



## FIRST MEDA WATER PARTNERS CONFERENCE

15 & 16 APRIL 2007  
DEAD SEA, Jordan

The Water Authorities Representatives of the MEDA countries participating  
ALGERIA, EGYPT, JORDAN, LEBANON, MOROCCO, PALESTINE, TUNISIA and TURKEY

The MEDA WATER projects present

Based on the Turin Plan of Action (1999) on Local Water Management which constitutes the basis for the development of EMWIS and the on-going MEDA Water programme, 10 MEDA WATER projects have been launched and developed:

- One dedicated to Information System on the know-how in the Water sector (EMWIS)
- One dedicated to Improvement of decision-making in rural water supply and sanitation (EMPOWERS)
- Four dedicated to the “drinking water supply, renewable energy desalination, sanitation and wastewater treatment services”, (ADIRA, EMWATER, MEDAWARE, ZERO-M)
- Three dedicated to “water management for irrigation”, (MEDWA, IRWA, ISIIMM)
- One dedicated to “water management in case of water scarcity and fight against droughts” (MEDROPLAN)
- the activities developed by the MEDA WATER projects can be summarized by:
  - a) more than 150 pilot sites are in operation in 7 MEDA countries
  - b) more than 190 capacity building actions towards more than 40 Institutions in MEDA countries
  - c) more than 190 training sessions in which more than 7500 persons attended
- the benefit gained by the MEDA countries population, *inter-alia*:
  - a) nearly 120 villages are now/will be provided with potable drinking water or sanitation and water re-use based on adapted new technologies and techniques
  - b) more than 70 Water Users Associations have been created, structured or stimulated, 10 Water Boards have been reactivated
  - c) more than 3500 guidelines / books have been produced and disseminated through more than 900 communities for practical implementation of more than 20 recommendations for policy and practice on improved water local governance in the MEDA countries

The conference orientations have been defined by the participants who considered that Integrated Water Resources Management at local level has been analyzed following 3 main axes:

1. **Institutional issues**
2. **Social and economic issues**
3. **Review of technical/technological concepts adapted to local water management in MEDA countries**

The **conclusions** and **recommendations** of the 4 working groups created during the conference are summarized below:

Analysis of the present situation/needs:

- a) Water institutions strength/weaknesses
- b) pressure due to the increasing demand and scarce resource.
- c) “vertical” planning and sectorial management / need for Integrated Water Resources Management
- d) weak local population and other stakeholders participation in the whole process
- e) important social needs, mainly in rural areas and vulnerable population groups (peri-urban)
- f) inadequate sanitation
- g) needs for approach taking into consideration water quality, availability and water demand and social components

Main recommendations for sustainable water management:

- integrated water resources management at all levels
- increase role of NGOs
- transparency and democracy in water management are key factors for solving water issues
- participatory and correct approach (open dialogue between water users and authorities)
- local, provincial, national and regional water resources planning
- exchange of regional experiences in reforming water sector institutions
- separate responsibilities at operation and regulation levels
- enforcement of legislation and regulations/reforms
- develop use of non-conventional resources such as waste water reuse, desalination... ( taking into consideration energy savings)
- improved access to national water information (information management system)
- improvement of efficiency in drinking water and sanitation
- capacity and human resources development
- better analysis of need for water allocation both on national and local levels

The legitimacy of the conclusions taken during the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on local Water Management (Turin – Italy, 18-19 October 1999) and related Plan of Action being still valid, there is still a need for:

- Continue of regional networking and know-how transfer
- Implement developed methodologies in practical work
- Improve wastewater reuse
- Strengthen water user participation (including gender issues)
- Develop appropriate desalination
- Improve irrigation management

Based on the above mentioned recommendations the conference participants strongly request that all efforts are made to identify administrative and financial solutions, such as identification of specific budget allocations, taking into consideration the foreseen *inter alia*:

- European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument (ENPI), expected to become one of the major instruments contributing to the sustainable development of the countries of the region, could help to realize the potential of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (Athens conclusions – November 2006)
- ‘Horizon 2020’ Initiative for De-Polluting the Mediterranean Sea by year 2020, entitled ‘Horizon 2020’,