

# Reflections on user participation in water system design in Bolivia and Peru:

*Do multiple-use water services require a specific design approach?*



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# La Higuera, Bolivia







# 1. Multiple use water services

Ontinyente in Spain:



# Other examples

- North Coast of Peru: irrigate rice to fill open wells
- Bolivia and Peru: conflicts between rural community that will be water provider and town (where these are the same families)
- Conflicts about water source protection

## 2. Participatory design of MUS

- Who participates in the project of whom?
- Who generates knowledge?
- Designing is a political process, it is a power struggle. (who decides on who can participate with what “voice and vote”?)

# Participation -> MUS ?



“the right to know and decide on this irrigation modernization project”







# Governance of the water service provider

- Public & semi-public
- Communal
- Cooperative
- Private (companies, self-supply)

Accountability, rights, “voice and vote”



# realities

- Sector-related legislation and accountability relations
- Vested interests (political interests, corruption, e.g. tank supply to shanty towns)



# Design as a process

- Community systems with meters to “control” volumes used by “neighbours”.
- Examples from Moro Moro (Bolivia) and Tabacundo (Ecuador)



# Participatory municipal budget planning in Bolivia

- Participative governance of municipality funds: design according to community demand.





# Does multiple water services require a specific approach?

- Participatory governance & participatory design
- Will a participatory design approach automatically bring forward issues of multiple use? (if not: why?)
- Design as a dialogue

### 3. Support services for service suppliers

- Decentralization & knowledge gap
- Multiple use water services as part of the design dialogue
- Need for expert knowledge and advise

# Participatory design for MUS

- Democratic governance of the water service provider
- Design as a dialogue
- Support services for designers and service suppliers
- Equity (different needs, possibilities, vision, resilience)
- Sustainability (ecological, economical, social)



Thank you!