



WFD/EUWI Med Joint Process

Water monitoring working group Draft Mandate

Eduard Interwies

- Intro & background: why a WG Water Monitoring?
- Objectives & key subjects
- Organisation
- Expected outcomes & deliverables
- Draft timeframe
- Discussion of main points

- Context: Joint WFD /EU Water Initiative process (JP)
- 2004-2006 (JP I): 3 ad-hoc working groups (Groundwater, water scarcity, Linking rural development with water management),
- At Euromed water director conference in Athens, November 2006: proposal for 2nd JP-phase accepted; now 6 groups:

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, additional?

- 2005: Survey (by EMWIS) on value of WFD concepts for Mediterranean partner countries (MPC) (Water Directors & basin organizations);
- Two first concepts of interest: characterization of basins & **monitoring activities**;
 - Underlines willingness & needs in terms of acquiring better knowledge on river basins within MPC (crucial preliminary step before works of planning).
 - Survey shows a lack of awareness on WFD by MPC, but also strong interest on follow up of its implementation in EU Member States.

Feasibility studies on the enhancement of National Water Information Systems (2005) show: water data collection is often a difficulty for getting efficient systems. (Cornerstone for the potential regional water observatory mechanism, but no WFD focus);

JP phase I report: Groundwater management WG highlights lack of reliable data & recommends to further develop a Mediterranean ground water monitoring network

JP-WG Scarcity & drought: issue related to water data collection / water monitoring also here...

OPEN FOR DISCUSSION!

Overall objective of WG:

“Promote exchange between EU and non EU partners of the Mediterranean region & to identify good practices for the improvement of monitoring networks based on the existing situation & experiences collected within the WFD-implementation process & in the Mediterranean Partner Countries.”

More specifically, WG aims at:

1. *Reviewing WFD objectives & requirements* regarding monitoring & identifying main issues of relevance for MPC;
2. *Identifying useful experiences* (incl. case studies / "good practice") from EU-Member States on adjustment & improvement of monitoring systems (technical, organizational, financial aspects) based on set-up of WFD-monitoring systems by March 2007;
3. Reach a *better understanding of the current monitoring networks in MPC* (incl. case studies / "good practice") and to identify the main priorities for improvement;
4. *Analyze existing monitoring activities* focusing on quantity issues in the MPC and EU Member States; support "water scarcity and drought" working groups of the JP and the CIS-WFD;
5. Create the *basis for additional related action* in the region.

WFD monitoring requirements implementation: useful insights on the following aspects of monitoring (while referring to groundwater, surface water & ?coastal waters?):

1. 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 on biological monitoring?

2. Organizational:

- How to analyze & 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;

3. Financial:

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

Crucial for avoiding overlap & creating synergies:

The “Mediterranean Water Data & Information Partnership” (MEDWIP) will support the reinforcing the capacities of the Mediterranean countries through supporting the organization of their national water information system (NWIS) and esp. the data production process.

→ In this context, **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!

* Step 1: Fact-finding:

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.

Activity is targeted to the EU Member States & Partner Countries covered by the MED EUWI, the European Commission and stakeholder groups;

Activity lead: EMWIS, Med country?

Membership (open, based on active contribution!): representatives from EU Member States, MEDA & Balkan countries, International Organizations & stakeholders

Links to: JP WG Groundwater, Scarcity & Droughts; MEDWIP; Mediterranean Pilot Basin Network

TAIEX (“Technical Assistance & Information Exchange Instrument, EU-COM) as **short term intermediate solution**;

- Aim: “provide short-term technical assistance (...) in the field of approximation, application & enforcement of EU legislation”; Assistance also to EU's European Neighborhood Policy countries;
 - Demand driven: application from within one or more ENP country administrations;
 - Tools: [Experts]; [Study visits];
Seminars/Workshops: to present & explain issues related to the acquis. Assistance focused on needs of an individual country or of group of countries facing similar challenges. Multi-country format: valuable opportunity to network & exchange experience between beneficiary countries.
- promising, details to be clarified (One country or more?
Timing? Can location be an EU-country, etc.)

- In 2008, working group activities will be supported by a new phase of EMWIS or
 - other funding from EC for the Joint Process;
But may happen in late 2008!
- Other opportunities?

Expected deliverables:

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

Timeframe:

Inception meeting: **3 July 2007**, Madrid;

Second meeting: **Mid-November 2007** (or: linked with CIS WG Monitoring meeting in September in Portugal?);

Report to EuroMed Water Directors: **Nov/Dec 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 other event focusing on monitoring (to be discussed & identified!)

- Overall objective?
- Scope of mandate? (e.g. also coastal waters?)
- Specification/priorities of mandate?
- Organisational: lead together with EMWIS, membership?
- First ideas on steps to be taken?
- Timeframe?
- Financing?