

Panel discussion on the future of the water footprint methodology

Debrecen, 20th November 2014

Participants

- Alessandro Manzardo, University of Padova, Italy
- Ashok Kumar Chapagain, Water Footprint Network, Netherlands
- Christin Haida, alpS, Austria
- Robert Schmidt, Nuremberg Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Germany
- Wiesław Fiałkiewicz, Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences, Poland
- moderated by András Kis, ENEREA, Hungary

The sequence

- A question for each participant
 - 2-3 minutes to answer
 - 2-3 minutes for discussion by the panel
- Additional remarks by panel participants
- Open discussion with the audience

Alessandro Manzardo

For the calculation of the water footprint of personal consumption there are already tailor-made applications on the internet (e.g. <http://www.waterfootprint.org/?page=cal/WaterFootprintCalculator>). Do you think it makes sense to develop similar web-based tools for organisations, including enterprises, municipalities, public organisations? How can you create demand for web-based benchmarking of the water footprints of these organisations?

Christin Haida

With climate change picking up and evidence on its human origin becoming ever more clear, it is increasingly important to inform consumers about the environmental burden generated by their consumption. In your view, does it make sense to merge different footprints (water, carbon, ecology etc.) into one comprehensive footprint made available for consumers? If yes, what would be the best way of making this information available to consumers?

What can companies do to evaluate and monitor their water footprint (e.g. supply chain, internal processes, products...)?

How important are innovations in environmental technologies to improve the water footprint of a company?

What are the typical risks in the operation of water utilities in Central Europe and how can you use the water footprint methodology to mitigate them?



Ashok Kumar Chapagain

How do you see the evolution of the water footprint method in the near future? What are some of the new advances that will likely be applied in practice?