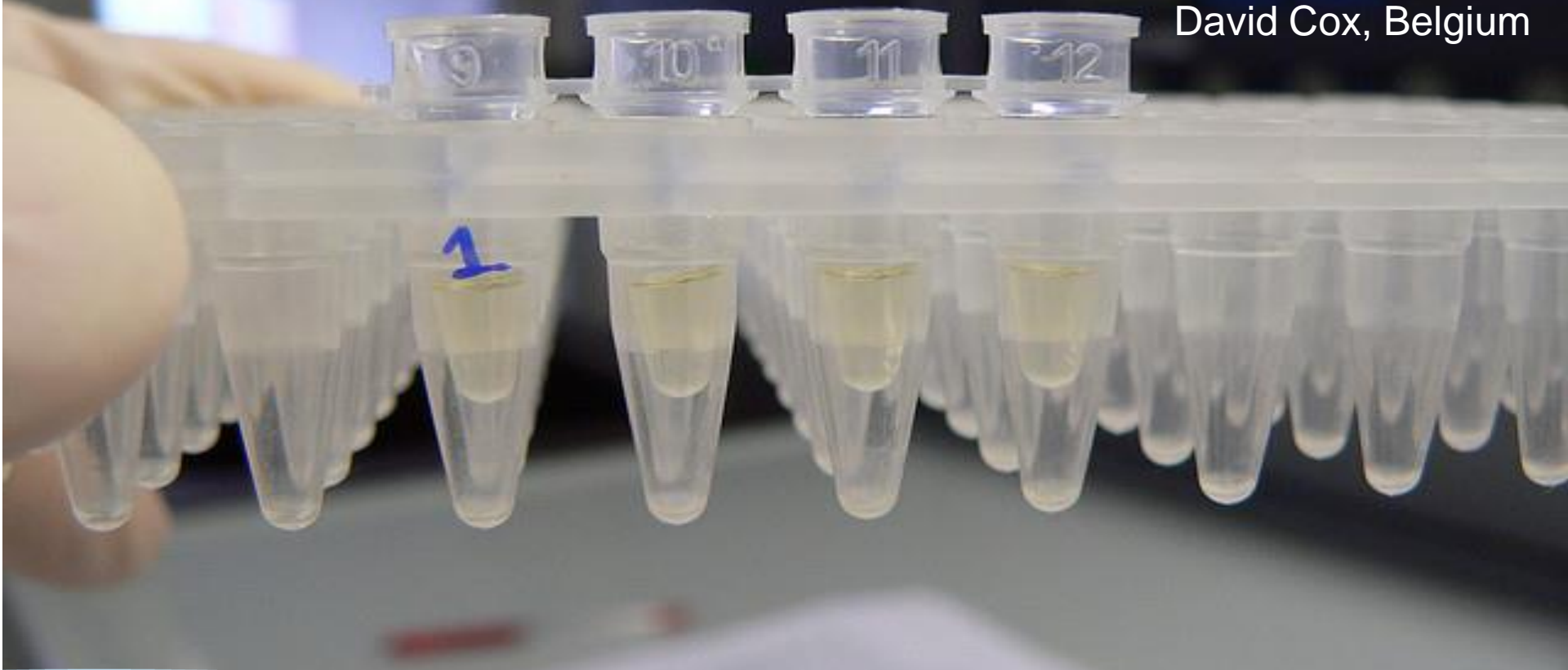


Intercalibration for the EU Water Framework Directive

David Cox, Belgium



Joint funding for the scientific intercalibration exercise of the WFD coastal and transitional waters in the North-East Atlantic

Background

AIM OF
INTERCALIBRATION
(obligation of the European
Water Framework Directive
(WFD) 2000):

**Scientifically sound and
comparable thresholds
for environmental quality
in all Member States!**

Deterioration

No or minimal



Slight



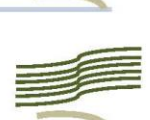
Moderate



Major



Severe



Ecological status

HIGH

GOOD

MODERATE

POOR

BAD

Non-deterioration

RESTAURATION

Adapted from J. Rodriguez-Romero – P. Pollard

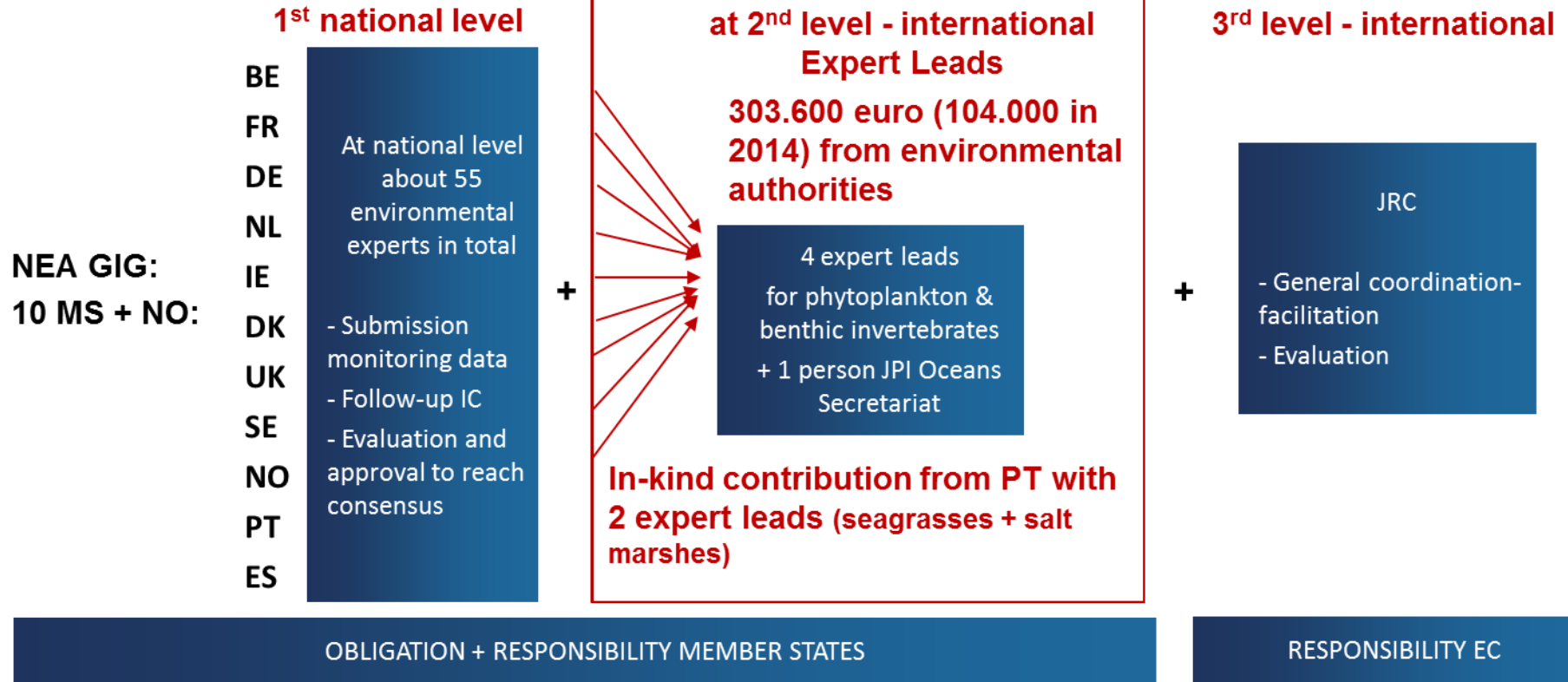
Added value & impact

The JPI Oceans pilot action will add value as it aims to:

- solve the last remaining issues in a **more cost-efficient** way,
 - finding **experienced scientific expert leads** to perform required analyses for phytoplankton and benthic invertebrate fauna,
 - reducing fragmentation of calculation efforts,
 - increasing experience with joint data compilation and analysis;
- test a **mechanism for joint funding** from environmental authorities of 9 member countries (BE, DE, DK, FR, IE, NL, NO, SE, UK), surpassing the traditional model of joint calls, to obtain the performance improvements;
- enable a long-term dialogue between environmental authorities and the scientific community of Member States to solve remaining scientific challenges jointly.

Added value & impact

Potential solution increased cost-efficiency for 2014 - 2016



Activities & new tools - Successes

- Memorandum of Understanding signed by all participating member countries in a very short time.
- Real common funding pot created, governed by 1 research funding body (BELSPO, Scientific and Technical Information Service).
- A first alignment of timing for budget availability obtained by 1 country for 20% of the total budget for 2014, for which an approval of shifting availability in time was needed.
- 4 expert leads contracted after a specifically designed questionnaire selection process.
- Joint financing and data compilation enabled an already long-time existing complex problem to be close to a satisfactory and scientifically sound solution after in-depth exchange with environmental authorities.
- Very cost efficient for countries with total cost of about 30.000 euro per exercise, financially shared by all!

Activities & new tools - Difficulties

- Correct estimation of necessary man-months with feedback loop with environmental authorities.
- Different VAT certificate requirements among countries for budgets to cross boundaries.
- Time consuming training of expert leads, checks and corrections for correct translation to marine policy consequences (legally adopted environmental quality thresholds).
- Lack of sufficient calculation capacity to work with huge dataset.
- Variability of pressure data.

Outcome - Phytoplankton coastal waters

- **New milestone achieved** with chlorophyll a and nutrient data from all North-East Atlantic member countries analysed together (common fitting model obtained).
- Comparability analysis performed between legal boundaries of countries on the basis of the model that indicated how regions and countries differ from each-other.
- Next steps: Continuation for other parameters of phytoplankton?

Outcome - Benthic invertebrates coastal waters

- Regional differences in behaviour of different benthic invertebrate assessment methods of 9 countries verified for the comparison of their legal boundaries.
- The comparability analysis with all countries showed that member countries have developed comparable methods with only few adjustments suggested.

Outcome - Benthic invertebrates transitional waters

- Hugely variable data difficult to analyse, mainly due to variability of pressure data.
- Calculation capacity not always sufficient to work efficiently with huge dataset.
- Next steps: continuation to find practical solution with extra analytical and training effort needed.