



## Workshop European Framework Directive

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The Water Framework Directive was mentioned several times during the presentations at the conference. It was also topic of a workshop, which was visited by a significant group of people. The workshop was introduced by dr. D.T. van der Molen, national coordinator on ecological objectives and assessment as part of the national implementation of the WFD in the Netherlands. He made the following statement and asked all participants to vote: yes or no: 'The Water Framework Directive will bring substantial improvement to the ecosystem'. Almost all ecologists (present at the conference were mainly scientists and policy makers with a scientific background) agreed with the statement. Only a few local water authorities were more sceptical. This resulted in a lively discussion.

Most participants agreed upon the value of a common language introduced by the WFD for conferences like Shallow Lakes. It is a frame for ecosystem assessment and ecosystem improvement and brings together technical/scientific and social economic aspects. What do we want to achieve, which measures are necessary and what is affordable in terms of cost and public support? When the balance is made, participants expect better prospects for ecological restoration of modified aquatic ecosystems.

Local water authorities, responsible for the management of the actual water systems, tend to be more critical. The implementation of WFD brings them water bodies, types, references, MEP/GEP, operational monitoring, while current practice worked well in many cases. It was discussed whether the WFD instruments can cope with the local scale, including dynamics and gradients. On the other hand, investments may be dictated by the prescribed methodology. It is a challenge to bring together the language and methodology of the WFD and the problems related to actual water management on a local scale. Therefore, meetings like Shallow Lakes, where both conceptual specialisms and detailed field knowledge meet, are highly recommended.