# Reporting at MS level: Competent Authorities, RBDs and Sub-units (schema RBDSUCA)

## Introduction

The WFD defines the River Basin District (RBD) as ‘the area of land and sea, made up of one or more neighbouring river basins together with their associated groundwaters and coastal waters’. ‘A ‘river basin’ means the area of land from which all surface run-off flows through a sequence of streams, rivers and, possibly, lakes into the sea at a single river mouth, estuary or delta.’ One river basin, including all its tributaries, must not be divided between different RBDs. One RBD may, however, include several (sometimes smaller) river basins, and shall also include associated coastal waters and groundwaters (e.g. Bothnian Bay (SE) or Adour-Garonne (FR)).

The RBD is the main unit for management of river basins as specified in Article 3(1) for which Competent Authorities (in both national and international RBDs) need to be identified that will manage the administrative arrangements and apply the rules of the Directive (Article 3(2) and Article 3(3)) within the RBD. Through Article 3(4) and Article 3(5) there is a requirement to co-ordinate the actions (nationally and internationally) to achieve the Environmental Objectives established by the Directive (Article 4) through the planned PoMs.

This designation of RBDs is, therefore, one of the core aspects of the integrated river basin management approach setting out the geographical extent for the co-ordination of water resources. The principle of holistic water management at the catchment level, from source to sea and based on surface waters and associated groundwaters, rather than on administrative boundaries, is reflected in the requirement for RBD designation.

The WFD requires the designation of Competent Authorities (Article 3, Annex I) within each RBD including for the portion of any international RBD lying within their territory. Member States notified the European Commission of their Competent Authorities in 2004. In addition to name and geographical coverage, information was also provided on the legal and administrative responsibilities of each Competent Authority and of its role within each RBD. Where the Competent Authority acts as a co-ordinating body for other Competent Authorities, a list is required of these bodies together with a summary of the institutional relationships established to ensure co-ordination. The RBMPs should also include a list of Competent Authorities in accordance with Annex I (Annex VII.10).

### How will the European Commission and the EEA use the information reported?

The European Commission will use the information reported by Member States to ensure that appropriate governance arrangements are in place to enable the proper implementation of the WFD. The information will also be used to identify the relevant Competent Authorities involved in the implementation of the WFD, should further information be required. Statistics and information will be provided to the European Parliament at EU level. Information will be provided to the public through WISE.

## Products from reporting

| **Nb** | **Name of product** | **Type of product** | **Scale of information\*** | **Detailed information displayed** | **Source of detailed information and aggregation rule** | **Used in 2012 reports?\*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | **Basic information on RBDs and Sub-units** | Table | EU/MS/RBD/SU | Number and size (area) of national and international RBDs and Sub-units. | Aggregated information on the basis of information provided at RBD/Sub-unit level. | No |

## Contents of the 2016 reporting

### Schema sketch

See Annex 10.1.

### Information and data to be reported using the schemas

Information regarding the Competent Authorities and RBDs within a Member State should be reported at Member State level.

Information should be reported for each Competent Authority in the Member State.

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| **Schema: RBDSUCA** |
| ***Class CompetentAuthority***  ***Properties:*** *maxOccurs = unbounded minOccurs = 1* |
| **Schema element:** euCACode  **Field type / facets:** FeatureUniqueEUCodeType  **Properties:** maxOccurs =1 minOccurs = 1  **Guidance on completion of schema element**: Required. Unique EU code of the Competent Authority. Prefix the Competent Authority’s national, unique code with the Member State’s 2-alpha character ISO country code.  Where a number of small Competent Authorities (e.g. ‘municipalities’) each have a key involvement they can be reported as a single, generic group rather than each Competent Authority being reported as a separate entity.  **Quality checks**:Element check: First 2 characters must be the Member State’s 2-alpha character ISO country code.[[1]](#footnote-2)  Within-schema check: euCACode must be unique. |
| **Schema element**:competentAuthorityName  **Field type / facets:** String250Type  **Properties:** maxOccurs =1 minOccurs = 1  **Guidance on completion of schema element**: Required. Official name of the Competent Authority in English.  Where a number of small Competent Authorities (e.g. ‘municipalities’) each have a key involvement they can be reported as a single, generic group rather than each Competent Authority being reported as a separate entity. In that case please indicate in the name the number of individual authorities represented by the generic entry, e.g. Municipalities in the RBD – 365 authorities. |
| **Schema element**:competentAuthorityNameNL  **Field type / facets:** String250Type  **Properties:** maxOccurs =1 minOccurs = 1  **Guidance on completion of schema element**: Required. Official name of the Competent Authority in the Member State’s national language.  Where a number of small Competent Authorities (e.g. ‘municipalities’) each have a key involvement they can be reported as a single, generic group rather than each Competent Authority being reported as a separate entity. |
| **Schema element**: competentAuthorityNameNLLanguage  **Field type / facets:** LanguageCode\_Enum (see Annex 8j)  **Properties:** maxOccurs =1 minOccurs = 1  **Guidance on completion of schema element**: Required. Language used for reporting the name of the Competent Authority in the Member State’s national language. |
| **Schema element**:linkToCompetentAuthority  **Field type / facets:** String1000Type  **Properties:** maxOccurs =1 minOccurs = 1  **Guidance on completion of schema element**: Required. Website address of the Competent Authority.  If a generic group of Competent Authorities are reported (see guidance under competentAuthorityName and competentAuthorityNameNL), report the prime Competent Authority’s website address, if any. If not, report ‘Not available’. |
| **Schema element**:acronym  **Field type / facets:** String100Type  **Properties:** maxOccurs =1 minOccurs = 0  **Guidance on completion of schema element**: Optional. Acronym of the Competent Authority (if applicable). |
| **Schema element**:street  **Field type / facets:** String100Type  **Properties:** maxOccurs =1 minOccurs = 0  **Guidance on completion of schema element**: Optional. Street address of the Competent Authority in English. |
| **Schema element**:city  **Field type / facets:** String100Type  **Properties:** maxOccurs =1 minOccurs = 0  **Guidance on completion of schema element**: Optional. City address of the Competent Authority in English. |
| **Schema element**: cityNL  **Field type / facets:** String100Type  Properties: maxOccurs =1 minOccurs = 0  **Guidance on completion of schema element**: Optional. City address of the Competent Authority in the Member State’s national language. |
| **Schema element**:country  **Field type / facets:** String100Type  **Properties:** maxOccurs =1 minOccurs = 0  **Guidance on completion of schema element**: Optional. Country address of the Competent Authority in English. |
| **Schema element**:postcode  **Field type / facets:** String100Type  **Properties:** maxOccurs =1 minOccurs = 0  **Guidance on completion of schema element**: Optional. Postcode address of the Competent Authority in English. |
| **Schema element**:mainRole  **Field type / facets:** Roles\_Enum: List of roles (see Annex 8k)  **Properties:** maxOccurs =unbounded minOccurs = 1  **Guidance on completion of schema element**: Required. Identify the Competent Authority’s main role(s) in the implementation of the WFD in the RBD. More than one role can be selected from the enumeration list.  All of the main roles included in the enumeration list must be covered by at least one Competent Authority within the Member State. A single Competent Authority may or may not be responsible for all of the main roles.  **Quality checks**: Within-schema check: Each main role must be covered by at least one Competent Authority within the Member State. |
| **Schema element**:otherRole  **Field type / facets:** Roles\_Enum:List of roles (see Annex 8k)  **Properties:** maxOccurs =unbounded minOccurs = 0  **Guidance on completion of schema element**: Optional. If relevant, identify the role(s) where the Competent Authority contributes or supports another Competent Authority in a particular role. |

Information should be reported for each RBD in the Member State.

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| **Schema: RBDSUCA (continued)** |
| ***Class RBD***  ***Properties:*** *maxOccurs = unbounded minOccurs = 1* |
| **Schema element**: euRBDCode  **Field type / facets:** FeatureUniqueEUCodeType  **Properties:** maxOccurs =1 minOccurs = 1  **Guidance on completion of schema element**: Required. Unique EU code of the River Basin District. Prefix the RBD’s national, unique code with the Member State’s 2-alpha character ISO country code.  **Quality checks**: Element check: First 2 characters must be the Member State’s 2-alpha character ISO country code. [[2]](#footnote-3)  Within-schema check: euRBDCode must be unique. |
| **Schema element**:rbdName  **Field type / facets:** String250Type  **Properties:** maxOccurs =1 minOccurs = 1  **Guidance on completion of schema element**: Required. Readily understandable name of the RBD in English that is meaningful outside of the RBD or Member State. |
| **Schema element**: rbdArea  **Field type / facets:** NumberDecimalType  **Properties:** maxOccurs =1 minOccurs = 1  **Guidance on completion of schema element**: Required. Area of the RBD in km2 including coastal waters but excluding territorial waters as required for the chemical status under WFD Article 2(1). |
| **Schema element**: rbdAreaExclCW  **Field type / facets:** NumberDecimalType  **Properties:** maxOccurs =1 minOccurs = 1  **Guidance on completion of schema element**: Required. Area of the RBD in km2 excluding coastal waters and territorial waters. |
| **Schema element**: internationalRBD  **Field type / facets:** YesNoCode\_Enum: Yes, No  **Properties:** maxOccurs =1 minOccurs = 1  **Guidance on completion of schema element**: Required. Indicate whether the RBD is part of an international RBD. |
| **Schema element**:internationalRBDName  **Field type / facets:** String250Type  **Properties:** maxOccurs =1 minOccurs = 0  **Guidance on completion of schema element**: Conditional. Report the name of the international RBD in English of which this RBD is a part.  **Quality checks**: Conditional check: Report if internationalRBD is ‘Yes’. |
| **Schema element**:primeCompetentAuthority  **Field type / facets:** FeatureUniqueEUCodeType  **Properties:** maxOccurs =unbounded minOccurs = 1  **Guidance on completion of schema element**: Required. Report the euCACode of the RBD’s Prime Competent Authority.  An RBD will usually have only one Prime Competent Authority. The introduction of more than one Prime Competent Authority is reserved for those cases in which there is more than one Competent Authority with equivalent level of competences (e.g. over different geographical areas within the RBD) with no established hierarchy and/or where none has a defined role as co-ordinator.  **Quality checks**: Within-schema check: The reported euCACode(s) must be consistent with the codes reported in RBDSUCA/CompetentAuthority/euCACode. |
| **Schema element**:otherCompetentAuthority  **Field type / facets / relationship**: FeatureUniqueEUCodeType  **Properties:** maxOccurs =unbounded minOccurs = 0  **Guidance on completion of schema element**: Conditional. If relevant, report the euCACode(s) of other Competent Authority(ies) in the RBD.  **Quality checks**: Within-schema check: The reported euCACode(s) must be consistent with the codes reported in *RBDSUCA*/*CompetentAuthority*/euCACode. |
| **Schema element:** subUnitsDefined  **Field type / facets / relationship**: YesNoCode\_Enum: Yes, No  **Properties:** maxOccurs =1 minOccurs = 1  **Guidance on completion of schema element**: Required. Indicate whether the RBD has been divided into Sub-units. |

The following class (child of RBD) is used to report the sub-units within the RBD:

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| **Schema: RBDSUCA** |
| ***Class: SubUnit***  ***Properties:*** *maxOccurs = unbounded minOccurs = 0*  *Conditional check: report at least 1 sub-unit if ‘subUnitsDefined’ is ‘Yes’.* |
| **Schema element:** euSubUnitCode  **Field type / facets:** FeatureUniqueEUCodeType  **Properties:** maxOccurs =1 minOccurs = 1  **Guidance on completion of schema element**: Required[[3]](#footnote-4). If the RBD has been divided into Sub-units, report the unique EU code of each Sub-unit. Prefix the Sub-unit’s national, unique code with the Member State’s 2-alpha character ISO country code.[[4]](#footnote-5) |
| **Schema element:** subUnitName  **Field type / facets:** String250Type  **Properties:** maxOccurs =1 minOccurs = 1  **Guidance on completion of schema element**: Required. Readily understandable name of the Sub-unit in English that is meaningful outside of the RBD or Member State. |
| **Schema element:** subUnitArea  **Field type / facets:** NumberDecimalType  **Properties:** maxOccurs =1 minOccurs = 1  **Guidance on completion of schema element**: Required. Area of the Sub-unit in km2 including coastal waters. |
| **Schema element:** subUnitAreaExclCW  **Field type / facets:** NumberDecimalType  **Properties:** maxOccurs =1 minOccurs = 1  **Guidance on completion of schema element**: Required. Area of the Sub-unit in km2 excluding coastal waters and territorial waters. |

### GIS information

GIS information in GML file format should be reported for RBDs and Sub-units according to the specifications of the guidance for reporting spatial data (see Annex 5 GIS Guidance).

### Guidance on the contents of the RBMPs/background documents

The following provides guidance on the aspects that the European Commission expects to find in the relevant chapters on Competent Authorities, RBDs and Sub-units in the RBMPs or in background documents. This guidance is not intended to be comprehensive in terms of what the Member States have to include in their RBMPs or background documents, rather to provide certain concrete elements of information that the European Commission expects to find.

*Change in Competent Authorities*

An explanation should be provided if the Competent Authorities, or their roles, have changed since the publication of the first RBMPs. This should include information on the reasons for the changes and how the changes will support the improved implementation of the WFD.

*Co-ordination*

A detailed summary of how co-ordination is achieved between Competent Authorities within the same RBD and Member State should be provided. This should include:

* How co-ordination is achieved between Competent Authorities with different roles.
* How co-ordination is achieved between Competent Authorities who share a role (e.g. for issuing permits, enforcement etc).

1. Member State’s 2-alpha character ISO country code: <http://publications.europa.eu/code/en/en-370100.htm> (Note: for Greece use ‘EL’ and United Kingdom use ‘UK’) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Member State’s 2-alpha character ISO country code: <http://publications.europa.eu/code/en/en-370100.htm> (Note: for Greece use ‘EL’ and United Kingdom use ‘UK’) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Please note that the multiplicity of the Class SubUnit is 0 to many. Therefore, if there are no sub-units in the RBD this whole class does not need to be reported [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Member State’s 2-alpha character ISO country code: <http://publications.europa.eu/code/en/en-370100.htm> (Note: for Greece use ‘EL’ and United Kingdom use ‘UK’) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)