

Public information and consultation processes in the frame of the Marine Strategy Directive Programme of Measure. Experience of Romania

Gheorghe Constantin
Director
Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests

ECRAN Regional Workshop, Skopje, 27-29 October 2015

What is Public Participation/Consultation?

- Allowing the public to influence the outcome of plans and working processes
- Authority has the responsibility to make available the information and create the framework for participation and consultation
- Is not about everybody joining, achieving consensus at any costs or everybody deciding
- Public consultation will manage the expectation and will bring expertize from outside the box

Public consultation and information according with MSFD

- Required by article 19 of the MSFD
- All interested parties are given early and effective opportunities to participate in the implementation of this Directive, involving, where possible, existing management bodies or structures, including Regional Sea Conventions Scientific Advisory Bodies and Regional Advisory Councils

Elements of the MSFD for public consultation

- Initial assessment and the determination of good environmental status
- Environmental targets established
- Monitoring programmes established
- Programmes of measures established

Legal framework for the public information, participation and consultation

- Water Law 107/1996 amended and modified ;
- Emergency Governmental Ordinance no 71/2010 concerning the establishment of the marine strategy
- Law 6/2011 for the approval of the Emergency Governmental Ordinance no 71/2010
- MO 1012/2005 regarding the “Procedures for public access to the water management information”;
- MO 1044/27.10.2005 regarding the procedures for consultation water users, riparian and public participation in water management decisions.
- GD 270/2012 regarding the establishment and functioning regulations of the Basin Committees, which amended the GD 1212/2000.

Public Participation and Consultation

-
- Basin Committees** – main units involved in this activity
- Stakeholders meetings;
- Informations on the web site;
- Extensive meetings to inform the public;
- Collecting opinions – questionnaires;
- Brochures and leaflets;



Involved ministries in MSFD Public Consultation

- Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Ministry of Transports
- Ministry of Energy, Small and Medium Enterprises and Business Environment
- Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration

Involved institutions

- National Institute for Marine Research
- National Administration Romanian Waters
- Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Administration
- National Agency for Environmental Protection
- National Environmental Guard
- National Agency for Fishery and Aquaculture
- National Agency for Mineral Resources
- Romanian Naval Authority
- National Company for Marine Ports Administration

Other stakeholders involved in MSFD consultations

- Fishery organization
- Aquaculture farmers
- Offshore Oil and Gas Association
- Littoral Tourism Association
- Constanta Water and Waste Water Regional Operator
- Constanta County Farmer Association
- Non-Governmental Organization

Public information

- Using local newspaper and local televisions
- Providing directly the documents
- Using the project site www.msfdbblacksea.eu
- Elaboration and distribution of leaflets
- Direct consultation (particularly with professional organizations)

Consultation on initial assessment and GES

- Period of consultation was between 29 August-29 September 2013
- Documents have been displayed for consultation and comments on the site and at the headquarter of National Marine Institute in Constanta
- Meeting organized in Constanta attended by 30 representatives
- No significant comments have been made

Consultation on monitoring

- Period of consultation was between 24 October-29 November 2013
- Documents have been displayed for consultation and comments on the site and at the headquarter of National Marine Institute in Constanta and Institute for Marine Geology and Geoecology - GEOECOMAR
- Meeting organized in Constanta attended by 25 representatives
- No significant comments have been made

Consultation on Programme of Measures

- February 2015 Brainstorm long list/gap analysis
- March 2015 Brainstorm short list / selection criteria
- May 2015 Review and prioritization PoM implementation needs BG & RO
- May 2015 Consultation on finance & funding
- May 2015 Cost/Effectiveness Assessment on PoMs
- June 2015 Sectorial consultation
- June 2015 Finalization PoM
- October 2015 PoM Fact sheets, Article 14-15

Lessons learned

- PP is a process – take the time and plan the process carefully
- Be patient – new “concept of governance”
- Accept also failures
- PP has to happen on different levels – it is crucial on the local level, but can be supported internationally
- Start early – and involve the main players
- No need to be scared – there are not many stakeholders on the door
- Make the procedures clear – to avoid misunderstanding and mistrust

