



Harmoni-CA

WFD public consultation - Seine-Normandie

Agency experience

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Abstract:

1. WFD and social participation:

Social participation requires an important role within WFD, as written in preamble of the Directive:
“The success of the Directive relies (...) on information, consultation and involvement of the public, including users”

Article 14-of WFD precise that:

- “States members shall encourage the active involvement of all interested parties in the implementation of the directive, in particular in the production, review and updating of the river basin management plans (RBMPs),
- “Member states shall ensure that, for each river basin district, they publish and make available for comments to the public, including users: (...).

Each national and international district, shall publish and make available for comment to the public (with 6 months consultation)

- Time table and work programme, consultation measures to be taken,
- Overview of water management major issues in the basin,
- Draft river basin management plans (RBMPs).

2. “Seine-Normandie” Agency experience:

2005 public consultation procedure

Seine-Normandie basin committee organized in 2005, with the Ministry of ecology and sustainable development, a public consultation during six months (1 May - 1 November) about time table, work programme and major issues in the basin.

French government (prefect) is the legal authority. Water agency is operator (technical and financial)

Purpose of this first consultation: characterisation of the district “Seine-Normandie” (water bodies characterisation, pressure screening, economic analysis, cost recovery, baseline scenario, identification of water bodies at risk)

On base of this characterisation document title “water management issues for 2015” creation, specifically for a wide public, of:

- The consultation survey (96 pages), explain the basin review and main problems to the public (pedagogy) – (15.000 ex)
- The synthesis of the consultation survey (11 pages) – (200.000 ex)
- A specific survey for collect opinion of the public about work programme and major issues an the basin (bottom-up approach) – (450.000 ex)

2005 Procedure management:

- **Involve interested parties:** local authorities, stakeholders, NGO's, users (farmers, industrials...), experts and wide public. For this, use existing structures as basins committees and local water commissions.
- Inform and encourage consulting documents. This objective mobilise a combination of different categories of tools: web (www.eau-seine-normandie.fr) , classical communication tools (local and national newsletters, technical reviews,..., TV spots, radio, press exhibits, advertising...), groups meetings (public hearing, public debate, workshops, groups for stakeholders), popular events..., water class... , to obtain a shared diagnostic of the district status, and... answers !. (More than 200 events are organized between may and November 2005 on basin Seine-Normandie with cities and NGO's !) .

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We have now good examples

- **Collect answer**, through the survey, by post and internet (agency web site) on each scale with the difficulty between a local and basin approach (10.000 answers and more...),

Process Ok

- **Building of the software to analyse, with experts, answers** and comments,

We are now working on the methods

- **Giving feedback to basin committee, stakeholders and wide people** (transparency, justification of decision),

Under construction

- **Integrating public opinion in the draft** of river basin mapping plan

Under construction

- **Assessing the participation** with stakeholders involved (learning lesson),

under construction : perhaps a workshop meeting at the Cité des sciences of Paris (May-june 2006)

- **Setting of up indicators** (customer satisfaction about information supplied and possibility to react) and following up the evolution of public perceptions

3. How to prepare 2007 public consultation about RBMPs ?

The challenge will be to have a wide agreement (at least a common understanding) on main measures that have to be programmed to meet WFD objectives and to motivate stakeholders to take part in the implementation of the RBMP.

Use of simulation tools seems promising to present scenarios of measures and their impacts on water bodies in the context of public consultation. We expect to experiment the introduction of simulation results in the debate at the end of 2006. This will be done with the biogeochemical model SENEQUE, developed by the research program PIREN-Seine, that integrates all kinds of pressures and represents 35000 km of Seine-Normandie rivers.