



Measuring and evaluating the role of institutionalisation in the outcomes of participation in countries of the Mediterranean

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Stakeholder participation in water resource management is becoming established in the policies of countries of the European Union through the Water Framework Directive. The institutionalisation of participatory processes is often described as essential in order to ensure the development and successful functioning of stakeholder involvement. To explore the role of institutionalisation in enhancing participation in water resource management, the extent and outcomes of participation will be compared for several countries in the Mediterranean region. The processes and effects of stakeholder involvement in countries which have adopted the Water Framework Directive will be evaluated against countries where participation is not embedded in policy.

One of the greatest challenges of this work is the determination of appropriate methods, criteria and evaluation tools with which to “measure participation”. This poster will present a review of the methods, strategies and tools adopted to date with consideration for their suitability for research into participation in different regions. Particular attention is paid to methods which may offer the potential to explore the success of participation in terms of its impact on water resources, but which also attempt to understand the mechanisms by which participation is taking place. Such methods are likely to incorporate aspects of both the social and environmental sciences, such as participatory evaluation combined with environmental monitoring. Future work will then attempt to employ suitable methods to address the research question of how the institutionalisation of stakeholder involvement in resource management raises participation, and the extent to which such participation leads to appropriate water resource management to ensure the sustainability of limited resources.