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!