



FRANCE

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The National Focal Point team is composed of :

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The Water Director is :

- **Mrs. Judith JIGUET**, Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Town and Country Planning

www.emwis-fr.org

France has an EMWIS website, run by its National Focal Point (NFP), the National water information and documentation center –CNIDE- from the International Office of Water. The NFP has been nominated by the Ministry in charge of water in 1998, after the approval of EMWIS development by the Euromed water directors. It has a long experience in water data management as well as in water thesaurus, documentation and bibliographical systems that have been very useful for EMWIS as a whole as well as for the exchange of know-how with other countries. Based on EMWIS experience a similar network for water information exchanges was launched in Africa.

France with Spain and Italy is supporting EMWIS developments through an active participation in the EMWIS Steering Committee (Presidency 2005-2008) and in the EMWIS Technical Unit.

DATA

- **Area** : 551 500 km²
- **Population** (mill) : 62,9 ****
- **GDP per capita** : 28 400 € ****
- **Water per capita** :
3 186 m³/inhab./year *

Sources :

* EMWIS NFP – OIEAU

- **Access to improved water resource** :
TOTAL : 100% **

** UN-JMP 2004 (considering house connections)

- **Water withdrawal** :
irrigation : 10% ***

- **Access to sanitation** :
TOTAL : 100% **

*** World Bank Factbook 2005

**** MEDSTAT 2007



France

⇒ Legal Framework

The Law on Water and the Aquatic environments (LEMA) of December 2006 answers the issues of the European water policy. The LEMA renovates the global framework defined by the laws of December 1964 (e.g. fight against water pollution) and of January 1992 (balanced management of water resources), which had built the bases of the French water policy: basin authorities to promote the dialog, taxes to finance operations of common interest, and water agencies to contribute to a balanced management of water resource and to reconcile the various uses.

⇒ Right to Water

The 1st LEMA article affirms that “the use of water belongs to all” and proclaims “the right for everybody to access drinking water under acceptable economical conditions”.

⇒ Main institution

At the central level, water administration is the responsibility of the Ministry for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Planning (MEEDDAT), a ministerial structure which lies within a more global inter-ministerial scope. The National Water Committee is a consultative body which gathers at the national level, elected officials, users, associations, presidents of the basin’s committees and State representatives.

	Water Resource Management	Drinking water supply	Sanitation	Irrigation
MEEDDAT	✓		✓	
Water Agencies	✓			
Ministry in charge with Health & Solidarity		✓		
Local authorities / water utilities		✓	✓	
Ministry for Agriculture				✓

The territorial water management : Six water agencies ensure water resources management in co-operation with the 23 French administrative regions. The drinking water and sanitation services are ensured by the local authorities.

Inter-ministerial coordination This coordination is ensured by 2 bodies: the Inter-ministerial Committee for the sustainable development (CIDD) and the Inter-ministerial Water mission (MIE).

⇒ Main issues of Water Resource Management

Reaching the objectives of good ecological status in 2012 is a challenge, in particular the restoration of the surface and ground water bodies. Moreover, the droughts periods of the recent years led to the draining of small rivers and to conflicts of uses. In this context, a set of water savings measures have to be implemented.

⇒ Water pricing and cost recovery

Water supply and sanitations costs as well as the way they are delivered (direct or delegated management) are decided at the local level. In general, irrigation water prices are much lower than those paid by the other sectors (direct assistances, and financial transfers from households/industrial sectors towards agriculture). For the private bores, a tax has to be paid to the water agencies.

	Institutions responsible for water pricing	Level of cost recovery (%)
Households	Local authorities	100
Industry	Local authorities / water utilities	– no data
Agriculture : Irrigation	Irrigation water association / water utilities	– no data

⇒ Water master plan

The Water development and management master plan (SDAGE) is the strategic tool for planning on the large water-sheds. Established in 1996, this plan is under revision for 2009, and will be revised every 6 years. The SDAGE is reinforced by local master plans (SAGE) at basin level.

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