

***Minutes of the Steering Group Meeting
of the Feasibility Study on the
Mediterranean Water Information Partnership***

***Paris 5 March 2007 –
– 14:00 to 17:00 –
Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development***

The 2nd meeting of the Steering group related to the feasibility study on the Mediterranean Water Information Partnership was held at the French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development, in Paris the 5th March 2007.

The meeting was attended by 15 participants (see list on the [online](#)) representing UNEP-MAP / Medpol, UNEP-MAP /Blue Plan, Mediterranean Water Institute, PS-Eau-Med, Eurostat, African Water Facility, INBO, CEDEX, MEDD, IOWater, experts from Spain, Morocco, Malta and Cyprus.

After a brief reminder on the [context of the study](#), the [key results and the recommendations from the 1st phase](#) carried out during the autumn 2006 were presented. The decisions taken by the Euro-Med water directors at their Rome meeting in November 2005 and at the Athens meeting in November 2006 were also highlighted. As agreed during these two meetings, the geographical coverage of the MedWIP includes the EU Mediterranean Partner Countries (10 MEDA countries outside the EU), plus Libya and the Balkan Countries.

The activities described in the terms of reference of the 2nd phase were then presented with its 5 main components:

1. Consolidating the country level studies with diagnostic studies (status of the National Water Information System, analysis of water information production and synthesis of expectations related to MedWIP) in 4 new voluntary countries (Cyprus, Libya, Malta and Morocco) and preparation of first national catalogues of data sources for these 4 countries and the countries involved in the 1st phase (France, Jordan, Spain and Tunisia)
2. How to organise and structure the MEDWIP as a framework for concertation among international and national organisations:
 1. Draft partnership charter,
 2. Analysing potential synergies with the main initiatives managing water data,
 3. Assessment of potential MedWIP activities on some key topics: General indicators on water supply and sanitation (MDG7), Indicators related to water of the MSSD, Data on uses of water for agriculture, Data on water and sanitation services (as example of topic with dispersed information), Data and indicators on drought
 4. Prototyping tools for online collaboration
3. Definition of MEDWIP outputs by analysing potential support to the national level and to regional/international programmes,
4. Elaboration of a draft implementation scenario: organisational and technical framework, evaluation of resources required, potential funding mechanism, provisional action plan
5. Steering and coordination

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The analysis of synergy has started with UN-Water currently led by FAO, the EEA around WISE, Medstat/Eurostat and with the World Water Council around the Water Monitoring Alliance. In addition to these initiatives and those represented at the Steering group meeting, it was felt that similar process should also be initiated with MAP coordination unit and with and MAP Info-RAC in particular.

A first prototype version of the tools proposed for testing the potential organisation of the MedWIP were demonstrated with:

- a web portal for collaborative work (<http://www.semide.net/medwip/>)
- a catalogue of data sources (<http://81.255.115.229:8080/medwip/srv/en/main.home>)
- a web mapping application (<http://81.255.115.229/medwip/>)

An interesting debate took place among the participants, the main issues discussed are summarised below; they will be taken into account for the activities planned during this 2nd study phase:

- the participants were inline with the recommendations and approach proposed for this 2nd phase;
- The governance of the MedWIP and the related national mechanism will have to be carefully defined in order to involve all the main water information stake holders. At the regional level: the identification of complementarity between the various existing and emerging regional processes could be a task of the MedWIP
- At the National level, working groups on water data monitoring could be created to identify key priorities and potential indicators and foster water data sharing
- Blue Plan informed the participants about its mandate to develop an Environment and Sustainable Development information system for the Mediterranean (including geographical and statistical data as well as metadata) during the period 2007-2009. The water section of this information system could be set-up in concertation with MedWIP
- It was felt that the identification and the definition of common indicators based on National priorities will be one of the key activities of MedWIP
- Medpol announced that its new information system is currently being tested and will be operational at the end of 2007 (marine pollution trend monitoring, compliance monitoring and biological effects monitoring)
- In the future, MedWIP could streamline the support from regional/international organisations to the countries. Various suggestion presented during the meeting by some potential members of the partnership, were going in that direction:
 - o Support for the activities of the national working groups or for the development of national diagnostic studies in countries not yet covered could be provided by the African Water Facility. In this context, the potential involvement of Algeria and Egypt will be checked with the respective water authorities.
 - o Medpol proposed to help (analysis of contaminants and treatment of data) countries with priorities inline with Medpol focus
 - o Eurostat is also interested in supporting countries in the development of harmonised water indicators
- MEDWIP could also facilitate exchange of good practices, in that sense:
 - o An example of a National water information system could be presented at the MEDStat workshop on “coordinated information system” planned in 2008



- MedWIP is taken into account as a good example for the Water Sector monitoring and evaluation activities of the African Water Facility

To conclude the meeting, the milestones of this 2nd study phase were reminded:

- Expert workshop at end of June or early July to review the first findings
- Steering group meeting in September to discuss the draft conclusions
- Presentation of draft recommendations to the Euromed and South-East European water directors in October 2007 (date to be confirmed)

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