

**STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION IN PREPARATION OF BASIN SCALE
WATER MANAGEMENT PLANS**

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EXPERTISE THESIS ABSTRACT

One of the environmental chapter closing criteria for Turkey, which is in the European Union membership process; is to harmonize and implement the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC that adopts integrated and basin-based management approach which considers the quantity and quality of water together. The concept of integrated basin management, which was addressed in the Water Framework Directive, has also brought a stakeholder participation approach in basin management. While there are obligations on access to information in the Water Framework Directive, there is no clear method of stakeholder participation in the process of preparing basin-based plans. Participation approach differs according to the social, economic and political structure of each country; it is necessary for countries to identify participatory approaches taking their own circumstances into account.

As our country has adopted a basin based water management approach and started to prepare water management plans in this scale; the purpose of this study is to suggest a detailed stakeholder participation approach for Turkey in the process of preparing the basin management plans by taking consideration of social, economic, political conditions and the existing basin management structure.

Within the scope of this aim, the concept and methodology of participation around the world, legal documents related to participation in environmental issues and participatory approach according to Water Framework Directive were taken under consideration, the experience of stakeholder participation in the European Union member states has been assessed through four case studies in France, England, Spain and Hungary as those can be an example to Turkey. Subsequently, the legislation on participation in Turkey has been assessed, and information has been provided on mechanisms developed in order to ensure stakeholder participation in national and basin scale. Preparation of the Water Law and five basin plans, which were carried out by the General Directorate of Water Management, were evaluated in

terms of stakeholder participation. The aforementioned assessments were made in detail on the stakeholder participation levels of information supply, consultation and active participation and a participatory approach was proposed for each stage of basin based water management plans will be prepared in the forthcoming period.

Keywords: Stakeholder participation, basin management, basin plans.

