



Implementing COP22 agreements: river basin adaptation planning through stakeholder engagement

BeWater European Policy Event

9 February 2017
Brussels, Belgium

Overview

The Mediterranean shows high vulnerability with regards to climate change impacts in the water sector, necessitating immediate adaptation action based on proper planning and inclusive decision-making processes. The participation of relevant stakeholders is key to reaching more flexible and adaptive decisions, as well as broadly accepted policy measures.

The link between participation and climate change adaptation is not yet exhaustively exploited, particularly with regards to river basin management. The policy event responds to this gap by showcasing the outcomes of participatory European research projects, and supporting the advancement of methodologies for assessing stakeholder interests, demands and concerns within the field of adaptive water resources management. It will demonstrate the critical value of stakeholder engagement and articulate politically relevant recommendations to inform ongoing work in the aftermath of the COP 21 and 22.



The BeWater project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement No. 612385.

Programme and speakers

Targeted presentations and two panel discussions will comprise the half-day programme (please see the event website for a full agenda), with a focus on approaches for engaging society in water management and particularly adaptation-related processes, as well as the potential of participation and associated challenges and limitations. Experiences from several EU-funded research projects -amongst them the BeWater project – will guide discussions, helping to answer the question: What is the potential of engaging participatory processes to impact (EU) policy making processes and support the implementation of e.g. COP22 decisions? In addition to esteemed members of the BeWater team from each of the four case study river basins, panel speakers include:

Anabel Sánchez (*Centre for Ecological Research and Forestry Applications*), BeWater Project Co-ordinator

Dr. Uta Wehn (*Associate Professor UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water*), expert on citizen science and innovation in the water sector

Prof. Muki Haklay (*Co-director of Extreme Citizen Science*), expert in participatory mapping methods and citizen science

Bjørn Bedsted (*Deputy Director of the Danish Board of Technology*), expert in public engagement within the field of climate change adaptation

Participants

The event is open to citizens and society at large, and we especially welcome EU policy and decision makers (e.g. MEPs and the European Commission), but also representatives of European projects with a participatory focus, public administrations, environmental NGOs, scientists and other professionals working in the field of river basin or natural resource management and climate change adaptation.

The event will be held at the Leopold Hotel.

Please register at <http://registration.ecologic-events.eu/bewater-european-policy-event> or contact mckenna.davis@ecologic.eu for any inquiries.



Photo: IZVRS, 2014