

# Knowledge Picnic: Finding relevant indicators for water service related SDGs



March 6, 2020



Ríos Rosas 24,  
Madrid



09 - 14h

Organised by



# Introduction

*There is no life without water: clean water and sanitation is essential for our health and future. As water professionals we are much aware of this and understand the major responsibility we have in securing good water services in a sustainable way.*

Since 2009, EBC's benchmarking programme measures sustainability of water services according to the Triple Bottom Line-approach. In this approach, social, environmental and economic parameters are considered. The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) however approach sustainability in an even more extensive and inclusive approach. Therefore, several water utilities are implementing the SDG's in their business strategy.

Based on discussions in 2019 in a first Knowledge Picnic on sustainability indicators and in EBCs' annual workshop in Helsinki, there is a common understanding in the EBC-group that benchmarking water services should also cover utilities' performance towards the SDGs.

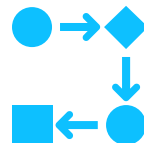


## What has been done so far?

In 2019, VA SYD, Malmö and Waternet, Amsterdam initiated a discussion and organised a Knowledge Picnic to find relevant indicators to measure sustainability and its link to the SDG's. The Picnic took place in September (Malmö), with the participation of VA SYD, Waternet, Sydvatten, HSY, Canal de Isabel II, Berliner Wasserbetriebe, Hamburg Wasser, Aquabench and EBC.

November 2019, the results of the Picnic were discussed with a wider audience (the majority of the Picnic group together with participants from Satu Mare, Vitens, Bristol Water, EYDAP and the EIB) during EBC's annual benchmarking workshop in Helsinki. The first picnic and the brainstorm session in Helsinki resulted in a preliminary list of 40 indicators, which were then linked to the relevant SDG's.

In December 2019 at the UN Climate Change Conference in Madrid (COP25), Canal de Isabel II presented their view on the SDGs and outlined the work that was done so far in EBC-context. UN representatives present at the event, responded very positively to the initiative and encouraged to continue with the work.



## Picnic Goal

Ultimately, the goal is to contribute to a transparent common language which will help direct innovation, strategic leadership and capital towards the SDGs, thus accelerating progress towards the goals.

This initiative aims to contribute by means of:

- Developing suitable indicators for the SDGs that can be used in the day-to-day management of European water services;
- Jointly kick-starting a community of practice for sustainable development of European water utilities;

Therefore, we would like to gather our expertise in the field of water management and link this to the Sustainable Development Goals. We aim to collectively develop and learn in a co-creative 2<sup>nd</sup> Knowledge Picnic on the subject:

**Finding relevant indicators for water service related SDG's**



# Approach

1. Select SDGs and sub-goals based on their relevancy for the water- and sanitation sector
2. Select indicators for these sub-goals, which can be used to measure the current situation and the progress over time

Prior to the Picnic, a shortlist of relevant sub-goals (out of the 169 existing sub-goals) will be prepared and distributed among the Picnic participants. Per sub-goal the relevancy for the European water- and sanitation sector will be indicated, and possible indicators presented.

During the picnic, 4 questions will be up for discussion:

- What are the (most) relevant SDGs for the water sector?
- Is the provided shortlist of sub-goals complete or is something missing?
- Which indicator should be used per sub-goal?
- How are we going to communicate about the results?



# Draft agenda

- 09:00 - 9:15: Welcome by EBC and Canal de Isabel II
- 09:15 - 10:15: A short recap on the work done so far and the objective of today's picnic
- 10:15 - 11:45: Round table discussion 1 on relevant SDGs and related sub-goals for the water sector
- 11:45 - 12:15: Coffee break
- 12:15 - 13:45: Round table discussion 2 on relevant indicators per sub-goal
- 13:45 - 14:00: Wrap up, next steps & communication
- 14:00: lunch



# Practical details

## *Location*

The Picnic will be held at **Ríos Rosas 24, Madrid**, on the first floor, where Canal de Isabel II has an innovation space for practical issues.

## *Transportation*

The venue is close to the metro station called “Ríos Rosas” (C/Ríos Rosas Exit). From there you can easily reach the metro to the airport.

By metro it takes:

- 10 minutes to the centre of Madrid (“Sol” station, línea 1).
- 45 minutes to the Madrid Airport Barajas.

Other sustainable option is to take a hybrid taxi to the Airport (Madrid Barajas) in approximately 25 minutes (€ 25-30).

You may also rent a car and use parking services available in the area of the venue against a fee of approximately € 12 per day.

## *Suggested hotels:*

- NH Hotel Chamberí, 3 stars, (5 minutes walking distance) Bretón de los Herreros street nº 29
- Tryp Madrid Chamberí, 3 stars, (6 minutes walking distance) José Abascal street nº 8
- NH Hotel Collection José Abascal, 4 stars (8 minutes walking) José Abascal street nº 47

## *Weather conditions*

Early March temperatures typically range between 6 and 15 degrees Celsius and it could be rainy. Having a few layers of clothing is generally a good idea, even on sunny days because it’s still winter.



# Registration

Participation in the Picnic is free of charge though participants need to cover their own costs of travelling, accommodation and meals.

The Picnic is open to utilities participating (or intending to participate) in EBCs' International Benchmarking exercise. You can register by sending an e-mail to: [tom.bijkerk@waterbenchmark.org](mailto:tom.bijkerk@waterbenchmark.org) or [dperalpo@canaldeisabelsegunda.es](mailto:dperalpo@canaldeisabelsegunda.es) before the **28th of February**. There is a maximum of attendees, so don't hesitate!





## Contact information

If you have questions, contributions, comments or would like to talk, please contact one of the organisers:

EBC: Tom Bijkerk ([tom.bijkerk@waterbenchmark.com](mailto:tom.bijkerk@waterbenchmark.com))

Canal de Isabel II: David Peral Pozo ([dperalpo@canaldeisabelsegunda.es](mailto:dperalpo@canaldeisabelsegunda.es))

Waternet: Jorik Chen ([jorik.chen@waternet.nl](mailto:jorik.chen@waternet.nl))

VA SYD: Tsvetana Stoyanova ([tsvetana.stoyanova@vasyd.se](mailto:tsvetana.stoyanova@vasyd.se))



## Relevant documents

Following background documents give more information about the SDGs. They may be a first step to harmonize indicator sets and methodologies for companies to report on their contributions to the SDGs.

- The Sustainable Development Goals and their indicators:
  - [unstats.un.org](https://unstats.un.org)
- The actual status on the SDGs by topic:
  - [\*Our world in data \(University of Oxford\)\*](#)
- The actual status on the SDGs summarized in a fact sheet:
  - [\*Fact sheet \(United Nations\)\*](#)
- How to interpret and apply indicators:
  - [\*Business and Sustainable Development Commission: Better Business, Better World\*](#)
- Example approach for sustainable performance:
  - [\*G.K.C. Ding: Developing a multicriteria approach for the measurement of sustainable performance\*](#)
- Inspirational guide by DANVA on SDGs and the water sector (Danish association of water utilities)
  - [https://www.danva.dk/media/5698/the-water-industry-and-the-un-sdgs\\_final\\_english.pdf](https://www.danva.dk/media/5698/the-water-industry-and-the-un-sdgs_final_english.pdf)



# Knowledge Picnics

The European Benchmarking Co-operation (EBC) encourages short expert meetings with small groups of 10 to 15 people, hosted by one of the participating utilities, in which experiences/best practices around a specific theme are discussed. The benchmarking program of EBC can help identifying the relevant topics for these Picnics, determine improvement potentials and signaling the best performers in the group to share good practices with.

More info about the EBC programme can be found at: [www.waterbenchmark.org](http://www.waterbenchmark.org)

