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NATIONAL SANITATION LAW IN BRAZIL: AN OPPORTUNITY LOST?

WARTCHOW, Dieter¹; DARONCO, Giuliano C.²;

Instituto de Pesquisas Hidráulicas (IPH),
Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS)
Av. Bento Gonçalves, 9,500 – CEP 91,501-970, Porto Alegre-RS, Brazil.

¹ dieterw@iph.ufrgs.br; ² giulianodaronco@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This paper contextualizes the experience gained by supporting municipalities in drafting the sanitation plans required by Law 11,445, of January 5, 2007. This work also intends to propose alternatives to bring back the autonomy and sovereignty of municipalities, allowing them to make their own decisions regarding needs in sanitation. Here we advocate better quality in public management, financial sustainability, the integration of basic sanitation services - including water, sewage, drainage and solid waste services. Finally, this paper also helps understand and construct methods for regulation and social control, with the full participation of the population.

Two decades ago, Brazil did not have a framework for the basic sanitation sector. There was considerable pressure from the IMF to minimize state services in this field, resulting in the curtailment of public resources and the privatization of public services. These measures ultimately made an existing crisis in the public sector worse, by proposing a model based on private enterprises.

With the National Sanitation Policy (Law No. 11,445), Municipal Sanitation Plans became a strategic planning tool to integrate sanitation, ensure financial sustainability, and rescue the public technical capacity to design, manage, operate and monitor services. According to this law, it is the holder of the services (municipalities) that should define how the services will be provided, directly or by delegation or concession, as well as the form of regulation and social control.

The search for an universal provision of the population with sanitation services goes through new arrangements for its management, whose prerogative to decide belongs the city manager. Both the pressure put on local managers (usually mayors) by state-owned enterprises or by groups of private companies to centralize power produce various conflicts. The private sector seeks to do business, often fostering corruption and legal debates that affect the population. For instance, in Uruguayana

water and sewage services were privatized, unlike São Luiz Gonzaga and Sao Borja, where the aim to privatize was reversed by mobilizing his population.

The management of sanitation is not a technical problem, but a matter of governance. It is necessary to bring back values such as transparency, participation, solidarity, commitment, ethics and accountability. Taking these small steps shows that with public cooperation, it is possible to create new forms of governance, targeting policy at local and regional levels. In the municipality of Ijuí - Brazil, with the approval of a Municipal Fund for Sharing Management it is increasingly possible to render sewage and water supply universal. The Sanitation Plan of the municipality of Ijuí rejected PPPs (Public Private Partnerships) and created a local public autarchy, bringing back municipal know-how to oversee sanitation and returning it to the public purview, promoting the integration of sanitation services (water, sewage, waste and drainage).

Despite some achievements, much more could be done regarding the quality of management of public water and sanitation services. This will only be possibly by debating ideas. Our ideas and experiences can be and should be used as a parameter in other countries.

INTRODUCTION

This paper contextualizes the experience gained by supporting municipalities in drafting the sanitation plans required by Brazilian Law 11,445, of January 5, 2007, named the National Sanitation Policy. This work also proposes alternatives to bring back the autonomy and sovereignty of municipalities, allowing them to make their own decisions regarding needs in sanitation. Here we advocate better quality in public management, financial sustainability, the integration of basic sanitation services - including water, sewage, drainage and solid waste services. Finally, this paper also helps understand and construct methods for regulation and social control, with the full participation of the population.

Water supply and sanitation service diagnoses performed in some municipalities by training and consultancy done by the Federal University of South Rio Grande (UFRGS) point to challenges that are common to most municipalities in Brazil and in developing countries of the Southern Hemisphere. The proposals and suggestions regarding the challenges, taking into account cultural and regional differences, and the uniqueness inherent to basic sanitation, are likewise universally applicable.

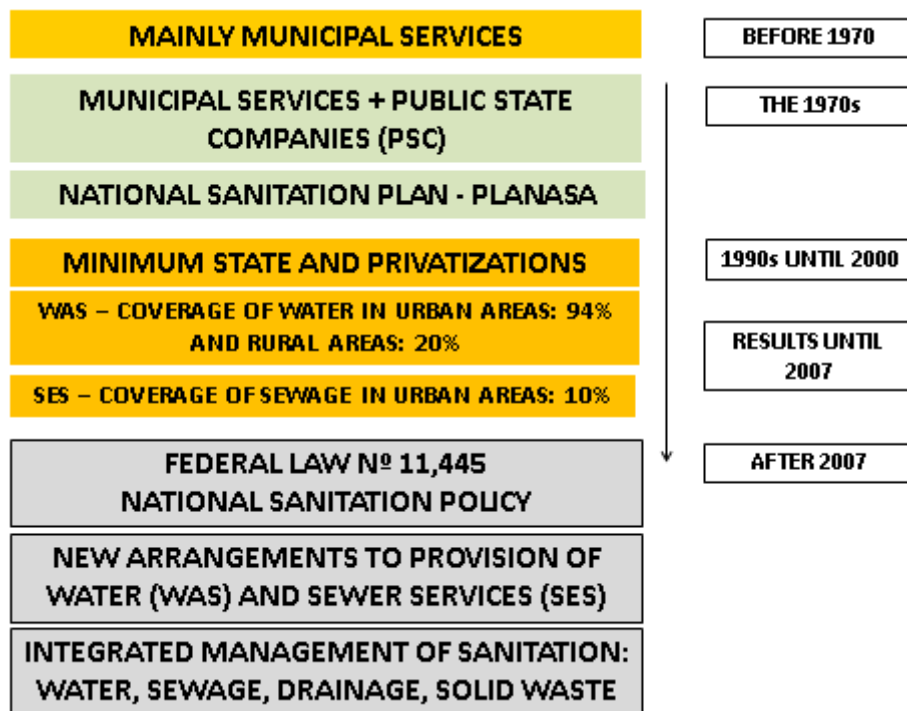
The historical frame of reference of the Brazilian experience presented schematically in Figure 1 begins in the 1970s. According to the chronology of facts related to providing Water Supply Services and Sanitary Sewer Services shown in Figure 1, began in the 1970s, with the National Sanitation Plan (PLANASA), when these services started to be provided by the municipalities and, on a larger scale, by the Public State Sanitation Companies (PSSC).

In the 1970s, many municipalities were induced and forced to transfer their Water Services (WAS) and Sewer Services (SES) to the PSSCs, since this was the only way the Federal Government allowed access to funds for investments. From the 1970s onwards, many Brazilian cities underwent intense urbanization and thus, a

huge demand for basic infrastructure. When the public financing model and its development programs were exhausted, the Federal Government, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) logic, began to advocate the Minimal State and privatizations of public services.

DRAFT

Figure 1: Brief history of the Water and Sewer Services from 1970s to 2007.



With the low financial capacity of municipalities and most PSSCs, the investments became insufficient to cover the demands for basic sanitation infrastructure (especially in the Water and Sewer Services) resulting from the intense urbanization of the cities. Thus, in the following decades, a dispute began between the public and private models to provide the WAS and SES, and a governance crisis in basic sanitation. The municipalities lost their autonomy and the technical and financial capacity to undertake projects, works, and to inspect and operate the WAS and SES. They became hostage to the PSSCs and to the economic model depending on foreign capital.

In 1995 a debate began on the National Sanitation Policy to be adopted in Brazil. On the one hand the Federal Government of the time, taking a liberal position, advocated that the WAS and SES be privatized in the agglomerations and metropolitan areas, and areas belonging to the PSSCs. On the other hand, society, the church, workers' unions and representative entities advocated the public management of sanitation services, and took a position against the mercantilization and privatization of the WAS and SES.

At the end of the 1990s, after the "Water War" that occurred in Cochabamba, Bolivia, the world was no longer the same. Resistance movements contrary to privatization followed in Brazil and the wealth of debates in the World Social Forums held in Porto Alegre, Brazil. Entities such as *Red Vida*, *The Council of Canadians*, *Corporate Europe Observatory*, *Public Services International*, *Assemæe* and others played an important role in the construction of arguments to counter the arguments in favor of privatization and propose alternatives to universalize the WAS and SES with a good level of quality.

Worldwide, as a consequence of this debate, it was sought to bring back values such as the importance of cooperation and solidarity, and autonomy in decision-making,

the need for citizen participation, and also the understanding that citizens have a right to access to safe water. On January 5, 2007, a milestone was set in the history of sanitation in Brazil, when Federal Law nr. 11,445 was enacted, instituting the National Sanitation Policy.

CHALLENGES

The Basic Sanitation Policy encourages the integration of this basic sanitation policy with the urban development policy and to the City Statute, according to the guidelines and instruments defined in the city Master Plan, and also with the policy for the environment and the policy for water resources, constituting an interdisciplinary planning system which also aims at integrated management.

According to Wartchow (2013) we can mention the main challenges in the field of basic sanitation, as follows:

- a) Absence of local authorities in decision-making on priorities, on what to do and where to perform the interventions in WAS and SES;
- b) A backward regulation system that does not encourage the implementation of environmental services by citizens and users;
- c) Fragmentation of the planning action and fragmented action in control and enforcement activities;
- d) Lack of a basic sanitation plan, stormwater drainage plan and wastes plan and projects;
- e) Lack of knowledge and its dependence on technology and on managers who know how to get things done;
- f) The limitation of the payment capacity of citizens and low income users for the services rendered;
- g) Absence of local leaders to encourage the participation of citizens and users in decision making;
- h) Lack or low standard of environmental and sanitary education;
- i) Low level of participation of citizen-users who have rights and duties;
- j) Power and authoritarianism considering that "*he who has the gold makes the rules*".

Another very important principle relates the economic scenarios to ensure financial sustainability in providing basic sanitation services, based on the incentive of using appropriate technologies, the users' capacity to pay and the adoption of gradual and progressive solutions.

Sustainable development, health, quality of life in cities and in rural areas, as well as the aim to achieve the Millennium Development Objectives (MDO) at the local level will remain distant from their purpose if there is no will to cooperate for the common good.

In order to deal with the challenges listed above, it will be necessary to rediscuss values and seek a new institutional arrangement in which cooperation among public entities can result in solutions or improvements to the problems reported.

It is recommended that cooperation among public municipal, state and federal entities be shaped considering a few principles and values, outstanding among which are:

- a) Integration among related areas;
- b) The duty of federated entities to constitute the State policy for basic sanitation;
- c) Obeying municipal (local) autonomy;
- d) Public management with quality and with social control; and
- e) Financial sustainability of the ensemble of basic sanitation services (water, sewage, solid wastes, stormwater drainage);
- f) The municipalities should share responsibility and work together with other municipalities, for instance, through a public consortium of municipalities for the integrated management of solid wastes.

PLANNING SANITATION SERVICES

Federal Law nº 11,445, of January 5, 2007, requires the holders (municipalities) of the basic sanitation services to draft their Municipal Sanitation Plans (MSP). It is these municipalities that should say what, why, where, who, when to do things, how and how much must be undertaken by the actions to be foreseen in the strategic planning of the MSP.

Drafting the Municipal Sanitation Plan is a condition for access to Federal Government programs funded with non-onerous resources of the General Budget of the Union (GBU). These plans must be drafted, considering the topics of water supply, sanitary sewage, solid wastes and stormwater drainage in an integrated, interdisciplinary way, with the broad participation of citizens.

If there is no plan, there will not be non-onerous public funds, effective management, works and safe water or sanitary sewage system, or even, works in the fields of solid waste management and stormwater drainage systems.

The Basic Sanitation Policy and the Municipal Sanitation Plan to be established for the Municipalities by specific municipal legislation, according to the Recommended Resolution nº 75 (BRAZIL 2009), should cover the minimum contents presented in Table 1.

In brief, we can point out how the services will be rendered, quality criteria, goals, regulation, universalization of quality care, citizens' and users' rights and duties, the creation of a fund, procedures to evaluate the services, indicators, the information system, emergencies; the instrument and mechanisms for participation and social control in the management of the basic sanitation policy, the mechanisms of incentive to cooperation and the mechanisms that can promote the integration of the Basic Sanitation Policy with the other areas that interface with the latter.

Table 1: Minimum Contents of a Sanitation Plan.

SUB-PARAGRAPH	SUB-PARAGRAPH DESCRIPTION
I.	Definition of the form in which the services shall be rendered, whether directly or by delegation, and contract conditions, in particular the definition of the quality criteria and establishing the goals to meet them.
II.	Definition of the regulatory norms, including designating the entity that is responsible for regulation and enforcement, and also the means and procedures for their action.
III.	Parameters, conditions and responsibilities to ensure essential care to promote public health.
IV.	Guarantee of conditions of access to water for the entire population, in a quantity and quality that will ensure health protection, taking into account the norms concerning quality of water for human consumption, as well as the environmental legislation and water resources legislation.
V.	Establishing the rights and duties of the users, obeying national legislation, particularly Law nº 8,078, of September 11, 1990 – (Consumer Defense Code) and Decree nº 5,440, of May 4, 2005.
VI.	Creation of the Universalization Fund, establishing sources of funding, disposal and form of administration, as established in article 13, Law 11,445, of January 5, 2007.
VII.	The procedures for the systematic evaluation of effectiveness, efficiency and efficacy of the services rendered, which include indicators to measure the accomplishment of the goals.
VIII.	Establishing instruments and mechanism of participation and social control in the management of the basic sanitation policy, ie, in the activities of planning and regulation, enforcement of the services in the form of city councils or similar others, with a deliberative character.
IX.	Establishing the system of information on the services, articulated to the National System of Information on Sanitation.
X.	Establishing mechanisms for cooperation with other federated entities to implement sanitation services.
XI.	Mechanisms that can promote the integration of the Basic Sanitation Policy with the health, environment, water resources, urban development, housing policies and all others related to it.

(Source: BRAZIL 2009).

As opposed to the model of private provision of the services, the public sector must learn to cooperate and allow the participation of several actors, mainly those actors who pay and financially support the sanitation services, as well as those segments of the low income population that can be considered as belonging to the family of the “homeless”. “waterless”, “job and incomeless”, “educationless” and “knowledgeless”.

When municipalities transfer the responsibilities of providing services and regulating, they try to avoid the legal responsibility and penalties, and they do this mainly due to insufficient financial resources, excessively high charges by the judicial system and

auditing instances and lack of knowledge and people trained to undertake these activities and their projects and associated actions.

It is in this scenario that universities and entities with installed intelligence for training and encouraging cooperation and sharing responsibilities play a decisive role. Often, the public sector is not very resilient to problems presented by sanitation, and becomes hostage to a market logic and a logic of public and private enterprises working in this sector.

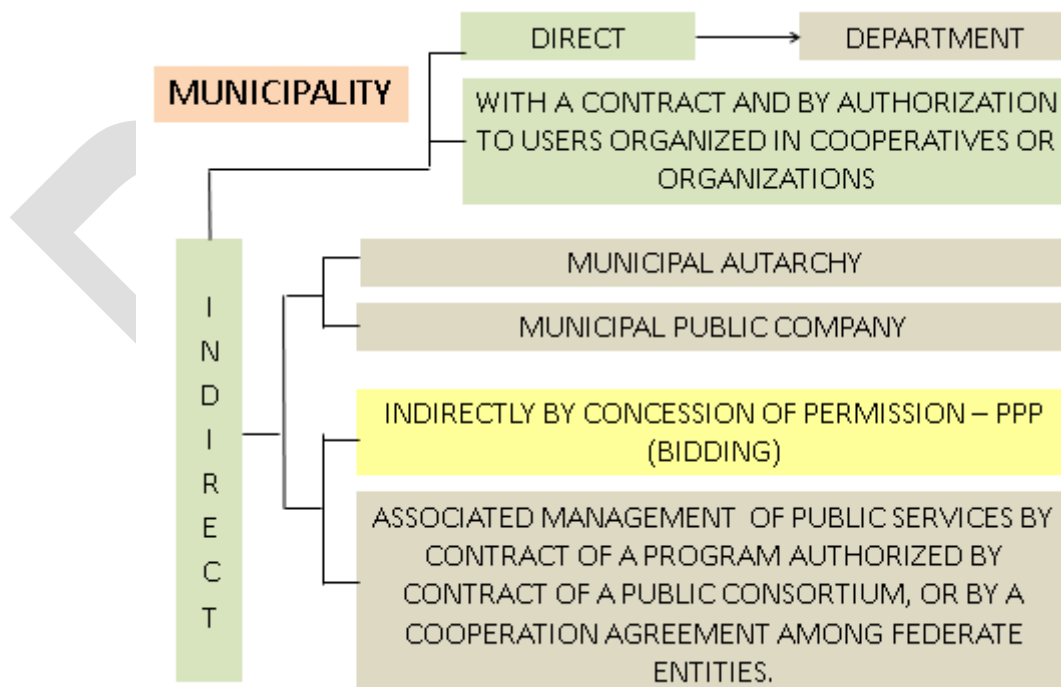
INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Based on Federal Law nº 11,445, of January 5, 2007, the holder (the municipality) is responsible for defining the form in which the sanitation services will be rendered, whether directly or by delegation, and the conditions to be obeyed in the contracts, particularly the definition of quality criteria and establishing goals for care. The institutional arrangement that will define the form of providing the services is also the subject of a definition in the planning instrument constituted by the MSP.

Basic sanitation services can be provided according to Figure 2, in the following forms:

- a) direct;
- b) indirect;
- c) through contract and by permission to users organized in cooperatives or associations.

Figure 2: Forms of service contracts



The basic sanitation services provided in the direct form are obtained through an Office or Department. The sanitation services in indirect form are provided by an Autarchy, Public Company, Foundation or Joint Capital Company (article 38, I, Decree 7,217, of June 21, 2010 (BRAZIL, 2010)), and they can also employ third

parties for certain activities, as long as the regime established by Law nº 8,666 / 1993, known as the Law of Bidding is obeyed.

Services under contract form can be provided in two ways, according to subparagraph II of article 38, of Decree 7,217, of June 21, 2010:

- a) Indirectly by concession or permission, always preceded by bidding in the public tender modality, according to the regime of Law 8,987, of February 13, 1995;
- b) Within the sphere of associated management of public services, by contract of a program authorized by a public consortium contract or by an agreement for cooperation between federated entities, in the regime of Law nº 11,445, of January 5, 2007.

The municipalities that, before Federal Law nº 11,445, of January 5, 2007 delegated the provision of Water and Sewer Services to a public company (PSSC), and that are currently proposing an innovative public model, or that intend to hold a bid for service to a private company, will find it very difficult to do so. Firstly, it is disputed whether the service provision model should be public or private. Then, judicially, values for compensation are disputed. Even if the previous investments are already amortized by paying the tariffs resulting from providing the services, they are always depreciated, frightening any manager against continuing what they had intended.

The consequences of a misunderstanding are a judicial break or a concession for a private enterprise or that the public company (PSSC) continues to provide a service according to its principles and conditions, by means of a program contract. Thus, a great opportunity is missed to create new institutional arrangements, cooperation is weak and the quality of services and their regulation are handled with an authoritarian bias, and without any risks to the service provider.

Under these circumstances, the guidelines of the National Sanitation Policy are disobeyed, and the intended autonomy of the municipalities to decide how, where, when and what technology to provide to the WAS and SES becomes secondary, to the detriment of a centralized and authoritarian or old fashioned.

The public company in the state of Rio Grande do Sul (Corsan), is a public company working in the field of sanitation (water and sewage) since the beginning of the 1970s, when proposing associated management to provide the water and sewage services, does not allow the municipalities that wish to operate the SES to do so. On the other hand, when it is not capable of providing the sanitary sewage services, Corsan is opening up the participation of private sanitary sewage companies through Public Private Participation (PPP). Recently Corsan published Technical Note - 01/2012 –GT- “Procedures for the expression of Interest”, about “Guidance for the elaboration and analysis of feasibility of the studies and projects approved in the procedure of expression of interest “, for PPPs in the segment on “Sanitary Sewage System”.

It is possible that the Corsan workers do not want this, but since it is subordinated to a way of thinking and acting in the political and economic milieu represented by strong and powerful voices, no other recourse was left to them but to prepare for this

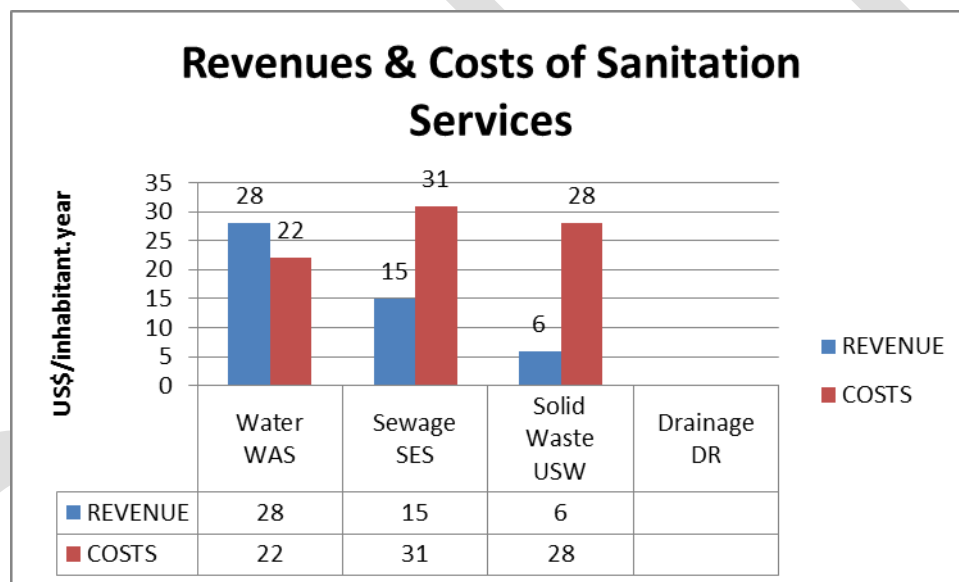
new option for public private partnership. (Wartchow 2013). Thus, an opportunity is missed to strengthen public and shared management.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

When the Municipal Sanitation Plan was drafted, it was concluded that it is possible to improve the equation of financial sustainability if there is an integrated treatment for the costs and revenues of charging rates and tariffs for the provision of basic sanitation services, and even more so when it is publicly managed.

Reporting the costs and revenues of water supply services, sanitary sewage, and collection, treatment and final disposal of solid wastes, in Figure 3 it is seen that the water supply service has a surplus and the others have deficits. The values in Figure 3 show a trend found in most of the municipalities studied by the Federal University of South Rio Grande.

Figure 3: Revenues and Costs of sanitation services (Reference Year 2010).



Source: Camaquã (2013).

According to Camaquã (2013), considering a population of 62,764 inhabitants, of whom 47,721 are urban, for the water supply services, a revenue of US\$ 27.82 per inhabitant/ year was found which is higher than the costs of US\$ 22.19 per inhabitant/year foreseen in the Municipal Sanitation Plan for operation, maintenance and investments in the Water Services (WAS), which extends to 20 years. On the other hand, if the project of implementing a sanitary sewage system and its operation have been effected the estimated costs of US\$ 31.15 per inhabitant per year are higher than the estimated revenues of US\$ 14.90 per inhabitant per year. For the services of collection, treatment and final disposal of Urban Solid Wastes (USW), the rates charged of US\$ 1.50 per inhabitant per year only represent 17.78% of the costs spent in 2010, which were US\$ 5.64 per inhabitant per year.

These values suggest that surpluses result from providing the WAS, while in the other sanitation services the costs surpass the revenues. If one wishes to improve

the financial equation or achieve economic sustainability of the sanitation services, it will be necessary to use part of this surplus resulting from the provision of the WAS in the costs and financing of the other services or raise the rates or tariffs. From this integrated approach results a strong justification not to privatize the water services. In planning the water and sanitation services, the Federal Law that establishes the National Sanitation Policy recommends that a Municipal Fund be set up and managed by a social control structure. The experiences developed by UFRGS in various municipalities recommend structuring a Municipal Fund for Shared Management (MFSM) to be managed by a Sanitation Management Council (SANCO).

The Sanitation Management Council – SANCO is regulated by a Municipal Law. A Department or Municipal Autarchy provide support to act as Council manager. The SANCO is of a deliberative nature and also perform enforcement and regulation activities regarding services. Furthermore, the purpose of SANCO is to deliberate about what will be done with the values of the MFSM, follow up the planned actions, take action on priorities, and render accounts to the citizens and users. The actors that represent society, service providers, authorities and leaders act as unpaid members.

It is suggested that the Council Structure should have a Sectorial Chamber for Drinking Water Supply and Sanitary Sewage, Urban Cleaning, Management of Solids Wastes, Drainage and Urban Stormwater Management. This Sectorial Chamber has the competency to deliberate about actions, projects and goals in the field of water supply and sanitation, among others.

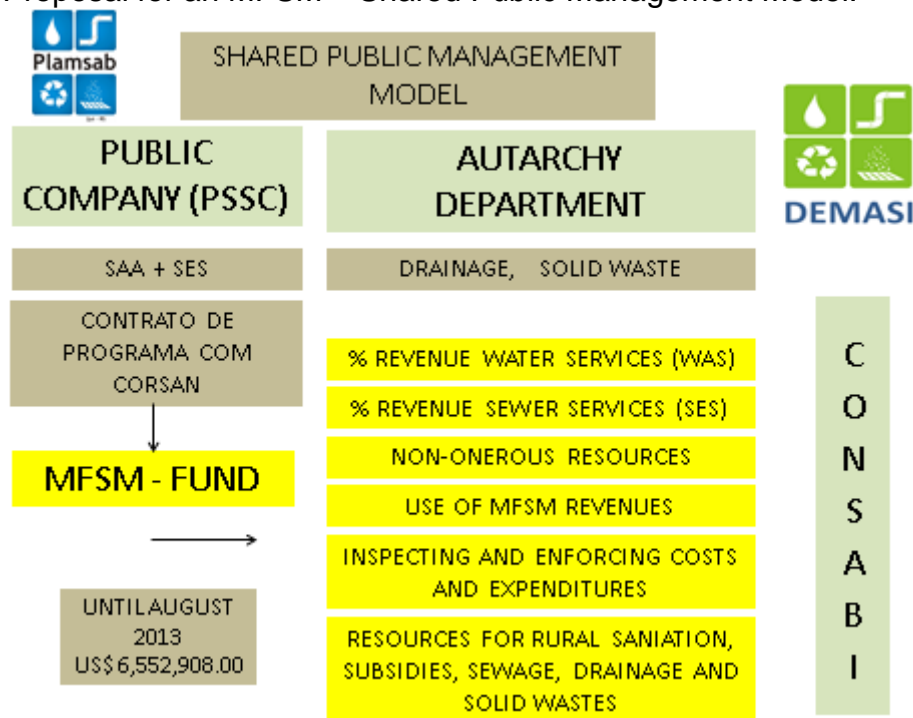
The advantage of the suggested model is to apply resources paid by the users in the municipality and on the requirements of the municipality itself. It also allows subsidizing low income categories, water supply services in rural areas and other basic sanitation services such as drainage and solid wastes. This is the other advantage of this model over that of private management, since the latter has commitments to its shareholders who are distant from a local reality. In this model the community decides how to apply the resources, encouraging, participation, social control and combatting the use of public resources for other purposes.

An operational model of MFSM is shown in Figure 4. This model can be adapted to other realities, since the principle of constituting an MFSM is sharing the management and the participation of the population represented by its leaders, entities or associations.

The revenues come from a part of the financial resources collected by providing water supply services, especially from a category of higher income users, that will subsidize users with a smaller family income. The principle of solidarity needs to be understood and practiced by all. The revenues of the MFSM can also consist of charges for excess water consumption, specific social rates for sanitation, fines, donations from international institutions and government and private resources. When we mention the private resources, we are referring to the resources supplied by private entrepreneurs to implement an infrastructure for water supply and sanitation on their property, and of their own interest. In developing countries, including Brazil, it is common for the public sector to invest in the infrastructure that

will result in a greater enhancement of the value of private lands, which often fosters corruption.

Figure 4: Proposal for an MFSM – Shared Public Management Model.



(Source: Ijuí 2011).

When deliberating about the use of resources deposited in the MFSM, whose origin is the payment for providing water supply services, for the drainage area and solid wastes, the importance of understanding the concept of integrated management of basic sanitation services is clearly shown, since if on the one hand there is profit in providing the water supply services in the urban zone, resources are lacking for the sanitary sewage, for urban cleaning, collection, transport and final disposal of solid wastes and for drainage and management of stormwater. An integrated management focus is essential for the financial sustainability of basic sanitation.

Financial sustainability is one of the greatest challenges to the management of Water and Sewer Services. It is the population of users that pays for the services provided. Therefore, stipulating the value to be charged and where to apply the resources collected cannot be the exclusive prerogative of those who collect these resources. And that is why the users must be included in decision making.

RESULTS – CASE STUDY

According to the National Sanitation Policy of Brazil, regulated by Federal Law nº 11,445, of January 5, 2007 (BRAZIL 2007), the municipalities are responsible for drafting the Municipal Sanitation Plan and deciding about the model of provision of services by the Water and Sewer Services, their regulation, social control and sustainability.

Cooperation and sharing responsibilities are a way to develop new management models aiming at quality of governance in the water supply and sanitation sector.

A successful experience is being developed in the municipality of Ijuí, in the Northwest region of the state of Rio Grande do Sul (RS)- Brazil, lying between the coordinates: Longitude 54° 04' 48 W and Latitude 28° 33' 5.76" S and whose population in the year 2010 was 80,516 inhabitants.

The municipality of Ijuí adopted a shared and integrated management model of the water supply and sanitation (Ijuí 2011). This model is constructed within a systemic vision and action (city, environment, sustainable development), integrated on considering the basic sanitation cycle (water supply, sanitary sewage, stormwater drainage and solid wastes), and transversal interfacing with the National Environmental Policy, the National Water Resources Policy, the National Solid Wastes Policy, the National Basic Sanitation Policy and the City Statute.

The success of the experience to be reported is based on developing and sharing responsibilities and cooperation between the municipality and the public company Corsan to perform WAS and SES. The management model of WAS and SES is that of associated management by means of a program contract authorized by an agreement for cooperation between federated entities (Municipality and State). Associated management is recommended to manage Solid Wastes, through a program contract with a Public Consortium of municipalities. The municipal sanitation plan in that city is identified by the acronym PLANSAB.

This form of indirect contract characterizing associated management is foreseen in Federal Law nº 11,445, of January 5, 2007, the Basic Sanitation Law. In the program contract signed with Corsan, a Municipal Fund for Shared Management (MFSM) was instituted. The MFSM resources are managed by a Sanitation Council (SANCO), approved by Municipal Law 5,633, of June 15, 2012, which rules on the regulation of the SANCO, of the Municipal Department of Water and Sanitation of Ijuí (DEMASI).

The Program Contract (Corsan 2012) specifies the sources of funds that will constitute the MFSM, as well as its regulation, foresees how resources will be used and managed, as determined in Article 13 of the Law of Sanitation (BRAZIL, 2007). Part of the resources of the MFSM is used to pay the costs of universalizing the basic sanitation services, especially water supply to the agglomerations and rural zones, stormwater drainage, urban cleaning and management of solid wastes.

The municipality of Ijuí constituted three strategic instruments for managing and operating the basic sanitation services: The Municipal Basic Sanitation Policy, the Municipal Sanitation Plan (PLANSAB) and creating a municipal autarchy (DEMASI).

The municipality intends to use a continuous learning process to develop a model of regulation and enforcement, sharing information and responsibilities. The model will allow using the representation of the society of entities representing the population at SANCO to practice social control directed at a transparent management and operation of the basic sanitation services. Thus, shared municipal regulation, enforcement of the contractual clauses of the provision of basic sanitation services and social control, tend to bring citizens closer to their rights, just as environmental and sanitary education bring the citizens closer to their duties, for instance the

sanitary sewage connections to the Sewer System to be built, or the appropriate separation of solid wastes to a guided disposal.

When drafting its Municipal Sanitation Plan, the municipality decided to enhance the quality of the public management of sanitation services by integrating the WAS and SES, USW services and Stormwater Drainage. It instituted the Municipal Basic Sanitation Policy, by means of a Municipal Law and approved creating a municipal autarchy, DEMASI, to follow and manage this policy.

With this model, the municipality of Ijuí intends to create a differential between the background and the authoritarian attitude of Corsan by providing its services in the municipal sphere and seek sharing public management in which the municipality will be the holder.

CONCLUSIONS

This work presents an innovative and challenging proposal. It seeks to encourage self-management of the basic sanitation services and their shared management. The institutional arrangement in the modality of associated management may mean advances in the qualification of the decision making process and in community participation, and also be an important alternative to ensure the financial resources needed to universalize the basic sanitation services.

Management of sanitation is not a technical problem, but a governance problem. It is necessary to bring back values such as transparency, participation, solidarity, commitment, ethics and accountability. These small steps taken demonstrate that with public cooperation, it is possible to create new forms of governance, targeting policy on local and regional levels.

The report on the successful experience developed in the municipality of Ijuí, in managing the basic sanitation services shows that sharing responsibilities and cooperation among the federated entities will allow achieving universal provision of the Water and Sewer System. In this municipality, with the approval of a Municipal Fund for Sharing Management the universalization of sewage and water supply are increasingly possible. The Municipal Sanitation Plan rejected PPPs and created a local public autarchy, bringing back municipal know-how, the overseeing of sanitation, and placing it again in public hands, promoting the integration of sanitation services (water, sewage, waste and drainage). This model whose enhancement process is continuous, has the great merit of strengthening the public management of the basic sanitation services as opposed to the impetuous and tempting proposal that is being presented by the private sector to the municipal mayors, in order to hand over the provision of the water and sewage services to private enterprise.

Despite some achievements, we could be advancing much more in the quality of management of public water and sanitation services. This can only be made possible by debating ideas. Our ideas and experiences can be and should be used as a parameter in other countries.

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