

SWIFT-WFD

Screening methods for Water data
Information in support of the implementation
of the Water Framework Directive



Scientific leader

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ABSTRACT

The monitoring requirements for successfully implementing the WFD will directly depend upon available measurement techniques of demonstrated quality, which will be able to deliver reliable data at an affordable cost. Besides the necessary "classical" laboratory analyses, screening methodologies will play a key role in the WFD implementation, mainly as a complementary approach for quality monitoring improvement. The WFD will represent a powerful management tool only if monitoring data are of reliable and comparable quality. The costs of wrong decisions based on erroneous data could be tremendous, which justifies that Community efforts are made to ensure that data are produced according to a proper quality assurance regime.

In the light of the above, the objectives of SWIFT-WFD should focus on the production of quality control tools for validation purposes of screening methods, an inventory of existing screening methods currently used or under development for water monitoring, the comparison of screening test (chemical and biological) methods through laboratory-based (tank experiments) and/or field interlaboratory studies based on a selection of reference aquatic ecosystems at European scale, and with classical laboratory-based analyses to validate their results and demonstrate their equivalence (in terms of statistical comparison procedure) for parameters regulated by the WFD. In parallel, the project should consider the development of new "low-cost", innovative, screening techniques, both for chemical as hazardous priority substances and biological parameters, for example composition and quality of biomass, and their validation using the same approach (interlaboratory testing and comparison with laboratory-based methods). In addition, exchange of knowledge, transfer of technologies and training related to water monitoring will represent a key issue for ensuring the comparability of data produced by screening methods.



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SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

RESEARCH FOR POLICIES SUPPORT

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Passive samplers deployment

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