

Conclusions and recommendations on existing conditions

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Is the glass half-full or half-empty ?

- It is too easy to interpret identified gaps or constraints as criticism
- Existing monitoring has been designed to meet the objectives at the moment when they were designed
- For some directives tailored monitoring programmes were set-up in a short period
- It is only logical that in this situation some gaps and constraints are identified when an integrated monitoring programme is envisioned
- **So the glass is definitely half-full, there is a sound foundation**

Categories

- Integrated approach
- Roles and responsibilities
- Personnel
- Quality assurance
- Parameters and analytical methods
- Data Management

Integrated approach



The gradual growth of monitoring activities at different agencies has resulted in a complex and fragmented situation, with many actors, where responsibilities are not always well defined.

Assign role and responsibilities, not only on present status, but on WFD roles such as develop RBMP and implementation thereof. Knowledge and experience on field conditions, system functioning, modelling, administrative procedures and technical expertise can then be integrated and co-ordinated.

Roles and responsibilities

Roles and responsibilities are allocated by laws, regulations, protocols or instructions. Not all of them are generally known and sometimes the text is ambiguous. Sometimes a practice is a continuation of a study. It leads to risks of uncertainty and duplication.

Create centres of expertise where experience and knowledge is concentrated. Integrate surface and groundwater activities. Do not give up efforts to institutionally organize monitoring right. Stimulate involvement of private sector (e.g. labs)

Personnel

There is a shortage in people experienced in certain fields (e.g. biology) generally, but especially in view of WFD requirements. There is also the risk of losing experience through retirement.

Additional personnel needs to be acquired. A human resources plan is recommended that takes aims at a balanced distribution and exchange of knowledge in view of retirement etc.

Quality Assurance

Quality assurance and accreditation is mostly limited to laboratory analysis only. Due to involvement of different agencies QA is not always consistent. Staff involved in sampling is not always aware of whole scope of the programme.

QA and QC and accreditation is recommended uniformly for every aspect of the monitoring programme and every involved agency. Staff should be made aware of the complete monitoring scope.



Parameters and methods

Biological Quality Elements are underdeveloped for Cypriot circumstances (methods as well as indices). Not all priority pollutants are now analysed.

BQE should be developed, preferably at one centre of knowledge. For priority substances one (reference) laboratory could be developed in addition to stimulating the private sector involvement.

Data Management

Water Quality data is not easily or routinely transferred from one Department database to another, limiting dissemination. Metadata or location coding is not always stored consistently.

A more formalised and uniform way of data storage, metadata and coding is recommended. Dissemination should be considered and integrated part of the monitoring cycle.

what have we achieved ?

- The evaluation of the existing situation and framework conditions provides us a reconnaissance of the foundation on which the monitoring programme will be build
- All involved now have a common starting point
- and.... co-operation between all stakeholders can now address the identified issues

In the mean while we are already working on identifying options for design of the network