



# WFD and public participation in Spain

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# Public participation in Spain: a weak starting point

Great diversity, but in general terms:

Lack of tradition

Long lasting democratic deficit

Lost opportunities

Weak LA21 movement

Legal mandate in a growing number of  
domains: IPPC, WFD, Aarhus

# PP and water administration

Before 2000

A restrictive interpretation

- Councils: National, District  
Formal, inoperative bodies
- User commissions (water district level)  
Restricted to some economic interests, real decision capacity

No participation under the WFD during  
2000-2005

(except early (2005) attempt in Guadalquivir)

# Participation for the WFD

Two relevant initiatives

Ebro basin

*La participación en los planes de demarcación.  
Directiva Marco del Agua. CHE 2006-2009  
(CHE, 2006)*

Ministry for the Environment

*Programa, calendario y fórmulas de consulta del  
proceso de planificación de la directiva marco  
del agua. Documento de consulta  
(versión 1.1, Julio 2006)*

# Ebro river basin

Largest basin in Spain (~ 85.400 Km<sup>2</sup>)

9 different autonomous communities with varied administrative cultures

Long history of water conflicts

The most elaborated participation proposal



# The Ebro model

Participated planning

Bottom-up process

The relevance of the participation budget  
(proposed 50% of the planning budget)

Territorial approach (17 *systems*)

Close cooperation with Autonomous  
Communities

Critics: actual practice doesn't fit with theoretical approach:

lack of effective coordination

lack of official involvement and real effectiveness

# The Ebro model

17 Participation Fora

*Grass-root* identification of stakeholders

In each *system* Thematic Discussion groups  
(about 12 people)

2 Forum meetings

Exhaustive use of (oral) communication  
instruments (e. g. local radio stations)

*Neutral* management of the process

# The Ministry Proposal

Legislative approach

Strong separation between information, consult and active participation

Forum promoted by the District Water Council

Coming from the Forum: working groups, thematic tables, expert forum

No explicit territorial dimension





# Duero

Based on Ministerial scheme

Sectorial tables:

Managers

Users

Institutions

Enterprises

Structured social fabric

→ Multiagents table (~ 50 people) = the stable participation body for the whole planning process

# Basque Country

Based on Ministerial proposal (part in Ebro basin):

## Structure: Sectorial tables

Hydroelectric power

Farming

Freshwater supply and sewage

Industry

Water environment and aquatic ecosystems

## + territorial tables

East Cantabrian

West Cantabrian

Mediterranean



# Navarra

Close to the Ebro approach (main part of Navarra belongs to the Ebro basin)

Forum

+ Territorial tables (sub-basin):

**Ebro**

Ega

Arga: - Arakil-Larraun / Arga till Etxauri (Pamplona) / Etxauri-Funes

Aragón and its afluent

Ebro's right margin: Queiles and Alhama.

**North**

Bidasoa.

# Catalonia

Learning by doing approach

Territorial process

2 pilots + 3 ... till 14 participation units

In each participation unit:

Plenary + sectorial workshops + thematic workshops



# Present state

(as Internet research may 2007)

Not yet started	Stopped	On going
CH Júcar* CH Segura CH Guadiana CH Tagus CH Norte I, II & III, Galicia	CH Guadalquivir** Andalucía	CH Duero CH Ebro Bask country Catalonia

\*At present, informal (and restricted) starting of the process. (No web info.)

\*\*A pilot study based on homogeneous actor's workshops was carried out in the fourth term 2006 (No web info.)



# Final remarks

Heterogeneous situation

General delay

Lack of centrality in the planning process

No specific budget previsions



Thank you!

