



Seminar organised by the "Tensions around Water" NGO Consortium Working Group



May desalination contribute to adaptation measures to climate change?

Marseille, 7 June 2018
(side-event at the Congress ASTEE, 5-8 June)

Call for papers

Seminar goals

This one-day seminar is a contribution to debates about desalination from sea or brackish water. It embraces energetic, economic, environmental and social aspects. Reflections have to be based on desalination use feedback, mainly on Mediterranean countries. It addresses sector and cost issues as well as energetic, environmental and social impacts at different levels. Prospective approaches are highly welcome.

Context: Reflective process of the Consortium Working Group on Adaptation to Tensions around Water Generated by Global Changes

Since 2009, SHF, AFEID, Académie de l'Eau (Water Academy) and ASTEE have analysed prospective approaches deployed to portray water management in relation with global changes. A first seminar was organised in Paris on 25 and 26 May 2011. Based on several prospective studies, it produced a synthesis of representations of main tensions related to water on a world wide basis. A second seminar was held on 30 and 31 May 2013, focused on French national perspectives on European and Mediterranean contexts.

A synthesis report, released on January 2014, explained how these prospective studies analysed water crisis risks by 2050 in Europe and the Mediterranean basin. It emphasized the importance of economic and social dimensions in the implementation of adaptation policies.

A third larger colloquium, organised by SHF, AFEID and Académie de l'Eau, with the support of the Union des Ingénieurs et Scientifiques Francophones (Francophone Scientist Association), was held from 7 to 9 October 2015 at École des Ponts ParisTech at Marne-la-Vallée. It deepened issues linked with future tensions on water management in Europe and the Mediterranean basin by 2050.

In 2017, the Working Group co-ordinators published a position paper: "*Les tensions sur l'eau et les crises associées en Europe et dans le bassin méditerranéen d'ici 2050. Risques et mesures d'adaptation envisageables*" (release 1). It may be downloaded from the websites of the three NGOs with a blog on [SHF](http://shf-hydro.org/215-1-thematiques-9.html) website (<http://shf-hydro.org/215-1-thematiques-9.html>). This document advocates the importance of identifying the whole set of adaptation tools, either organisational or technical, for economical water uses and resource security.

Sea and brackish water desalination, largely used in The Global South, is a technical adaptation tool to be considered. A valuable pro and con assessment of this technology must be based on analyses of related controversies and on a clear understanding of its technical, economic, social and environmental implications.

This one-day seminar aims to further knowledge elements and lay bases for prospective reflections with a special emphasis on Mediterranean countries.

Timetable

Paper proposals must be sent, in French or in English, as two-page abstracts.
Submission deadline: **30 October 2017** at SHF headquarters [website](#) using the [template](#)
Paper selection: December 1st, 2017

Subthemes

Relevant topics are:

- Feedback on implementation and operation of sea or brackish water desalination plants in different regions of the world.
- Technological and economic aspects: cost evolution, technological breakthroughs able to change desalination economics, impacts on water uses (domestic water supply, agriculture, industry, and so on), impacts on water prices, etc.
- Energetic aspects: assessment of global energetic efficiency of existing plants, energy mix, impacts on energy consumption and energy transition, assessment of GHG emissions linked to desalination, etc.
- Environmental aspects: impacts of brine dumping on the marine environment, implemented solutions, etc.
- Societal aspects: desalination and water demand, desalination and water sharing, desalination and water pricing, desalination and waterscapes (ranges of relations between water resources and uses, financial circuits ...), etc.
- Socio-technical and environmental controversies.
- Prospective approaches, mainly in the Mediterranean region: desalination and littoralisation, desalination and irrigation or industrial development, etc.

Steering Committee (provisional list)

Laurent Bellet (EDF)
Brigitte Biton (SHF)
Enrique Cabrera (Université de Valence)
Anna Dupont (SHF)
Sara Fernandez (IRSTEA & ENGEES)
Xavier Guivarch (Suez)
Michel Lang (IRSTEA, AFPCN, SHF)
Jerome Loyer (SHF, ex. Veolia)

Marc-Antoine Martin (Académie de l'Eau)
Carine Morin-Batut (ASTEE)
Jean-Luc Redaud (PFE)
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