



## ***Proposals for a Second Phase 2007-2009***

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

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. That means facilitate the development of good water management practices, which is a prerequisite for sustainable drinking water and sanitation projects, and therefore, a contribution to the achievement of the water-related Millennium Development Goals; in EU countries, this contributes to facilitate the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) where challenges are shared between EU and non-EU countries,.

Sharing experiences between countries or basin authorities belonging to the same ecoregions and thus facing similar challenges could facilitate the implementation of water management policies.

The global strategy of the Joint Process was endorsed by EU Water Directors in December 2004 as well as orientations for implementing the Mediterranean Joint Process.

The first phase of the **Mediterranean Joint Process** was initiated in September 2004, thanks to a Mediterranean Workshop gathering Mediterranean Pilot River Basins from EU Member States and representatives of partner countries<sup>1</sup>. Three topics were selected as a first basis of common interest. Three Mediterranean thematic Working groups were set up to address these issues. Their mandates cover 2005/06 and foresee the production of specific Mediterranean recommendations and examples to be integrated in EU reports. Two working groups were directly linked to activities carried out under the umbrella of the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) of the WFD: Groundwater (led by GR and COM) and Water Scarcity (led by FR and COM); the third one, focused on linkages between rural development and agriculture and water resource management is indirectly connected to the Steering group on Agriculture through the participation of the leader of the WG, the JRC. Annex 1 includes the state of play of each Med WG.

Progress of the Mediterranean JP was presented to the Euro-Mediterranean Water directors in November 2005<sup>2</sup>.

Synergies with the MEDA Water Regional Programme, launched in Turin in 1999 and initiated in 2003, were developed in 2005 through the support of its Regional Monitoring Support Unit and EMWIS.

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<sup>1</sup> Workshop – “The PRB Mediterranean dimension”, Back-to-back with the Workshop – “Linking rural development and land degradation mitigation into river basin management plans”., 22-24 September 2004 Brindisi, Italy organised by DG JRC and DG Environment of the European Commission and the Italian Ministry of Environment, APAT and the Regione Puglia

<sup>2</sup> Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, Conference of the Water directors, 24-25 November 2005 Rome, Italy

The development of these activities has contributed to the establishment of a network of Mediterranean experts, from various organisations (governmental, civil society, research, professional representatives) sharing a common understanding of challenges of water issues in the region and a shared knowledge of the principles of the WFD. Participation of Mediterranean experts in both EU and Mediterranean meetings has raised awareness on major issues related to groundwater management, water scarcity and agriculture in the context of the WFD. In addition, the drafting exercise has led to the production of Mediterranean recommendations on these issues with an emphasis on the WFD implementation and its major difficulties in the Mediterranean context.

This first phase of the JP illustrates the feasibility of working at regional level for preparing national and local activities for the implementation of sound water policies. And more generally, thematic activities at regional level, through the development of Med Working Groups can facilitate the integration of the WFD principles in partner countries' water related policies.

Indeed, the European Neighbourhood Policy, through the implementation of Actions Plans, agreed between the EU and partner countries<sup>3</sup>, aim in particular at gradual approximation of policy, legislation and practise. Sustainable development and Environment are included in each of these Action Plans. Environmental sub-committees in charge of implementing the National Action Plans have already identified specific issues for short term cooperation with EU in some countries. For example, for water-related issues, in Morocco, groundwater management was highlighted as a major problem; in Tunisia, saline intrusion in groundwater was also identified as an issue of interest. In this framework, the Med JP can play a role in analysing the Mediterranean specificities vis-à-vis the implementation of the WFD and in identifying the potential difficulties of its application in neighbouring countries.

In addition, development of regional activities based on the implementation of WFD principles could prepare the ground for working on sub-regional challenges such as shared water resources management.

## **2. OBJECTIVES OF PHASE II**

The second phase of the JP will draw on the achievements of the first results gained during the two first years of development.

The second phase is a contribution towards the general objective of the JP which is to facilitate the implementation of improved water management practices in the Mediterranean, and thereby ensuring that coherent environmental objectives are shared and consistent instruments are being utilised. The basic principles for freshwater resources management in the Mediterranean are derived from the WFD.

For EU countries, the JP should focus on facilitating the implementation of the WFD thanks to exchange of experiences with other Mediterranean experts and water managers and for non-EU countries, the JP should explore which elements of the WFD process could be beneficial for them and promote sharing of experience and good practice.

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<sup>3</sup> Five Action Plans were agreed with Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia and the Palestinian Authority and work is starting for Egypt and Lebanon.

As regards concrete outcomes of the second phase, it is suggested to work on two dimensions:

- Production of specific documents useful for water resources management in the region, based on the requirements of the EU Water legislation and particularly of the WFD;

Mediterranean recommendations could be used for the EU countries as guidance (complementary to the general ones produced by EU WGs) and as technical elements for convergence of legislation for non-EU countries.

- Promote the development of a Mediterranean expert network:

Building a community of Mediterranean –EU and non-EU-experts knowledgeable in the specificities of the implementation of the WFD in their region and aware of potential solutions to face existing problems would facilitate the achievements of common environmental objectives and work together towards sustainable development.

These specific objectives can be achieved thanks to the development of 3 types of activities:

- Med Thematic Working Groups (Med WGs), set up at regional level, mixing EU and non-EU experts, in charge of analysing specific Mediterranean issues in the light of the EU water –related legislation;
- Mediterranean Pilot Basins (MPB), in charge of testing the applicability of the WFD principles and requirements in non-EU Med countries. The experience gained by Mediterranean EU pilot Basin could be beneficial for non-EU ones.
- Regional workshops on the thematic issues identified by the Med WGs in charge of facilitating the exchange of best practices, experiences and lessons learnt through the pilot exercise..

### **3. KEY ELEMENTS FOR PHASE II: 2007-2009**

#### ***3.1. Mediterranean Thematic Working Groups***

Progress and experience achieved during phase I raised several issues that would need particular attention. It is therefore proposed to continue and deepen the topics selected in the first phase. In addition, 2 other issues were identified as essential in the region.

Five thematic activities are proposed for 2007-09:

1. Groundwater management: leaders: Greece and the European Commission;
2. Water Scarcity and Drought: leaders: Morocco, France (TBC), MENBO, the European Commission, supported by EMWIS
3. Linking rural development with water management: leader The European Commission;
4. Waste water reuse: leaders: Malta, the European Commission;
5. Shared water resources management: GWP-Med.

The main tasks of these groups are, for each issue, a study of the current practices in the region, an analysis of the implications of the WFD or other EU relevant legislations and finally the establishment of recommendations.

Detailed mandates of the 5 Med Thematic WGs are included in Annex 2.

Possibilities of developing further activities will be explored according to the needs and the resources available. In particular linkages between the EU Marine Strategy and freshwater resources management in the Mediterranean could be of interest in the coming years.

### **3.2. Mediterranean Pilot Basins**

Complementary to the EU Pilot River Basins exercise, pilot activities can be developed in the southern rim of the Mediterranean. The objective of this pilot activity is to test the applicability of the WFD principles and requirements in non-EU countries and identified bottlenecks and solutions. The exercise will consist in testing the existing EU guidance as well as recommendations produced by the Med Thematic WGs covering different aspects of the WFD. Concrete testing would allow identification of activities / measures to be implemented for achieving the objectives of the WFD.

Participation is within a voluntary basis.

The testing exercise will be carried out by experts of the basin organisation supported by external experts specifically hired for this task.

Regarding the non-EU side, two basins have already indicated their interest to play the role of front runner for the implementation of the WFD principles:

- The Litani river in Lebanon;
- The Sebou basin in Morocco.

Other areas for which already some work has been undertaken in the WG Agriculture that might be potentially interested are:

- Seyhan River Basin, Turkey;
- Medjerda, Tunisia.

A report will be produced by each MPBs, and a general analysis will be conducted at the end of the testing exercise (by the end of 2009).

Lessons learnt through the MPBs will be utilised both at regional and national level for encouraging the development of the WFD principles. The bottlenecks identified and the solutions suggested will be shared thanks to the regional JP workshops and at national level, by communicating the results of the testing to the relevant authorities in charge of water resources management.

In addition, the pilot exercise must be considered as part of the national processes facilitating the convergence of legislation and the implementation of the Water part of the Action Plans as well as the achievement of the MED-EUWI objectives (and in particular its national dimension through the 'Country dialogues'<sup>4</sup>).

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<sup>4</sup> MED-EUWI Country dialogues are initiated to facilitate the identification of priorities in the water sector and the development of a financing strategy

### 3.3. Mediterranean WFD exchange of information

Exchange of information is a crucial challenge between EU and non-EU water experts. The first two activities will contribute to the objectives of sharing knowledge and experiences, learning practices and approaches.

Participation of non-EU experts in EU meetings and workshops as well as participation of EU experts in Mediterranean workshops and conferences strengthen this objective.

In addition, two cross-cutting facilities will be set up:

- electronic platforms;
- annual workshops of Med WFD experts including a research interface.

An electronic forum is already set up for the Med Groundwater WG and the Water Scarcity WG, hosted by EMWIS.

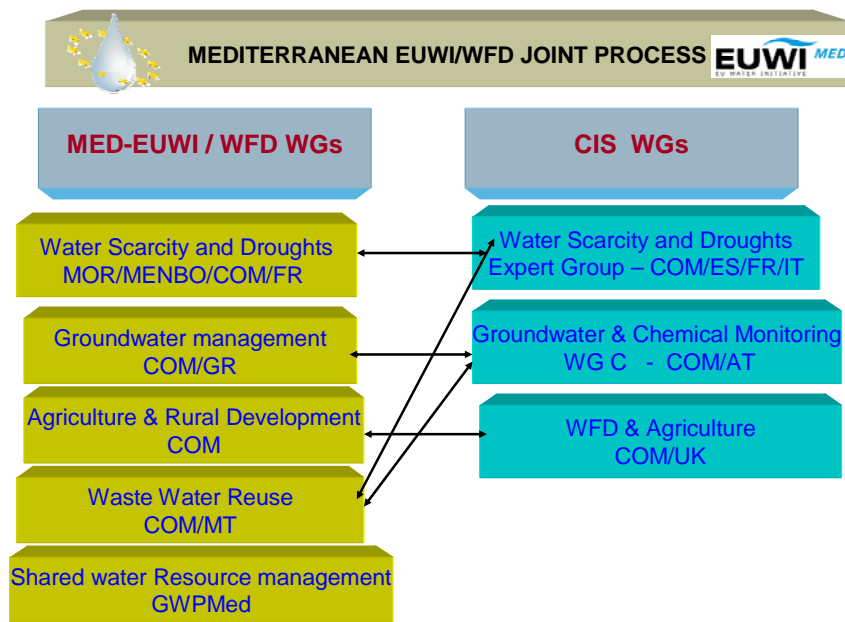
## 4. ORGANISATION

Thematic WGs will be led and coordinated by Member States, partner countries, Mediterranean organisations (in particular, EMWIS, MENBO, GWP-Med) and the Commission (JRC, DGENV).

Membership is open to experts and water managers, EU and non-EU, Med Pilot basins representatives who are ready to actively contribute in the process (notably contribution in drafting).

Linkages with EU WGs of the CIS are ensured thanks to EU experts involved in EU WGs dealing with similar issues.

The following graph illustrates these linkages:



The JRC and MENBO will assist the Med Pilot Basin activity in facilitating the exchange of experiences with already established EU Med Pilot River basins, analysing the results of the testing exercises and drafting lessons learnt on selected working issues.

Outside the EU, synergies will be sought with existing processes in order to (i) mobilise the best experts (ii) benefit from the existing past experiences (iii) disseminate as much as possible the results of the JP in the region.

Indeed, the JP Phase II will built on the results of the MEDA water regional programme focused on issues such as water in irrigation, waste water reuse, droughts, in particular thanks to the Regional Monitoring Support Unit of MEDA water based in Amman. The JP Phase II is also creating synergies with the thematic activities of EMWIS and in particular for the Thematic WG on Water scarcity & Drought.

It will also mobilise the Research potentialities by bringing experts together and promoting exchange of information on current research project and interfacing the research and policy-making spheres.

Finally, connexions will be made with the GEF strategic Partnership phase II and the IWRM UNEP-UCC work programme.

As regards financial resources available for the second Phase, for 2007 and 2008 funding is secured for supporting the development of two MPBs through MEDA water regional programme and the Research Programme of the European Commission<sup>5</sup>.

Mobilisation of regional and thematic funds from the European Commission's side is being explored for 2007-09 and complementary supports are being discussed with several partners.

In addition, at national level, two instruments are now available for preparing convergence of legislation and can constitute a support to the thematic and Pilot activities of the JP:

- TIAIEX (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument): provides short term technical assistance in the field of approximation, application and enforcement of legislation<sup>6</sup>
- Twinning Programme: aims to help beneficiary countries in the development of modern and efficient administrations, with the structures, human resources and management skills needed to implement the acquis communautaire. This programme is now available for MEDA countries<sup>7</sup>.

Finally, the JP Phase II will be steered by the Euro-Mediterranean Water Directors Conference and the progress will be reviewed regularly during their yearly meetings.

The European Commission, the co-leaders and the MPB representatives are responsible for the implementation of the second phase of the Med JP.

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<sup>5</sup> SPI-Water, including the participation of MENBO, WWF, Litani Authority and the Sebou water Agency for a support to the Med JP.

<sup>6</sup> <http://taiex.cec.eu.int/>

<sup>7</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/financial\\_assistance/institution\\_building/twinning\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/financial_assistance/institution_building/twinning_en.htm)

## Acronyms

Blue Plan	Regional Activity Centre, Environment and Development in the Mediterranean
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CIS	Common Implementation Strategy
DG ENV	Directorate-General Environment
EMWIS	Euro-Mediterranean Water Information System
EUWI	European Union Water Initiative
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GWP-Med	Global Water Partnership Mediterranean
IME	Mediterranean Water Institute
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
JP	Joint Process
JRC	Joint Research Centre
MEDA	Financial Instrument of the European Union for the Implementation of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership
MENBO	Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations
PRB	Pilot River Basin
UNEP-UCC	United Nations Environmental Plan-
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WG	Working Group

**ANNEX 1 : Med-EUWI / WFD Joint Process Phase I - Main outcomes**

Activities	WATER SCARCITY	GROUNDWATER	RURAL DEVELOPMENT
<b>Electronic Forum for networking</b>	Set up in October 2006 <a href="http://www.semide.net/topics/WaterScarcity">http://www.semide.net/topics/WaterScarcity</a>	Launched in October 2005 <a href="http://www.semide.net/initiatives/medeuwi/JP/GroundWater">http://www.semide.net/initiatives/medeuwi/JP/GroundWater</a>	Prepared by JRC, under reconstruction as powerful exchange forum (early 2007) <a href="http://agrienv.jrc.it/activities/rdi/">http://agrienv.jrc.it/activities/rdi/</a>
<b>Drafting of recommendations, Report</b>	- EU report: <b>Water scarcity management in the context of the WFD</b> Final version endorsed by EU WDs, June 2006 - Med report: <b>Technical report on water scarcity and drought management in the Mediterranean and the Water Framework Directive</b> Draft version submitted to the Euro-Med WDs, Nov. 06	- Med report: <b>"Technical report on groundwater management in the Mediterranean and the WFD"</b> Draft version presented in November 2005 to the Euro-Med WDs Final version submitted to the Euro-Med WDs, Nov. 2006	Reports of three case studies, as well as specific case study reports from two EU Mediterranean PRBs are due by the end of 2006; preliminary results and recommendations have been formulated in the 05-06 Report of the WG Agriculture
<b>Exchanges of knowledge, WG meetings</b>	- Med focal points (Tunisia , Egypt) were invited in two workshop/conference organised in the framework of a research project: Palermo, Italy Oct.2004 and Cyprus, May 2005 - Med focal points were invited to EU meetings: Rome, January 2005, Paris, September 2005, Rome October 2005 and Madrid February 2006 - Med WG plenary meeting: September 2006, Brussels	- 2 annual Plenary meetings took place, in the framework of international conferences: Marrakech May 2005 and Malaga, April 2006;  - Chapters coordinators of the report were invited to the EU WG meetings in Brussels in October 2005 and February 2006.	A WG Meeting was organized in November 2005.  A workshop on the Balkans was organized (technical preparation by DG JRC RWER Unit – WG Agriculture Coordinator, in June 2006 and was focused on synergies of water and agriculture management and policies.
<b>Set up cases for applied research</b>			- Italy (Basilicata region) started early 2006, due in February 2007 - Turkey (Seyhan River Basin) started early 2006 due by end 2006 - Poland (Bialystok Vovoidship) started early 2006, due in February 2007 - Spain (Andalusia region) to start late 2006, due at end of 2007 - Tunisia (to be decided) to start late 2006, due at end of 2007 The WG Coordinator is also Coordinator of the EU PRB-Agriculture group and case studies are undertaken in two Mediterranean basins: Guadalquivir, Spain and Pinios, Greece



## **ANNEX 2 : Mandates of the Thematic Working Groups**

1. Groundwater management
2. Water Scarcity and Drought
3. Agriculture & rural development
4. Waste water reuse
5. Shared water resources management



**Draft Mandate for the continuation of the activity on  
“Groundwater management”:  
Second phase (2007-2009) of the MED-EUWI Working Group on  
Groundwater (Mediterranean Groundwater WG)**

**i. Introduction**

The MED-EUWI Working Group on Groundwater (or Mediterranean Groundwater WG) was set up in September 2004, as a thematic group of the Mediterranean EUWI/WFD Joint Process. In parallel, it was directly linked to the EU Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), as a Drafting Group (GW5) of the WG C (WG on Groundwater).

The WG was composed of water managers, EU and non-EU experts, basin authorities, institutions and stakeholders of the Mediterranean region (*total number of WG members: 29*). Its objective was the development of synergies and partnership between the EU and non EU countries of the region, aiming at the adoption of a common vision on groundwater resources management, based on the Water Framework Directive (WFD) approaches and principles and the regional specific conditions.

In this context, a report (*Mediterranean Groundwater Report*) was prepared by the members of the WG. Among other issues, this report includes:

- a description and analysis of the role and importance of the groundwater resources for the Mediterranean region,
- an identification of the most significant problems, pressing needs and challenges for the region regarding groundwater resources management,
- specific recommendations, based on the WFD approach and the experiences of the EU and non-EU countries of the region,
- approaches and aspects of the WFD which need specific attention and proper adaptation in the Mediterranean context.

In addition, an exchange of experiences and knowledge was achieved by:

- the development of a web page, hosted by EMWIS, providing a platform for information sharing:

(<http://www.semide.net/initiatives/medeuwi/JP/GroundWater>),

- the organisation of meetings between the members of WG and/or with EU experts, promoting a further exchange of knowledge and experiences,

- the demonstration of the activities and the results in International events, informing and discussing about the Mediterranean specificities.

Despite the achievements, there are a number of issues related to groundwater resources management in the Mediterranean, which need to be further addressed and elaborated. The widespread scarcity, gradual destruction and aggravated deterioration and pollution of groundwater resources in the region, along with the progressive encroachment of incompatible activities, demand the promotion of specific and dynamic approaches/methodologies for the sustainable and rational utilization, protection, conservation and management of groundwater, within the framework of national economic development policies.

A discussion on the priority issues which need to be further addressed was initiated on the second meeting of the MED-EUWI Working Group on Groundwater (Malaga, 24 April 2006). According to the discussions and taking into account the results from the work of the WG (Mediterranean Groundwater Report), it can be concluded that:

- Strategic groundwater management approaches in the Mediterranean have to be supported by effective methods, techniques and practices for controlling intensive exploitation and preventing/reducing pollution, taking into account the natural and socio-economic conditions.
- Disseminating best practices or lessons learnt could serve as a catalyst for the development of effective approaches for groundwater resources management. The continuation of the information, knowledge and experience exchange, in the framework of an enhanced cooperation mainly at technical level, in order to identify best practices or “success stories”, is very important.
- Therefore, the work and activities of the MED-EUWI Working Group on Groundwater could continue, with a priority to the development and/or promotion of common approach methodologies and techniques for controlling intensive exploitation and preventing/reducing pollution of groundwater resources in the Mediterranean region.

In parallel, groundwater management is still a priority for the European Commission. The WG on Groundwater (WG C) will continue to be one of the key activities during the next Work Programme (2007-2009) of the EU Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) of the WFD, aiming both to clarify groundwater issues that are covered by the WFD and prepare the development of technical guidance documents in the frame of the orientations given by the future Groundwater Directive, upon its adoption.

In light of the above, it was proposed to continue the “Groundwater Management” activity during the second phase of the Mediterranean EUWI/WFD Joint Process. The MED-EUWI Working Group on Groundwater, during the second phase (2007-2009), could be engaged mainly in the development and/or promotion of common approach methodologies and techniques for optimal groundwater exploitation and pollution control in the Mediterranean region, based on the experiences of the EU and non-EU countries of the region, existing best practices and the regional conditions.

## ii. Objectives and key subjects

The overall objective of the MED-EUWI Working Group on Groundwater, during the second phase of the Mediterranean EUWI/WFD Joint Process, is to promote the development of synergies and partnership between EU and non EU countries of the Mediterranean region and the adoption of a common vision on groundwater resources management. In particular, it aims to:

- analyse the most significant challenges for the Mediterranean region, related to groundwater resources management, with an emphasis on groundwater over-exploitation and saline water intrusion,
- transfer, exchange and demonstration of know-how on criteria, methodologies and tools used in the Mediterranean region on various groundwater protection and conservation issues and evaluate best practices and “success stories” existing at international and EU level,
- develop common approach methodologies and techniques for optimal groundwater exploitation and pollution control in the Mediterranean region and formulate adequate recommendations and technical specifications,
- improve the awareness raising on issues related to the groundwater protection, conservation and sustainable management and create the basis for additional relative actions in the region.

Based on the above, the following general actions must be undertaken during the second phase of the MED-EUWI Working Group on Groundwater:

- Step 1: list of on-going regional and national processes, initiatives and projects developed to respond to groundwater issues in the Mediterranean region.
- Step 2: description and analysis of significant problems, pressing needs and challenges for the Mediterranean region, related to groundwater resources management, taking into account the information included in the Mediterranean Groundwater Report. Emphasis can be given to over-exploitation and saline water intrusion into the coastal aquifers of the region.
- Step 3: collection of information on existing methodologies, practices and tools used in the Mediterranean region on various groundwater protection and conservation issues, such as remedial actions practised to recover salinized resources, aquifer recharge enhancement, other complementary supply-side measures, models of groundwater behaviour, scenario analysis, vulnerability mapping, protection zoning, remediation methods, groundwater treatment technologies, etc.
- Step 4: identification and analysis of best practices and “success stories” at international and EU level (e.g. provisions and methodologies from the WFD) for controlling intensive exploitation and preventing/reducing pollution.
- Step 5: formulation of recommendations and technical specifications, taking into account the experiences of the EU and non-EU countries of the region, existing best practices and the regional conditions.
- Step 6: demonstration and dissemination of results through the web page of the MED-EUWI Working Group on Groundwater, meetings/workshops, etc.

This activity is targeted to the Member States, partner countries covered by the MED-EUWI, the Commission and interest groups.

**iii. Organisation**

The activity will be lead by Greece and the European Commission.

The MED-EUWI Working Group on Groundwater will include members from the first phase of the WG as well as new members from EU Member States, MEDA and Balkans countries, experts from International Organisations and stakeholders.

Participation in this Working Group is based on active contribution (drafting).

The WG will be linked to the WG C (Groundwater) of the EU Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) of the WFD. In parallel, specific aspects of the WG will be linked with all the other activities to be developed under the second phase of the Mediterranean EUWI/WFD Joint Process.

**iv. Expected outcomes and deliverables**

The expected output will be a report which will include technical specifications and specific recommendations on various groundwater protection, conservation and management issues in the Mediterranean region.

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Inception meeting: February-March 2007  
 Second meeting June 2007  
 Final meeting Winter 2007  
 Presentation to Euro-Med Water Directors June 2008

Workshop: exchange of information: to be confirmed



## **Draft Mandate for an activity on Water Scarcity and Droughts in the Mediterranean**

### **vii. Introduction**

As indicated in the Mediterranean draft report on Water scarcity and Droughts, water stress situations concern many countries in the Mediterranean. Groundwater overexploitation, development of non conventional resources illustrate the difficulties these countries are facing to manage water resources in a water scarce context.

In addition to structural imbalances between supply and demand in the region, the Mediterranean suffers from drought episodes whose consequences are sometimes dramatic.

Due to impacts of climate change the severity and intensity of the events are expected to increase.

These situations have not only economic, social, environmental but also political impacts. Central and local authorities have to consider the consequences of these disasters in their strategies and include prevention and mitigation measures in their policies. In addition, the fact that some basins are shared between several countries exacerbates the challenges.

However, if we know the situation in terms of water resources, few information is available as regards economic and social impacts.

At the EU level, the issue of Water Scarcity and Droughts is getting a higher profile thanks to a political initiative from Southern Member States. The European Commission is preparing an in-depth analysis of these issues.

On the Mediterranean side, the issue of Water scarcity was identified by partner countries as one of the major questions to be addressed. EMWIS, in his role of exchange of information and knowledge, has proposed to set up a group on this particular issue with the objective of exchanging experiences between water institutions and prepare pilot actions to demonstrate and validate the transfer of know-how.

It is proposed to take the opportunity of merging the two initiatives for deepening the issue in the Mediterranean and make a significant contribution as regards assessment of water scarcity and drought in the region, and promote water savings that would contribute to mitigate water scarcity and droughts in the region and in addition facilitate exchange of practices in this sector.

It is suggested to include this topic as a theme for the second phase of the MED-EUW JP.

### **viii. Objectives and key subjects**

The objective of this activity on Water scarcity and droughts is to have an overview of the magnitude of the problem of water scarcity and droughts in the Mediterranean, particularly an assessment of their impacts, and exchange information on possible alternatives of water use that contribute to its saving and could be applied by different types of users.

This activity is targeted to the Member States, partner countries covered by the MED-EUWI, the Commission and interest groups.

Its aim is facilitate exchange of experiences between experts (EU and non-EU) on this issue, to produce an assessment of the impacts of water scarcity and drought in the region and to identify current practices in the Mediterranean to prevent and mitigate them.

Therefore, the objectives for this activity will be:

- Step 1: finalise the Mediterranean report on Water Scarcity and Droughts, initiated during the first phase of the Joint Process.
- Step 2: collect data and information on the economic, social and environmental impacts of water scarcity and droughts in the region.
- Step 3: information analysis and production of a report on the assessment of water scarcity and drought in the Mediterranean
- Step 4: identification and analysis of best practices and “success stories” for water saving measures and formulation of recommendations

#### **ix. Organisation**

The activity will be lead by Morocco, the European Commission France and MENBO. EMWIS will support the participation of Morocco, provide electronic collaboration facilities and ensure the diffusion of draft reports to the national water institutions in the Mediterranean countries.

Membership includes EU Member States, MEDA and Balkans countries representatives, experts from MEDA water regional programme and Research projects, and other experts.

Interfaces with the WS&D activity at the EU level will be organised thanks to EU members of the Med group and co leaders.

Active contribution in the drafting of the report is required from members of the group. Exchange of information will be facilitated thanks to a webpage administrated by EMWIS.

#### **x. Expected outcomes and deliverables**

The expected deliverables are:

- Final version of the Mediterranean WS&D report by March 2007.
- Report 'Mediterranean in-depth analysis of WS&D and recommendations on water savings measures' by March 2008;
- Workshops summary report for further exchange of information

The reports will be submitted to the Euro-Mediterranean water Directors.

**xi. Contact person/s**

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Annual meeting	September 2007
Workshop	December 2007
Presentation to Euro-Med Water Directors	2008



## **DRAFT Mandate proposal**

### **Working Group on “Linking Rural Development with Water Management”**

#### **Joint Process Phase II 2007-2009**

(this proposal is a draft version still under discussion with Phase I WG members)

## **Introduction**

Progressively, legislations are identifying links through common environmental issues and although their implementation remains still focused on single thematic topics, efforts are being made to increasingly integrate planning and execution. However, implementation and impact management in the field does not yet fully succeed in profiting from a strategic combination of the environmental commitments in the various policies. Hence, planned effects on the sustainable use of the ecosystem might, or could, not be reached as long as a vertical thematic approach is followed. Environmental links between various policy fields, such as water and agricultural management, might be intuitively known but lack real evidence. Shortage of concrete facts makes it more difficult for policy makers to create a common base for discussion and liaise their planning. For the manager on the ground, combined solutions are needed to respond to environmental requirements of various policies and the demands of the public. Understanding is needed on the environmental rules of these interactions, how to manage them and to provide proper feedback to the political level.

## **Background**

This Working Group (WG) is being established as result of the Brindisi Workshops (Sep.2004)<sup>8</sup> parallel to a WG on Groundwater and a WG Water Scarcity and has been operational during a preliminary Phase I of the Joint Process, linking WFD, CAP, enlargement and neighbouring policies within the Mediterranean basin. During the JP Phase I, the WG did not have a formal statute. During Phase II this expected to be solved upon a institutionalization of the JP by the Euro-Mediterranean Water Directors. Being then a part of a formal forum, the JP, the WG will focus on the Mediterranean area and

<sup>8</sup> International Workshops on Mediterranean River Basins, 22-24 September 2004, Brindisi, Italy. For information, see website: [http://viso.ei.jrc.it/prb\\_in/index.html](http://viso.ei.jrc.it/prb_in/index.html)

aims at contributing to policy responses related to synergies in environmental concern within WFD, CAP, enlargement and neighbouring Policy, as well as local to regional land and water management policies.

## Objectives

The WG aims at

- Fostering technical solutions through knowledge and experience exchange;
- Organizing in-situ testing and verifying, through a number of proposed solutions, of environmental impact and efficiency assessment of relevant policies
- Constituting a bridging between the technical people and the political decision makers by organizing proper feedback mechanisms.

## Preliminary sample of 2007-2009 Activities

1. Update structure and management of an electronic forum for knowledge exchange between the WG members and consecutively also with the wider public
  - To catalyze knowledge in view of better solutions
2. Continue and expand the observational network of watershed sites (Med PBs) for testing integrated impact assessment and management strategies. Local partners on voluntary basis undertake case studies and commit collaboration with all WG partners and timely sharing of results.
  - Integrated research work
3. Follow-up of case studies undertaken in Phase I
  - More in-depth quantitative analysis and adapted monitoring systems
4. Provide guidelines on undertaking assessment analysis for compiling adapted programmes of measures in support of watershed based integrated policy for sustainable use of water and agricultural resources
  - To provide efficient guidance for implementing improved agricultural practices and water resources management practices
5. Provide support to Mediterranean wide initiatives through focused information based on case study strategies
6. Organize WG meetings and workshops

## Final Output

- Case studies illustrating strategies for policy driven integrated environmental impact assessment and testing of developed methodologies and approaches
- Guidelines for analysis and designing adapted programmes of measures in view of optimizing inter-policy synergies
- Workshop proceedings

## Proposed Time table

<b><i>Time (quarter)</i></b>	<b><i>2007</i></b>	<b><i>2008</i></b>	<b><i>2009</i></b>
<i>Tasks</i>			
Electronic forum	X		
WG Meeting	X	X	
Workshop		X	X

## Membership

This Working Group includes experts in agricultural management, Rural Development experts, water managers and experts in policies from EU and non-EU countries, technical experts in environmental and agricultural sciences and stakeholders. The group is open to all active participants committed to supporting the objectives and activities through concrete contributions.

## Organization and Contact Person

Initially the EC-JRC Soil and Waste Unit will activate and coordinate the WG (contact: Michael Cherlet, EC-JRC ([Michael.Cherlet@jrc.it](mailto:Michael.Cherlet@jrc.it))).



## Draft Mandate for a new activity on Waste Water Reuse

### xiii. Introduction

Further to the work undertaken by the drafting group on water scarcity and droughts and the MED-EUWI Working Group on Groundwater, the issue of waste water reuse was identified as a topic to be further addressed.

Indeed, during the discussion on Water scarcity and Droughts, where the issue of waste water reuse was identified as a way of addressing long term imbalances between supply and demand, no unique position was agreed on definitions, scope, sustainability and safety of waste water reuse. Final recommendations highlighted the need for further investigations and promotion of coordination and information exchange.

In the Med-EUWI Groundwater WG, the impact waste water reuse on the quality of groundwater was considered as a major issue to be addressed in a separate group. To this, it should be added the effects on soil functions, as described in the Commission's proposal for a Soil Framework Directive (COM(2006)232, 22.9.2006).

At the European level, there are no formal European definitions, nor guidelines addressing the issue of treated waste water reuse. Article 12(1) of the Urban waste water treatment directive (91/271/EEC) requires that "**treated wastewater shall be reused whenever appropriate. Disposal routes shall minimise the adverse effects on the environment**". The suitable guidelines and definition of "**whenever appropriate**" is needed to be defined at the EU level. This should, however, be seen in the light of the objectives of article 1 of the directive: "... to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges".

Furthermore (referring to article 12(2) of UWWTD), it is important to notice that "*the disposal of wastewater from urban wastewater treatment plants*" also in terms for treated wastewater reuse, is subject to prior regulations and/or specific authorisation by competent authorities or appropriate bodies.

Therefore the exchange of experience already applied in the Member States regarding the implementation of article 12 of UWWTD are of major importance for developing EU-wide guidelines for treated wastewater reuse.

In the Mediterranean, these practises are of major importance. Waste water reuse is largely developed and could be expanded particularly in some countries. In water stressed areas, waste water reuse can contribute to alleviate the demand and in particular for irrigation.

In light of the above, it was proposed to include this topic as a theme for the second phase of the MED-EUW JP.

In addition, the issue will be linked to the Water Scarcity and Droughts activity under the CIS.

#### **xiv. Objectives and key subjects**

The objective of this activity on waste water reuse is

- to assess the status of the situation with regards to treated waste water reuse in each of the EU Member States and non-EU countries participating in this activity,
- to get an overview of the issues at stake (definitions, scope, safety and sustainability) and
- to prepare the ground for potential more specific actions to be taken at the EU level.

This activity is targeted to the Member States, partner countries covered by the MED-EUWI, the Commission and interest groups.

It aims at facilitating exchange of experiences between experts (EU and non-EU) on this issue, to produce a common understanding of waste water reuse and to identify current practices in the EU and the Mediterranean.

Therefore, the objectives for this activity will be:

- Step 1: to collect information in the EU and non-EU countries on:
  - Waste water reuse definitions
  - Existing policies and strategies, legislation, standards, guidance documents, incentives...
  - Current practices, e.g. on treated waste water reuse and standards for treated wastewater to be re-used,
- Step 2: to assess, analyse and synthesize this information (thematic and geographical analysis)
- Step 3: to issue recommendations and draft follow-up actions

A preliminary scoping phase will be organised to identify

- key practical issues (i.e. (a) urban, domestic, industrial waste water; (b) when it is understood that wastewater is 'reused' and when it is 'disposed'; (c) receiving bodies, (d) safety issues),
- available materials developed by WHO, OECD, EUREAU and other European and international organisations, research projects, MS and interest groups (handbooks, manuals...), relevant ad'hoc experts, research institutions and targeted groups.

#### **xv. Organisation**

The activity will be led by Malta and the European Commission.

Membership includes MS, MEDA and Balkans countries representatives, experts from MEDA water and Research projects, and other experts.

Participation in this group is based on active contribution (drafting).

Aspects related to Groundwater will be coordinated with the Working Group C of the CIS dealing in particular with the Programme of Measures including exchanges on best available technologies.

#### **xvi. Expected outcomes and deliverables**

The expected deliverables are:

- Report including the collected information and its assessment, synthesis, common understanding (definitions) of specific terms and recommendations for future actions
- Workshop summary report

**xvii. Contact person/s**

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Inception meeting (scoping phase):	January 2007
Second meeting	June 2007
Final meeting	December 2007
Presentation to Euro-Med Water Directors	June 2008
Workshop: exchange of information:	to be confirmed



## **Working Group on Shared Water Resources Management**

Draft Mandate

### **i. Introduction**

Transcending most political and administrative boundaries, the available water must be shared among individuals, economic sectors, intrastate jurisdictions and sovereign nations. There are numerous obstacles in achieving these aims. Except for these deriving from the interdependences that are created between different uses, legal and institutional frameworks, policies, priorities, interests and capacities of each country, obstacles also include entrenched positions over issues such as historical rights, cultural values and political persuasions.

International cooperation has become essential for the sustainable management of water resources. Optimal utilization and effective protection of transboundary waters are only possible if the riparian states cooperate for the management of shared water bodies in line with the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). Promoting cooperation over shared waters should aim among others at reducing water poverty, protecting natural resources and preventing crises and conflicts. Joint management of shared water resources can also encourage deepened cooperation amongst riparian countries that goes beyond the water sector.

In the Mediterranean, with growing water scarcity in many parts (south, east, north) of the region, the importance of shared surface (rivers and lakes) and ground water resources in meeting the growing water demand is likely to increase. The region has witnessed conflict resulting from disagreement over the quantitative and qualitative distribution of water from shared resources. Thus, cooperative arrangements to jointly manage shared water resources are becoming a necessity, not only to avoid conflict but also to optimise utilization and to achieve water security.

International cooperation for the management of shared water bodies is a priority for the European Commission. To further develop this issue the “Improvement of transboundary cooperation” was identified as a key activity of the Work Programmes for 2005-2006 and 2007-2009 of the Common Implementation Strategy for the Water Framework Directive (CIS WFD). Moreover, a cross-boarder component is currently developed in the framework of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) while action at the cross-boarder level is included in ENPI National Indicative Programmes.

The joint ‘Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process’ provides a framework for cooperative activities to assist raising of capacity and concrete action for the management of

shared water resources in South Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean. It seeks synergies with parallel processes in the sub-regions.

Moreover, the up-coming GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystems and its water-related components aim to facilitate action to promote IWRM, ICZM and sustainable groundwater management at the national, transboundary and regional levels as a mean to reduce pollution from land based sources into the Mediterranean.

Considerable work has been also undertaken by countries, institutions and organisations in North Africa and East Mediterranean producing scientific background and supporting mechanisms for cooperation and on-the-ground management.

Multilateral and bilateral donors provide significant assistance for related cooperation activities at the basin, national and regional levels.

Furthermore, in the framework of the MED-EUWI/WFD, the Mediterranean Groundwater Working Group , the international cooperation for sustainable management of shared aquifers was recognised as a priority issue, to be further addressed.

In light of the above, it was proposed to include the “Shared Water Resources Management” topic as an activity to be developed during the second phase of the Mediterranean EUWI/WFD Joint Process. This activity will include both surface and ground water aspects of shared water resources management.

## **ii. Objectives and key subjects**

The overall objective of the Working Group is to promote synergies between competent EU and non EU partners of the Mediterranean region and to assist for a common approach on key aspects of joint management of shared surface and ground water resources. In particular, the new activity on “Shared Water Resources Management” aims to:

- Review current policies, agreements and practices in the EU and the Mediterranean area on the issue;
- Promote synergies, at decision-makers and stakeholders level, for the sustainable management of the shared water resources of the region and facilitate the exchange of experiences and know-how between experts (EU and non-EU);
- Promote common approach and methodology on shared water resources management, based on the IWRM principles and building among others on the provisions of the WFD , and prepare related recommendations;
- Improve awareness raising as well as distribution of information on shared waters cooperation and management;
- Create the basis for additional related action in the region.

In order to achieve these aims and building on previous and on-going work and activities by competent institutions, the following general actions would be undertaken:

- **Step 1:** identification and description of major shared surface (rivers and lakes) and ground water resources in the Mediterranean region. Description will focus on the institutional cooperation framework, the main characteristics as regards water quality and quantity, and pressures exerted on the shared resources;



- Step 2: collection and analysis of information on existing policies, strategies, legislation, agreements, methodologies and practices as regards the management of shared water resources in the region.
- Step 3: Analysis of best practices in the Mediterranean.
- Step 5: preparation of recommendations and follow-up actions.
- Step 6: dissemination of results, joint demonstration activities, etc.

The activity is targeted to the EU Member States and the Partner Countries covered by the MED EUWI, the European Commission and stakeholder groups.

### iii. Organisation

The activity will be led by the Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med).

Membership of the Working Group targets to representatives from the EU Member States, MEDA and Balkan countries, International Organisations and stakeholders.

Participation in the Working Group is based on active contribution of the membership to its works.

The activity will be linked to the “Groundwater Management” activity (MED EUWI Working Group on Groundwater) under the Mediterranean EUWI/WFD Joint Process, as regards the shared aquifers cooperation aspects of transboundary water resources management. Synergies will be also build with the Mediterranean Pilot Basin Network and its shared waters activities.

### iv. Expected outcomes and deliverables

The expected deliverables are:

- Report including the description of the current situation, best practices, priorities, recommendations
- Workshop summary reports.

### v. Contact persons

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XXXXXXXXXX	ORGANISATIONS >>	

### vi. Timeframe (tentative)

Inception meeting	January / February 2007
Second meeting	September 2007
Final meeting	February 2008
Presentation to Euro-Med Water Directors	June 2008
Regional Workshop (exchange of information):	to be identified