

The European Water Movement is a network whose goal is to reinforce the recognition of water and sanitation as a common good and human right.

In Europe we face serious problems related to water privatisation, depletion and contamination due to industrial activities and energy production. The guarantee of the Human Right to Water and Sanitation (HRWS) is far from being a reality. Approximately 2 million people do not have suitable services and 13 million people are at risk of disconnection.

This is why in 2012 we collected almost 2 million signatures in the first European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) to request the European Commission (EC) to implement the HRWS. We succeeded in excluding water and sanitation services from the European Single Market as they are not commodities and the guarantee of HRWS is a public responsibility, following what the UN agreed with the HRWS resolution. The EC has also included the right to water and sanitation in the new Drinking Water Directive in a discreet way.

Today in Europe we are experiencing a wave of water remunicipalisation where municipalities take back the public water management. Among them, there are good practices to ensure access to water and citizen participation through Water Observatories towards more transparent and public water governance.

We cannot forget water governance is a public responsibility. **We demand the UN for a strong public governance in the next UN Water Conference 2023.** We cannot lead again water governance to private interests as they apply interests and practices that often hinder the implementation of HRWS.

The last two reports of the latest UN Special Rapporteur on the HRWS warn of the risks of leaving water management and governance in private hands. The belief that human rights are neutral in terms of the service management model has been shattered. We cannot ignore these reports.

Our last demand is to promote Public-Public Partnerships as GWOPA recommends. We strongly believe Public-Public Partnerships can help to implement the HRWS and the SDG 6 as they respond to the need for capacity building, especially in rural and peri-urban areas.