

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.

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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 



EUWI
EU WATER INITIATIVE

Mutual gifts cement friendships

“An ocean is made of small streams”

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.

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.

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 km², 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.