Public participation and stakeholders engagement

Prof. Doutora Maria do Rosário Partidário
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION as required by the EU Directive

- SELECÇÃO DE ACÇÕES
- DEFINIÇÃO DO ÂMBITO
- PREPARAÇÃO DO EIA
- APRECIAÇÃO TÉCNICA
- DECISÃO
- PÓS-AVALIAÇÃO

Public participation

Institutions consultation
Actors

Inherently active in the process:

- Project proponent
- Project designer
- EIS consultant company
- Authority responsible for project licensing or authorization
- Environmental authority (usually the Ministry)
- EIA authority
- EIS quality review commission
- Other competent administrative authorities
Autors

Directly involved:

• Environmental non-governmental organizations
• Other non-governmental organizations
• Courts
• Ombudsman for Justice (Provedor de Justiça)
• Media
• General public
Actors

Strategic-political:

• Members of Parliament
• Government
• Spatial territory managers
International drivers
Principle 10 of Rio Declaration (1992)

Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens….each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment ….and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes.

http://www.unece.org/env/pp/

Access to information, Public participation in environmental decision-making and Access to justice in environmental matters

European Directive 2004/35/CE - environmental responsibility
UNECE Aarhus Convention (1998)

“The public” - one or more natural or legal persons, and, in accordance with national legislation or practice, their associations, organizations or groups

“The public concerned” - the public affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in the environmental decision-making

Word “Stakeholder” not in use
Concept

(on site) distant (off site)

(institutionalised) stakeholders

future generations

members of management system
direct stakeholders

affected people

beneficiaries

Based on Slootweg
Public participation may be defined as the involvement of individual and groups that are positively or negatively affected by, or that are interested in, a proposed project, program, plan or policy, that is subject to a decision-making process.

IAIA Public Participation, International Best Practice Principles, 2006 (www.iaia.org)
the stakeholders includes the proponent, public, decision-maker(s) and the regulator (IAIA principles)

Collective values can not be the sum of individual values
International Principles for Public Participation

(André, P., B. Enserink, D. Connor e P. Croal 2006 Public Participation International Best Practice Principles. Special Publication Series No. 4. Fargo, USA: International Association for Impact Assessment)

Basic Principles
1. Adapted to the context
2. Informative and proactive
3. Adaptive and communicative
4. Inclusive and equitable
5. Educative
6. Cooperative
7. Imputable

Operative principles
1. Initiated early and sustained
2. Well planned and focused on negotiable issues
3. Supportive to participants
4. Tiered and optimized
5. Open and transparent
6. Context-oriented
7. Credible and rigorous

(www.iaia.org / publications)
Objectives of public participation:

- Education and information dissemination
- Identification of problems, needs and values
- Generation of ideas, proposals and solutions to problems
- Reaction to proposals
- Assessment of alternatives
- Consensus building for conflict resolution
Citizens participation ladder


Manipulation

Information

Consultation

Participation

Delegation of power

Citizens control

Public weight in decision-making

http://lithgow-schmidt.dk/sherry-arnstein/ladder-of-citizen-participation.html
Levels of participation

FIGURE 1: SPECTRUM OF STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Number of People Engaged

- Communication Strategies
- Information Disclosure
- Consultation
- Participation
- Negotiation & Partnerships

Intensity of Engagement
Shift paradigms

From giving information

Information Consultation

Stakeholders \( S \)

Decision-makers \( D \)

to asking for views

for creative development and mutual learning

Environmental Impacts @ MRPartidário
Negotiation
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FeM6kp9Q80

Engagement – project
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gijlb945KNo

Calgary – Atkinsson
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLqXu5kVz7M
Stakeholders involvement techniques and practice
The practice of public participation might involve public meetings, surveys, open houses, workshops, polling, citizen’s advisory committees and other forms of direct involvement with the public.

https://www.iap2.org/
The Public Participation Manual

Who is involved?

Potential application:
- EIA
- SEA
- Strategies for Sustainability
- Local Agenda 21
- Spatial and Development planning

Stages and Methods of PP

Benefits of PP
Who is involved?

- Citizens
- Politicians
- Administrators
- Entrepreneurs
- Interest groups
Stages and Methods of PP

Future vision
- Future workshop or conference

Complex situations
- Open space conference
- Citizen jury

Activating Opinion
- Activating opinion survey
- Citizen Panel
- Internet Forum

High conflict and controversial situations
- Consensus conference
- Mediation
- Round Table

Decision-influencing
- Study group,
- Round Table,
- Citizen jury,
- environmental mediation etc.

Consultation
- Public meeting with discussion,
- opinion survey,
- citizen panel,
- (requests for) comments etc.

Information
- Notice-board,
- mailing,
- public meeting to inform,
- opportunity to inspect official documents etc.
Roundtable approach
Austria, PP Manual 2007

Limits to PP

Stakeholders reluctance to participate to avoid being “pocketed”, because of frustrated past experiences or other way to get what they want

Decision-makers “power threat”

No scope for action - decisions have been made

Social diversity and different degrees of access to participation processes (e.g. migrants)
Benefits of PP

- Exchange perspectives and reconcile diverging interests
  - Innovation
  - Engage in dialogue
  - Facilitate future contacts
- Arguments and perspectives fill gaps in knowledge
- “Multiplied” knowledge - broader basis for decision-making
  - Improve negotiation skills
- Individual gain recognition, sympathy