



## Using results of WFD Monitoring programmes

### Context

The "EUROPE-INBO" group, created in Valencia, Spain, in 2003 by the European Basin Organizations of INBO for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), aims at enriching the implementation of water policies in Europe and the CIS works, through analyses directly resulting from the interested parties in the field. Indeed the "EUROPE-INBO" Group allows the Basin Organizations and District Authorities to regularly meet, in an informal way, for exchanging their practical experience, identifying the operational problems, making specific proposals for the WFD implementation, and disseminating the principles and tools of the European water directives to the EU neighbouring countries.

After Valencia (Spain) in 2003, the "EUROPE-INBO" group held annual plenary assemblies: Krakow (Poland) in 2004, Namur (Belgium) in 2005, Megève (France) in 2006, Rome (Italy) in 2007, Sibiu (Romania) in 2008, Stockholm (Sweden) in 2009, Megève (France) in 2010, Oporto (Portugal) in 2011, Istanbul (Turkey) in 2012 and Plovdiv (Bulgaria) in 2013.

The EUROPE-INBO Group is currently chaired by Bulgaria, East Aegean River Basin Directorate, until the next annual conference which will be organised in Bucharest, Romania (12-14<sup>th</sup> of November 2014).

Capitalising on its past activities, EUROPE-INBO Group is proposing to involve all interested River Basin Authorities and Districts Competent Authorities in a collaborative work and permanent sharing of information about WFD implementation and river basin management planning.

The ultimate goal would be:

- to enable "horizontal" quick exchange of best practices by connecting people from different RBDs throughout Europe working on the same themes related to the implementation of the WFD;
- to strengthen the "vertical" communication between decision makers at European level and field practitioners from River Basin Authorities.

EUROPE-INBO is proposing to organise the exchanges in 2014 around two topics which appear as important issues in the context of implementing PoMs and preparing the second RBMPs:

- **Communication to stakeholders based on monitoring results**
- **River restoration and Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRM)**

These two themes are proposed to be studied in link with the CIS activities. Some others may be identified and planned later on, and the SCG members have been invited to propose additional subjects.

In any case, after preparatory work conducted mainly through electronic exchanges, the topics selected will be addressed within the EUROPE-INBO yearly conference (through dedicated workshops for some of them), and the results presented to the SCG or relevant CIS working groups later on. The EUROPE-INBO secretariat will liaise with the relevant CIS working groups when necessary, in order to make sure that no overlaps occurred and potential interest of working groups' members are identified.

The objective of this newsletter is to introduce and launch work on the first topic:

### ***Communication to stakeholders based on monitoring results***

Reports from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the Implementation of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) show how the Member States dealt with RBMPs during the first cycle especially for surveillance programmes and WB characterisation. Through this reporting process, the Commission ranked MS regarding the number of water bodies reaching the good or better ecological status, using the results sent directly by the Member States themselves through the WISE platform. Indicators used to release these rankings are currently discussed because of their low ability to show, alone, concrete progress in the restoration of the ecological status of aquatic environments.

In this context and regarding preparation of the second WFD river basin management plans, which include a review of the surveillance networks and programmes, a dedicated workshop was organized in the frame of the yearly conference of the EUROPE-INBO (November 13, 2013, Plovdiv, Bulgaria). The participants from various MS Directorates and Basin Organisations have identified important recommendations and good practices during the workshop that can be found in the workshop report ([here](#)). They also identified important questions for further investigation, which are:

- How to better deal with the One Out All Out principle (1OAO) in order to show the progress achieved on WB ecological status;
- Communication tools: how to communicate the results to the decision-makers and to the general public.

The work aims at preliminarily express the stakes and main identified questions on this common issue: how to use the results from the surveillance networks to communicate to the decision-makers and the public on the progress achieved regarding WB ecological status.

This work, compiled in a report, will serve as a background document and will be enriched from the exchanges that will occur within the EUROPE-INBO network enabling to identify the best practices and the difficulties faced by different countries or basins.

### **First topic to be discussed**

From elements outlined above, we can draw issues that seem to be currently the most important and the most discussed between and within MS:

- How do RBDs Authorities use the results communicated to the EU for their communication to citizens or stakeholders?

- What complementary indicators or sub-indicators are used within MS/RBD to assess / highlight the progress achieved during the first RBMPs?
- What are the communication tools used by RBDs Authorities to disseminate the monitoring data to:
  - the general public
  - the stakeholders
  - the decision-makers

Seek to find answers to these questions, whether with common application or not, will provide a partial answer to the question of the use of the results from monitoring networks: how to show progress resulting from programmes of measures established for the first RBMP.

### To be involved in the process / To be informed of achievements

If you are interested in that topic and you want to contribute to the exchanges or to be informed of the results and papers release on that topic, please:

- visit our website:

[www.inbo-news.org/europe-inbo-2014](http://www.inbo-news.org/europe-inbo-2014)

Or

- get in touch through:

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