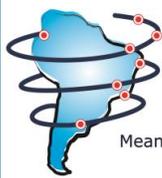




WATER WELL DUG BY THE LAGEDO COMMUNITY, SAN FRANCISCO, MINAS GERAIS, BRAZIL

DESAFIO Newsletter

Issue 2



DESAFIO
Democratisation of Water
and Sanitation Governance by
Means of Socio-Technical Innovation

September 2013

IN THIS ISSUE

Our newsletter circulates quarterly and provides updates about the progress of our project activities, findings and other relevant information. You will find our contact details on the back of this newsletter. We look forward to receiving your comments, queries and suggestions!

Our Research

Learn about our vision and project work. In this issue we provide a synthetic description of our 10 case studies from Argentina, Brazil, and Colombia that form the core of our project.

Pages 2-5



Figure 1 Meeting of the interdisciplinary team in charge of the local case study at the National University of Rosario, Argentina

Special article: Rescuing Sanitation Planning in Brazil

By Léo Heller

In this article, Léo Heller, Professor at the Department of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering, Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG) and DESAFIO's coordinator in South America, presents Brazil's National Basic Sanitation Plan (PLANSAB). PLANSAB is a strong instrument developed to promote much needed transformations in Brazilian sanitation policy. The aim is to guarantee universal and safe access to water and sanitation in the country.



Read more about PLANSAB... Pages 6-7

Engagement and Dissemination Activities



Figure 2 Members of DESAFIO's Coordination and UFPE teams meeting members of the local community to discuss joint project activities, Recife, Brazil.

DESAFIO's researchers and the members of our Strategic Advisory Committee have a strong participation in academic and policy discussions at the local, regional, national, and international levels. They are also actively engaged with the local communities they work with. Learn about our recent engagement and dissemination activities. Read more...

Pages 8-9

DESAFIO's vision

DESAFIO literally means “challenge” in Portuguese and Spanish. Our guiding concept is tackling one of the major challenges currently 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 the government, management, and access to essential water services. The core of the project is the analysis of 10 case studies of socio-technical innovation. The case study locations are in the states of Ceará, Minas Gerais, Pernambuco and Rio de Janeiro in Brazil; Santa Fe in Argentina and the Cauca Valley in Colombia. Also visit: <http://desafio.org/case-studies/>.

Figure 3 Graffiti campaign to clean solid waste from the water canals, Recife, Brazil



Historical Case Studies

2.1 Political-Institutional Assessment of SISAR in North-eastern Brazil

SISAR stands for Integrated Rural Sanitation System. It is a programme to deliver water and sanitation services (WSS) in rural areas of the Brazilian northeast that has been internationally recognised as a success story. Its main strength is its innovative approach to the provision of WSS in small, often isolated rural communities in semi-arid areas. The model articulates technical, administrative, and social aspects and is anchored on the active participation of the beneficiary communities. Under this model, the state is responsible for the provision of the physical infrastructure and the community assumes the responsibility for its maintenance and operation. This case study will develop a general assessment of the functioning of the SISAR model, especially in terms of the sustainability of its political-institutional structure. Specifically, we will pay particular

attention to such issues as community empowerment, the organizational capacity of the local community and the transparency of the processes involved in the development of the system. We will also evaluate SISAR's governance model and its potential impact in terms of reducing the vulnerability of the participating communities.



Figure 4. House in a rural community soon to be served by SISAR, Ceará, Brazil

2.2 The Condominial Sanitation System in Zones of Special Social Interest (ZEIS) in Recife, Brazil

The condominial sanitation system was implemented in the city of Recife in the 1990s. Inspired by the need to find an urgent solution to the lack of WSS affecting around 50% of the city's households, this model sought to promote the universalization of access to WSS in low-income neighbourhoods. The condominial system was proposed as an innovative and sustainable approach because it requires a substantially lower investment in infrastructure than conventional systems.

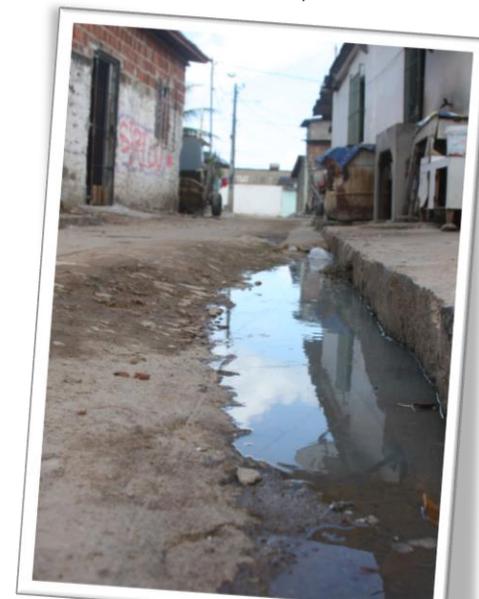


Figure 5 Lack of maintenance affecting the condominial system, Mustardinha, Recife, Brazil

Moreover, the condominal model became attractive for local authorities because much of the responsibility for the management and maintenance, and often for the funding, of the system is transferred to the users, although this aspect has also become a bone of contention. This case study will assess the performance of this innovative model following the experience of Mustardinha community, one of Recife's ZEIS where the condominal system has been implemented. We will focus our attention on the effectiveness of this model's technological features and institutional framework and on the rich experience of the beneficiary communities in terms of social and political involvement.

2.3 Assessment of Appropriate WSS Technologies in Vulnerable Communities in the Baixada Fluminense, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

The municipality of Queimados in the Baixada Fluminense of Rio de Janeiro's Metropolitan Region is characterized by deep social inequalities. Despite many programs implemented by state and federal governments in the last two decades, most municipalities in the Baixada Fluminense continue to suffer with the poor quality of basic services such as health and education and precarious access to WSS. However, grassroots initiatives have produced low-cost solutions based on simple technologies to solve the situation of lack of access to water for human consumption. In the absence of formal public services or where these services are very poor, the local population has developed survival strategies that include community-controlled water supply facilities.

This case study will examine these grassroots innovations to assess the conditions, requirements and possibilities of people-led and low-cost solutions for the lack of safe WSS in vulnerable communities.

2.4 Empowerment, Resilience and Sustainability: Evaluation of an Integrated Water and Sanitation System in La Vorágine Community, Colombia

La Vorágine is a small peri-urban community on the bank of the river Pance, near Cali. Since 1997, the community, through the Water and Sanitation Users Association of (ASOVORÁGINE), has been responsible for the operation and maintenance of an eco-friendly integrated WSS.



Figure 8. Wastewater Treatment Plant, La Vorágine, Colombia

The construction of this system in La Vorágine required the mobilisation and empowerment of the community and gathering support from various local actors such as the municipal water company and the environmental and health authorities. Employing methods such as Participatory Action Research (PAR) and Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) techniques, this case study will systematically assess this experience, and particularly the ecological-environmental, socio-political and cultural, and political-institutional dimensions. We will focus on the sustainability of the model, the interactions between the social and ecological systems, and the relationship between the vulnerability and the adaptive social capacity (resilience) of the community in the face of external pressures driven by the activities of interest groups operating in the region.



Figure 7. Meeting of Meeting of AQUACOL's members, Colombia

Current Case Studies

3.1 Ethnographic Assessment of SISAR, Ceará, Brazil

This case study will consist of an ethnographic study of the SISAR WSS system (see case 2.1 earlier). It will focus on key aspects of community participation in the management of the system, in a locality of Ceará state in the Brazilian northeast. We will analyse the socio-political and cultural and the political-institutional factors and processes that shape the ways in which water resources and WSS are governed and managed in the context of this model.

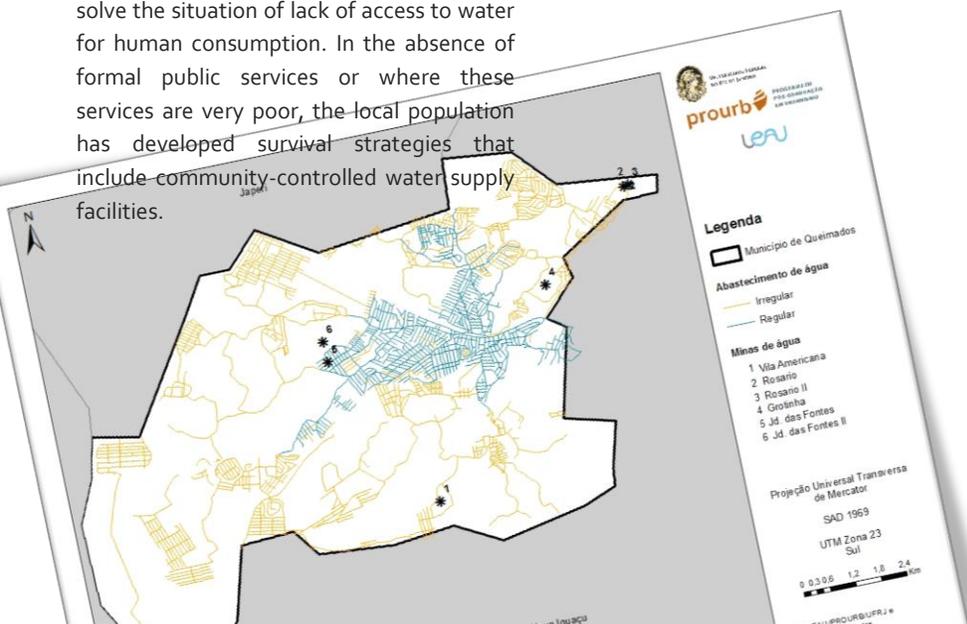


Figure 6. Map of Queimados Municipality showing a) areas covered by the WSS network (in blue), b) unserved areas (brown), and c) water access points ("minas") managed by the community (black). Source: Queimados Municipality, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



Figure 9. Meeting with a community leader in Sitio Cruz, Ceará, Brazil

We will carry out the study before, during and after the construction of a water and sanitation system in the community in order to cover the different stages of the project. We will centre our attention on the processes that condition or influence the community's behaviour in relation to and the factors and practices that contribute to the replicability and long-term sustainability of the system.



Figure 10. Meeting with community leaders and municipal officers in Mustardinha, Recife, Brazil

3.2 Socio-Technical Dimensions of the 'Integrated Sanitation' System in Low-Income Neighbourhoods in Recife, Brazil

The 'Integrated Sanitation' (Saneamento Integrado) system was introduced in Recife in 2001 as a model for sanitation management, primarily in the city's most deprived neighbourhoods. This model sought to move beyond mere community participation and institute a set of inter-sector cooperation activities that aimed to guarantee the effectiveness of the provision of WSS. These activities included integrated interventions for the supply of WSS, improvements in the wastewater treatment

infrastructure, rubbish collection, urban planning, social housing provision, disease vector control, and environmental education, among others. The model also envisioned the development of channels to enhance the democratic social control of public services by the different actors involved, in particular the community users.

This case study will assess the impact, efficacy, effectiveness and efficiency of the 'integrated sanitation' system in the community of Mustardinha. Particular emphasis will be placed on the interaction between the social and technical dimensions of the process, such as the level of appropriation of the system by the community, their role in the process of design, implementation and maintenance of the WSS, and the dynamics and interrelations between the different actors.

3.3 Community-Based Water Associations in Colombia's Rural Areas

Mondomo is a rural community in the municipality of Santander de Quilichao Colombia. The community has a drinking water treatment plant that was built through an alliance between the public and private sectors and the community. The plant has supplied potable water 24 hours a day for the past 15 years. The management of the system is the responsibility of Mondomo's Association of Water Users. Mondomo has played a critical role in the creation of AQUACOL, the Colombian Association of Community-Based Water Services Providers and has had a prominent role as a Community Learning Centre for Water.



Figure 11. Community Association of Mondomo, Cauca, Colombia

In 1998, the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) awarded the community with the "Partnerships for Overcoming Poverty" prize for these efforts. This case study will assess the emergence of AQUACOL and its community management model, the lessons learned by Mondomo through its Community Learning Centre in the promotion of community-led WSS management, and the feasibility of developing an appropriate and sustainable eco-technology for wastewater treatment.

Intervention Case Studies

4.1 Participative Development of a Water Treatment System in the Quilombola Community of Lagedo, Minas Gerais, Brazil

Quilombola communities resulted from the legacy of slavery in Brazil and were originally created by slaves who escaped from their owners. There are thousands of such communities in Brazil, and we have chosen the Lagedo community in Minas Gerais.



Figure 12. Quilombola community meeting, Minas Gerais, Brazil

This case study will apply participatory and dialogic methodologies to engage the local community in the research process. We will carry out a diagnosis through action-research activities for the design, implementation and management of a water treatment system in Lagedo. Given the

specific socio-cultural characteristics of the Quilombola population, the study will also assess whether the vulnerability of the community changes in proportion to their level of participation in the process of diagnosis, design, implementation and management of the system. This case will be developed in collaboration with Brazil's National Health Foundation (FUNASA), and civil society organisations representing Brazil's Quilombola communities such as the Federation of Quilombola Communities in Minas Gerais (N'Golo).

4.2 Community Oriented Water and Sanitation System in a Rural Community in North East Brazil

The state of Ceará has a large number of small, often distant, rural communities (see also cases 2.1 and 3.1 before) that pose enormous challenges to deliver basic WSS. This case study will be developed in close collaboration with Ceará's Water and Sanitation Company (CAGECE), one of DESAFIO's team members, through the SISAR system already considered before. We will design and implement a water and sanitation system in one rural community with the active engagement of the beneficiaries in all stages of the process.



Figure 13 Water-carrying cart, Sitio Cruz rural community, Ceará, Brazil

The objective is to assess SISAR/CAGECE's expertise in developing socio-technical innovations to provide WSS in rural communities. We aim to ascertain if the

innovation, related to the way in which the system is designed, implemented and managed, results in greater community participation and empowerment, higher levels of appropriation of the system by the users, and the level of impact of the system on the vulnerability affecting the living conditions of the community.

4.3 Capacity Building for Monitoring Water Quality in Vulnerable Communities in Argentina

In 2007, the environmental agency of the province of Santa Fe, Argentina, found that the water available for consumption in 85 of its 362 localities contain levels of naturally-occurring arsenic and fluoride that far exceed the recommended limits of the World Health Organisation.



Figure 14 Members of the local DESAFIO team taking water samples during fieldwork in Santa Fe, Argentina

These are, for the most part, small localities that get their water supply from local

authorities or cooperatives, which do not have enough resources to invest in the necessary technologies to mitigate the problem. This case study will examine the relationship between the consumption of water with high levels of arsenic and the incidence of water-related diseases in three communities: Coronda, La Chispa, and San Francisco. We will rely on a close collaboration with local schools, where DESAFIO researchers will work with teachers, schoolchildren and their families. Our strategy will involve activities of knowledge exchange between local community members and experts by encouraging the involvement of the educational system in the diagnosis and the subsequent control of the population's exposure to low-quality water.

Follow up of case study work

The research work carried out in the 10 case studies is followed up closely by the project coordination in collaboration with local partners. This includes the organization of meetings (in person or virtual) to discuss the progress of the case study work, to provide feedback, and to discuss potential obstacles. A key objective of these activities is to guarantee the comparability of the 10 case studies given their diversity of problems and characteristics



Figure 15 Coordination and feedback meeting to discuss the progress of case study work, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil

Rescuing Sanitation Planning in Brazil*

By Léo Heller

The National Basic Sanitation Plan – PLANSAB¹, approved on 7 June 2013 by the National Council of Cities and enforced by President Dilma Rousseff on 20 November 2013, introduces the idea of national public planning as a decision making tool to guide social public policy. Although it is known that the existence of PLANSAB is not enough to change the direction of the country's sanitation policy, it certainly is a strong instrument of change towards a better future for people's access to adequate sanitation. The Plan's ability to fulfil this role is not explicitly contained in it, but will result from the way in which public policy in this realm evolves over the next twenty years, especially in terms of the organisation of political forces and the type of project that will prevail in the sanitation sector.



It is believed that the Plan will be important for introducing the necessary changes in Brazilian sanitation policy because, among other reasons:

1. **PLANSAB can contribute to the introduction and consolidation of a culture of planning in the sector.** It is known that the culture in this sector is driven by intuitive and improvised decisions, a technicist vision and perverse administrative discontinuities at the federal, state and municipal level. The existence of a national plan to guide strategic national policy decisions and thereby influence the states' and municipalities' is not a minor change. In the long term, the sanitation sector can displace its traditional short-term vision for a more holistic and forward-looking vision that takes into account the challenges and the complexity of the sector.



2. **PLANSAB can change the logic of the allocation of federal resources.** If PLANSAB's guidelines are actually observed, the supply logic would be replaced by a more legitimate understanding of the demand side of the equation. The practice of allocating public resources based on patronage and political-electoral alliances might become subordinated by a long-term vision that strives for the universalization and equity in the access to basic water and sanitation services. The relationship between public investment and private benefit would be repositioned, correcting the current transfer of public funds to private accumulation.
3. **PLANSAB may equip local, state and regional basic sanitation plans.** The theoretical-methodological approach adopted by PLANSAB may exercise an inductive role in the design of plans, especially at the municipal level. Once the appropriate adaptations are made, PLANSAB's approach may favour the development of more strategic and less normative plans, and therefore plans with more potential to guide the decision making process and improve access to sanitation at the municipal level.
4. **PLANSAB encourages the theoretical debate in the sector.** The sanitation sector, traditionally not prone to deep theoretical reflections, can gain greater intellectual density in the evaluation of the causes of the unacceptable deficits that exist in the sector and the most appropriate public policy solutions. The theoretical assessments that underpin the case

studies that provided the foundation for PLANSAB can feed this process.

5. **PLANSAB can introduce a strategic vision for the country's basic sanitation policy.** PLANSAB articulates a body of strategic actions and goals, scenarios, macro-guidelines, strategies and programmes for the advancement of sanitation in the country. It seeks to overcome the rigidity of the planning process while striving to treat such tools and elements dynamically in time and space. It is believed, therefore, that adopting these sets of actions, intelligently, can guide the formulation of an appropriate agenda for this public policy in Brazil. Particularly, adopting the idea of planning based scenarios would go a long way in enhancing the strategic nature of the Plan, as long as proper monitoring and careful adjustment of the options to be taken according to the reality in which the policy will be implemented, take place.
6. **The idea of structural measures, introduced by PLANSAB, has revolutionary potential.** This idea introduces the ability to rethink the use of public funds mainly for the execution of sanitation infrastructure works, which has been the historically predominant view in the country. In this sense, the Plan points to the need to move beyond this hegemony in order to balance investments in structural and structuring actions. Thus, it aims to strengthen the role of service providers and managers to ensure that the physical facilities deployed fulfil their role of providing appropriate quality services that meet the needs of the population. In other words, it aims to strengthen the management capacity of the sector's actors, including regulators and service providers. Moreover, such measures would support the sector's long-term view by promoting the training of technical staff and the development of scientific and technological capacity appropriate for the Brazilian reality. These measures would reposition infrastructure works, which are undoubtedly important and necessary, as part of a set of measures needed to achieve the country's sanitation policy goals while promoting health and quality of life and ensuring the environmental soundness of the places where they are implemented.
7. **The idea of diagnosis for situational analysis repositions the way in which the reality of the sector is characterised at the various federal levels.** PLANSAB's diagnosis of the current reality of the sanitation sector in the country goes beyond a preoccupation with the access and quality of the sanitation services on offer. In particular, unlike the classical view that supports the sector's technicist vision, PLANSAB characterises the reality of this sector by recognising the history of public policy in its various dimensions and by evaluating the effectiveness of the government's role as financier, coordinator and manager of public sanitation strategies. That is, the current sanitation situation is historically and politically framed so that it is intentionality analysed in a context that goes beyond the scope of the sector itself. This would allow

the proposed changes to the plans to be viewed in light of their subordination to a broader and more complex array of interventions, including the dimensions of management and public policy.

8. **PLANSAB presupposes the non-neutrality of the options in the field of basic sanitation planning, thus it helps to overcome the sector's traditionally technicist approach.** Another important message that emerged from PLANSAB is the non-neutrality of planning in its various aspects. The results of following a school of thought in planning at the expense of others are not neutral, nor are they of a plan according to which agents – population, providers, state – are chosen and the way in which reality is portrayed. The results of a plan are not independent of the theoretical basis that supports it nor are the investment decisions in the sector neutral... In general, the sanitation sector as well as other public policies, operate in a political field in which there is convergence and divergence of interests and intentions, and sanitation plans have to be positioned in this context.
9. **PLANSAB contributes to the construction of an agenda of actions for social movements in the sanitation field.** PLANSAB contains a set of guidelines that can contribute to the agenda of social movements in their demand for a new model of public sanitation policy. Evidently, the first task after the publication of the Plan is to guarantee the organisation of the state, civil society, and especially of the city and sanitation councils, which will establish the political-institutional framework required for the Plan's implementation. Beyond that, the dense content of the Plan contains elements for the extensive participation of the organised forces of civil society.

* Based on the text "Why Plansab is important?" ("Por que o Plansab é importante?"), published in the Annals of the 43rd National Assembly of ASSEMAE – National Association of Municipal Sanitation Services, May 2013.

Léo Heller is a professor at the Department of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering at the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG) and DESAFIO's South American Coordinator.

¹ Available in Portuguese at:

http://www.cidades.gov.br/images/stories/ArquivosSNSA/PlanSaB/Pr-oposta_Plansab_11-08-01.pdf

Engagement and Dissemination Activities

DESAFIO has a Strategic Plan for engagement and dissemination activities that includes the organization of and participation in events at the local, regional, national and international levels. You will find below information about our activities in this area between February and June 2013.

EVENTS

Greenwich Water Talks. Seminar on "Critical reflections on water services and health", University of Greenwich, UK, 7 March 2013

Jose Esteban Castro (Newcastle), DESAFIO's Coordinator, and Léo Heller (UFMG), Regional Project Coordinator for South America, participated as keynote speakers at this international seminar organized by the Business School at Greenwich University. Leo Heller addressed the audience with a talk on "Public policy and public health", and Esteban Castro spoke about "Towards X-disciplinarity? A reflection on the relationship between water, health, and democratization processes". The event was organized by Emanuele Lobina, a long-term member of the [WATERLAT network](#).

I National Conference of Regional Development, Brasilia, 19 March 2013.

Helder Cortez (CAGECE) presented the DESAFIO project in a session entitled: "Regional Policy in the Global Context: current situation and perspectives".

Meeting on "Current Actions for Living with and Combating the Drought", Fortaleza, Ceará, Brazil, 22 March 2013

Helder Cortez (CAGECE) also presented the DESAFIO during this meeting organised by our partner Ceará's Water and Sanitation Company (CAGECE).

43 National Assembly of Brazil's National Association of Municipal Sanitation Services (ASSEMAE) on "Water and Sanitation for All, with Sustainable Development and Quality Management", Vitória, ES, 19-24 May 2013

ASSEMAE's annual assemblies bring together thousands of municipal experts and practitioners to participate in round tables, workshops, and keynote conferences. In addition, the assemblies feature exhibitions from public, private and civil society organizations including technology and equipment for the WSS sector.



Figure 17 DESAFIO members participating at ASSEMAE's 43rd Annual Assembly

DESAFIO's members had a prominent role in the 2013 edition. Esteban Castro (Newcastle), and Léo Heller (UFMG), participated through the organization of special paper sessions and in plenary sessions as keynote speakers. They also launched the Portuguese version of their latest book, [Water and Sanitation Services. Public Policy and Management](#) during ASSEMAE's conference.



XV Meeting of the National Association of Postgraduate Studies and Research in Urban and Regional Planning (ANPUR)

The meeting took place in Recife on 20-24 May 2013. Ana Lucia Britto (UFRJ) organised a session about the DESAFIO project entitled New Actors, Territories and Technologies in Sanitation Management in Brazil. The session opened with a presentation of the project and had the participation of other members of the DESAFIO team including André Monteiro Costa (UFPE), who acted as a discussant. Hermelinda Rocha (UFPE) presented her work on "Socio-technical innovations in integrated sanitation for access to low-income populations: evaluating Recife's experience", Alexandre Ramos (UFPE) spoke about "Social agents and access to sanitation in rural areas: current experiences", and Sebastião Castro (UFMG) addressed the topic of "Social agents and access to sanitation in rural areas: SISAR's experience". In this meeting ANPUR commemorated 30 years of existence. More information here: <http://www.xvenanpur.com.br/>.

III Latin American Sanitation Conference, LATINOSAN, Panama, 29-31 May 2013

LATINOSAN is one of the main meetings about sanitation in Latin America. Its objective is to mobilise governments and leaders in the search for solutions to provide sustainable sanitation services to Latin America's population and thus, contribute to the eradication of poverty in the region.



Figure 18 Members of DESAFIO at the LATINOSAN Conference in Panamá.

Helder Cortez, from CAGECE/SISAR's team, acted as a discussant in the panel "Public Policies: prioritising social inclusion to



Figure 16 DESAFIO members at the I National Conference of Regional development, Brazil

improve sanitation services". His intervention centred on Brazil's experience and the policies of the state of Ceará in this realm, particularly the SISAR Participatory Model of Sanitation Management and the studies about the model, including the DESAFIO project. Antonio Miranda Neto, a member of DESAFIO's Strategic Advisory Committee, chaired a high-profile session at the event.

Seminar: Innovative Solutions for Wastewater Treatment and Reuse in Isolated Communities, Brazilian Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering (ABES), Campinas, Brazil, 17-18 June 2013.

Otaciana Ribeiro (CAGECE) participated in this seminar. She presented the sanitation intervention plans for the community of Sitio Cruz, one of the possible sites for a DESAFIO's case study in Ceará. The discussion centred around how to improve the planned water and sanitation activities that will be developed with this community as well as possible solutions for other rural communities in the state of Ceará.

IV International Seminar of Public Health Engineering organised by FUNASA, Brazil's National Health Foundation, Belo Horizonte, 18 June 2013

Helder Cortez, from CAGECE/SISAR's team, participated in this seminar in Belo Horizonte on 18 June 2013. Helder presented the SISAR's Management Model, which will be the focus of three of our case studies. He explained different aspects of SISAR's implementation in the state of Ceará.

Congress of the International Water History Association (IWHA), Montpellier, France, 24-28 June 2013

Ana Lucia Britto (UFRJ) presented DESAFIO during her talk at this Congress.

IV Seminar on SISAR's Model of Management 24-25 June 2013, Sobral, Ceará, Brazil

Helder Cortez and Valeria Melo (CAGECE) presented DESAFIO at a session on "Challenges to the Rational Use of Water".

Alternative Ways of Organizing Public Services and Work in the Public Sector: The Role of Public-Public Partnerships (PuPs), Berlin, 4-5 July 2013

This workshop was organized by the Friedrich-Schiller University of Jena, Germany, with the support of the Public Services International (PSI) and European public sector unions, specially the German Ver.di and the Austrian Chamber of Labour.



Figure 19 DESAFIO present at the PuPs Workshop in Berlin

The workshop included participants from Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. Esteban Castro (Newcastle) spoke about DESAFIO during the workshop, which addressed the urgent need to strengthen public utilities and public-sector management more generally in order to tackle water inequality and injustice worldwide.

ESTABLISHING LINKS

DESAFIO aims to establish links with other projects with similar objectives and interests.

Brazil

Ana Lucia Britto (UFRJ) held meetings with the team running the project EAU&3E, Villes Durables "The Durability of Water Services in Large Cities", during her visit to L'École Nationale du Génie Rural, des Eaux et des Forêts (ENGREF) in Montpellier, France, to discuss collaboration strategies with DESAFIO.

Colombia

On 8 May 2013, UNIVALLE's team organised a meeting with colleagues that have ongoing projects related to DESAFIO's case studies. The aim was to create synergies and develop comparable conceptual approaches that would enhance the research results. Fabián Méndez, Director of UNIVALLE's School of Public Health, outlined his project on **Global Warming and Health in the Basin of the Cauca River** (where two of DESAFIO's case study communities in Colombia are located). Apolinar Figueroa of the University of Cauca presented the activities of the **Colombian Inter-institutional Network of Global Warming and Food Security (RICCLISA)**, specially a pilot project that aims to analyse the vulnerability of the agricultural sector in the Basin of the Cauca River to climate change and design adaptation strategies to cope with such changes. It was agreed that other meetings will be organised to discuss the concept of vulnerability that will be used in DESAFIO and related projects.

United Kingdom

DESAFIO's Coordinator has been discussing possible forms of collaboration with the EU-funded project Environmental Governance in Latin America and the Caribbean (ENGOV), Coordinated by the Centre for Latin American Research and Documentation (CEDLA) in Amsterdam.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

UFRJ's team met the President of the **Committee of the Guandu Basin** to formalise the cooperation in the development of DESAFIO's case study 2.3 (see before) in the municipality of Queimados, Rio de Janeiro.

DESAFIO'S PUBLICATIONS

Our first Working Paper on "Innovations and challenges for the democratization of water and sanitation services. Synthesis of the First Conference" will be available in November 2013. Visit our Publication's web pages (<http://desafioglobal.org/publications/>) for the latest news.



DESAFIO Newsletter



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