



SPI-Water Project Overview

Research objective:

Enhance the progress with respect to a science-policy interface in support of the implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

Background & Scope:

For many years Research and Technology Development (RTD) activities have paid more and more attention to incorporating policy relevant topics in their research agendas. Many current water-related RTD projects have already established operational links with practitioners, in several catchments / river basins, which allow the needs of policymakers to be taken into account. However, experience has shown that this interrelationship is not as efficient as it should be. Often, RTD results are not easily available to policy-oriented implementer (policymakers) and, vice versa, research scientists may lack insight in the needs of policymakers. In addition, scientists and policymakers often speak a different 'language'. Better research integration consequently is required at the various stages of policy developments (design, development, implementation and review). This project proposes a number of concrete actions to bridge these gaps in communication by developing and implementing a 'science-policy interface', focusing on setting up a mechanism to enhance the use of RTD results in the WFD implementation.

Project objectives:

- Analysis and evaluation of projects in the field of river basin management that are of potential use for the WFD implementation.
- Dissemination activities through the use of a science-policy interfacing instrument (the WISE-RTD Web Portal) in the context of the development of the WFD river basin management plans.
- Development of the EU Water Initiative / WFD joint process activities for facilitating the implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management principles focused on the non-EU countries.

Actions:

As a first action, existing science-policy links will be investigated. RTD and LIFE projects that are of direct relevance for the implementation of the WFD will be identified and analysed. The results of these projects will be extracted, 'translated' and synthesised in a way that can efficiently feed



the WFD implementation. This survey will be complemented by RTD results from other sources, initially focusing on information available within selected river basins.

Secondly, an information system (WISE-RTD Web Portal) will be further developed to cater for an efficient and easy to use tool for dissemination as well as retrieval of (WFD related) RTD results that link RTD results to WFD implementation tasks including consideration of the temporal development of the WFD time line. The Web Portal will be tested in 4 selected river basins to better tune the ‘product’ to the needs of WFD implementers, policymakers and scientists. In parallel, the Web Portal will be disseminated to WFD implementers to better access and use the RTD results and practical experiences.

As third action, this science-policy interfacing will be extended to non-EU countries taking into account their specific needs. Within the context of the WFD / EU Water Initiative “Water for Life” Joint Process an assessment of recent practices and needs of non-EU countries, together with an in-depth analysis of the operational needs in two Mediterranean pilot river basins, will allow to prepare recommendations for an efficient transfer of knowledge (Morocco & Lebanon).