

MELIA

**“Mediterranean Dialogue
for Integrated Water Management”**

“Creating and nurturing the **MELIA Community of Practice (CoP)**: A strategic Coordination Action for the establishment of an Information and Knowledge Management, Sharing and Dissemination Platform for the IWRM in the Mediterranean Area – <http://www.meliaproject.eu>”

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MELIA Presentation in the Session on Water Cooperation in
Mediterranean River Basins, Athens, November 5, 2006

Water Management

- ✓ Research on **water management** is and has been a priority in national and Euro-Mediterranean projects, especially in the INCO-Med programme.
- ✓ It has been observed that the outcomes of these research programs and projects **rarely succeeds** in improving the efficiency of water use and its management due to the **lack of dialog between the different protagonists**.
- ✓ Research in this topic is of common interest of the EU and its Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC) in view of the **economic integration** of both sides of the Mediterranean area, the **risks** associated to the climatic change and the increase in frequency of water risks events, such as droughts or floods, in the area.

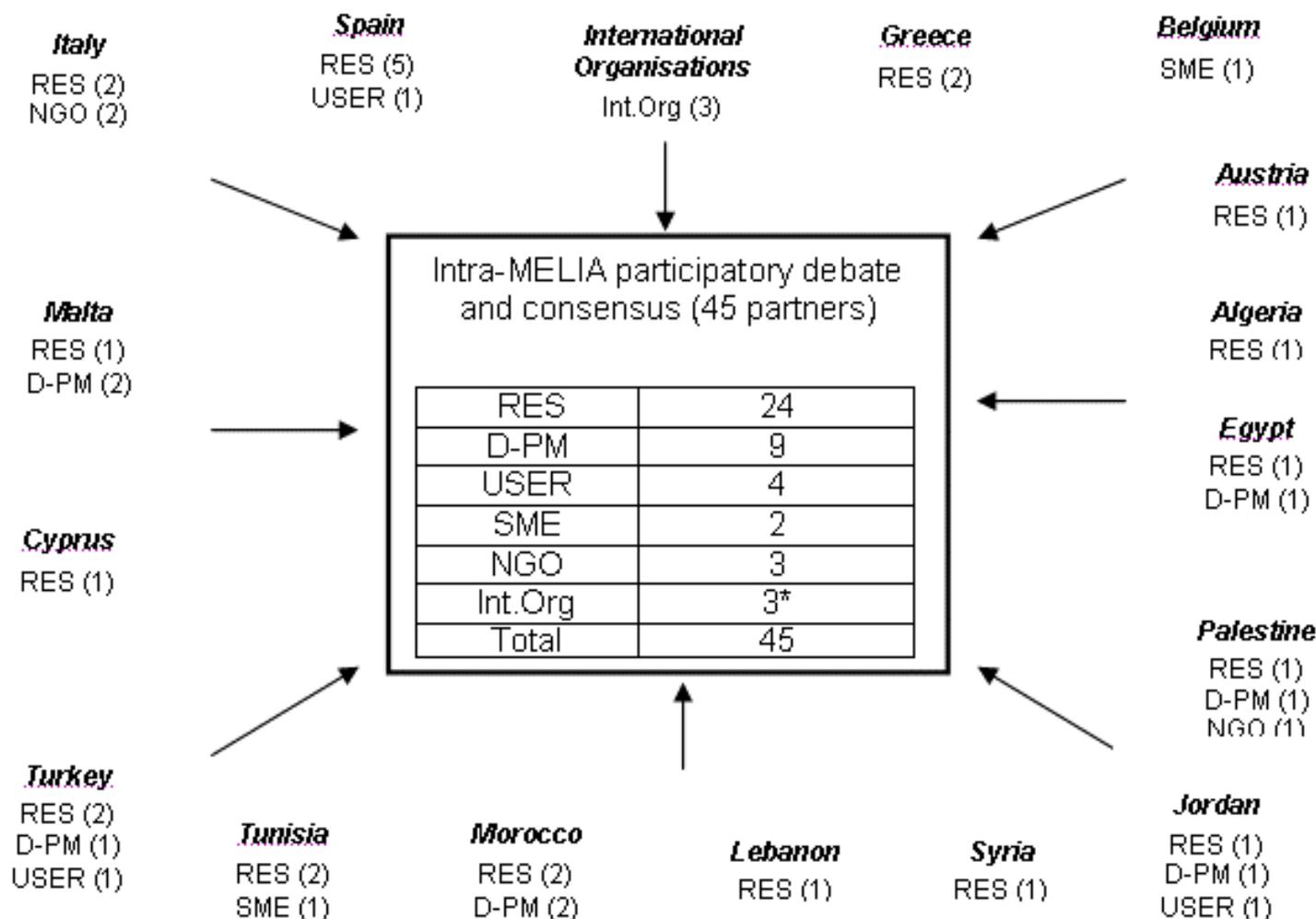
Why MELIA ?

- ✓ There exists a general perception that water management models are still constructed from points of view that **ignore contributions by all the key stake-holders** (especially users and citizens). The local cultural, social and economic peculiarities are critical to generate the necessary **efficiency** of water planning and management, and the **collective concern** on its issues.
- ✓ There is a need to further analyse and consider the social, economic, environmental and institutional **dimensions** in water management.
- ✓ Another general perception in the Mediterranean area is the **lack of visibility** of the important role that Science and Technology play in the sustainable development of the Mediterranean region.
- ✓ Part of these problems is due to **communication gaps** between political bodies, administrative institutions, scientists, sociologists, lawyers, economists, end-users and citizens.

Why MELIA ?

- ✓ MELIA aims at structuring an **open dialogue** between experts from both sides of the Mediterranean and among the key stakeholders concerned and affected by water use and management (scientists, professionals, decision makers, policy makers, water providers, media professionals, educators, citizens...) whose awareness on the issues should be raised by using appropriate dissemination instruments, language and content.
- ✓ In this view, there is a need for horizontal and vertical integration and dialogue. The achievement of this dialogue and the **dissemination** and exploitations of the recommendations obtained will create real added value at European and Mediterranean scale.
- ✓ This dialogue intends to create a **Community of Practice (MELIA CoP)** where water players can share knowledge, find consensus and propose new perspectives on the emerging needs of the different stakeholders (agriculture, industry, trade and tourism and urban development). This involves also looking beyond the physical aspects of water supply and sanitation.
- ✓ In this way MELIA is in the condition to build a **consensus**, to propose widely agreed solutions, and to promote the **convergence** of the **water policies** in the Euro-Mediterranean region on the basis of the **Water Framework Directive** recommendations.

Structure of participation by different countries and categories



Legend:

RES: research Institution **D-PM:** Decision-Policy Maker Institution **USER:** water user, water services, boards

Int. Org: International or Intergovernmental Organisation **NGO:** non-governmental organisation

* **Int. Org:** International or Intergovernmental Organisations (3): P2 CIHEAM-IAMB, P7 OIE, P44 REMOC

Main targets (I)

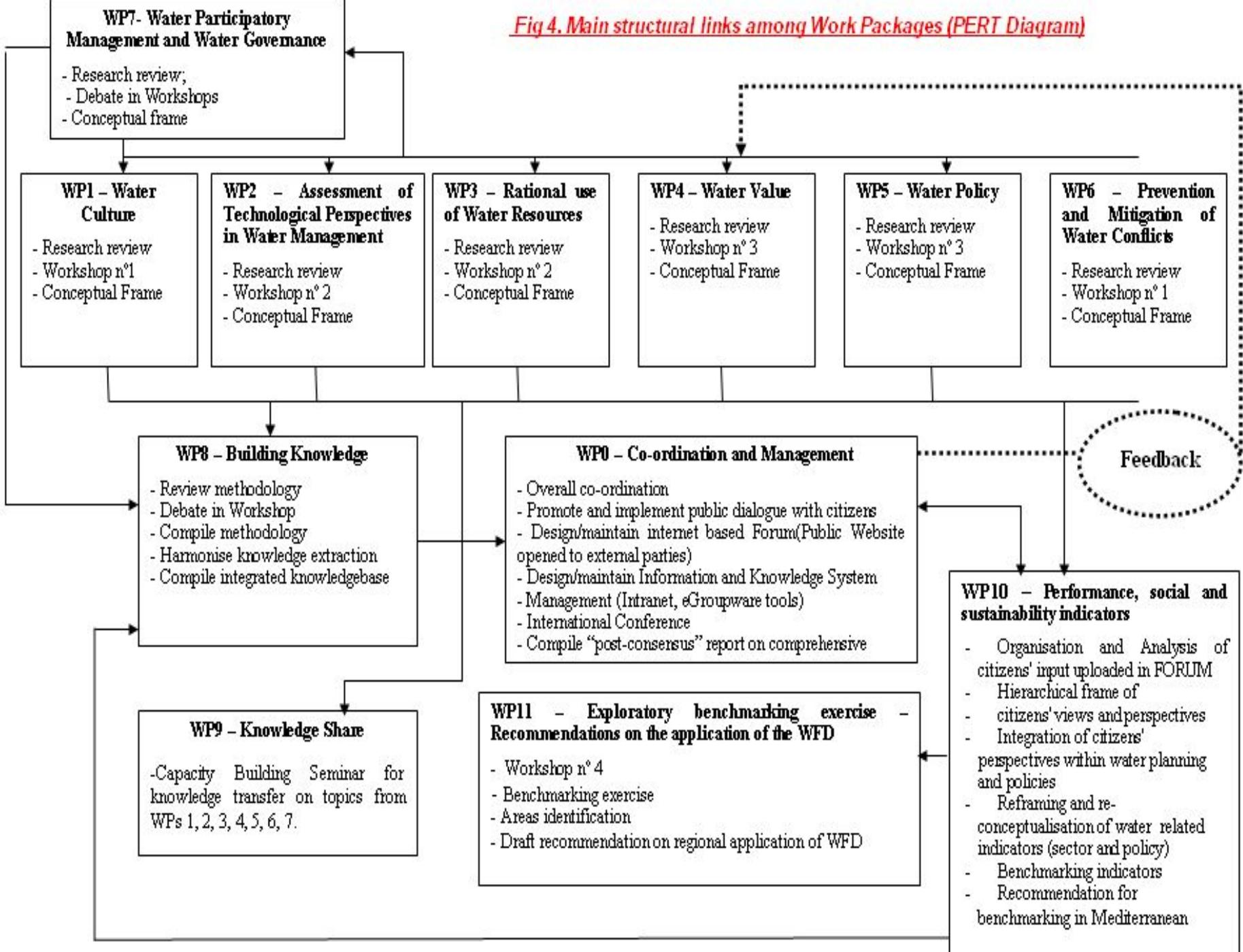
- **Building a knowledge base** for integrated water resources management (IWRM) planning, based on integrating contributions from different perspectives, involving the wide spectrum of stakeholders and based on the general frame defined by EU Water Framework Directive.
- Develop a **Mediterranean-wide awareness** of the social (cultural and participatory), economic and technological issues related to water management.
- Propose **participatory mechanisms** and prevention tools to avoid competition in resources allocation between regions states and different waters users.
- Provide legislative and administrative bodies with **criteria and arguments agreed in a consensual way** by a wide representation of social, economic, scientific and political actors from different countries, to support sustainable water policies and economy.

Main targets (II)

- Provide the intellectual basis and the indicators to perform a **benchmarking exercise** of Integrated Water Resources Management in the Mediterranean area through the debate and conceptual frame made with the aim of **defining indicators** that need **standards** for the measurements of selected parameters common to Mediterranean countries within homogeneous context. These standards will help the implementation of future benchmarking in selected areas.
- Contribute to the construction of a common frame and knowledge, and to the development of a **common terminology and semantic** and help water negotiations through Thematic Workshops.

	WP1 Water culture	WP2 Assessment of Technological perspectives in Water Management	WP3 Rational use of water resources	WP4 Water value	WP5 Water policy	WP6 Prevention and mitigation of Water Conflicts
<p><i>WP7 Water Participatory Management and Water Governance</i></p>	<p>1) <i>Integrated Participatory Approach throughout WPs 1-6 and Gender participation</i> 2) <i>Conceptual frame of Water Governance through WPs 1 to 6</i></p>					
<p><i>WP8 Building Knowledge</i></p>	<p><i>Construction of the integrated knowledgebase through WPs' 1 to 6, including also knowledge related to WPs 7, 10, 11</i></p>					
<p><i>WP9 Knowledge share</i></p>	<p><i>Activate and manage seminars for knowledge share and transfer on thematic aspects of WPs 1 to 6</i></p>					
<p><i>WP10 Performance, social and sustainability indicators</i></p>	<p>1) <i>Analysis of dialogue with citizens on issues related to WPs' 1 to 6</i> 2) <i>Re-frame water scarcity indicators.</i> 3) <i>Create a frame of sustainability indicators for water management</i></p>					
<p><i>WP11 Exploratory benchmarking exercise – Recommendations on the application of the WFD</i></p>	<p>1) <i>Benchmarking perspectives in the Mediterranean considering the control and marking of parameters/indicators of WPs 1 to 6.</i> 2) <i>Formulation of 1st draft of recommendation to policy-decision makers on integrated water management considering knowledge of WP 1 to 6, including outcomes of WPs 7 and 10.</i></p>					

Fig 4. Main structural links among Work Packages (PERT Diagram)



MELIA CoP

The dissemination of the results of MELIA will be the most relevant and appreciable output, carried out by means of a wide communication strategy, addressed to all those involved actors in water use who set up the **MELIA Community or Practice (CoP)**, in rising awareness at educational level, in research, administration and policy making.

- The activities' results will be made available and disseminated in the form of dedicated brochures, leaflets, pamphlets, videos and educational material, CD-ROMs, newsletters in **English, French and Arabic**, in order to promote and establish **continuous interactive dialogue** with citizens and private-public Institutions.

➤ Another focus of MELIA will be the establishment of contacts in each of the participating countries and with regular media interaction and educational structures in order to **increase public and political awareness** on water management and use.

✓ In this way, **MELIA Community or Practice** is a strategic response to the demands for increased skills and capacities in the water sector leading towards the implementation of IWRM in the Mediterranean Area.

✓ A **context-oriented platform** will be first created to support spatially distributed Work Packages teams.

➤ All these concerns are reflected in <http://www.meliaproject.eu> whose main skeleton is based on a Thematic Work Packages structure which aims at a symbiosis of physical and virtual work environments.

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MELIA

Mediterranean Dialogue on Integrated Water Management



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All resources like library of documents, addresses, Web services (Email, Instant Messaging, Fora, Intranets, Video and Audio Conferencing, Smart Search/Taxonomy tools based on Semantic Web algorithms...) may be accessed on the web portal.

Groupware tools are plugged in or removed as required, allowing to adapt the collaborative environment to specific needs. This could be different kinds of team awareness tools, different document, address, or calendar servers, or also additional features like project management tools (Documents and Activities Workflow, External Editors, ...) With respect to this, the web user interface proved to add a significant contribution to flexibility.

Figure Example of the Taxonomy of Work Package 11

