



Highlighting the importance of social dimension with Social Impact Assessment for more transparent Water Policy and Management

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Abstract

We are often faced with the situation that phase of creating a policy tends to be a field where all ideas, visions seem clear, realistic and simple but when it comes to the next stage which means transferring policy into reality we are suddenly confronted with complex network that because of its human dimension consequently shows us that while planning we must have forgotten to consider this important segment. Implementation reveals were things went wrong in stage of planning, were tend to be “black holes” and with evaluation we point out positive and negative connotation of implementation and policy itself. Theory can often build the ground that cannot support the sequence of events or cannot create an appropriate system that could potentially function in society. Any kind of policy should be done in a conjunction with society, people. Therefore it is important that we fill first gap which is human capital. A social dimension is very important and needs attention. We need to assure that social component will be considered and discussed in water policy management if we want it to be transparent and accountable. Usage of Social Impact Assessment (SIA) is very essential when considering new projects, policies etc. Its role to assess impact on people, society highlights the meaning of this method itself as an important source of information. We have to be aware of importance of human and social capital and that its understanding, satisfaction is key to success. Having all the analysis done, having good theory, project or policy it still not the end. Because putting policy into happening is not enough. Next gap that needs to be filled is related to organisation. This takes under a need of keeping a good coordination between all the actors which means all the people, institutions, stakeholders involved. Well defined roles are crucial and also a good cooperation between all the segments involved. Regarding to this, system should consider transparent local self – government which would assure direct power of people. With redistributed power this people would get possibility of participation in making decisions. We also need a good monitoring system which will “guide” us through all the happening and give us possibility to observe where things might go wrong. Monitoring is sort of an early and up to date warning system which gives us constant view on happening. It gives us possibility to react before things could go wrong. SIA and good organisation are two very important elements which can make Water Policy and Management better and more credible.