

Discussion Document
Proposals for a Third Phase 2010-2012
(v. 2010-10-13)

<http://www.emwis.net/initiatives/medeuwi/JP>

1. Reminder on JP Phase I & II

The Mediterranean EUWI/WFD Joint Process was first presented during the EU Water Directors Meeting in Dublin, on 23 June 2004. Two phases have been achieved (Phase I: 2004-2006 & Phase II: 2007-2009).

The Joint Water Framework Directive / EU Water Initiative process (JP) aims at developing synergies between the two mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of sound water policies. The Med Joint Process encourages the establishment of a network of water experts, volunteers for sharing their own difficulties/solutions and ready to get experiences from other basins or countries.

The "Mediterranean Joint Process" is a technical platform for collaboration between the various countries bordering the Mediterranean, allowing evaluations and discussions in connection with the Mediterranean characteristics through the use of the Water Framework Directive – WFD - of the European Union as a discussion basis. Moreover, this Joint Process (JP) is developing its activities in phase with the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) principles (cooperation, regional stability, Exchange of information etc.). Six working groups (WGs) have been launched in this process, with their mandates approved by the Euro-Mediterranean Water Directors:

- [Groundwater management](#), lead by Greece
- [Drought and water scarcity](#), lead by Morocco, MENBO, European Commission and EMWIS
- [Shared water resources management](#), lead by GWP-Med
- [Monitoring networks and programmes](#), lead by EMWIS
- [Waste water re-use](#), lead by Malta and the European Commission (EC)
- [Linking rural development with water management](#), lead by EC/JRC.

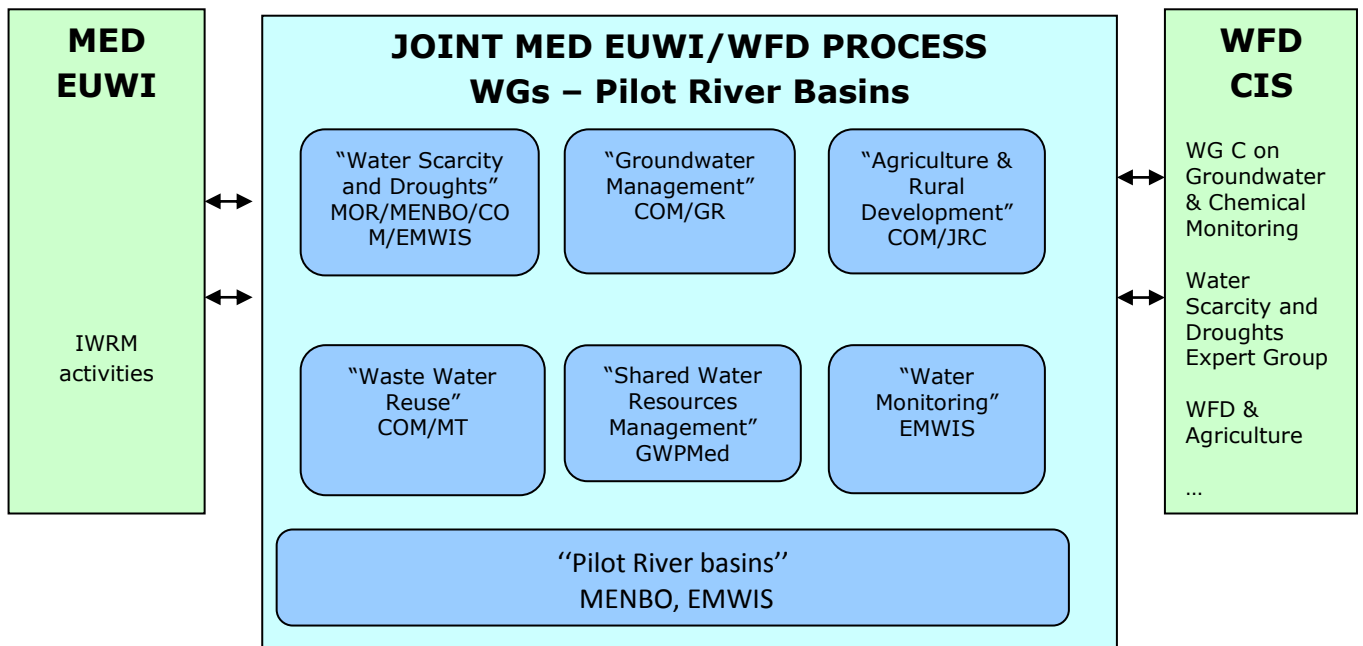
Complementary to these working groups and the EU Pilot River Basins exercise, pilot activities have been developed in the southern rim of the Mediterranean. The exercise consisted in testing the existing EU guidance as well as recommendations produced by the Med Thematic WGs covering different aspects of the WFD. Concrete testing would allow identification of activities / measures to be implemented for achieving the targeted objectives.

The two pilot river basins (Sebou in Morocco and Litani in Lebanon) conducted such exercises for basins characterisations and water quantity reporting. The reports produced are instrumental in matching major water management problems and needs

of the river basins with solutions from the EU experiences while helping the river basin authorities in developing their own action plan.

The mandates, progress and results of the thematic Working Groups have been presented, discussed and agreed at the Conferences of the Water Directors of the Euro-Mediterranean and South-eastern European Countries.

Linkages with working groups –WGs- of the EU Common Implementation Strategy of the Water Framework Directive (WFD CIS) have been ensured thanks to EU experts involved in EU WGs dealing with similar issues.



Progress achieved since the launching of the Mediterranean Joint EUWI/WFD Process, as regards the activities of the WGs, is described in the following Table. The main documents produced are available online.

Progress achieved by the WGs of the Mediterranean Joint EUWI/WFD Process

ACTIVITIES	WATER SCARCITY & DROUGHTS	GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT	WASTE WATER REUSE	SHARED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT	WATER MONITORING
Drafting of Recommendations / Report	<p>The phase I final report published in June 2008, available online</p> <p>A test data collection is ongoing 2 pilot river basins (Litani in Lebanon & Sebou in Morocco) using EEA reporting tool on water quantity. A survey on data availability has been launched (based on the EEA approach for voluntary reporting on water quantity).</p> <p>A synthesis note on key data for WS&D in the Mediterranean will be edited in 2010</p>	<p>The phase I final report (Mediterranean Groundwater Report) was published in February 2007.</p> <p>Detailed content of a new document with case studies and practical approaches was agreed in the meeting of the WG (Lisbon, 20/9/07)</p>	<p>Final report on waste water reuse published on November 2007, available online</p>	<p>Work-plan and modalities defined. Some delay due to slow feedback from some contributors based on questionnaires prepared.</p> <p>Operational linkages with the Petersberg / Athens Process and GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean were established.</p>	<p>Synthesis of the survey on water monitoring networks in Mediterranean Partner countries Including examples from Jordan, Algeria & Lebanon, as well as EU countries: Austria & Spain</p> <p>State of Play report foreseen at the end of 2010</p>
Development of Electronic Forum / Improve Access on Information	<p>Hosted by EMWIS website. Available at: http://www.emwis.net/topics/WaterScarcity</p>	<p>Hosted by EMWIS website. Available at: http://www.semide.net/topics/groundwater</p>	<p>Hosted by EMWIS web site. Available at: http://www.emwis.net/topics/WaterReuse</p>	<p>Hosted by EMWIS web site. Available at: http://www.emwis.net/topics/swrm</p>	<p>Hosted by EMWIS web site. Available at: http://www.emwis.net/topics/watmon</p>
Meetings / Exchange of Knowledge	<p>Seville, 2007-06-19, during the Int. Drought Forum. Madrid, 2010-02-17 during the Int. Water Scarcity and Drought Conference Sophia Antipolis, 2010-09-06/07</p>	<p>Lisbon, on 2007-09-20, in the framework of IAH Conference</p>	<p>1st working group meeting, 2007-03-15, Brussels</p> <p>2nd meeting 2007-10-19, Brussels</p>	<p>Inception Meeting, Athens, 2007-01-17</p> <p>Workshop on Shared Groundwater Resources in SEE, 2007-11-14/16</p>	<p>1st meeting, Madrid: 2007-07-03</p> <p>2nd meeting, Beirut: 2009-10-06</p> <p>3rd meeting, Madrid, 2010-11-10</p>

2. Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean (SWM)

The Union for the Mediterranean –UfM- was formerly launched at the Paris Summit in July 2008, bringing together 43 states (27 EU countries, and 16 from Balkan, North Africa and of Middle East countries), the European Commission, the League of Arab States and Libya as observer, this partnership was formerly known as the Barcelona Process (1995), and the re-launching aims at infusing new vitality and raising political awareness in the Region.

The non-EU countries of the UfM are concerned either by the Enlargement process (Balkan countries and Turkey) or by the European Neighborhood Policy (North Africa and of Middle East countries).

In December 2008 in Jordan, the Ministers in Charge of water of the UfM mandated a Water Expert Group –WEG- to elaborate a long term strategy for the Mediterranean – SWM- and the related Action Plan. The WEG is composed of representatives of national authorities in charge of water policy of Euro-Mediterranean countries having the capacity to take decisions (e.g. water directors).

The SWM has been drafted, through a Technical Drafting Group led by Spain, after a 7-month participative and comprehensive process, supervised by the WEG. However, the document has not been formally adopted at the IV Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water held in Barcelona on 13 April 2010 due to political reasons. 99% of the Strategy text has been agreed except for the two conflictive points related to the references i) to occupied territories and ii) to the UN Convention on International Waters). Therefore, this text constitutes a sound basis for further development and it is expected to be formally endorsed in the near future.

The Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean aims to tackle challenges and opportunities facing water resources in the region:

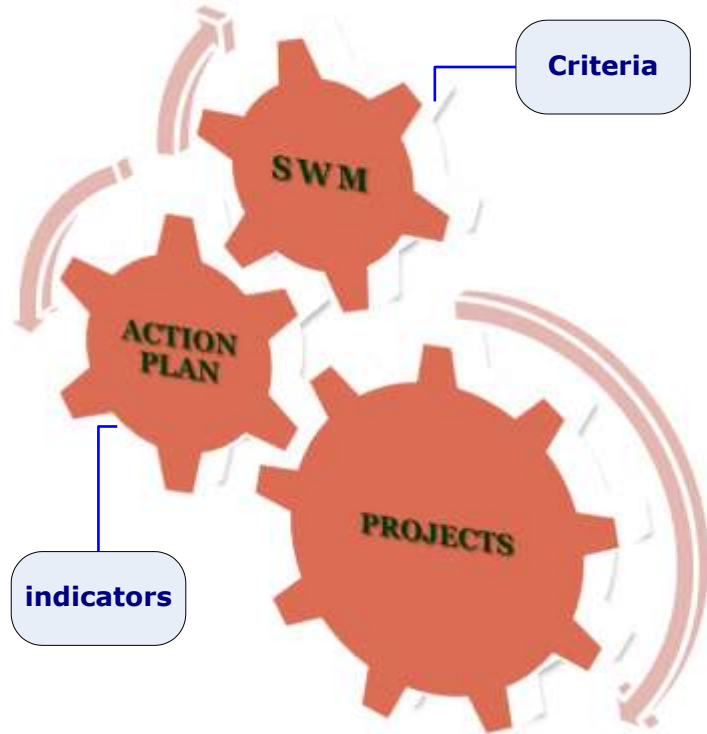
- Ensure the integration of policies.
- Enhance and facilitate the participation of all stakeholders. Promote the establishment of active user associations.
- Increase citizens' awareness on the value of water and its culture
- Ensure the capacity building of all competent stakeholders of water management and environmental protection and facilitate knowledge and expertise exchange.
- Secure comparable water data collection and monitoring also employing appropriate indicators.
- Support research in all water aspects as a way to achieve the necessary development and address challenges, such as desertification, climate change and other emerging pressures.
- Establish and support fair and socially sensitive valuation and cost recovery.
- Ensure optimal use of available instruments and tools (EIA, SEA).

The Strategy contains four priority themes, each one described with objectives, approaches/instruments and recommendations for action:

- Enhancing effective governance for integrated water resources management.
- Adapting to climate change and enhancing drought and flood management.
- Promoting water demand management, efficiency and non-conventional water resources, and protecting quality of water and biodiversity
- Optimizing water financing, water valuation and appropriate instruments, with emphasis on innovative mechanisms

To translate the recommendations into action, short-term (2012-2015), medium term (2016-2020) and long terms targets (2021-2025) have been defined for the SWM operational objectives.

The implementation of the current SWM will need to be translated into an Action Plan with:



- a set of indicators allowing to follow its progress, achievements and impact

- and financing opportunities for well-targeted and sustainable projects to be selected according to a set of general UfM criteria and technical criteria already defined in the SWM

In this process, as suggested by the European Commission at the last Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water in Barcelona in April 2010, the experiences gained through programmes such as the MEDA Water, the EU research programmes, the WFD implementation and the Mediterranean Joint Process could be very valuable for the development and implementation of water policies in the Mediterranean region.

Hence, the activities of the Med Joint Process should support the implementation of Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean (SWM) by providing expertise to the WEG for the preparation of the Action Plan and the definition of indicators.

3. JP 3rd phase proposal

With the launch of the Union for the Mediterranean in 2008, most of the energy of the Med water community was focused on the preparation of the Mediterranean Water Strategy (SWM). As a result, activities of the 2nd phase of the JP were less intense, but the progress achieved so far is encouraging, and a number of activities still need to be consolidated with some follow up focusing on pilot basins. The proposed new phase of the Med Joint Process will contribute to the SWM and build on the results achieved so far. This third phase can certainly focus on technical issues and provide practical answers within the framework of the SWM, setting aside possible political conflicts.

1. Objectives

This new Phase of the Med Joint Process (JP) will draw on the achievements and lessons of the two first phases of development while taking into account the recent developments around the Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean and the Horizon 2020 initiative. Therefore, this phase will contribute not only towards the general objective of

the JP which is to facilitate the implementation of improved water management practices in the Mediterranean, but also to the implementation of the SWM and the related projects.

The "Mediterranean Joint Process" will remain a technical platform for collaboration between the various countries bordering the Mediterranean, allowing evaluations and discussions in connection with the Mediterranean characteristics through the use of the Water Framework Directive – WFD - of the European Union as a discussion basis. But will focus on the provision of technical inputs for the SWM action plan and the related projects.

As concrete outputs, this new phase will focus on:

- **Production of specific documents** useful for water resources management in the region, based on the requirements of the EU Water legislation and particularly of the WFD. Mediterranean JP recommendations could be used by the WEG for the preparation the SWM Action Plan and related indicators
- **Promoting the development of a Mediterranean expert networks** on themes relevant for the SWM. Building a community of Mediterranean EU and non-EU experts knowledgeable in the specificities of the implementation of the WFD in their region and aware of potential solutions. This will facilitate the emergence of quality projects responding to the objectives of the SWM. This pool of expertise could also be valuable to support the UfM Secretariat for specific tasks such projects assessment.

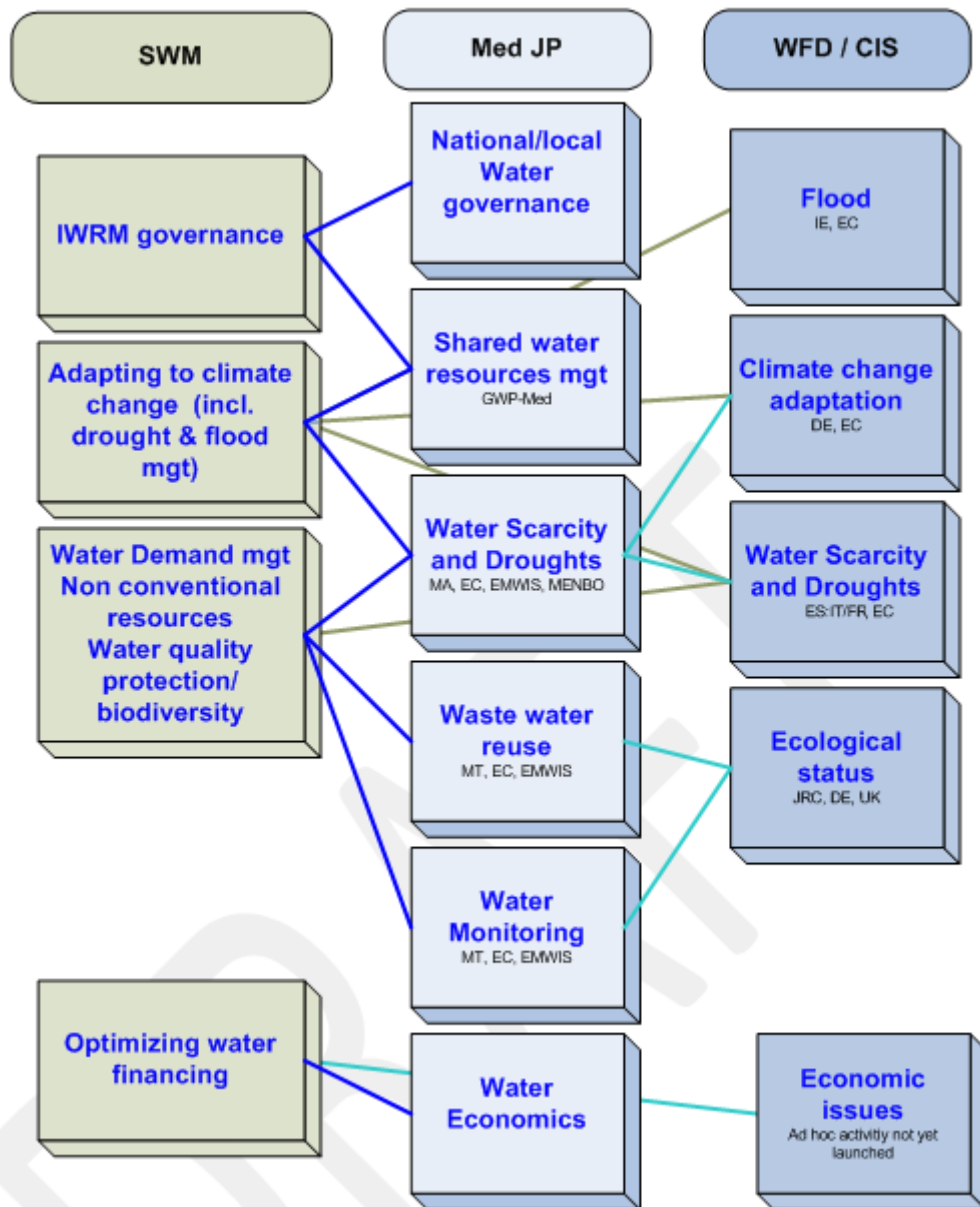
2. Governance

With the preparation of the Mediterranean Water Strategy, a new governance body was set up: the Water Expert Group –WEG-, mandated by the Ministers. Therefore, the Euromed Water Directors did not meet anymore after 2008 within the JP process. In the near future, the following alternatives are possible:

- Enlarging the WEG mandate to the governance of the Med JP as well as other institutional initiatives, in parallel to the preparation of the Action Plan, bringing together all technical water-related aspects in the Region or
- Re-launching periodic Euromed Water Directors conferences: these annual gatherings of the Euromed Water Directors, permitted each year to review the JP progress and agree on WGs mandates, or
- Using an existing platform such as the yearly meeting of EMWIS Steering Committee (currently including Water Directors from 13 Euromed countries) in a transitory phase that could be extended to more countries to cover all the UfM countries if necessary.

3. Working groups themes

The working group themes proposed for the new phase and their links with the SWM and the CIS of the WFD are outlined in the figure below:



As shown in the figure above, in order to tackle the major priority themes of the SWM it is proposed:

- To maintain the working groups on **water scarcity and drought** (incorporating climate change aspects) as well as **water monitoring**
- To re-launching the working groups on **shared water resources management** and on **wastewater reuse**
- To launch new working groups on **Local and National water governance** and on **water economics**, which could reinforce or work on indicators development, SWM-Action Plan, and future regional projects.

Most of these themes are clearly related to CIS working groups, expert networks or ad hoc activities planned in the work programme 2010-2012. In all cases, new mandates should be prepared and membership reviewed. Details about potential activities of each working group are provided in annex 1.

An additional horizontal working group could be launched on **reporting**.

Where not already applied, this new phase of the Joint Process could also support gradual convergence with the objectives of initiatives being undertaken in the context of regional fora such as those under the **Barcelona Convention, Horizon 2020, the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive**, and the Arab League initiatives (the recently approved **Arab Water Strategy** and the project of an **Arab shared water resources database**).

The final working groups set up and the leading countries and entities for the 3rd phase should be discussed and endorsed, depending on the decided governance structure.

4. Pilot activities and testing on river basins

Activities with pilot river basins or aquifers should be fostered as they allow positive interactions between EU and non-EU experts while testing the feasibility of recommendations implementation in real life situations.

A third phase of the Joint Process should complete the studies launched by the two on-going working groups (water scarcity & drought and water monitoring), and by supporting additional testing in other pilot basins (SPI-WATER, Ec'Eau Sebou & Strengthening Litani River Authority projects developed in Litani 'Lebanon' and Sebou 'Morocco' river basins), in accordance with the Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean.

Each country should propose pilot basins for the various working groups for e.g. testing data collection, indicators or the feasibility of some recommendations, and to allow local involvement and participation in the process. This will result in additional concrete results.

ANNEXE 1 – Potential activities of working groups

a) Shared water resources management

The overall objective of the JP Working Group on Shared Water Resources Management is to promote synergies between competent EU and non-EU partners of the Mediterranean and SEE region and to assist for a common approach on key aspects of joint management of shared surface and groundwater resources.

This 3rd phase working group could feed the future SWM Action Plan by providing guidance documents and recommendations specific to each WG/theme: Operationalising and/or promoting tangible actions to improve cooperation on sustainable use and protection of transboundary water resources through coordinated action of riparian states, in conformity with agreed principles, reviewing current policies, agreements and practices in the EU and the Mediterranean area on the issue; promoting synergies, at decision-makers and stakeholders level, for the sustainable management of the shared water resources of the region and facilitating the exchange of experiences and know-how between experts (EU and non-EU); promoting common approach and methodology on shared water resources management, based on the IWRM principles and building among others on the provisions of the WFD, and prepare related recommendations; improving awareness raising as well as distribution of information on shared waters cooperation and management; and creating the basis for additional related action in the region.

In addition, the work carried out by this working group could be supported by the Arab league through its project on Arab shared waters database.

b) Local & national water governance

Progress on design and implementation of water governance reforms can be documented in most of the Mediterranean countries. However, more sustainable governance approaches need to be established at local, regional, national, and transboundary levels, inspired by appropriate and internationally accepted IWRM principles and practices, including management at the appropriate local (catchment, basin, sub-basin) level. In that respect, many Mediterranean countries still suffer from lack of planning capabilities, effective operational strategies, fragmentation of responsibilities between authorities including decentralization concerns, weak policy implementation and law enforcement. In addition, they demonstrate weak monitoring and assessment at the different scale levels, limited technical, management and implementation capabilities to address effectively water challenges, and financial constraints to implement policies.

This working group can address the aforementioned issues in addition to reinforce or work on indicators development, SWM-Action Plan, and future regional projects.

The SWM Water governance aims to: 1) Ensure that water is managed as a primary/basic human need and that water supply and sanitation are essential social services. Public authorities must take adequate measures to make this effective and affordable; 2) Ensure sustainable water and sanitation service provision supported by appropriate regulatory frameworks and effective institutional settings; 3) Promote and strengthen decentralization to the most appropriate level ("principle of subsidiarity"). To apply the integrated approach to best effect, the local management level needs to be considered, i.e. catchment, sub-basin or basin, as appropriate; and 4) Promote collaboration at transboundary and sub-regional level, building upon and contributing to regional integration and cooperation, taking into account economic, social and environmental problems, as a means for avoiding conflict and promoting peaceful co-operation.

c) Water Scarcity & Drought and adaptation to climate change

The overall objective of the JP working group is to have an overview of the magnitude of the problem of water scarcity and droughts in the Mediterranean, particularly an assessment of their impacts, and exchange information on possible alternatives of water use that contribute to mitigating impacts and foster water savings, which could be applied by different types of users. The SWM aims under that topic to ensure effective measures that are fast, extensive, focused and integrated, at national, regional and local levels, enhancing the resilience of water resources to droughts, through improved integrated, decentralised and participatory management of water, ecosystems and natural resources, as well as to be based on enhanced scientific evidence and an enlarged knowledge-base regarding the evolution of the phenomena and their impacts. It also aims to ensure water saving and achieve water efficiency to cope with water scarcity and droughts impacts, meet the needs of populations and the environment, and reduce water demand or at least slow demand growth through a more efficient allocation of water resources, and finally; implement regional objectives such as the one adopted in the framework of the Barcelona Convention.

Hence, this 3rd phase working group could carry activities that would feed the future SWM Action Plan, while following up the activities already undertaken by the JP working group. Obviously, the mandate of this working group as the others' should be revised and validated by its members. The current document aims to give a roadmap of the actions that could be undertaken under this thematic working group.

The third phase of this working group should focus on:

- Enhancing the knowledge-base regarding climate change impacts and the vulnerability to them so that appropriate policy responses can be developed based on reliable data and information on the likely effects of the phenomenon and the costs and benefits of different adaptation options.
- Developing methods, models, data sets and prediction, and acquire early-warning tools to enhance monitoring of hydrological cycles and of impacts, risk mapping, identification of 'hot-spots'
- Developing vulnerability indicators and agreeing on other indicators
- Testing agreed indicators/data (including risk and vulnerability maps development) at local and pilot basin levels, and demonstrating the usefulness in decision making process
- Facilitating the creation of an experience-sharing regional platform.
- Identifying and monitoring impacts of water demand management measures in terms of environmental, social and economic consequences.
- Increasing regional and transboundary cooperation and assistance to cope with emergency situations arising from droughts.

d) Wastewater reuse

Mobilising non-conventional water resources can provide adequate solutions where projected levels of water savings prove hard to achieve. Sources of pollution are numerous all over the Mediterranean region. Among other organized efforts (e.g: Plan Bleu is carrying out some studies on desalination and wastewater reuse in some countries: Israel, Algeria & Spain), the Horizon 2020 Initiative to De-pollute the Mediterranean aims at tackling the most significant related challenges. Scattered pollution sources are affecting streams, groundwater, coastal areas and the marine environment representing a growing threat for ecosystems and public health. The objective of the JP working group on that theme was: to assess the status of the situation with regards to treated wastewater reuse in each of the EU Member States and

non-EU countries participating in this activity, - to get an overview of the issues at stake (definitions, scope, safety and sustainability) and - to prepare the ground for potential more specific actions.

To be in phase with the Mediterranean strategy for water, this renewed working group should assess the opportunities and the risks for using non-conventional water resources (wastewater reuse and also desalination). Propose legal frameworks and define adequate thresholds and quality standards for each kind of treated wastewater reuse. This group should also promote research for the use of low-cost and low maintenance non-conventional wastewater treatment techniques that meet established quality standards, especially useful for rural and periurban areas, with easy operability and low qualified-personnel requirements, as well as developing and implementing prioritized programmes for introducing adequate wastewater treatment, and establishing minimum quality requirements for wastewater treatment plant effluents and securing adequate treatment of wastewaters to avoid downstream pollution.

e) Water Monitoring

The overall objective of this JP Working Group is to promote exchange between EU and non-EU partners of the Mediterranean region and to identify good practices for the improvement of water quality monitoring networks based on the existing situation and experiences collected within the WFD-implementation process and in the Mediterranean Partner Countries. The focus of the activity is on surface and ground water monitoring, while coastal waters will also be part of the activity, in case it is linked to inland water management & monitoring. While the SWM aims under this topic to: - Ensure good quality public water services that provide access to adequate and affordable water supply and sanitation, in particular for the poor, by maintaining the existing and building additional drinking water and sanitation infrastructures, fulfilling public health considerations and preventing further deterioration of water resources quality among other needs; - Reduce and prevent water pollution, expand the scope of water protection and avoid overexploitation of water resources, by aiming all countries to reach, in the medium term, a good status for all waters based on a comprehensive monitoring system for water quality and quantity, as well as for ecosystems and biodiversity status. In addition, control the use of fertilisers and pesticides to appropriate and recommended standards.

To fulfil the aforementioned objectives, several concrete activities can be developed under this working group, by focusing on:

- Assessing and monitoring water resources and demands for both human activities and the environment. Setting qualitative and quantitative targets for local, national and regional planning development and take into consideration all waters, and in particular, transboundary resources.
- Assessing water monitoring networks (at local, regional and national levels), and linking it with the efforts to build water information systems at local, national & regional levels
- Testing at local levels through pilot basins, where established water quality measurements networks are set.

f) Water economics

Sufficient and sustainable financing is a prerequisite of a functioning water sector, which ensures the sustainability of public water services, which itself is necessary for human and economic development, social stability and peace. Improved management of water resources and services induce major economic and environmental benefits that are, however, often not adequately quantified and valued. Insufficient funding leads to (i) the deterioration and eventual collapse of water infrastructure resulting in large populations without access to the water services of the appropriate quality they need, as well as (ii) the inadequate stewardship and protection of water resources.

In the Mediterranean Region, as anywhere else, there are only three sources of revenue, that is finance that must not be repaid, for the water sector: tax-based public spending, tariffs from users, and transfers from other sources (including Official Development Assistance –ODA-, remittances and all other transfers that do not need to be repaid) Any additional sources of finance, such as concessional or market-based loans, guarantees, micro-finance or private sector investment, are repayable and such repayment can only be done through a combination of the three sources of revenues mentioned above.

Today, in a number of Mediterranean countries the water sector and related institutions are seriously underfinanced. Current trends indicate that tariffs for water services and state subsidies are mainly used for operation and maintenance costs of the infrastructures related to water supply and sanitation, whereas ODA transfers and repayable finance are mainly used for the extension of networks and the creation of new infrastructures.

This new working group could focus on the recommendations set by the WEG (Water Expert Group), to draw operational activities and carry it out. Therefore, the focus should be emphasized on the following aspects:

- Develop financing strategies to improve the overall financing of the water sector
- Review Mediterranean countries water pricing policies
- Develop socio-economic models for national strategic choices for water allocation between agriculture, industry and domestic uses, taking into account environmental, social aspects and economic development needs.
- Promote the use of tariff structures (tariff modulation) that include social aspects, e.g. family size and income levels to ensure affordability for all users
- Improve coordination and synergies between bilateral and multilateral financial instruments in the Region, for inter alia effective project preparation processes.
- Raise awareness on existing and emerging funding and financing mechanisms and build capacity to benefit from them.
- Identify niches and subsidy mechanisms to promote private sector participation
- Promote financing of “non-infrastructure” projects and reinforce capacity building, regional and national stakeholders consultations, institutional reforms, knowledge and research networks, training, water information systems, technology and knowhow transfer, decision support systems, national strategies for coordinating external aid, etc, in accordance to the SWM and the UfM Secretariat roadmap, as well as the assessment studies on projects feasibility and sustainability.

g) Water indicators/data & reporting

This new working group is necessary to cover the horizontal activities related to water data & indicators exchange and harmonization (including risk and vulnerability maps development). Horizontal Mediterranean initiatives and programmes already promote actions on policy development, assessment, building of data and information systems, capacity building, training, technology and knowledge transfer, as well as implementation of actions on the ground.

The SWM implementation shall further strengthen and support such cross-cutting processes, partnerships and organisations, by means of future specific projects and a coordination mechanism to review the progress of the different initiatives. This working group will serve to translate SWM recommendations to concrete actions and assist it in order to define the way to execute the Action Plan.

This working group could be led conjointly by EMWIS and Plan Bleu, due to their respective experience in developing and handling water indicators, which are essential input in the national/regional water & environmental information systems, and could be essential as well for the rest of the working groups, notably, the WGs on water monitoring & water scarcity & drought.

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Annex 2 -Abbreviations and Acronyms

CIS	Common Implementation Strategy
EEA	European Environmental Agency
EMWIS	Euro-Mediterranean Information System on Know-how in the Water Sector
ENP	European Neighbourhood Policy
ENRTP	Thematic Programme for Environment and sustainable management of natural resources, including energy (programme)
EUWI	EU Water Initiative
GWP-Med	Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean
H2020	Horizon 2020 Initiative to De-Pollute the Mediterranean
ICPDR	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
JP	Joint Process
JRC	European Commission's Joint Research Centre
LRA	Litani River Authority
MAP UNEP	Mediterranean Action Plan of the United National Environment Programme
MED EUWI	Mediterranean component of the EU Water Initiative
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MENBO	Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations
MSSD	Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development
RB	River Basin
RBM	River Basin Management
RMSU	Regional Monitoring and Support Unit
SPI-Water	Science-Policy Interfacing in support of the Water Framework Directive implementation
SWM	Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean
TDG	Technical Drafting Group (for the Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean)
UfM	Union for the Mediterranean
WEG	Water Expert Group (of UfM)
WFD	Water Framework Directive (of the European Union)
WEG	Water Expert Group (of UfM)
WG	Working group
WISE-RTD	Water Information System for Europe-Research, Technology and Development
WUA	Water Users Associations