

## Thematic Plenary I: INSPIRE for Environment

*Setting the scene: Reporting and Dissemination of Urban Waste Water Information\**

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In 2012, the “SIIF” concept (**Structured Implementation and Information Framework**), was introduced for the first time in a communication called “[Improving the delivery of benefits from EU environment measures](#)”. To demonstrate the added value of this concept before generalizing its application to all Directives, this communication suggested to apply it to the [Directive 91/271/EEC of 21 May 1991](#) concerning **urban waste-water treatment**.

Since 2012, the European Commission carries out a pilot program for the implementation of the “SIIF” concept to the Urban Waste-Water Treatment (UWWT) Directive, so as to speed up the availability of information for decision makers and for the general public, through the creation of a UWWT SIIF, Shared Information and Implementation Framework for sanitation.

- **What purpose ?**

**The speed up of availability of data and the improvement of its management** by using interoperability are at the heart of the project, giving priority to the access and to a simple viewing of national data on sanitation. This way, SIIF contributes to improve the implementation of the UWWT Directive and to reduce the administrative burden, by automating and making easier this viewing and access. By organising the information along the services required by the [INSPIRE Directive 2007/2/CE](#) it allows meet efficiently the requirements of this Directive and [Directive 2003/4/CE](#) on public access to environmental information.

- **What achievement ?**

In 2014-2015, four Member States (Cyprus, Lithuania, Slovenia, and Ireland) participated to the development of a national UWWTD SIIF, in the form of a support to the establishment of a **national website dedicated to dissemination of data on waste water**. Then, in 2015, three other Member States joined the initiative (Croatia, Poland, and Romania). During this period, a first investigation of the INSPIRE requirements showed the needed adjustments to the data collection model are limited, and that a joint and coordinated effort between Member States and the Commission is recommended.

The European Commission is working in close collaboration with the [European Environment Agency \(EEA\)](#) to improve the data organization and dissemination at European Union level ([Urban Waste Water Treatment maps](#)). The results of the pilot program concerning SIIF led to make available - for all Member States and interested partners – **an operational SIIF platform which enables to import formatted data, to visualize**

**data through maps, graphs and tables, to link them to other national data, to export them for other uses, and to calculate some useful tables for the reporting**

- **What is the role of IOWater ?**

On behalf of European Commission, IOWater in collaboration with [UBA](#), tested the concrete application of “SIIF” since 2013, by developing the UWWT SIIF.

In order to permit an application in any European country, IOWater developed a **generic site, using open source technologies** (based on software free of charge and with source code accessible), enabling a country to set it up without any problem on its own servers. Once set up, the country can thus download the final validated dataset which is reported each 2 years to the European Commission. Besides, the country can launch calculations, view results and make them accessible to any audience.

The system established makes it possible **to create easily its own thematic portal on sanitation and to adjust it to one’s own needs**, and benefit at the same time from a common predefined structure.

The generic site contains automatic compliance calculations, graphic viewing, individual sheets for each agglomerations, waste water treatment plants, discharge points, receiving areas, a facilitated access to data and various print and export functions.

- **Which results ?**

The developed system allows presenting homogeneously the sanitation situation of a country: in March 2016, **it is available for 7 countries involved in the project**, and the compiled source code is available for any country willing to implement on its own server. Based on a user-friendly interface including maps and graphs, it enables access to the latest information in a format compliant with standards set by Europe.

The way the system is organized enables further developments and evolutions just like an update of other existing sites.

### **further information :**

- To learn more about [Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive \(UWWTD\)](#) [EN]
- To learn more about [Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive \(UWWTD\) - SIIF](#) [EN]
- On [the latest version of the UWWD SIIF](#) (Workshop November 2015) [EN]
- Ireland - [UWWTD SIIF Ireland : visit website](#) [EN]
- Cyprus - [UWWTD SIIF Cyprus : visit website](#) [EN]
- Lithuania - [UWWTD SIIF Lithuania : visit website](#) [EN]
- Slovenia - [UWWTD SIIF Slovenia : visit website](#) [EN]
- Croatia - [UWWTD SIIF Croatia : visit website](#) [EN]
- Romania - [UWWTD SIIF Romania : visit website](#) [EN]
- Poland - [UWWTD SIIF Poland : visit website](#) [EN]
- [Read the European Commission Report](#)
- **Which are the visible data ?** (Click on the pictures to learn more)





## **Benoît Fribourg-Blanc**

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### **Biography**

Benoit FRIBOURG-BLANC is graduate in agriculture with focus on environment and territorial management, with an additional education (mastere) on drinking water production and wastewater management. European project manager at OIEau, he has 17 years of experience as a task or project leader for contracts in assisting the European institution for the implementation of Directives. He was particularly active on projects involving data management and reporting to European institutions. Since three years he is involved in the development of the UWWTD SIIF concept. During this period he participated to the definition of the UWWTD SIIF concept document, to production of various assessments on country situation including as regards implementation of INSPIRE, and coordinated the team who developed the UWWTD SIIFplatform. He is also an active member of the European Topic Centre on Inland, Coastal and Marine waters for the European Environment Agency since January 2014 and before from 2000 to 2006, period during which he was in charge of emission inventory. Since 2012, he is trainer on water statistics for EUROSTAT. He was in charge in 2013-2016 of the development of the European knowledge platform on Natural Water Retention Measures (<http://www.nwrm.eu/>). Before, he has been involved seven years in the technical assistance to the European Commission on the definition of relevant priority substances under the Water Framework Directive. He led the development of the new information system, managed the data collection, the database (14.6 million geo localised individual chemical analyses with up to 150 information on each analysis) and the associated website (still active) and produced assessments on the datasets, and the minutes for many high level technical meetings. He developed various guidance documents for EUROSTAT, DG ENV or the European Environment Agency (EEA) to help EU-MS in their reporting, especially on waste water and emissions.