



## PlaNet – Planned networking of stakeholders

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Topics: Wastewater | Biodiversity | Ecosystems

**The new digital tool PlaNet makes it easier for municipalities to identify important project partners but also critical voices in complex environmental and infrastructure projects. In this way, it helps them to set up participatory processes in a professional manner.**

Every year, Swiss municipalities implement countless environmental and infrastructure projects, for example in waste water management, flood protection or water revitalisation. Interest is often great, as is also the number of people and groups who want or need to have a say. However, it is not always easy to identify and involve all important stakeholders at an early stage. Particularly small and medium-sized municipalities often do not have the time and resources to plan a participatory process in a professional manner. Furthermore, if the process has been insufficiently prepared, it can lead to objections or complaints, especially in the case of conflict-prone projects. Projects then become time-consuming and costly.

### **Critical voices should also be recognised and involved in good time**

In order to support the municipalities in their work, researchers from the Eawag Water Research Institute and the University of Bern, together with the practice partner Water Excellence AG have developed the digital tool PlaNet. PlaNet guides users through seven steps in which various questions about the project and the stakeholders involved must be answered. Based on the information provided, the tool systematically identifies all important project partners as well as critical voices and allows a clear assessment of their importance and role.

The image displays two screenshots of the PlaNet web application interface, showing the process of identifying and setting stakeholders for a project.

**Top Screenshot: Betroffene Akteure (Affected Stakeholders)**

The interface shows a navigation bar with 'PlaNet', '+ Neues Projekt', and 'Projekte ansehen'. The user is logged in as 'Admin' in 'DE'. The current step is 'Betroffene Akteure'.

On the left, there are several input masks for searching stakeholders:

- Fachstellen / Ämter Kanton:** Search for 'Zürcher Amt für Abwasser'.
- Bewilligungsbehörden / Leitungsbehörden:** Search for 'Akteur auswählen oder suchen'.
- Fachstellen / Ämter Bund:** Search for 'Akteur auswählen oder suchen'.
- Fachkommissionen innerhalb Gemeinde:** Search for 'Akteur auswählen oder suchen'.
- Örtliche Vereinigungen und Unternehmen:** Search for 'Büro Meier und Co'.
- Regionale Organisationen / NGO:** Search for 'Akteur auswählen oder suchen'.

On the right, a network diagram shows a central node connected to two other nodes, representing the relationships between stakeholders.

**Bottom Screenshot: Einstellung zum Projekt (Attitude to Project)**

The interface shows the same navigation bar. The current step is 'Einstellung zum Projekt'.

A message states: 'Bitte schätzen Sie nun für jeden der Akteure ein, ob dieser ein Unterstützer des Projekts ist, ein Gegner des Projekts, oder ob er dem Projekt neutral gegenübersteht. Die Position der Akteure wird durch die Farbe der Kreise dargestellt.' (Please estimate now for each stakeholder whether they are a supporter of the project, an opponent of the project, or neutral towards the project. The position of the stakeholders is represented by the color of the circles.)

Below the message, there are three radio buttons for 'Unterstützer' (Supporter), 'Gegner' (Opponent), and 'Neutral'. The 'Unterstützer' button is selected.

Below the radio buttons, there are two rows of stakeholders with their corresponding attitude settings:

- Zürcher Amt für Abwasser:** Selected as 'Unterstützer' (blue dot).
- Büro Meier und Co:** Selected as 'Gegner' (red dot).

At the bottom, there are three buttons: 'Zurück', 'Aktualisieren', and 'Weiter'.

On the right, a network diagram shows the same central node connected to two other nodes, with the nodes colored according to their attitude: red for 'Gegner' and blue for 'Unterstützer'.

**Input masks for steps 2 (querying the stakeholders) and 3 (determining the possible setting of the identified stakeholders) in the PlaNet tool.**

As a result, PlaNet presents the network of all stakeholders and their requirements in a clear graphical form. The simple visualisation is intended to systematise and simplify the participatory process that helps municipalities, thereby saving time and resources. Previous users of PlaNet have found the digital tool to be helpful in thinking about the opinions and possible objections of a wide range of stakeholders during the planning of a project.

The new tool is available free of charge at [planet.eawag.ch](http://planet.eawag.ch) and is presented in the article "PlaNet – A digital tool for municipalities" in the new issue of "Aqua und Gas".

Cover picture: Flurin Bertschinger, Ex-Press/BAFU

## Related Files

[PlaNet – EIN DIGITALES TOOL FÜR GEMEINDEN](#) Article in Aqua & Gas (German) [pdf, 2 MB]

## Related Links

[PlaNet](#)

## Contact



**Manuel Fischer**

Head of Department ESS & Group leader PEGO

Tel. +41 58 765 5676

[manuel.fischer@eawag.ch](mailto:manuel.fischer@eawag.ch)



**Karin Ingold**

Group leader, Cluster: PEGO

Tel. +41 58 765 5676

[karin.ingold@eawag.ch](mailto:karin.ingold@eawag.ch)



**Bärbel Zierl**

Science editor

Tel. +41 58 765 6840

[baerbel.zierl@eawag.ch](mailto:baerbel.zierl@eawag.ch)

<https://www.eawag.ch/en/info/portal/news/news-archive/archive-detail/planet-planned-networking-of-stakeholders>