

Preface

The enduring changes in the aquatic environment and the increasing input of contaminants require research on novel conceptual and methodological approaches in relating chemical pollution and ecological alterations in ecosystems. Improving environmental risk assessment based on the analysis of priority pollutants or other pre-selected contaminants, and extending the risk evaluation to new pollutants is essential for a better understanding of the causes of ecological quality loss and the cause-effect relationships of pollution.

The Marie Curie Research Training Network KEYBIOEFFECTS covers a wide range of scientific disciplines and aims to evaluate the effects of pollution caused by emerging and priority pollutants. KEYBIOEFFECT provides tools to overcome some gaps in environmental monitoring: the identification of key toxicants and transformation products, the quantification of the influence of environmental conditions on toxicant bioavailability, the assessment of these effects to the organisms, populations, communities and ecosystems, as well as the testing under experimental conditions, and modelling of toxicant effects on biota, aimed to provide guidelines for water quality assessment.

A central concern of this workshop is to bring together scientific experts of various fields and representatives of the administration and water agencies with the intention to exchange expertises from different perspectives aimed to melioration of European rivers' quality, according to the provisions of the Water Framework Directive.

The workshop "Emerging and Priority Pollutants: Bringing science into River Basin Management Plans" has been organized by the University of Girona, the Catalan Water Agency, United Research Services (Barcelona, Spain) and the Catalan Institute for Water Research.

We hope that the discussions will contribute to link scientific knowledge and environmental management strategies, enabling future strategies to assess and manage environmental issues in European river systems.

The Scientific Committee