

Remunicipalization of Water Services

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Chair in Sustainable Water Services

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Municipal Services Project



Outline of talk

What is remunicipalization

Historical overview

Current trends

Different types

The future

What is remunicipalization?

The transfer of water services from private control back to public control

Other terms include de-privatisation, reclaiming public services, taking services back in public hands, insourcing, social re-appropriation

Some cases are national or regional

Some are first time – i.e. municipalization

History of (re)municipalization

Most water services began as private entities

Municipalized from late 1800s-1930s

- NOTE: cholera

Scaled up in post-war era

(Re)privatized from 1980s

(Re)municipalized from 2000s

Current trends



Source: Kishimoto et al (eds). The Future is Public: Towards Democratic Ownership of Public Services, TNI (Amsterdam)

(Re)municipalisation sectors

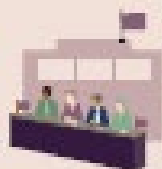
311
Water



Country	N°cases
France	108
US	71
Spain	28
Norway	17
Canada	8
Argentina	8
Philippines	7
Italy	4
Hungary	4
South Africa	3
Mexico	3
Kazakhstan	3
Indonesia	3
Colombia	3
Venezuela	3
Ukraine	3
UK	3
Taiwan	3
Mexico (Baja)	3
Malaysia	3
India	3
Russia	3
Korea	3
Uzbekistan	1
Uganda	1
Uganda	1
Tanzania	1
Sweden	1
Russia	1
Portugal	1
Poland	1
Guinea	1
Guinea	1
Central African Republic	1
Belgium	1
Austria	1



223
Local government



Country	N°cases
UK	82
Spain	46
Germany	34
France	21
Canada	15
Denmark	12
Netherlands	8
Austria	7
Philippines	6
Norway	5
South Korea	5
Chile	3
Finland	3
Austria	3
Malaysia	3
India	1
Italy	1
New Zealand	1
Taiwan	1
UK	1

192
Telecommunications



Country	N°cases
UK	148
Germany	20
Netherlands	7
Canada	3
Malaysia	1

374
Energy



Country	N°cases
Germany	180
Spain	58
UK	52
US	31
Japan	4
Netherlands	4
Austria	3
Belgium	3
Denmark	3
France	3
Sweden	3
Argentina	1
Belgium	1
Canada	1
Costa Rica	1
Malaysia	1
India	1
Philippines	1
Ukraine	1

47
Transport

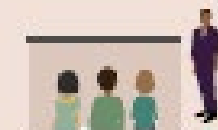


Country	N°cases
France	21
UK	12
Austria	3
Netherlands	3
Canada	3
Portugal	3
Costa Rica	1
India	1
Malaysia	1
Turkey	1

138 Health care + Social services



38
Education



Country	N°cases
Japan	12
Malaysia	6
Germany	5
UK	4
Philippines	3
Canada	3
Spain	3
Spain	3
Spain	3
Chile	1
India	1
Norway	1

85
Waste

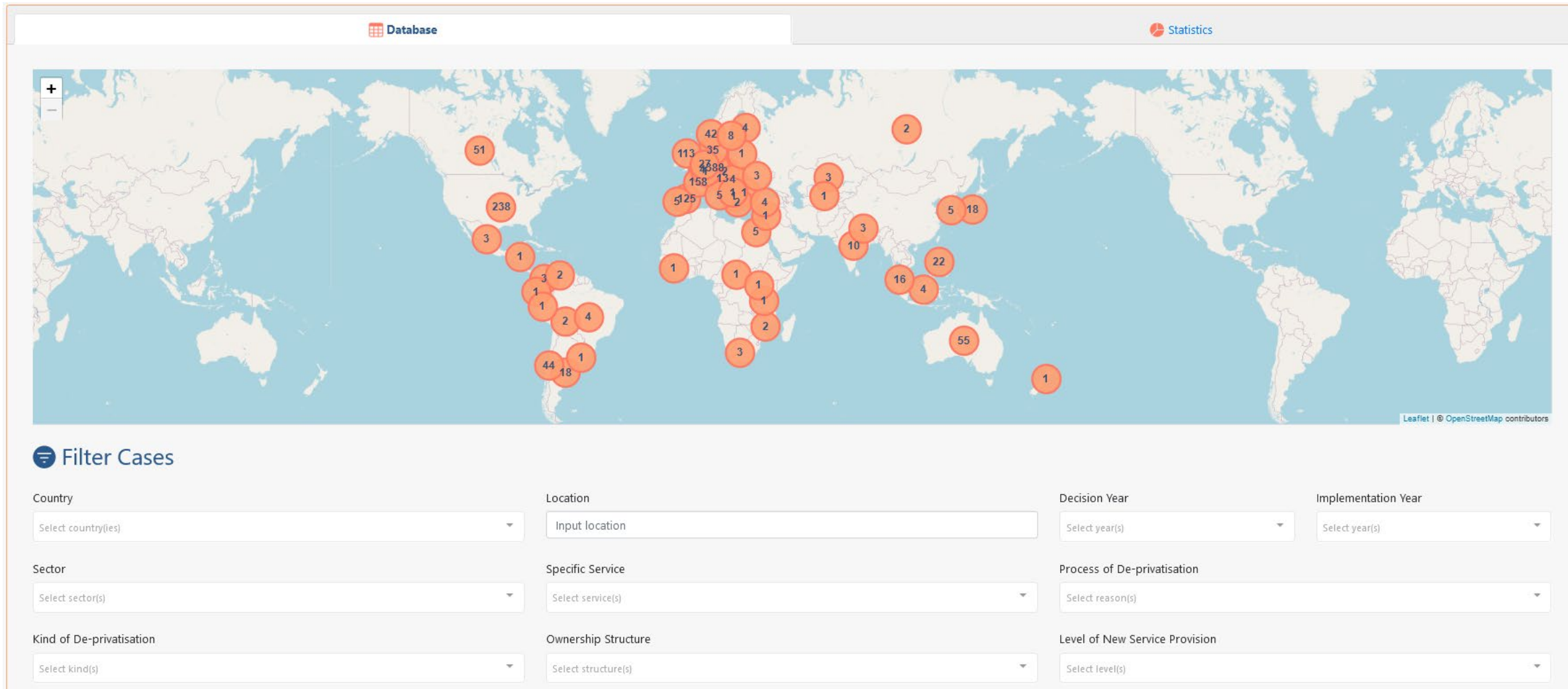


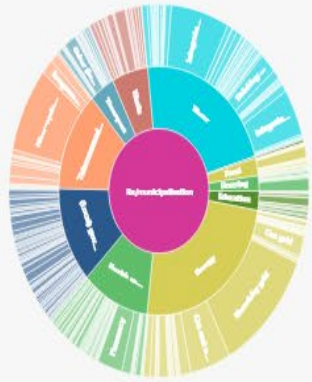
Country	N°cases
Norway	35
UK	25
Denmark	12
Norway	12
Canada	7
Spain	6
Egypt	4
France	3
Netherlands	3
Norway	1
Peru	1

Country	N°cases
Chile	40
Norway	35
Canada	14
Spain	14
UK	10
Denmark	8
Sweden	7
Philippines	4
Malaysia	4
Japan	3
Austria	3
Germany	3
Japan	3
UK	3
Belgium	1
Spain	1
Finland	1
India	1
Laos	1
Laos	1
Laos	1
Portugal	1
Korea	1

International Database of De-privatised Public Services

University of Glasgow - <https://publicfutures.org>





01 of June 2021

1471 Cases



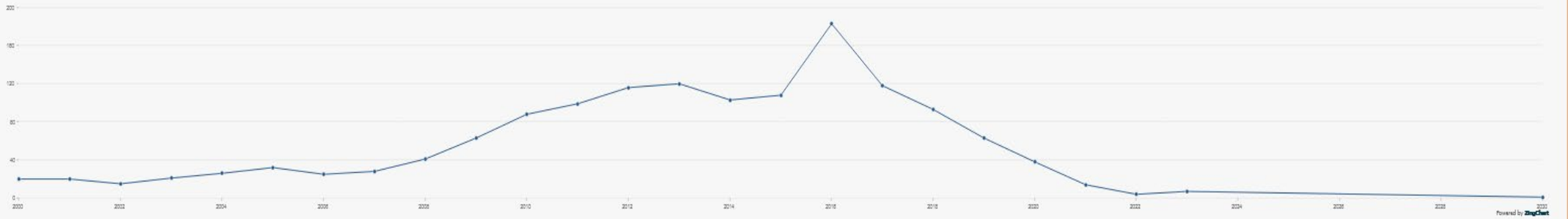
Most Affected Services



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Global Cases



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The Many Faces of Remunicipalization

Geoforum 91 (2018) 47–56



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Remunicipalization: The future of water services?

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The Many Faces of Remunicipalization

Autocratic state capitalism

Market managerialism

Social democracy

Anti-capitalism

Autonomism

The Future of Remunicipalization?

Growth?

- Disappointment/anger with privatization
 - across the political spectrum
- Lots of contracts coming to an end
- ‘Success’ of current remunicipalizations
- Lack of interest from private companies

The Future of Remunicipalization?

Stagnant?

- Pendulum swings in 'pragmatic' locations
 - eg. USA
- Ideological swings in politicized locations
 - eg. Brazil

The Future of Remunicipalization?

Increased privatization?

- Private water companies fighting back
- Support for privatization from IFIs, UN, NGOs
 - lack of support for remunicipalization
- Growth in key markets (eg. China, Middle East)
- Growth in sub-sectors (eg. desalinization)