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**Water Framework Directive –  
Dutch experiences**



## Organisation in the Netherlands

- Three ministries involved, 12 Provinces, Union of waterboards, Communities
- Several research institutes involved
- Surface water and groundwater treated separately before the introduction of the WFD



## Lessons learnt: organisation

- Give one (!) organisation main responsibility
- Decide who is responsible for what (and communicate it!)
- Organize communication between organisations
  - ✓ national/ regional
  - ✓ research/ policy makers
- Involve stakeholders (agriculture, NGO's, drinking water sector)
- Give people time to elaborate on it
- Start simple; you can always make it more complicated later



## Lessons learnt: characterisation (1)

- Combine surface water and groundwater as much as possible:
  - ✓ delineation
  - ✓ pressure and impact analysis
  - ✓ influence of groundwater on surface water and terrestrial ecosystems (Annex II and V, definition of good groundwater status)
- Not too many water bodies
  - ✓ We in the NL have far too many surface water bodies (about 1000)
- You will always have variation within a water body



## Lessons learnt: characterisation (2)

- For each water body you must:
  - ✓ Make impact and risk assessment
  - ✓ Dispose of at least one monitoring point
  - ✓ Determine background values
  - ✓ Determine threshold values
  - ✓ Determine upward trends
  - ✓ Make “Program of measurement”
  - ✓ Take measures to reach good groundwater status
  - ✓ Determine status
  
- Not only scientific reasons, also administrative (Texel)



Kaart: Ligging grondwaterlichamen

Legenda

- |                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Grondwaterlichamen</b> | <b>Achtergrond</b> |
| duin                      | bebouwing          |
| wadden                    | water              |
| kreekgebieden             | stroomgebieden     |
| zand met deklaag          |                    |
| (dek)zand                 |                    |
| krijt                     |                    |
| zout                      |                    |
| diep grondwater           |                    |





## Lessons learnt: characterisation (3)

- Learn from other countries (there are almost 30 examples in Brussels in 2008)
- Do not expect feedback from Brussels
- Brussels will give a red smiley if a country is too late
- Brussels will give a green smiley if a country is in time (quality of reports *not* deciding)
- Visit international meetings (cost/ benefit)
- NB EC April meeting in Ljubljana



## Lessons learnt: process

- Dare to take decisions for your own country (no one else can do that better)
- Take your responsibility (especially when you know that no one else will)
- If you involve third parties, make sure that they do what you want