



Project consortium

 Newcastle University
(UNEW), United Kingdom

 Federal University of Minas Gerais,
(UFMG) Brazil

 Federal University of Pernambuco
(UFPE), Brazil

 Federal University of Rio de Janeiro
(UFRJ), Brazil

 CAGECE Companhia de Água e Esgoto do Ceará
Ceara's Water and Sanitation Company (CAGECE), Brazil

 National University of Rosario
(UNR) Argentina

 University of the Valley
(UNIVALLE), Colombia

 Marine and Environmental Research Centre (IMAR-UC),
Coimbra University, Portugal

Project Co-ordination

Contact Us

Project Coordinator:

Prof. José Esteban Castro

School of Geography, Politics, and Sociology
and Newcastle Institute for Research on
Sustainability (NIRES)
Newcastle University

Address:

5th Floor, Claremont Bridge Building
NE1 7RU, Newcastle upon Tyne
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 191 222 7494

Email: desafio@ncl.ac.uk

Web: www.desafioglobal.org



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*An
interdisciplinary
research project*

2013-2015

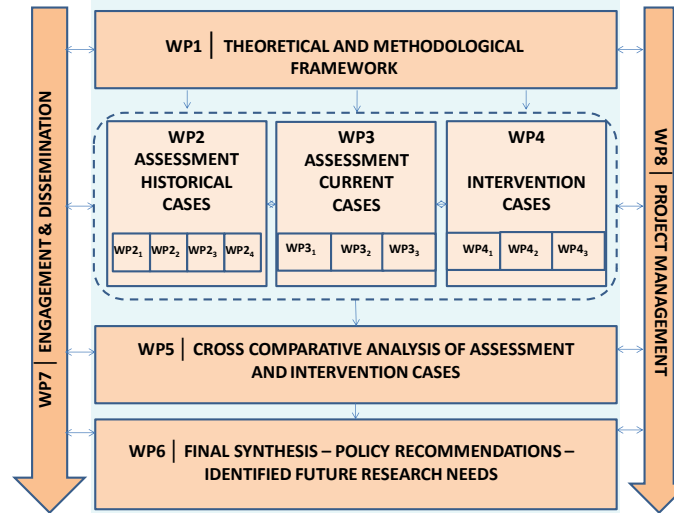


Project Overview

DESAFIO literally means “challenge” in Portuguese and Spanish. Our guiding concept is tackling one of the major challenges facing Latin America: eradicating structural social inequality in the access to essential water and sanitation services. We focus on socio-technical innovations that can strengthen the democratisation of government, management, and access to essential water services. The core of the project is the analysis of 10 case studies of socio-technical innovation identified in Argentina, Brazil and Colombia. The case study locations are in Ceará, Minas Gerais, Pernambuco, and Río de Janeiro in Brazil; Santa Fe in Argentina, and Cauca Valley in Colombia.

Project plan

DESAFIO has a duration of 30 months (February 2013 to July 2015). It is structured in 8 Work packages and has a comparative, interdisciplinary approach that brings together social and technical disciplines.



Research questions

How can we harness existing and develop new socio-technical innovations in order to change policies, to develop strategies and practical interventions, and to enhance policy learning for tackling unacceptable inequalities and injustice in the access to essential WSS? What conditions, factors and processes facilitate the emergence of socio-technical innovations in this sector? What are the critical requirements to make successful socio-technical innovations sustainable and replicable? What are the obstacles to their sustainability and replication?



Main objectives

- Developing an inter- and transdisciplinary theoretical and methodological foundation for the study of socio-technical innovations in six analytical dimensions: socio-political and cultural, economic-financial, health, ecological-environmental, techno-infrastructurel/operational, and policy-institutional.
- Assessing strategies for sustainable socio-technical innovations. Our case studies include the ‘condominial’ and ‘integrated sanitation’ systems designed and implemented in Brazil, rural sanitation systems in Brazil and Colombia, and strategies to enhance the monitoring of water quality by school children in Argentina.
- Actively engaging civil society (e.g. community organizations, citizen movements, NGOs), the state (e.g. national, regional, and local governments), and other relevant organisations.