

Public Participation and Partnership in transboundary context

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Public Participation

- Is one main pillar of WFD
- Is required by Art.13 of the Directive
- Is referring to :
 - a timetable and work programme for the production of the plan
 - an interim overview of the significant water management issues identified in the river basin
 - draft copies of the river basin management plan

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 expertise from outside the box

Stakeholders selection

- The relation of the stakeholder to the water management issues concerned;
- The scale and context at which they usually act, who they represent;
- Their involvement, being governor; user/victim/stakeholder; expert and executer of measures;
- Their capacity for engagement;
- The political, social, "environmental" context.

Possible stakeholders

- Professionals – public and private sector organizations, professional voluntary groups and professional NGOs (social, economic and environmental)
- Authorities, elected people - government departments, statutory agencies, municipalities, local authorities
- Local Groups- non-professional organized entities operating at a local level (residents associations and local councils or communities centered on interest – e.g. farmers' groups, fishermen).
- Individual citizens, farmers and companies representing themselves. .

Public participation

- **Information supply** shall be ensured
- **Consultation** shall be ensured
- **Active involvement** shall be encouraged

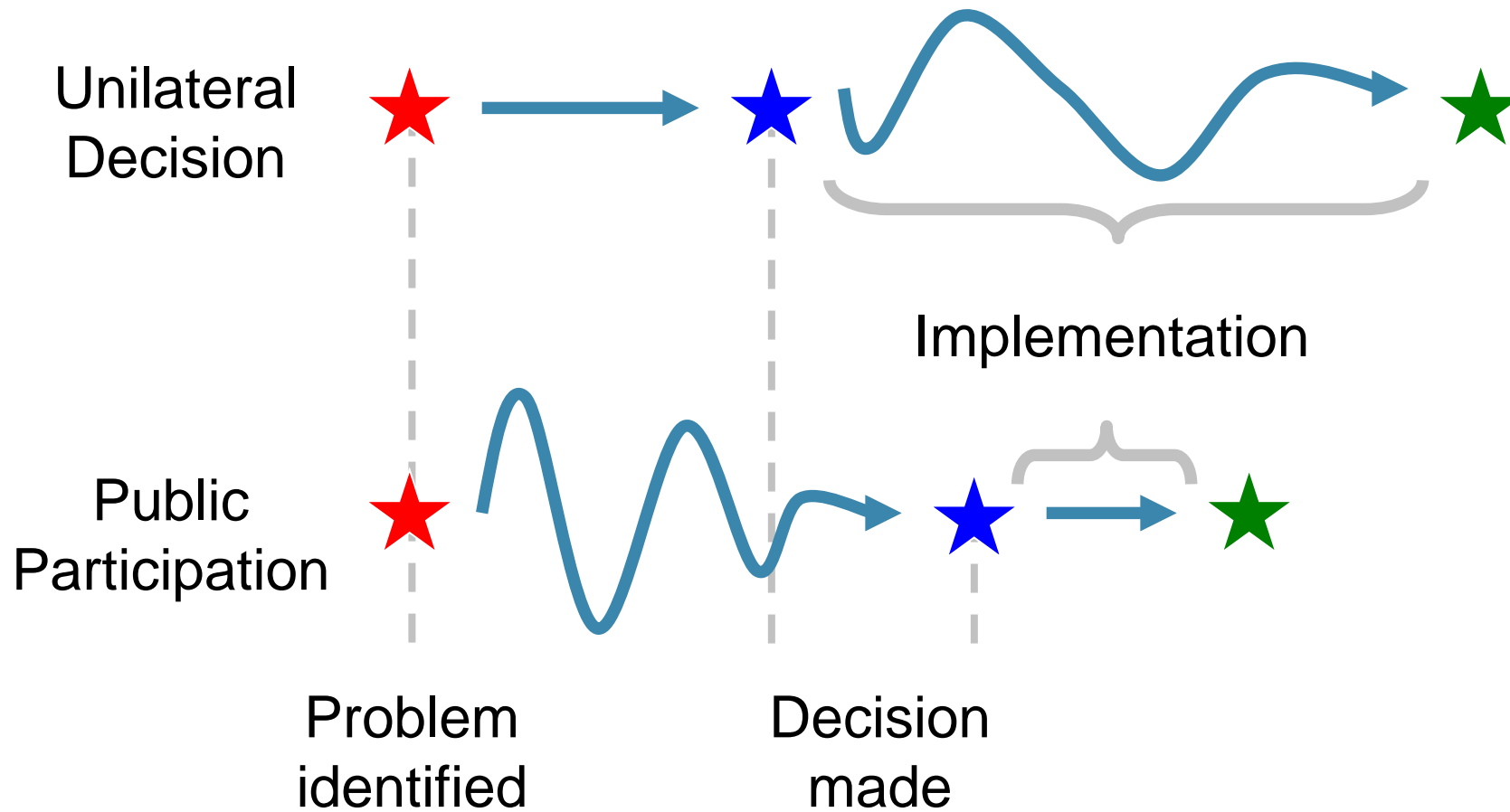
Key potential benefits of public participation

- Increasing public awareness of environmental issues as well as the environmental situation in the related river basin district and local catchment;
- Making use of knowledge, experience and initiatives of the different stakeholders and thus improving the quality of plans, measures and river basin management;
- Public acceptance, commitment and support with regard to decision taking processes;
- More transparent and more creative decision making;
- Less litigation, misunderstandings, fewer delays and more effective implementation;
- Social learning and experience—if participation results in constructive dialogue with all relevant parties involved then the various publics, government and experts can learn from each other's “water awareness”.

Active involvement of stakeholders, consultation and access to information at the international river basin district level

- Communication and coordination across scales and between units at the same scale (e.g. upstream and downstream countries or regions) is key to managing the scale issue in international river basin management
- Need to build up formal and especially informal networks across scales and between units at the same scale
- Public participation at the international river basin district level encourages the participation process at lower scales within the district.
- Translating the most important documents need to be made available.

Public Participation



Danube Day, June 29

DANUBE DAY



„Danube Solidarity“

- connect people
- joining forces



More than 300 events
throughout the Danube
with wide participation





*The Danube
flows through us!*

INTERNATIONAL DANUBE ART MASTER



Partnering with business



Danube Box

- Teachers` handbook
- CD ROM (additional information, photo gallery, quiz, interactive section for pupils)
- Poster showing the basin at a glance



In partnership with:



Danube River Basin Stakeholder Conference



- 1,5 day conference (Budapest, Zagreb)
- 100-120 participants
- 4 blocks:
 - a) ICPDR general, incl. pp concept of the ICPDR
 - b) Danube Analysis Report (art.5 report WFD)
 - c) Flood Action Programme
 - d) summary and next steps
- Facilitated discussions & work sessions

Lessons Learned

- Public Participation is a process –take the time and need to plan the process carefully
- Be patient – new “concept of governance”
- Accept also failures
- Public Participation has to happen on different levels – it is crucial on the local level, but can be supported internationally

A scenic photograph of a calm river or lake. The water is still, reflecting the surrounding dense forest of green trees. The sky is a pale, overcast blue. In the foreground, the wooden railing of a boat is visible at the bottom. The text "Thank you for your attention" is overlaid in the center of the image in a large, bold, black font.

**Thank you for
your attention**