

**COMMON IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY  
FOR THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE  
(2000/60/EC) AND THE FLOODS DIRECTIVE  
(2007/60/EC)**



**Work Programme 2016-2018**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The agreement to start a Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) for the Water Framework Directive<sup>1</sup> (WFD) in 2001 was a milestone in working together towards successful implementation of the core water law at EU level. Over the past years, the impressive outputs, the added value and the cooperative spirit of the exercise have been widely recognised. Furthermore, implementation of the Floods, Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) and Groundwater Directives is now closely tied in with that of the WFD, and coordination with the implementation of other water-related Directives (Urban Waste Water, Drinking Water,<sup>2</sup> Bathing Water, Nitrates, Marine Strategy Framework and Nature Directives) is gradually improving.

The Water Blueprint published by the Commission in November 2012 together with the 3<sup>rd</sup> implementation report of the WFD identified important results but also serious implementation gaps and delays as well as actions to be taken to speed up the achievement of the WFD 'good water status' objective. Building on the successful co-operation of the previous decade as well as on the basis of the Blueprint proposals and the Council Conclusions adopted on 17 December 2012, a CIS Work Programme (WP) for the period 2013-2015 was agreed by Water Directors (WD) in May 2013 and is being executed. The current WP has by and large been successfully accomplished and is expected to be completed by the end of 2015.

In March 2015, the Commission published its 4<sup>th</sup> WFD implementation report assessing MS Programmes of Measures (PoMs) and taking stock of the status of the implementation of the Floods Directive.<sup>3</sup> It contains a set of recommendations for MS to improve WFD implementation on the ground, particularly in view of the adoption by December 2015 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) and the 1<sup>st</sup> Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs). The basis for the Commission's recommendations is threefold: 1. the assessment of the 1<sup>st</sup> RBMPs; 2. the bilateral meetings with each MS to discuss their RBMPs; and 3. the evaluation of MS reports on progress with their PoM. Additional sources of information that have been considered include MS Partnership Agreements, Operational and Rural Development Programmes.

Thanks to the above assessments, meetings, and the successive CIS WPs, the information base and technical tools for the implementation of the WFD and related directives are now both solid and comprehensive. Therefore, a reflection is necessary on the future focus of the CIS to ensure that the process preserves its added value rather than continuing on 'automatic pilot' in a self-sustained fashion.

In defining the new WP for the period 2016-2018, due account has been taken of the need to ensure the necessary coordination and complementarity with the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), the Biodiversity Strategy, and the other water-related directives, bearing in mind the desirability of developing, in the longer term, a CIS that comprehensively covers all relevant water policies. Moreover, the 2019 WFD deadline for the review of the Directive should also be taken into account so that the new WP can provide a useful contribution to that review.

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<sup>1</sup> European Parliament and Council Directive 2000/60/EC of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (OJ L 327, 22/12/2000, p. 1) as amended by European Parliament and Council Decision 2455/2001/EC (OJ L 331, 15/12/2001, p.1)

<sup>2</sup> The Directives on Urban Waste Water, Drinking and Bathing Water are also referred to sometimes as "Water Industry Directives".

<sup>3</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/impl\\_reports.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/impl_reports.htm)

## 2. OBJECTIVES OF THE CIS

The objectives of the CIS Work Programme for 2016-2018 are threefold. The CIS should contribute to:

1. Improving the implementation of the WFD and coordination with implementation of other water-related directives and facilitating the implementation of the FD, in particular in view of the update of the RBMPs and FRMPs by 2021;
2. Increasing the integration of water and other environmental and sectoral policy objectives, particularly nature<sup>4</sup>, agriculture, transport, energy, disaster and risk prevention, research and regional development;
3. Contributing, as necessary, to fill in possible gaps and to identify potential improvements within the EU framework on water, including contributions toward the 2019 review of the WFD.

There is a broad agreement that the CIS should focus on best practice exchange, on the use of existing tools and experience-sharing and less on the development of new guidance/technical tools. Although the experience of the first cycle (Member State and stakeholder experience, Commission's assessment, legal interpretations provided by the Court of Justice) may entail the need for new tools or for reviewing some of the existing ones, the general perception is that the CIS has developed a range of useful products that are largely valid for the years to come. The need to share experience and best practice is also highlighted as an important asset of the CIS.

The FD is currently finalising the first cycle of implementation. The CIS has supported this with a range of targeted workshops, information exchange documents and policy papers. In the discussions leading to the preparation of this WP there was support to the idea that the outcome of the first cycle may reveal the need to develop guidance documents on particular aspects, which are critical for an effective implementation.

## 3. SOME LESSONS LEARNT FROM 2013-2015

The WP 2013-2015 established an ambitious agenda for the CIS following the 2012 Blueprint. The WP was largely delivered and resulted in a range of products that were available for the preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> RBMP/1<sup>st</sup> FRMP and/or for the next cycle, e.g. guidance on Eflows, on reporting for 2016 (for the WFD and FD), on supporting the implementation of the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (on biota monitoring and analytical methods) and on water balances; a policy paper on Natural Water Retention Measures (and supporting the development of accompanying technical products delivered by the NWRM project); support to the review of the Groundwater Directive Annexes; good practices document on leakage management; resource document on the links between the WFD and the FD; information exchanges (mainly through ad-hoc workshops) on a significant number of issues related to implementation of the WFD and FD, etc.

A few deliverables foreseen in the WP 2013-2015 were not finalised due to the complexity of some controversial issues (e.g. cost recovery guidance) or due to insufficient time/resources in the Working Groups (e.g. concept paper on long-term vision for reporting).

In general, the working methods of the CIS are considered appropriate and effective to deliver on the objectives and on the concrete items of the WP. The 2013-2015 WP created the "prep-SCG" meetings (twice-a-year meetings attended by the chairs of the Strategic Coordination Group and Working Groups) as a way to increase coordination across the different activities. This mechanism has provided the opportunity to enhance the interaction between the different Working Groups, at the same time ensuring that the expertise available across the CIS is used effectively, avoiding duplication of efforts.

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<sup>4</sup> Work on synergies between policies and joint meetings between water, marine and nature followed the first meeting of the three Directors in Vilnius in 2013.

In addition, and based on past experience, controversial technical discussions should be brought early enough to the Strategic Coordination Group (SCG) so that solutions can be found. The SCG should avoid bringing technical issues to WD meetings.

#### **4. OVERALL STRUCTURE AND WORKING METHODS**

##### **4.1. Overview**

There is general consensus that the CIS WP should be built on the basis of strong priority setting and efficient use of resources. These recurrent aims are even more important in these times of restrained public budgets and administrative capacities.

The consultations held so far with WD and within the CIS have enabled the identification of some guiding principles for the development and implementation of the CIS WP 2016-2018:

- Give priority to work directly linked to the delivery of legal obligations (FD, WFD and 'daughter' directives).
- Keep the number of Working Groups to the minimum possible considering the identified priorities.
- Ensure that, in addition to its role to steer and coordinate the activities of the Working Groups, the SCG takes a more active role in leading substantial discussions that have a significant strategic component. Drawing as necessary on the work of relevant experts, the SCG will strive to illuminate critical issues and propose to WD ways forward on these, - thus paving the way for agreements to be reached at WD level. New flexible working methods are proposed that will give the SCG a more pivotal role in the delivery of CIS priorities, at the same time keeping in mind its limited capacity.
- Keep dialogue and coordination structures between CIS working strands and between CIS and other closely related processes such as the MSFD CIS, and Committees/Expert Groups for specific water-related directives, namely Nitrates, Urban Wastewater, Bathing Water and Drinking Water, which address the specific issues exclusively relevant for the implementation of those Directives (e.g. revision of Annexes). In relation to reporting and measures, a closer integration of work under WFD and other water directives will be sought.
- Ensure that deadlines for the CIS deliverables are respected, in order for them to be taken into account in implementation work; Efforts will be made to provide working documents at least two weeks prior to the meetings.
- Ensure that CIS deliverables are communicated and used at implementation/Basin level;
- Ensure that the SCG and WD keep the 'big picture', have the opportunity to hold strategic discussions, and do not become simple rubber stamping bodies,
- Ensure that the SCG and the WDs' role remain different but complementary: the WD will continue to decide what needs to be done while the SCG will ensure the delivery of the work programme by steering and coordinating the activities of the working groups, as explained below.

The CIS organisational structure should provide continuity by preserving existing networks where necessary, but also needs to evolve towards a more flexible and better integrated 3-tier arrangement that will better respond to the new challenges: WD, SCG and a limited number of Working Groups (WGs). In principle, none of the Working Groups is permanent (i.e. if the mandate of a Working Group as defined in this WP has been completed, the group's activity will stop). However, the proposed five Working Groups for the 2016-2018 period (Ecostat, Groundwater, Chemicals, Floods, Data and Information Sharing) have been selected on the basis of their key role in supporting the delivery of legal obligations (including the support to policy development) and extensive work programme, and therefore they are expected to remain active during the whole period of the WP. In any event, during the period of the WP Water Directors may decide to create additional Working Groups that can deal with emerging activities.

##### Working groups role and structure

There will be at least 2 leads for each of the Working Groups. Whenever possible, one lead should be from the Commission, the other one from a Member-State. They will be identified by

the Member States and the Commission. The Commission stands ready to proactively contribute to the work of all identified Working Groups. In order to ensure continuity, it is envisaged that the current leads of Working Groups will remain leads in the new WP to the extent that they are ready to do so. They will be responsible for communicating the needs and views of the SCG to the experts in their group, gathering advice from them regarding the detail of what to cover and how best to proceed, organising meetings and coordinating report preparation as necessary, and providing feedback and channelling reports from the experts to the SCG. The leads will have a key role in ensuring the delivery of the tasks entrusted to the Working Group they coordinate and will need to cooperate closely especially for tasks cutting across different WGs (e.g. for agenda setting, document distribution, information sharing, etc.).

The Working Groups will decide how best to organise their work in order to deliver on their mandate. Nevertheless, excessive proliferation of sub-groups should be avoided, using as much as possible exchanges by email and tele/videoconferences, in order to ensure that limited resources are used in an efficient way. If sub-groups are created within a Working Group, the SCG will be informed.

The Working Group leads will need technical expertise, a good strategic overview of the WFD and/or the FD, and good communication skills. They will need to participate actively in SCG meetings and in the Prep-SCG meetings (at least 1 lead per Working Group in each prep-SCG meeting).

The deliverables from all WGs will be expected to include outputs such as information and clarifications, targeted development of technical reports and guidance on methodologies, reporting formats, and workshop synthesis documents. There should not be a search for the 'perfect output' that would unduly delay documents' finalisation. A common thread should be the exchange of experiences to develop common approaches based on best practices, particularly for the identification and implementation of measures.

#### SCG and Ad-hoc Task Groups

The SCG will be co-chaired by the Commission and a Member State.

As described below, a number of important priorities are not fully covered by any of the five Working Groups that will remain active. These issues are listed in section 4.2 below. It is proposed that the SCG takes a leading role in driving the work on these issues, which have a significant strategic component. The work will be delivered through the organisation of one-off workshops and/or dedicated discussions before or after the usual SCG agendas (e.g. half-day or one day before or after the SCG). The SCG members will be able to delegate or bring the relevant experts for the discussions on specific issues. The work will be prepared by Ad-hoc Task Groups made up of and led by SCG members and/or experts appointed by them. Depending on the complexity and scope of the task, the intensity of the work may vary significantly. Some exchange of information activities may only require a small Task Group to prepare a workshop, remaining active during a few months and working on the basis of teleconferences. Other more demanding activities may require a larger Task Group that meets several times and takes longer to deliver its mandate, similarly to the Drafting Groups used in previous CIS WP.

Ad-hoc Task Groups will be initiated by the agreement of the SCG on the basis of a proposal from the Commission, Member States and/or stakeholders. The leads of the activity will propose the scope of the work, the working method, the timetable and the deliverables using the template for Terms of Reference in Annex 1 to this CIS Work Programme. SCG members will be asked to express their intended level of involvement (leading, contributing or using the results of the work). The Water Directors will be informed of the Terms of Reference agreed by the SCG, except for activities expected to deliver CIS guidance or policy papers (beyond those already identified in this CIS Work Programme), for which agreement of the Water Directors will be necessary.

The SCG should also facilitate the exchange of experiences by mandating to the relevant Working Groups and Ad-hoc Task Groups the organisation of ad-hoc workshops on specific topics. The information exchange will help MS to learn from each other, and the Commission to obtain an up-to-date picture of progress on water policy implementation in the EU. Such exchange should also focus on facilitating transboundary cooperation. To enhance the exchange of experiences, efforts should be made to provide interpretation whenever possible.

The SCG members should ensure that information flows as necessary from the EU level to national, regional and basin levels in their respective countries. This includes fostering the use and understanding of tools already available under the CIS (guidance documents, technical and policy documents, reports from research projects, etc.).

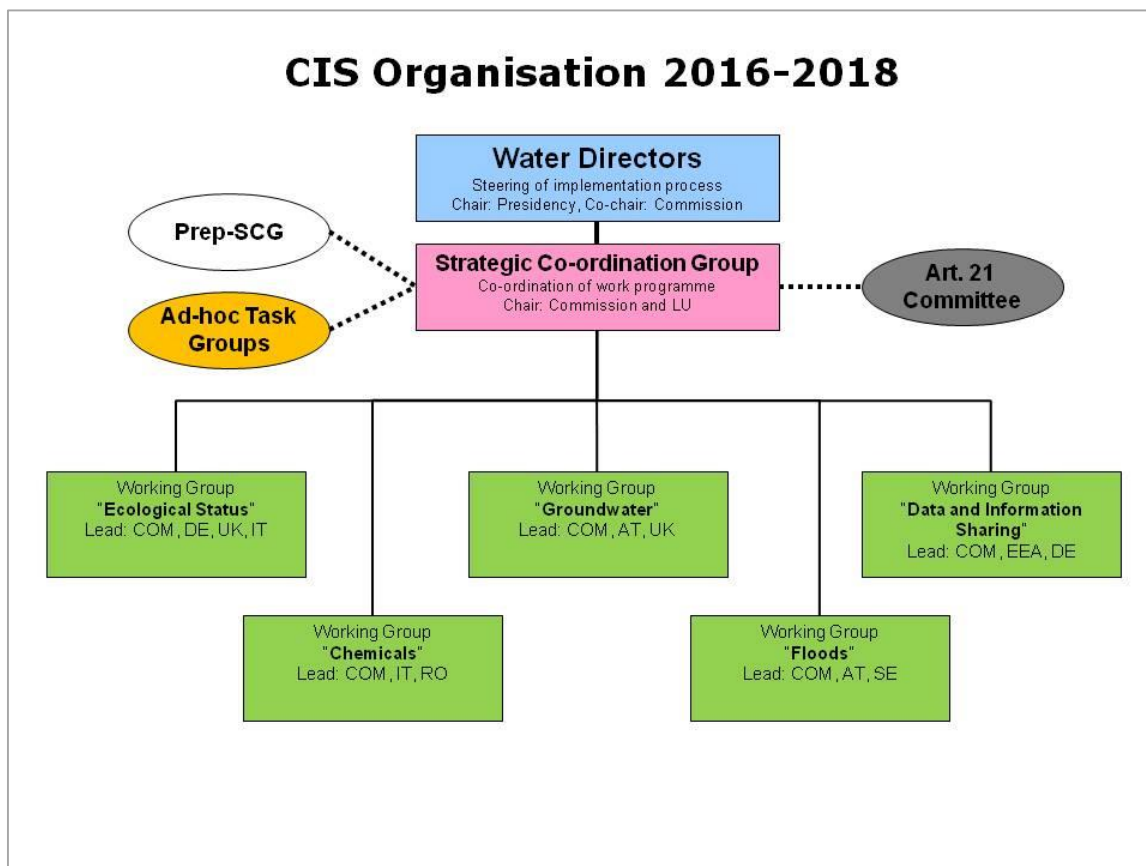
### Prep-SCG meetings

The leads of the Working Groups, Ad-hoc Task Groups and the SCG chair will have the responsibility to ensure proper coordination across the activities. Preparatory meetings (Prep-SCG meetings), as established in the CIS WP 2013-2015, will help ensure such coordination. Two meetings per year will be held in Brussels before the SCGs which prepare the WD meetings. These meetings will be chaired by the SCG co-chairs with attendance of at least one lead of each Working Group, the leads of Ad-hoc Task Groups (if deemed necessary) and (a) representative(s) from the Presidency in charge of organising the WD meeting (usually the SCG member). The meetings will focus on the preparation of strategic discussions at the SCG meeting, the exchange of information about the activities of the different Working Groups and Ad-hoc Task Groups, the identification of potential synergies and overlaps and the modes of cooperation between the groups. Such modes may entail light cooperation agreements for which the SCG will be simply informed (exchange of documents for comments, inclusion of information or discussion points in the agenda of different Working Groups, joint or back-to-back meeting of Working Groups) or more resource-intensive activities, for which SCG approval will be requested (e.g. creation of sub-groups with experts from various Working Groups or one-off meetings or workshops to discuss specific items). In choosing the modes of cooperation, the Prep-SCG should consider the most efficient use of time and resources. In any event, it should be clear that the Prep-SCG is not a decision body but a coordination tool. In addition to the Prep-SCG, the Working Group leads are expected to liaise bilaterally between meetings as necessary to ensure proper coordination of the activities of their respective groups.

### Policy coherence

The SCG will be informed about the activities under related Directives (MSFD, Urban Waste Water Treatment, Nitrates, Drinking Water, Nature) and will have a role to identify issues which may require discussion and intervention at WD (and nature, marine, flood and agriculture director) level to ensure synergies are exploited and conflicts are acknowledged and addressed. Wherever possible, Working Groups will be invited to coordinate their actions and have joint activities with the related groups under water related Directives.

WD will continue to lead and decide on the work to be done, making sure that the CIS products will be of use/used in the MS. They will have an enhanced strategic role focussing more time on developing the way ahead on important issues (e.g. economics, agriculture).



**Figure 1: Structure of CIS 2016-2018**

#### 4.2. Tasks for the SCG

The following priority tasks have been identified as appropriate for the SCG to take the lead with the support of Ad-hoc Task Groups, as described in the previous sections. These are issues that do not fall (at least not fully) under the remit of any of the Working Groups. Other issues may be mandated by the WD during the period of the WP. It is important to stress that this is a list of possible tasks to work on during the 3 years period, but this does not necessarily mean that the SCG will work on all items as the overload of the SCG should be avoided. The concrete proposals on the scope and working methods need to be agreed case-by-case on the basis of the procedure described in the previous section under the heading 'SCG and Ad-hoc Task Groups'. Please note that the issues are not ranked by importance.

Task	Deliverable	Comment	Timetable
Hydromorphology	Best practice and guidance on dealing with hydromorphological issues	Implementation gap identified in the first cycle.  The SCG (or the Ad-hoc Task Group appointed by it) will play a coordinating role. Specific discussions and/or workshops are foreseen.  ECOSTAT will lead and deliver on the technical work dealing with issues identified in its mandate (see below).	2016-2018
Update guidance on exemptions	Updated CIS guidance number 20 or supplementary guidance	Implementation gap identified in the first cycle, in particular as regards article 4(7). Should take into account latest rulings by the Court.  An Ad-hoc Task Group would be established. Specific meetings and/or	2016-2017



Task	Deliverable	Comment	Timetable
		workshops are expected.	
Assessment of 2 <sup>nd</sup> RBMPs and 1 <sup>st</sup> FRMPs	Common understanding, exchange of views, feedback on assessment approach developed by the Commission and the EEA	<p>Dedicated discussions within SCG meetings.</p> <p>WG DIS will also play a role in discussing this issue (see below mandate of the group) and in preparing the SCG discussions.</p> <p>The results of the assessment will feed in the 2019 review of the WFD and FD (see below).</p> <p>Specific meetings and/or workshops may be held.</p>	2016-2017
Water Reuse	Guidance on water reuse planning and management; feedback on minimum requirements to be developed by the JRC and other actions	<p>Support to Commission's initiative on water reuse.</p> <p>An Ad-hoc Task Group would be established. Specific meetings and/or workshops are expected.</p>	2016
Water quantity	Common understanding, exchange of views, feedback on developments by the EEA, Eurostat and JRC	<p>Link between thresholds for WEI +, water accounts, groundwater quantitative status assessment and Eflows, importance in surface water and groundwater.</p> <p>Art 5 characterisation: hydrological data flows and water abstraction pressures.</p> <p>Dedicated discussions back-to-back to SCG meeting. A workshop may be held. A small Ad-hoc Task Group may be established to prepare the discussions/workshop.</p>	tbd
Support to the 2019 WFD review	To be determined	<p>Dedicated discussions back-to-back to SCG meeting or workshops may be organised on specific issues. A small Ad-hoc Task Group may be established to prepare the discussions/workshops. Exchanges with working groups will take place.</p>	2018
Other potential tasks	<p>Policy coherence / integration.</p> <p>Exchange of information, raise awareness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic issues (article 5 economic analysis, cost recovery, integration of ecosystem services in the WFD economic analysis, integration of economic analysis between WFD/ MSFD).</li> <li>• Coordinate the links to MSFD building on the technical work by relevant Working Groups: determine/discuss common topics/ differences between WFD and MSFD (litter, eutrophication, pressures, hydromorphology, biodiversity, transitional and coastal waters, invasive species, harbours...), including by means of workshop</li> <li>• Natural Water Retention Measures: implementation, costs and benefits, funding.</li> <li>• Integration with other Directives and other policy areas</li> </ul>	tbd

Task	Deliverable	Comment	Timetable
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Coordination and harmonization of WFD and Nitrates Directive</li> <li>○ Inclusion of relevant WFD basic measures into CAP cross-compliance</li> <li>○ Review of how current Rural Development (RD) Policy and programmes are helping to implement WFD – co-working with RD colleagues to improve this</li> <li>○ Link to Climate Adaptation</li> <li>○ WFD and transport</li> <li>○ Funding mechanisms, EFSI</li> <li>● Strategic approach to nutrients</li> <li>● Implementation of WFD article 7</li> <li>● Consideration of uncertainties/cost-effectiveness, efficiency of measures</li> <li>● Implementation of the CIS E-flows guidance</li> <li>● Dissemination of knowledge including relevant RTD results</li> </ul> <p>These topics may be chosen for dedicated discussions back-to-back to SCG meeting. Workshops may be held. A small Ad-hoc Task Group may be established to prepare the discussions/workshop.</p>	

### 4.3. Working Group Ecological Status (ECOSTAT)

#### Main tasks

- Intercalibration of Good Ecological Status
- Work on intercalibration of Good Ecological Potential
- Continuation of Hydromorphological work. Information exchange on the comparability of classification methods
- Continuation of the work on nutrients, establishment of consistent and comparable boundaries

#### Main deliverables (timeline)

- Technical reports on intercalibration and contribution to update of Commission Decision (finalisation of intercalibration in Q4 2016, deliverables in Q2 2017)
- Technical report on the intercalibration of Good Ecological Potential (Q4 2016)
- Technical report on the harmonisation of nutrients standards
- Best practice on the use of supporting elements for the assessment of ecological status (hydromorphology and physico-chemical parameters including river basin specific pollutants)

#### Other tasks

- Comparability of presentation of ecological status results
- Contributions to the update of the Commission's Decision on MSFD Good Environmental Status
- Recommendations on biological monitoring methods, including on biological monitoring methods for which harmonisation is needed and where standardisation is possible, and on which standardised methods should be added to Annex V 1.3.6 of the WFD (development of new WFD relevant standards through the work of the CEN Technical Committee 230 Working Group "Biological and Ecological Methods).

- Information exchange with WG Chemicals on links between chemical and ecological status and taking into account river basin specific pollutants in the classification of ecological status.
- Issues specific to coastal and transitional waters. Linkage between MSFD and WFD
- Scaling/delineation of water bodies: Issue related to status monitoring and assessment, but also critical impact assessment, non-deterioration and exemptions.
- Work on innovative methodologies (eg environmental DNA)

#### Leads

Commission's Joint Research Centre, Germany, Italy and United Kingdom

#### Links to other Working Groups

Chemicals, Groundwater, Floods, MSFD CIS, Data and Information Sharing

### **4.4. Working Group Chemicals**

#### Main tasks

- New Priority Substances review: SG-R re-established in 2014; experts contributing to JRC technical work. Possible de-listing of PS will be considered. Short-list of substances will be needed in 2016. Update of the TGD EQS if consensus reachable in time for EQS derivation by end 2016.
- Effect-based tools; and links between chemical and ecological status (in collaboration with ECOSTAT); mixtures. Possible follow-up of estrogen-screening project. Exchange of information on innovative techniques and approaches; discussion of application in context of WFD.
- Guidance on implementing metals EQS, including the application of Biotic Ligand Models and consideration of natural backgrounds
- Passive sampling: exchange of information on latest developments; discussion of application in context of WFD.
- Review of the watch list.

#### Main deliverables (timeline)

- Updated TGD-EQS in first half of 2016 if consensus reached
- Workshop (possibly early summer 2016) and guidance development (2016-2017) on metals
- Short-list of priority substances with EQS by the end of 2016
- Workshop on effect-based tools in the second half of 2016 possibly followed by development of guidance during 2017-2018 in association with MSFD
- Revised watch list in the first half of 2017

#### Other tasks

- Support to the implementation of the technical guidance on sampling and monitoring watch list substances and new priority substances
- Supplementary biota monitoring guidance (Some follow-up needed on statistical aspects and MSFD-relevant points)
- Exchange of information on EQS for river basin specific pollutants (RBSPs); promoting wider coordination among MS on the development of better harmonised standards for RBSPs; exchange with WG ECOSTAT on taking account of RBSPs in the classification of ecological status
- Measures including other relevant legislation/strategies: Strategic discussions could be helpful. WG Chemicals to be consulted/involved, including in development of strategic approach to Pharmaceuticals in the Environment
- Status assessment issues: Strategic discussions could be helpful; links to MSFD GES descriptors
- Further work on chemicals inventory of emissions
- Innovative chemical analytical tools not entailing excessive costs.
- Work on sediment and trend monitoring.
- Chemical monitoring – technical issues not covered by other specific tasks; sharing of case studies and information on implementing monitoring requirements.

## Leads

Commission DG Environment, Italy and Romania

## Links to other Working Groups

Ecological Status, Groundwater, MSFD CIS, Data and Information Sharing

### **4.5. Working Group Groundwater**

#### Main tasks

- Methodologies for threshold values establishment
- Preparation for WFD and GWD Annexes review in 2019
- Voluntary watch list

#### Main deliverables (timeline)

- Technical report summarising the findings and showing options for improving comparability of threshold values
- Input to the review of the WFD and GWD Annexes (threshold values, compliance regime methodologies).
- Procedure on how to identify substances to be subject to the voluntary GW watch list

#### Other tasks

- Information exchange on:
  - Continuation of cooperation between DWD committee and CIS Working Groups GW and Chemical. Link with ND committee could also be established
  - Information exchange on trend assessment - methodologies for trends, including trend reversal. A short report will be drafted.
  - Groundwater associated aquatic ecosystems – best practice examples (e.g. designation, measures); on-going activity to be finalised;
  - Reporting of GW-status in Member States
  - Quantitative issues: follow-up work on GW related aspects
  - Measures:
    - consideration of response/lag time of GW-systems to measures,
    - prevent or limit and linkage to SW catchments
    - Groundwater – surface water interactions;
    - Findings from 2<sup>nd</sup> RBMP, structured information exchange on status of GWs, and measures being taken (or not) to address quality and quantity

## Leads

Commission DG Environment, Austria and United Kingdom

## Links to other Working Groups

Ecological Status, Chemicals, Data and Information Sharing

### **4.6. Working Group Floods<sup>5</sup>**

#### **Objectives**

- information exchange between Member States, the Commission and stakeholders on good practices, policy, research and project developments and new approaches to enhance flood risk management in Europe, and,
- feedback on the implementation of the Directive and its reporting with a view to reaching a common understanding on the requirements for the implementation of the Floods Directive and efficient and effective reporting, and,
- linking with related activities of the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) at EU level, and with other Commission or international activities for support of the implementation.

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<sup>5</sup> For the full WGF 2016-18 draft Work Program please look at CIRCABC: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/e15b71ba-ef9b-4a05-b1b2-54de30a7f005>

### Main tasks

- Meetings will be held of WG F at regular intervals (6-monthly), to provide a platform for information exchange and for discussion on key implementation issues.
- Workshops are to be agreed in workshop outlines. Strategic Coordination Group (SCG) and the Water Directors (WD) will be informed of the upcoming events and will receive the outcome of each workshop.
- A full Thematic Workshop is currently planned to be held in Austria in the spring of 2016, to be hosted by the Netherlands, Slovakia and Austria, to review the 1st cycle of implementation and derive lessons learned, good practice and recommendations to enhance implementation, where possible, in the 2nd cycle. Slovakia will organize a field trip focusing on practical examples relevant to the workshop's subject. Short Workshops may be held, if and as required, on individual themes, as approved by WG F, related to the implementation of the Floods Directive. Such Short Workshops will typically be of a half-day to full day duration and be held back-to-back with a meeting of the WG F.
- Full Thematic Workshops will be held if and as required on themes related to the implementation of the Floods Directive, based on themes and workshop outlines approved by WG F members.
- A sub-group shall review the reporting during the 1st cycle, taking account of feedback from WG F and the European Commission, and shall agree any amendments to the reporting schemas and tools, for approval by the SCG and Water Directors by the end of 2017. The value of and feasibility of developing implementation indicators will be considered. The potential for convergence amongst MSs in methodologies and products of assessment and mapping will be explored.
- Development of Resource Documents
- Input into other CIS and EU-Level activities, such as:
  - Information exchange activities with relevant Water Framework Directive and CIS activities;
  - Research;
  - Information exchange activities to be undertaken as necessary to link and coordinate with other relevant EU level activities (e.g. with DG ECHO, DG CLIMA, DG JRC and Directives such as INSPIRE)
  - Review and revision of relevant policy papers (e.g. as it has been done for the NWRM policy paper) or other documents on an ad hoc basis.
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### Main deliverables

- Support to MS, based on information exchange of good practice, in the implementation of the Floods Directive through the 2nd cycle, including reporting on the FRMPs (2016) and the review of the PFRA (2018);
- Meeting reports of WG F and reports of Short Workshops and of Thematic Workshops and / or ad-hoc documents on themes relevant to the implementation of the Floods Directive, subject to agreement on mandates for specific tasks;
- Revised reporting schema and tools (2017), if and as appropriate;
- Resource Documents as described under "Tasks" above;
- Further develop links with, and provide inputs to, other flood-related European Commission activities as described under III above.

### Leads

Commission DG Environment, Austria and Sweden

### Links to other Working Groups

Ecological Status, Data and Information Sharing

## **4.7. Working Group Data and Information Sharing**

### Main tasks

- Supporting 2016 MS reporting: continued support during the reporting process to address any issue that may arise and may need a EU wide solution

- Supporting the assessment of the 2<sup>nd</sup> RBMPs and FRMPs: supporting the Commission and EEA in assessment of the 2<sup>nd</sup> RBMP. Feedback on assessment concepts, methods and indicators developed by the EEA and the Commission.
- Communicating status/progress: if needed, work to finalise and/or support implementation of the indicators of progress (based on 2015 paper).
- Supporting 2018 reporting.

#### Main deliverables (timeline)

- To be completed.

#### Other tasks

- Ensuring link to INSPIRE: the work under the current work programme will continue
- Long-term vision on reporting, streamlining of reporting under environmental Directives, integrating water policies
- Feedback on second WFD reporting exercise
- Support to the reporting on implementation of the programme of measures 2018.

#### Leads


Commission DG Environment, European Environment Agency and Germany

#### Links to other Working Groups

All

## Annex 1: Template for Terms of Reference of Ad-hoc Task Groups

[When filling in the template please delete the guidance text in square brackets]

<p><b>Common Implementation Strategy for the Water Framework Directive and the Floods Directive - Work Programme 2016-2018</b></p> <p>Terms of Reference for Ad-hoc Task Group under the Strategic Coordination Group</p>	
<p><b>Status/Version/date:</b> [Provide the status of the terms of reference, the version and the date. For example “Draft version 1 of 23/01/2016” or “Final agreed by SCG, version 4 of 15/04/2016”.]</p>	
<p><b>Name of the Ad-hoc Task Group (ATG)</b></p> <p>[Name of the activity / the ATG – see section 4.2 of the CIS Work Programme 2016-2018 for the tasks potentially covered by ATGs]</p>	
<p><b>Scope of the work</b></p> <p>[Describe the scope of the work that will be developed. Justification for working on this issue within the CIS. Which issues will be covered, which will not? What are the links to other CIS activities (Working Groups or ATGs). Do not include here information on the process (workshops, meetings, lead, etc) as this is reported below under Working method.]</p>	
<p><b>Working method</b></p> <p>[Describe the way the ATG will operate: membership, expected meetings (of leads, of participants), foreseen discussions at the SCG meetings and/or ad-hoc workshops, estimated length of meetings, etc. Include the estimated timing of the key milestones of the activity (when the meetings, discussions, workshops will happen etc).]</p>	
<p><b>Expected deliverables and timetable</b></p> <p>[Describe the expected deliverables and timetable]</p>	
<p><b>ATG leads</b></p> <p>Leads prepare the terms of reference.</p>	
<p><b>Involvement of other CIS partners</b></p> <p>The following Member States and/or organisations have indicated they will be actively participating in this activity:</p> <p>The following Member States and/or organisations have indicated they will not expect to actively participating in this activity but are interested in using the results:</p> <p>[Fill with the relevant Member States and organisations following consultations with the SCG.]</p>	
<p><b>Other useful information:</b></p> <p>[Any other information considered useful]</p>	