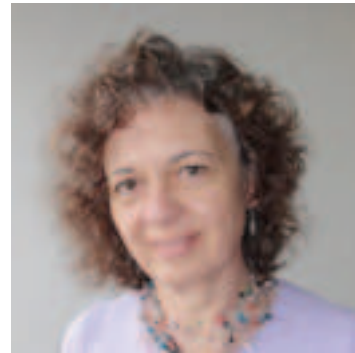


Helena Alegre, Chair of the Strategic Asset Management Specialist Group - International Water Association, Portugal



Sometimes you can have an influence without knowing it. I am grateful to Helena for bringing this to my attention.

Infrastructure Assets ARE different - they have indefinite lives

Burns et al (1999) made the splash! I guess Penny is not aware of the impact of this publication on the work we have been developing under the umbrella AWARE-P (www.aware-p.pt). [Ed: I wasn't!]

Penny called my attention to “obvious” facts: Infrastructure are not replaced as a whole but rather are renewed piecemeal by the replacement of individual components whilst maintaining the **function of the system as a whole**. Infrastructure assets **have indefinite lives**. These apparently simple statements conflict with the asset by asset, life cycle, traditional AM approach. In networks, a function (or level of service) cannot be allocated to individual assets, given the system behaviour. In infrastructures with assets of different ages and durations, a traditional life cycle approach is not applicable. Penny forced us looking for novel approaches grounded on the above key underlying statements. And we are satisfied with the solutions we found. Granted this year with two major European Awards, PIA 2014 (category Planning) (iwa-pia.org/pia_award_eu.html) and Mulheim Water Award 2014 (muelheim-water-award.co), AWARE-P is an ecosystem of infrastructure asset management methods, software tool, guidance materials and implementation cases that embeds these concepts and challenges. It counts with a fast growing community of users and supporters. Our next challenge is to continue advocating, disseminating, improving and implementing worldwide this approach.

Where to now? The AWARE-P IAM approach aims at a long term balance of performance, risk and cost. It is driven by the need of adequate service provision during a long term time window of analysis, where we start from existing infrastructures, manage them infrastructure in order to ensure service meets targets all over, while maintaining or increasing their value for the next generation. The framework provided is objective-driven and based on continuous improvement principles, while fitting the key principles of ISO 55000

Burns, P., D. Hope, et al. (1999). "Managing infrastructure for the next generation." *Automation in Construction* 8(6): 689.