



FAIRWAY

PARTICIPANTS, FACILITATORS, AND FUNDERS OF MULTI-ACTOR ENGAGEMENT PROCESSES.

The sustainability and achievements of multi-actor engagement platforms are associated with their position within the larger governance system.

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FURTHER DETAILS

[Nesheim, I. et al. \(2020\) Multi-Actor Platforms in the Water–Agriculture Nexus: Synergies and Long-Term Meaningful Engagement. *Water* 2021, 13, 3204. <https://doi.org/10.3390/w13223204>](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



FAIRWAY received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 727984

KEY MESSAGE

Multi-actor platforms that have been able to establish relationships and networks with other institutions such as water companies, agricultural and environmental authorities, farmers and civil society have a better foundation for long-term meaningful engagement for improved water quality.

EXPLANATION

Stakeholder participation and engagement can enhance the legitimacy of decision-making processes. Issues raised in stakeholder platforms are often local, but it is important to engage authorities from higher governance levels, as premises for local action derive from national and regional level policies and regulations. Interaction is important to build trust and develop better understanding of different perspectives among stakeholders.

For the engagement to be experienced as relevant and meaningful by those involved, there is a need for a clear mandate and political anchorage of the platform. Lack of funding to facilitate and sustain the engagement platform is a reason why many participatory processes end. The probability of this is considerably lower if the platform is well-established within the governance system, and if inputs are seen as important and legitimate by decision-makers. The platform's connection to a broader network of institutions and actors is therefore important to sustain engagement over time.

EVIDENCE

An analysis of the establishment and development of nine multi-actor platforms in the FAIRWAY project included a comparison of their ability to establish relationships and networks with other institutions. The long-lasting platforms had all been able to create ties to other institutions and provide access to policy information and economic resources. The more recently established platforms had not yet developed such network links. For the platforms that had been able to develop some connections, uncertainty and lack of funding were identified as risks for long-term continuation of the collaboration.

