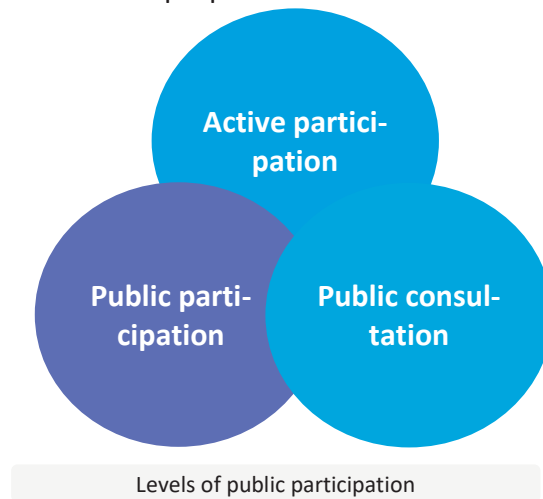


16. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation process of the River Basin Management Plan

Public participation during the conduct of the River Basin Management Plan allows citizens to influence the planning and the work processes in relation to the management of river basin districts and ensures the presence of the interested and affected parties in the planning process. Three levels of social and administrative involvement are defined for this purpose.



The process of hydrological planning is, therefore, a process open to the participation of all the population both at an individual level and through the different interested agents: economic, social and environmental administrations, users and organisations. After the establishment of the Water Council of the District, the Hydrological Planning and Citizen Participation Commission was formed, which has validated the participation model set by the river basin Organisation, in compliance with the three levels of public participation mentioned above.

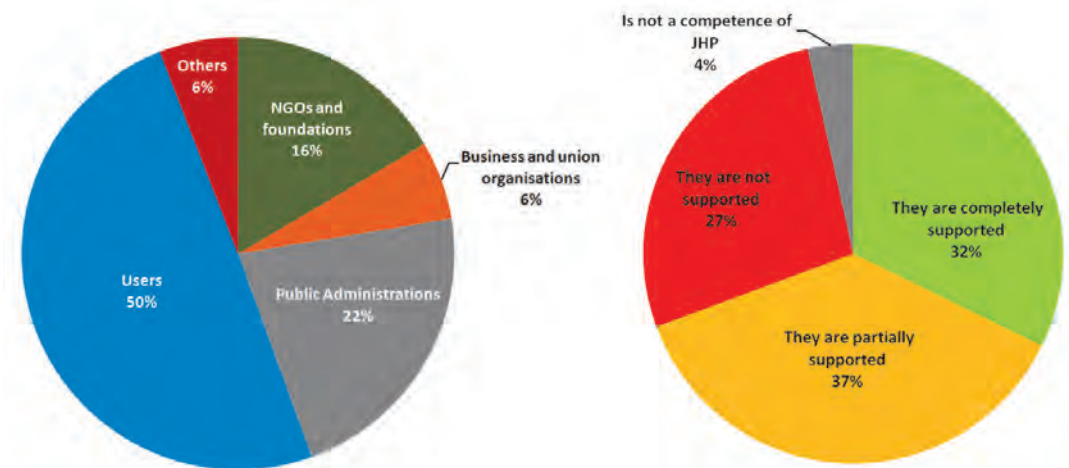
The actions undertaken to promote public participation in the different milestones of the planning conducted up to this date are different. Therefore, the Júcar River Basin Authority made the documents generated in each of the three phases of the planning process: Initial Documents, Provisional Overview of Significant Water Management Issues (OSWMI) and the review project of the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP), available for the public for a period of 6 months.

Once the term is completed, all the proposals, remarks and suggestions in each of the three phases were collected and analysed in specific reports prepared for that purpose.

During the public consultation of the OSWMI, approximately 400 topics were collected and 66% of them were included totally or partially in the document. In addition to the regulated participation process, different actions have been conducted during this public consultation phase with the objective of promoting active participation. Thus, territorial meetings were held per water resources system in Teruel, Castellon de la Plana, Albacete, Alzira and Alicante, in addition to a presentation session in València for which an informative document of the OSWMI was made.

During the public consultation phase of the River Basin Management Plan, approximately 900 topics were collected and 69% of them were included totally or partially in the document. As in OSWMI public consultation, over 20 territorial meetings were held during the public consultation period in different locations of the District (Oropesa del Mar, Castellon de la Plana, Teruel, València, Albacete, Alzira, Benidorm, Alicante...) addressing specific topics such as the status of water bodies or measure proposals to be conducted with the purpose of promoting active participation, collecting the different opinions about the problems detected in the District.

All the improvements included in the Plan, as well as the treatment provided to each of the contributions received are collected in the Report of the proposals, remarks and suggestions to the review project Proposal of the River Basin Management Plan of the hydrological planning cycle: 2015–2021.



Percentage of contributions received per entity, during the public consultation of the Júcar RBMP

Treatment of the provisions received during the public consultation of the Júcar RBMP



Image: Territorial meetings in different locations of the District

In the meetings held during the public consultation process of the River Basin Management Plan, the existing issues associated with the status of surface and groundwater bodies and the possible measures to take to achieve the environmental objectives have been discussed for each of the different territories.

For this purpose, a dossier with cartographical material and information charts regarding the status of surface and groundwater bodies, detected non-compliance, existing pressure and a measure proposal was provided in every meeting.

All this material was explained by experts of the Hydrological Planning Office and the attendees were simultaneously encouraged to make the contributions and comments they deemed appropriate.

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