



**- EMWIS-**  
**EURO-MEDITERRANEAN INFORMATION SYSTEM  
ON KNOW-HOW IN THE WATER SECTOR**

**INFORMATION AND TRAINING SEMINAR ON STRUCTURES,  
REFERENCES AND COLLECTION METHODS FOR  
DIRECTORIES AND CATALOGUES ('WATER THEMATIC  
DIRECTORY')  
MADRID, JUNE 2000**

**CONCLUSIONS**

The first seminar for the data manager of the EMWIS National Focal Points (NFP) was held in Madrid from 12 to 16 June 2000. The main theme of the seminar was the EMWIS water thematic directory. This directory only constitutes one section of the information that will be provided by the EMWIS NFP's servers. It will allow to know 'who is doing what?' in each country according to the five EMWIS topics.

This one-week seminar aimed to:

- Present the results of the survey on EMWIS water thematic directory;
- Present selected options for the preparation of directories and catalogues;
- Provide necessary information on the organization of data collection;
- Discuss possible implementation difficulties in each country;
- Organize the following phase, i.e. data collection on organizations, persons and existing information sources;
- Adopt the quality insurance procedures for information updates and the validation of information sources;
- Provide additional technical training according to needs identified during the study.

15 countries of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership were represented (Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Palestinian T.O., Spain, Tunisia and Turkey).

The seminar was open by welcome messages from the representative of the Spanish Ministry of Environment, the CEDEX Director General and the CETA (CEDEX) Director. The first part of the seminar provided background information to ensure that all participants have enough knowledge to benefit from the various sessions:

- A presentation of the seminar and its objectives;
- A review of EMWIS history and progress;
- A review of Rome seminar's conclusions.

This introductory session was followed by a presentation of the preliminary results of the survey on EMWIS water thematic directory. It has been noticed that very few replies were received (only 40% of EMWIS countries) and in most of the cases very late. Therefore, it was not possible to present detailed results during the seminar.

The discussions were focused on:

- A common data model for the directory on organisations and persons
- The definition of the content of the water thematic directory for each EMWIS topic;
- Data collection priorities;
- An implementation planning.

The presentations of tools used by the Spanish and the French NFP were very useful to illustrate the discussions with concrete examples.

To allow a simultaneous access to the water thematic directory (with information distributed on more than 15 NFP's servers), it is necessary that all the NFP adopt and implement a common data model. A rational structure has been studied to simplify future access and maintenance.

A first draft model related to organisations and persons has been discussed. In order to complete it and to complement it with the section related to information sources (i.e. the so-called 'catalogue'), it was decided that:

- The T.U. will propose a full but simple data model. In order to illustrate this model (structure, definitions of entities and fields, and codification), a data collection form (hard copy) and the implementation of this structure under MS-ACCESS will be provided to the NFP;
- The NFP will have the opportunity to comment this model during 2 weeks. This debate moderated by the TU will be undertaken on an electronic forum set-up on the TU web site.
- After this period, the TU will propose the final model with the related resources.

The definition of organisation types that will have to be listed on the water thematic directory for each EMWIS topic as well as the data collection priorities are presented in a separate document that has been validated during the seminar (see [document attached](#)).

It has been reminded that for the 'catalogue', all information sources will have to be listed, whatever their format (digital or hard-copies) and their accessibility (Internet or not). For example, a documentation centre, even without online access will have to be listed in the water thematic directory.

In terms of water thematic directory implementation, the NFP will start the data collection (organisations, persons and information sources) as soon as the final model will be available. Before the setting up of the water thematic directory on the web, the information collected will be stored on an intermediary medium (e.g. a MS-ACCESS data base). In parallel, the Technical Unit will develop the 'water thematic directory' application. Once, this application will be validated, the NFP will be able:

- Either to directly implement this application on their server if they are using the same products as the Technical Unit;
- Or to develop this application on their server with different products following the specifications given by the Technical Unit. In this case, the Technical Unit will facilitate the cooperation between the NFP using the same products.

The objective of the NFP is, by the end of year 2000, to implement the structure proposed and to put on their web site at least the information related to the priority level 1 (as defined in the [document attached](#)).

In parallel to the setting up of the water thematic directory, the NFP will start to develop some static web pages related to the national context of water on the five EMWIS topics. Guidelines will be transmitted by the technical unit to help the NFP to prepare the short descriptions necessary. For this work, the Technical Unit recommends to use the tools defined during the Rome seminar (i.e. MS-Front Page 2000 and the EMWIS Technical Unit's web design distributed on a CD-Rom).

A progress review related to the water thematic directory will be done during the next EMWIS seminar of data managers (Autumn 2000). The other themes of this seminar will be: quality concept and definition of the content of the other sections of the EMWIS web sites.

Finally, in order to facilitate information access and sharing for all, the representatives of the NFP asked the Technical Unit and the Steering Committee to study a proposal to make part of the content and its access (i.e. navigation and search) available in three languages: the country language plus English AND French. Indeed, the solution chosen up to now is only related to two

languages at least: the country language and English OR French. The parts of the content to be translated will be defined in a later stage.

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