

CONFEDERACIÓN HIDROGRÁFICA DEL JÚCAR

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION STRATEGY IN THE JÚCAR RIVER BASIN AUTHORITY

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New challenges in EU water policy:

The Water Framework Directive encourages all citizens to get involved to protect and manage their waters.

Why PUBLIC PARTICIPATION?

There are two main reasons for an extension of public participation.



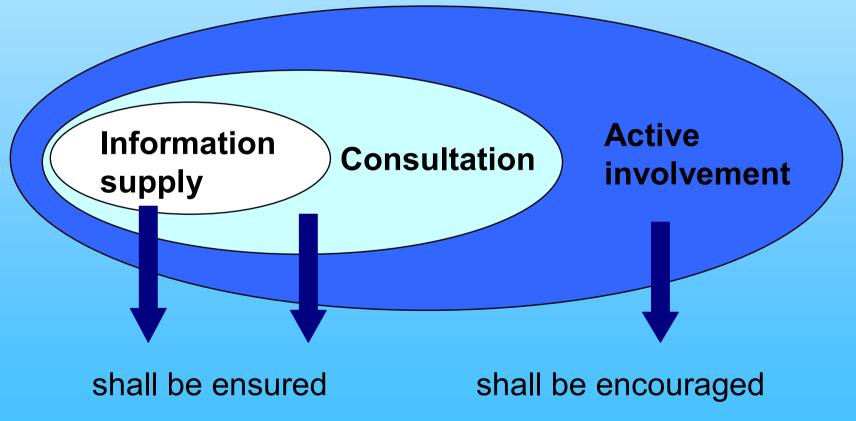
The decisions will involve balancing interests of various groups. The economic analyses and environmental requirements are intended to provide a rational basis for this: essential that the process is open to the scrutiny of all affected.



The greater the transparency in the establishment of objectives the greater the care Member States will take to implement the legislation, and the greater the power of citizens to influence the direction of environmental protection.

(www.europa.ue.int - introduction to Directive)

The key public participation provision of the Directive is **Article 14.** This article prescribes three main forms of public participation:with an increasing level of involment are mentioned:



(Public participation in relation to the WFD)

PP Strategy at Júcar RB

- Improvement of public participation at Júcar RB ("Confederación Hidrográfica del Júcar" –CHJ-) is one of the working trends which is being actively developed.
- PP is accepted as a key element of the WFD implementation.
- Although PP is associated with the elaboration of new Hydrological Plans according to WFD criteria, it also should be considered to promote the active participation of citizens in any issue related to water management.

PP general activities at Júcar RB:

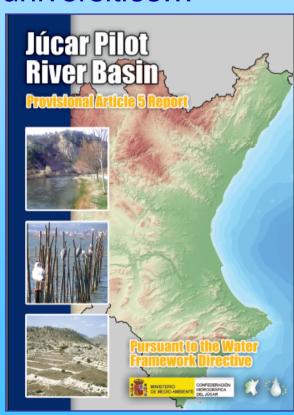
- Dissemination of information:
 - Activities carried out as pilot river basin
 - Large improvement of the information available on the web page
 - Participation in seminars, technical meetings and working groups.
- Consultation and active involvement
 - Working meetings
 - Related to the process of WFD implementation.
 - Related to important problems in the basin
 - Meetings of the River Basin Water Council
 - Design of public participation Plan.

1. Implementing / testing WFD guides. Article 5 report in English (dissemination phase):

Broad dissemination to European environmental agencies, RBOs internationally, ministries, NGOs, universities...

Includes detailed description of works developed regarding articles 5 and 6 of the WFD

Copies available for any interested party (www.chj.es)

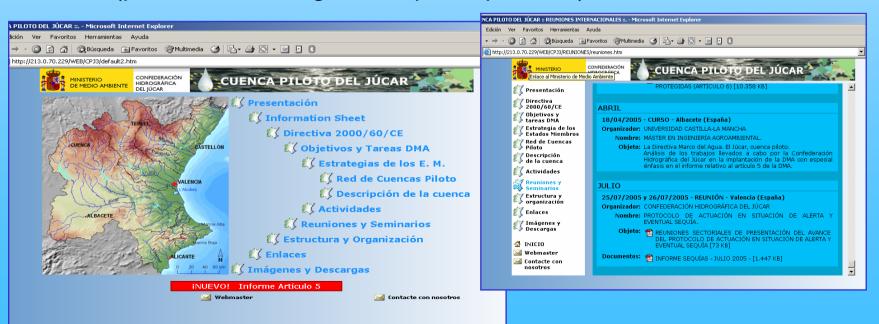


2. Dissemination tools

Improvement of the web site (www.chj.es)

Transparency of information: incorporation of all information on WFD in a proper web site of the Júcar PRB.

- Technical documents
- Reports
- List of meetings and workshops and associated documentations (presentations, agendas, participants...)



- Informative poster
 summarising major WFD
 activities
 - Pressures, impacts
 - Characterisation, water bodies, ecotypes
 - Protected areas



- Collection of informative DVDs
 - Continental waters of the region: their geographic, ecological and biological characteristics



3. Participation/organisation of seminars and technical meetings (dissemination phase)

Participation in technical meetings and working groups

Objective: spread information among technical staff of CHJ, as well as participation in national and international technical meetings relevant to the WFD implementation activities.



Organisation of special meetings related to the WFD implementation process.

Organisation of special meetings related to WFD implementation for representatives of administrations, users, NGOs and Founders.



4. Working meetings, gathered results, views and opinions (consulting and decision-making phase)



In order to make the works public and incorporate responses, meetings are organised (with users representatives, administration, NGO's,)



Special meetings related to main environmental problems

These meetings allowed to compile comments and suggestions from main NGOs, which have already been transmitted to technical services of Júcar RB and incorporated to WFD implementation process.

Date	Title
07/10/2004	Requirements of Albufera Lake
04/11/2004	Problematic of Mancha Oriental aquifer
18/11/2004	Situation of coastal wetlands in Castellón federations

Need to integrate general criteria based on WFD with specific water projects and hydrologic situations

- Júcar Vinalopó water transfer project.
 - Creation of an specific Technical Commission
- Year 2005 Drought situation
 Participation round tables for Drought Protocol

Date	Participating institutions and organisations	Number
25/07/2005	Administrations	32
25/07/2005	Water users	34
26/07/2005	Municipalities, consumers and users' federations	12
26/07/2005	Agrarian and sindical organisations	13
26/07/2005	Foundations and university experts	16

Meetings of the River Basin Water Council

River Basin Water Council is the formal mechanism designed by Spanish Water Act to promote the public participation.

Composition:

- Administration: central, regional and local
- Stakeholders
- Water related associations, NGO's

Meetings of the River Basin Water Council

•Meeting on December 10th, 2003: Information about activities related to the condition of the PRB which are performed by CHJ.

- •Meeting on December 21st, 2004:
 - Information about article 5 WFD Report.
 - Draft proposal about composition of Public Participation Commission

Possible modifications in the legal framework related to River Basin Water Council

- Increasing representatives from environmental, social and economic associations in the composition of the Water Council.
- •In order to make operational the Water Council, a specific and formal "public participation commission" depending on Water Council could be created.

Design of Public participation Plan.

In order to adequately plan the process of public participation envisaged in WFD, a double work line is being developed:

- 1) drafting the Plan of public participation
- 2) structuring fora of participation which are treated as a priority and posterior active participation in this plan.