



Second Phase of the Mediterranean EUWI/ WFD Joint Process

The Joint Water Framework Directive / EU Water Initiative process aims at developing synergies between the two mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of sound water policies.

The Second Phase of the Joint Process (JP) will draw on the achievements of the First Phase, gained during the two first years of development. The phase will contribute towards the general objective of the JP which is to facilitate the implementation of improved water management practices in the Mediterranean, and thereby ensure that coherent environmental objectives are shared and consistent instruments are utilised. The basic principles for freshwater resources management in the Mediterranean are derived from the WFD.

Issue No. 1 of this newsletter gives the state of play of the Working Groups under the Second Phase of the Joint Process

Working Group on Shared Water Resources Management

The overall objective of the Working Group on Shared Water Resources Management is to promote synergies between competent EU and non EU partners of the Mediterranean and South Eastern Europe (SEE) region and to assist for a common approach on key aspects of joint management of shared surface and ground water resources.

The Mandate of the Working Group was agreed at the Conference of the Water Directors of the Euro-Mediterranean and Southeastern European Countries, 6-7 November 2006, in Athens. Background for the works of the Group includes, the Water Framework Directive, the European Neighbourhood Policy, the GEF IW and its Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean, the Petersberg Process Phase II / Athens Declaration Process, the UNECE Convention on Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, the UN ESCWA activities on the subject as well as all the extensive work that has taken place in the sub-regions and countries of the Mediterranean by governments and organizations. The group is led by the Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med).

The Inception Meeting of the Working Group on Shared Water Resources Management took place on 17 January 2007, in Athens and elaborated on the background, objectives, work plan and time-schedule of the Group. The Meeting was supported by the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative, GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystems. GEF IW: LEARN and GWP-Med.

Next steps decided were:

- The development of a roadmap and timetable regarding the work of the WG for the next 2 years. The roadmap will be developed in accordance with the mandate of the WG and

will describe the work to be done, the different tasks and the institutions to undertake each one of them.

- The mapping of the institutions that work in the field of shared water resources management and gathering of information on the relevant materials that has already been developed e.g. methodologies, assessments, inventories, training material, tools etc. in order to be used by the WG for the achievement of its aims and objectives.

It has been proposed for the next meeting(s) to take place in Beirut, Lebanon on the occasion of the 2nd Beirut Water Week and/or in Italy on the occasion of the 3rd meeting of the European District Authorities and the MENBO Members (autumn 2007).

For further details please contact Vangelis Constantianos on vangelis@gwpmed.org

Webpages of the working group: <http://www.gwpmed.org>, and <http://www.semide.net/topics/swrm>

Water Monitoring Working Group

In 2005 EMWIS conducted a survey on the value of some concepts of the European Union (EU) Water Framework Directive (WFD) for Mediterranean partner countries (MPC). Water Directors as well as basin organisations were surveyed. The two first concepts of interest are the characterisation of basins and the monitoring activities. This underlines strong willingness and needs in terms of acquiring a better knowledge on river basins within MPC. That preliminary step is crucial before ongoing the works of planning. Generally, this survey shows a lack of awareness on WFD by MPC, but also a strong interest on the follow up of its implementation in EU Member States.

At the last Euro-Med Water Directors meeting held in Athens in November 2006, countries expressed an interest to launch a working group on 'Water Monitoring' in the framework of the JP phase II. EMWIS has the leadership of this working group. A working group meeting is planned in early July 2007 in Madrid in relation with the experts' workshop on the feasibility study for the Mediterranean Water Observatory Mechanism (3-4 July). During that meeting, the working group mandate, work plan and its membership will be reviewed.

For further details please contact Eric Mino on e.mino@semide.org

Webpage of the working group: <http://www.semide.net/topics/watmon>

Water Scarcity and Drought Working Group

The Water Scarcity and Drought Working Group will be holding its first meeting of the Second Phase of the Med Joint Process on June 19th in Seville, timed to coincide with the International Forum on Drought.

The first meeting will be an opportunity for the members to discuss the results of a survey on water scarcity and drought in the Mediterranean region and to plan the activities for the year ahead. These activities are expected to centre around the production of a report which will provide a thorough assessment of water scarcity and drought in the region, as well as identify best practices and "success stories" for water saving measures through sharing of experience. In light of these activities, the working group is expected to develop recommendations on how the Mediterranean region should be best equipped to deal with water scarcity and drought.

For further details please contact Carina Dunkerley on carina.dunkerley@erm.com

Webpage of the working group: <http://www.semide.net/topics/WaterScarcity>

Waste Water Reuse Working Group

In light of recent work carried out by the drafting group on water scarcity and drought and the MED-EU Water Initiative Working Group on Groundwater, the issue of waste water reuse was identified as a topic to be investigated further. As a result, the MED-EUWI Joint Process decided to include this topic under its Second Phase.

A Med-EU Water Initiative Waste Water Reuse Working Group has been set-up under the leadership of Malta and the European Commission and a mandate for the new working group drafted. The Working Group is comprised of experts from both EU and non-EU states from the Mediterranean region and members of the research community. The WG met for the first time on the 15th of March 2007, to discuss and approve the mandate. A programme of activities was drafted and members allocated tasks, culminating in a draft report in September 2007. The next meeting is expected to be held in October 2007. In the meantime, members will communicate virtually, via email and the EMWIS website.

For further details please contact Niraj Shah on niraj.shah@erm.com.

Webpage of the working group: <http://www.semide.net/topics/WaterReuse/>

Groundwater Working Group

As a result of First Phase of the Med Joint Process between the EU Water Framework Directive and the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative, the MED-EUWI Working Group on Groundwater has produced the "Mediterranean Groundwater Report". The report can be found on the EMWIS website at: http://www.emwis.net/topics/groundwater/Mediterranean_Groundwater_Report_final_150207.pdf

A Second Phase of the Working Group has been planned and further details will be circulated at a later date.

For further details please contact Niraj Shah on niraj.shah@erm.com.

Webpage of the working group: <http://www.semide.net/topics/groundwater>

Agriculture Working Group

A Second Phase of the Working Group has been planned and further details will be circulated at a later date.

For more information please contact Michael Cherlet on michael.cherlet@jrc.it

Webpage of the working group: <http://www.semide.net/topics/agriculture>