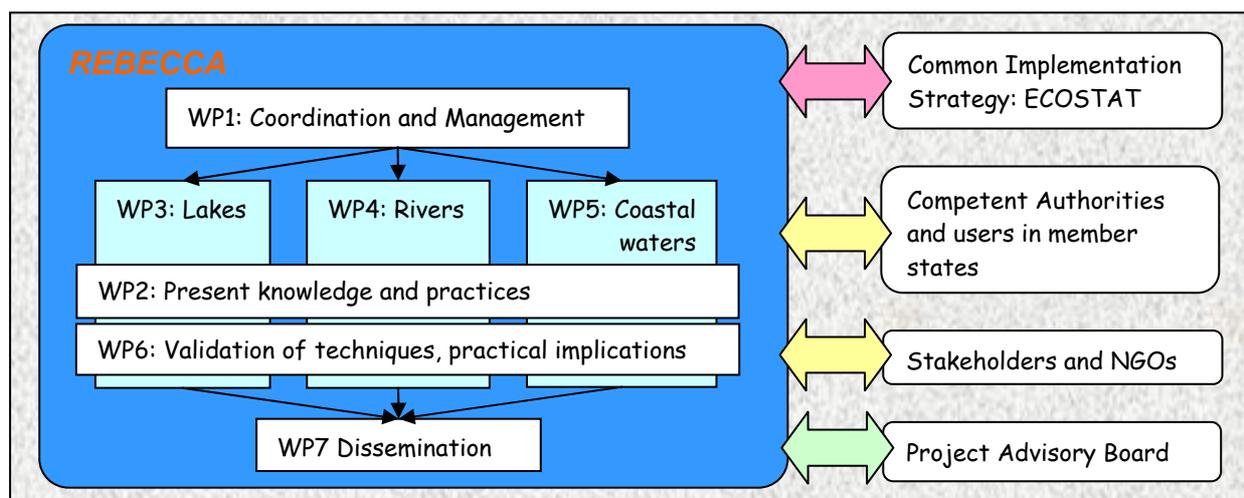


Relationships between ecological and chemical status of surface waters - REBECCA

Overview

The objective of REBECCA is to provide underpinning for one of the key scientific principles on which the Water Framework Directive (WFD) is based, i.e. that relationships between the biological state and physical and chemical properties of surface waters are sufficiently well understood to enable the management of catchments and surface waters to achieve ecological objectives (see footnote*).

Activity within REBECCA is organized in seven work packages (WPs) as shown in the figure below.



The leaders of the WPs form a project board which supports the coordinator in managing the activities of the nineteen partners that contribute to the project. The project results should be directly applicable to all of the member states of the European Union. In addition they will support activity with the European Commission's WFD Common Implementation Strategy working group on Ecological Status (ECOSTAT). To ensure this connection with WFD implementation, both nationally and across Europe, REBECCA has a project advisory board whose members are listed in the following table.

Member	Affiliation	E-mail
Joachim D'Eugenio	EU, DG Environment	joachim.d'eugenio@cec.eu.int
Mogens Gadeberg	EU, DG Research	mogens.gadeberg@cec.eu.int
Ivan Karottki	ECOSTAT/Danish Forest and Nature Agency	ibk@sns.dk
Roger Owen	ECOSTAT/Scottish Environment Protection Agency	roger.owen@sepa.org.uk
Ursula Schmedtje	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River	ursula.schmedtje@unvienna.org
Stéphane Stroffek	ECOSTAT/Agence de l'Eau Rhône-Méditerranée et Corse	stephane.stroffek@eaurmc.fr

Literature review

An essential first stage of REBECCA is to review the current knowledge of causes of ecological impacts. This state of the art review is part of WP2 led by Anna-Stiina Heiskanen of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre based at Ispra, Italy. The review will:

- summarize existing knowledge on relationships between pressures, chemical status and the ecological status in fresh water and marine water bodies,
- collate information on current and promising new methods and tools to monitor and classify chemical and ecological status of water bodies in order to support the needs of the WFD implementation requirements, and

* The terms *ecological status* and *chemical status* have specific definitions within the WFD. Chemical status refers to specific pollutants (e.g. priority substances) for which environmental quality standards must be set. Ecological status is based on biological elements, and supported by chemical and physico-chemical elements, as well as hydro-morphological elements. In strict WFD terminology, REBECCA will investigate the relationships between the biological elements and the supporting elements within the definition of ecological status. However, it is recognised within REBECCA that these relationships cannot be considered in isolation of the effects of toxic substances.

- review, and identify information gaps in knowledge on relations between pressures, chemical and ecological status, with regards of the requirements of the WFD.

This important early REBECCA deliverable will be completed shortly.

Data collation

Moving forward from the existing state-of-the-art requires collation of existing data sets, to enable integrated and novel forms of analysis. Data questionnaires have been widely distributed to organizations that monitor water as part of regulatory activity or for research purposes. If anyone is aware of additional data sets please contact: Tuomo Saloranta (lakes - tuomo.saloranta@niva.no); Søren Larsen (rivers - sel@dmu.dk); or Hanne Kaas (coastal waters - hka@dhi.dk).

REBECCA meetings

A programme of meetings facilitates the REBECCA research activity. These are mainly closed project meetings but indicate key dates and the pace of activity within the project.

Date	Subject	Contact
2004		
28-30 April	Rivers (WP4)	Jens Møller Anderson (jea@dmu.dk)
5 May	Project Board #2	Seppo Rekolainen (seppo.rekolainen@ymparisto.fi)
10-14 May	Lakes (WP3)	Anne Lyche Solheim (anne.lyche@niva.no)
28-30 June	Bayesian networks (WP3)	Anne Lyche Solheim (anne.lyche@niva.no)
7-8 July	ECOSTAT	Anna-Stiina Heiskanen (anna-stiina.heiskanen@jrc.it)
3 September	Toolbox development (WP7)	David Boorman (dbb@ceh.ac.uk)
September	Coastal waters (WP6)	Hanne Kaas (hka@dhi.dk)
September	Toxicity (all surface water types)	Harm Duel (harm.duel@wldelft.nl)
22 September	Validation (WP6)	Harm Duel (harm.duel@wldelft.nl)
23 September	Project Board #3	Seppo Rekolainen (seppo.rekolainen@ymparisto.fi)
24 September	Advisory Board #2	Seppo Rekolainen (seppo.rekolainen@ymparisto.fi)
4-8 October	ECOSTAT	Anna-Stiina Heiskanen (anna-stiina.heiskanen@jrc.it)
18-24 October	Rivers (WP4)	Jens Møller Anderson (jea@dmu.dk) Amelie Deflandre (amed@ceh.ac.uk)
25-28 October	Lakes	Anne Lyche Solheim (anne.lyche@niva.no) Laurence Carvalho (laca@ceh.ac.uk)
2005		
17-20 January	REBECCA meeting, including "end-user" workshop.	Anna-Stiina Heiskanen (anna-stiina.heiskanen@jrc.it) David Boorman (dbb@ceh.ac.uk)
20 January	Advisory Board #3	Seppo Rekolainen (seppo.rekolainen@ymparisto.fi)
21 January	Project Board #4	Seppo Rekolainen (seppo.rekolainen@ymparisto.fi)
2006		
	REBECCA meeting, including final presentation of outputs.	Seppo Rekolainen (seppo.rekolainen@ymparisto.fi) David Boorman (dbb@ceh.ac.uk)

Nb. Some meeting dates are provisional.

REBECCA web site

Further information about REBECCA is available through the project web-site at

<http://www.environment.fi/syke/rebecca>.

REBECCA newsletter

To be placed on the mailing list for further news about the REBECCA project send an e-mail to dbb@ceh.ac.uk with the subject 'REBECCA mail list'.

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