

Call for papers

The increasing of the energy prices: a comparative assessment of the energy costs recovery in the tariff's methodologies in the water sector across European countries.

1. Context

WAREG-European Water Regulators is the association of national and regional public authorities that hold monitoring and/or decision-making responsibilities on price-setting, quality standards and customers' protection in the drinking water and wastewater sector, in Europe. Established in 2014 on the initiative of a group of sector authorities, today it is made-up by 25 Members and 6 Observers from 16 EU Countries, UK and 8 EU candidate or potential candidate Countries. WAREG's legal office is hosted by ARERA, the Italian Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks and Environment, in Milan (Italy), and its operational office is hosted by BRUGEL, the energy market regulator for the Brussels- Capital Region, in Brussels (Belgium).

The main objectives of WAREG are the cooperation between its Members, the exchange of information and of best regulatory practices and the promotion of transparent and stable rules that are compatible with relevant EU Directives and Regulations. WAREG actively promotes the role of economic regulation among European Institutions and stakeholder associations, as well as among international organizations and the broader research community in the water sector area. Additionally, WAREG is a permanent platform to exchange know-how, collect data and disseminate expertise by means of surveys, reports and specialised training sessions. WAREG holds institutional relations with the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the World Bank, the European Investment Bank, and with stakeholder associations.

WAREG's strategy is defined by the Board, composed of a President and four Vice-Presidents, and it is implemented by the Secretariat, composed of a team of national experts lead by the Italian regulator ARERA. The Secretariat supports the Board, the Members and the ad hoc Task Forces in the implementation the Association's Work Program, it supervises and contributes to the preparation of studies and recommendations developed by WAREG Task Forces, it ensures the overall coherence of WAREG messages through the drafting of strategic documents, speeches, presentations and statements delivered by the President or by any Board Member on behalf of WAREG, it conceives and organizes the capacity-building activities provided by WAREG to its Members. Finally, the Secretariat is responsible to manage the accounting, logistical and administrative aspects of the Association.

More information on WAREG's organization and activities is available on the website www.wareg.org.

2. Scope of work

In support of its Secretariat, WAREG is looking for a research partner specialized in the water/wastewater and energy sector for the development of WAREG's research activities.

The expected deliverables will be:

- Drafting a detailed and comprehensive paper – on behalf of Wareg - on “a comparative assessment of the energy costs recovery in the tariff's methodologies in the water sector across European countries”.
- Participating as a speaker at the final workshop event in Brussels (exp. October 2022) above mentioned.

3. Topics

Covid-19 and the Russian-Ukraine conflict dramatically changed the business scenario even in the water sector, incredibly boosting the costs of energy to unprecedented level never experienced across EU. This is reflecting on the water tariffs, as well.

Key questions to be addressed in the paper are:

- How prices of electricity should be reflected in Water Service Operators costs and tariffs in the last period?
- How costs for electricity should be recovered in tariff setting (i.e. Average prices on Day Ahead market / Average actual cost/ other mix/length of regulatory period)
- How costs for electricity should be updated during regulatory period with Price Cap application (i.e frequency/procedure and application needs)?
- Is there KPI monitoring on energy costs (i.e. Kwh/Mc; Purchasing prices/Kwh)?

4. Qualifications

- Private individuals with PhD and at least 5 years working experience in the water/wastewater sector. Relevant experience in energy sector would be considered preferential. Track-record of professional experience in institutional environments.
- Research institutions, think-tanks or ad-hoc consortia of research centers from two or more European countries, with track-record of relevant publications in the fields of research related to this paper.
- CV's of the relevant team members to be appointed for the purpose. The presence of researchers from different countries would be considered preferential.

5. Timing

The proposed timeline is the following:

- Deadline for offer submission (technical and economic): 10 July 2022
- Contract award: 15 July 2022
- Deadline for submitting the paper: 30 September 2022
- Participation to the workshop: October 2022 (TBD)

6. Application

Interested candidates should submit the following documents:

- Motivation letter with evidence of the requirements listed on item 4.
- Method statement showing the understanding of the scope of work as listed on item 2.
- Economic quotation.

To submit the offer and/or request additional information, please send an email to secretariat@wareg.org