



Contract no.: SSPI-
CT-2003-502492

Screening methods for Water data InFormaTion in support of the implementation of the Water Framework Directive



Editorial

The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) sets the objective to prevent deterioration in status of all Community waters (i.e. both surface- and ground-waters, including coastal waters, throughout the EU) and to ensure achievement and maintenance of their good status by 2015. The implementation of the Directive will be based on river basin management plans. It includes the design of monitoring programmes to be carried out by all Member States, which should be operational by the end of 2006.

SWIFT-WFD activities are planned to be developed over three years (2004-2006), which perfectly fits to the WFD timetable in that monitoring programmes should be designed on the basis of existing knowledge within the next three years. In this view, all efforts will have to be made to ensure a proper communication of the project results to policy end users, and close links with working groups of the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) of the WFD should be established.

Considering the importance of quality monitoring data for status compliance checking, identification of pollution trends, assessment of the effectiveness of measures (e.g. control or remediation), the Commission Environment DG places great expectations in this project, which could hopefully become an example of success story, demonstrating the benefits of scientific integration into EU water policy implementation processes.

Philippe Quevauviller
DG Environment, WFD Team

1. Project summary

The monitoring requirements for successfully implementing the WFD will directly depend upon available measurement techniques of demonstrated quality, which will be able to deliver reliable data at an affordable cost. Besides the necessary "classical" laboratory analyses, screening methodologies will play a key role in the WFD implementation, mainly as a complementary approach for quality monitoring improvement. The WFD will represent a powerful management tool only if monitoring data are of reliable and comparable quality. The costs of wrong decisions based on erroneous data could be tremendous, which justifies that Community efforts are made to ensure that data are produced according to a proper quality assurance regime.

In the light of the above, the objectives of SWIFT-WFD should focus on the production of quality control tools for validation purposes of screening methods, an inventory of existing screening methods currently used or under development for water monitoring, the comparison of screening test (chemical and biological) methods through laboratory-based (tank experiments) and/or field interlaboratory studies based on a selection of reference aquatic ecosystems at European scale, and with classical laboratory-based analyses to validate results and demonstrate their equivalence (in terms of statistical comparison procedures) for parameters regulated by the WFD.

In parallel, the project should consider the development of new "low-cost", innovative, screening techniques, both for chemical (hazardous priority substances) and biological parameters (for example composition and quality of biomass) and their validation using the same approach (interlaboratory testing and comparison with laboratory-based methods). In addition, exchange of knowledge, transfer of technologies and training related to water monitoring will represent a key issue for ensuring the comparability of data produced by screening methods.

In the frame of WFD, the Commission Environment Directorate-General (DG ENV) has identified terms of reference for a research topic which was included in the 2nd call for proposals of the "Scientific Support to Policies" Priority of the 6th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (funded by the Research Directorate-General, DG RTD). The SWIFT-WFD project has been retained and a contract was issued at the end of 2003 with DG RTD. The project came into force on 1st January 2004.

2. Workpackages

- . **Workpackage 0: C.Gonzalez (FR)**
Project coordination and management.
- . **Workpackage 1: R.Greenwood (UK)**
Inventory of methods and coordination with on-going RTD projects (funded by the European Commission).
- . **Workpackage 2: R.Morabito (IT)**
Harmonisation and quality control.
- . **Workpackage 3: A.M. Fouillac (FR)**
External assessment of screening methods.
- . **Workpackage 4: K.Kramer (NL)**
Training on analytical methods and quality assurance.
- . **Workpackage 5: B.Roig (FR)**
Research and development of screening methods.
- . **Workpackage 6: P.Strosser (FR)**
Assessing the impact of low-cost screening methods.
- . **Workpackage 7: T.Dworak (DE)**
Positioning the innovation in the policy implementation process.



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3. Consortium

The partnership involves research bodies (research institutes and universities) and enterprises (laboratories, consultants, manufacturers...) strongly interested in the implementation of the WFD. It is made up of 40 partners from 18 countries with 18 universities, 10 research institutes and 12 private partners. 10 scientists (and their teams), recognized worldwide, are acting as task chairmen and/or activity leaders, and other partners are involved as specialists in a particular activity or task.

In addition, policy-makers and other stakeholders (e.g. NGOs, industrial associations, ...) participate in the Steering Committee of the project. The involvement of participants from Third World countries in exchange/transfer of knowledge/technology activities is also planned.

4. Kick off meeting

The kick-off meeting was held at the Armines Centre in Paris (16th and 17th February).

The first day was dedicated to the general presentation (management, organization, workpackage presentations) and the second day was focused on workpackage organization and the transversal issues of the project.

Around 60 people (partners, Steering Committee members and organizers) participated in this first meeting.

During the morning introduction Mr Mogens Gadebeg (DG Research, Project Officer of SWIFT-WFD project) presented the contract overview and underlined that the project must be focused on the needs of policy development and WFD implementation. As well, Mr Philippe Quevauviller specified the key elements of WFD and the implementation schedule. He highlighted the need to regularly present the progress of the SWIFT-WFD project to CIS groups.

As a conclusion, the WP leaders and the coordinator stressed the fact that several workpackages are strongly interconnected and the success of the project is obviously dependent on efficient scientific management.

5. Policy brief

The EU Member States, Norway and the European Commission have jointly developed a common strategy for supporting the implementation of the Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (hereafter referred to as Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) for the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The main objective of this strategy is to allow a coherent and harmonious implementation of this Directive.

In this context, the main aim of Policy Briefs is to update SWIFT partners and other interested people on policy developments and news related to the SWIFT project.

Policy Briefs focus on the Water Framework Directive and its implementation process (CIS – Process), as well as on relevant stakeholders, CIS working groups and CIS guidance documents. Developments that are related to monitoring issues in the implementation process are identified and analysed. Scientists are informed about ways in which their SWIFT work could be integrated into policy making and the WFD implementation process.

SWIFT Policy Briefs are available electronically and free of charge on the SWIFT webpage (www.swift-wfd.com) and are sent to consortium members via Email. They are published every three months.



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✓18 countries

✓40 partners

18 universities

10 research institutes

12 private part.

6 consultants

6 companies