



The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms.

The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.



A project implemented by the contractor

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Euro-Mediterranean regional water projects

European Commission Delegation to Jordan presents the outputs of the Euro-Mediterranean regional water projects at the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul in March 2009



In the lobby of the Atlantic Ocean Auditorium, the main conference hall of the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul from 16 to 21 March 2009 promotional stands have been dedicated to the Euro-Mediterranean regional programmes; MEDA Water Programme; Euro-Med Information System on Know-how in the Water Sector (EMWIS) and the Mediterranean component of the EU Water Initiative, which implementation is supported by the European Commission Delegation to Jordan.

In the Euro- Mediterranean Regional Programme for Local Water Management - MEDA Water programme, 9 different consortia grouping EU and Mediterranean non-profit organisations (NGOs, Universities and Government Agencies) received grants up to € 5 million for the implementation of measures related to enhance local water management.

Regional and sub-regional co-operation networks have been developed by the implementing partners and the beneficiary communities, which had opportunities to work together on water issues of common concern. The programme activities contributed to increased capacity of the local communities and

institutions to solve their water related problems, and to empowering of water users in rural and peri-urban areas. Successes can be reported in many fields. Farmers increasingly manage their water resources themselves; villages now plan improvement of water availability and its use, and negotiate their investment needs with local, regional and national authorities; wastewater reuse is becoming more accepted through clear guidelines and pilot projects.

Extensive academic exchanges and capacity building have taken place and innovative technological solutions to water problems have been developed in partnership and successfully implemented in numerous pilot installations throughout the region, in addition to new institutional and organizational innovations and creation of awareness.

The Euro- Mediterranean Regional Programme for Local Water Management - MEDA Water programme has worked in a number of fields, such as improvement of wastewater management and the reuse of wastewater in irrigation, the decentralization of water supply and sanitation, application of small scale affordable solutions, the involvement of water users in

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decision-making, the improvement of water use efficiency in irrigation, the mitigation of effects of droughts and the reclamation of brackish water resources by decentralized desalination. Drought Management Guidelines have been developed with the support of authorities in Morocco and Tunisia. They have been tested in various countries and disseminated in all southern and eastern Mediterranean countries.

The programme started in 2002 with a call for proposals, and the activities will end in 2009. The achievements of the MEDA Water programme will be sustained by implementing the technologies developed at a larger scale, while maintaining the regional cooperation promoted under the Programme at the level of local communities, institutions and NGOs, and among the national water authorities.

Within the framework of the regional project supported by the EU (EMWIS), the Euro-Mediterranean Information System on know-how in the Water Sector has been created, which links together the water knowledge of all partner countries. EMWIS initiated also Conferences of the EU-Med Water Directors.

The MED-EU Water Initiative is another EU regional programme, which supported country dialogues and studies, and the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive principles in pilot river basins such as the Sebou (Morocco) and the Litani (Lebanon).

Both programmes, EMWIS and the EU Water Initiative, contributed to the Euro-Mediterranean political dialog on water management.



Water management has been confirmed as one of the priority issues for the Euro-Mediterranean co-operation by a number of Euro-Med political meetings. Extreme water scarcity is a common problem faced by the countries around the Mediterranean, in particular those in the Southern and Eastern parts, which is only made worse by the effect of global warming. The problems resulting from this water scarcity cannot be solved by large scale infrastructure measures alone. Much of the negative effects of water scarcity can be alleviated by improving the local management of water resources in the rural and peri-urban areas. This fact was recognized by the Euro - Mediterranean Water Ministers in their Conference in Turin in 1999 and reflected in the related Action Plan.

The EU encourages cooperation of all partner countries on water and the regional water programmes complement the EU development assistance provided to the individual neighbouring countries.

The projects will have their own corner in the Mediterranean Stand (Sutluce Congress Center, stand Number 101) and one of the MEDA Water Programme projects (Zer0-M) will be also presented in the stand of the Marmara Research Centre in the exhibition hall.

