A SUCCESSFUL DECISION SUPPORT TOOL

FAIRWAY

How decision support tools help reduce pollution of water resources
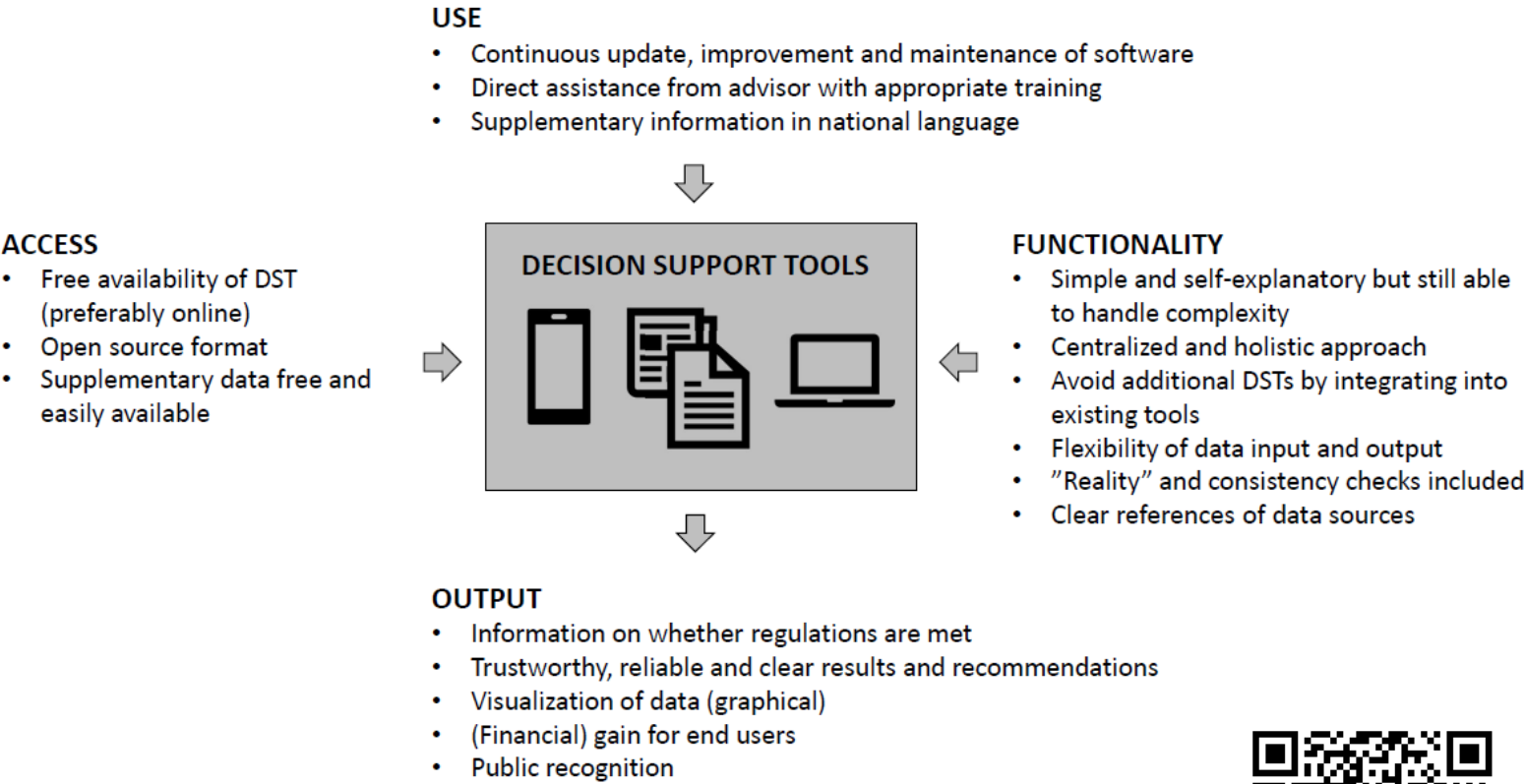Results from work package 5

www.fairway-project.eu

Decision support tools (DSTs) provide advice, training and communication that help implement measures to protect drinking water quality.

It is important that DSTs are designed to meet the requirements of different end users, spatial scales (e.g. local, regional) and pollutants (nutrients, pesticides, etc.).

Successful DSTs should fulfill most of the criteria below.

USE
- Continuous update, improvement and maintenance of software
- Direct assistance from advisor with appropriate training
- Supplementary information in national language

ACCESS
- Free availability of DST (preferably online)
- Open source format
- Supplementary data free and easily available

DECISION SUPPORT TOOLS

FUNCTIONALITY
- Simple and self-explanatory but still able to handle complexity
- Centralized and holistic approach
- Avoid additional DSTs by integrating into existing tools
- Flexibility of data input and output
- "Reality" and consistency checks included
- Clear references of data sources

OUTPUT
- Information on whether regulations are met
- Trustworthy, reliable and clear results and recommendations
- Visualization of data (graphical)
- (Financial) gain for end users
- Public recognition

For further details see the report 'Evaluation of Decision Support Tools':

Information provided by DSTs often requires interpretation by experienced advisors to ensure end users make the right management decisions.

Photos: SEGES