of the development of a decision model for policy making, concerning the privatization of city water systems throughout the European Union. In WaterTime, the experience of several cities is analyzed and compared. In particular, Hall and Lobina (2001) have analyzed the privatization, in 1989, of the city water system in Grenoble, France. Eventually, corruption was proven, and the system was partly remunicipalized; court decisions led to its full remunicipalization. We sketch a symbolic representation of events in this narrative.

*Applied Artificial Intelligence 18 (3-4), March-April 2004, pp305-366*

#### **Problems with Private Water Concessions: A Review of Experiences and Analysis of Dynamics (2005)**

*Emanuele Lobina (University of Greenwich)*

Based on empirical evidence, this paper looks at experience with privatized water supply and sanitation concessions and operating contracts in transition and developing countries, with particular reference to Latin America. The paper is an attempt to address the complexity of issues affecting private sector participation in the water sector from a dynamic point of view, taking into account how the interests, objectives and resources of private sector operators continuously shape their relationships with local stakeholders, citizens and local governments alike, and how the interaction between multinational companies and other actors affect the developmental impact of private sector participation.

*International Journal of Water Resources Development, Vol. 21, No. 1, pp. 55-87.*



## WaterTime at a glance

### The Project

Watertime is an EC-funded research project which aims to improve the sustainability of decision-making on water systems in Europe's cities. The project is studying decision-making on water systems in 29 European cities, drawing on their long-term historical experience as well as recent decisions. Watertime will produce a report on best practices, and develop a model for participative decisionmaking. The work will be disseminated to stakeholders and public authorities, who are also involved during the course of the research.

### The Team

The interdisciplinary team of researchers involved in the project is drawn from different parts of Europe - Spain, the UK, Germany, Finland, Hungary - and brings together expertise from a range of different areas, including economics, political science, environmental science, law, and water institutions.

- PSIRU, University of Greenwich, UK (project coordinator)
- Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM), Spain
- Tampere University of Technology (TUT), Tampere, Finland
- International Water Affairs (IWA), Hamburg, Germany
- Eötvös József College (EJC), Budapest, Hungary

### The Steering Committee

The Watertime project is overseen by a steering committee with representatives from consumer organizations, environmental organizations, and trade unions.

- Consumers International,
- European Environmental Bureau (EEB),
- Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR),
- European Centre of Enterprises with Public Participation (CEEP),
- European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU),
- the Consumers Protection Association of Romania, and
- the municipal water utility of Cordoba, Spain (EMACSA)

## WaterTime at a glance

