

# XXIII International Conference Society for Human Ecology

**"Navigating complexity: human-environmental  
solutions for a challenging future"**

## **STAKEHOLDERS SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT IN AGRICULTURE** **Lessons from participatory processes**



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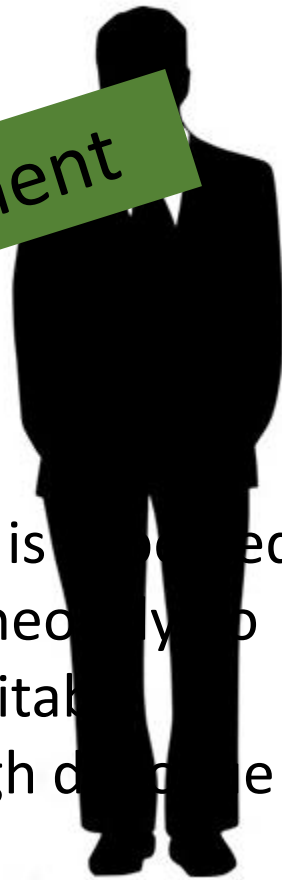
# Public Participation and Sustainability

awareness through the  
incorporation of local perspectives  
in the data collecting to the  
recognition of local knowledge



Citizens demand greater  
participation in  
system

**A tool and norm for Sustainable development**



the implementation of participation is needed  
to address the problems of power and, simultaneously, to  
**promote sustainable policies**, efficient and equitable  
processes and decision-making practices through dialogue  
to assure sustainable resource management

# Why is public participation attractive? (1)

what can be expected in terms of "sustainability" from equitable decision-making processes and policies that consider alternative perspectives of natural resource management?

In most European countries, there are agreements allowing direct involvement of citizens in policy-making regarding matters as diverse as urban development, environmental planning issues or political science. Most of them are locally based which has a big and **immediate impact** in local communities, making issues such as **representativeness** become less pronounced in small electorates and the use of **local knowledge of citizens more attractive**

# Why is public participation attractive? (2)

- reasons for the active involvement of *stakeholders* and citizens in participatory processes:

individual and social learning

exchange of experiences

better understanding of the issues

appropriate solutions

Dialogue practices

the mitigation of existing conflicts

## We defend...

- Our society is based on networks. Therefore, any effort to reinforce the existing ones and to build new ones is indispensable to contribute to our society's long-term resilience.
- The aim of any participatory project is to connect people in a genuine effective way so that these links are able to make a difference for policies makers. Through the appreciation of local knowledge by different *stakeholders* and in an equitable and respectful approach to their joint work, it is possible to make this difference come true.

# The participative process

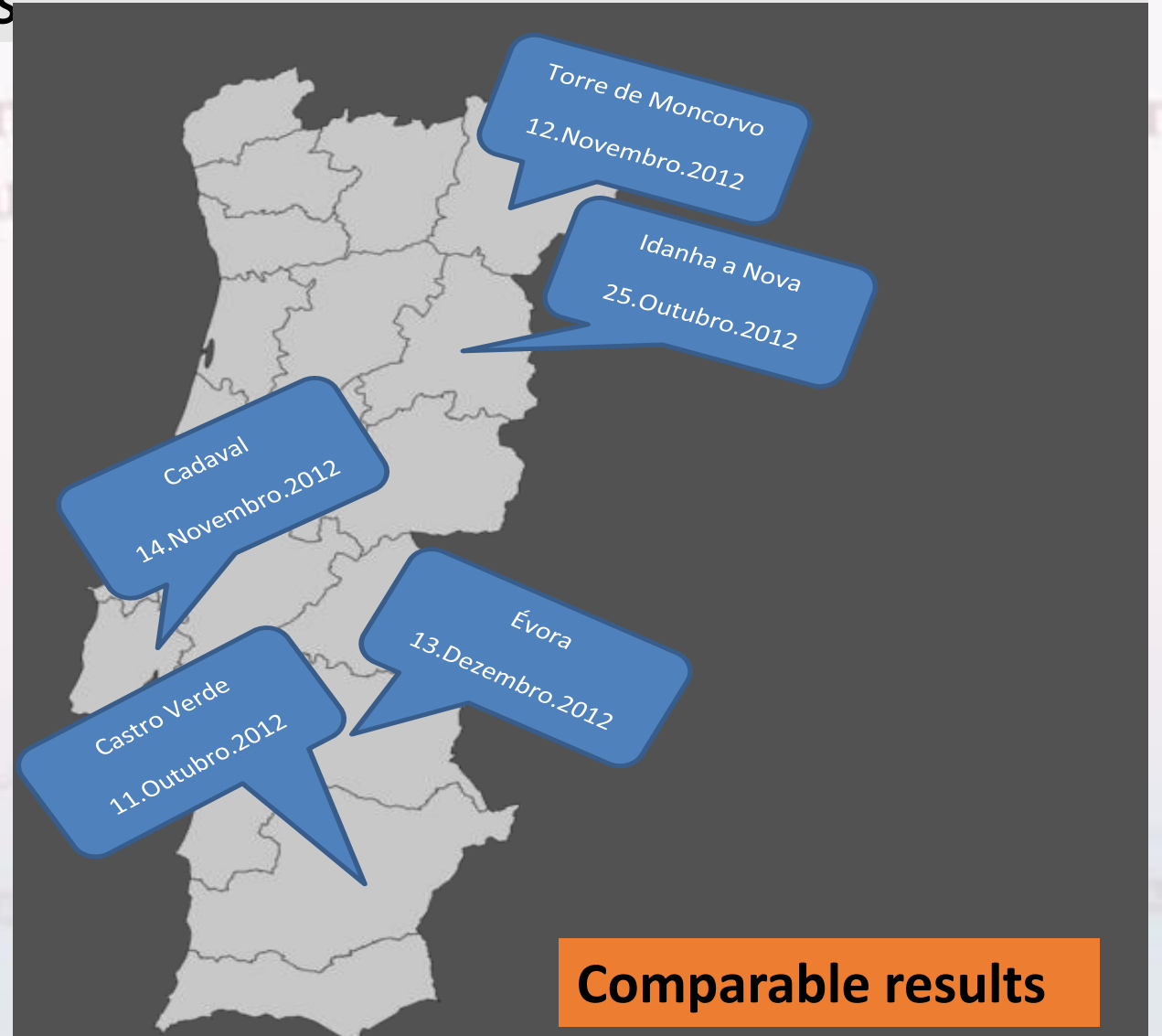
project *"Dissemination of best practices for biodiversity in the application of agro-environmental measures"*

Main objective: disseminate knowledge

Standardized but also Flexible and adaptable methodology

Integration of lessons from previous to next workshop

Promoters: CAP & LPN



**Comparable results**

# Workshop: before the opening session

## Registration of Participants

Interview with each participant on used agricultural exploration + inventory of his/her preference to discuss between two possible Agro-Environmental Measures (AEM) - Mode of Production (MP) or Integrated Territorial Intervention (ITI).



A Flash on Best Agricultural Practice and Biodiversity



# Workshop: after the opening session (1<sup>st</sup> part)

## 1- Evaluation Agro-Environmental-Measures



2- Working groups (3-4 pax): Work sheets to explain in depth a consensual evaluation of Mode of Production (MP) and Integrated Territorial Intervention (ITI)



Presentation of Results (group-wise) + Discussion



3- Prioritization of Mode of Production (MP) and Integrated Territorial Intervention (ITI) regarding 3 criteria: (1) easy to implement / (2) low cost / (3) efficient in result (3x3 votes per participant)

Parallel: experts may be requested by groups to explain unclear issues



# Workshop: after coffee break (2<sup>nd</sup> part)

- Work sheets to propose Best Practice in order to promote biodiversity

- Presentation of Results (group wise)  
+ Discussion

Closure and (written) Evaluation of the Workshop Methodology

# Workshop outputs (1)

- All the **discussed commitments**, were well justified and **debated and integrated into the final report**
- Depending on the agricultural practices of each region, reactions to a specific Agro-Environmental Measure could be very different. According to farmers, this however

Results should be seen, on a global perspective, as a national contribution to a better knowledge of good practices regarding the implementation of biodiversity conservation measures both for farmers and for policy makers.

solutions

- At the end of the *workshops* knowledge was disseminated and **new knowledge** about good practices was built.

# Workshop outputs (2)

- At the regional scale, the social learning resulting from the three-hour dialogue and discussion could contribute to
  - The analyses of implementation of the existing commitments and its **effectiveness for biodiversity**;
  - Promoting the dissemination of **individual knowledge and experiences** exchange and, in that sense, to contribute to a better implementation of measures aimed at biodiversity conservation; and also
  - Promoting a **greater awareness of farmers to the market opportunities** created by the promotion of biodiversity and the promotion of environmental services.

# Participants assessment of the session (1)

## Positive aspects

- a) The **straightforward way all farmers exposed** the problems of the region
- b) The exchange of ideas **with different farmers** with respect
- c) The open and interested **participation of all *stakeholders*** and **openness from facilitators and organizers;**
- e) The opening of the **debate on issues that directly affect the regions**
- f) The **freedom to select the measures** to be put into practice
- g) the **plurality of ideas and opinions included** in the debate

# Participants assessment of the session (2)

## Negative aspects

- a) the **lack of knowledge** about the aim of the project
- b) **difficulties** by some of the participants to understand the issues and how to address them
- c) there should have been more **time** for debate; |The session was too long
- d) **Biodiversity was little mentioned** by farmers
- 
- e) there were some complaints about **cross talk disturbing** the workshop and
- f) The **reduced participation** of farmers.

# Participants assessment of the session (3)

## Benefits of the process

- a) **Awareness** regarding the existence of institutions that study / listen to them and talk to the responsible authorities, proposing new insights to be incorporated in the legislation for the primary sector;

More than 99% of the participants considered that their ideas were respected and heard by the group. Overall, participants mentioned the fact that the working group was heard and respected by all members of the team and their ideas were discussed. They also noted that they had the opportunity to express their ideas and to exchange their views with respect to what has been managed (facilitated) in a good way.

- g) **Understanding that the problems are common to all farmers** and
- h) The possibility to correct some of the Agro-Environmental Measures (AEM) **according to the specific needs of each region.**

# Concluding remarks

- A global vision in real time
- **Inexistence of the rural extension support**, and therefore the absence of technical support to farmers in their daily management decisions and/or access to funding – governmental subsidies.
- **Measures** imported directly from the EU would be **more adapted and more adjusted if farmers were effectively heard** before they were implemented, to make them adequate to the region, adapted to the local economy, the cultural values and able to preserve the environment.

# 'CAP Communication Awards 2013'

- **The project was distinguished in the category of 'Communication to stakeholders'** by the European Commission (General Directorate of Agriculture and Development).

