



**RESOURCE**

# Multi-stakeholder platforms: integrating society in water resource management?

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**Description / Abstract**

Multi-Stakeholder Platforms are a currently popular concept in the international water world. It is however not a very well defined phenomenon. The present article unpacks the concept, proposes to see platforms as networks, and identifies two 'schools of thought': social learning and negotiation. It attempts a preliminary typology of platforms encountered in real life, in which the Comit  s de Bacia in Brazil, for all their shortcomings, come out as a relatively influential type. In closing, the article then identifies reasons for non-participation, suggesting that it is an inevitable corollary of organised participation.

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