WATER MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE IN GALICIA
BUILDING REGIONAL AND LOCAL CAPACITIES FOR EFFECTIVE PUBLIC INVESTMENT

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CONTENT:

• Galicia: General Overview

• Institutional Organization of the Galician Waste Water Sector

• Governance Solutions: Water Supply

• Conclusions
GALICIA- WATER MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE

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GALICIA: GENERAL OVERVIEW

- POPULATION: 2.8 million hab.
- ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS
  - 4 Provinces
  - 314 Municipalities
1 INTRA-COMMUNITY RBD
- RBD of Galicia-Costa
1 INTER-COMMUNITY RBD
- RBD of Miño-Sil
2 INTERNATIONAL RBD
- RBD of Duero
- RBD of Cantabrico

FOUR GALICIAN RIVER BASIN DISTRICTS (RBD)
GALICIA- WATER MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE

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INSTITUTIONAL ORGANIZATION OF THE GALICIAN WASTE WATER SECTOR

MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES AND HYDRAULIC PUBLIC DOMAIN WITHIN EACH RIVER BASIN DISTRICT

CRITERIO

RIVER BASIN SHARED/NOT SHARED WITH OTHER REGIONS/COUNTRIES

WORKS: PLANNING (P), EXECUTION (E) AND MANAGEMENT (M)

CRITERIO

WORK’S GENERAL INTEREST
INSTITUTIONAL ORGANIZATION OF THE GALICIAN WASTE WATER SECTOR

WORKS OF STATE GENERAL INTEREST → NATIONAL LEVEL:
WORK MINISTRY

REGIONAL LEVEL:
AUGAS DE GALICIA (AdG)
Execution WWTP
Execution Collecting Systems
Operation WWTP

LOCAL LEVEL:
Execution & Operation of WWTP & Collecting Systems

PROBLEMS!!!

IN THE LAST FEW YEARS AUGAS DE GALICIA HAS MADE AN IMPORTANT EFFORT TO ADDRESS THESE GOVERNANCE PROBLEMS
INSTITUTIONAL ORGANIZATION OF THE GALICIAN WASTE WATER SECTOR

PROBLEM: Lack of coordination between Regional/Local level

• Galician Sewerage Planning guided the investments in Galicia but did not define the priorities for the regional/local levels

• This created uncertainty on what would be the works executed at a regional/local level and made difficult the coordination

• On the other hand, the lack of prioritizing did not guarantee that the funds were used in the most effective way.
INSTITUTIONAL ORGANIZATION OF THE GALICIAN WASTE WATER SECTOR

• SOLUTIONS: Law 9/2010 of Augas de Galicia:
  • Defines the Sewerage Works of General Interest of the Autonomous Community (SW-GIG) = Works included in the Programme of Measures of the Galician Hydrological Plan
  • Regional Government Competences (Augas de Galicia-AdG):
    • Execution of SW-GIG
    • Operation of Waste Water Treatment Plants = SW-GIG
  • Local Government Competences:
    • Execution of remaining Sewerage Works ≠ SW-GIG
    • Operation of Waste Water Treatment Plants ≠ SW-GIG
    • Operation of Sewerage Collectors
INSTITUTIONAL ORGANIZATION OF THE GALICIAN WASTE WATER SECTOR

SOLUTIONS: SEWERAGE PLANS AT SUPRA-MUNICIPAL LEVEL

• AuG has drafted two Sewerage Plans at supra-municipal level (€5,5mill):
  • Ria de Arousa Sewerage Plan
  • Ria del Burgo Sewerage Plan

• These Plans cover the main municipalities discharging in the mentioned Rias (some of the most populated in Galicia)

• These Plans provide a detailed diagnosis of:
  • The sewerage systems (WWTP+collectors+ pumping stations)
  • The receiving waters (quality, impacts)

• The Plans provide as well an Action plan

• Involvement of Local Authorities from the beginning of the process ensuring their commitment to contribute to its implementation
PROBLEM: Lack of critical mass at local level to adequately provide sewerage services

Galicia→Scattered Population: Municipalities lack of critical mass to efficiently provide these services

Local authorities do not operate or operate deficiently their WWTP and collectors.
INSTITUTIONAL ORGANIZATION OF THE GALICIAN WASTE WATER SECTOR

• SOLUTIONS: Law 9/2010 Augas de Galicia (AdG):

  ✓ AdG assumes competences on the operation of the WWTPs of General Interest for the Autonomous Community

  ✓ Any Municipality will be able to ask AdG for assuming the operation of any other WWTP serving more than 2000 e.h

  ✓ AdG could temporally assume the sewerage collection operation on behalf of a municipality in case of its negligent operation when existing serious risks for the population or the environment.
INSTITUTIONAL ORGANIZATION OF THE GALICIAN WASTE WATER SECTOR

• SOLUTIONS: ADG IS FOSTERING THE CREATION OF CONSORTIUMS AT A SUPRA-MUNICIPAL LEVEL → 2 PIONEER INITIATIVES ARE GETTING GOING

✓ VALDEORRAS CONSORTIUM OF WASTE WATER TREATMENT
  ~ Oriented to provide waste water treatment to very rural areas

✓ LOURO WATER CONSORTIUM
  ~ Management of full water cycle (sewage+ water supply)

• Promoted by AdG in collaboration with Orense deputation
• Legal formula for the joint provision of services
• Not new administrative structures
• Xunta de Galicia will cover contingent operating deficits at the initial stage: Xunta Financial Backing is crucial
INSTITUTIONAL ORGANIZATION OF THE GALICIAN WASTE WATER SECTOR

AND FOR THE FUTURE.... THE LOCAL PACT

• NEGOTIATIONS → STAGE: FIRST STEPS

• PACT: AUGAS DE GALICIA & GALICIAN FEDERATION OF MUNICIPALITIES AND PROVINCES

• WILL INCLUDE COMPROMISES IN SEVERAL AREAS:
  • INFORMATION: Diffusion, Sharing.
  • COORDINATION: Definition of Investment priorities
  • LOCAL WATER REGULATION: Drafted with AdG support.
  • WATER RATES: Principle of Cost Recovery
  • PROMOTION OF CONSORTIUMS/SUPRA-MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATIONS (MANCOMUNIDADES)
  • STREAMLINING OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES
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GOVERNANCE SOLUTIONS IN CASE OF WATER SUPPLY

WATER SUPPLY: DISTRIBUTION OF COMPETENCES

WORKS (STATE GENERAL INTEREST)
- Execution+Operation
  - NATIONAL LEVEL (WORKS MINISTRY)

WORKS (NO STATE GENERAL INTEREST)
- Execution
  - REGIONAL LEVEL (AUGAS DE GALICIA)
- Execution+Operation
  - LOCAL LEVEL
GOVERNANCE SOLUTIONS IN CASE OF WATER SUPPLY

IN GENERAL THIS SERVICES ARE WELL MANAGED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES

SPECIFIC PROBLEMS: CASE OF WATER SUPPLY IN VIGO:

• Vigo City sold drinking water to other municipalities of the metropolitan area.

• Lack of a Supra- Municipal body caused problems and did not comply with Water State Law

• 24 April 2012 entered into force the Law of the Vigo Metropolitan Area that creates a Supra-Municipal Body. Among other competences:

  ✓ Water Supply and Sanitation Services
  (exception: Construction of Sanitation Services of General Interest for the Autonomous Community)
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CONCLUSIONS

AUGAS DE GALICIA HAS MADE AN IMPORTANT EFFORT IN THE LAST FEW YEARS TO IMPROVE THE WATER GOVERNANCE, THUS:

• THE ASUMPTION OF COMPETENCES AS REGARD WWTP OF GENERAL INTEREST FOR GALICIA GUARANTEES THE WELL FUNCTIONING OF THE PRIORITY SERVICES

• THE CREATION OF CONSORTIUMS AND ASSOCIATIONS AT A SUPRA-MUNICIPAL LEVEL FOR JOINTLY MANAGING WATER SERVICES PROVIDES CRITICAL MASS AND IMPROVE EFFECTIVENESS

• TO DRAFT SEWERAGE PLANS AT A SUPRA-MUNICIPAL LEVEL, ENSURING THE POLITICAL COMMITMENT OF MUNICIPALITIES FOR THEIR IMPLEMENTATION, IMPROVES COORDINATION/BUILD LOCAL CAPACITY

• FOR THE FUTURE: LOCAL PACT THAT WILL COVER THE REMAINING POLICY, FUNDING, CAPACITY AND COORDINATION GAPS

EUROPEAN/NATIONAL REGULATORY FRAMEWORK:

• FOCUS ON THE QUALITY OF WATER RESOURCES BUT NOT ON THEIR MANAGEMENT (GOVERNANCE GAP)

• LAW 9/2010 AUGAS DE GALICIA: EFFORTS TO FILL THIS GOVERNANCE GAP → Limit: Competences on the regional level, not on the local level

• NECESSARY A LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENT AT A SUPRA-REGIONAL LEVEL
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Maria Jose Doval
Augas de Galicia