



**Proposal for Europe-INBO 2017 workshop on
“Water data management organization and electronic reporting”**

Concept note

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Context and Objectives

In 2016, Member States had to report to EU on 2nd cycle of River basin management plans. This reporting was done applying the WFD reporting guidance endorsed by the Water Directors in July 2014 final (draft 6.0.6 published in April 2016)

The organisation of the reporting for the Water Framework directive (as well as for other directives: Flood, Urban Waste water, Bathing, Drinking...) provide an opportunity for each Member States to improve their internal water data management procedures and to develop the interoperability with basin organisations.

At present, this reported information will be used in order to support the assessment of RBMPs by the European Commission but it also provides ground for the publishing of the upcoming EEA report; Europe’s waters, assessment of European Waters in 2017.

For the next reporting cycles, the WFD reporting guidance indicates various contextual elements to be considered, such as:

- *“requirements for simplification, streamlining and standardisation of data provision in line with INSPIRE;*
- *possibilities provided by information and communication technology to put into practice the principle “monitor once for timely and multi-purpose uses”;*
- *Emphasis on the **decentralised reporting system**, the Member States are responsible and in control of information and data on national websites. Information and data could be shared with users at EU, national and regional levels.*
- *the principles of accessibility and sharing implies a requirement for information systems capable of delivering information for many purposes, at various geographic scales and tailored to the needs of the public and of various public authorities. At all levels (local, regional, national and European), **interoperability in all its perspectives** (technical, semantic, organisational and legal) is an essential condition to achieving accessibility and usability of information and to ensure an adequate and efficient flow of information. Solutions at the European level should build upon existing interoperability solutions.*
- *The **cross-linking of the requirements of INSPIRE and the water-related policies** must be visible.”*

Taking into account these elements of context, a workshop is organised in the frame of the next conference of the Europe-INBO, on September 20 in Dublin (Ireland), on the topic: **“Water data management organization and electronic reporting”**.

This workshop will aim at sharing lessons learned of previous reporting phases and to discuss on best practices and potentialities for simplification, streamlining and standardization of data provision.

It will in particular provide an opportunity:

- To share practical experiences at national and basin level on their **water data management organization and on the procedures implemented for their previous electronic reporting;**
- To get a feedback from EC on the 2016 reporting and **to receive information on future recommended orientations/strategy for reporting;**
- To **exchange on the best ways to integrate the future recommended orientations** planned on the guidance for reporting and on the potential impacts of these adaptations on organisational aspects and technical aspects, including the potential impact on the role of the basin organizations;
- To exchange on questions and solutions related to the organisation of water data management in general.

Contents

In a first approach, and after an introduction part that will set-up the scene on the EU and MS on the importance of water data management procedures, the main themes and questions that are proposed to be investigated during the workshop would be, from a RBD authorities and managers point of view, as presented below.

- Topic 1: “Use of water information systems and implementation of interoperability rules for planning, PoM implementation / monitoring, and reporting to EU”

- *Case studies of national or specific water information systems used for planning, PoM implementation / monitoring, decision support and reporting*
- *Sharing of responsibilities (“who does what?”) between organizations at national/basin/local scales for data collection, processing and the preparation of datasets for reporting*
- *Issues of compatibility of data for reporting and procedures implemented for solving these issues (agreements, common referential, common definition, developing interoperability between information systems, etc)*
- *Status of development of national water data management policies and implementation of interoperability rules;*
- *Case studies of links with WISE and/or Inspire Directive;*
- *Expectations of member states and basin organization in terms of simplification and standardization*

Questions to be addressed:

- *Q1: How to develop the links and the regular exchanges of homogeneous data between actors to facilitate the answer to the different reporting requirements?*
- *Q2: What procedures and tools for reinforcing the interoperability (administrative, financial, organizational) are available?*
- *Q3: How to better communicate thanks to the data reported, at basin, national, European levels?*
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- Topic 2: “What role for the basin organizations within the future reporting processes”

- *Challenges for efficient data collection and data sharing between partners organization at national / basin scales*
- *Potential impacts of the recommended orientations for simplification, streamlining and standardization of data*
- *What changes on the role of the basin organization in the water data policy?*
- *Solutions to reinforce the data comparability and to reinforce the interoperability with the information system of the basin organizations*
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Questions to be addressed:

- *Q1: What are the challenges for efficient data collection and data sharing between partner's organization at national / basin scale?*
- *Q2: What role of basin organizations for efficient data collection and data reporting?*
- *Q3: What tools and good practices for data collection, data sharing and data processing for reporting ?*

Participants

The contents of the workshop will not be too scientific nor technically focused as the INBO's audience is made of a variety of profiles, such as river basin policy makers and managers. For example, the interoperability will not be discussed at technical level but only on the principles of its implementation.

Thus the suitable profiles for this workshop are those of "generalist field managers", belonging to WFD competent authorities or basin organisations and members of the Europe-INBO network, involved in water management planning or decision making process. No high level technical profile is required given that the exchanges are not sought to be at a too technical level. Participants of this workshop would be the usual participants of the Europe-INBO's conferences as this workshop would be fully part of the conference agenda.

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