



# SEMIDE

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Système Euro-  
Méditerranéen  
d'information sur les  
savoir-faire dans le  
domaine de l'Eau



النظام الأورو- متوسطي للإعلام  
حول المعرفة في ميدان المياه

# EMWIS

<http://www.emwis.net>

Euro-Mediterranean  
Information System  
on know how in the  
water sector

**Assessment of EMWIS activities**

**December 2003 – June 2008**

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EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP





# Almost 10 years of operation ....

- Basic principles
- Phase 1 – 1999 / 2002
- Phase 2 – 2003 / 2008
- Benchmarking indicators
- What's next?



# Basic principles

## *That made EMWIS lasting*

- **Strong commitment from Med countries**
  - Requirements from Euromed Ministerial conferences, 1996 & 1999
  - Agreement between all the countries in Naples, 1997
  - 13 WD in EMWIS Steering Committee
  - NFP in all Med countries
  - Periodic water directors conferences
- **Networking of national water authorities**
  - Information managed by the country themselves
  - Quality of the information provided
  - Sustainability due to national interest
- **Important needs for water information**
- **Financial support**
  - NFP
    - Med countries themselves
  - **Networking activities:**
    - Italy, France, Spain
    - European Commission



# EMWIS Phase 1

- Water Directors agreement, Naples, Nov 1997
- November 1999 – December 2002

# Main lessons from Phase 1

## Nov'1999 – Dec'2002



- A unique regional initiative of the Euro-Med Partnership in the water sector
- Real momentum initiated in the Med Countries
- An organisational structure up and running
  - 20 NFP, Steering Committee, Technical Unit
- An operational technical platform



# Main lessons from Phase 1

## Some limitations

- New national needs and requirements are emerging
- Lack of knowledge of user needs
- Lack of flexibility of the technical architecture for a wider integration of existing or new resources
- Necessity to reinforce the promotion
- More content is required, e.g. lack of regional analysis
- Sustainability must be ensured
  - by integrating EMWIS as an institutional system in each country and at the international level



# EMWIS Phase 2

- Water Directors agreement, Madrid, Nov 2001
- December 2003 – June 2008

# **Second phase: enhancing and consolidating the achievements**

**(Dec. 2003 – June 2008)**



- 1. Maintaining a strong co-ordination with political structures**
- 2. Reinforcing the NFPs -> implementing work plans**
- 3. Expansion and development of services**
- 4. Review of the technical architecture (XML based)**
- 5. Operating information existing services**
- 6. Fostering the promotion of the system**
- 7. Development of topical activities -> working groups**
- 8. Information clearing house for International actions:**
  - 1. E.C. MEDA – Water programme**
  - 2. MED component of the EU water initiative**
- 9. Liaison with international initiatives**
  - 1. Agreements**
  - 2. Med water observation mechanism**





# 1. Co-ordination activities

## Overview and status

- **Annual Steering Committee meetings**
  - May 2004, Malta
  - June 2005, Athens side by side with Med-EUWI meeting and MCSD of UNEP-MAP
  - May 2006, Nice
  - November 2006, Athens
  - July 2007, Madrid
- **Annual Coordination Committee meetings**
  - July 2004, Rabat
  - Sept 2005, Amman
  - June 2006, Algiers
  - September 2007, Istanbul
  - June 288, Madrid
- **Liaison with the partner countries, the European Commission, the main international initiatives**
- **Technical Unit co-ordination and reporting**
- **Conference of the 35 Euromed Water Director Generals**
  - November 2005, Rome
  - November 2006, Athens
  - December 2007, Bled

## 2. Reinforcing NFPs




- **NFP Data managers training : 2 sessions**
  - Madrid, 2004 - 2006
- **NFP IT managers training : 2 sessions**
  - Sophia Antipolis, 2005 - 2006
- **Local / ad-hoc training: 4 countries**
  - Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia
  
- **Feasibility studies on National Water Information Systems in 10 countries**

## 2. Reinforcing NFPs

### Local services requested



Items	DZ	CY	EG	IL	JO	LB	MT	MA	PS	SY	TN	TR
Equipment	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙		⊙	⊙
Work programme defined	⊙	⊙		⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙		⊙	⊙
National EMWIS leaflet	⊙	⊙			⊙		⊙	⊙	⊙		⊙	
Organisation of promotional meeting	⊙	⊙			⊙	⊙		⊙	⊙		⊙	⊙
Internet access	⊙				⊙				x			
Web hosting	x											
Training		x			⊙	x		⊙	⊙		⊙	
Technical assistance: web development		x		⊙		⊙	x	⊙	⊙		⊙	
Technical assistance: content development				⊙	⊙				⊙			
Survey of user needs / satisfaction		x			⊙		x					
Content translation		⊙		⊙	⊙	⊙	x	⊙	⊙		⊙	⊙
NWIS complementary study						⊙						
Water Med Obs. National diagnostic study*		⊙					⊙					

⊙: Implemented -  : Partly implemented - x : Requested but not implemented -



## 2. Reinforcing NFPs

### New developments on NFP websites

- **Launch or redesign of national websites:**
  - New sites: Tunisia, Egypt
  - Redesign: Morocco, Turkey, Italy, Spain (2004), Jordan, Palestine
- **New content:**
  - Tunisia: launch of the English and Arabic versions
  - Lebanon: Launch of the Arabic version, water legislation
  - Algeria, Cyprus, Malta and France
  - Israel: water context and legislation



# 3. Expansion and development of services

## Overview & Status

- **Multilingual water thesaurus (Arabic, English, French, Greek, Spanish and Turkish)**
- **Mediterranean water projects database**
- **Metadata sharing (syndication / harvesting)**
  - **All types with Jordan: use of the EMWIS Portal tool kit**
  - **Legislation to be implemented with Lebanon**
  - **News and events tested with Algeria, France and Spain**
  - **Documentation (using OAI) with Spain and Tunisia**



# 4. Review of the technical architecture

## Overview & status

- **Improving flexibility:**
  - Publication of same content on several web sites
  - Better integration of heterogeneous resources
  - Better decentralised management of content
  - Common structures for content using XML
- **Main components agreed with NFP:**
  - Common meta-data
  - Multilingual Water Thesaurus
  - Overall technical architecture
- **New technological platform for the TU**
  - Web Content Management System developed for the European Environment Agency (EEA) also used by the SMAP-RMSU
  - Open Source software, all source codes available online at the EEA website
  - The solution includes a web portal builder for NFP or other organisations, implemented by Jordan
  - The portal is multilingual: Arabic, English and French. But open to other languages
- **Support and Portal toolkit improvement**
  - Small functional improvements by November 2007
  - Including a geo-Atlas tool
  - Performance tuning for TU server
  - Help desk



# 5. Animation and operation of information services

## Overview & Status

- **Operation of current services**
  - On going
- **Re-design of services**
  - See new web portal
- **Up-dating and extending of the thematic directory**
  - Updating and consultation application improved
- **New thematic forums**
  - Water glossaries, satellite images, etc.
- **Monthly eNews Flash in Arabic (340), English (8500) and French (3400)**
  - On going

**SEMIDE EMWIS** النظام المعلوماتي الأورومتوسطي للمعرفة في مجال المياه

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أعدت هذه المنشورة من طرف الوحدة التقنية لسميد بدعم من [OIEAU](#) و [CEDEX](#), [SOGESID](#)، [المفوضية الأوروبية](#)

تعذر الرؤية؟ [اضغط هنا](#)

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**الإفتاحية:**

1- المؤتمر الأورومتوسطي لمديري المياه

**مختصرات:**

2- المعلومات حول المياه في لبنان  
3- المفوضية الأوروبية تمنح 71 مليون يورو إلى 89 مشروع ابتكار في 17 دولة  
4- المفوضية الأوروبية تمويل مشروع لتتبع و ترصد الموارد المائية  
5- فرنسا: نحو انسجام و فاعلية الأنشطة الدولية  
6- الجزائر: برنامج لإنجاز وحدات لتحلية المياه  
7- المغرب: تغطية ترويد الدار البيضاء بالمياه الصالحة للشرب قبل حلول 2009  
8- هولندا: قطاع المياه يرحب بمشاريع تمويل جديدة



# 6. Fostering the promotion of the system

## Overview & Status (1/2)

- Definition of a promotion plan
- Electronic marketing
  - eFlash, cross-links, directories, crawlers
- Developing promotional media
  - Updated brochures in Arabic, English and French
  - 6 NFP brochures
  - Web site leaflet and bookmark under development
  - 3 issues of the EMWIS Newsletter
  - NFP leaflet
- Press releases and articles for the specialised magazines
  - Press releases for Promotion events and Steering Committee meetings
  - Press book online



# 6. Fostering the promotion of the system



## Overview & Status (2/2)

- **National promotion seminar held**
  - Cyprus, October 2004
  - Rabat, April 2005
  - Beirut, November 2005
  - Ankara, December 2005
  - Algeria, June 2006
  - Egypt, February 2007
  - Cyprus, May 2007
  - Jordan, May 2007
  - Palestine, May 2007
  - Tunisia, November 2007

# 7. Development of topical activities



## Status

- **4 studies carried out (2004-2006)**
  - **EU Water Framework Directive**
  - **Use of non-conventional water resources**
  - **Irrigation water management**
  - **Integrated water management at local level**
  
- **Some working groups activities initiated with the Med Joint Process Water Framework Directive and EUWI:**
  - **Drought and water scarcity**
  - **Waste water Reuse**
  - **Water Monitoring**

# 8. Information clearing house for EU Water activities Status



## ➤ **EMWIS new web sections on initiatives**

- EU: MEDA-Water, Med-EUWI, INCO-MED, LIFE, MEDSTAT, SMAP, H2020

## ➤ **Projects presented:**

- EMWIS National seminars
- Coordination Committee seminars
- EMWIS portal, e-Flash

## ➤ **International water projects database:**

- Starting with water projects funded by the EU in MPC

# 9. Liaison with international initiatives



## Overview & Status (1/2)

- **Co-ordination of activities and agreement signed**
  - Mediterranean Water Institute: agreement to be extended for the MEDA-Water RMSU
  - Med-EUWI
    - Use of EMWIS website
    - working groups of the Joint Process using EMWIS as a facilitating platform
  - International Network of Basin Organisations (Med network)
  - SMAP-RMS (APAT, IT)
    - Agreement signed for the provision of information the water section of the **SMAP clearing house**
  - World Water Council: cooperation on the Water Monitoring Alliance (under signature)
  - European Environment Agency: joint action plan
- **Agreement under preparation :**
  - BALWOIS: involvement of Balkan countries, preparation of a MoU
  - Blue Plan: preparation of a MoU
  - Global Water Partnership Med (EMWIS Technical Unit membership)
  - FAO, IPTRID
    - Discussion on the future EMWIS technical architecture
  - OSS – Sahara and Sahel Observatory
  - EXACT – water WG of the Middle-East Peace process
- **Med Water observation mechanism study**
  - MAP-RAC, Medpol, Eurostat/MEDSTAT environment, EEA, WHO/UNICEF JMP, Unesco-WWAP, etc.



# Phase 2

## Summary of activities (1/2)

National promotion seminars:	10
National brochures:	7
National websites:	17 - all med countries updated
Equipment:	all Med countries (except SY)
Local assistance:	all countries (except EG, SY)
National trainings:	5 countries
NWIS feasibility studies	10 countries
Common trainings:	4
New regional website:	new architecture, new content and services



# Phase 2

## Summary of activities (2/2)

Mediterranean thematic studies	4
Working groups	5 themes, 3 active
Med water observation mechanism - study	7 countries involved
Coordination meetings	5
Steering group meetings	4
Euromed Water directors meetings	3
Experts workshops	2



# Achievements

## Review of (contractual) indicators

- *Improving regional water policy*
- *Capitalising experiences*

Joint declarations	3	Euromed water directors conferences
working groups	5	Defined, but not active
Countries in WGs	11	
Regional events with more of 6 countries	5	Incl. water directors conferences

# Achievements



## Increased availability of water information

National websites	15	
Users satisfied	-	
Med e-news flash	52	
Subscribers flash	12 183	
External references	>120	
Yearly visits (2007)	786 446	International website only
	36 071	Malta
	30 942	Cyprus
	10 196	Israel



# Achievements



Improved Sharing of information at regional and national levels

<b>Institutions providing information to the NFPs</b>	-	
<b>NWIS developments in Med countries</b>	5	Algeria, Lebanon, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia
<b>National EMWIS seminars</b>	13	
<b>Implementation of EMWIS standards for information sharing</b>	8	Algeria, France, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Spain, Tunisia



# Impact of activities

## Some comments

- National stakeholders not aware of EMWIS NFP activities
- Results not disseminated, e.g. NWIS studies
- Lack of promotion beyond the national seminar organised
- Poor national coordination related to water information
- Limited integration of EMWIS in the national institutional framework



# What's next?

- EC support targeted technical issues in line with Euromed cooperation policy
  - 2008-2009: information systems interoperability and working groups (thematic information)
  - 2009-xxxx: opportunity for follow up
- France, Italy and Spain interested in valuing EMWIS background
- Still strong need in water information and data
- Opportunity to get a political momentum:
  - Union for the Mediterranean, July 2008
  - Euromed water ministerial conference, Oct'2008



# ***Discussion***

- **Questions**
- **NFP presentations or comments on:**
  - Results achieved
  - Added value for the country
  - Website statistics
  - Feed back from users
  - Example of exchange of good practices
  - Coordination with water information providers
  - NFP status at the institutional level
- **For new comers:**
  - Knowledge and opinion on EMWIS and its NFP in the country