

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)



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



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

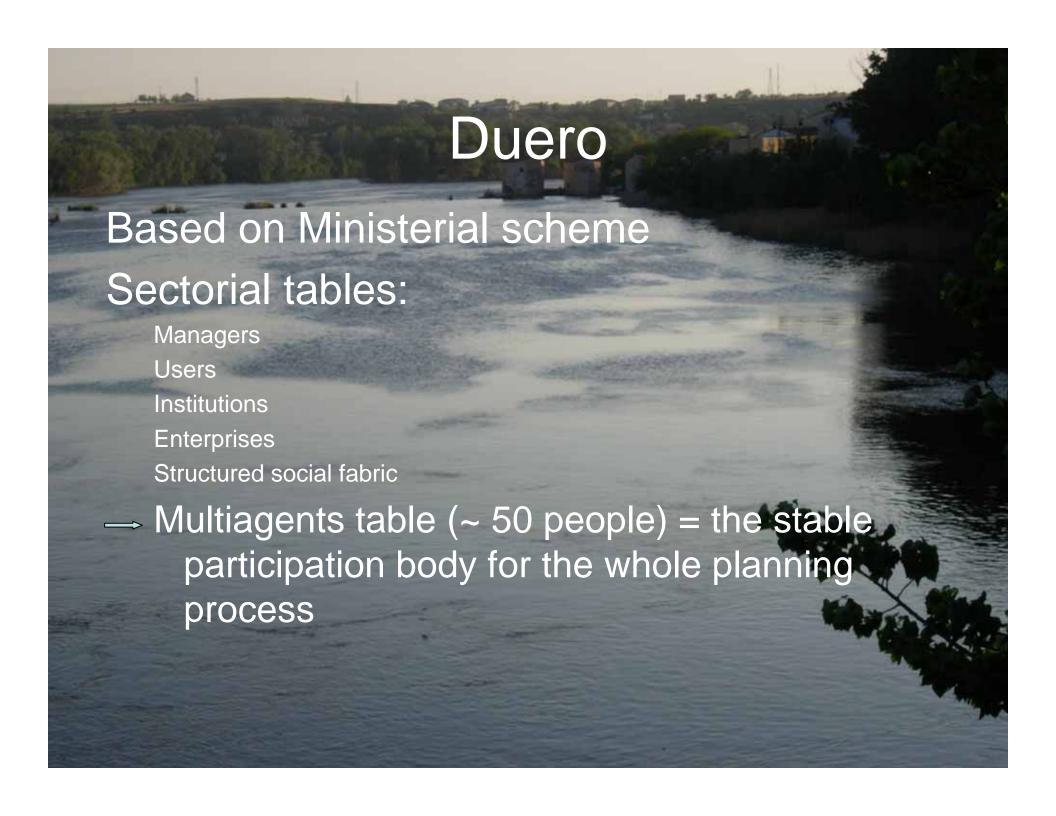
In each system Thematic Discussion groups (about 12 people)

2 Forum meetings

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

Neutral management of the process







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



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 afluents

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 Guadalquivir**	CH Duero
CH Segura	Andalucía	CH Ebro
CH Guadiana		Bask country
CH Tagus		Catalonia
CH Norte I, II & III,		
Galicia		
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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.)



