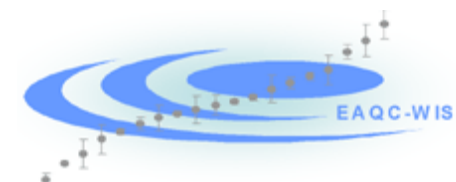


# The EAQC-WISE blueprint: Recommendations for a quality control system for chemical monitoring under the WFD



SIXTH FRAMEWORK  
PROGRAMME

A. Held

IRMM - Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements

Geel - Belgium

**Aim of the project:**

**Outline of a quality control system for chemical monitoring under the WFD**

**Current status:**

**Draft recommendations for the system**

**=> to be discussed!**

- **Effective**
- **Sustainable**
- **Clear responsibilities**
- **Secure funding**
- **Flexible**
- **Simple**

- **Quality assurance and quality control tools**
  - Proficiency testing
  - Reference Materials
  - Validated Methods
- **Research and standardisation**
  - Research
  - Standardisation
- **Communication of QA/QC information**
- **Training**
- **Accreditation**

- **Top-down approach:**
  - Centrally organised and funded
  - Rigid, not open to market forces
  - Feasibility?
- **Bottom-up approach:**
  - Decentralised, also for funding
  - Incorporation of existing structures
  - Local issues dealt with at local level
  - Merges best practice from different areas
  - Complex structure at EU level?
- **Self-organisation:**
  - No superimposed structure
  - Low cost
  - Low driving force
  - Effectiveness?

## Problem:

**Still many tools missing (PTs, (C)RMs, validated methods)**

**Lists of missing tools available ([www.eaqc-wise.net](http://www.eaqc-wise.net))**

- **Maintain lists**
- **Mechanism to fill gaps and initiate actions**

## Provision of currently missing PTs:

- ✓ **Market driven (if all monitoring labs are required to participate to PTs)**
- ✓ **Or: centrally organised by one appointed PT-provider (e.g. for ‘difficult’ parameters)**

**Harmonised evaluation and scoring of PTs;  
Local availability of PTs (e.g. support in local language):**

- ✓ **Through self-organisation and co-operation of PT-providers**

## Provision of missing RMs requires:

- **Regular assessment of needs through enquiries**
- **Evaluation and prioritization against set criteria**
- **Communication of identified needs to relevant stakeholders (RM producers, but also funding bodies)**
- **Maintenance of a list of recommended RMs (set of criteria for appropriateness)**
- **Link to research**

## Actors / stakeholders:

- **Expert groups (enquiries, prioritization, communication, maintenance of lists of recommended RMs)**
- **RM producer (accredited, produce RMs according to requirements)**
- **Funding bodies (add. funding for difficult issues)**

**List of validated / standardised methods needs to be publicly available, regularly updated  
Via CMA or EU expert group**

**Method development at EU level (CEN) with support of MS**

**Method validation according to international standards and guidelines, meeting performance criteria of new Directive**

- **Regular enquiries on existing methods**
- **Evaluation and gap analysis (appropriateness, fitness-for-purpose)**
- **Prioritization (performance criteria, cost-effectiveness, emerging issues, link to standardisation)**
- **Communication to regulator, stakeholders and actors**

## Stakeholders:

- **International marine/riverine commissions (existing structures for QA/QC)**
- **Network of monitoring labs (dissemination of information and guidance; indication of research needs)**

## Actors:

- **Mandated expert groups und WFD CIS, such as e.g. CMA**

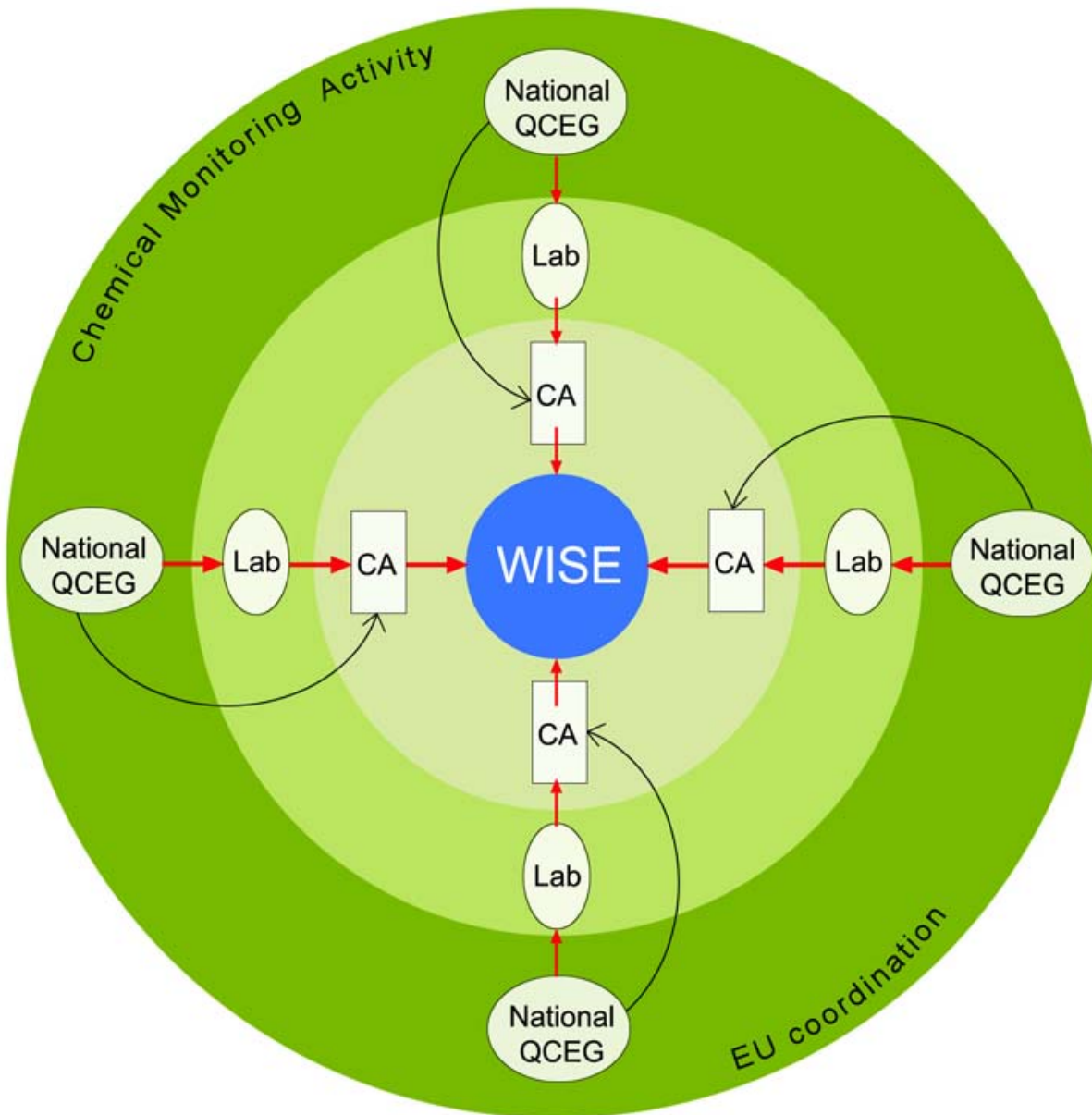
- **Task analysis**
- **Investigation/enquiry on existing tools for the task**
- **Evaluation and gap analysis**
- **Definition of task (fundamental/pre-/co-normative research, improvement or development of standards)**
- **Prioritisation**
- **Initiation and execution of new work item (already institutionalised)**
- **Implementation of new standard**

## Actors:

- **European expert groups: collect needs, evaluate, define task**
- **Regulator (EC): prioritise, mandate to CEN, implements new standard in regulatory framework**
- **CEN: initiation and execution of new work items**

## Expert groups

- **Formulate requirements on behalf of CAs**
- **Coordinate laboratory QC activity to meet requirements**
- **Provide guidance on sampling and methodology**
- **Coordinate improvement plans**
- **Collect and summarises key QC measures**
- **Assess demonstration of data quality**
- **Interpret QC activity for CAs**
- **Link with other expert groups via EU coordination to harmonise overall approach**



## Training providers

- **inform labs, accreditation bodies and CA on availability of products for WFD**
- **Collaborate to ensure geographic and linguistic coverage (informal cooperation)**

## Accreditation bodies

- **Can assess effectiveness of training during audits at labs**
- **Establish a positive list of suitable training products (or via EU expert group)**

- **Obligatory accreditation for monitoring labs and PT providers (via CA or national legislation)**
- **Communication of problems via expert groups**
- **High quality of technical assessors in each country, common quality criteria, knowledge transfer between assessors**

## Harmonisation of assessment practice across EU

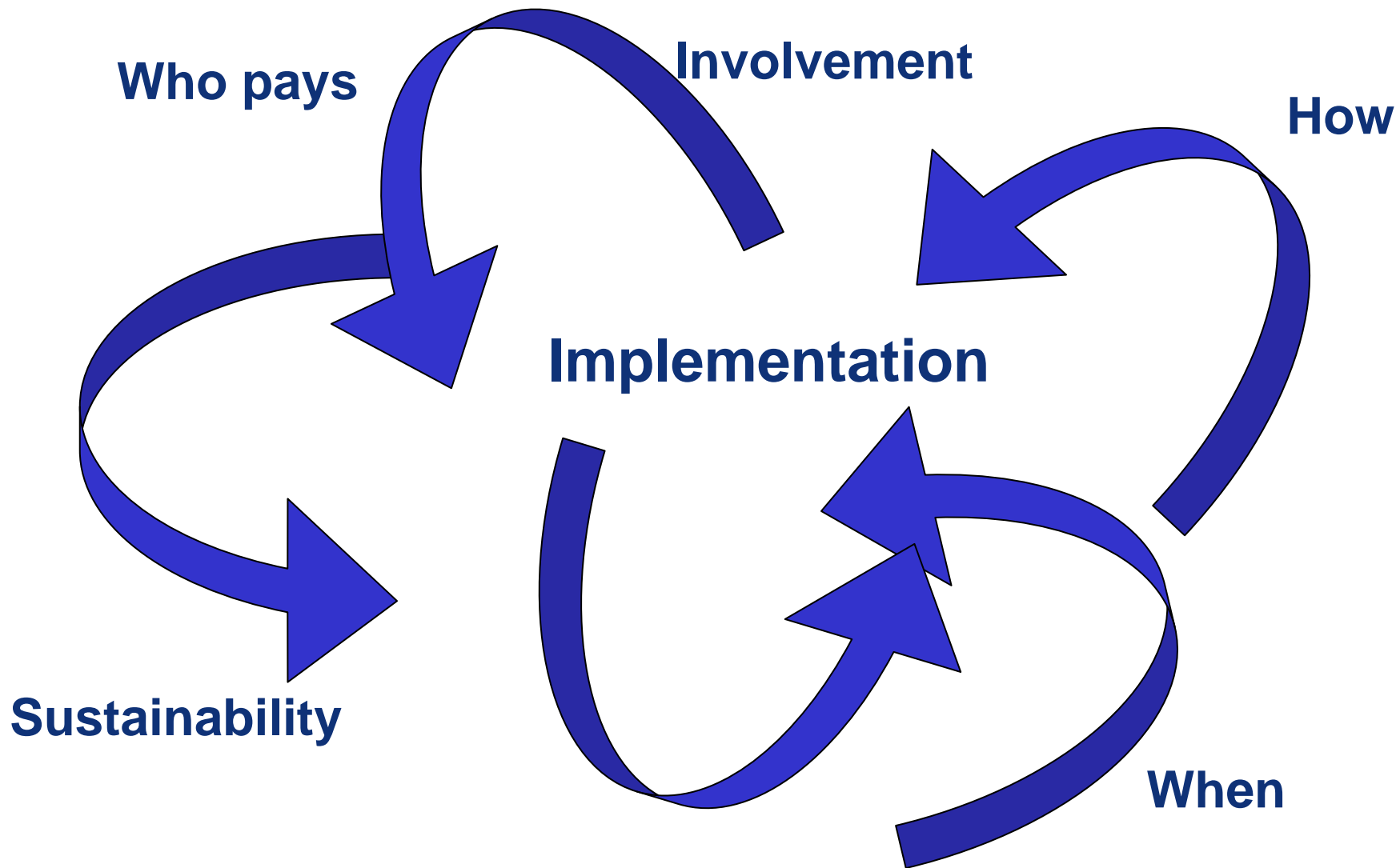
- **What is a successful participation to a PT scheme?**
- **Adequate PT schemes**
- **Frequency of participation**
- **Scope of accreditation**
- **Sanctions**

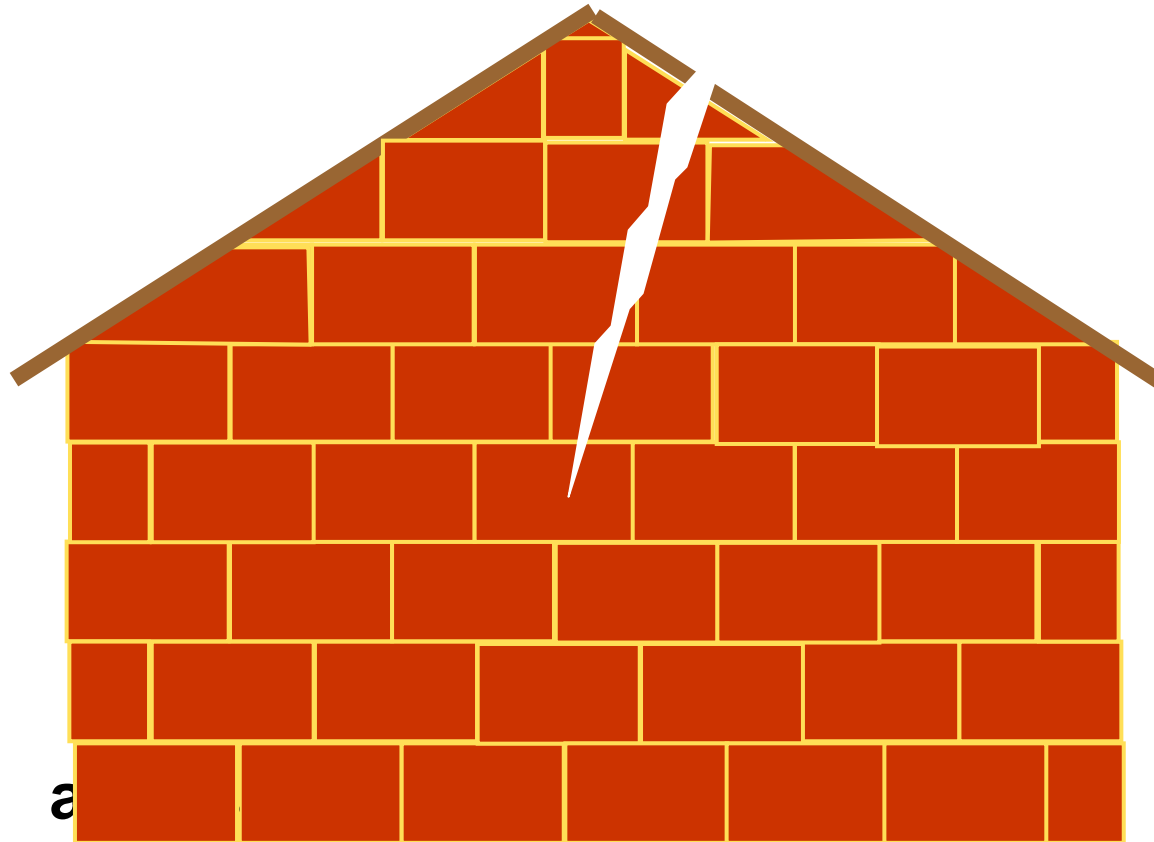
## National expert groups:

- **Can be regional**
- **Advises the CA on QA/QC issues (technical specifications for monitoring labs, reporting etc.)**
- **Solves local QA/QC issues**
- **Communicates best practice to EU expert group**
- **Forwards major QA/QC issues to EU expert groups**

## EU expert group

- **Mandated (e.g. within CMA, CIS)**
- **Delegates from national expert groups**
- **Topic oriented subgroups**
- **Deals with issues with EU dimension**
- **Exchange of best practice**
- **Maintain lists of missing and recommended QA/QC tools**
- **Evaluation and prioritisation of research and standardisation needs**
- **Link with Commission services, CEN, stakeholders**





**Do recommendations cover all relevant aspects?  
Complete system?**

**Are all stakeholders / actors considered?**

**Are existing structures sufficiently integrated?**

**Is the approach appropriate?**

**Will the system be efficient?**

**Are responsibilities clear?**