

Public participation: contributing to better water management

Experiences from eight case studies across Europe



Contents

Acknowledgements	5
Executive summary	6
1 Introduction	8
1.1 Context, aims and structure	8
2 Conceptual background and criteria	11
2.1 Public participation and stakeholder involvement in European water policies: policy context.....	11
2.2 Objectives and principles of public participation	12
2.2.1 Objectives of public participation	12
2.2.2 Core principles of public participation	13
2.3 Assessment methodology for public participation.....	16
3 Case studies	18
4 Actors in the process: who participates, which interests are communicated?	21
4.1 Inclusiveness	21
4.1.1 Including diverse participants.....	21
4.1.2 Engaging members of the public.....	22
4.1.3 How do stakeholder concerns and priorities influence the scope of discussion and the design of the planning process?	24
4.1.4 Enabling participation in the planning process	26
4.1.5 Towards open and transparent planning processes	27
4.2 Seeking mutual benefits and trade-offs among stakeholders.....	27
4.2.1 Different interests at play	27
4.2.2 Recognising differences in the participatory process	28
4.2.3 Seeking mutual benefits and trade-offs	30
5 Governance of participatory processes	31
5.1 Organising public participation across different administrative scales	31
5.2 The stakeholder role in organising the participatory process	34
5.3 Planning and scheduling the participatory process	36
6 Access to information, knowledge exchange and tools	38
6.1 Provision of and access to information.....	38
6.2 Knowledge generated by participants	39
6.3 Tools and methods employed for public participation.....	41

6.3.1	Methods and tools for communication and consultation.....	41
6.3.2	Methods and tools for active involvement.....	42
6.3.3	Facilitation.....	44
6.3.4	Creating effective tools.....	44
7	Public participation outcomes.....	46
7.1	How the participatory process affects final plans and programmes.....	46
7.2	Strengthening networks and building trust.....	47
7.3	Stakeholder cooperation on implementation.....	49
8	Conclusions.....	50
8.1	Key findings.....	50
8.2	Good practice.....	51
8.3	Issues for future development of public participation in water management.....	52
8.4	Future focus.....	53
	List of abbreviations.....	55
	References.....	57

Annex 1 Case studies

Case study: Rhône Méditerranée River Basin Management Plans, France

Case study: Park of the northern Lagoon, Venice, Italy

Case study: Tidal Thames Catchment Pilot, United Kingdom

Case study: Warta River, Poznań, Poland

Case study: Stakeholder participation in Thuringia, Germany

Case study: Northern Portugal RBMPs, Portugal

Case study: Matarraña River Contract, Spain

Case study: Flood control in the Tisza River Basin, Hungary

Annex 2 Criteria to evaluate public participation in the context of WFD implementation

Annex 3 Case study working template

The annexes are available at: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/public-participation-contributing-to-better>