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Development of fish community databases in Flanders (V.I.S.) and Europe (FIDES)

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In Flanders a preliminary database on fish data was developed in 1993. In 2001 a new project started as part of the Milieu Management Informatie Systeem. This Flemish project MMIS intends to make all environmental information better accessible, to attune the environmental information and to support decision making more efficiently. The V.I.S. database (Fish Information System) is a part of this huge project and focuses on collecting and linking all existing data about fish, fish distribution, pollution in fishes, Index of Biotic Integrity, restocking, fish habitats, ... in Flanders. All the data will be organised in a database and made accessible through the Internet.

At present the links between different projects from different institutes are defined. By the end of 2003 the database (Oracle) should be functional.

The National Board of Fisheries in Sweden designed a database (Access 2000) to combine information from 12 different countries collaborating in a European project (FAME). The databank was designed according to the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and taking into consideration other international projects. National data were selected and compiled following a strict protocol. In total 7 files are linked with each other. The database contains information on reporter, site, fish, method, and anthropogenic impact. The data is stored on an SQL server with Internet access for FAME project members by December 2002. The purpose of the database is to enable the development, evaluation and implementation of a standardised fish-based method for the ecological status of European rivers.