

# 5 REASON, WHY

# WATER SUPPLY

## SHOULD BE IN PUBLIC HANDS



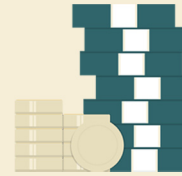
The UN member states have set themselves the goal to achieve general and fair access to clean and affordable drinking water and appropriate sanitation for all by 2030.



### 1 HUMAN RIGHT

Clean drinking water is a human right. As an essential and irreplaceable commodity it has to be accessible for the whole population at an affordable price.

### 2 WATER IS TURNED INTO PROFIT



Increasingly water is used for profit purposes. The peak of this development is that in countries of the global south, communally used groundwater is pumped off by businesses (e.g. Nestle) only to sell it to the population at high prices.



### 3 AFFORDABILITY

Private businesses do not manage the resource water better than the public hand. On the contrary there are manifold examples where consumer prices increased after privatisations, while maintenance of water pipes was neglected in order to increase the profits of the new owners.



### 4 QUALITY

Studies show that water quality is significantly better when supplies are in public hands, as more investment in maintenance and improvement of services occurs and therefore water loss through faulty pipes is reduced.

### 5 INVESTMENT

Private operators only take over water supplies for a limited time. Investment in infrastructure with the aim of long term protection of the service does not have priority for private owners. Many examples show that private operators do not invest sufficiently in infrastructure. This leads to higher water losses through faulty non serviced pipes and a considerably higher degree of chemically treated water.