



Harmoni-CA

**Public Participation in Bavaria, with a look at the
Danube River Basin and different German
“Bundesländer” - Patterns, Problems and Deficiencies
of Stakeholder Involvement and Public Participation
from an Environmentalist Perspective**

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Abstract:

The centre of my contribution starts from my personal experience of the Water Framework Directive implementation in Bavaria. I can show the development of the Bavarian “Water Forum” as an institution of stakeholder participation and hint at major deficiencies. Major deficiencies are concerning transparency of methods, possible influence of political and economic interest on criteria, information only “after the party”. One of the most critical points is the way of providing information. The difficulties of identifying water bodies of the main rivers and a lack of justified status of waterbodies are shown as obstacles for participation. There is also a problem of sub basin (regional) problem analysis and

information. The contents of problems are made more concrete with the examples of heavily modified water bodies and groundwater bodies including groundwater based land ecosystems. The participation process during preparation and implementing the monitoring process is described.

With and after the presentation of the implementation in Bavaria a look on some different solutions of WFD implementation in other "Bundesländer" of Germany and other countries of the Danube River Basin is given.

Concentrating on my own experience from environmentalist NGOs, I can give you an insight in problems of getting competence in and contributing to the implementation process on different levels. The participation of other stakeholders is discussed. One example is the Stakeholder Conference in Budapest with its results; another example is the process of sub basin or regional participation in Bavaria.

As a conclusion the need for adapted information and competence building is stressed. The relation of political willingness and providing tools is discussed.