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EURO-MEDITERRANEAN INFORMATION SYSTEM ON KNOW-HOW IN THE WATER SECTOR

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http://www.emwis.org

EUROPEAID
CO-OPERATION OFFICE

EURO-MEDITERRANEAN
PARTNERSHIP

EMWIS is a strategic tool for exchanging information and knowledge. This tool is essential for implementing the Action Plan approved during the Turin Conference in 1999.

Steps of the water partnership

Barcelona 1995	Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs • *Creation of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership*
Marseilles 1996	Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water Management • *Creation of EMWIS*
Naples 1997	Euro-Mediterranean Conference of the General Water Directors • *Approval of EMWIS*
Turin 1999	Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Local Water Management • *Approval of the Action Plan* • *Consolidation of EMWIS*
Madrid 2001	*Euro-Mediterranean Conference of the General Water Directors* • Approval of EMWIS progress and of a strategic development plan

Water management requires a lot of information, more and more sophisticated.

However, this information is still highly fragmentary. This is the reason why the twenty seven Ministers of Water decided, in Marseilles in 1996, to create a system to rationalise the exchange of information.
EMWIS was approved in Naples a year later.
Its task is to make an inventory and gather all available information, thus providing its access to everyone.
It is based on an active participation and on the sharing of the information and experience acquired by the partner countries at local, regional and national levels.

EMWIS assignment covers three objectives to

● **Allow**
access to the information

● **Develop**
the sharing of information

● **Develop**
joint products and co-operation programmes.

An original approach

It is the first achievement of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership in the water sector. EMWIS is an original pattern for increasing knowledge of water management in the region. It complements the many other international actions.

It is open to everyone

Access to the information proposed by EMWIS is open to everyone interested in water management issues.

Internet, a tool for access and exchange

The Internet availability and quick spreading in the partner countries makes it the ideal tool for the information provided by EMWIS.

Thanks to Internet, not only users have easy access, but the exchanges between the Technical Unit and the National Focal Points are also taking place.

Guaranteed quality information

Each National Focal Point is responsible for identifying, guaranteeing quality and access to information sources.

The only information sources accessible via the system are those approved by EMWIS.

A distributed information system

Each partner country its own information server providing access to national information and know-how. All these servers are interconnected through Internet but, for the user, the search for information is carried out in a transparent manner using a single access point.

Multilingual access

In French, English and Arabic, but open to all the other languages.

EMWIS deals with five priority main lines regarding know-how in the water sector. Other topics are added upon decision of the Steering Committee, such as: the use of non-conventional water resources, the EU Water Framework Directive, the irrigation water management and the integrated management of local drinking water supply, sanitation and sewage.
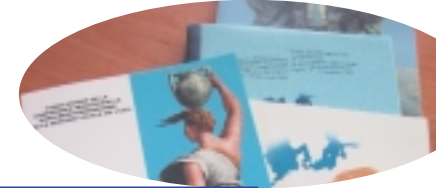
● Institutions

Type and organization of institutions, people involved

● Documentation

Organization and type of existing centres, means and technologies used for processing, accessing, consultation and dissemination, standardization, quality certification.

● Training

Existing organizations, programmes, localization, trainers, methods, training materials, quality certification.

● Research and Development

Existing organizations, programmes, people involved, means and technologies, publications, partnerships, funding sources.

● Data administration

Existing organizations and databases, methods used for data gathering and checking, publications.

A two-level structure

Decision-making level

■ Steering Committee

Members
- representatives from 10 countries

Tasks
- Defining strategic orientations
- Validating obtained results
- Validating the action plan and annual budget.

■ Co-ordination Committee

Members
- Representatives of the Technical Unit and of all the National Focal Points.

Tasks
- Drawing the annual activity programme,
- Proposing the annual budget.

Operational level

■ The National Focal Points (NFP)

Composition
- Teams made up of a co-ordinator, a data manager and a computer scientist.

Tasks
- Creating and developing a national information server
- Organising and developing procedures for communication and access to existing information
- Ensuring that the information is available
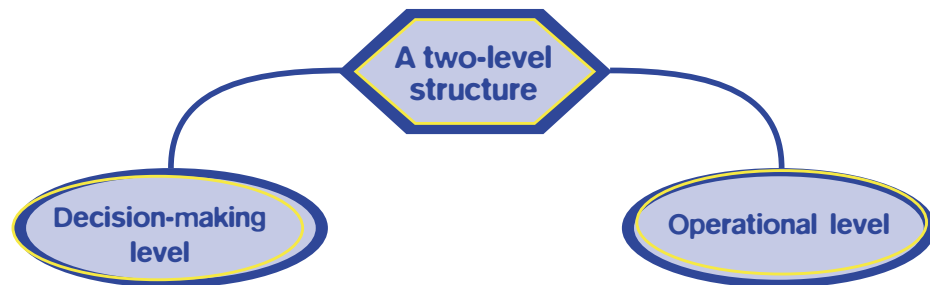- Establishing relations with the users in their own country.

■ The Technical Unit

Composition
CEDEX (Spain), OIEau (France) and SOGESID (Italy).

Tasks
- Proposing annual budgets to the Steering Committee and participating in the definition of strategic orientations and action plans
- Co-ordinating, leading and providing technical assistance to the National Focal Points
- Developing and managing EMWIS information portal
- Being the International Focal Point.

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          A two-level
           structure
         /            \
Decision-making     Operational level
    level
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25 countries of the European Union

- Austria
- Belgium
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom

10 Mediterranean partners

- Algeria
- Egypt
- Israel
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Morocco
- Syria
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- The Palestinian Authority