



Sustainability of Water Services in Portugal:

The contribution of the private sector

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## SITUATION IN PORTUGAL IN 1993





- Lack of scale of service providers, too many players (municipalities)
- Non-corporate, administrative bodies; completely public
- Unsustainable tariffs (no tariffs for wastewater services in most of the municipalities)
- Lack of technical capacity, poor planning
- Lack of investment in the sector
- Lack of transparency: no information to consumers and stakeholders





## The Process of Change in the Governance Model A NATIONAL REFORM STARTED IN **1993**



**RETAIL (Municipalities):** 

- Business as usual
- Municipal operators can manage directly **or go for PPP (concession)**
- Assets are kept public, but management can be private.

WHOLESALE (State, Multimunicipal):

- State owned companies, with financial capacity, in-house operation
- Created under commercial law, no burden to national budget
- Separates technical and financial issues from local political issues
- Increases rate of investment and effectiveness
- Creates a framework to enable proper development of retail business







## The Process of Change in the Governance Model

A NATIONAL REFORM STARTED IN 1993



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- Public regional water utilities provide wholesale water services to the municipalities. In-house contract is awarded by the Government to these SOE for a period of 30 years.
- **Contract includes a capital investment plan** for the duration of the contract and a framework for services provision.
- Full cost recovery tariffs are set annually by the Minister of Environment on the basis of a budget presented by the company to ERSAR.
- **Cost-of-service model** with a **fixed return on capital** (Euribor+3%).
- **Benchmarking by ERSAR** by annually monitoring a set of financial and qualityof-service indicators; no service performance rewards or penalties.
- Being SOE, costs of raising capital are low, as compared to private companies.















## FINANCE STRUCTURE







## Aguas de Portugal REGIONAL COMPANIES (2018)







## INFRASTRUCTURES BUILD AND MANAGED





WWTP (Cascais)

WWTP(Aveiro)

WWTP (Leiria)

WWTP (Alcântara - Lisboa)

## Parceria Portuguesa INFRASTRUCTURES INVESTMENT 1995 TO 2015 **7.5 billion €**



Turnover | 2016 646 000 000 €

Operational Result | 2016 **166 500 000 €** 

EBITDA | 2016 **306 300 000 €** 

Net Profit | 2016 **70 800 000 €** 

#### Acesso ao serviço de abastecimento de água

Fonte: ERSAR | RASARP (Indicador "AA01 baixa")



não era (\*) Indicador definido como a percentagem de água controlada e de boa qualidade, sendo esta o produto da percentagem de cumprimento da frequência de amostragem conhecida pela percentagem de cumprimento dos valores paramétricos.



1997

1999

2001

2003

2005

2007

2009

2011

### 90%

meta nacional para a cobertura da recolha e tratamento de águas residuais 84%

miva

Arison Group

das famílias com acesso ao serviço público de saneamento

28% nível de recolha e tratamento há 25 anos

94% de qualidade nas águas balneares interiores 70%

com qualidade desconhecida há 25 anos

e

Э

Oualidade "Má" ou não conforme

2015 2016

2013





Portuguese companies have acquired, over the last decades, experience, capacity and know-how of excellence that are at the level of what is best done at a global level.



# Portuguese Showcase



## LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE LAST 25 YEARS

- PPP were part of the solution (they bring competition for the contract), but several problems arose because the privatization model was illconceived:
  - Water services are natural monopolies with huge sunk costs and must be dealt with having this always present and so rules must be set from the first moment. This was not the case.
  - Legal framework was not considered as being important and therefore no framework at all was designed, only the public contracts law was in place, one that did not consider the specificities of concession and cession contracts:
    - risks involved and how are they shared between the two parties,
    - long term contracts with large investments required, Project Finance models for the financing of the required investments;
    - increasing marginal unit costs of service provision,



These are some of the lessons learned from the Portuguese experience



## LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE LAST 25 YEARS

- No conditions were set upon the municipalities before engaging in PPP: no KPI were requested so as to have an insight on what was going on in what concerns
  - NRW, metering,
  - Physical accessibility
  - Level of cost recovery,
  - Asset value,
  - Burst frequency,
  - Water consumption, ...
- No due diligence was required to be performed before starting the tendering procedure, so as to assess the situation in what concerns the fiscal, legal and physical situation of the operation;

These are some of the lessons learned from the Portuguese experience







## LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE LAST 25 YEARS

• In some cases no Financial Statements were even available: no Annual Reports, no detailed description of the infrastructure, no reasonable forecast of the future operation, no sound analysis of the expected capex and opex.









GOOD PRACTICES TO SUSTAIN FULL LIFE CYCLE COST If you want to go for a PPP you must have an insight into the financing institutions perspective:

ASSET MANAGEMENT: a presente challenge

- Sound investment planning: optimal capital spending via risk-based planning, proactive prioritization of needs and increased *Value for Money* outcomes.
- **Risk management**: Improved control of the critical infrastructures and risk reduction for failures or collapses with impact in the water utility reputation and image.
- Capacity to pay debts: Optimized life cycle cost and higher return on assets.
- Service: consistent and continuous responses to the clients' needs and positive impact in the utility reputation.
- Long term sustainability: Reduced risk of non-payment.

This was not the case when we launched our first PPP and the sector is still enduring the consequences of the errors that were committed.







## Thank you for your attention

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