

Coordination Committee Seminar Istanbul – 10-11 September 2007

Brainstorming Session (2007-09-11)

The last session of the seminar was a brainstorming in order to allow an open exchange on the forces and weaknesses of EMWIS and then to agree on potential axes to reinforce and sustain EMWIS in the future.

This document presents (without any interpretation) the ideas listed by the participants in the 2 groups one French-speaking and the other English-speaking. For items 1 to 3 (what is EMWIS, forces, weaknesses), it lists all the individual ideas provided by the participants but without discussion and consensus, whereas the formulation of recommendations gave place to a debate and a consensus.

1) What is EMWIS?

English speaking group	French speaking group
Transfer of know-how	An information system
Information sharing Portal	A regional system
Euromed water information hub	Cooperation tool in the water sector
Data management	Organisation of the collection and the diffusion of information
Water management tool	Sharing of experiences
Tool for management of water know how and water resources itself	International network
Communication tool	Support for developing of national networks
Water information standardization	A virtual Community
Learn on water future	Springboard
Sensitisation for national information systems	Tool of the national politics
EMWIS is an NGO	Tool to support decision-making
Monitoring changes in water quality and quantity	Tool for communication between the countries
	Tool for promotion
	Public utility
	Accessible and opened to all
	Space, organisation, place, platform
	Common instrument

2) Weakness of EMWIS?

English speaking group	French speaking group
No funding	Irregular financing
Not sustainable	Multiplicity of the actors
No funds for NFPs	Various institutional frameworks
Complicated concept in the Mediterranean region	Poor definition of targets
No political support	Few visible common products
Weak marketing strategy	Too much institutional (only public sector)
Insufficient funds	Very little participation of the private sector
Language barrier	Very little participation of NGO



Standardization is not strictly followed	Co-operation with the regional (Med) organisations
Lack of human resources in the Technical Unit and the NFPs	Weak promotion
Lack of commitment of NFPs	EMWIS image not enough specified
Turn over of NFP staff	
No copyright of NFPs	
Differences between countries	

3) Strengths of EMWIS?

English speaking group	French speaking group
Dealing with important issue	Co-operation
Exposure of NFP to the technology state of the art (IT)	Multilingual instrument of progress
Strong organisational structure	Unique (no equivalent initiative)
Long history	Adhesion of the countries on a high political level
TU itself is competent	Support of the EU
Communication tool	Commitment of the countries
Improve regional cooperation & relationships	Dialogue with all the countries
Strong networking	Exchanges
Exchange of ideas	Voluntariate
Good choice of water topics	Dialogue with all the water actors
Topics are dynamic & adapted	Flexibility
Original idea	
Water search tool	
Information, dissemination tool	
Window on existing information	
Unification platform	

4) What should be done to reinforce and sustain EMWIS?

Due to limited time, the discussion on recommendations has not been fully completed.

English speaking group	French speaking group
Increasing awareness on EMWIS among water information users from the End users to the top political/decision makers level	To specify EMWIS image (contour –what?- and visibility)
Showing projects/good practices (successful stories)	To better identify the targets
Updating the priority themes to increase the use of the portal	To diversify the topics
Increasing the awareness on the importance of sharing information at regional & national levels	To reinforce the financings in coherency with the strategies of the financial donors
Giving more support (technical/financial) to NFPs	
Seek for more collaboration with universities & research centres	

