

Mexico 2006
4th World
Water Forum



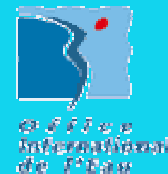
Local
Actions
for a
Global
Challenge

Public Participation in the Implementation of European Water Management Issues

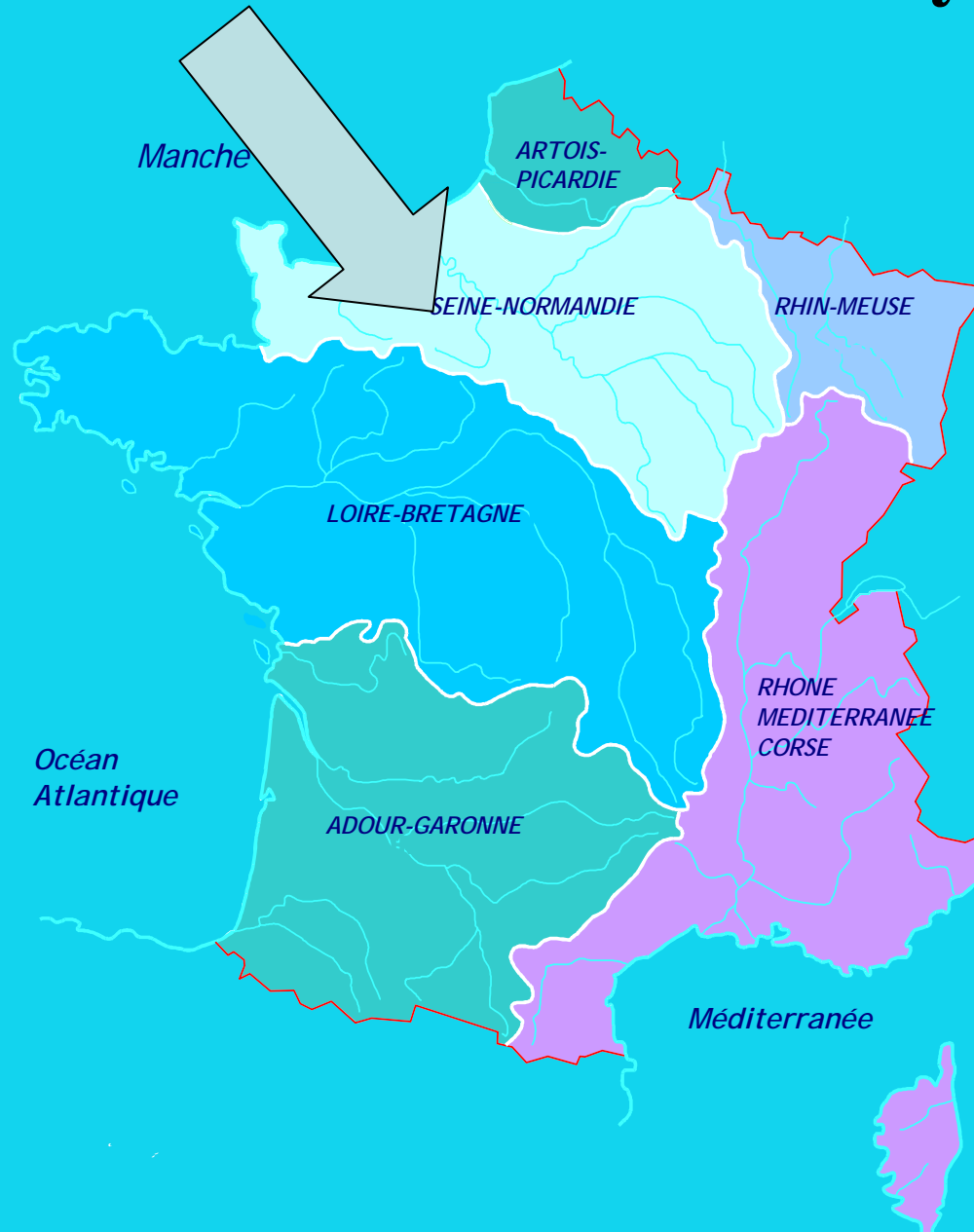
R.DARTOUT – D.MARCOVITCH
Seine Normandy Water Agency



Mexico City
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where is the Seine Normandy basin ?



Seine River in PARIS



European Water Framework Directive (WFD)

- **EU States (25) shall encourage** the active participation of all parties concerned in the implementation of this directive,
- **States shall ensure** that river basin district management plans (production, revision, updating) *are published and submitted for the observations of the public.*



European Water Framework Directive (WFD)

- **each of the 450 millions European citizens** has the possibility to give his opinion about main water problems and priority actions to solve the problems,
- **France 2005** : Water Agencies organize **the first public consultation** about his project of ***River Basin District Management Plan***.



France 2005 public consultation procedures

- **Government (Prefet)** is the Legal Authority,
- **Water Agency** is Manager and Operator,
- Targets, Schedule, and Frame of Consultation Document are precisely determined.



How do we involve wide public ?

- Document **easily understandable**,
- Information of local and national **public medias** (TV, Newspapers...),
- **Partnership at the local level** (communes) where water problems are usually more concrete,
- **Encourage participation of small NGOs** and unorganized stakeholders (subsidiaries).



How do we consult them ?

With a specific **survey**:



First results of 2005 consultation :

- **Priority to stop water pollution by toxics substances** (pesticides and heavy metals),
- **Prepare management of crisis periods** (drought and flood), with local public,
- **Develop Information and education,**
- **More transparency about price of water,**
- Enforce “*polluter, pay*” principle,
- ***Solidarity with south people.***



Potential benefits of public participation

- **Increasing public awareness** on environmental issues,
- **more transparent and creative** decision making,
- **constructive dialogue** with various publics,
- **Increasing public acceptance** on water management cost.



Lessons Learned : many questions are not resolved...

– **What is the best way to inform the public ?**

- media national or local (TV, newspapers...),
- internet,
- direct mailing,
- public debate,

– **Is the wide public really concerned by all subjects of water management?.**



Conclusions

The two main challenges are:

- how **integrate** public opinion in a ***River District Management Plan*** ?
- How **restitute** for the wide public results of the consultation ?.





Thank you for you attention.

Richard DARTOUT

Daniel MARCOVITCH