EUROPEAN COMMISSION / European Research Area / Environment

STEP-WISE

AND THE WISE-RTD WATER KNOWLEDGE PORTAL

ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES

AT A GLANCE

Title: Science, Technology and Policy interfacing using WISE-RTD

Instrument: FP7, Funding Scheme
FP7-ENV-2010, Coordination Action

Total Cost: 1.005.520 €

EC Contribution: 899.947 €

Start Date: 1/1/2011

Duration: 24 months

Consortium: 7 partners from 5 countries

Project Coordinator: Guido Vaes, Hydroscan (BE)

Project Web Site: www.spi-water.eu\step-wise

Key Words: Environmental S&T, Water sector, Communication & Dissemination, ICT, Knowledge Dissemination, e-Learning, Stakeholder Networks

step-wise

SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

THE CHALLENGE

A research-practice gap exists because researchers, policymakers, industry and service providers differ in goals and priorities. To start building a shared culture that would enable bridging the gap and allow knowledge sharing, we must explore and expand the multiple viewpoints of researchers, policy makers and service providers.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The aim of STEP-WISE is to promote and increase the use of FP environmental RTD results in the water sector of environmental technologies by diverse stakeholders: policy, scientists and industry.

METHODOLOGY

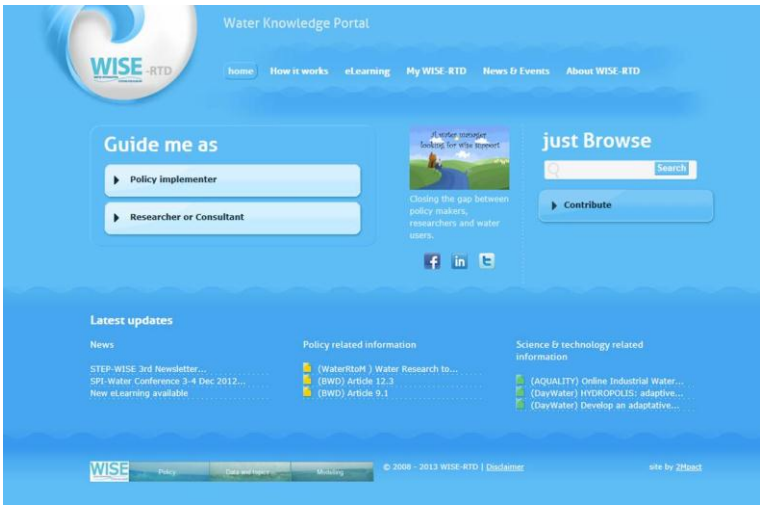
Enlargement of the WISE-RTD Water Knowledge Portal to include in addition to the Water Framework Directive nine more EC water-policy Directives. WISE-RTD's intelligent keyword linking and algorithms is enhanced to better define the science-policy interactions. In addition, the WISE-RTD structure is expanded to include environmental technologies focusing on water. Environmental water research projects and their results with high EU added value are identified (FP, LIFE and INTERREG) and selected using predefined criteria. By uploading these projects/RTD results to WISE-RTD, the information automatically becomes linked to the diverse sets of policy instruments (i.e. Directives).
The policy and science related contents of WISE-RTD and the two-way gap analyses form the basis for dissemination using different user-friendly media. Innovative dissemination tools and activities targeted different audiences/stakeholders at national and international levels including policy makers, researchers and industries.

www.wise-rtd.info

Environmental technologies

RESULTS

The upgraded WISE-RTD Water Knowledge Portal has two expanded and enhanced user entries, one for the policy makers/implementers and one for the researchers/consultants. The user entry for policy includes 10 EC water related Directives on an implementation timeline and the US Clean Water Act. The timeline guides the implementers to implementation tasks, which lead one further to related information on policies, research projects, experiences, guidances, tools & technologies. In this way WISE-RTD enables bridging the Science-Policy-Industry gap.



The WISE-RTD Water Knowledge Portal is updated and expanded in content, leading to all EC water related policy articles, almost 1000 research projects, more than 1400 experiences, 1200 guidances and 200 tools & technologies. The input system is improved for free, easy and guided input of new items by any user.

A highly interactive self-learning e-learning programme has been created not only to show how to use the WISE-RTD Water Knowledge Portal to find relevant information, but also to create an experience in understanding the need for Science-Policy-Industry Interfacing in order to achieve an integrated water management. The e-learning guides the learner through a water crisis, where the acute issue is addressed by answering questions of three advisors (policy-maker, researcher and industry consultant). The learner must solve the crisis by finding answers in WISE-RTD to satisfy each advisor's viewpoint.

The operationally upgraded WISE-RTD Web Portal is used to evaluate whether policy questions have been answered by the RTD outcome (top down, scientific support to policy), and whether needs from identified stakeholders, e.g. from the environmental water technologies sector, are covered by policy issues (bottom-up). Merging of these two approaches forms the gap-analysis and recommendations towards a better uptake of FP environmental RTD results with tangible impact on economic growth and social welfare. These recommendations are merged with the outcomes of the two other SPI-Water cluster projects in a Roadmap for uptake of EU water research in policy and industry.

HydroScan Integrated Water Management

WISE-RTD association

KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT LEUVEN

XPRO CONSULTING

Hydro International

PROJECT PARTNERS	
Organisation	**Country**
HydroScan	BE
Mermayde	NL
WISE-RTD Association	BE
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven	BE
XPRO Consulting	CY
Quality Consult	IT
Hydro International	UK

SPI-Water Cluster
Science-Policy Interfacing in Water Management

Environmental technologies