

Abstract:

The abstract is very general and does not summarize the problem need to be discussed and the key argumentations the authors wish to present. The language of the abstract is weak and need to be rephrased. The authors use many (i.g.)s in the short abstract, such use must be reduced to the minimum. The authors also argue that “education and health care” are on the way to be privatized! Where exactly this is happening? the authors should focus on the water issue and its privatization. And if Croatia possesses great potential of water resources, why is it very crucial now to discuss water privatization or valorization? Please re-write the abstract with more focus on the problem and your main findings or arguments.

1. Introduction: (line 27-58)

Please describe what you mean by “water democracy”. Please check the language. This part is too broad for a “short research paper”. What is the justification behind describing the hydrological cycle, diversity in fauna and flora while the very focus is the issue of water scarcity in developing world and whether privatization is socially and economically desirable measure? I would start with water scarcity in the world, and provide a brief on the water privatization by giving some examples (France for example).

2. WATER AS A PUBLIC GOOD

Please provide a reference for the statement in the lines 61-63. Would you consider a lake or river or forest as a public good? Then it is for all individuals equally (line 63-69). Public infrastructure requires investment and usually taxpayers do the job, so probably it is not zero as the authors suggest in line 70-73, I would say partially-public. Please provide a reference for the concept “free-rider” line 76. Free riding means for example taking public bus without paying the ticket (which is relatively cheap), free riders tend to utilize public resources either to avoid costs or to maximize the utility they get from using the resource, so “ large number of users” may not always be the case or the motive behind free-riding.

Line 104-121. The authors mention “recent literature” while their citations are from the 1990s. There has been substantial work and research on this topic in recent years. Please find also a reference of the argument that privatization has “negative social and economic consequences”. Please also try to expand this topic since it is a cornerstone of your work.

3. WATER AS AN ECONOMIC GOOD – ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST

Good explanation for the arguments behind water privatization, please correct the references and add the year of publications as it is missing in the text. How about the disadvantages of privatization? And why privatization may fail sometimes (such as in France for example). And what about countries with real shortage of water, is privatization a good solution for water problem.

3.1. Arguments "for" - positive examples of water privatization

In the case of Argentina, can you please highlight the reasons for the court-case for the Suez Company, what are the arguments behind filing the case against the company? The GB case was well explained.

3.2 Arguments “against” the privatization of water- water supply system

Please provide a reference for the World Bank projections about water shortage.

It is common that better quality and access to water require more resources and infrastructure which elevates the prices. Higher prices of water may result in lower consumption among individuals. The government can set the rules before any contracts made with private company. Corruption in developing countries may actually destroy proper water governance. Ultimately, private companies are not the only perpetrators. A solution might be that the state provides subsidies for water consumption especially for poor people. Meaning that the quality is maintained even though the price is high. Was the company in Bolivia local or international? please specify.

4. THE POTENTIAL OF CROATIAN WATER RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT DILEMMAS

A good explanation of the water resources in Croatia. An outlook on the water quality and whether the use of fertilizers in agriculture poses a threat to Croatian water resources. Furthermore, the use of energy requires water, how is the energy-water nexus in Croatia, does Croatia hold non-conventional resources (e.g. shale gas) that may require extra water? How about exporting water to water-thirsty: this would generate economic opportunities. Please elaborate a bit on these issues.

4.1.1 The possibility of privatizing the public company Hrvatske Vode

If possible, please provide a reference for the statement in the line 405-407.

Please provide reference for the statements in the lines 408-412. Please rephrase the last part of this section as I could not follow it very well.

4.1.2 The consequences of the water supply system privatization in Croatia

The consequences of privatization can be diluted using public-private partnership. Meaning that the states hold 51% shares and the private company holds the rest. Installing a very modern and smart water infrastructure will reduce the costs of maintenance and expansion. The Dutch expertise in water management can be used to the Croatian model and the results will be positive. In some really water-poor country, privatization has led to less leakages and better water quality however at a price which was subsidized from the government. Paying some money for the water is necessary to invest in protecting the resources.

Franchising water supply system rights as an alternative to privatization

In some countries with political corruption and monopoly, how we guarantee the franchise has gone to the right company?

the sentence in the line 548 is not complete.