Water governance at the river basin level

The case of the Júcar Hydrographic Confederation
Main features

- 46,000 km of channels
- 22 CHJ Reservoirs
- 5 Channels
- 3 Transfers
- 5 Desalination plants

Surface 44,800 km$^2$
Population 5,500,000 inhabitants
Irrigated area 400,000 ha
Water demand 3,250 Hm$^3$
50% Surface water
Brief history

1. Creation of the Hydrographic Confederations 1926 (Combining public and private interests)
2. Júcar Hydrographic Confederation 1934
3. Current structure 1989
Public functions

1. Management of the hydraulic public domain in general (authorizations and reports)
2. Police of the hydraulic public domain
3. Control networks (quality and quantity)
4. Construction and operation of hydraulic works (dams, canals...)
5. Hydrological Planning
Main bodies (public and private interests)

1. Governance Body (Administrations and users)

2. River Basin District Water Council (administrations, users and environmental interests)

3. Committee of competent authorities (administrations)

4. Reservoir-Withdrawal Commission (Users)

5. Hydraulic Works Board (Users)
Governance Issues

Fragile Balance between Resources and Demands

Irregularity in the rainfall regime

Irrigation consumes 80% of the water

Territorial imbalances

4 autonomous communities, 7 provinces, 800 municipalities (shared powers)

Water Police
EURO-INBO 2023

- Diffuse pollution
- Implementation of European directives
- Shared competencies
- Drought and flood management
Challenges

Financing

Make public/private interests compatible

Involve other actors
Thank you

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