

Integrated Deliberative Decision Processes for Water Resources Planning and Evaluation

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Edited by

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Contents

<i>Editors and Contributing Authors</i>	<i>vii</i>
<i>Foreword</i>	<i>ix</i>
<i>Acronyms</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>Glossary</i>	<i>xi</i>
Executive Summary	1
Introduction	3
A guidance document: What for?	3
Chapter 1: Water Resource Planning, Evaluation and the Water Framework Directive: Setting the Scene	5
WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	5
WATER RESOURCE PLANNING	5
EVALUATIONS IN WATER RESOURCE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT	6
PLANNING IN THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE	7
EVALUATIONS IN THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE	7
PARTICIPATION IN THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE	9
Chapter 2: Introducing Integrated Deliberative Decision Processes for Water Resources Planning and Evaluation	11
WHAT IS AN IDDP?	11
WHY IDDPs FOR WATER RESOURCE PLANNING AND EVALUATIONS?	13
Chapter 3: Designing and Running an IDDP	17
STEP 1: SET UP ORGANISATIONAL SCHEME	17
STEP 2: DEFINE GOALS	19
STEP 3A: CHOOSE AND DESIGN TOOLS	21
STEP 3B: DECIDE REPRESENTATION & PARTICIPATION PROCESS	24
STEP 4: ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT AN INFORMATION QUALITY ASSURANCE PROTOCOL	28
STEP 5: PLAN EVENT(S) AND RESOURCES	33
STEP 6: IMPLEMENT	34
STEP 7: EVALUATE PROCESS AND RESULTS	36
Chapter 4: An IDDP Toolkit	39
VISIONING WORKSHOPS (VW)	40
What is a VW?	40
How to?	41
Human and Financial Resources	41
Strengths and Applicability	42
Weaknesses and Limitations	42
MEDIATED MODELLING (MM)	44
What is MM?	44
How to?	44
Human and financial resources	45
Strengths and applicability	45
Weaknesses and limitations	46
SOCIAL MULTI-CRITERIA EVALUATION (SMCE)	46
What is SMCE?	46
How to?	48
Human and Financial Resources	48
Strengths and Applicability	48
Weaknesses and Limitations	48

DELIBERATIVE MONETARY VALUATION (DMV)	51
What is Monetary Valuation?	51
What is DMV?	52
Human and Financial Resources	52
Strengths and Applicability	52
Weaknesses and Limitations	53
TOOLS FOR COMMUNITY OPINION	53
What are CJ and CCs?	53
Human and Financial Resources	54
Strengths and Applicability	54
Weaknesses and Limitations	54
Chapter 5: The Way Ahead	57
Challenge 1 - Improving / combining deliberative tools	57
Challenge 2 - Testing IDDPs in practice	57
Challenge 3 - Improving the use of scientific information in deliberative processes	57
Challenge 4 - Increasing the decision impact of IDDPs	58
Challenge 5 - Changing governance structures	58
References	60

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Foreword

This Guidance Document is part of the ADVISOR (“Integrated Evaluation for Sustainable River Basin Governance”) research project funded by the European Commission, under the “Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development” theme of the 5th Framework Research Programme.

The aim of ADVISOR is to improve the understanding of evaluation processes as part of river basin planning and management and to provide a framework supported by a toolkit for the conduct of integrated and participatory evaluations.

Work Package 1 of the project examined past water project or plan evaluation cases in five EU states and drew insights on the problems of past evaluation practices. Work Package 2 interpreted these past experiences from different analytical angles leading to a theory for an integrated evaluation process, emphasising issues of deliberation, multiple values, quality in the use of information and governance.

Work Package 3 moved from theory to practice. Different tools which could contribute to integrated evaluation processes were tested in experimental case applications. These included scenario workshops, mediated modelling supported by a quality assurance protocol, social multi-criteria evaluation, cost-effectiveness analyses and monetary valuation.

The present document is part of Work Package 4 of the project, which aimed at transferring the experience and lessons learned during the ADVISOR project to policy makers, contributing especially to the implementation process of the Water Framework Directive. An Integrated Deliberative Decision Process (IDDP) is proposed to be adopted as the platform to achieve integrated evaluations. This document explains and provides a step-by-step guidance on how to design and run such a process.

This document is directed to policy makers. Some theoretical reflection however is also provided, where this bears importance to practical implementation. References to theoretical literature have been avoided to a maximum extent to facilitate the “flow of the text”. However, lists of further reading are provided in the end of each section for those who wish to learn more on the issues discussed or find more details about its implementation.

Acronyms

CBA	<i>Cost Benefit Analysis</i>
CC	<i>Consensus Conference</i>
CEA	<i>Cost Effectiveness Analysis</i>
CIS	<i>Common Implementation Strategy of the Water Framework Directive</i>
CJ	<i>Citizens' Juries</i>
CVM	<i>Contingent Valuation Method</i>
DMV	<i>Deliberative Monetary Valuation</i>
EC	<i>European Commission</i>
EIA	<i>Environmental Impact Assessment</i>
EU	<i>European Union</i>
IDDP	<i>Integrated Deliberative Decision Process</i>
IMV	<i>Integrated Monetary Valuation</i>
MM	<i>Mediated Modelling</i>
MS	<i>Member States</i>
NHP	<i>National Hydrological Plan</i>
QAP	<i>Quality Assurance Protocol</i>
RBD	<i>River Basin District</i>
RBMP	<i>River Basin Management Plan</i>
SMCE	<i>Social Multi-criteria Evaluation</i>
VW	<i>Visioning Workshops</i>
WFD	<i>Water Framework Directive</i>
WTA	<i>Willingness to Accept</i>
WTP	<i>Willingness to Pay</i>
CBA	<i>Cost Benefit Analysis</i>
CC	<i>Consensus Conference</i>
CEA	<i>Cost Effectiveness Analysis</i>
CIS	<i>Common Implementation Strategy of the Water Framework Directive</i>
CJ	<i>Citizens' Juries</i>
CVM	<i>Contingent Valuation Method</i>

Glossary

Citizens' Juries/ Consensus Conferences	<i>Tools for community opinion while addressing controversial issues. They are based on the rationale that given adequate information and opportunity, all people, even if not professionally trained, can be trusted to take decisions regarded as legitimate and fair on behalf of the community.</i>
Common Implementation Strategy Deliberation	<i>Multi-stakeholder approach of the EU to support the implementation of the Water Framework Directive. A careful consideration or discussions of reasons for and against (Oxford English Dictionary).</i>
Deliberative decision	<i>A decision that involves social interaction, language-based discussion and debate, respect, reflection, and transformation of different values and viewpoints (Holmes and Scoones, 2000).</i>
Evaluation	<i>Refers to the process of assessing and comparing the relative values (in the broadest sense) of one or more courses of action.</i>
Governance	<i>Governance refers to the process whereby elements in society wield power and authority, and influence and enact policies and decisions concerning public life and sustainability. It is a broader notion than government, whose principal elements include the constitution, legislature, executive and judiciary. Governance involves interaction between these formal institutions and those of civil society (IIAS, 1999).</i>
Integrated Deliberative Decision Process	<i>A deliberative decision process consisting of one or more debates with different participants' representations, based on social robust information and knowledge; taking explicitly into account in its design and conduct the presence of multiple values and being embedded in an inclusive and discursive governance framework (institutional, regulatory, social).</i>
Mediated Modelling	<i>A tool for overcoming problems inherent in linear thinking and compartmentalized, non-participatory decision making. It aims for a collaborative team learning experience to raise the shared level of understanding in a group, as well as fostering a broad and deep consensus (van den Belt, 2004).</i>
Monetary valuation	<i>Estimation in monetary terms of the value of environmental services and goods.</i>
Multi-criteria evaluation	<i>A decision aid method based on the analysis of a number of alternatives, taking into account conflicting interests and multiple criteria, usually including economic, social and environmental factors.</i>
Public participation	<i>In broad terms refers to any of the several mechanisms (processes and tools) intentionally designed for involving lay public and/or stakeholders (the two groups together are often referred to as interested parties) in decision-making.</i>
Quality Assurance	<i>In environmental policy related issues, the maintenance of quality depends on an open dialogue among all those affected, where quality is understood as a contextual property of scientific information. The involvement of the relevant social actors (stakeholders, etc.) is suggested as a transversal element to ensure the quality of the whole evaluation procedures in river basin governance.</i>
River Basin	<i>The area of land from which all surface run-off flows through a sequence of streams, rivers and, possibly, lakes into the sea at a single river mouth, estuary or delta.</i>
Visioning Workshop	<i>Workshop which allows for creating a desired vision about the future of the examined system and generating, ranking and designing the implementation of ideas for its realisation.</i>

