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Système Euro-
Méditerranéen
d'information sur les
savoir-faire dans le
domaine de l'Eau



النظام الأورو- متوسطي للإعلام
حول المعرفة في ميدان المياه

EMWIS

<http://www.emwis.net>

Euro-Mediterranean
Information System
on know how in the
water sector

Assessment of EMWIS activities

December 2003 – June 2008

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EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP





Almost 10 years of operation

- Basic principles
- Phase 1 – 1999 / 2002
- Phase 2 – 2003 / 2008
- Benchmarking indicators
- What's next?



Basic principles

That made EMWIS lasting

- **Strong commitment from Med countries**
 - Requirements from Euromed Ministerial conferences, 1996 & 1999
 - Agreement between all the countries in Naples, 1997
 - 13 WD in EMWIS Steering Committee
 - NFP in all Med countries
 - Periodic water directors conferences
- **Networking of national water authorities**
 - Information managed by the country themselves
 - Quality of the information provided
 - Sustainability due to national interest
- **Important needs for water information**
- **Financial support**
 - NFP
 - Med countries themselves
 - **Networking activities:**
 - Italy, France, Spain
 - European Commission



EMWIS Phase 1

- Water Directors agreement, Naples, Nov 1997
- November 1999 – December 2002

Main lessons from Phase 1

Nov'1999 – Dec'2002



- A unique regional initiative of the Euro-Med Partnership in the water sector
- Real momentum initiated in the Med Countries
- An organisational structure up and running
 - 20 NFP, Steering Committee, Technical Unit
- An operational technical platform



Main lessons from Phase 1

Some limitations

- New national needs and requirements are emerging
- Lack of knowledge of user needs
- Lack of flexibility of the technical architecture for a wider integration of existing or new resources
- Necessity to reinforce the promotion
- More content is required, e.g. lack of regional analysis
- Sustainability must be ensured
 - by integrating EMWIS as an institutional system in each country and at the international level



EMWIS Phase 2

- Water Directors agreement, Madrid, Nov 2001
- December 2003 – June 2008

Second phase: enhancing and consolidating the achievements

(Dec. 2003 – June 2008)



- 1. Maintaining a strong co-ordination with political structures**
- 2. Reinforcing the NFPs -> implementing work plans**
- 3. Expansion and development of services**
- 4. Review of the technical architecture (XML based)**
- 5. Operating information existing services**
- 6. Fostering the promotion of the system**
- 7. Development of topical activities -> working groups**
- 8. Information clearing house for International actions:**
 - 1. E.C. MEDA – Water programme**
 - 2. MED component of the EU water initiative**
- 9. Liaison with international initiatives**
 - 1. Agreements**
 - 2. Med water observation mechanism**



1. Co-ordination activities

Overview and status

- **Annual Steering Committee meetings**
 - May 2004, Malta
 - June 2005, Athens side by side with Med-EUWI meeting and MCSD of UNEP-MAP
 - May 2006, Nice
 - November 2006, Athens
 - July 2007, Madrid
- **Annual Coordination Committee meetings**
 - July 2004, Rabat
 - Sept 2005, Amman
 - June 2006, Algiers
 - September 2007, Istanbul
 - June 2008, Madrid
- **Liaison with the partner countries, the European Commission, the main international initiatives**
- **Technical Unit co-ordination and reporting**
- **Conference of the 35 Euromed Water Director Generals**
 - November 2005, Rome
 - November 2006, Athens
 - December 2007, Bled

2. Reinforcing NFPs



- **NFP Data managers training : 2 sessions**
 - Madrid, 2004 - 2006
- **NFP IT managers training : 2 sessions**
 - Sophia Antipolis, 2005 - 2006
- **Local / ad-hoc training: 4 countries**
 - Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia

- **Feasibility studies on National Water Information Systems in 10 countries**

2. Reinforcing NFPs

Local services requested



Items	DZ	CY	EG	IL	JO	LB	MT	MA	PS	SY	TN	TR
Equipment	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙		⊙	⊙
Work programme defined	⊙	⊙		⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙		⊙	⊙
National EMWIS leaflet	⊙	⊙			⊙		⊙	⊙	⊙		⊙	
Organisation of promotional meeting	⊙	⊙			⊙	⊙		⊙	⊙		⊙	⊙
Internet access	⊙				⊙				x			
Web hosting	x											
Training		x			⊙	x		⊙	⊙		⊙	
Technical assistance: web development		x		⊙		⊙	x	⊙	⊙		⊙	
Technical assistance: content development				⊙	⊙				⊙			
Survey of user needs / satisfaction	✍	x			⊙		x					
Content translation		⊙		⊙	⊙	⊙	x	⊙	⊙		⊙	⊙
NWIS complementary study						⊙						
Water Med Obs. National diagnostic study*		⊙					⊙					

⊙: Implemented - ✍ : Partly implemented - x : Requested but not implemented -



2. Reinforcing NFPs

New developments on NFP websites

- **Launch or redesign of national websites:**
 - New sites: Tunisia, Egypt
 - Redesign: Morocco, Turkey, Italy, Spain (2004), Jordan, Palestine
- **New content:**
 - Tunisia: launch of the English and Arabic versions
 - Lebanon: Launch of the Arabic version, water legislation
 - Algeria, Cyprus, Malta and France
 - Israel: water context and legislation



3. Expansion and development of services

Overview & Status

- **Multilingual water thesaurus (Arabic, English, French, Greek, Spanish and Turkish)**
- **Mediterranean water projects database**
- **Metadata sharing (syndication / harvesting)**
 - **All types with Jordan: use of the EMWIS Portal tool kit**
 - **Legislation to be implemented with Lebanon**
 - **News and events tested with Algeria, France and Spain**
 - **Documentation (using OAI) with Spain and Tunisia**



4. Review of the technical architecture

Overview & status

- **Improving flexibility:**
 - Publication of same content on several web sites
 - Better integration of heterogeneous resources
 - Better decentralised management of content
 - Common structures for content using XML
- **Main components agreed with NFP:**
 - Common meta-data
 - Multilingual Water Thesaurus
 - Overall technical architecture
- **New technological platform for the TU**
 - Web Content Management System developed for the European Environment Agency (EEA) also used by the SMAP-RMSU
 - Open Source software, all source codes available online at the EEA website
 - The solution includes a web portal builder for NFP or other organisations, implemented by Jordan
 - The portal is multilingual: Arabic, English and French. But open to other languages
- **Support and Portal toolkit improvement**
 - Small functional improvements by November 2007
 - Including a geo-Atlas tool
 - Performance tuning for TU server
 - Help desk



5. Animation and operation of information services

Overview & Status

- **Operation of current services**
 - On going
- **Re-design of services**
 - See new web portal
- **Up-dating and extending of the thematic directory**
 - Updating and consultation application improved
- **New thematic forums**
 - Water glossaries, satellite images, etc.
- **Monthly eNews Flash in Arabic (340), English (8500) and French (3400)**
 - On going

SEMIDE النظام المعلوماتي الأورومتوسطي للمعرفة في مجال المياه
EMWIS

المنشورة الثامنة والعشرون، أكتوبر 2005

أعدت هذه المنشورة من طرف الوحدة التقنية لسميد بدعم من OIEAU و CEDEX, SOGESID
[المفوضية الأوروبية](#)

تعذر الرؤية؟ [اضغط هنا](#)

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الإفتاحية:

1- المؤتمر الأورومتوسطي لمديري المياه

مختصرات:

2- المعلومات حول المياه في لبنان
3- المفوضية الأوروبية تمنح 71 مليون يورو إلى 89 مشروع ابتكار في 17 دولة
4- المفوضية الأوروبية تمويل مشروع لتتبع و ترصد الموارد المائية
5- فرنسا: نحو انسجام و فاعلية الأنشطة الدولية
6- الجزائر: برنامج لإنجاز وحدات لتحلية المياه
7- المغرب: تغطية ترويد الدار البيضاء بالمياه الصالحة للشرب قبل حلول 2009
8- هولندا: قطاع المياه يرحب بمشاريع تمويل جديدة



6. Fostering the promotion of the system

Overview & Status (1/2)

- Definition of a promotion plan
- Electronic marketing
 - eFlash, cross-links, directories, crawlers
- Developing promotional media
 - Updated brochures in Arabic, English and French
 - 6 NFP brochures
 - Web site leaflet and bookmark under development
 - 3 issues of the EMWIS Newsletter
 - NFP leaflet
- Press releases and articles for the specialised magazines
 - Press releases for Promotion events and Steering Committee meetings
 - Press book online

6. Fostering the promotion of the system



Overview & Status (2/2)

- **National promotion seminar held**
 - Cyprus, October 2004
 - Rabat, April 2005
 - Beirut, November 2005
 - Ankara, December 2005
 - Algeria, June 2006
 - Egypt, February 2007
 - Cyprus, May 2007
 - Jordan, May 2007
 - Palestine, May 2007
 - Tunisia, November 2007

7. Development of topical activities



Status

- **4 studies carried out (2004-2006)**
 - **EU Water Framework Directive**
 - **Use of non-conventional water resources**
 - **Irrigation water management**
 - **Integrated water management at local level**

- **Some working groups activities initiated with the Med Joint Process Water Framework Directive and EUWI:**
 - **Drought and water scarcity**
 - **Waste water Reuse**
 - **Water Monitoring**

8. Information clearing house for EU Water activities Status



➤ **EMWIS new web sections on initiatives**

- EU: MEDA-Water, Med-EUWI, INCO-MED, LIFE, MEDSTAT, SMAP, H2020

➤ **Projects presented:**

- EMWIS National seminars
- Coordination Committee seminars
- EMWIS portal, e-Flash

➤ **International water projects database:**

- Starting with water projects funded by the EU in MPC

9. Liaison with international initiatives



Overview & Status (1/2)

- **Co-ordination of activities and agreement signed**
 - **Mediterranean Water Institute: agreement to be extended for the MEDA-Water RMSU**
 - **Med-EUWI**
 - Use of EMWIS website
 - working groups of the Joint Process using EMWIS as a facilitating platform
 - **International Network of Basin Organisations (Med network)**
 - **SMAP-RMS (APAT, IT)**
 - Agreement signed for the provision of information the water section of the **SMAP clearing house**
 - **World Water Council: cooperation on the Water Monitoring Alliance (under signature)**
 - **European Environment Agency: joint action plan**
- **Agreement under preparation :**
 - **BALWOIS: involvement of Balkan countries, preparation of a MoU**
 - **Blue Plan: preparation of a MoU**
 - **Global Water Partnership Med (EMWIS Technical Unit membership)**
 - **FAO, IPTRID**
 - Discussion on the future EMWIS technical architecture
 - **OSS – Sahara and Sahel Observatory**
 - **EXACT – water WG of the Middle-East Peace process**
- **Med Water observation mechanism study**
 - **MAP-RAC, Medpol, Eurostat/MEDSTAT environment, EEA, WHO/UNICEF JMP, Unesco-WWAP, etc.**



Phase 2

Summary of activities (1/2)

National promotion seminars:	10
National brochures:	7
National websites:	17 - all med countries updated
Equipment:	all Med countries (except SY)
Local assistance:	all countries (except EG, SY)
National trainings:	5 countries
NWIS feasibility studies	10 countries
Common trainings:	4
New regional website:	new architecture, new content and services



Phase 2

Summary of activities (2/2)

Mediterranean thematic studies	4
Working groups	5 themes, 3 active
Med water observation mechanism - study	7 countries involved
Coordination meetings	5
Steering group meetings	4
Euromed Water directors meetings	3
Experts workshops	2



Achievements

Review of (contractual) indicators

- *Improving regional water policy*
- *Capitalising experiences*

Joint declarations	3	Euromed water directors conferences
working groups	5	Defined, but not active
Countries in WGs	11	
Regional events with more of 6 countries	5	Incl. water directors conferences

Achievements



Increased availability of water information

National websites	15	
Users satisfied	-	
Med e-news flash	52	
Subscribers flash	12 183	
External references	>120	
Yearly visits (2007)	786 446	International website only
	36 071	Malta
	30 942	Cyprus
	10 196	Israel

Achievements



Improved Sharing of information at regional and national levels

Institutions providing information to the NFPs	-	
NWIS developments in Med countries	5	Algeria, Lebanon, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia
National EMWIS seminars	13	
Implementation of EMWIS standards for information sharing	8	Algeria, France, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Spain, Tunisia



Impact of activities

Some comments

- National stakeholders not aware of EMWIS NFP activities
- Results not disseminated, e.g. NWIS studies
- Lack of promotion beyond the national seminar organised
- Poor national coordination related to water information
- Limited integration of EMWIS in the national institutional framework



What's next?

- EC support targeted technical issues in line with Euromed cooperation policy
 - 2008-2009: information systems interoperability and working groups (thematic information)
 - 2009-xxxx: opportunity for follow up
- France, Italy and Spain interested in valuing EMWIS background
- Still strong need in water information and data
- Opportunity to get a political momentum:
 - Union for the Mediterranean, July 2008
 - Euromed water ministerial conference, Oct'2008



Discussion

- **Questions**
- **NFP presentations or comments on:**
 - Results achieved
 - Added value for the country
 - Website statistics
 - Feed back from users
 - Example of exchange of good practices
 - Coordination with water information providers
 - NFP status at the institutional level
- **For new comers:**
 - Knowledge and opinion on EMWIS and its NFP in the country