



**Minutes
Inception Meeting of the
JP Working Group on
Water Monitoring**

3 July 2007, 17.30-19.00 h
CEDEX - Madrid

These Minutes summarize the discussions and results of the Inception Meeting of the Working Group on Water Monitoring of the Joint Process between the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI) and the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD). It took place on 3 July 2007, from 17.30 pm to 19.00 pm, at CEDEX in Madrid, Spain, linked to the Experts Workshop regarding the Feasibility Study on the Mediterranean Water Observation Mechanism (3 & 4 July, 2007).

The Meeting was lead by EMWIS (Eric Mino) and was supported by InterSus – Sustainability Services (Eduard Interwies).

Attendees and the discussed first draft of the mandate of the Working Group can be found in the Annexes to these minutes.

The presentations, the minutes of the Inception Meeting and the revised mandate are available at the web-site of the Working Group: <http://www.semide.net/topics/watmon>

1. Aims & Agenda of the meeting

The meeting **aimed at** presenting the background of the Working Group, provide information regarding monitoring under the WFD (particularly important in order to let the Med Partner Countries identify the topics on which they want to work and exchange experiences) to review the working group mandate its membership and identify the way forward for the Working Group.

The **agenda of the meeting** was as follows:

- * Introduction: background on the Med Joint Process and EMWIS working groups (Eric MINO, EMWIS Technical Unit)
- * Presentation of monitoring concepts under the EU WFD (Eric MINO, EMWIS Technical Unit, based on information provided by the European Commission)
- * Presentation of the proposed WG mandate (Eduard Interwies, InterSus - Sustainability Services)
- * Discussion on WG mandate

2. Discussions at the Meeting

Based on the presentations given, the **main points of the discussion** that followed are highlighted below:

1. Experiences of Med EU-Member States show significant challenges regarding the fulfillment of the WFD (monitoring) requirements. This is closely linked to the specific natural/hydrological conditions in the Med region, e.g. the predominant lack of perennial streams creating problems regarding biological monitoring, consecutive years of drought leading to difficulties in fulfilling the WFD objectives etc.;
2. In general, the experiences regarding monitoring within the WFD-implementation (in the technical, organizational and financial fields) are of interest for the Med partner countries. At the same time, the field of work is very broad and diverse; there is the need to focus the work of the Working Group on a sub-set of issues/experiences and to get a coherent group of experts
3. Therefore, it is proposed to focus the overall objective and mandate of the Working Group on monitoring issues and experiences regarding groundwater (and to a lesser extent based on existing natural links, to surface waters including the coastal waters);
4. In addition, while both quantitative and qualitative (chemical, biological) monitoring is of interest, the focus should be put on the quantitative side based on the existing situation and challenges in the Med region;
5. Based on this specification of the Working Group objective, experiences made in EU Member States with the old Groundwater Directive as well discussions regarding the implementation of the new Groundwater Directive become also relevant for the JP-WG on Water Monitoring;
6. The specific sub-topics to be primarily dealt within this mandate will be focused further at a later stage, based on a more specific need evaluation in the MPC as well as a better understanding of the experiences gathered through the WFD-implementation;
7. An already identified main sub-topic is the methodologies for cost calculations while assessing different monitoring strategies and specific monitoring network improvements;
8. In addition, an exchange of experiences regarding how to organize monitoring activities in order to identify groundwater risks/problematic trends (e.g. nitrates/pesticides concentrations), thus using "monitoring for prevention" would be valuable;
9. The WG should be coherent with the other WGs of the JP (especially with the Groundwater WG and the Scarcity and droughts WG) in order to avoid overlap and ensure added value. In addition, strong links with the CIS-WG on monitoring will be very beneficial for the work of the JP-Water Monitoring WG. The WG should examine the relevant guidance documents¹ provided by the WFD and investigate whether WFD provisions in this matter could be adapted to the conditions of the Med Partner Countries.

¹ [Guidance No 07 - Monitoring](#)
[Guidance No 15 - Groundwater Monitoring \(WG C\)](#)
[Guidance No 16 - Groundwater in Drinking Water Protected Areas \(WG C\)](#)

3. Conclusions of the meeting/Next steps

Based on the above, the following conclusions were drawn and next steps identified:

1. The mandate of the working group is to be revised accordingly and circulated to the (preliminary) members of the group (the final approval of the mandate will be given by the EuroMed Water Directors end of 2007);
2. The attendees of the meeting should discuss within their institutions what the specific sub-topics are that the WG should focus on and send this information to EMWIS for the further specification of the mandate and workplan of the group;
3. Regarding the next steps, EMWIS as the leader of the group will:
 - contact the EuroMed Water Directors in order to ask for nominations for the Working Group;
 - seek confirmation by the participants of this first meeting of their willingness to be members of the working group;
 - contact EuroMed countries in order to identify their willingness to lead the Working Group together with EMWIS as technical support; ideally, one Med EU Member State and one MPC could lead the group;
 - clarify the linkages to the CIS-WG on monitoring in order to ensure a practicable working relationship;
 - clarify the division of work with the JP-WG groundwater in order to avoid overlaps (since the specific objective of the Water Monitoring-WG now will focus on groundwater);
 - investigate the details of TAIEX-financing and contact Med Partner Countries for the application procedure (since the request needs to come from the countries themselves);
 - arrange the next meeting of the Working Group (if possible/financing available by then, back-to-back with the CIS-Working Group on monitoring in September in Portugal. Otherwise, a meeting in November should be aimed for.
 - for this meeting and based on more clarity regarding the members of the WG and linkages to the other WGs, a first specific workplan including a draft structure of the final report, responsibilities for the different chapters and a more specific timeframe/roadmap for the Working Group should be developed.

Annex 1.
Attendees to the inception meeting of the WG Water Monitoring

	Participants	Organisations	Country	Email
1	Stefanos PAPATRIFONOS	Water Development Department	Cyprus	spapatryfonos@wdd.moa.gov.cy
2	Eric MINO	EMWIS technical unit	France	e.mino@semide.org
3	Jauad EL KHARRAZ	EMWIS technical unit	France	jauad.el-kharraz@semide.org
4	Jean Margat	FAO	France	jeanmargat@wanadoo.fr
5	George GOLLA	OIEau	France	g.golla@oieau.fr
6	Paul HAENER	OIEau	France	p.haener@oieau.fr
7	Eduard INTERWIES	Intersus	Germany	Interwies@intersus.eu
8	Angelina KLAUSCHEN	Med EUWI	Greece	angela@gwpmed.org
9	Suzan TAHA	Ministry of Water and Irrigation	Jordan	Suzan Taha@mwi.gov.jo
10	Abdalla Naber EL-SONNI	Water Authority	Libya	abdallaelsonni@yahoo.com
11	Monique HILI	Malta Environment and Planning Authority	Malta	Monique.hili@mepa.org.mt
12	Abdelaziz ZEROUALI	Agence du Bassin Hydraulique de l'Oum er Rbia	Morocco	azlso@yahoo.fr
13	Leticia MARTINEZ	CEDEX	Spain	Leticia.MartinezEtayo@cedex.es
14	Luis MOISTERO	CEDEX	Spain	Luis.Mosteiro@cedex.es
15	Tatiana MUNOZ	Infraeco	Spain	
16	Mustapha BESBES	Consultant	Tunisia	mbf.besbes@gnet.tn
17	Abderrazak DAOUD	Tunisia	Tunisia	a.daoud@semide.tn
18	Ugur NALBANTOGLU	DSI	Turkey	nalbantoglu@dsi.gov.tr

Annex 2.

Draft mandate of the Joint Process WG Water Monitoring - as presented & discussed at the inception meeting, 3 July 2007)
(Mandate has been revised after the meeting)



**MEDITERRANEAN EUWI/WFD
JOINT PROCESS
“Work Programme 2007/2009”**



**Working Group on
Water Monitoring**

Draft Mandate (for discussion at the inception meeting of the group)

i. Introduction & background

The Joint Water Framework Directive / EU Water Initiative process (JP) aims at developing synergies between the two mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of sound water policies. It was launched in 2004 with 3 ad’hoc working groups (groundwater, water scarcity, Linking rural development with water management) that were developed between 2004 and 2006 (JP Phase I).

At the Euromed water directors conference in November 2006 (Athens), a proposal for a 2nd phase was introduced and accepted to continue the 3 working groups of the 1st phase and develop new ones:

1. Groundwater management: leaders: Greece and the European Commission;
2. Water Scarcity and Drought: leaders: Morocco, France (TBC), MENBO, the European Commission, supported by EMWIS
3. Linking rural development with water management: leader: the European Commission;
4. Waste water reuse: leaders: Malta, the European Commission; supported by EMWIS
5. Shared water resources management: GWP-Med
6. Water monitoring: leader: EMWIS

The reasons for organising a “water monitoring” working group by EMWIS were twofold:

- In 2005 EMWIS conducted a survey on the value of some concepts of the European Union (EU) Water Framework Directive (WFD) for Mediterranean partner countries (MPC). Water Directors as well as basin organisations were surveyed. The two first concepts of interest are the characterization of basins and the monitoring activities. This underlines strong willingness and needs in terms of acquiring a better knowledge on river basins within MPC. That preliminary step is crucial before ongoing the works of planning. Generally, this survey shows a lack of awareness on WFD by MPC, but also a strong interest on the follow up of its implementation in EU Member States;
- The feasibility studies on the enhancement of National Water Information Systems, carried out in 2005 have shown that the water data collection is often a difficulty to get efficient systems. Such systems are the cornerstone for the potential development of a regional water observatory mechanism.

In addition, in its final phase I report, the “Groundwater management” WG highlights the lack of reliable data and recommends to further develop a Mediterranean ground water monitoring network.

ii. Objectives and key subjects

The overall objective of the Working Group is to promote exchange between EU and non EU partners of the Mediterranean region and to identify good practices for the improvement of monitoring networks based on the existing situation and experiences collected within the WFD-implementation process and in the Mediterranean Partner Countries

In particular, the new activity on “Water Monitoring” aims at:

- Reviewing the objectives & requirements of the WFD regarding monitoring and identifying the main issues of relevance for MPC;
- Identifying useful experiences from EU-Member States regarding adjustment & improvement of monitoring systems on technical, organisational and financial aspects based on the set-up of monitoring systems according to the WFD by March 2007;
- Reach an overall better understanding of the current monitoring networks in MPC & to identify the main priorities for improvement;
- Analyse existing monitoring activities focusing on quantity issues in the MPC and EU Member States to support the “water scarcity and drought” working groups of the JP and the CIS-WFD;
- Create the basis for additional related action in the region.

On content, the WFD monitoring requirements implementation provides useful insights on the following aspects of monitoring (while referring to groundwater, surface water and coastal waters¹):

Technical : Dealing with issues of representativeness, frequency, types of parameters, assessment of trends; what new technologies are available and to be used for which objective (investigative, operational, surveillance monitoring, monitoring of protected areas)? A special focus could be put here on biological monitoring;

Organisational : how to analyze and improve an already existing monitoring network, how to develop a strategic, cost-effective approach to improving monitoring networks (choosing representative monitoring points, frequency etc.); how to integrate monitoring information into the design of River Basin Management Plans;

Financial: what are cost-effective solutions when improving monitoring, both through low-cost technical solutions, designing « fit-to purpose » networks.

It will be crucial to have strong links with the **Mediterranean Water Observation Mechanism**. Therein, the “Mediterranean Water Information Partnership” (MEDWIP) will support to reinforcing the capacities of the Mediterranean countries in supporting the organisation of their national water information system (NWIS) and esp. the data production

¹ It needs to be decided at the first working group meeting if coastal waters monitoring are also of relevance for the WG Water Monitoring.

process. In this context, the WG monitoring should focus on the experiences of relevance for this reinforcement based on the experiences made with the WFD implementation and contribute to the MEDWIP in order to avoid overlap.

In order to achieve these aims the following general actions would be undertaken (*to be completed*):

- Step 1:
 - Questionnaire on WFD monitoring requirements implementation in EU Countries;
 - Questionnaire on the current monitoring networks and main challenges for MPC;
- Step 2: analysis of best practices of relevance in the Mediterranean.
- Step 4: preparation of recommendations and follow-up actions.
- Step 5: dissemination of results, joint demonstration activities, etc.

The activity is targeted to the EU Member States and the Partner Countries covered by the MED EUWI, the European Commission and stakeholder groups.

iii. Organisation

The activity will be led by EMWIS.

Membership of the Working Group targets to representatives from the EU Member States, MEDA and Balkan countries, International Organisations and stakeholders.

Participation in the Working Group is based on active contribution of the membership to its works.

The activity will be linked to the

- “Groundwater Management” activity (MED EUWI Working Group on Groundwater) under the Mediterranean EUWI/WFD Joint Process, as regards the monitoring of groundwater;
- “Water Scarcity and Drought” activity (MED EUWI Working Group on scarcity & droughts, since there are issue related to water data collection / water monitoring also here.

In addition, the work conducted within the MEDWIP will be closely coordinated with the work of this WG.

Synergies will be also built with the Mediterranean Pilot Basin Network and its shared waters activities.

Webpage of the working group: <http://www.semide.net/topics/watmon>

iv. Expected outcomes and deliverables

The expected deliverables are:

- Report including the description of the current situation, best practices, priorities, recommendations
- Workshop summary reports.

v. Contact persons

For membership application and further information, please contact:

Eric MINO, EMWIS Technical Unit

Tel: +33 492 94 22 91 - Fax: +33 492 94 22 95

Email: e.mino@semide.org

vi. Working Group Members (*to be completed*)

	Name	Organization	E-mail
1			
2			

vii. Timeframe (first draft)

Inception meeting

3 July 2007, Madrid

Second meeting

Mid-November 2007 (to be linked with
CIS WG Monitoring meeting)

Report to EuroMed Water Directors

November/December 2007

Final meeting

April 2008

Final report

summer 2008

Final Report to EuroMed Ministerial meeting

End of 2008

Regional Workshop (exchange of information):

linked to an other event focussing on
monitoring (to be discussed & identified)