



## ENHANCING SUSTAINABILITY AND EFFICIENCY OF WSS PROVISION

### Agenda

#### International Workshop

Tuesday 15 June 2021 (12:00h-17:00h CET) via ZOOM

12:00 ~ 12:20

#### Opening session

Welcoming remarks:

- Mr Kaspar Richter, Head of Unit -Sustainable Growth and Business Environment, DG REFORM
- Mr Darius Kvedaravičius, Vice-Minister of the Environment of Lithuania
- Mr Harry Liiv, Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Environment of Estonia
- Workshop objectives - Ms Tatiana Efimova, OECD

12:20 ~ 13:50

#### Item 1. Role of strategic planning for WSS provision.

Strategic planning has a key role to play to move towards service quality, and sustainable service provision. It combines a range of tools and instruments that contribute to a national policy. It faces several obstacles. The experience of senior professionals in charge of - or supporting the development of - national plans for WSS can be a source of inspiration.

*Facilitator: Mr Xavier Leflaive, OECD*

- Keynote. The role of - and key issues related to - strategic planning for WSS – Mr. Alan Sutherland, Chief Executive, Water Industry Commission for Scotland (15')

*Proposed topics for the session:*

- Planning and prioritization of investments to capture opportunities for economies of scale. Mr. Diogo Faria de Oliveira, Director, Defining Future Options, Portugal (10')
- Economics of infrastructure planning. How to address a mismatch between high investment needs and technical and financial capacity of small municipalities? Mr. Osmo Seppälä, Managing Director, Finnish Water Utilities Association (FIWA) (10')
- Planning the WSS consolidation reform in Croatia. Mr. Vladimir Šimić, Chair of Council for Water Services, Croatia (10')

*Discussion*

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13:50 ~ 14:00 Technical break

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14:00 ~ 15:30

### **Item 2. Potential of inter-municipal cooperation and consolidation modalities**

Several countries in Europe have attempted or are attempting to consolidate WSS service provision to enhance the quality and sustainability of WSS services. Lessons can be learned from successes and failures, the ambition of the reform, its modalities and accompanying measures.

*Facilitator: Mr Harry Liiv, Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Environment of Estonia*

- A synthesis of European experience with consolidation. *Ms. Maria Salvetti, OECD (10')*

*Proposed topics for the session:*

- Austria: factors influencing a choice of technology and business model for WSS provision. *Ms. Katharina Lenz and Mr Clements Steidl, UBA, Austria (10')*
- Romania: how implementation of the EU water *acquis* triggered the change of WSS provision. *Mr. Gheorghe Constantin, Ministry of Environment, Romania (10')*
- Inter-municipal cooperation in Finland: finding synergies and addressing challenges. *Mr. Paavo Taipale, Head of municipal infrastructure, Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities (10')*

*Discussion*

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15:30 ~ 17:00

### **Item 3. The virtuous cycle of consolidation – a 25-years journey**

Consolidation takes time. It builds on a dynamics that combines performance improvement, the development of technical skills, financial sustainability, and governance arrangements that guarantee local authorities keep control of service provision and its modalities on their territory. *Le Syndicat des Eaux et de l'Assainissement Alsace-Moselle (SDEA)* has managed to transition through this journey over the last 25 years. Its transformation can be a source of inspiration for actionable reforms in other contexts.

*Facilitator: Mr Xavier Leflaive, OECD*

- Keynote - *Mr Joseph Hermal, SDEA, France (20')*

*Proposed topics for the session:*

- Consolidation *à la carte*: From shared functions to consolidated service provision
- Governance arrangements
- Tariff policy
- Local dynamics and access to finance

*Discussion*

## International Workshop

**Wednesday, 16 June 2021 (12:00h-16:00h CET) via ZOOM**

12:00 ~ 14:00

### Item 4. Enhancing regulatory system for WSS service provision

Regulation has a critical role to play, to enhance cost-effectiveness of plans and expenditure programmes, to bolster the performance of service providers, to protect consumer rights and ensure tariffs will contribute to policy objectives. Well-designed tariffs, performance monitoring and benchmarking programmes, and incentives can go a long way towards sustainable WSS service provision.

*Facilitator: Mr. Tim Keyworth, OECD expert*

- Keynote. Regulation as a driver for performance. [Mr. Alan Sutherland, Chief Executive, Water Industry Commission for Scotland \(15'\)](#)

*Proposed topics for the session:*

- Performance indicators and monitoring programmes; how to reward performance. [Ms. Margarida Monte, ERSAR, Portugal \(10'\)](#)
- Regulation of the water supply and sanitation sector in Hungary. [Dr. Kisvárdai Gábor, Hungarian Energy And Public Utility Regulatory Authority \(10'\)](#)

*Discussion*

14:00 ~ 14:10 Technical break

14:10 ~ 16:00

### Item 5. Zoom-in on challenges in small and rural municipalities

Rural areas and small towns face distinctive options as regards the efficiency and sustainability of WSS service provision. They deserve particular attention in the definition of a strategy towards consolidation, as i) decentralised solutions have a role to play; ii) IAS performance and contribution to policy objectives need to be properly monitored and enforced; and iii) social issues are particularly prevalent. The European Commission is exploring new ways to drive performance in this context.

*Facilitator: Mr. Gheorghe Constantin, Ministry of Environment, Romania*

- IAS and future developments for the UWWTD. [Ms. Nele Rosenstock, DG ENV \(10'\)](#)

*Speakers:*

- IAS and decentralised solutions of WSS in Romania - [Mr. Gheorghe Constantin, Ministry of Environment, Romania \(10'\)](#)
- Waste water treatment in small settlements of Slovenia - [Ms. Nataša Uranjek, Chamber of Public Utilities, Slovenia \(10'\)](#)
- Challenges to ensure sustainable wastewater treatment in rural Bulgaria - [Ms Boryana Georgieva, Ministry of Environment of Bulgaria \(10'\)](#)
- SPANC: wastewater treatment in small and rural areas in France - [Mr Benoît Fribourg-Blanc, International Office for Water, France \(10'\)](#)

*Discussion*