

**1st Meeting of the WATER EXPERT GROUP
7-8 September 2009, Athens**



Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative

A brief Report of Activities 2008-2009

Lead Country: GREECE

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What is the EU Water Initiative (EUWI)

- Platform for **strategic and political dialogue** on water issues, endorsed at the highest political level
- Open forum for **consultation with concerned stakeholders** within the EU and in the region
- Time-bound process with **specific objectives**
- Mechanism for **improved co-ordination** between the EU and the partner country
- Mechanism to promote **ownership** and demand from partners
- Means to **catalyse funding** for water resources development and service delivery

The EUWI is NOT

- A new **organisation**
- A **financial institution**
- A new **source of finance**

Objectives - Aims

- Assist the **design** of better, demand-driven and result-oriented programmes
- Facilitate better **co-ordination** of water programmes and projects, targeting a more effective **use of existing funds** and **mobilising new** financial resources
- Foster **co-operation** for projects' proper implementation, based on enhancing synergies and strategic assessment

EUWI Regional and Horizontal Components

	Regions			
	Africa		EECCA	Mediterranean
	Latin America			
Themes				
IWRM	Fr	Dk	Gr	Es
WS&S	Dk ²	EC ¹		Mx
extreme events				Pt
water/agriculture				Mx
Research	EC			
Finance	UK			
Monitoring	It and EC			

MED EUWI Focus Themes

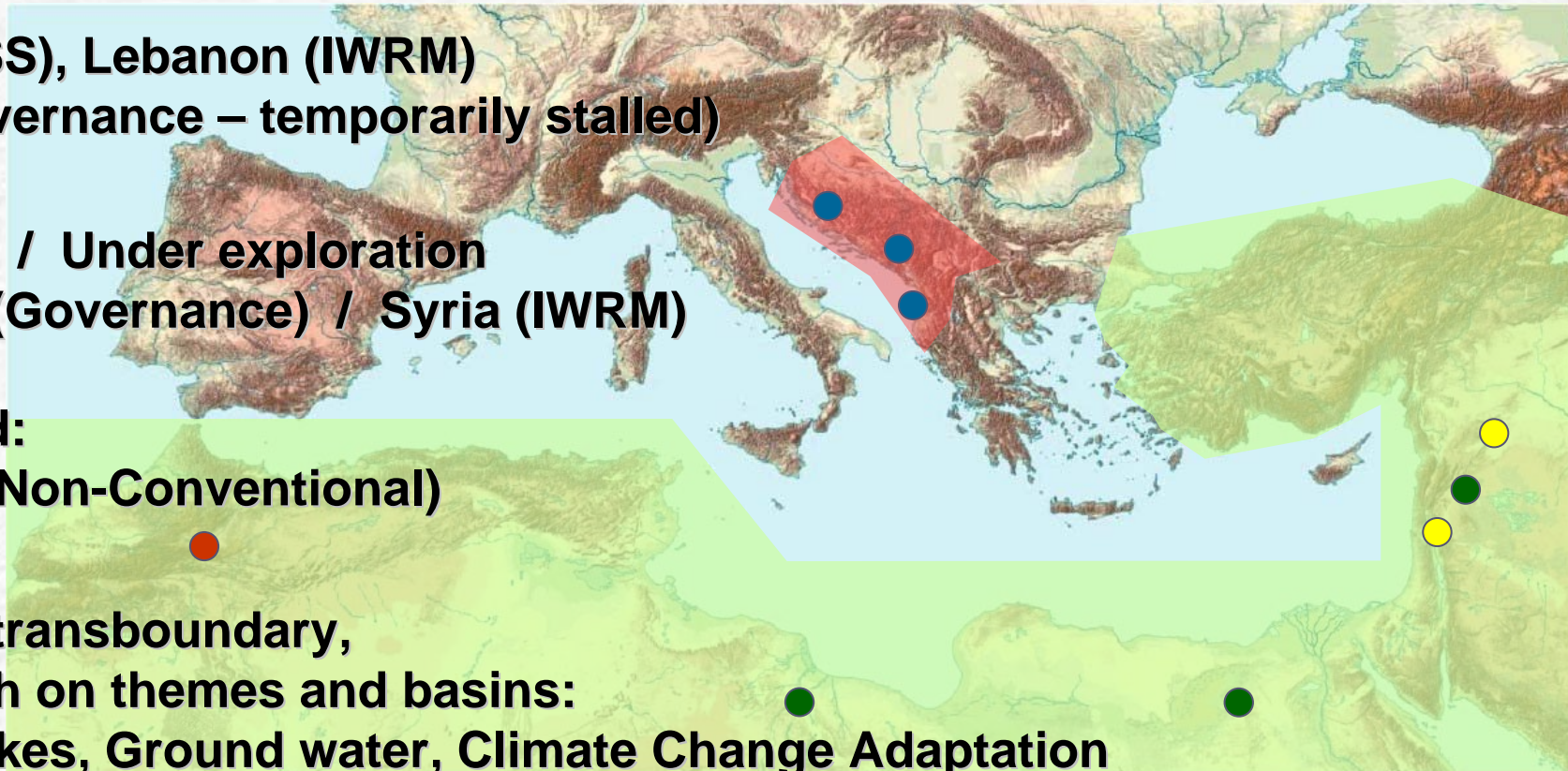
- **Integrated water resources management (IWRM)**
with emphasis on planning of national & transboundary bodies
- **Water supply & sanitation**
with emphasis on the poorest part of the societies
- **Water, food, environment interaction**
with emphasis on fragile ecosystems
- **Non-conventional water resources**

and Horizontal Focus Themes:

- **Transfer of technology, know-how & training**
- **Education**

Country Dialogues / Interventions – on going and planned

- **On going:**
Egypt (WSS), Lebanon (IWRM)
Libya (Governance – temporarily stalled)
- **Launched / Under exploration**
Palestine (Governance) / Syria (IWRM)
- **Requested:**
Morocco (Non-Conventional)
- **On going transboundary,**
based both on themes and basins:
Rivers, Lakes, Ground water, Climate Change Adaptation
Sava, Drin, Ohrid, Skoder, Prespa



MED EUWI Activities 2008/09

National Dialogue in EGYPT

Emphasis was on assisting the new 30-year Egyptian **National Master Plan for Water and Wastewater** and the **Rural Sanitation Strategy**, within the IWRM framework of the **National Water Resources Plan 2017**.

In 2007, the design phase was completed, ToR were agreed, data collection progressed and capacity building activities on financing strategies and the **FEASIBLE model** were implemented and continued in 2008.

- **'Affordability-to-Pay Assessment'** was completed in 2008 - the first to be conducted in Egypt. Consultation meetings held throughout 08 and 09 with the involvement of key stakeholders (government, stakeholders, donors). Recommendations were finalized.

- **Financing Strategy on WSS in Greater Cairo in assistance to the new Master Plan** was prepared through a consultative approach. Activities completed in March 09 with an agreed set of policy recommendations. Policy Brief was prepared for high level discussions.

*Activities in Egypt were led by **HCWW**, supported by **MoHUUD** and **MWRI** and were implemented in collaboration with **OECD** and the **EC Delegation in Egypt**, primarily with support through the **MEDA Water Programme** and the **Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs**.*

MED EUWI Activities 2008/09

National Activities in LEBANON

Emphasis was on assisting the review of the **Lebanese 2000-2009 Strategic Plan for Water** and launch the preparation of the **National IWRM Plan**, within the Lebanese **Reconstruction Process**.

Considerable **delays** have been encountered after the launching of activities (end of 2005) due to the 2006 **war and the prolonged political crisis**. MED EUWI **activities were re-designed** to respond to current needs and **agreed at the level of the Prime Minister** (end of 2007).

The **Review of the existing Strategy Plan** was completed in February 2009. A central objective of MED EUWI activities is to **create a platform for dialogue and cooperation among the Lebanese stakeholders that are involved in water resources management**. To this respect the formulation and operation of a high level 'Task Force' (TF) and an advisory 'Multi-Stakeholder Forum (MStF)' for consultation are advancing

*Activities in Lebanon are led by the Lebanese **Ministry of Energy and Water** and were implemented primarily with support through the **MEDA Water Programme**.*

MED EUWI Activities 2008

National Activities in PALESTINE

- Emphasis in **Palestine** is on assisting the Palestinian Water Authority to develop and implement a framework programme on water governance that will **promote institutional reform and strengthen the role of the PWA**. Scoping has been completed as well as prioritization of activities to be supported by different sources.

*Activities in Palestine are led by the **Palestinian Water Authority** and are currently implemented primarily with support through the MEDA Water Programme.*

MED EUWI in 2008 – *Activities in Southeastern Europe*

- *Capacity Building Workshop on Stakeholders Involvement in Transboundary Water Resources Management*
25-28 March 2008, Podgorica, Montenegro
- *International Workshop on Water and Climate Change in Southeastern Europe*
24-25 June 2008, Tirana, Albania
- *International Roundtable on Stakeholder / Public Participation for the Integrated Management of Shared Water Resources*
15-16 April 2008, Sofia, Bulgaria
- *Capacity Building Workshop on Integrated Management of Shared Lakes Basin*
16-18 July 2008, Ohrid, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- *Consultation Meeting on Integrated Management of the extended Drin River Basin*
24 November 2008, Tirana, Albania
- *Capacity Building Workshop on IWRM with emphasis on Drin River Basin*
25-27 November 2008, Skhoder Lake, Albania,
- *Capacity Building Workshop on Shared Groundwater Resources Management*
2-4 December 2008, Postojna, Slovenia

MED EUWI in 2008 - *REGIONAL Activities*

- Organisation of the **Conference of the Euro-Mediterranean and Southeastern European Water Directors** (6/2008, Athens) in preparation of the “Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water” (12/2008, Jordan)
- Co-organisation of the **Civil Society Conference for the Ministerial**, Dead Sea (12/2008)
- Preparation of the Thematic Paper on **Water Governance** for the Ministerial Conference with contributions by Greece, Palestine & Lebanon
- Work on **Climate Change Adaptation and Water in the Mediterranean** with
 - (i) preparation of related Position Paper for the Water Directors Conference
 - (ii) organisation of Side Event at CSD16 (NY, May 08), and
 - (iii) preparation of the related Thematic Paper for the Ministerial Conference, with contributions by Spain, Morocco and Greece (Jun 08).
- Preparation of the **IWRM Status Assessments in the 10 MEDA countries**
- Preparation of the **Regional Assessment on Water Supply, Sanitation and Health in the Mediterranean**, in cooperation with WHO, JMP and UNEP/MAP

MED EUWI – *Activities in 2009/10*

- Scale of Country and Regional activities in 2009/10 **depend on financing** that will become available for MED EUWI from different supporters
- Support by the EC for Phase I of Country Dialogues expired in April 2009
- **Selected Phase II Country Dialogue activities: some support by Greece and GEF**
- **Elaboration of the new Med Water Strategy: some support by EC and GEF**
- **Selected transboundary waters activities in Balkans: support by Petersberg /Athens Process partners**
- Possibilities for further EC support are explored
- **Country activities in selected countries (including Lebanon, Palestine and Egypt) will continue based on demand by key authorities**
- Work in the **transboundary Drin River Basin will excel**
- Work related to the **new Med Water Strategy** will be launched according to UfM
- Follow up on decisions of the **Euro-Med Ministerial Conference on Water (12/2008)** will contribute in developing the short & medium-term MED EUWI agenda



THANK YOU

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