

SUSTAINABLE MEDITERRANEAN

MEDITERRANEE DURABLE • ΒΙΩΣΙΜΗ ΜΕΣΟΓΕΙΟΣ • MEDITERRANEO SOSTENIBILE المتوسطة المستدامة



IMPORTANT REGIONAL WATER EVENTS OF THE 3rd QUARTER OF 2007

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IMPORTANTS EVENEMENTS REGIONAUX SUR L'EAU AU COURS DU 3ème TRIMESTRE 2007

Quarterly newsletter produced by the **Mediterranean Information Office** for the **Environment, Culture** and **Sustainable Development**, in collaboration with the **European Environmental Bureau** and the **Arab NGO Network for Environment and Development**

Issue no **48**
3/2007

This issue of Sustainable Mediterranean was financed by **MIO-ECSDE** with the support of the **European Commission**



Coming to the end of a very rich water year in the Mediterranean

Emerging from the indispensable importance of freshwater for every aspect of life on the planet, water resources management present a wide and dynamic agenda also in the Mediterranean and Southeastern Europe.

Year 2007 was marked by the advancement of several Mediterranean and Southeastern Europe water programmes and initiatives, including: the implementation of in-country (Country Policy Dialogues) and regional level activities within the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI); the launching of the second phase of the Joint Process linking the MED EUWI with the Water Framework Directive (WFD); the concrete setting of the 'Horizon 2020' Initiative to De-Pollute the Mediterranean with a governance structure and a timetable until 2013 as well as with the findings of the MEHSIP project; the definition of the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (ENPI) modalities; the implementation of the last phase of projects within the MEDA Water Programme and the enhancement of their coordination through the Regional Monitoring and Support Unit (RMSU); the implementation of activities within the Euro-Mediterranean Water Information Systems (EMWIS); the progress achieved by the UNEP/MAP on the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) and the activities undertaken by the Water Working Group of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) including the Saragossa Workshop; the progress achieved by the African Water Facility (AFW) with tangible implementation of national and local projects; the advancement of the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process for transboundary water resources management; the approval and launching of the inception phase of the GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystems; and more!

The year, including its last quarter, has been particularly rich in important Mediterranean water events. These have contributed in advancing knowledge, enhancing stakeholder involvement and raising political commitment for aspects of integrated water resources management (IWRM) and water services in the region. The outcomes of some key events of this last quarter are documented in the present *Sustainable Mediterranean* Newsletter.

Year 2008 is expected to enhance even further the water agenda in the region through the aforementioned programmes and initiatives and many others contributing to water-related objectives. The year will be also marked by the organisation of the special *ad hoc* Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water, planned for the end of 2008, ten years after the related Turin Ministerial Conference of 1999. Linked with that, the Water Directors of the Euro-Mediterranean and Southeastern European Countries at their recent Conference in Bled, Slovenia, proposed the elaboration of a renewed long-term strategy for water in the region that should address, within the overall context of sustainable development and taking into account the MDGs and the WSSD targets on water, the main challenges posed by the increasing water demand in the region and the impact of climate change.

As recognized by the same Conference, there is need for greater policy coherence at the national and regional levels, both in terms of domestic as well as development assistance policies, related to IWRM and water services, sustainable development, poverty alleviation, climate change, environment, health, agriculture and energy. At the same time, the need for further synergies between and prioritisation of initiatives and processes related to water in the region is recognised. It is evident, that these could only be achieved through the meaningful involvement of all key Mediterranean stakeholders, at both the regional and national levels.

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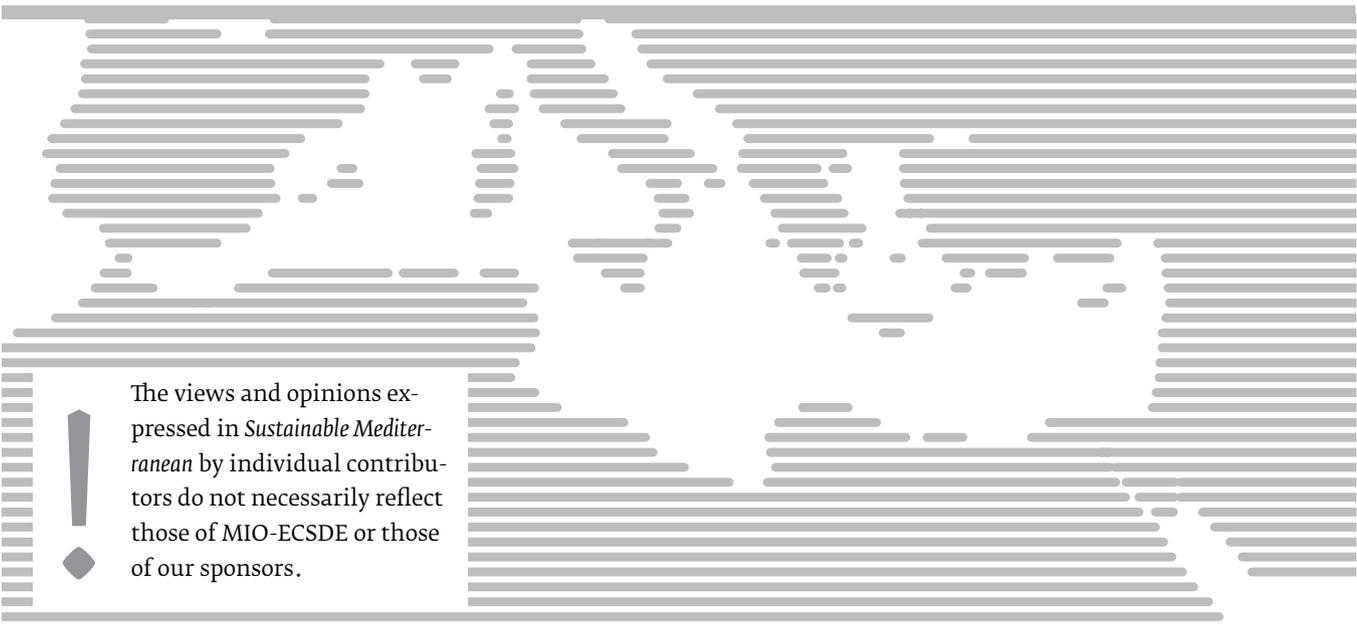
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INVOLVING PRIVATE INVESTORS IN THE 'HORIZON 2020' INITIATIVE FOR THE DEPOLLUTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

22-23 October 2007 • Greece

The Conference gathered key-players involved in the 'Horizon 2020' initiative to explore the ways of involving the private sector in support of the investment component of the initiative.

In particular, the Conference's objective was to identify and explore – for the first time – the following aspects, of critical importance to the successful coordination and implementation of the 'Horizon 2020' endeavour:

- key financing needs and main regional financing initiatives in the region
- opportunities and ways for investors to get involved in the initiative
- private investors' prerequisites and expectations
- potential synergies between all interested partners (EU, Governments, international and regional organisations, public and private banks, cities, SRI funds, etc.)

It was therefore primarily targeted at the private financing/ investment sector, including private/public investment banks; venture capital, and sustainable investment funds. It also involved operators and utilities of the waste water treatment and waste management sectors, municipalities, as well as representatives from large, and small and medium polluting enterprises which require financial support in order to implement the necessary de-pollution measures in order to adopt cleaner technologies.

The issues and challenges

The economic impacts of pollution are significant, and it was assessed that the cost of inaction is high ranging between 2.2-4.8% of GDP*. The financial resources required to de-pollute the Mediterranean are also large. For the eight countries of the Southern Mediterranean**, the investment for treating industrial and municipal wastewaters and cutting half of the BOD pollution was estimated at approximately US\$ 615 million/ year in the period 2005-2010. This is approximately four times the average amount already invested by

these countries in the past 10 years (which includes funding from the donor community for some 20% of the total) and three times the planned investments as stated in the National Action Plans (NAPs) of the same countries. Similarly, investments required to collect solid municipal waste and dispose 50% of this waste in sanitary landfills, were estimated at US\$ 146 million/year for the period 2005-2010. Given these large investment costs, governments are unlikely to be able to afford more than a limited fraction. The remainder, if it is to be financed, will have to come from a combination of the private sector and domestic banking sector, venture capital and sustainable funds.

The countries in the Mediterranean are faced with the following challenges in the pollution caused by industrial waste, untreated municipal effluents and urban solid wastes:

- The pollution scale is high and high also is the cost of addressing it. This would necessitate the prioritization not only of the three target sectors, but in priority sites (cities) and services within each sector.
- The infrastructure system and investment portfolio were built according to an engineering approach in which policies and low accountability were prevailing. This led to poor service delivery, resulting in the unwillingness from the users to pay for these services and depriving therefore the operators of additional resources to maintain the system.
- Utilities and operators at the sub-national entities such as municipalities and regions are not credit worthy and cannot raise private capital. The same applies to large polluting enterprises from the public sector. Given such constraints, municipalities and utilities prefer to finance the collection of waste water and solid waste which would accrue health benefits for their individual citizens. They have little financial incentives to treat this waste properly as this is directly linked with the quality of the environment, which is considered as a public good requiring large state budget interventions.
- Sanitation/ disposal tariff levels are in general by far inadequate for effective cost recovery, and their effect on revenues for sustainable operation and maintenance are negligible. Cost recovery of waste water does not exceed 20-40% of the O&M and cost

* Sarraf et al, METAP reports 2001-2006. See also www.metap.org

** These countries are Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Gaza

recovery on solid waste disposal is very low. Low tariffs and low cost recovery are financial barriers for private sector involvement. Policy reforms in terms of increasing low tariffs and cost recovery have lagged behind the investments for political and social reasons, adversely affecting the sustainability of these investments.

- On the other hand, industrial equipment is still lagging behind and there is a need for the upgrading of sanitation and municipal waste service infrastructures and the involvement of immediate users / beneficiaries and stakeholders of these services at the local level.
- Treatment standards required of municipal wastewater treatment facilities are high and their enforcement would considerably increase investments costs.
- A foreseeable increase of overall water and air pollution, increasing energy and water consumption, and hot spots multiplication, particularly along the Mediterranean coastline, is expected due to increased urbanisation, expansion of industrial activities and increased tourism infrastructure. The latter seems to be financed from the private sector using petro-dollar funds.

Opportunities for the private sector

Many governments in the region have already adopted policies providing legal frameworks, incentives and opportunities for the private sector in the management of water utilities and treatment of solid wastes. Some governments also provide credit lines to the banking sector for concessionary on lending to polluting enterprises. Until now private investors and commercial banks have shied away from investing in waste water treatment and sanitation, disposal of municipal and hazardous waste and industrial emissions. The major reasons are the high financial risks and the large public exposure, coupled to low profitability and uncertainty in the direct and indirect payment of services by the municipalities or the Government. The role of the private sector was therefore limited to manage the services and/or provide best available technologies on a cost reimbursable basis.

In order to catalyze private sector involvement, the International Financing Institutions (IFIs) and Donors have supported the countries for waste water management, solid waste management and industrial depollution using a standard conventional approach of co-financing the overall infrastructure chain. IFIs have also assisted in the reform of these sectors through increase of waste water tariffs and disposal fees as well as gradual cost recovery, which has been slow until now.

Private capital could flow to projects and programs in the three concerned sectors (municipal waste water, industrial pollution, urban solid waste), provided sufficient progress is achieved in the following “soft” ele-

ments, namely:

- ⊙ a supportive institutional, legal and financial framework setting emphasis on financial incentives and not on punitive legal actions
- ⊙ a bottom up approach of meeting customer requirements and satisfaction and minimize costs through adoption of commercial principles
- ⊙ well defined and understood contractual relations between government and the private sector
- ⊙ fair competition and transparency and continuous accountability from all parties involves
- ⊙ a satisfactory resolution of the adverse social impacts resulting some privatization of the services
- ⊙ incorporation of environmental considerations into feasibility studies and financial evaluation of environment risks as well as the establishment of a reliable system to accurately assess relevant environmental impacts.
- ⊙ a responsible banking sector to provide environmentally-friendly loans and minimize liability exposure
- ⊙ a guarantee for payment of services by the client in accordance with contractual performance.

Within the same general framework, there is also room for the private sector/ businesses in the region to develop Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and implement CSR Principles to further enhance reputation, credibility and environmental profile/visibility vis-à-vis customers and other stakeholders, whose related environmental and ethical expectations are rising in all countries, and more rapidly in those where democracy and good governance are gaining ground. This would also encourage interest for the development of Sustainable and Social Investment services/products provided by private banks and the financing sector, which still lag considerably behind in the Mediterranean region.

The way forward

A business-as-usual approach that relies exclusively on further public investing for more infrastructure and, particularly, for costly wastewater and solid waste management treatment, is not sufficient to address the multiple challenges and threats countries face in these sectors. If the private sector is to play a major role in investing and/or managing the infrastructure related to the three sectors, countries have to consider a different approach based on ensuring that a well phased and priority investments program is in place so that economic and financial revenues are reasonable and sustainable. Such an approach would:

- Focus on soft interventions of policy and planning, monitoring and enforcement. The private sector can deliver a high level of services and more effectively if there is a strong management capacity within the public sector to administer, monitor and enforce contracts;
- Underpin the viable programmes and projects in

these three sectors with sound economic, environmental and social understanding and improve analytical tools for planning and cost accounting at the national and local levels;

- Involve the stakeholders in the design and choice of the available technologies commensurate with the affordability of these investments by the beneficiaries;
- Disentangle financing waste water networks and treatment, from municipal waste collection and disposal. Recycling, production of RDF, etc. may have better revenue. Profits generated from the latter are of long term and might require in some cases co-financing from the State budget in the form of subsidies. Such subsidies could be justified on the grounds that these investments are for protecting public goods.

A selection of key-points proposed and discussed

From the overall discussion and exchange of views on additional to the aforementioned actions/ measures fostering synergies in support of the depollution projects in the Mediterranean, the key-points raised by the participants are given herewith:

- A structured follow-up of the meeting was proposed in the form of a “roadmap” which could be implemented in three phases. The first phase (2007-2009) could be a pilot phase for the Waste Water Treatment and Solid Waste Management sectors for 1-2 countries, the second could be a full-scale implementation in one of the two sectors in selected countries (2009-2015), and the third phase (2015-2020) could potentially be an expansion to cover programmes and projects in all three sectors.
- Create a Task Force, open also to the Ministries of Finance and Private Investors/Banks, to prepare the aforementioned “roadmap” and catalyze action on the initiatives identified (see following).
- Establish with the assistance of national/ sub-entities, and eventually Ministries of Finance, a first list of “depollution” projects eager to go for private funding in the three sectors.
- To test the market; few (e.g. two) “champion” countries could be identified that are ready to move concurrently on catalyzing policy reform and leveraging private and public capital. So, the main criteria for the selection of the countries and the sectors will be the existing or emerging “enabling environment”: (a) where the results would be easier to achieve; (b) where there are financially feasible projects already available for attracting private capital; and (c) where there can be partnerships and cost sharing between the private and public capital with the possible support of the International Financing Institutions and Donors.
- Identify realistic financial scenarios for the sound development of private financing and investments for depollution projects.

- Produce operational guidelines for preparing bankable projects, competition for funding, and upfront investments by the IFIs and donors.
- Finance the preparation of standard models for International Competitive Bids and Private Sector Contracts for waste water and solid waste management services as appropriate.
- Prepare generic Terms of References for carrying/ updating cost recovery studies in the waste water and solid waste sector.
- Draft the Terms of Reference detailing main aspects of bankable/ viable projects in particular for Mediterranean Small and Medium Enterprises in order to assist them in submitting relevant proposals.
- Initiate and support the functioning of a “Circle of Responsible Private Investors” for the Mediterranean responding to existing relevant criteria.
- There is a need to draft (and submit to the Countries) an “Investment Code/ Decalogue” or something similar which describes the requirements from all sides for facilitating investment in the area of the environment and Depollution in the Mediterranean.
- Develop capacity building for SMEs in project proposal design and submission relating to eco-financing/investment.
- Develop courses, seminars, etc. on technical issues for banks and private investors interested in depollution and eco-innovation projects.
- Address the link between H2020 and Climate Change as well as eco-innovation.
- Engineer financial mechanism(s) to facilitate schemes encouraging private banks to lend and participate in the development of private equity in CleanTech companies of the region.
- Launch a pilot project addressing water supply, resource efficiency and hygiene/sanitation, expanding the means to combat Climate change through domestic offset projects.

Conclusions – Immediate follow-up

The meeting recognized the great importance, need for and potential of the Private financing for the promotion of SD in the Mediterranean and in particular for the Horizon 2020 Initiative.

Despite the work already done, the region lags behind in the comprehension of the opportunities and prerequisites needed for the active involvement of the Private Sector. To start with, there is a need to enhance the “common language” between the various stakeholders, which could be obtained through closer cooperation and synergy.

The meeting agreed to establish a Task Force (TF) including the organizers and major participants of the meeting that could further develop as a flexible Working Group under the ‘Horizon 2020’ Steering Committee enriched with the participation of Private Banks and

Financial Institutions. The TF/WG will suggest within 2008 a concrete “road map” taking into account the key points raised and the overall report of the meeting. Within this approach, the establishment of criteria for the selection of ‘champion’ countries and/or candidate pilot projects for private funding could be envisaged.

Furthermore, there will be a need to secure government commitment and leadership for implementing the selected elements of the road map.

The Organizers of the Conference, supported by the Task Force, are encouraged to seek funds/resources to continue their work, including submission of propos-

als for projects under DG Enterprise and DG Research (i.e. FP7 and TAIEX Programmes), the GEF, UNEP/MAP, etc.

It was also suggested that appropriate events (i.e. French SIF 2009 “FAIR”, etc.) should be used in order to enhance the enabling environment for the involvement of the private sector.

The organisation of a major conference bringing together investors, banks and other interested parties (i.e. sub-national entities) should be considered as a next step and as an integral part of the “follow up”.



INTERNATIONAL ROUNDTABLE “INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF SHARED GROUNDWATER IN SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE”

14-16 November 2007 • Slovenia

Background *

The International Roundtable “Integrated Management of Shared Groundwater in Southeastern Europe” was jointly organised by the Slovenian Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med), in cooperation with the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) IW:LEARN in Brdo pri Kranju, 14-16 November 2007. GEF IW:LEARN co-sponsored the event.

The Roundtable was part of the Petersberg Process Phase II and Athens Declaration Process. It was the fourth in the series of relevant events that were organized as informal policy dialogues on transboundary water cooperation that convened governmental officials, stakeholders, experts and decision-makers in the water sector from Southeastern Europe (SEE) providing a forum for exchanging experience and stimulating cooperation in this field.

* Rapporteur: Stephen F. Lintner, World Bank

Objectives

Promotion of cooperation for sustainable utilization, management and protection of shared groundwater resources in the SEE region was the main objective of the International Roundtable. Within this framework, the Roundtable aimed at the:

- Identification of the most significant problems, pressing needs and challenges for the SEE region relating to groundwater resources management;
- Promotion of recognition and awareness of the socio-economic and environmental values of shared aquifers as well as the need for integrating shared groundwater management with river basin management;
- Exchange of information and communication of good practices from outside and within the region;
- Identification of key areas of action where the involvement of the Petersberg Process Phase II and Athens Declaration Process, would result in synergies with ongoing and planned activities in the SEE region;

- Identification of key steps needed to advance a strategy and action programme for the management of shared groundwater in the SEE region;
- Facilitation of the establishment of a peer network between persons working in the shared groundwater management area.
- The use of assessments of risks and benefits in decision making may be an approach that will allow for better management;
- Karstic Aquifers are of special importance in the SEE region because of their unique characteristics and the fact that they are geographically spread over a large part of the Balkan Peninsula. Nevertheless, there is a need to adopt a balanced focus between Karstic and Alluvial Aquifers in study and management.

Important issues

Progress has occurred in the SEE region in understanding of groundwater resources. Nevertheless, a lot needs to be done both in further understanding the functioning of shared groundwater systems and towards sustainable management using widely the knowledge we have about them. In the effort to address this overall challenge, the identification of the appropriate ways to tackle the most important issues presents a challenge by itself. These appropriate ways include:

- Recognition of the complex nature of groundwater aquifers and their spatial difference within the framework of traditional upstream/downstream relationships among users as well as countries regarding surface water;
- Adoption of a holistic approach to groundwater management: (i) at the scientific level to understand and explain the nature and importance of the interactions in the land-surface water-groundwater-coastal/marine system; and (ii) at the resource management level in order to appropriately integrate related policies;
- Distinguishing between the level and nature of information that is needed for the scientific explanation of the related phenomena on the one hand and for management decisions on the other, allowing for the appropriate, balanced and efficient use of human and financial resources;
- Supporting the use of a proactive approach, identifying the relevant issues, rather than waiting for problems to occur;
- Making use and building upon the existing, internationally significant, expertise in the SEE region on karstic aquifers for the enhancement of cooperation between the countries.

Special Management Concerns

Against this background:

- Groundwater requires a holistic approach and integration with land use management;
- It should be taken into account that the confining contamination of groundwater means increase of input to vulnerability and risks for such a water body, which in principle is greater than in surface waters;
- Integration with other sectoral policies (e.g., agriculture, energy, transport, etc.) is essential to address the emerging issue of managing the complex, environmentally sensitive and economically important linkages between groundwater and the coastal/marine environment;

Recognition, Awareness, Integration

It was recognized that the need for groundwater management has become a major, though not entirely visible, issue at the regional, national and local level in SEE. Nevertheless, there is a need for increased political and public awareness of the critical role of groundwater resources in environmental, social and economic welfare. There is also a need for expanded integration of current knowledge of groundwater into overall planning and management of water resources at the national and regional levels.

Knowledge of Management Issues

It was evident that resource management concepts are understood by the community of groundwater specialists in the SEE region and some water resources specialists. The issue is particularly recognized among the scientific community in the Karstic Areas where extensive on-going investigations, including Dye Tracing Studies, are being conducted. These concepts are recognized also by basin management organizations, even if they are not included specifically in river basin management plans. Appropriate steps need to be taken for the enhancement of knowledge on groundwater management issues at all levels. Enhanced communication and cross-fertilization among the scientific community, land and water managers as well as policy makers, ministries and local authorities may be beneficial.

Legal Frameworks

Legal frameworks are under revision or have been revised in the majority of the countries of the SEE region. The EU Acquis, and in particular the EU Water Framework Directive, has become the driving force in the Region in terms of water resources management, not only for the EU Member States but also for the Accession Countries and Candidates for Accession Countries. Moving forward, institutional capacities should be strengthened in order to successfully implement it and translate the relevant legislation into sound management practices.

Basis for Cooperation

Until now cooperation between some of the countries of the region for the management of shared water re-

sources has led or will soon lead to the signing of agreements and the development of regional and bilateral institutional arrangements, in some cases in the form of joint management bodies. These arrangements (that primarily focus on shared surface waters) can be used as a Basis for Cooperation also for the management of shared aquifers. The expansion of their competences should be examined on an ad hoc basis. Especially in the case of joint management bodies, the creation of a working group for shared groundwater resources management should be considered. The existing informal mechanisms of cooperation that are used in parallel to the formal ones have been found to be efficient in many cases. Their flexibility should be used in finding the appropriate solutions. In cases where cooperation for the management of shared water resources is less advanced, consultative methods may be used to gradually enhance informal cooperation to become formal. Cooperation at the technical/scientific level has been acknowledged as the first step towards cooperation for the management of shared aquifers. This needs to be strengthened where it is in place and initiated where it is absent.

Frameworks that Facilitate and Promote Transboundary Cooperation are Already in Place – Towards the Establishment of a “Vision” for the Management of Shared Water Bodies

The UNECE Water Convention has been signed and ratified by several of the SEE countries. This, along with the EU Acquis, provides the needed legal framework and creates the necessary synergies for the enhancement of transboundary cooperation. Furthermore, “soft” International Initiatives such as the Petersberg Phase II/Athens Declaration Process offer elements for building capacities and facilitating the creation of the necessary common “Vision” for the management of shared waters. Acting in synergy, these frameworks can create the enabling environment for the enhancement of cooperation for the sustainable management of shared water bodies.

Aquifer Mapping and Assessment – An Expanding Knowledge Base

It has been acknowledged that lack of sufficient and comprehensive data or knowledge of existing information by policy and decision makers is a barrier to sound groundwater management in the SEE region at the local, national and regional level. The work of international institutions for the listing of Transboundary Aquifers, i.e., UNECE/UNESCO Assessment Report and Hydrogeologic Mapping of Europe (in the framework of WHYMAP), are not widely known at country level beyond specialists. The boundaries of the identified transboundary aquifers are not known with accuracy and are not mapped at local scale in most cases. Similarly, potential sources of pollution, supply wells, and land uses are not included in the mapping. Efforts and

resources are needed to produce data and information that will allow: (i) identifying accurately shared aquifers; and (ii) identifying possible transboundary effects of specific sources or activities and their nature. Pilot efforts to selectively map aquifers, for instance within the framework of scientific research projects, and to reach out to local communities, would be helpful to advance cooperative management.

Broad Participation

Actions need to be taken at all levels, including the sub-regional level, where actions should primarily be implemented. It is essential that the key actors of each shared aquifer be identified and engaged. The role of civil society and user associations is critical for the management of groundwater resources. Its representatives should participate in decision making at the level appropriate for each case. Capacity building in public participation could be used to enhance trust and cooperation between and within countries and stakeholders. Public participation experience exists within as well as outside the SEE region. “Champions” for public participation should be identified and relevant experiences and lessons learned should be disseminated.

Building on Experience

Progress in terms of development and implementation of programmes for the cooperative management of surface waters (rivers and lakes) in SEE has been made in recent years. The in-place cooperation for the Danube and Sava Rivers, as well as for Lake Ohrid, Lake Prespa and Lake Skadar, should be evaluated and replicated. The exchange of experience and lessons learned among basins may benefit and catalyze action for transboundary management of groundwater resources. Furthermore experience and lessons learned from outside the SEE region may be useful. In this respect, the proposed GEF assessment of groundwater management should provide valuable input to ongoing and proposed work.

Emerging Issues

❖ Sharing of benefits

Integrated transboundary water resources management involves both quantitative and qualitative dimensions. Most important, it involves the sharing of benefits that result from cooperative or joint management. Identifying these benefits may be a first step in providing a major opportunity to facilitate cooperation at the regional, national and local levels and allow parties to move beyond issues of water quantity and quality.

❖ More effectively using economic instruments

Economic instruments may be used as tools for effective management of groundwater, including provision of economic incentives for conservation and environmental protection. Their careful design and adoption

is necessary in order to be integrated with national developmental and economic policies. It should be coupled with efficient monitoring and enforcement mechanisms that would ensure that access to natural resources is allocated fairly and efficiently among competent uses.

❖ **Managing the interlinked groundwater and coastal/marine systems**

Management of the interlinked groundwater and coastal marine environment is of paramount importance due to the complexity of the systems, their environmental sensitivity and significance as well as their importance for sustainable economic development. Against this background, sectoral policies need to be integrated within and between countries. Cooperation of the countries of the SEE region is essential to address this challenge.

❖ **Adaptation to climate change**

It is widely accepted that climate change will have an effect on water resources availability in space and time. There is a need for identification of the negative and eventually of any positive implications of climate change on the hydrologically variable groundwater resources as well as its implications for the integrated management of water resources. Cooperation between the countries is important in order to respond and adapt to these changes and implications.

Responding to Challenges – The Way Forward

Selected Actions May Involve Among Others:

- Incorporation of surface-groundwater interactions into plans for scientific assessment and co-operative management;
- Use of international experience and practices developed in other regions on various aspects of groundwater assessment and management, to support actions in SEE;
- Consideration by countries of a series of Pilot Projects in identified transboundary groundwater aquifers, since regional processes and trust-building are often facilitated through demonstration;
- Support for peer networks that are critical for long-term cooperation, through workshops and joint site visits;
- Potential use of risk assessment as an element of planning and management.

Actions at Sub-Regional Level

- Dinaric Karst Aquifer Project

The proposed Dinaric Karst Transboundary Aquifer System (DIKTAS) Project presents an opportunity for expanded regional cooperation with the support of GEF and other international, regional and national organizations. It may build upon the existing important expertise on karstic aquifers, disseminating it among the countries of focus. Among other benefits, the initiative may enhance public awareness of the vulnerability of shared groundwater resources and provide information on anticipated effects of climate change. The existing bilateral mechanisms and international project activities in different basins of the SEE region can serve as a basis for broadening regional cooperation through the proposed project.

- Sava River Basin

The representatives of the Governments of the Parties** to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin took the opportunity of the International Roundtable to declare their support for the “...further development of cooperation in the field of shared groundwater in the SEE region and especially in the sustainable management of groundwater in the Sava River Basin where the institutional mechanism of cooperation*** is already established...”. The support of the countries for “expanding” the cooperation in the Sava River Basin to include groundwater management will be translated into action through the International Sava River Basin Commission. The example of the Countries – Parties to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin may be replicated in other parts of the SEE region as well.

- Joint Action

The partners in the Petersberg Process Phase II/Athens Declaration Process confirmed their commitment to work in synergy with GEF, UNESCO, UNDP, through soft and flexible action, in bringing together in joint action the countries and key actors in SEE to address transboundary surface water and groundwater issues.

Background material and information on the the Petersberg Process – Phase II and Athens Declaration Process, GEF IW:LEARN–Activity D2 and transboundary water resources management in Southeastern Europe, are available at the Transboundary Waters Information Exchange Network for Southeastern Europe website (www.watersee.net).

** Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia

*** the International Sava River Basin Commission

International Roundtable on "Integrated Management of Shared Groundwater in Southeastern Europe"

14-16 November 2007 • Slovenia

Joint Statement of the representatives of the Governments of the Parties to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin

- *Mr. Janez Podobnik, Minister, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenia*
- *Mr. Sasa Dragin, Minister, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Serbia*
- *Ms. Ruzica Drmic, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Croatia*
- *Mr. Nikola Ruzinski, State Secretary, Ministry of Environmental Protection Physical Planning and Construction, Croatia*
- *Mr. Senad Oprasic, Head of environmental protection department, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Bosnia & Herzegovina*

The Joint Statement was presented by *Mr. Dejan Komatina, Secretary, Secretariat of International Sava River Basin Commission*

Recognizing the importance of protection of groundwater for human lives, social welfare, and economic prosperity, as well as for preservation of environmental values,

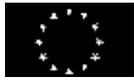
We, the representatives of the Governments of the Parties to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin,

In the frame of the International Roundtable on "Integrated Management of Shared Groundwater in Southeastern Europe" and following the concept of joint action in the field of shared groundwaters in Southeastern Europe, as well as principles of cooperation in the region stipulated in the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin, agreed in this context as follows:

1. The Parties support further development of cooperation in the field of shared groundwaters in Southeastern Europe, especially sustainable management of groundwater in the Sava River Basin where the institutional mechanism of cooperation is already established and being progressively improved.
2. Therefore, the Parties further encourage all efforts and actions aimed to the implementation of development oriented projects and to enhance the implementation of the principles of the Water Framework Directive, taking into account measures for flood protection, mitigation of droughts and water scarcity, and use of renewable energy.
3. Comprehensive scientific research is welcomed to establish a set of hydrogeological, bio-chemical and socio-economic criteria for sustainable management of groundwater resources in the Sava River Basin and to present these criteria as guidelines to practitioners for their effective application, taking into account the importance of karst groundwater bodies.
4. The Parties reaffirm advantages of taking coordinated steps to implement the joint actions under the umbrella of the International Sava River Basin Commission.
5. Appreciating the efforts and work undertaken in the framework of the Petersberg Process Phase II/Athens Declaration Process, the Parties agreed to explore ways and means for further promoting cooperation in the field of shared groundwater management.



Hellenic Government
Ministry for the
Environment
Ministry of Foreign Affairs



EU Commission
DG ENV
DG AiidCo
DG RELEX



Mediterranean
Component
of the EU Water
Initiative Commission



Euro-Mediterranean
Partnership



Euro-Mediterranean
Information System on
Know-How in the Water
Sector



Regional Monitoring
and Support Unit
MEDA-Water Programme

4th CONFERENCE OF THE WATER DIRECTORS OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN AND SOUTHEASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

10-11 December 2007 • Slovenia

The Water Directors of Albania, Algeria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and the European Commission representatives, participants in the Conference held in Bled, Slovenia, on 10-11 December 2007 as well as the Water Directors of Croatia, Libya and Serbia, and the League of Arab States as observers to the Conference,

Preamble

1. *Recalling* the Algiers Declaration (1990) and the Mediterranean Water Charter (Rome 1992) establishing the principle of regional co-operation in the water sector in the region; the priority nature of water in the Barcelona Declaration (November 1995); the principles of Euro-Mediterranean co-operation in the field of water adopted at the Ministerial Conference on Water (Marseilles, November 1996); the recommendations relative to water demand management in the region, as set out by the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) and adopted by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention (November 1997); that water has been confirmed as one of the six main priority sectors of economic co-operation in the Euro-Mediterranean region during the Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Stuttgart, April 1999); the Turin Plan of Action (1999) on Local Water Management which constituted the basis for the development of EMWIS and the on-going MEDA Water Programme; the water-related Millennium Development Goals (2000) and the targets agreed during the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002) as well as the EU Water Initiative launched in Johannesburg in 2002 as a means to achieve these goals and targets; the outcomes of the World Water Fora and the related Ministerial Conferences (Marrakech 1997, The Hague 2000, Kyoto 2003, Mexico City 2006); the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) adopted in Portoroz, Slovenia (November 2005) by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention; the conclusions of the Launching of Horizon 2020 Initiative (Barcelona, December 2006) and the Cairo Declaration of the 3rd Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on the Environment on the Horizon 2020

Initiative (November 2006) and the related Horizon 2020 Timetable; the conclusions of the Conference on the Horizon 2020 and the Involvement of the Private Sector (Athens, 22-23 October 2007); the conclusions of the 9th Euro-Mediterranean Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Lisbon, 5-6 November 2007); the conclusions of the International Solidarity Conference on Impacts & advanced climate change strategies for the African & Mediterranean regions (Tunis, 18-20 November 2007); the Resolutions adopted by the Water Directors of Euro-Mediterranean Partnership in Madrid (November 2001), Rome (November 2005) and Athens (November 2006);

2. *Considering* that the Bled Conference constituted an opportunity for Euro-Mediterranean and SEE countries to be informed, discuss and assess the progress achieved so far and to consult in view of the possible organization of a special ad hoc Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water to take place in the second semester of 2008, whose ToRs shall be agreed upon by all partners in due time;

3. *Considering* that the Mediterranean countries face a diversity of water challenges linked with water scarcity and droughts, climatic conditions, rapid population growth, poverty, unbalanced food supply and affordability, environmental pollution and degradation, gender equality, as well as governance issues including lack of adequate political support, fragmentation of water management, insufficient public awareness and relevant education. The Mediterranean is among the worlds most vulnerable regions to the effects of climate change, including droughts, also contributing to desertification, and floods; thus there is urgent need for and mitigation and adaptation measures to be further implemented and integrated within the overall National Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Strategies and Plans. In the countries of the Mediterranean, a large number of efforts are made by governments, national and international agencies and various stakeholders to respond to such challenges, based to certain extent on IWRM approaches. However, it is important to enhance coordination and coherence of these efforts.

the Water Directors agree on the following:

4. Propose the elaboration of a renewed long-term strategy for water in the region. It should address, within the overall context of sustainable development and taking into account the MDGs and the WSSD targets on water, the main challenges posed by the increasing water demand in the region and the impact of climate change. This renewed strategy should include quantitative and qualitative targets and objectives.

5. Wish to see the forthcoming special ad hoc Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water address, *inter alia*, the issues described in paragraph 24.1.

6. Deem it appropriate that Ministers provide guidance for the development and the implementation of this long-term regional strategy on water and cooperation.

7. Recognize the need for greater policy coherence at the national and regional levels, both in terms of domestic as well as development assistance policies, related to IWRM and water services, sustainable development, poverty alleviation, climate change, environment, health, agriculture and energy.

8. Call for further synergies between and prioritisation of initiatives and processes related to water in the region.

9. Recognize the need to explore further how financial resources could be used and coordinated more effectively to contribute to meeting relevant water targets in the Mediterranean area, including the mobilization of local financial resources, in application of the cost-recovery principle. Moreover, they highlight the need to fully take into account the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005).

10. Wish to continue and enhance their interaction among themselves and with competent Authorities and stakeholders through the Forum of the Water Directors of the Euro- Mediterranean and Southeastern European Countries. In the light of developments that have taken place within this Forum, the Water Directors agreed to propose that the forthcoming special ad hoc Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water discuss and agree, *inter alia*, a mission for this Forum, including its specific tasks as well as its structure and functioning.

11. To list below without any prejudice to their importance, programmes, projects and initiatives according to their political framework and their starting date.

In particular, as regards:

12. ‘Improving integrated water resource and water demand management’ is one of the seven priority fields of action of the ‘**Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)**, agreed in Portoroz, Slovenia (November 2005). Constituting a regional policy framework for promoting sustainability in the region, reinforcement of implementation of the MSSD and regular monitoring of its outputs were recommended including enhancing synergies with relevant processes in the region.

12.1. In this context, the Water Directors consider that the synergies between different political initiatives (such as the MSSD, MED EUWI, ENP, Horizon 2020, the EU Marine Strategy Directive) and the implementation of actions identified at regional and national levels (e.g. within UNEP MAP, ENP Action Plans or MED EUWI National Policy Dialogues) should be further enhanced.

12.2. Moreover, the water-related priority field of action of MSSD could be considered as one of the main pillars for preparing a renewed regional strategy on water to be discussed by the special ad hoc Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water.

13. The **GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystems (GEF SPM)** will support and catalyze the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Mediterranean (SAP MED) and for the Biodiversity (SAP BIO) and their related country NAPs. Its water-related Components respond to operational objectives on IWRM, Management of Coastal Zone Aquifers and Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

13.1. The Water Directors are willing to assist the implementation of the GEF SPM, in close coordination with other authorities competent for water resources management at country level.

13.2. The Water Directors welcome the linkages established between GEF SPM and parallel regional processes and in particular MED EUWI and the Mediterranean Joint Process. They also welcome linkages of the GEF SPM planning and implementation with the draft Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

14. The **Recent Development on Information Systems on Water in the Mediterranean** underlines the strategic importance of sharing knowledge and information for improving IWRM at the local level and cooperation around common goals.

14.1. The Water Directors acknowledge the results achieved so far by EMWIS and its National Focal Points to facilitate the exchange of know-how between the Euro-Med countries. They reiterate their willingness to fully implement as soon as possible the year EMWIS action plan approved in Rome in 2005, including the

networking of the MEDA-Water community and the dissemination of the technical and managerial knowledge developed by this community.

14.2. The Water Directors welcome the results of the feasibility study on a Mediterranean water observatory mechanism, specially its role of facilitating and streamlining data collection processes, its emphasis to support National Water Information Systems. In this context, they discussed the proposal of EMWIS Steering Committee to extend its activities from know-how to numerical water data with the voluntary participation of all relevant national and regional organisms.

14.3. They particularly recognised the synergy developed with the European Environment Agency (EEA) for interfacing EMWIS with the Water Information System of Europe-WISE.

14.4. They recommend further developments and reinforcement of Water Information Systems in the Mediterranean and Southeastern European countries to be included as an appropriate component for a potential future water strategy for the Mediterranean to be decided by the special ad hoc Ministerial Conference in 2008.

15. The actions implemented within the almost completed **Euro-Mediterranean Regional Programme for Local Water Management (MEDA Water Programme)** show interesting results with respect to water user participation, wastewater treatment and reuse, irrigation water management and drought management which lessons learnt can be applied in forthcoming regional and national projects on water management.

15.1. An important aspect of the MEDA Water Programme has been the networking between research institutions, NGOs and authorities at the regional and local level. The Water Directors consider that it is important that the network built-up in the MEDA Water Programme is maintained through strengthening of regional activities financed by the European Union, in order to complement and make more effective national activities on water management.

15.2. The Water Directors note in particular that the momentum of technology transfer and exchange should be maintained.

16. Actions taken for the development of the **Initiative for De-Polluting the Mediterranean Sea by year 2020**, entitled '**Horizon 2020**', were welcomed. The results of the 1st Meeting of the Horizon 2020 Steering Committee (Marakech, June 2007) were noted. The Water Directors:

16.1. Highlight the role of their Forum as a possible interface between wider environmental objectives and targeted water / urban waste water issues and recommend related modalities to be explored at the national level.

16.2. Welcome synergies between Horizon

2020 and ENP, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and MED EUWI. In particular, operationalization of synergies between the Horizon 2020 'Urban wastewater treatment' component (under the pillar of 'pollution reduction') with the MED EUWI 'Water Supply and Sanitation' theme, as well as with the Horizon 2020 pillars on 'Capacity Building' and 'Research' are recommended.

17. The work carried out by the **Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI)** during 2007 through regional and country activities is positive. The Water Directors reiterating their role as institutional support to MED EUWI for its implementation and welcoming the proposed overall MED EUWI Work Plan for 2008:

17.1. Take note of the reform process of the EUWI and the subsequent reinforced role of regional components within the initiative.

17.2. Support the MED EUWI focus of activities on prioritization of national needs for the water sector to meet national targets, implementation of national water planning activities including assistance to countries for the elaboration of IWRM plans, development of sustainable financing strategies, and improved donor coordination in the field of water. Moreover, they express their wish to see further emphasis of MED EUWI on tackling climate change in the national water strategies and IWRM plans.

17.3. Welcome in particular the continuation of the 'National Policy Dialogue' in Egypt as well as the re-launching of the 'National Policy Dialogue' in Lebanon linked to the country's Reconstruction Process and the facilitation of the updating of the IWRM plan 2000-2025 in Libya. Based on demand by competent national authorities, launching and implementing of 'National Policy Dialogues' and other related activities in more countries of the region is encouraged.

17.4. Recommend the increase of synergies between MED EUWI and other on-going policies (e.g. Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, the European Neighbourhood Policy, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols), initiatives and strategies (e.g. the 'Horizon 2020' Initiative, the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, the EU Marine Strategy), funding instruments and programmes (e.g. the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument, the GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean LMEs) as well as tools (e.g. the MED EUWI / WFD Joint Process, the Euro-Mediterranean Water Information System) and other political frameworks such as the League of Arab States in the region, thus consolidating its contribution to these processes.

17.5. Expect that MED EUWI develops further action and practical results to be imple-

mented. In this respect, appropriate financial resources should be mobilized from donors.

17.6. Note the development of synergies between MED EUWI and bilateral and multilateral donors including the European Investment Bank, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the African Water Facility, the United Nations Development Programme, the Global Environment Facility etc.

18. Progress and results achieved from the first year of Phase II (2007-2009) of the **Joint Process (JP) linking the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) with the MED EUWI**, were also discussed. The Water Directors:

18.1. Recognize the role of the JP as a technical platform for discussing and assessing Mediterranean specificities in water resources management and promoting convergence of water related legislation and policies in partner countries with a view to, *inter alia*, to further linking the Process to national concerns.

18.2. Take note of the JP Phase II Reports and progress on 'Groundwater management', 'Water Scarcity and Droughts', 'Linking Rural Development with Water management', 'Wastewater reuse', 'Shared water resources management' and 'Water Monitoring' and look forward to the continuation of their works and their recommendations. They endorse the new mandates of the Working Groups on Groundwater and Water Monitoring and the report on wastewater reuse and approve the follow up work by a task force (Malta, Morocco, Cyprus, Libya) for reviewing relevant guidelines and compilation of a good practice compendium.

18.3. Welcome the development of the 'Mediterranean Pilot Basins' activity in Litani and Sebou within JP Phase II as a tool for practical testing of the recommendations produced and express their expectation to upscale these first testing phase.

19. The **European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)** aims to strengthen the prosperity, stability and security of all concerned, building on commitment to common values (democracy and human rights, rule of law, good governance, market economy principles and sustainable development). The central element of the ENP is the bilateral ENP Action Plans agreed between the EU and each partner which set out an agenda of agreed priorities in a wide range of areas. The Water Directors:

19.1. Support the ENP's objective to contribute to prioritization and strategic planning with regard to water issues at both the country and the regional levels.

19.2. Encourage support of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) to relevant water-related processes in the region.

20. The Water Directors took note of the information provided by the European Commission on the new **EU Marine Strategy Directive**, already adopted, and to be formally published soon. This directive is considered to complete the coverage of the whole water cycle in EU legislation. It will require new actions by EU Member States, which will have to further enhance their cooperation with non EU Member States within the framework of the Barcelona Convention.

21. The Water Directors were informed of the main elements of the Communication of the European Commission, COM(2007)414, on **water scarcity and droughts**. It identifies the different problems related to both situations and the possible political and practical measures available. The Communication insist in the need to consider the utilization of water saving and efficiency strategies as an important tool to ensure proper water management. As a follow up, the Spanish delegation presented the results of a project developed within the EU Common Implementation Strategy for the WFD, dealing with drought management plans.

22. Water Directors took note of the activities carried out by the **European Investment Bank (EIB)**. They highlight the need of ensuring project efficiency as well as good coordination between donors, as well as between donors and partner countries in identifying and implementing specific projects. Moreover, they took note of the need to elaborate further on the outcomes of some particular projects, namely on cost-recovery approach.

23. Water Directors took note of the presentation by France, President of the EMWIS Steering Committee, of the preliminary report on 'Assessment and prospects for cooperation in the Mediterranean water sector'. It was intended to be a contribution to the Ministerial Conference. Water Directors found that the information presented in the report was not complete and that should be further elaborated (the authors indicated their welcome to any information provided). The Directors nevertheless agreed on the need to prepare background documents for the Ministerial.

24. Water Directors welcomed the initiative to organize a **special ad hoc Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water**, the second semester of 2008 and suggested to invite as observers Southeastern European Countries. Moreover, the Water Directors:

24.1. Recommend, *inter alia*, the following as key themes for the Ministerial Conference:

(i) Advancing on Effective Water Governance for IWRM and WSS, as a horizontal theme to advance all related issues including addressing public participation, awareness building, capacity building and coordination within administrative units and among stakeholders; (ii) Addressing Water and Climate Change through

adaptation measures together with mitigation, with emphasis, *inter alia*, on management of droughts and floods and combating desertification; (iii) Optimizing water financing, water valuation and appropriate instruments, with emphasis on innovative mechanisms and (iv) Water Demand Management and Efficiency and Non-Conventional Water Resources.

24.2. With the aim that the ToRs for the Conference be agreed upon by all partners in due time, offer their contribution to ensure the proper preparation of the Ministerial Conference. In particular, it was deemed appropriate to meet again before the Ministerial Conference to discuss any relevant document to be adopted by the Ministerial Conference.

24.3. Agree to set up an ad hoc Steering Committee led by the Commission and the EU Presidencies for 2008 (Slovenia and France) and comprised of Algeria, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey and, as observers, the League of the Arab States, IME and MedWet, as facilitator of the preparatory mechanism of the Conference. It was also agreed to set up a Drafting Group comprised of the European Commission, the EU Presidencies for 2008 (Slovenia and France), Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco and Turkey, in charge *inter alia* of the preparation and discussion of documents to be presented at the Ministerial Conference.

24.4. Call on all stakeholders to identify and present best practices to be used as basis for further action, in particular, donors' coordination, use of non-conventional sources of water and public participation.

25. The Water Directors take note of the organization of the forthcoming Conference of the Parties of the Barcelona Convention (Almeria, January 2008) and the preparations for the Water Expo (Zaragoza, 2008) and for the 5th World Water Forum (Istanbul, 2009). They urge for promotion of priority water issues in the Mediterranean region through meaningful discussions and the organization of dedicated regional sessions where relevant, e.g. at the 5th World Water Forum.

26. The Water Directors request the Greek government as MED EUWI Lead Country, the Portuguese Presidency of the EU and the European Commission:

26.1. To transmit these Conclusions to the Ministers in charge of water in the countries of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, Libya, the countries of Southeastern Europe and to the competent EC Commissioners.

26.2. To present to the Euromed Committee and all upcoming Euro-Med Ministerial Meetings the conclusions of this Conference and in particular the modalities agreed by all partners as regards the preparatory process for the Ministerial Conference on Water, as well as the progress obtained by MED EUWI, Joint Process, EMWIS, Horizon 2020, and MEDA Water Programme.

26.3. To present these Conclusions at the forthcoming Conference of the Parties of the Barcelona Convention, January 2008, in Almeria.

27. The participants thank the organisers, and particularly the Slovenian government for hosting the Conference in Bled.

All related documentation has been uploaded onto the URLs: www.minenv.gr/medeuwi/ and www.emwis.net



JOINT COMMUNICATION ON MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

This Communication was submitted to the 4th Conference of the Water Directors of the Euro-Mediterranean and Southeastern European Countries (10 & 11 December 2007, Bled, Slovenia) and is a joint effort of:

- the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med): www.gwpmed.org/
- the EC financed project GEWAMED (Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions into Water Resources Development and Management in the Mediterranean Region) www.gewamed.net/index.php and
- the MIO-ECSDE (Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Cultural and Sustainable Development), www.mio-ecsde.org

Why do we need more political attention to gender issues in the context of water resources?

The need to adopt effective water resources management practices in order to face crucial water security challenges has been on the top of the agenda of politicians and decision makers for many years.

Particular emphasis has been given to the need to base water development and management on a participatory approach, involving users, planners and policy-makers at all levels. The decisive role of women in this context has been repeatedly highlighted in relevant Ministerial statements and declarations, such as the Dublin Statement on Water and Sustainable Development adopted in the framework of the International Conference on Water and the Environment (1992), the Ministerial Declaration of The Hague on Water Security in the 21st Century (Second World Water Forum, 2000) and the International Conference on Freshwater (Bonn, 2001). These high level meetings have recognised the need to empower women to participate at all levels in water resources programmes, including decision-making and implementation and to secure their equal voice in managing the sustainable use of water resources and sharing the benefits.

The reports presented during the recent Conference of the Water Directors of the Euro-Mediterranean and South-Eastern European Countries (Athens, 2006) clearly illustrate that a large number of efforts are being made in all countries of the region, South and North, by governments, national and international agencies and various stakeholders to respond to a diversity of water challenges among which also gender inequity figures. They also show that governance issues, including lack of adequate political support, fragmentation of water management, insufficient public awareness and relevant education are still among the most critical obstacles towards a sustainable management of the region's resources.

Considering the important role women play in water demand and use management by each sector (domestic, drinking water supply, agriculture, industry, environment etc.) it has become clear that an equal women's involvement is not only important for their status but it is also essential for the effective use of finite water resources for present and future generations. Only by providing women the right incentives for investing time, labour and capital e.g. in irrigation and water management activities, etc. – incentives reflecting their responsibilities, access to and control over productive resources – a sustainable management of the resources can be achieved.

Therefore, if we are to respond to the current water challenges in a holistic and effective manner, increased efforts need to be made by all responsible agencies and ministries to enhance women's role in water resources management.

Interventions and policies towards this objective can also prove supportive of other efforts governments and the international community are undertaking to-

wards the sustainable management of the region's resources and, finally, towards the satisfaction of basic people's needs clearly highlighted by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (education, fight against poverty and hunger, gender equality, health, protection of natural resources etc.).

Urgent issues relating to the effective involvement of women in water resources management that still need an adequate political support are the following:

1. Gender analysis: There is urgent need for a more rigorous implementation of existing guidelines and/or new ones for the undertaking of gender analysis during the formulation and implementation of projects and the enactment of water policies. This will ensure that water development projects will benefit in an equal manner women and men.
2. Land and Water ownership inheritance legislation: Gender sensitive legislation should be put in place and effectively implemented. In fact, even in cases where the law provides an equal opportunity for men and women regarding the inheritance of goods by the heirs there is often a considerable difference between law and reality. Social habits and other traditions inflict serious discrimination to women and few countries establish discriminating criteria when the heirs are women.
3. Education and Awareness on Gender Issues: Water education at all levels is of utmost importance for increasing the awareness of the public and the government bodies. Little is done in this important area compared to the actual needs.
4. Participation of Women in Water Governance: Very few women are active in Water Users Associations and Water Cooperatives. This is particularly a consequence of the restricted land ownership of women in many Mediterranean countries. The presence of women in most irrigation and water supply agencies is increasing but in most cases still far from the potential.
5. Coordination and Institutional Capacity in gender issues: There is the need for a better coordination at national level and even more at regional level among institutions and bodies (governmental and non-governmental) dealing with gender support programmes. Furthermore, the skills of many of these institutions related to participatory and gender approaches should be enhanced.
6. Extension services, gender specialists and training materials: There is an urgent need to improve the quality of extension services directed to women and to increase the number of female gender specialists / extension officers. Training materials should become more gender sensitive.
7. Cultural Heritage and Social Norms: Education and awareness are essential to support positive

changes overcoming those social and cultural norms that are the cause of gender inequity and inequality.

8. Training needs: Specific training programmes need to be addressed to working-women, most of which are engaged in agriculture and represent the most disadvantaged group of their society. Often they do not have other source or income than their work, which is underpaid as they frequently remain unskilled workers.
9. Access to Information: A better knowledge among men and women about their own rights and an increased access for needed information and technology are urgently needed.
10. Gender-disaggregated statistical information: statistics disaggregated by sex with a gender perspective need to be improved in order to better evaluate the gravity of situations related to the roles that women and men play in the development and use of land and water resources and monitor the process of gender integration into water management.

In line with these considerations we call on the Water Directors:

1. To promote the participation of women organizations concerned with land and water rights in the integrated water resources management.
2. To promote training and extension programmes specifically addressed to rural women at local level in order to provide them with the necessary qualifications to access better paid work.

3. To ensure that the principles of equal opportunities are rigorously applied in the recruitment of staff, including in large water ministries or related institutions, and, whenever the qualifications of candidates are equivalent, to adopt measures in order to promote equal representation of men and women.
4. To promote media programmes for the public awareness on existing gender issues in the domain of water resources management.
5. To promote the implementation of educational programs at schools to promote a better understanding of the importance of the sustainable use of the water resources and the complementary role that women and men can play in it.
6. To take appropriate actions to ensure that water users organizations do not include only the owner of land but the actual managers of it. This should create new and important opportunities for women to participate more actively in the affairs of the associations as many women are *de facto* the managers of many small and medium farms.
7. To guarantee that a gender analysis or other similar tools able to consider the productive and reproductive role of women be included in the formulation, execution and management of water resources development projects, including procedures aimed at collecting, processing and recording gender disaggregated information by sex. This information is essential for a proper planning of development projects as well as to monitor the social evolution of rural societies.



COMMUNICATION COMMUNE SUR L'INTEGRATION DE LA DIMENSION DE GENRE DANS LA GESTION INTEGREE DES RESSOURCES EN EAU*

Pourquoi est il nécessaire de prêter une majeure attention politique aux questions de genre dans le contexte des ressources en eau ?

La nécessité d'adopter des procédures efficaces de gestion des ressources en eau afin d'aborder les défis cruciaux relatifs à la sécurité en eau a été une des priorités dans l'ordre du jour des politiciens et des preneurs

de décisions pendant beaucoup d'années.

Une attention particulière a été donnée à la nécessité de baser le développement et la gestion de l'eau sur une approche participative, impliquant les utilisateurs, les planificateurs et les politiciens à tous les niveaux. Le rôle décisif des femmes dans ce contexte a été à plusieurs reprises accentué dans des rapports

* Cette Communication est un effort commun de:

- Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med): www.gwpmmed.org/
- GEWAMED, un projet financé par la CE (Intégration de la Dimension de Genre dans le Développement et la Gestion des Ressources en Eau dans la Région Méditerranéenne) www.gewamed.net/index.php et
- MIO-ECSDE (Bureau Méditerranéen d'Information sur l'Environnement, la Culture et le Développement Durable), www.mio-ecsde.org

et des déclarations ministériels appropriés, tels que la déclaration de Dublin sur l'Eau et le Développement Durable adoptée dans le cadre de la Conférence Internationale sur l'Eau et l'Environnement (1992), la Déclaration Ministérielle de la Haye sur la Sécurité de l'Eau au 21ème siècle (Deuxième Forum Mondial sur l'Eau, 2000) et celle issue de la Conférence Internationale sur l'Eau Douce (Bonn, 2001). Ces réunions au niveau le plus élevé ont reconnu la nécessité de renforcer le rôle des femmes pour qu'elles puissent participer à tous les niveaux dans les programmes des ressources en eau, y compris la prise de décisions et l'exécution et pour leur assurer le même poids dans l'utilisation durable des ressources et le partage des avantages qui en dérivent.

Les rapports présentés pendant la récente Conférence des Directeurs de l'Eau de la Région Euro-Méditerranéenne et des Pays du Sud-Est de l'Europe (Athènes, 2006) illustrent clairement qu'un grand nombre d'efforts sont faits dans tous les pays de la région, au Sud et au Nord, par les gouvernements, les agences nationales et internationales et les diverses parties prenantes au but de répondre à un ensemble des défis relatifs à la gestion de l'eau, parmi lesquels figure aussi l'inégalité entre les genres.

Ils prouvent également que les questions de gouvernance, y compris le manque d'un appui politique adéquate, la fragmentation de la gestion de l'eau, l'insuffisante sensibilisation publique et éducation relatives à l'eau sont toujours parmi les obstacles les plus critiques vers une gestion durable des ressources de la région.

Vu le rôle important des femmes dans la gestion de la demande et de l'utilisation de l'eau dans chaque secteur (domestique, approvisionnement de l'eau potable, agriculture, industrie, environnement etc...) il est devenu clair qu'une participation équitable de femmes est non seulement importante pour leur statut mais également essentielle pour un usage efficace des ressources d'eau finies au bénéfice des générations présentes et futures. Seulement en fournissant aux femmes des incitations appropriées pour investir leur temps, travail et capital, par exemple dans des activités d'irrigation et de gestion de l'eau, etc... - incitations reflétant leurs responsabilités, l'accès et le contrôle des ressources productives - une gestion durable des ressources peut être réalisée.

Par conséquent, si nous devons relever les défis couvrants de la gestion de l'eau d'une façon holistique et efficace, des efforts accrus doivent être entrepris par tous les ministères et les agences responsables au but de renforcer le rôle des femmes dans la gestion de ces ressources.

Des interventions et des politiques envers cet objectif peuvent également s'avérer de support à d'autres efforts que les gouvernements et la communauté internationale sont en train de faire vers la gestion durable des ressources de la région et, finalement, vers la satisfaction des besoins primaires, ce qui est clairement mis en évidence par les Objectifs de Développement du Millénaire (ODM) (éducation, lutte contre la pauvreté

et la faim, égalité des genres, santé, protection des ressources naturelles etc.).

Les questions pressantes concernant la participation effective des femmes dans la gestion de ressources en eau, qui ont encore besoin d'un appui politique approprié sont les suivantes:

11. Analyse des questions spécifiques du genre: Il y a un besoin urgent de mettre en œuvre dans une façon plus rigoureuse les lignes-guide existantes et/ou d'en élaborer des nouvelles au but d'analyser les questions relatives au genre pendant la formulation et l'exécution de projets et l'établissement de politiques sur l'eau. Ceci assurera que les projets de développement de l'eau favoriseront les femmes de façon égale aux hommes.
12. Législation relative à la transmission de la propriété de la Terre et de l'Eau: Une législation sensible aux questions de genre devrait être mise en place et efficacement appliquée. En fait, même dans les cas où la loi relative à la transmission des biens aux héritiers prévoit des opportunités équivalentes pour les hommes et les femmes, il y a souvent une différence considérable entre la loi et la réalité. Des habitudes sociales et des traditions infligent aux femmes une discrimination sérieuse et quelques pays établissent des critères distinctifs quand les héritiers sont des femmes.
13. Éducation et Sensibilisation aux Questions de Genre: L'éducation sur l'eau à tous les niveaux est essentielle pour augmenter la sensibilisation du public et des agences gouvernementales. Peu est fait dans ce domaine important comparé aux besoins réels.
14. Participation des Femmes dans la Gouvernance de l'Eau: Très peu de femmes sont actives dans des Associations d'Utilisateurs d'Eau et des Coopératives d'Eau. Ceci est dû en particulier aux limitations pour les femmes à disposer de propriétés sur la terre dans beaucoup de pays Méditerranéens. La présence des femmes dans les agences d'irrigation et d'approvisionnement d'eau augmente mais dans la plupart des cas est toujours loin du possible.
15. Coordination et capacité institutionnelle dans les questions de genre: Il est nécessaire d'améliorer la coordination au niveau national et encore plus au niveau régional parmi les institutions et les agences (gouvernementales et non gouvernementales) traitant des programmes de soutien à la résolution des problèmes de genre. En outre, leurs qualifications relatives aux approches participatives et de genre devraient être renforcées.
16. Services d'extension, spécialistes en genre et matériaux de formation: Il y a un besoin pressant d'améliorer la qualité des services d'extension dirigés aux femmes et d'augmenter le nombre de spécialistes en genre/d'officiers féminins d'extension.

Les matériaux de formation devraient devenir plus sensibles aux questions de genre.

17. Héritage Culturel et Normes Sociales: L'éducation et la sensibilisation sont essentielles pour soutenir des changements positifs en surmontant les normes sociales et culturelles qui sont cause d'injustice et d'inégalité entre les genres.
18. Besoins de formation: Des programmes spécifiques de formation doivent être adressés aux femmes, surtout à celles qui sont engagées dans l'agriculture et qui représentent le groupe le plus désavantagé de leur société. Souvent ils n'ont pas d'autres ressources que leur travail, qui est sous-payé puisque elles restent fréquemment des travailleurs non qualifiés.
19. Accès à l'information: Il y a un besoin urgent de promouvoir parmi les hommes et les femmes une meilleure connaissance de leurs droits et accès à l'information et à la technologie nécessaires.
20. Information Statistique spécifique au Genre: des statistiques spécifiques sur le sexe avec une perspective de genre doivent être améliorées afin de pouvoir mieux évaluer la gravité des situations relatives aux rôles que les femmes et les hommes jouent dans le développement et l'utilisation des ressources de la terre et de l'eau et de surveiller le processus de l'intégration du genre dans la gestion de l'eau.

En ligne avec ces considérations nous invitons les Directeurs de l'Eau à:

8. Favoriser la participation des organisations des femmes concernées par les droits de la terre et de l'eau dans la gestion intégrée des ressources en eau.
9. Promouvoir des programmes de formation et d'extension spécifiquement adressés aux femmes rurales au niveau local afin de leur fournir

les qualifications nécessaires pour accéder à un travail mieux payé.

10. Assurer que les principes de parité des opportunités soient rigoureusement appliqués dans le recrutement du personnel des grands ministères de l'eau ou des institutions reliées, et, dans le cas où les qualifications des candidats soient équivalentes, d'adopter des mesures favorisant une présence égale des hommes et des femmes.
11. Favoriser des programmes des médias pour augmenter la sensibilisation du public sur les questions actuelles relatives au genre dans le domaine de la gestion de ressources en eau.
12. Promouvoir la mise en œuvre de programmes éducatifs aux écoles pour améliorer la compréhension de l'importance et de la gestion durable des ressources en eau et du rôle complémentaire que les femmes et les hommes y peuvent jouer.
13. Entreprendre des actions appropriées pour assurer que les organismes d'utilisateurs d'eau ne comprennent pas seulement les propriétaires de la terre mais aussi les gérants réels. Ceci devrait créer de nouvelles et importantes opportunités pour que les femmes participent plus activement aux affaires des associations comme elles sont *de facto* les gérants de beaucoup de fermes petites et moyennes.
14. Garantir qu'une analyse relative aux questions de genre ou d'autres outils capables de considérer le rôle productif et reproductif des femmes soient inclus dans la formulation, l'exécution et la gestion de projets de développement des ressources en eau, y compris des procédures visées à rassembler, traiter et enregistrer une information sur le genre désagrégée par le sexe. Cette information est essentielle pour une planification appropriée des projets de développement aussi bien que pour surveiller l'évolution sociale des sociétés rurales.

GENDER AND WATER RESOURCES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

The exploitation and management of water resources has been a constant challenge since the beginning of human civilization. In the last decades, all activities related to water resources (planning, development and management) have been the subject of great attention and a large body of knowledge has been developed. As part of this knowledge the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) approach was developed and has been widely promoted by international and national organizations for more

than 15 years now. More recently, the notion that *gender issues* should be mainstreamed in IWRM has developed but for many people, including water professionals, this concept is not clear.

What does gender mainstreaming in water resources mean in practice? The most common perception of this problem is probably the image of a woman carrying a jar of water on her head. This is of course perceived as something that should be avoided. Although this image is a reality in some countries, there

is much more than this in gender mainstreaming in water resources. Let us review some of the problems that are closely connected:

- *Access to land and water resources.* Irrigated land is the main source of living for many rural populations. In some of the Mediterranean countries the inheritance laws discriminate women against men (women receive half of the land or no land at all).



This is widely documented by a survey on “Law and Practice related to Women’s Inheritance Rights in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region” carried out by the Geneva-based Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE) and other documents of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

- *Access to work in agriculture.* There is a variety of connected problems in this area. It is also widely documented that women contribute as much as 50% of the work needed in farms (irrigated and not) and are rarely compensated for the work done. When women are paid, their wages are considerably lower than those of men. In some countries, or regions of a country, women are not allowed to do work in the field. Irrigation by women at the farm is often not permitted by traditions.
- *Access to domestic water supply.* In most of the Mediterranean countries the access to domestic water supply is not a problem as coverage of domestic networks are close to 100% but there are still 3 countries where the coverage is less than 80% and therefore important pockets remain in the rural areas where the image of the woman carrying water is still a



reality. Moreover, even when the access to domestic water is provided by watering points at the village level there are important problems related to how these watering points are managed and maintained.

- *Access to information and technologies.* It is a sad reality that still many rural women in the Mediterranean region are illiterate. This in itself is a strong limitation for accessing information. But even when women are literate the modalities for providing information are not suitable (most of the extension workers are men) or the information is not addressed to the needs and possibilities of women.
- *Very limited representation of women in the participatory management of water resources.* One of the pillars of IWRM is a more participative management of the water resource. The progress made in achieving this objective is modest in most of the MENA countries but even where water user associations are established women are hardly represented. In part, the problem arises from the inheritance laws but also due to traditions and lack of recognition of women’s work.
- *Scarce representation of women in the water institutions.* Where the public sector is responsible for the development and management of water resources the presence of women at the decision making level is very low or absent although at the administrative and support services level this presence can be more substantial.

Unfortunately the list of problems does not end here but it is not the intention to make an exhaustive list but to show that there are important reasons justifying the need for making some substantial efforts to redress or correct some of the above mentioned situations.

The dimensions of some of the problems outlined before are very large and no single effort is in the position of tackling them simultaneously in an efficient manner. Therefore, there is a need to concentrate on some lines of action that, with the limited resources available, may provide higher returns.

The GEWAMED (Gender Mainstreaming in Water Resources Development and Management in the Med-

GEWAMED (Gender Mainstreaming in Water Resources Development and Management in the Mediterranean Region) is a project financed by the INCO (International Scientific Cooperation) Programme within the Six Framework Research Programme of the European Commission (EU) and addressed to the countries of the Mediterranean Region. The project is a Coordinated Action and this means that the project emphasizes networking, coordination and dissemination of past and present research activities. It became operational on 15 February 2006 and will last for 4 years.

iterranean Region) project is trying to contribute to the solution of some of the outlined issues. In effect it is engaged in three strategic lines of action:

1. Create a greater awareness about some of these problems and identify others that have not been so clear or obvious so far.
2. Establish cooperation networks at regional and national level that allow a more fluid exchange of information to identify positive experiences and possible actions addressed to disseminate them.
3. Contribute to the adoption of policies and other decision making instruments that will correct some of the above mentioned situations.

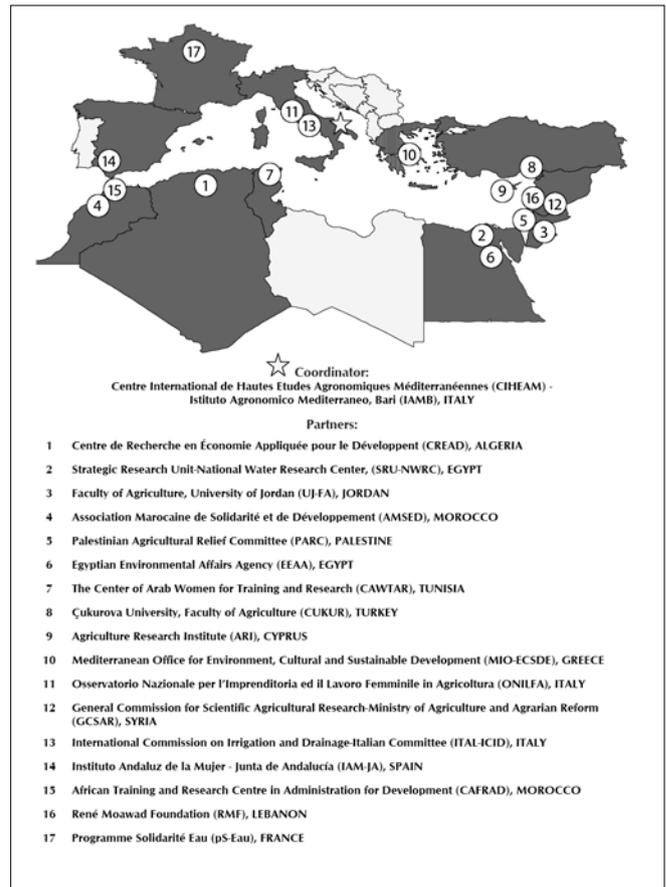
In one way or another all the three lines of action try to promote a greater dialogue among the concerned stakeholders in order to promote actions that may change the existing unsatisfactory situation.

The GEWAMED project is a consortium of 18 organizations from 14 Mediterranean countries: 5 EU countries and 11 from South East Mediterranean Region (SEMR). The consortium itself represents a network of government, universities, research and NGOs institutions with different backgrounds and experiences. To strengthen the linkages among partners and to develop common knowledge annual regional workshops are organized. The exchange of experiences and increased collaboration already represents an important step towards the construction of a body of common knowledge.

In addition, every country of the SEMR is establishing national networks where the main stakeholders are represented. These national committees are not only an important vehicle for exchanging information but promoting actions connected to the project objectives.

To create greater awareness and disseminate project results the project uses several communications means that include:

- Participation in international and national conferences
- Organization of national seminars and workshops
- Field days
- Development of Regional and National websites
- Publications, brochures, posters and others



To contribute to the adoption of more gender oriented policies, in the third year of implementation the project will undertake several national policy seminars presenting the project activities and results to stimulate decision makers to take specific actions identified during the working session of the seminars. Other institutional changes are promoted through the established cooperation. For instance, the establishment of a National Observatory for Rural Women Entrepreneurs in Lebanon is under promotion with the support of the Italian Government.

For further information about the GEWAMED project consult the Regional website: www.gewamed.net

Adaptation of the article "Promoting gender mainstreaming in Water Resources Management in the Mediterranean Region: The GEWAMED project" by Juan Antonio Sagardoy, GEWAMED Project Manager.

THE OFFICIAL LAUNCHING OF "AKDENİZ DE SU"

14 December 2007, Istanbul

The official launching of the Turkish edition of the Mediterranean educational material "Water in the Mediterranean" (*Akdeniz de Su*) took place through a press event organised by Green Steps for Environmental Literacy (GSEL) with the support of MIO-ECSDE through its annual funding by the European Commission, in Istanbul on 14 December 2007. The press event was a success, attended by some 55 participants: journalists, officials, educational staff and formal and non-formal educators - several of which had already worked with the draft water package - and fully covered by the media (press, radio and TV).



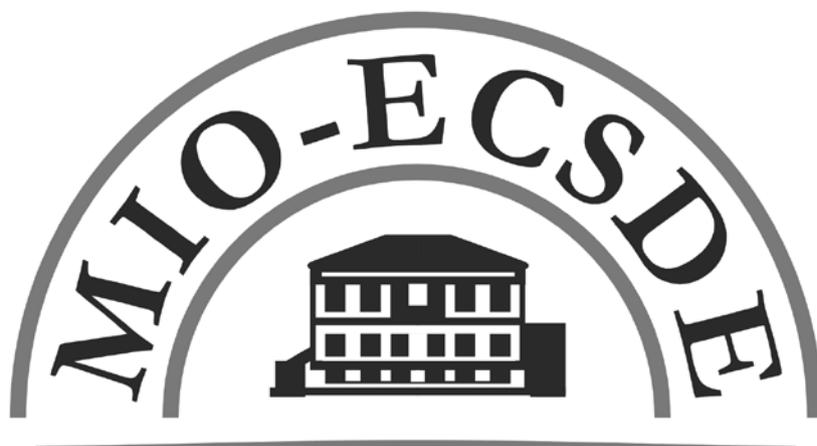
During the press conference the GSEL founding members, Leyla Celicel, Gulru Hotinli and Serap Basol made comprehensive presentations about the book and GSEL's efforts to promote it in Turkey's educational system. Mr Omer Aras, director of the Finansbank, expressed the bank's interest in water topics and in supporting the specific water package. Prof. Nuzhet Dalfes, expert in Climate Science and Ecology in the University of Istanbul, confirmed his belief that the book will contribute to **the changes of attitudes and behaviors towards more sustainable ones** to pre-

serve water resources and ecological integrity. Vicky Malotidi represented MIO-ECSDE and the MEDIES Secretariat and made a short presentation about the pedagogical approaches of the material.



The Turkish edition of "Water in the Mediterranean" is appropriately enriched and adapted to fit Turkey's water situation - maintaining the issues relating to regional Mediterranean water problems and realities and to be successfully integrated into Turkey's educational system. The production of 20,000 copies of the material is supported by Finansbank (Turkish bank) a concrete example of how the private sector can support environment and sustainable development concerns. The book will be available early in 2008 to be distributed to a large number of schools throughout Turkey. Very soon the book will also be available on the MEDIES webpage for downloading (in pdf files).

Green Steps for Environmental Literacy undertook the huge task of translating and adapting the material and making it available to a large number of Turkish schools. This became a reality through continuous, strategic and dedicated efforts.



MIO-ECSDE Profile

The Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development, is a Federation of Mediterranean Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for the Environment and Development. MIO-ECSDE acts as a technical and political platform for the intervention of NGOs in the Mediterranean scene. In cooperation with Governments, International Organizations and other socio-economic partners, MIO-ECSDE plays an active role for the protection of the environment and the sustainable development of the Mediterranean Region.

Background

MIO-ECSDE became a federation of Mediterranean NGOs in March 1996. Its roots go back to the early 80s, when the expanding Mediterranean membership of the European Community encouraged the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) to form its Mediterranean Committee supported by Elliniki Etairia (The Hellenic Society for the Protection of the Environment and the Cultural Heritage). The Mediterranean Information Office (MIO) was established in 1990 as a network of NGOs, under a joint project of EEB and Elliniki Etairia and in close collaboration with the Arab Network of Environment and Development (RAED). The continuous expansion of MIO-ECSDE's Mediterranean NGO network and the increasing request for their representation in Mediterranean and International Fora, led to the transformation of MIO-ECSDE to its current NGO Federation status. Today it has a membership of 105 NGOs from 24 Mediterranean countries.

Our Mission

Our mission is to protect the Natural Environment (flora and fauna, biotopes, forests, coasts, natural resources, climate) and the Cultural Heritage (archaeological monuments, and traditional settlements, cities, etc.) of the Mediterranean Region. The ultimate goal of MIO-ECSDE is to promote Sustainable Development in a peaceful Mediterranean.

Major tools and methods

Major tools and methods used by MIO-ECSDE in order to achieve its objectives are the following:

- Promotion of the understanding and collaboration among the people of the Mediterranean, especially through their NGOs, between NGOs and Governments, Parliaments, Local Authorities, International Organizations and socio-economic actors of the Mediterranean Region.
- Assistance for the establishment, strengthening, co-operation and co-ordination of Mediterranean NGOs and facilitation of their efforts by ensuring the flow of information among relevant bodies.
- Promotion of education, research and study on Mediterranean issues, by facilitating collaboration between NGOs and Scientific and Academic Institutions.
- Raising of public awareness on crucial Mediterranean environmental issues, through campaigns, publications, exhibitions, public presentations, etc.

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