



## **MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANISATIONS (MENBO)**

The Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations (MENBO) is a Regional Network within INBO (International Network of Basin Organisations) that promotes an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) at the river basin level, as an essential tool for sustainable development. This organisation seeks to improve relationships among organisations in charge of water management in the Mediterranean region.

MENBO was created in Madrid on November 3rd of 2002. Its Permanent Technical Secretariat has been established with its head office in the Júcar River Basin Authority, in Valencia, Spain. Up to date there are 28 members from 12 different Mediterranean countries. However, the Network is opened to all other Mediterranean basin organisations, as well as to governmental administrations in charge of water management and bi and multilateral co-operation agencies that support integrated water management.

Actual President of MENBO is HE Mohamed Elyazghi, Morocco, and Vice-president is Mr. Juan José Moragues Terrades, Spain. The Permanent Technical Secretary is Teodoro Estrela Monreal, Spain. On the occasion of MENBO's 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, to be held in Rome in November 2007 a new president will be nominated.

## **OBJECTIVES**

MENBO aims to implement, within Mediterranean countries, the objectives proposed at the INBO-GWP (Global Water Partnership) Associated Program for developing and strengthening river basin organisations, which is in accordance with the WSSD (World Summit on Sustainable Development) of Johannesburg, 2002. MENBO also agrees with and supports the final declaration of the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on local water management (Turin, October 1999).

The Mediterranean Regional Network has the following main objectives:

- To promote IWRM at the basin level.
- To strengthen relationships among INBO members that share a Mediterranean culture.
- To encourage the exchange of expertise and knowledge amongst basin organisations.
- To organise activities of regional interest.
- To develop INBO group activities in this region.
- To support projects related to IWRM and disseminate the associated information and tools.

MENBO's website ([www.remoc.org](http://www.remoc.org)) provides information on activities, events and documents from other organisations and agencies related to water management, and promotes the exchange of knowledge among these.



MENBO actively collaborates with other international networks and basin organisations, and participates in different projects and activities related to water management. Following a summary of these activities:

## PROJECT PARTICIPATION

### TWINBASIN<sup>xN</sup> Project:

MENBO agreed to collaborate on the Twinbasin project promoted by INBO, GWP, OIEAU and other international entities, and became a member of the Steering Committee. This project is included in the 6th Framework Programme (FP6) of the EC. It's main objective is to promote twinings of river basins for developing IWRM practices. MENBO is leader of the working group "Twinning".

In the first phase of this project, MENBO encouraged and supported a twinning agreement between the Romanian basin Buzau-Ialomita, which is administrated by the entity Apele Romane, and the Júcar Basin Authority (Spain). In 2007 two new twinning projects could be developed: 1.) The *Júcar-West Aegean Sea Project* between the Bulgarian West Aegean Sea River Basin Directorate and the Júcar Basin Authority and 2.) The *Júcar-Amudarya-Sydarya Project* between the Syrdarya and the Amudarya Basin Organisations, ICWC (all three organisations of the Republic of Uzbekistan) and the Júcar Basin Authority.

More information on the project's website: <http://www.twinbasin.org>

### MELIA Project:

MELIA is the "Mediterranean Dialogue on Integrated Water Management", and it is a project that aims to achieve an effective regional water management under scarcity conditions through dialogue and exchange of information between key Mediterranean stakeholders. This project is promoted by the "Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científica" (CSIC) and the International Centre for Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM-IAMB).

It is a major goal of this project to create an efficient regional management of water resources under scarcity conditions and to improve the dialogue and communication among partners from the Mediterranean region. The 63 participating partners range from international organisations, such as MENBO, to research and educational entities. MELIA is a project within the FP6, and is active since September 2006.

MENBO participates in five working groups of the project:

- Assessment of Technological Perspectives in Water Management
- Water Policy
- Prevention and Mitigation of water conflicts
- Building Knowledge
- Recommendations on the application of the WFD (co-leader of the group)

More information on the project website: <http://www.meliaproject.eu/>



### SPI-Water Project:

SPI-Water is the acronym for "Science-Policy Interfacing in support of the Water Framework Directive implementation". The project proposes a number of concrete actions to bridge the gaps in communication between policymakers and research scientists by developing and implementing a 'science-policy interface' instrument: the WISE-RTD Web Portal: [www.wise-rtd.info](http://www.wise-rtd.info). The focus lies on setting up a mechanism to enhance the use of Research and Technology Development (RTD) results in the WFD implementation.

MENBO is leading a work package, which object is to further adapt and develop the EU Water Initiative / WFD Joint Process and facilitate the implementation of IWRM principles in non-EU countries. This is particularly helpful in the Mediterranean region where direct mutual interests are obvious because of shared river basins and usual problems in terms of IWRM for EU and non-EU countries. Two non-EU river basins, the Sebou River Basin in Morocco and the Litani River Basin in Lebanon, are partners of MENBO in this project and share knowledge and work with the European partners.

More information on the SPI-Water website: [www.spi-water.eu](http://www.spi-water.eu)

### IWRM.Net:

Promoted by OIEAU and INBO this project aims to coordinate European research projects on IWRM and to avoid duplication of work. MENBO's role as an observer of the project is to provide contacts involved in research projects and to revise the "outputs".

### MED7:

This project is promoted by CSIC and aims to organise water management workshops. MENBO takes part in it as an observer and via participation in workshops.

### AGUA-CONTROL:

Promoted by the Regional Government of Castellón (Spain) this project aims to establish indicator systems for a sustainable management of water resources in the SUDOW area. MENBO participates as an observer and collaborator in this project.

## **INITIATIVES**

### Med EUWI / WFD JP:

MENBO participates in the Joint Process of the WFD and the EUWI-Med. The EU Water Initiative (EUWI) is a joint platform for stakeholders in the process of sustainable development of the water sector. It aims at improving efficiency by coordination of water related development aid. The Joint Process between the WFD and the EUWI is aimed at making Mediterranean partners benefit from the principles, approach and experience of the WFD to improve IWRM in the region.



**REd Mediterránea de Organismos de Cuenca (REMOC)**  
**Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations (MENBO)**  
**RÉseau Méditerranéen des Organismes de Bassin (REMOB)**



MENBO participates actively in the EUWI and collaborates in the Joint Process EUWI-MED-WFD. As a co-leader of the Thematic Work Group on Water Scarcity and Droughts during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of the MED JP MENBO takes also active part in the project.

## **COLLABORATION WITH OTHER MEDITERRANEAN NETWORKS**

- User Associations: EIC – Euro-Mediterranean Irrigators Community
- Information Systems: EMWIS/SEMIDE, HISPAGUA
- Parliaments / Administrations: Ministries, DG Environment (EC) Organisations / NGOs: Global Water Partnership Mediterranean (GWP-Med), International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (UICN-Med), Mediterranean Water Institute (IME), Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE) Participation in the Action Programme of the GWP-Med: MENBO takes part in “Capacity-building” activities, is an active member of the Partnership Council and enforces the exchange of information about events, initiatives, etc.