

BORDERS TO CROSS

Title:	Stop the privatization of Greek water: working towards a shared dream.
Name workshop:	Sustainability and the Environment
Projects presented:	1. Save Greek water 2. The Oasis Game
Workshop director(s):	Ben Spiering / Ad de Rooij
Name rapporteur(s):	Florentine Wolters and Maxime Molenaar
Date and time of workshop:	09.30 – 11.00

This workshop explored the possibility to create governmental bodies and citizen initiatives to provide in solutions for environmental problems and stimulate sustainability. The case of the Greek privatization of water – and how to stop this process and provide alternative solutions to save the Greek water – is introduced. The Elos institute explained the success of their community driven projects that are all based on a shared dream, executed by professionals, the government and the community.

The fact that everyone within the workshop group had faith in the existence of a shared dream and a common goal was very motivating. The Elos institute was inspiring in sharing the success of her projects. Projects that are all based on an underlying philosophy of shared dreams between different parties in society. The group tried to incorporate this philosophy in search of solutions for the problems Maria encountered in her effort to stop the privatization of water in Greece.

In different discussion groups the problem of privatization with the Greek water and possible solutions to this problem were discussed. As expected, each group focused on different aspects of the problem and came up with entirely different suggestions. One group suggested a semi-privatization process in which not corporations but citizens would take part in the shareholder ship. The second group took the problem to a more general level and emphasized the importance of continuity in projects. This means on the one hand continuity in involvement by government parties, NGO's, companies and all kinds of other actors and on the other hand making sure that a project does not stop after one success (or failure). Especially the different layers of government should work together and stay connected to projects they made a commitment to. The last group raised the issue of involving the European Union in the problem since important legislation is mainly made on the European level. All in all the session concluded by coming back to the point made earlier: use the basis of sharing a common dream (underlying philosophy of the Oasis Game) to raise money to save the Greek Water!

Reflection, possibly linking up to the leading questions and threads: 5-10 lines:

The workshop was a nice mixture of successful projects (the Elos institute) and a project that faced and is still facing a lot of challenges in her pursuit of success (stopping the privatization of water in Greece). Together, the group first discussed possible elements of cooperation between governments, professionals and citizens. However, the challenges and difficulties regarding these kinds of initiatives were pointed out as well after which the group tried to think of creative solutions in Maria's water-case. There was a nice dynamic within the group, and – in spirit of the workshop theme – they made an effort to combine different aspects and layers of cooperation and think together about a shared end result.

Extra information: