

Public interest is the key issue in almost every major decision making process. Actual meaning of the concept of public interest is vague and general, often influenced by ideological contexts. This paper deals with the concept of public interest both in practical and theoretical level. It investigates its origination and usage in law, economic and political science and in the context of contemporary sociological theories of modernity. The paper also notices the influence of expertise on constituting of public interests in public debates on certain construction projects. Practical part of this paper describes complicated decision making process of construction of highway D8 through protected area České středohoří and some aspects of other cases; it analyses opinions, approaches and tactics of stakeholders and finds parallels in theoretical ground.