

Background to our work

Water is, worldwide, a precious resource. Industry, agriculture, transport, tourism and private households all require it. At the same time, available resources are limited. This often results in conflicts of interest, the resolution of which requires equitable, transparent and sustainable solutions.

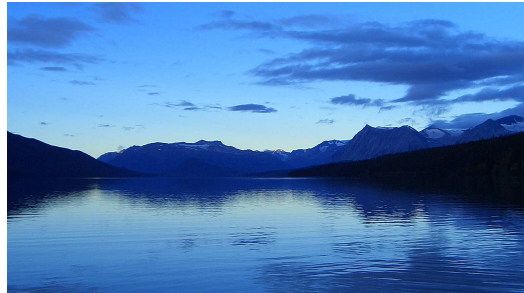
In October 2000, the EU issued the Water Framework Directive (WFD) to direct water policy towards a more responsible use of water. According to the WFD, by 2015, European water bodies should be in a "good state", and moreover should be being used in a sustainable way.

The general public, organised stakeholder groups and authorities are all expected to collaborate to realise these demanding goals. For those water authorities given the responsibility, it means that they will be having to organise this kind of collaboration, i.e. participatory water management. This is a challenge worth undertaking, since an early involvement of all interest groups in new water management projects can improve the overall quality of water management as well as increase trust in and the acceptance of management plans.

The implementation of the WFD at regional and local levels is necessarily a collaborative activity. **Seecon** can support those responsible in all areas of water management in its implementation.

Seecon Deutschland GmbH

Seecon (Society-Economy-Ecology-Consulting) Deutschland GmbH is an internationally active consulting company. We support municipalities, firms, organisations and research institutes with the planning, implementation and evaluation of participatory water management processes throughout Europe. Furthermore, through our consulting activities we seek to contribute to the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive and to increase public awareness for sustainable water management.



A team of experts in the fields of ecology, sociology and policy science is there to assure the success of our consulting work. **Seecon** also cooperates with the renowned Institute for Environmental Systems Research, University of Osnabrück, in order to support the development of new participatory methods.

Seecon's competence and expertise are being applied in various European countries, supporting projects on sustainable water use and urban development as well as providing training for practitioners and decision makers in participatory water management.

Our services

We support our clients in carrying out participatory water management. That is, we support them in involving the general public and organised stakeholder groups in the planning, implementation and evaluation of water management plans, such as the river basin management plans, needed to fulfill the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), or specific groundwater protection schemes.

Our services in detail:

- **Consulting:** We support our clients in designing and evaluating participatory plans tailored to their needs;
- **Implementation:** As experienced and neutral professional moderators, we can implement clients' participatory plans as well as plan and organise individual participatory workshops;
- **Training:** Through training and capacity building, we can support our clients in designing and implementing their own participatory plans;
- **Research:** In co-operation with a number of research institutes, we develop new methods to improve the efficiency of participatory water management. We can convey the latest research to our clients and adapt it for their practical application.

Seecon combines competence in modern, integrated water management with sound experience in participatory water management. We offer our services in English, German and Dutch.

Success through participation

The general public, as well as stakeholders, have an increasingly important role to play in the development of political and economic processes. **Seecon** seeks to support public and stakeholder participation and make it a reality in the field of transboundary water management.

Advantages of our work to our clients:

- local knowledge can be incorporated into the planning of management strategies;
- the quality of management planning and implementation can be improved;
- public and political acceptance of management plans and their implementation can be increased;
- conflicts can be identified and resolved at an early stage of the planning process in collaboration with all participants;
- the sustainable use of newly developed infrastructure and amenities can be improved.

Contact

We would be happy to provide you with more detailed information on request and, if required, organise a personal meeting with you.

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Participatory Water Management
Stakeholder Participation
Public Participation
Moderation
Capacity Building
Evaluation
Conflict Resolution
Sustainable Measures