## Europe-INBO 2017-Roundtable 3

# "Stakeholder and public participation in River Basin Management"

by

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#### Why Public Participation is important?

- It strengthens <u>democracy</u>
- Helps determine priorities, enhance understanding of problems and challenges
- The involvement of the public make people share <u>responsibility</u> and provide locally held information and knowledge.
- It creates awareness and <u>ownership</u> of decisions
- Provides <u>transparency</u> of actions and accountability.
- Public participation promotes <u>consensus</u> building
- It improves <u>cooperation</u> and coordination of actions.

#### Who is the public and what is its role?

- the 'general public', the population living within a river basin
- those individuals and <u>organisations</u> with a specific interest in water resources management, potential investors.
- Those that can really contribute to delivering solutions: water companies, wastewater treatment companies
- NGOs, (Non-Governmental-Organizations) such as those promoting environmental protection.
- sectoral stakeholder <u>groups</u> within a river basin (e.g. different water users (agriculture, industry etc.)
- advisory <u>committees</u>, in local level

## The new approach

from public <u>information</u>.... to active public <u>involvement</u>...

Today, the major concern is, how can interested parties <u>agree</u>.

How a <u>consensus</u> between the interested parties will be reached, how mutually satisfactory solutions will be found.

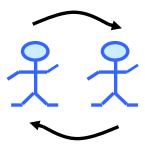
# Levels of participation

Information



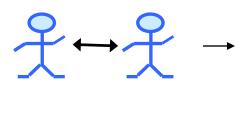
monologue

Consultation

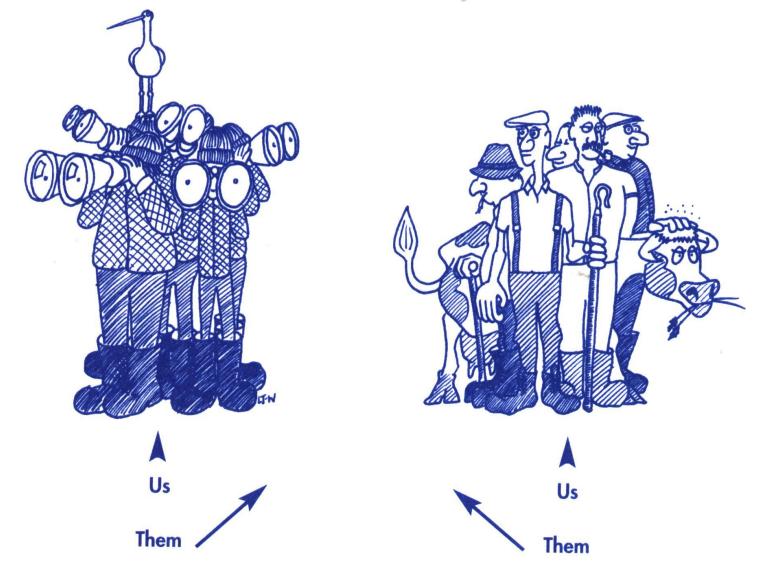


dialogue

 Active involvement participatory approach



### Barrier 1: Group Interests



#### Language problems





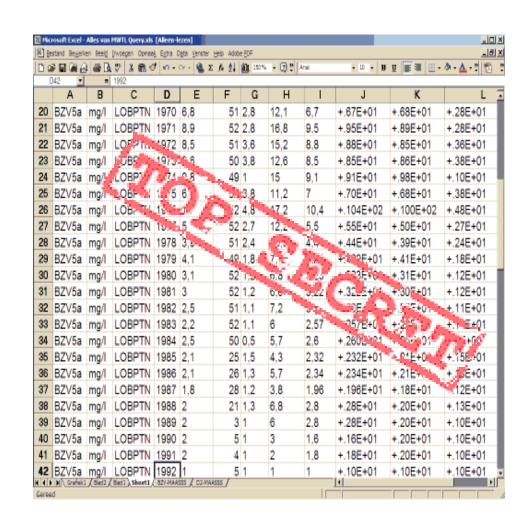






#### Barrier 2: The Information Divide

- Lack of information can hinder appropriate action
- Upstream countries tend to restrict information exchange
- Downstream
   countries tend to
   incriminate
   upstream countries



#### **POLITICIANS**

[elected representatives decision makers policy generators]

#### Barrier 3: The Scientific Divide

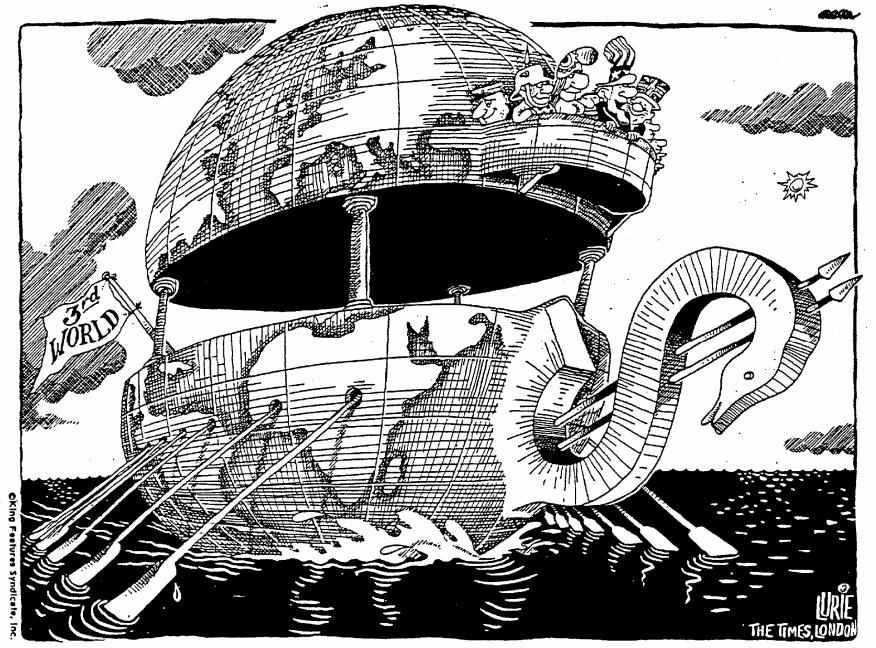
#### SCIENTISTS

knowledge generators researchers data & information] **PROFESSIONALS** 

[implementors managers]

BRIDGING THE GAPS

PUBLIC [stakeholders recipients]



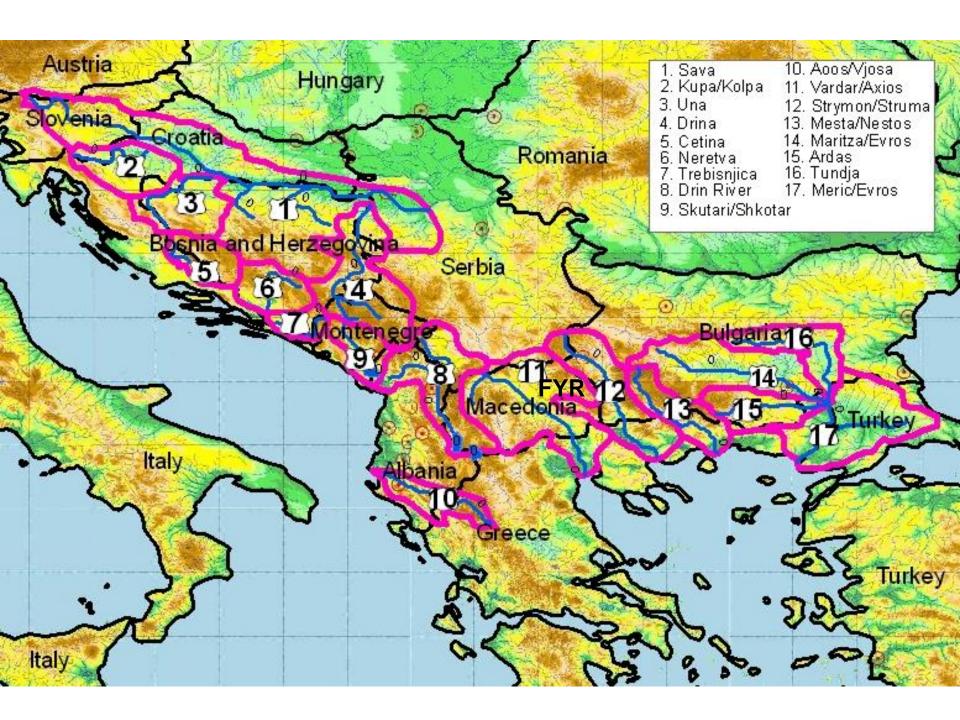
"AFTER ALL, WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT."

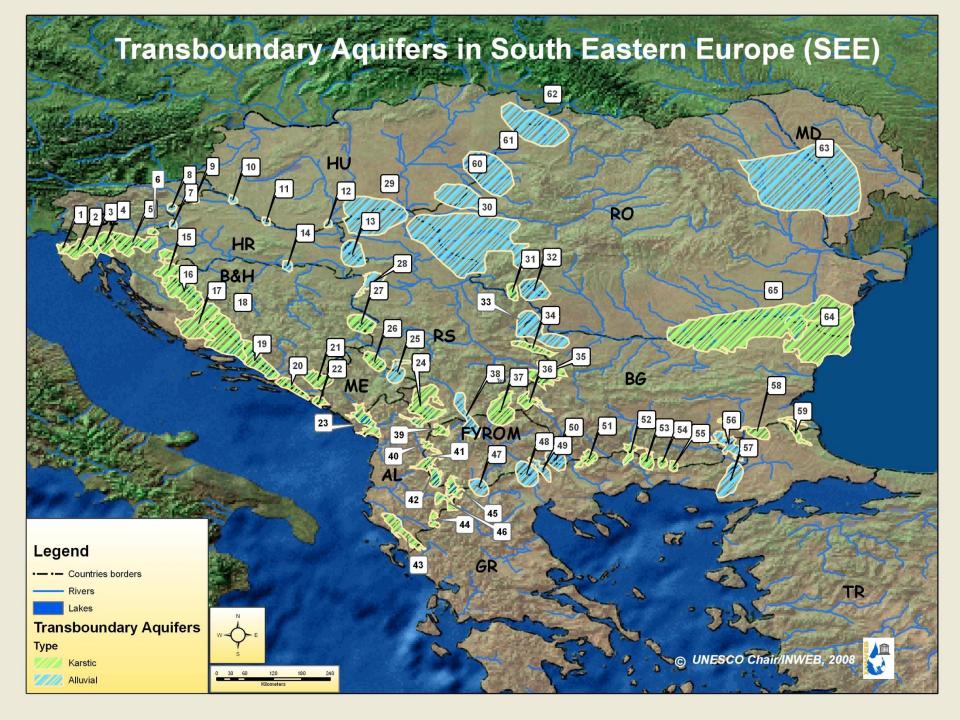
# Sharing Benefits, but...

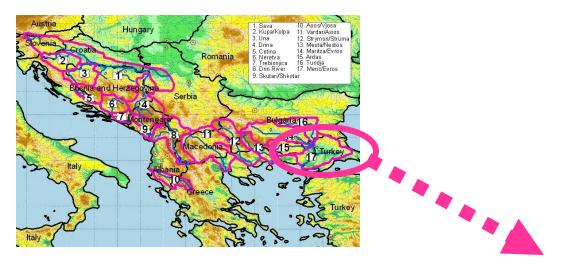
Living With Risk is a Matter of .....

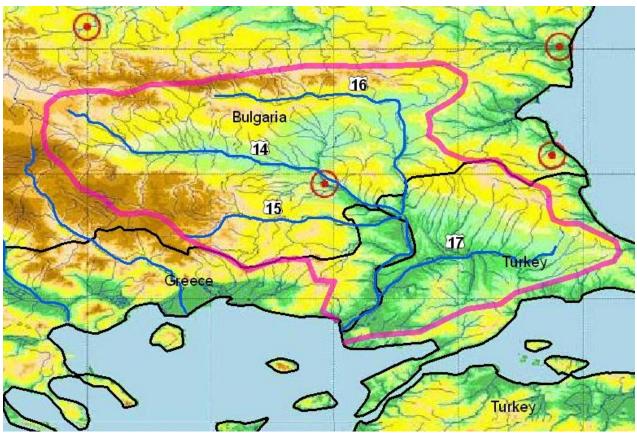
Sharing Risks



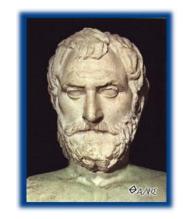








Ύδωρ πάντων αρχή"
Water is the origin of everything
Thales of Miletus
Greek philosopher, 600bc



"Humanity is not determined by what is developing, but by what chooses not to destroy"

Edward Osborn Wilson (1929-)

American biologist



