



Call for participants - Connective Cities Dialogue Event

Asset Management to optimize water and wastewater infrastructure

Hamburg, Germany, 30th November – 02nd December 2020

Connective Cities and the municipal water and wastewater utility, Hamburg Wasser, invite municipal practitioners to the **Dialogue Event on Asset Management** to be held in **Hamburg, Germany, from 30 November to 2 December 2020**.

The event is geared towards German and international municipal actors working on different aspects of asset management in order to maintain and optimize water and wastewater infrastructure. Municipal actors include representatives of municipalities, municipal companies, as well as representatives of civil society, academia and business, who are actively involved in this thematic area.

All over the world, public infrastructure facilities for drinking water and wastewater such as pipeline networks, waterworks and sewage treatment plants are ageing. As a result, many water and wastewater companies face enormous costs for repairs or replacement investments. Within the framework of the Connective Cities dialogue, all participants will have the opportunity to engage proactively and to present and/or discuss different approaches, best practices and challenges to strategic and practical asset management, life cycle assessment as well as documentation for the maintenance of water and wastewater infrastructure.

Connective Cities is organising the event in collaboration with the municipal water and wastewater utility, Hamburg Wasser, which has more than 150 years of experience in maintenance, planning and investment control and is eager to share its own experience on this topic.

Background

Although access to water and sanitation is a human right, 2.1 billion people worldwide still do not have access to safe drinking water and 4.5 billion people still lack access to sanitation. The purpose and nature of optimizing water infrastructure has significantly expanded by the ambition of SDG6: “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”, and is interlinked with sustainable production and consumption, sustainable urban development and ecosystems, food security and health. In this context, water services are a strategic sector of great social, economic, ecological and security relevance, and valuing water means recognizing and considering all the various benefits and risks.

Municipal companies guarantee citizens a high-quality supply of drinking water and wastewater disposal and aim to preserve their infrastructure as a “treasure under the road”. The infrastructures responsible for providing these services represent a significant part of the value of municipal physical assets and therefore the protection of these resources is particularly important.

These crucial and often ageing infrastructures are expected to be managed for current and future generations, and the pressure to operate more effectively and efficiently is driving public works agencies and water utilities to focus on business process management tools for improvement and optimization.

Consequently, asset management (AM) has been increasingly used by public infrastructure companies for several years and is playing an increasing role in developing and emerging countries. On the one hand, this is due to business management considerations; on the other hand, regulatory authorities require business plans with corresponding integrated asset management plans when adjusting tariffs.

AM supports the decision-making process if and when (strategic AM), but also how (practical AM) the assets are to be maintained or replaced. Still, AM for water utilities is more complex than for most other sectors because of the number, variety, age, condition, and location of assets as well as the magnitude of asset investment; and the difficulty of inspecting and maintaining buried assets. AM and the ability to leverage it for investment planning requires collaboration among many parts of an organization, often involving the sharing of resources. Focusing on maintaining the value of assets should help in the future to ensure optimal, sustainable and affordable water services for the population.

Thematic focus of the dialogue event

In order to be able to discuss the different approaches and methods of AM for the optimization of operation and maintenance processes in municipal water and wastewater utilities, the Connective Cities dialogue event in Hamburg will focus on four specific aspects:

- **Strategic Asset Management:** AM strategy focuses on the preservation of the value of the assets and facilities and helps to ensure sustainable and affordable water services for the population in the future. Therefore, strategic AM covers long-term planning of investments, estimates renewable times and gives guidance for practical AM.
- **Practical Asset Management – preventive and corrective maintenance:** it is important to understand that AM must be broken down to the operational level, therefore practical AM focuses on operational optimization, maintenance planning and derivation of investment strategies as well as resource planning with comprehensible criteria.
- **Life Cycle Assessment:** Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) is the assessment of the total costs or benefits of an asset over its lifetime, comparing maintenance costs versus renewal costs, and is thus an important tool that can be used in strategic AM.
- **Documentation for the maintenance of water and wastewater infrastructure:** the introduction of AM requires an appropriate implementation of adequate tools and data. In particular, data from the Geographical Information System (GIS) and the linkage to commercial data are required for the implementation of a sustainable AM.

Objectives of the dialogue event

The main objective of the dialogue event is to get to know **best practice examples** from municipal actors with different local conditions. Here, the interest is mainly in **pragmatic solutions and approaches that can be applied or adapted to the different regional contexts**. Furthermore, the event will offer a platform to discuss the challenges around the theme *“Asset Management to optimize water and wastewater infrastructure”* and support municipalities in developing new **joint project ideas among peers that can be further implemented in the respective home communities or in the framework of existing or new thematic municipal partnerships**.

This dialogue event is the **first step** of what we call a “**Connective Cities learning process**”. Selected project ideas developed, as part of this event, will have the **opportunity to receive further supported from Connective Cities** through a follow-up activity, such as an expert mission or a local project workshop, webinar or study tour, and through advice on options for project financing. The final goal of a Connective Cities learning process is to support a municipality with **peer-advice** regarding external or third party financing to enable the implementation of a full project resulting from this learning experience.

Target group

The event will be a highly **interactive workshop with municipal actors**, including representatives of municipalities, municipal companies, as well as representatives of civil society, academia and business. Ideally, project managers working in this thematic area will be able to **discuss in detail the projects and ideas implemented or planned in their municipality**. The participation of a wide range of municipal actors provides the right platform to pool experiences, discuss challenges, and generate ideas for optimizing and maintaining water and wastewater infrastructures.

Participation and contact

If you wish to **participate and actively contribute to the dialogue event with a project that** you are planning or implementing that fits the thematic focus of the event, **we warmly invite you to apply** for a participant spot at the event. To do so, **please send us an email with your function and organisation, as well as with a brief description of the project you would like to showcase**. We welcome the participation of **municipal delegations of two experts** working respectively in the environmental and planning departments, the AM department as well as Infrastructure or Urban Hydrology Coordination to present their project cooperation. One of the participants **may also represent other relevant actors** from civil society, private sector or academia. The event is limited to a **maximum of 35 participants** and the deadline for application is **August 31, 2020**.

Please note that the **new date is confirmed**, and if there are any restrictions due to the Corona situation, we will offer virtual alternatives to the participants in the same week. If you have any queries about the event and the participation process, we encourage you to contact us:

Salomé Bravo-Ortega, salome.bravoortega@engagement-global.de, +49 (0)228-20717-848

Alexander Wagner, alexander.wagner@engagement-global.de, +49 (0)228-20717-455

Connective Cities at a glance

The international exchange platform Connective Cities has been bringing together international urban practitioners from city administrations, civil society, academia and the private sector since 2013. Connective Cities is a cooperation project of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the German Association of Cities and Engagement Global with its Service Agency Communities in One World.

For more information on past and upcoming activities, please check:

www.connective-cities.net

Factsheet: All information at a glance

Date & Place	November 30 to December 2, Hamburg, Germany
Duration	2.5 days including site visits
Language	English
Thematic focus	<p>The event will focus on the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Asset Management; • Practical Asset Management – preventive and corrective maintenance; • Life Cycle Assessment; • Documentation for the maintenance of water and wastewater infrastructure.
Criteria for participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical perspective and first-hand experience in municipal strategies and projects in the area of asset management for water and wastewater utilities; • Presentation of a local good practice example; • Willingness to engage in an exchange about current needs and challenges in this thematic area.
Expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • German practitioners will present the experiences they have made on their way towards Asset Management to optimize water and wastewater infrastructure; • International participants will share their knowledge and good practices on this topic; • Both, German and international urban practitioners will share and discuss their challenges.
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate a practice-oriented exchange between German and international practitioners active in Asset Management for water and wastewater utilities; • Facilitate peer-to-peer learning; • Foster the development of concrete project ideas.
City delegations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A city is ideally represented by two participants • At least one of the two participants should represent a relevant department of the municipality; the second participant may also represent other relevant urban actors from civil society, private sector or academia.

Partners of Connective Cities



Commissioned by



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

In cooperation with:



Partners of Connective Cities



Commissioned by



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development