

List of water remunicipalisations worldwide – As of November 2013

by

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The tables below list the cases of remunicipalisation occurred in the last 15 years in developed, transition and developing countries.¹ These remunicipalisations occurred mainly for three reasons: the widespread problems affecting water privatisation irrespective of country and regulatory regime; the equal or greater efficiency of public water services, and the lower prices resulting from elimination of excessive profits; and, the comparative advantage of the public sector in realising the human right to water and sanitation and achieving other social and environmental objectives.² These three reasons have led major cities in the US (e.g. Atlanta, Milwaukee, Indianapolis) and Europe (e.g. Paris, Berlin) to remunicipalise their water services. The case of Paris is symbolically powerful as Paris hosts the headquarters of the two major water multinationals, and because these two multinationals were holding the private contracts that were terminated in 2009.³ Also, Paris⁴ and Berlin (which decided to remunicipalise in September 2013)⁵ are the capital cities of the two countries (France and Germany) that are regarded as leading the European Union project.⁶

As of November 2013, the cases of remunicipalisation around the world total 86. All of these except three took place between 2000 and 2013. Of the 86 remunicipalitions, 51 are in high income countries and 35 in transition and developing countries. The cases in high income countries show a marked acceleration: 28 out of 51 took place in the five years between 2009 and 2013, while 14 occurred between 2004 and 2008. The pace of remunicipalisation has therefore doubled after 2009. This is due to the example of Paris which produced an even stronger acceleration in France. Of the 21 remunicipalisations that took place in France, 15 occurred in the four years between 2010 (when Paris remunicipalised) and 2013, while the remaining six occurred in the 12 years between 1997 and 2009. It is also significant that such a high number of cases are concentrated in France, where the experience with water privatisation is more extensive and goes back decades. In middle and low income countries, remunicipalisation takes a slightly different pattern. However, even here there is a large number of remunicipalisations with high profile cases including Buenos Aires, La Paz, Johannesburg, Dar-es-Salaam, and Ghana. Also, the net trend since 2006 is in favour of remunicipalisation.⁷ Overall, there is a strong remunicipalisation trend both in the global North and South.

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T = Terminated
 E = Contract expired and not renewed
 P = Planned termination

S = Sold by private operator
 W = Private operator withdrawn

Table 1: High income countries

Country	City	Date	Company	Status
Belgium	Regional (Aquafin)	2004	Severn Trent	TS
Canada	Hamilton	2004	American Water	TE
Canada	Hamilton	2006	Enron	
France	Durance-Luberon	1997	Suez	TE
France	Grenoble	2000	Suez	T
France	Varages	2002	Suez	TE
France	Castres	2003	Suez	T
France	Cherbourg	2005	Veolia	TE
France	Châtelleraut	2007	Veolia	TE
France	Paris	2010	Suez, Veolia	TE
France	Est ensemble (Greater Paris)	2010	Veolia	TE
France	Toulouse	2010	Veolia	TP
France	Eaux Barousse Comminges Save	2011	SEM Pyrénées	TE
France	Bordeaux	2011	Suez	TP
France	Evry Centre Essonne (Greater Paris)	2011	Veolia	TE
France	Nantes	2011	Gradual	TE
France	Rouen	2011	Gradual	TE
France	Montbéliard	2011	Veolia	T
France	Brest	2012	Veolia	E
France	St Malo	2012	Veolia	T
France	Eau des collines (Aubagne)	2013	Veolia	T
France	Vernon	2013	Veolia	TE
France	Rennes	2013	Veolia	TE
France	Nice	2013	Veolia	TE
Germany	Potsdam	2000	Suez	T
Germany	Berlin	2013	Veolia/RWE	T
Hungary	Kaposvar	2007	Suez	E
Hungary	Pecs	2011	Suez	T
Hungary	Budapest	2012	Suez	T
Italy	Reggio Emilia	2012	IREN	TE
Italy	Varese	2012	a2a	T
Spain	Medina Sidonia	2003		T
Spain	Aguas del Huesna (Alanís de la Sierra, Alcolea del Río, Almadén de la Plata, Brenes, Las Cabezas, Cantillana, Carmona, Cañada Rosal, Constantina, El Coronil, El Cuervo, El Madroño, Los Molares, Lebrija, Los Palacios y Vfca., El Pedroso, El Real de la Jara, Tocina, Vva. Del Río y Minas, El Viso del Alcor, San Nicolás del Puerto, Utrera)	2007	ACS	T
Spain	Figaró Montmany	2010	CASSA Group	T
Spain	Arenys de Munt	2011	SOREA (AGBAR)	T

Spain	Arteixo	2013	Aqualia (FCC)	T
Spain	La Línea de la Concepción	2013	Aqualia (FCC)	T
USA	North Brunswick (water)	2002	United Water (Suez)	TE
USA	Atlanta	2003	Suez	T
USA	Montara	2003	American Water	T
USA	Laredo	2005	United Water (Suez)	W
USA	North Brunswick (sewerage)	2006	United Water (Suez)	TE
USA	Petaluma (California, wastewater treatment)	2007	Veolia	T
USA	Houston (water treatment)	2007	United Water (Suez)	T
USA	Fairfield-Suisun (wastewater treatment)	2008	United Water (Suez)	T
USA	Felton	2008	American Water	T
USA	Gloucester	2008	United Water (Suez)	TE
USA	Burley (Idaho, wastewater treatment)	2009	Veolia	T
USA	Milwaukee	2010	United Water (Suez)	TE
USA	Gary	2010	United Water (Suez)	T
USA	Indianapolis	2010	Veolia	T

Table 2: Low and middle income countries

Country	City	Date	Company	Status
Argentina	Buenos Aires	2006	Suez	T
Argentina	Buenos Aires Province 1	2002	Enron	T
Argentina	Buenos Aires Province 2	2006	Impregilo	T
Argentina	Santa Fe	2006	Suez	T
Argentina	Tucuman	1998	Veolia	T
Bolivia	Cochabamba	2000	Bechtel	T
Bolivia	La Paz/El Alto	2007	Suez	T
Central African Republic	Bangui	2001	SAUR	T
China	Da Chang (Shanghai)	2004	Thames	W
China	Shenyang	2002	Suez	T
Colombia	Bogota (treatment plant)	2004	Suez	T
Colombia	Bogota 1 (water supply)	2010	Gas Capital	T
Gambia		1995	Veolia	T
Ghana	National	2011	Vitens, Rand Water	TE
Georgia	Tblisi		Veolia	T
Kazakhstan	Ust-Kamenogorsk	2007	IR-Group	T
Kazakhstan	Almaty		Veolia	T
Indonesia	Bandung Bali	2013	Mahasara Buana, Intan Dyandra Mulya, Dewata Artha Kharisma	TE
Malaysia	States (Melaka, Negeri Sembilan, Perlis, Johor and Pulau Pinang; water supply)	2009		TR
Malaysia	Indah Water Consortium (sanitation)	2001	Prime Utilities	S

Mali	Bamako	2005	SAUR	T
South Africa	Amahthali (Stutterheim)	2005	Suez	T
South Africa	Johannesburg		Suez	TE
South Africa	Nkonkobe (Fort Beaufort)	2002	Suez	T
Tanzania	Dar-es-Salaam	2005	Biwater	T
Turkey	Antalya	2002	Suez	T
Ukraine	Odessa	2008	Infox, LLC	T
Ukraine	Kirovograd	2008	Water Services, LLC	T
Uruguay	Aguas de la Costa	2006	Suez	T
Uruguay	URAGUA	2006	Urbaser	T
Uzbekistan	Bukhara	2007	Veolia	T
Uzbekistan	Samarkand	2007	Veolia	T
Venezuela	Monagas state	2001	FCC	TE
Venezuela	national	2002	Aguas de Valencia	T
Vietnam	Thu Duc	2003	Suez	T

Source: PSIRU

Notes

¹ Details on 30 of the 81 terminated contracts are available in Hall, D., Lobina, E. (2010) Replacing failed private water contracts. *PSIRU Reports*, January 2010 (<http://www.psiru.org/sites/default/files/2010-01-W-Jakarta.doc>).

² Hall, D., Lobina, E. (2008) Water Privatization. *PSIRU Reports*, April 2008 (<http://www.psiru.org/sites/default/files/2008-04-W-over.doc>); Hall, D., Lobina, E. (2009) Water Privatization, in Arestis, P., Sawyer, M. (eds.) *Critical Essays on the Privatization Experience*, International Papers in Political Economy Series, Basingstoke and New York: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 75-120; Lobina, E., Hall, D. (2008) The comparative advantage of the public sector in the development of urban water supply, in *Progress in Development Studies*, 8(1), pp. 85-101; Lobina, E. (2013) Remediable institutional alignment and water service reform: Beyond rational choice, in *International Journal of Water Governance*, 1(1/2), pp. 109-132.

³ Pigeon, M. (2012) Une eau publique pour Paris: Symbolism and Success in the Heartland of Private Water. In Pigeon, M., McDonald, D. A., Hoedeman, O., Kishimoto, S. (eds.), *Remunicipalisation: Putting Water Back into Public Hands*, 24-39. Amsterdam: Transnational Institute.

⁴ Sinai, A. (2013) *L'eau à Paris: retour vers le public*. July 2013. Paris: Eau de Paris. ISBN: 978-2-95306663-4-0 (http://www.eaudeparis.fr/uploads/tx_edpevents/LivreRemunicipalisation_01.pdf).

⁵ European Water Movement, "Berlin Water back in Public Hands", <http://europeanwater.org/news/news-from-the-ground/256-berlin-water-back-in-public-hands>.

⁶ Hall, D., Lobina, E., Terhorst, P. (2013) Re-municipalisation in the early 21st century: water in France and energy in Germany, in *International Review of Applied Economics*, 27(2), pp. 193-214.

⁷ Hall, D., Lobina, E. (2010) Replacing failed private water contracts. *PSIRU Reports*, January 2010 (<http://www.psiru.org/sites/default/files/2010-01-W-Jakarta.doc>).