

Science-policy interface in support of EU water policies: proposal for a dedicated activity under the CIS process

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The implementation of the Water Framework Directive is based on milestones which are relying on the scientific evidence-base, technical knowledge, practical experiences and available tools (good ecological status definition, economic analysis, climate change impacts, effects of priority substances etc.). At the present stage, supply and demand of research do not meet correctly and this leads to an insufficient uptake of R&D results by policy makers / management authorities and delay the implementation of the WFD. To overcome these difficulties, it is proposed to create a dedicated science-policy interface group. Its objectives would be to ensure that scientific knowledge and technical solutions are efficiently transferred to policy advisors, regulators and managers in order to feed the implementation timetable and further reviews of water policies (in particular the Water Framework Directive and its daughter directives, as well as other relevant directives such as e.g. the Floods Directive) and help research needs for policy making emerge by translating operational problems into research questions and alerting the adequate funding organisms and research partners. It is proposed that these activities would be integrated in the overall CIS process.

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