



Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions into Water Resources Development and Management in the Mediterranean Region

Newsletter

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Women's Role in Water Resources Protection Massara, Cairo, Egypt

In the framework of the GEWAMED project, the team of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, headed by Dr. Mawaheb Abou El-Azm, Chief Executive Officer, organized a workshop for women of Maasara region, one of the slums in Cairo city, about "Women's Role in Water Resources Protection" on 7 August 2007.

The aim of the workshop was to raise the level of awareness between women about the importance of water resources and to promote the concepts of water savings and the better utilization of water in all aspects of life. The workshop also aimed at raising the awareness about the health hazards caused by polluted water.

About 60 women from the NGOs and housewives in Maasara area participated in the workshop which concentrated on the sources of water pollution and how women could be effective in sustaining water resources not only as users but also as decision makers, and in raising awareness between their mates and within the entire family.

The workshop started with a presentation on the available water resources in Egypt and the



annual water demand by the different sectorial users. It also highlighted the increasing gap between the supply and demand for water and the importance of water savings to overcome such reality. The presentation also showed different ways that can be followed by women for a better water saving.

The second part of the presentation discussed the environmental impacts of water pollution including the health hazards it could originate. This part of the presentation highlighted the main sources of water

pollution and the role women can play to protect them. The speakers discussed with the participants some of the bad behaviours causing water pollution, such as throwing garbage in the watercourses, washing dishes and animals in the water channels...etc. They stressed also on the health impacts of such behaviours on women and children and urged the participants to stop such bad behaviours.

At the end of the workshop, there was an open discussion during which women exchanged several ideas about the challenges they face in their community and the ways to follow in order to overcome such difficulties, cooperating with the concerned governmental bodies.

Prof. M. Shatanawi, GEWAMED National Coordinator in Jordan has been nominated Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation in Jordan.

Prof. M. Shatanawi is a University Professor in Water Resources and Irrigation, has diverse and wide expertise of more than twenty five years in water resources and irrigation management, water and agriculture policy, irrigation systems, hydrology of arid areas, and environmental impact of water projects. He is coordinating many research projects funded by EU and UNESCO. Prof. Shatanawi was the Dean of Faculty of Agriculture (1999-2003) and the director of Water and Environment Research and Study Centre for 7 years (1992-1999).

Sincere congratulations from all GEWAMED partners and collaborating institutions.



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Promoting the Establishment of the National Observatory for Rural Women Entrepreneurs in Lebanon

From 28 August to 1 September 2007, Veronica Navarra, President of ONILFA (National Observatory For Female Enterprise and Labour in Agriculture), Rosanna Quagliariello and Chiara Morini from the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (MAI-B) were part of a mission to Beirut - Lebanon, to discuss about the establishment of a Lebanese National Observatory for rural women's entrepreneurship. This mission was financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs within the framework of **Tercom Project** (Activation of Mechanisms to Sustain Rural Territories and Communities in Lebanon) as a financial and technical support provided to Lebanon after the conflicts of 2006.

Thanks to its long term involvement in gender issues and its well-established dialogue among partners and external organizations involved in this subject, the GEWAMED project could be considered as one of the major inspirer and catalyst of this initiative.

The mission contacted a large number of authorities and policy makers and a substantial support was found. However, the present political situation makes the process of establishing such institution difficult and it will take still time and future efforts. Anyway, it is expected that this successful initiative will be also a reality in Lebanon.



Italian Forum for Women Entrepreneurs from the Balkans, Caucasus and the Coastal Countries of the Black Sea

From 12 to 14 September 2007, about 300 women-entrepreneurs operating in Italy and in 14 countries of the Balkan area took part in 900 BtoB (Business to Business) meetings to talk about and compare their experiences in terms of business size, economic and cultural context and ease of management, with the aim to further improve trade relations in the area.

The Minister of International Trade and European Policies Emma Bonino explained that in Italy, as in most parts of the world, women entrepreneurship is an increasingly significant reality, full of enthusiasm and energy, which deserves to be supported since it is, and it will become, an increasingly important engine for the economic and civil growth of the country. However, this phenomenon is still in its infancy and therefore it lacks in contacts and relations, particularly at international level, which are essential for the growth of companies.

From here comes the idea to create a network of direct contacts for businesswomen that should be constantly developed in the future.

The high number of participants at the Forum demonstrated women's desire to grow their businesses and to enter international markets. The numerous Italian female representatives of small and medium enterprises constituted an interesting example of development for the host countries. As the Minister recalled, at the end of 2005 in the region of Puglia there were already 604 enterprises run by entrepreneurs from the Balkans, especially from Albania and Serbia-Montenegro, and 157 of these were managed by women. But, the best example was provided by the delegations of some of the host countries that although only a few years ago were protagonists of devastating conflicts and regimes, and depressed economies, today are represented by numerous female leading personalities.

The National Observatory for Female Enterprise and Labour in Agriculture (ONILFA), one of the GEWAMED partners, was among the participants and gave also its availability to host in its stall at the "Fiera del Levante" those women entrepreneurs who wished to continue their BtoB meetings.



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Spain on the Path Towards Gender Equality

Three decades ago, Spain used to be considered a backward country regarding gender equality. Inequality between women and men was the result of several factors, including a non-democratic regime, a deep influence of Catholicism, and a low degree of economic development. Franco's regime (1939-1975), a right-wing authoritarian dictatorship, was characterized by a discriminatory legislation which prevented women's status and rights from developing. The ideal family was a hierarchical unit, where the father was supposed to be its sole (or, at worst, its main) supporter, and motherhood was defined not only as the main family duty of women but also as women's main obligation towards state and society. The role of mothering was thus perceived as incompatible with other activities, such as waged work.



Since the transition to democracy, policy makers have been enacting gender equality policies which, however, have been at times categorized as symbolic measures. But today gender equality is firmly on the political agenda regardless of the ideological colour of the party in office.

The Spanish parliament approved a new gender equality law geared to eliminating all direct or indirect discrimination on the grounds of sex, guaranteeing and furthering true equality between women and men in the political, social and economic life of the country, by removing the obstacles and social stereotypes that hinder its attainment.

As Prime Minister José Luís Rodríguez Zapatero said, it represents an effort to transform Spanish society "para bien, radicalmente y para siempre" ("for good, radically, and for ever"). In particular, this Act introduces into the Spanish body of law two Directives on equal treatment, namely 2002/73/EC amending Directive 76/207/EEC on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women as regards access to employment, vocational training and promotion, and working conditions (see *article 5*); and Directive 2004/113/EC implementing the principle of equality of treatment between men and women in the access to and supply of goods and services (see *article 69*).

The Act gives special attention to the correction of inequalities in the specific domain of labour relations. Via a series of provisions it recognizes the right to reconcile personal, family and working life and fosters greater co-responsibility among women and men in the assumption of family obligations (*article 44*). The most innovative measure to favour such reconciliation is the establishment of a thirteen-day paternity leave, which may be extended in the event of multiple births for a further two days per additional child. Other measures include the introduction of flexible working hours so that workers can adapt their working time to their personal circumstances; unpaid leave to allow workers to deal with special circumstances such as a sick child; and shorter working hours extended to parents of children older than six years.

The measures aimed at protecting maternity are seen as a mechanism for achieving equal opportunities, so any unfavourable treatment of women related to pregnancy or childbirth will be considered as direct gender discrimination. With regard to pay, the draft states that to put an end to the pay gap between men and women – approximately 30% according to the National Statistics Institute (Instituto Nacional de Estadística) – the principle of equal pay should be fully applied in the public and private sector. Sexual harassment is also considered as gender discrimination (see *articles 7, 48*). The draft also mentions positive action measures that favour women's access to all occupations, with the possibility to establish exclusions, quotas and preferences in the conditions of recruitment so that, between candidates who are equally suited for a job, preference will be given to the sex less represented in the occupational group or category. This type of measure may also be applied to occupational training.

In order to make the new law effective in the working environment, the government plans to introduce sanctions for companies that practice discrimination and a range of incentives for good practices. A "mark of excellence in equality" - based on the mark of excellence currently used for ecological foodstuffs - will be created for companies that meet the requirements. Public institutions will also provide subsidies for drawing up and introducing equality plans.

This law embodies a genuine right to which women are entitled, but at the same time it is an element that will enrich Spanish society by contributing to economic development and to a rise in employment levels.

For more information about the law download its full text, available in 3 languages

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(Spanish, French and English), from the GEWAMED website, www.gewamed.net or contact Mrs Josefina Pereira (IAM - Instituto Andaluz de la Mujer) at: josefina.pereira@juntadeandalucia.es

"In Search of Equality...": A New Publication from COHRE

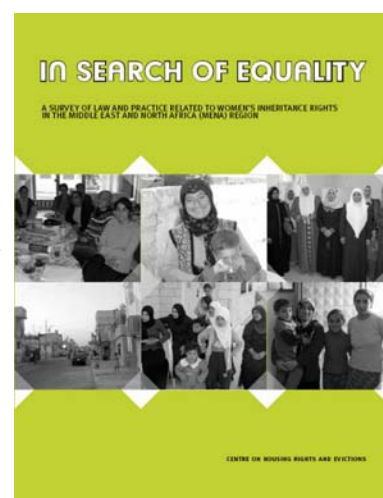
"In Search of Equality: A Survey of Law and Practice related to Women's Inheritance Rights in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region" is an important outcome of the Women and Housing Rights Programme (WHRP) of the Geneva-based Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE).

Since 1998, the WHRP has worked to promote and protect women's equal right to inheritance as an essential part of the human right to housing and land. WHRP research, first in sub-Saharan Africa and later in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA region), has revealed that - both in law and practice - women's inheritance rights are often neglected and rarely respected.

In mid-2005, the WHRP completed its research of issues related to women's inheritance, housing and land rights in the MENA region, examining Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia and Turkey. The focus of the research was on the legal situation of inheritance rights in these States, as well as women's actual experiences of inheritance issues.

The newly released report, with contributions from COHRE's sister organisations in eight MENA States, reveals how complex such issues are, identifies causes and consequences of inheritance rights violations, and recommends key changes, based on a human rights framework. The main finding is that inheritance laws should be reformed to embody full gender equality. Far more challenging will be the eradication of the cultural roots of discriminatory customs, traditions and notions. Education must also take high priority as most women are unaware of their rights. But the research also reveals that despite several shortcomings and the lack of enforcement mechanisms, the Arab/Middle East region has a sound basis of human rights instruments that should serve to guide States in establishing laws and policies to protect women's human rights.

You can download the full report directly from the COHRE online Library, [Country Reports](http://www.cohre.org) page, www.cohre.org, or from the GEWAMED website, Documentation section, www.gewamed.net.



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As preparation work for the Third Regional Workshop of the GEWAMED Project, GCSAR carried out a field survey on gender role in rural households in the southern Syrian provinces (Suweida, Qneitra, Deraa and Rural Damascus), aiming at investigating the equality between man and women in the following fields:

- Land tenure and water management;
- Access to paid work;
- Access to education;
- Access to administrative position especially for educated rural women.



The survey ended on 13 September 2007 in Suweida and Qneitra, and it already started in Deraa on 1 October 2007; it will move then to Rural Damascus. The data of the survey questionnaire will be analyzed and the results will be presented during the Third Regional Workshop of GEWAMED.

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- **NOSTRUM-DSS & INECO JOINT EVENT "IWRM through coordination, dissemination, and exploitation of research outcomes" 25th October 2007 and NOSTRUM-DSS Final Dissemination Conference at Larnaca, Cyprus, 25-27 October 2007**

The Nostrum-DSS and INECO Coordinated Action (CA) Projects, funded by the European Commission, have organized on 25 October 2007 a Joint Meeting to be held in Larnaca, (Cyprus), which will provide a new opportunity for strengthening synergies between EU research projects.

The main theme of this open session will be oriented towards the discussion of problems and criteria for the coordination, dissemination and exploitation of EU-research outcomes related to IWRM in the Mediterranean region. In this joint event a large number of Coordinators of EU related projects have been invited to present project results on different topics in the domain of water resources management in the Mediterranean region. The GEWAMED project will be represented by the Project Coordinator, Nicola Lamaddalena and the Project Manager; Juan A. Sagardoy.

Participants will combine their collective experience towards defining new strategies for improving the collaboration and coordination between projects and potential beneficiaries, with the aim of supporting the maintenance of a common stream of actions. The discussions about the coordination, dissemination and exploitation of EU-research outcomes related to IWRM and the Mediterranean region should lead to the development of a formal declaration reflecting the event objectives.

On 26 and 27 October, the **NOSTRUM-DSS Final Dissemination Conference** will continue with the presentation of the NOSTRUM-DSS project's results and planned future actions.

More information are available on the following web page:

<http://www.feem-web.it/nostrum/forum/viewtopic.php?t=134%20>

- **Training Of Trainers Course in Gender and IWRM, Tunis, Tunisia, 26 November-02 December 2007**

In the Arab Region, Gender is not adequately taken into consideration and the implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) strategies and plans remains a fragmented process. Most water professionals acknowledge the need of promoting IWRM principles and policies, but very few understand or have the capacity to adopt a participatory approach. Involving women as well as men in water management is not only a means to improve women's condition, but also an essential element to achieve social equity and an effective development, utilization and management of water resources.

That's why GWA (Gender Water Alliance) and CAWTAR, in collaboration with AWARE-NET, Cap-Net, IDRC-WADImena and GEWAMED, are organizing a TOT (Training of Trainers) course in Gender and IWRM at the Centre of Arab Women Training and Research (CAWTAR) in Tunis from 26 November to 2 December 2007.

The course is open to 20-23 participants and its main objective is to increase the number of capable trainers strengthening their capacity to effectively train others in the principles of Gender and IWRM, and to mainstream gender in IWRM planning and implementation in the Arab Region. In particular, the target participants should be Trainers/Capacity builders able to organize workshops, Water specialists who are gender-sensitive, Gender specialists interested in water management, and Trainers in the Ministries, NGOs, Training Centres, and universities.

The course language will be Arabic although a translator English-Arabic-English will be available, and the course cost including everything except airfares is 1350 USD per person. Since GWA has limited financial resources, participants are encouraged to seek funding from their own organizations or partners.

Candidates should send a short CV and a detailed concept note before 15 October 2007 to the following address cawtar@cawtar.org.

If further information about the course and the application procedures is required, then please contact the organizers.



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• Advanced Short Course and Seminar, Cairo, Egypt, January 2008

GEWAMED in cooperation with the Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) is planning an advanced short course and a National Seminar to be held in Cairo in early January 2008 (exact dates and place to be defined). More details will be published in the GEWAMED web site (www.gewamed.net) as soon as the preparation of the course is more advanced. Both events are strongly supported by the GEWAMED partners in Egypt: The Strategic Research Unit (SRU) of the National Water Research Centre (NWRC) and The Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA).

The tentative programme for the **Short Course on Resources for Gender Mainstreaming in Water Management** and the **Seminar on Key Policy Issues to Mainstreaming Gender in Water Management** is given in the next page.

1st Day:

What is gender and IWRM?

2nd Day:

1. Gender and IWRM relationships
2. Capacity development for gender mainstreaming

3rd Day

1. Gender Analysis (Tools and techniques available)
2. Promoting changes for mainstreaming gender in water and agriculture policies

4th Day: Field visit

5th day: Seminar on Key Policy Issues to Mainstreaming Gender in Water Management

1. Gender and natural resources "Land and Water Management";
2. Gender and food security constraints and perspectives;
3. Gender and women's empowerment: experiences gained and lessons learned;
4. Poverty reduction for the rural poor: Gender as a key element and how to integrate;
5. Gender and sustainable rural development: the build up of human and social capital;

6th day: Brainstorming session

Brainstorming working session in order to draw up a proposed action plan to be implemented by the participants in their respective organisations and countries.

The course is mainly addressed to GEWAMED partners and the cooperating institutions at national level but depending on availability other participants are encouraged to request admission. The number of participants will be limited to 25.

For more information contact: J. A. Sagardoy (sagardoy@iamb.it).



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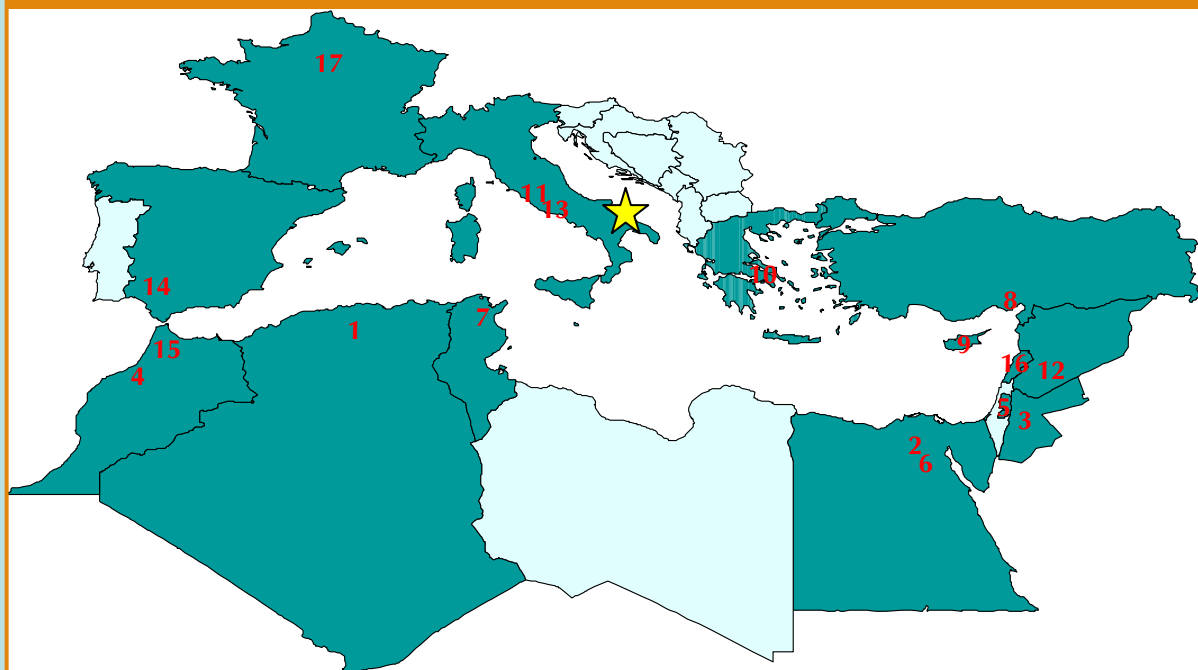
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Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes (CIHEAM) -
Istituto Agronomico Mediterraneo, Bari (IAMB), ITALY

Partners:

- 1 Centre de Recherche en Économie Appliquée pour le Développement (CREAD), ALGERIA
- 2 Strategic Research Unit-National Water Research Center, (SRU-NWRC), EGYPT
- 3 Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jordan (UJ-FA), JORDAN
- 4 Association Marocaine de Solidarité et de Développement (AMSED), MOROCCO
- 5 Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee (PARC), PALESTINE
- 6 Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), EGYPT
- 7 The Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR), TUNISIA
- 8 Çukurova University, Faculty of Agriculture (CUKUR), TURKEY
- 9 Agriculture Research Institute (ARI), CYPRUS
- 10 Mediterranean Office for Environment, Cultural and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), GREECE
- 11 Osservatorio Nazionale per l'Imprenditoria ed il Lavoro Femminile in Agricoltura (ONILFA), ITALY
- 12 General Commission for Scientific Agricultural Research-Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (GCSAR), SYRIA
- 13 International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage-Italian Committee (ITAL-ICID), ITALY
- 14 Instituto Andaluz de la Mujer - Junta de Andalucía (IAM-JA), SPAIN
- 15 African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development (CAFRAD), MOROCCO
- 16 René Moawad Foundation (RMF), LEBANON
- 17 Programme Solidarité Eau (pS-Eau), FRANCE

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