



# INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS – INBO

Draft

## EURO-INBO – ROMA 2007

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### SUPPORT TO WATER DISTRICTS PRACTITIONERS

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## INBO-wfd : an INBO-driven initiative for facilitating the transfer of know-how among Basin Organizations

The aim of « **INBO-wfd** » project is to gather the highly fragmented information on the implementation of the WFD at EU level, and to make it not only available, but also understandable and useful to practitioners from Basin Organizations and District Authorities.

Initiatives are underway to facilitate the access to information, such as:

- CIRCA website gathers a lot of information, and particularly those issued by the Common Implementation Strategy and the Water Directors ;
- WISE-RTD will grant access to the projects supported by EC through the FP5/6 and LIFE or Interreg,
- The Water Supply and Sanitation Technology Platform (WSSTP) will develop a vision and knowledge needs roadmap towards 2030 ;
- And IWRM.Net project (within the ERA-Net scheme) works at the level of research projects supported by Member States or regional authorities ;

However all those materials are often hardly usable by practitioners, since the later miss the time needed to identify, read and analyze these papers; moreover if dissemination is a must for researchers and European institutions, it is not the same for WFD implementing bodies, whose primary concern is to “do local”, and valuable information on real practices is not available for peers.

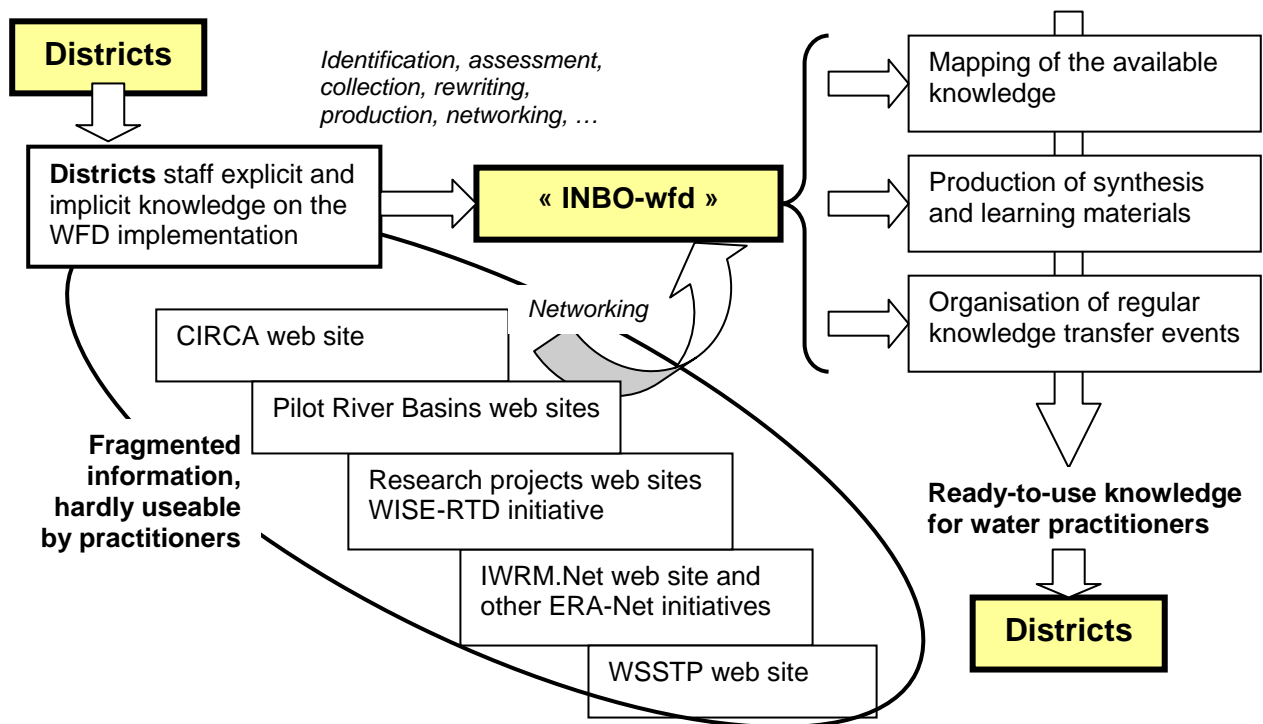
#### OBJECTIVES :

« **INBO-wfd** » aims at being the Districts’ WFD “Intelligence Agency”, being also the facilitator for an easy and affordable access to WFD-related knowledge by the staff of local water management structures, while prioritizing national field experiments.

Being a lookout, « **INBO-wfd** » will 1) identify all sources of knowledge, 2) gather and/or link all these sources of knowledge, 3) help non-web based sources, including informal sources, to be accessible.

Being a facilitator, « **INBO-wfd** » will 1) structure the “raw” information according to the needs of practitioners, 2) develop synthesis for a quick and efficient dissemination to users, 3) organize events for enhancing exchanges among experts, either scientists or professionals, by means of meetings or web-based seminars.

Moreover, it is expected that, due to a better mapping of existing information, it will be possible to identify lack and weaknesses of knowledge, and to highlight needs for further research, from an implementers' point of view (to foster demand-driven studies).



**A new initiative :** « INBO-wfd » focuses its activities on Districts-produced information (*bottom-up approach*), its activities are controlled by the Districts needs (*demand-driven approach*), and it focuses its transfer activities on short-term needs (*implementation-of-innovation approach*).

### Short description of the project :

It is proposed to develop « INBO-wfd », within the 2008 INBO annual work plan.

« INBO-wfd » will be based on a decentralized approach (like peer-to-peer networks), open to national / regional / thematic operators, committed themselves to follow a common Charter for information management, and to use compatible tools; each node will be in charge of collecting information from its own sphere, and of developing tight links with end-users.

A common Management body, backed by a light Operation Unit hosted by INBO, will be set up to develop common rules and shared tools, as well as doing networking of EU districts.

It is proposed to start the development of « INBO-wfd » in 2008 by implementing the scheme as a prototype in 8 districts from EU MS (France, Spain, Italy, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Sweden), to test and demonstrate its usefulness, and to secure its business model,

The two testing topics will be :

- assessment of public participation practices
- first lessons learned by the design of the management plans and programs of measures

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