



Economic Valuation for Improved Water Quality: Analyzing the Public's Preferences Using Geospatial Analysis

Konstantinos P. Tsagarakis, Amaryllis Mavragani, and Alexandra Gemitzi

Democritus University of Thrace, Department of Environmental Engineering, Xanthi, Greece (kandila@her.forthnet.gr)

As the subject of water quality in the European Union is becoming all the more important, public awareness is of significant importance in exploring ways towards the implementation of better water quality. Over the last decade, significant steps towards this direction have been employed in EU, such as Directive 2008/105/EC and Directive 2013/39/EU and Groundwater Directive and Decision 2015/495. What has been suggested so far is that public participation and information levels are relatively low in some EU countries. This paper focuses on providing a review on economic valuation in EU and in regions with degraded waters by applying geospatial techniques. Overall, it is shown that public awareness and information levels are crucial in better assessing the issues that arise due to water quality, and help better implement EU legislation.