

PILOT RIVER BASIN NETWORK-FRAMEWORK WATER DIRECTIVE

WG 4.: 1 Integrated Testing of Guidance Documents in Pilot River Basins

General Introduction: The implementation of a Common Strategy for the WFD is based on the development of guidance documents from Working Groups (WG) under Key Activity 2. Due to the wide range of activities, scope and specific objectives covered, as well as individual testing of techniques proposed by the WGs, the guidance methodologies will need to be validated in order to ensure that they are applicable and practical across the widest possible range of conditions (climatic, technical and political) found in the Member States of the EU and Accession Countries.

Objective: Ensure coherence amongst the different guidance documents and their cross applicability by testing the guidance documents in selected pilot river basins. To achieve these objectives a Network of pilot river basins and associated coastal zones (where applicable) will be identified, in close co-operation with WGs in Key Action 2, that are considered to represent a range of problems and conditions characteristic of those to be found in the application of the different guidelines. The Network of identified sites will be used for testing and cross-validation of proposed WG guidelines.

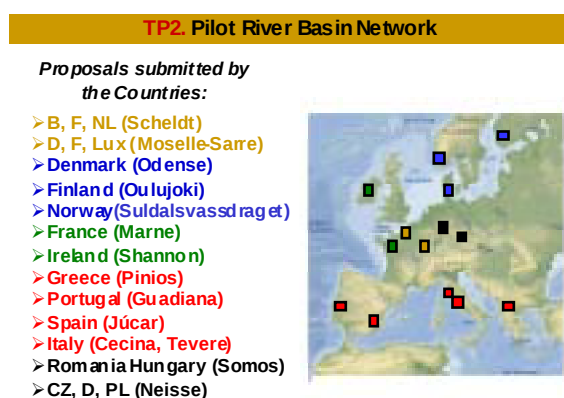


Figure 1: Pilot River basins proposed by Member States

Expected outcome: Feed back for the different guidance documents and an overall guidance demonstrating important links between the different guidance documents and giving instructions on efficient integrated application. Further such a EU wide testing Network could, if monitored over the longer term, provide valuable comparative information on environmental trends resulting from the application of the WFD itself.

Lead : The Strategic Co-ordination Group will lead Key Activity 4 jointly with the Member States and Institutions in the selected pilot river basins. JRC-IES will be responsible for a technical Secretariat having as its mission to ensure: (i) the practical day to day functioning of the project, information exchange, and support

activities (ii) that identified tasks carried out by the different groups involved are feasible and coherent with the objectives of the project, (iii) that the selected pilot river basins have comparable technical support to carry out their studies, and (iv) to assure that efficient inter-comparison analysis between those studies is carried out.

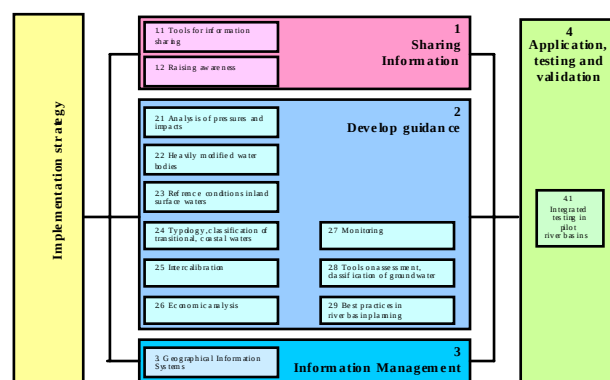


Figure 2: Overall structure of Implementation Strategy

Participants: A network of Lead countries for the different guidance documents and participants from the local and regional water management administrations in the pilot river basins including NGO's and stakeholders. The network will be made up of a central core composed by JRC-EI and the Lead countries for the different guidance documents, and will be subdivided in river basins.



Figure 3: A Mediterranean coastal delta system, courtesy Public Power Corporation, Greece

Links with other activities/Working Groups: All Working Groups developing guidance documents. Further a number of Working Groups, notably 2.2, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6 and 2.7 have indicated that they will be selecting sites in order to test aspects of their individual guidance documents. Consideration will be needed on how best to make use of these various proposed sites (covering different eco-

regions). Special attention is needed for the Intercalibration Network (WG 2.5) to ensure that the sites chosen for testing and validation for WG 4.1 (Integrated testing in pilot river basins) are adequately covered by their proposed test points.

Project description (Task Packages):

- ❖ TP1. Selection of pilot river basins
- ❖ TP2. Creation of working groups for each pilot river basin
- ❖ TP3. For each Guidance document and for each pilot river:
 - o 3.1. Study and implementation of Guidance document
 - o 3.2. Analysis of results, problems and solutions
 - o 3.4. Feedback to Guidance working groups
- ❖ TP4. Compilation of experiences and development of a global approach:
 - o 4.1. Intercomparison on Guidance documents applied to different pilot river basin
 - o 4.2. Intercomparison of pilot river basins
 - o 4.3. Analysis of relationships and contradictions (if any) between guidance documents
- ❖ TP5. Development of a training programme for the practical implementation of WFD.

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Time Schedule

Proposal for capacity building: In order to strengthen the development of a common strategy for the implementation of the WFD special attention must be given to training in the utilisation of guidance documents, in the techniques and methodologies used for their employment and the



Figure 4: The Ouse Wash SAC, courtesy of RSPB-UK

compatibility of application across EU Member States. This will be particularly important to ensure the reliability

of the results and to decrease the risk of distortion and divergence of measures underpinning the efficient application of the Framework Water Directive.

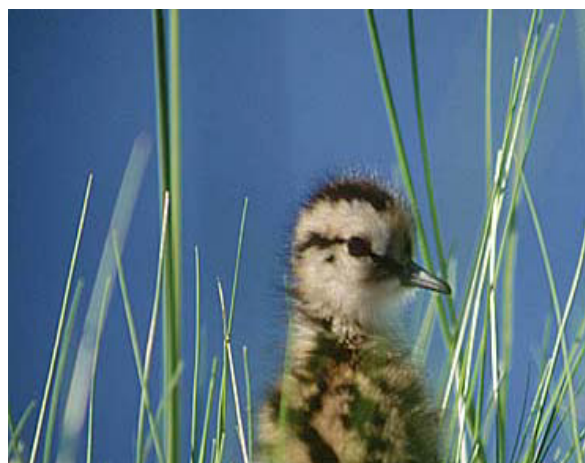


Figure 5: Breeding grounds-wetlands, courtesy of RSPB-UK

The purpose of this Directive is to establish a framework for the protection of inland surface, transitional waters, coastal waters and ground waters which ...



Figure 6: Strumpshaw Fen, courtesy of RSPB-UK

prevents further deterioration and protects and enhances the status of aquatic ecosystems and, with regard to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands directly dependent on the aquatic ecosystems.

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