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 Km²)

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 afluentes
- 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)

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Not yet started</th>
<th>Stopped</th>
<th>On going</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CH Júcar*</td>
<td>CH Guadalquivir**</td>
<td>CH Duero</td>
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<tr>
<td>CH Segura</td>
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<td>CH Norte I, II &amp; III, Galicia</td>
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</tbody>
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*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!