

Topics:

- » Introduction
- » Project Aims
- » River basins considered within AQUAREHAB
- » AQUAREHAB project structure
- » Kick-off meeting
- » First open end-users meeting

Announcements:

AQUAREHAB's first open end-users meeting, 18th November 2009, Mechelen (Belgium)

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AQUAREHAB

<http://aquarehab.vito.be>

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Introduction

AQUAREHAB is a EU financed large scale research project (FP7) that started May 1st 2009 with 19 project partners. The **AQUAREHAB** consortium will work together on the project for 56 months (2013).

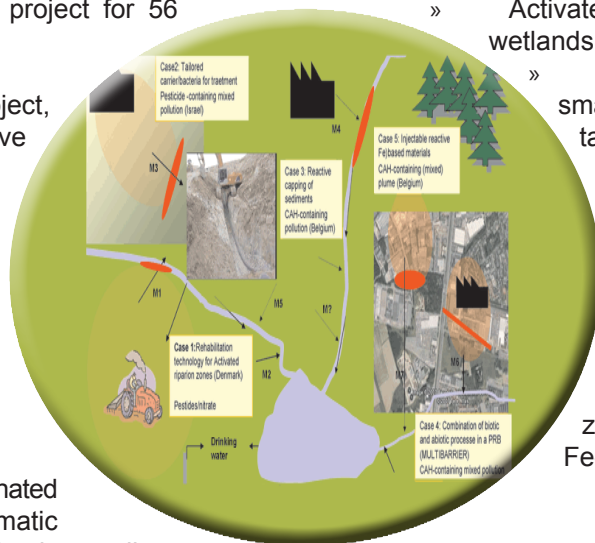
Within this project, different innovative rehabilitation technologies for soil, ground-water and surface water will be developed to cope with a number of priority contaminants (nitrates, pesticides, chlorinated compounds, aromatic compounds, mixed pollutions...) within heavily degraded water systems. Methods will be developed to determine the (long-term) impact of the innovative rehabilitation technologies on the reduction of the influx of these priority pollutants towards the receptor. A connection between the innovative technologies and river basin management will be worked out.

One of the major outcomes of the project will be a generic river basin management tool that integrates multiple measures with ecological and economic impact assessments of the whole water system.

Specific Project Aims:

1. Development of 5 innovative rehabilitation technologies to reduce pollutant fluxes influencing the quality status of a river basin:

- » Activated riparian zone/ wetlands
- » Open trench with smart biomass containing carriers
- » Capping of sediment & stimulated bio-barriers
- » Multifunctional permeable reactive barriers
- » Reactive zone with injectable Fe-based particles



2. Development of methods (feasibility tests), tools (numerical models) and guidelines

- » to design rehabilitation technology
- » to determine long-term impact on local fluxes of pollutants

3. Development of a collaborative management tool 'REACH-ER' to evaluate ecological and economical effects of different remedial actions on river basins

4. Development of an approach to link effects of rehabilitation technologies with the river basin management tool.

5. Dissemination of generic approaches

AQUAREHAB project structure

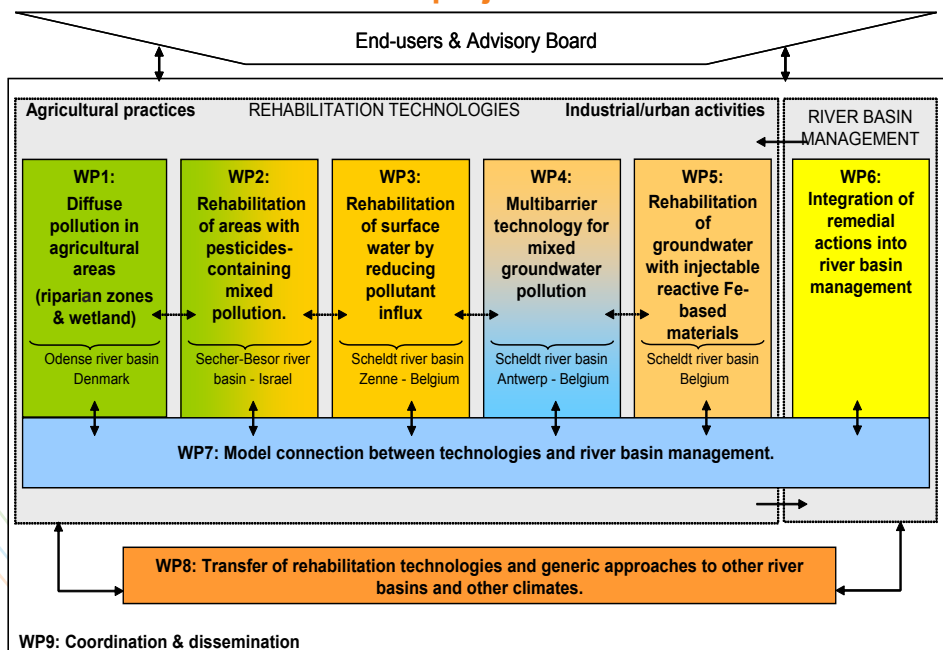
RIVER BASINS CONSIDERED

The following river basins will be studied:

1. Odense River basin (Denmark)
2. Secher-Besor basin (Israel)
3. Scheldt River basin (Belgium)
4. Additional river basins (WP8) – to be selected

AQUAREHAB Kick-Off Meeting

The AQUAREHAB project had its 3-day KO meeting at the Flemish Institute for Technological Research (VITO) between 3rd and 5th June 2009. The meeting was attended by representatives of 18 out of AQUAREHAB's 19 partners – in total 39 scientists were present. The KO meeting was an opportunity for all partners to meet each other at the start of the project. Discussions centred around the objectives and approach of the overall project and the individual work packages. Particular attention was given to defining specific actions for each partner for the next 6 to 12 months. Other issues such as how the work of the project would be disseminated and the involvement of end users were also discussed. The next AQUAREHAB General Meeting will be held at Delft (NL) in January 2010.



AQUAREHAB End-User Workshop

The first AQUAREHAB End-User Workshop will be held on 18th November, 2009 at the Public Waste Agency of Flanders (OVAM) in Mechelen, Belgium. The aim of the workshop is to present the AQUAREHAB Project to end-users from across Europe and receive feed-back about their needs, visions and ideas concerning the rehabilitation of degraded waters. This is the first in a series of workshops that will be organised across the EU during the coming 4 years. The programme is as follows:

- » Start at 13h30
- » Introduction to Aquarehab - Leen Bastiaens, VITO
- » Technologies in Aquarehab - Leen Bastiaens, Winnie Dejonghe, VITO
- » Decision support models to be used in Aquarehab - Piet Seuntjens, VITO
- » Coffee break
- » Soil remediation policy in a regional context – speaker to be confirmed, OVAM
- » Reduction programme on priority substances in the Scheldt River Basin - Bob Peeters, VMM
- » Discussion
- » End at 17h00
- » Reception

You can register for this End User Workshop using the following link:

www.vito.be/evenementen

