

# the EUWI-water for life in a few drops

## What is the European Union Water Initiative?

An international political initiative promoting partnership on water issues between governments, aid donors, industry, NGOs and other bodies. EUWI is not a source of funding.

## What is the EUWI mission?

"To create the conditions for mobilising all available EU resources (human & financial), and to coordinate them to achieve the water-related Millennium Development Goals in partner countries." EUWI members have detailed this mission in five objectives.

[www.euwi.net](http://www.euwi.net)  
euwi-admin@jrc.it

### What are the 5 specific EUWI objectives?

#### Objective n°1: supporting political commitment

"It takes a village to raise a child."

True to this saying, success requires commitment by all parties. Thus the EUWI 1st objective: "to reinforce political commitment towards action and innovation oriented partnership."

#### Objective n°2: promoting water governance

"No one tests the depth of a river with both feet." So, better assessments lead to better achievements. Thus the EUWI 2nd objective: "to promote better water governance, capacity building and awareness."

#### Objective n°3: improving water management

"A fool and water will go wherever you divert them." This implies thinking before acting. Thus the EUWI 3rd objective: "to improve efficiency and effectiveness of water management through dialogue and coordination."

#### Objective n°4: strengthening river basin approaches

"Mutual gifts cement friendship."

Joint management promotes peaceful relations between countries. Thus the EUWI 4th objective: "to strengthen cooperation through promoting river basin approaches in national & transboundary waters."

#### Objective n°5: catalysing financial resources

"Thunder is not yet rain."

Dialogues and policies must produce tangible results. Thus the EUWI 5th objective: "to identify additional financial resources and mechanisms to ensure sustainable financing."

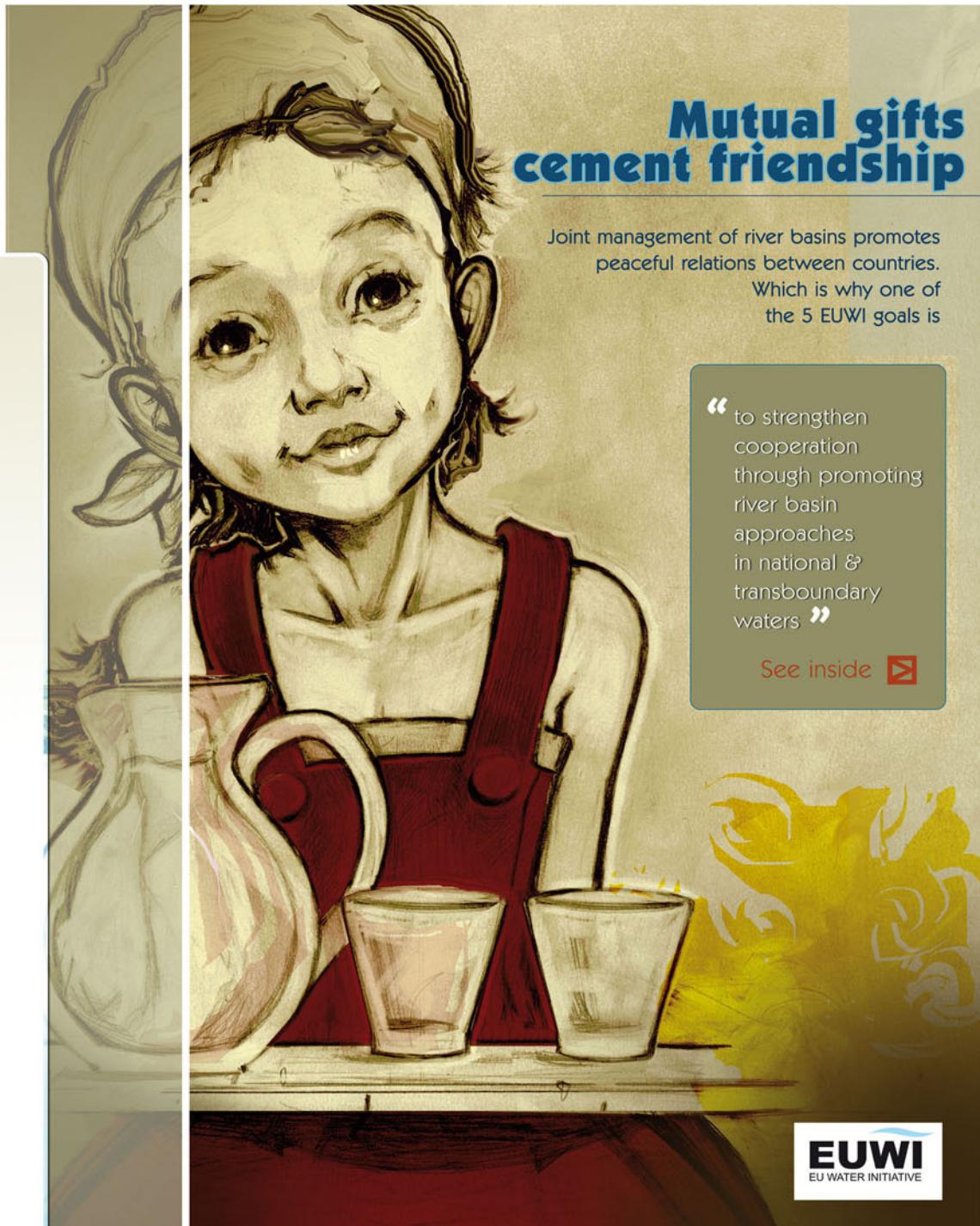
## Mutual gifts cement friendship

Joint management of river basins promotes peaceful relations between countries.

Which is why one of the 5 EUWI goals is

**“** to strengthen cooperation through promoting river basin approaches in national & transboundary waters **”**

**See inside** 



# Mutual gifts cement friendships

## Cooperation in river basins

The international community has reached a consensus on sustainable water-resource management, expressed in concepts like Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM). The resulting agreements are applied in the manner most appropriate to local conditions.

Through EUWI, the EU has allocated €10m for transboundary water management in 5 African river basins – the Orange-Senqu, the Niger, the Volta, Lake Chad and the Kagera. Priorities have been defined with the African Ministers' Council On Water (AMCOW).

The EU Water Framework Directive was one of the first attempts to translate these concepts into law. It has become the most important water-related legal instrument. It is hoped that partner regions will see EU countries' obligation to implement the directive as a source of inspiration.

Other joint initiatives include the transboundary Drin basin in south-east Europe, in collaboration with the Petersberg Phase II/Athens Declaration Process; the Litani in Lebanon and the Marmarik basin in Armenia. Such joint initiatives are paving the way for further water project developments.

### Example – Sebou river basin in Morocco

How important is the Sebou basin to Morocco in socio-economic terms? The numbers tell the story – 40,000 km<sup>2</sup>, home to 39 wetlands, 17 national sites of biological & ecological interest, 2 national parks and 5.2 million inhabitants. Sadly, this is all threatened by pollution from domestic, agricultural & industrial wastewater.

In 2007, EUWI launched the Ec'Eau Sebou pilot project, headed by a committee including the Sebou River Basin Agency offices in Fez. The project has:

- ✓ tested key economic principles of IWRM
- ✓ analysed trends in water use and the economics of water-pricing policies (cost benefit & effectiveness).
- ✓ selected measures that meet environmental goals at a lower cost.

“An ocean is made of small streams”

## Twinning river basin research

The EUWI has played a major role in EU research Framework Programmes.

Recently, several twinned research projects have enhanced cooperation between EU researchers and developing countries. They have also improved understanding of IWRM challenges.

The LOGO-WATER project provided tools tailored to the needs of the Southern African Development Community, helping them to build local governments' capacity to implement IWRM.

The NEWATER project helped stakeholders in 7 major basins tackle issues related to integrated river basin management. It also provided related tools and training materials.