



**MEDITERRANEAN COMPONENT
of the EU Water Initiative
(MED EUWI)**

**Strategic Partnership on
Water for Sustainable Development**

Lead Country: Greece

**Brief Report of Activities 2008
including elements for 2009**

**Presented to the
UfM Water Expert Group
1st Meeting, 7-8 September 2009, Athens**

The Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI)

The Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI) constitutes an integral part and one of the geographic Components of the overall EUWI. It represents a strategic partnership among all related stakeholders (national, regional and international) in the Mediterranean region, aiming at contributing to the implementation of the water-related MDGs and WSSD targets. It, thus, seeks to make significant progress in poverty eradication and health, in the enhancement of livelihoods, and in sustainable economic development in the Mediterranean and Southeastern Europe, providing a catalyst for peace and security in the region which is a vulnerable and sensitive one from both an environmental and political view point.

MED EUWI is led by the government of Greece (Ministry for Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works and Ministry of Foreign Affairs). The MED EUWI Secretariat within the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean Secretariat, provides technical support and day-by-day running. The Euro-Mediterranean Water Directors Forum, serving as institutional support of the implementation of MED EUWI, provides advice and guidance on the MED EUWI further development and implementation.

MED EUWI develops its activities through annual work programmes, supported and with the participation of a variety of institutions and stakeholders.

This document is presented to the UfM Water Expert Group at its 1st Meeting, 7-8 September 2009, Athens. The UfM Water Expert Group emerged from decisions of the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water, December 2008, Dead Sea, Jordan.

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1. Introduction

Water is a catalyst for peace, development, human health, sustainable livelihoods, security and stability. It represents a cross-sectoral policy theme that constitutes a key element for achieving the 7th MDG on Environmental Sustainability and thus a prerequisite for the achievement of all other MDGs.

In this regards, the **European Union Water Initiative (EUWI)** was established as a political initiative aiming to represent a key contribution to the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (2002). It presents a joint commitment by the EU Member States and the European Commission, aiming to assist meeting the water-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and WSSD targets, on water supply, sanitation (WSS) and integrated water resources management (IWRM), in close cooperation with and for the benefit of the partner (non-EU) countries.

EUWI seeks to achieve its objectives through promotion of improved and well coordinated strategies, policies, programmes and practices. It works within a framework of an integrated approach to the management of water so that available resources, both human and financial, are mobilized effectively towards achieving the set targets. Having a structure that is centrally coordinated by the European Commission, EUWI develops activity through Regional Components i.e. Africa; East Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA); Latin America and last but not least, the Mediterranean. More info can be obtained visiting www.euwi.net.

In the Mediterranean, it is considered that significant progress on water and sanitation issues as well as on promotion of more sustainable water resources management has been achieved in the last two decades in most countries of the region. Despite these, water challenges remain enormous, exacerbated further by population growth and climate change. Furthermore, political tensions have often set back development agendas, also in relation to transboundary water resources management.

Hence, there is an evident need for further enhancing integrated approaches for water resources management. Achieving a sound institutional, social, economic and ecological environment, supported by appropriate planning and implementation capacities, are among key governance-related prerequisites for sustainable management of water resources. Furthermore, water demand management policies and practices need to be widely applied. It is also recognized that the sector's self-financing capacities have to be increased, including the recovery of operational costs, while supported by sustainable and bankable projects.

The **Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI)**, announced at Johannesburg (2002) and launched in the beginning of 2003 by the European Commission and Greece, constitutes an integral part and one of the Regional Components of the overall EUWI. It represents a strategic partnership among all the related stakeholders (local, national, regional and international), aiming at contributing to the implementation of the water-related MDGs and WSSD targets in the whole Mediterranean Region, including Southeastern Europe, complementing at the same time other relevant regional on-going processes and initiatives at various frameworks and levels (e.g. UN's, EU's etc). It, thus, seeks to make significant progress in poverty eradication and health, in the enhancement of livelihoods, and in sustainable economic development, promoting peace and security in the region, which is unique, but at the same time vulnerable and sensitive from a political and environmental/ecological point of view.

2. Objectives

The main objectives of the MED EUWI are to create a higher efficiency of water-related development by providing a platform to co-ordinate and streamline existing and future activities in the Region on water (including both WSS and IWRM), at all levels, aiming to:

- Reinforce political commitment to action and raise the profile of water and sanitation as cross-sectoral issues and prerequisites for development, within National Strategies for Sustainable Development and other national strategies and plans aiming at development and poverty reduction;
- Promote better water governance arrangements including stronger partnerships between public, private sectors and local stakeholders and build institutional capacity;
- Improve co-ordination and co-operation by moving towards sector wide approaches, assisting multi-stakeholder processes to reinforce partnerships for action;
- Develop regional and sub-regional co-operation by assisting with the application of integrated water resources management including transboundary waters to contribute to sustainable development and conflict prevention;
- Develop additional and innovative funding mechanisms and mobilise additional funding, following in-depth gap analyses and prioritisation of countries' needs.

3. Geographical coverage

The MED EUWI's geographic coverage includes all countries representing the new neighborhood of the enlarged EU in North Africa and East Mediterranean as well as Southeastern European countries, having also a focus on their shared waters. It, thus, covers, on equal footage, the whole of the Mediterranean Region representing an initiative that benefits, in a balanced way, all countries as well as the dialogue between countries.

More specifically:

- *In the South and East Mediterranean* – Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.
- *In the Southeastern Europe* – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Montenegro and Serbia.

4. Partnerships and synergies

MED EUWI is open to all partners willing to commit to the objectives, targets, and guiding principles of the partnership which refers to both between EU and non-EU Mediterranean countries as well as between government, civil society and the private sector.

On this basis, MED EUWI aims to complement, *inter alia*,

- on-going policies that are closely related to the “Union for the Mediterranean” and its themes on “De-polluting the Mediterranean” and “Water Supply, Effective and Sustainable Water Resources Management” (e.g. Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, European Neighborhood Policy, Barcelona Convention and its Protocols),
- initiatives and strategies (e.g. Horizon 2020 Initiative, Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development-MSSD, the EU acquis on water management, EU Marine Strategy Directive),
- funding instruments and sustainable development programmes (e.g. the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument-ENPI, the 7th EU Framework Programme, the GEF programmes in the region),
- the work of international organisations and financing institutes (e.g. OECD, UNEP/MAP, UNDP, UNECE, UN-Water, other Bodies, European Investment Bank, World Bank, African Development Bank, African Water Facility, Islamic Development Bank etc),
- bilateral agreements between EU and non-EU member countries and overseas ODA, as well as work, activities carried out by several Mediterranean water-stakeholder networks.

Particular mention should be made to the established operational links of MED EUWI with the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process on Transboundary Water Resources Management in Southeastern Europe, the Rabat Declaration Process on National IWRM Planning in North Africa and Mauritania and the up-upcoming GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystems.

5. Governance and Modalities

In its early years, work under the MED EUWI was steered by a Multi-Stakeholder Working Group in which related stakeholders and interested parties participated and which met at regular intervals. MED EUWI is led by the Government of Greece (Ministry for Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works and for specific issues in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs). A MED EUWI Secretariat, within the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean Secretariat, provides technical support and day-by-day running.

More importantly, since 2005, the Euro-Mediterranean and Southeastern Europe Water Directors Forum serve as the institutional/political basis and reference point for the implementation of MED EUWI, providing advice and guidance on the MED EUWI's further development and implementation. In this context, the Water Directors' Forum has met in Rome (October 2005), Athens (November 2006), Bled (December 2007) and Athens (July 2008).

Following decisions of the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water (December 2008, Dead Sea, Jordan), a Water Expert Group has been created to elaborate further the Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean as well as to assist with its implementation and follow up. MED EUWI has contributed actively to the Jordan Ministerial Conference and to the follow up activities linked with the works of the Water Expert Group. Further operational links between WEG and MED EUWI are being explored.

6. Themes

According to its long term strategy (agreed in 2004), the MED EUWI focuses on 6 Themes (4 Sectoral and 2 Cross-Cutting) which are structured into 9 Programmatic Objectives (4 Thematic and 5 Horizontal) as indicated on the figure below:

Thematic Programmatic Objectives	Themes	Horizontal Programmatic Objectives
OBJ-1. Assist meeting targets on water supply and sanitation, with emphasis on the poorest parts of the society	TH-1. Water Supply & Sanitation	OBJ-5. Strengthen underlying institutions and build capacity
OBJ-2. Assist meeting targets related national and transboundary IWRM plans	TH-2. Integrated Water Resources Management	OBJ-6. Improve coordination between the actors involved in water resources management at the country level
OBJ-3. Assist sustainable water use in agriculture and its integrated management for sensitive water ecosystems	TH-3. Water, Food and Environment	OBJ-7. Enhance funding for the supply, management and development of water resources, and sanitation
OBJ-4. Assist promotion of on non-conventional water resources	TH-4. Non-Conventional Water Resources	
	TH-5. Technology transfer and capacity building	OBJ-8. Improve transfer of technology & the use of existing and new scientific knowledge to achieve water MDGs
	TH-6. Education	OBJ-9. Promote education on water issues

MED EUWI Programmatic Objectives are regularly adjusted to respond to current trends, needs and targets in the region and its countries (e.g. climate change adaptation, private sector engagement, groundwater management etc), also taking into account available funding sources and related implementation capacities at the regional and national levels.

Annual MED EUWI Work Plans are elaborated since 2005 in line with the MED EUWI Strategy and Activity Plan and taking into account the orientation of donors' funding, providing the basis for implementation of National and Regional activities.

7. Overall approach

In line with the MED EUWI objectives, the activities promoted give particular emphasis on the priorities and needs of the Mediterranean and Southeastern European countries which are defined in partnership with governments, the European Commission and stakeholders, including the donor community, targeting in general to:

- assist the design of better, demand driven and output oriented water related programmes,
- facilitate better coordination of water programmes and projects, targeting more effective use of existing funds, through identification of gaps and mobilization, where required, of new financial resources and,
- enhance cooperation for project's proper implementation, based on peer review and strategic assessments.

In particular, during 2004-2006, activities focused mainly on defining priorities and areas that needed intervention through a participatory approach with all partner countries, as well as on producing key documents, country and regional status assessments and organization of regional conferences and events for awareness raising and securing political commitment.

Since November 2006, MED EUWI activities focus on the national level using as a tool the 'National Policy Dialogues' on Water. The National Policy Dialogues' overall aim is to assist countries in meeting the MDG and WSSD water targets at national level by formulating: (i) financing strategies and/or roadmaps for water supply and sanitation (like the on-going National Policy Dialogue in Egypt) and (ii) elaborating national water strategies and IWRM plans (like the on-going National Policy Dialogue in Lebanon). Moreover, they aim to determine the funding required for the implementation of the related interventions/projects and to identify possible sources for raising this funding from various sources (national, ODA etc); therefore, enhancement of donor coordination is among the expected outcomes of the process. The 'National Policy Dialogues' constitute a multi-stakeholder process, led by the countries themselves, involving the widest possible spectrum of national actors on water issues. Dialogues and other related activities are on-going in Egypt, Lebanon and Libya while emerging in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and possibly Syria. During the "4th Conference of the Water Directors of Euro-Mediterranean and Southeastern European Countries" that took place in Bled (December 2007) and was co-organised by MED EUWI, demand for similar and further MED EUWI country activities, in 2008, were explicitly raised by Albania, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Serbia as well as offers for collaboration were presented by the League of Arab States and UNEP/MAP.

Furthermore, MED EUWI promotes specific cooperation initiatives, experience transfer and synergies between EU and non-EU Mediterranean countries on water-related issues and encourages the establishment of a network of water experts for sharing specific problems, challenges and experiences on technical issues related to integrated water resources management. Sharing experiences and challenges between countries or basin authorities belonging to the same eco-region and dissemination of best practices on specific, pressing technical issues can contribute to the promotion and implementation of sound water resources management practices and policies in the Mediterranean region. Exchange of experiences can also improve the awareness raising on water related issues and assist significantly in addressing practically the crucial issue of shared waters that has important political extensions in the region.

It is therefore evident that MED EUWI's scope and activities do not only have a clear technical part, but more importantly, have a strong political nature and are integrally embedded in national political processes at the country level. Thus, the innovation and added value of MED EUWI activities (including 'National Policy Dialogues') is that they are anchored and receive mandate

from the highest political level in the countries and are tight to and assist critical decisions that countries wish to take. MED EUWI uses the stakeholder consultation as a key tool for setting the agenda, improving the transparency and reaching socially-wide consensus.

Following a demand-driven approach, MED EUWI activities until 2015 will focus on prioritization of national needs for the water sector to meet national targets; implementation of national planning activities including assistance to countries for the elaboration, implementation and monitoring of IWRM plans including national climate change adaptation strategies; development of sustainable financing strategies for the water sector; and improved donor coordination, harmonization and alignment on the ground. In addition, MED EUWI contributes actively to the follow up and implementation of the decisions taken at the 2008 Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water, including the elaboration of a Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean as a first step.

8. Key results in 2008

The MED EUWI Work Plan (WP) 2008 was presented to and agreed upon in the Conference of the Euro-Med and SEE Water Directors' Forum that took place on 10-11 December 2007, in Bled, Slovenia. The WP 2008 built upon input and suggestions by Mediterranean partners including partner countries, regional networks of water stakeholders and co-operating international and regional organisations and international financing institutes.

The WP 2008 focused on activities at country and regional levels with an emphasis on promoting strategic action on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) as well as on Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS).

2008 was an intensive and fruitful period for MED EUWI, which continues in 2009. Among key results of MED EUWI activities in 2008 (including elements from works in 2009 where relevant), the following should be highlighted:

- Systematic work in **Egypt** (on a financing strategy for WSS) and **Lebanon** (on IWRM planning) continued and Phase I of the 2-year multi-stakeholder National Policy Dialogues was completed in April 2009 in both countries.
- Agreement with the competent authorities for action in the **Occupied Palestinian Territories** on water governance reforms was reached and activities were prioritized.
- Assistance to the key **Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water** (22 December 2008, Dead Sea, Jordan) was provided through elaboration of background documents and related consultation. A key decision of the Conference concerned the elaboration of a new long term Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean.
- A rich set of **capacity building and consultation activities** on transboundary water resources management in Southeastern Europe were implemented in the framework of the Petersberg Phase II/ Athens Declaration Process engaging a wide range of stakeholders.
- Collaboration for the management of the transboundary **Drin River Basin** was launched involving countries, stakeholders and international organisations.
- Working Groups of the **Joint European Water Framework Directive/EUWI Process** continued their activities.
- Targeted **education activities** were implemented.

8.1. Activities at national level

Launched in November 2006, Phase I of the **MED EUWI Policy Dialogue on Water in Egypt** carried out activities throughout 2008 and was completed in April 2009. Follow up activities in support of the design of next steps are on-going. The overall objective is to support the Government of Egypt to elaborate on and strengthen its capacity to implement a sustainable financing strategy for the water supply and sanitation sector. Activities complement the recently completed Egyptian 30-year 'National Master Plan for Water and Wastewater', the 'Rural Sanitation Strategy' as contribute to the 'National Water Resources Plan 2017'.

Phase I consisted of two components: (i) a Household Affordability Assessment for water tariffs and (ii) a Sustainable Financing Strategy for the sector using existing methodologies and specifically the FEASIBLE Model developed by the OECD. The Financing Strategy was complemented by the analysis of different development scenarios that elaborate on combinations of various policy options with regard to the sector's financial sustainability providing the necessary background for decision making. The focus of the analysis for both components was the Greater Cairo area.

Building on a multi-stakeholder approach, the Dialogue engages government ministries and agencies, public utilities, civil society organisations and donors. The Egyptian Government has designated the Holding Company for Water and Wastewater (HCWW) as responsible for the Dialogue's implementation, while OECD and GWP-Med provide technical support and co-ordination.

In 2008, a set of key technical documents were elaborated and presented for consultation ie. the Household Affordability Assessment of Water Tariffs, the Baseline Scenario for Financing WSS and the Policy Options Paper for Financing WSS; one Expert Workshop and two Consultation Workshops were organised (18 March, 21 July, 15 December respectively); one Training Course in using the FEASIBLE model was organised (15-16 October); several missions of the Dialogue Team took place to advance data collection and secure insight through bilateral meetings with key stakeholders (April, June, July, August, September, October, November, December). Furthermore, results of the Egypt Dialogue were presented at the OECD Water Task Force Meetings (April and October), providing opportunity for debate with the international community. About 60 targeted stakeholders have been systematically informed and involved in the Dialogue activities and attended the Consultation Events.

Launched already in November 2005, **MED EUWI Policy Dialogue on Water in Lebanon** had been suspended due to the summer 2006 war and the enduring socio-political instability in the country. In 2007, MED EUWI activities were re-designed to respond to current country needs and the detailed focus of these was agreed at the level of the Prime Minister (end of October 2007). In 2008, MED EUWI activities in the country fully resumed and the running Phase I aimed to assist the Lebanese government in reviewing the 10-year National Strategic Plan for Water (2000-2009) and to launch and advance the process of complementing the Strategy with a National IWRM Plan. Phase I of the Dialogue was completed in April 2009. Follow up activities in support of the design of next steps are on-going.

Building on a multi-stakeholder approach which is considered innovative for the country, activities in Lebanon are led by the Ministry of Energy and Water and are implemented in collaboration with GWP-Med together with a team of international and local consultants.

In 2008, the Dialogue ToR were finalized and agreed; several missions of the Dialogue Team were organised to advance data collection and conduct bilateral meeting with key stakeholders (March, July, October, December) while a project manager was established in Beirut; the technical work related to the review of the Lebanese Strategic Plan advanced and nearly finalized, tackling the issues of water balance, water management, supply and sanitation, irrigation and capacity building. About 50 targeted stakeholder organisations have been systematically informed and involved in the Dialogue activities.

Following a series of exploratory activities in the **Occupied Palestinian Territories** during 2007, agreement has been reached with the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) as to the nature of MED EUWI intervention and future work.

In 2008, a brief scoping analysis on needs for improved water governance in Palestine was elaborated and priority fields of actions were identified; coordination meeting between MED EUWI, PWA and key players for launching activities were organised (August, September); a framework programme of activities on water governance was prepared aiming to promote institutional reform and strengthen the role of PWA.

Activities in **Syria** were launched in 2007 with consultation meetings with national authorities, stakeholders and donors, to identify priority actions for MED EUWI. A 'Concept Note on Exploring MED EUWI Assistance in the Water Sector Modernization Process of the Syrian Arab Republic' was elaborated describing the current status of the water sector in the country with an emphasis on IWRM planning and screening possible MED EUWI activities with a focus on IWRM policy reform and technical assistance.

Due to limitations in financial resources, resulting from the implementation –in view of completion- of priority activities in other countries, and the magnitude of tasks related to IWRM planning and institutional reform that would have to be supported in Syria, it was deemed appropriate not to move further with structured activities in the country in order not to raise expectations that can not be serviced within the current availability of funding.

8.2. Activities at regional level

MED EUWI contributed substantially to the organisation of the **Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water**, 22 December 2008, Dead Sea, Jordan, through the following activities:

(a) The 5th *Conference of the Water Directors of the Euro-Mediterranean and Southeastern European Countries* was organised in Kavouri-Athens, Greece, on 21-22 July 2008, by Greece, France and EC, aiming primarily to assist the preparations of the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water (22 December 2008, Dead Sea, Jordan). The Conference discussed in detail the 4 draft Theme Papers (Water Governance, Water and Climate Change Adaptation, Water Financing, Water Demand Management) as well as the content of the as-called Issues Paper for the Ministerial Conference on Water. The Conference reached a set of Conclusions per Theme while overall recommendations were also made to be taken into consideration at the Ministerial Conference. The Conference was supported by the MEDA Water Programme.

(b) MED EUWI with the assistance of Mediterranean countries elaborated two out of four key background documents (Theme Papers) for the Ministerial: (i) the *Theme Papers on Water Governance* (Greece, Palestinian Authority and Lebanon) and (ii) the *Theme Paper on Water and Climate Change Adaptation* (Morocco, Spain and Greece). The preparation of the documents was supported by Greece.

(c) The *Regional Assessment on Water Supply, Sanitation and Health in the Mediterranean Region* was prepared by WHO in the MED EUWI framework. The Assessment was presented as a State of Play Document at the Ministerial.

(d) *IWRM Country Assessments* were elaborated for 10 MEDA countries in the region by GWP-Med. This is considered as a 'living' document and will be updated regularly according to emerging needs of legitimate regional processes in the Mediterranean, including the elaboration and implementation of the new Strategy.

(e) MED EUWI contributed and supported the *Civil Society Conference* that was organised prior to the Ministerial, 21 December 2008, Dead Sea, Jordan, in order to prepare the Civil Society Statement to the Ministerial. Technical sessions on best practices for IWRM were

also organised. The Conference was organised by JOHUD, MIO-ECSDE, RAED and GWP-Med and was also supported by France, EC, UNEP/MAP and GEF.

The Ministerial Conference concluded with a Declaration that calls for the elaboration of a new Long-Term Strategy on Water in the Mediterranean and establishes the mechanisms to overview that through a Water Expert Group (which is the evolution of the Water Directors Forum). MED EUWI is mentioned several times in the Ministerial Declaration. MED EUWI aims to substantially contribute to the elaboration of the Strategy and other emerging related tasks.

- During 2008 and in the framework of the joint Petersberg Phase II – Athens Declaration Process, MED EUWI assisted the organisation of a number of capacity building and dialogue activities (assessments, workshops, e-dialogues and coordination meetings) on the theme of **integrated transboundary water resources management in South-Eastern Europe (SEE)**. To mention the most important:

(a) the *Capacity Building Workshop on Stakeholders Involvement in Transboundary Water Resources Management* was organised on 25-28 March 2008 in Podgorica, Montenegro, by GWP-Med, MIO-ECSDE and the Montenegrin Ministry of Tourism and Environment. It was attended by 25 targeted participants from national authorities, joint management commissions and stakeholder organisations;

(b) the *International Workshop on Water and Climate Change in Southeastern Europe* was organised on 24-25 June 2008 in Tirana, Albania, by the Albanian Ministry for Environment, Forestry and Water Administration, the World Bank and GWP-Med. It was attended by 64 experts and decision makers from water authorities and hydro-meteorological services as well as stakeholder organisations.

(c) the *International Roundtable on Stakeholder / Public Participation for the Integrated Management of Shared Water Resources*, 15-16 April 2008 in Sofia, Bulgaria, organised by GWP-Med and GWP-Bulgaria, supported by SDC. It was attended by 64 experts and decision makers from water authorities and hydro-meteorological services as well as stakeholder organisations.

(d) the *Capacity Building Workshop on Integrated Management of Shared Lakes Basin* was organised on 16-18 July 2008 in Ohrid, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, by GWP-Med, MIO-ECSDE and GEF/UNDP. It was attended by 23 targeted participants from national authorities, joint management commissions and stakeholder organisations;

(e) the *Consultation Meeting on Integrated Management of the extended Drin River Basin* was organised on 24 November 2008, in Tirana, Albania, by GWP-Med, the Albanian Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration and UNECE, supported by Germany, Sweden and GEF IW:LEARN. At the meeting, attended by 80 targeted participants, the Drin riparian countries acknowledged the need for enhanced cooperation among themselves and with the engagement of stakeholders and agreed to launch a concerted consultation process.

(f) the *Capacity Building Workshop on Integrated Water Resources Management with emphasis to the conditions in the transboundary Drin River Basin* was organised on 25-27 November 2008, in Skhoder Lake, Albania, by GWP-Med, MIO-ECSDE and GEF. It was attended by 50 targeted participants from national authorities, joint management commissions and stakeholder organisations;

(g) an extensive *Status Report on Transboundary Water Resources Management in the Drin River* was elaborated providing the knowledge base for the related activities in the basin;

(e) the *Capacity Building Workshop on Shared Groundwater Resources Management* was organised on 2-4 December 2008, in Postojna, Slovenia, by GWP-Med, MIO-ECSDE

Slovenian Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Kart Research Institute SRCSASA and the Sava International Commission. It was attended by 42 targeted participants from national authorities, joint management commissions and stakeholder organisations.

8.3. Other activities

The second phase (Phase II) of the **Joint Process between MED EUWI and the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD)** was launched in early 2007. In addition to the continuation of the three existing Working Groups (on Water Scarcity, Groundwater Management, and Rural Development and Agriculture), three new ones became operational (on Waste Water Reuse, Shared Water Resources Management and Water Monitoring) and produced reports.

Furthermore, promoting the related regional agenda, the *Side Event on Addressing Climate Change Adaptation Challenges in the Mediterranean* was organised on 15 May 2008 in New York, USA, during the 16th UNCSD, by Greece, EC, GWP-Med and MIO-ECSDE. The Event elaborated on challenges, obstacles and possible solutions for effectively balancing climate change in the Mediterranean, giving particular emphasis on IWRM.

MED EUWI collaborates closely on **educational activities on water with the Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment and Sustainability (MEDIES)**, a WSSD Type II Initiative launched in 2002. During 2008, the following activities were realised:

- Systematic promotion and use of the Educational Kit 'Water in the Mediterranean' (available in 8 languages) by the extensive network of MEDIES (more than 3000 educators in the region)
- Training Seminar on Environmental Education in Protected Areas, 21-23 June, Alonnisos, Greece;
- Eco-Camp at the Celebrations of the Sava River Day 2008, 30-31 May, Krapje, Croatia;
- Launching of the Hydria project on traditional knowledge for water in the Mediterranean;

During 2008, **synergies and cooperation** were sought with other programmes, processes and initiatives working in the Mediterranean Region. Indicatively, they include:

- GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystems (2008-2012);
- other EU frameworks, like the Horizon 2020 Initiative and the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (ENPI);
- the projects of the MEDA Water Programme through the RMSU;
- UNEP/MAP, UNDP Water Programme in the MENA Region, the Water Team activities of the UN ESCWA, the Water Centre of the League of Arab States, AWARENET, etc.

The overall WP 2008 with all the activities, containing comments and the implementation status, is presented in the table of Annex 1.

9. Some lessons learnt

MED EUWI has developed regional (since late 2004) and national (since late 2006) activities. Based on challenges faced by MED EUWI during the implementation period, lessons learned include:

- Due to the strong political nature of the activities a key prerequisite is that, these must **respond to demand** raised by key national and regional authorities and be integrally embedded in national and regional political processes. Consequently, constraints and risks are heavily influenced by such political processes and have to be frequently assessed and adjusted. **Anchoring activities at high political level** is an absolute asset, bringing in recognition, support, synergies, outreach, etc.

- EUWI is not a donor agency, but a process, driven by authorities where activities take place and are supported by existing donors working at national and regional levels. EUWI does not intend to have a constant presence in the countries as such (e.g. establish country offices, etc)

but, at the same time, it expresses a collective long-term commitment from the EU side. Hence, **EUWI has a catalytic effect** on addressing specific water challenges, providing assistance to critical decisions that countries wish to examine and eventually make. EUWI provides targeted assistance by an 'external' and 'neutral' agent to effectively progress.

- The **design phase of National Policy Dialogues has been time consuming**, particularly when the aim is on highly strategic (e.g. review of on-going National Strategy, launching a process for a national IWRM plan, elaboration of priorities for water reforms) or controversial/discursive (e.g. water financing) issues where careful steps have to be taken.

- The **stakeholder consultation is a key tool** for setting the agenda for technical activities and policy interventions, for improving governance and transparency and for trying to reach a common understanding and consensus on the themes tackled. In cases, a culture of stakeholder involvement or of partnership is not advanced substantially in the countries of focus. Therefore, EUWI's contribution on enhancing that culture by advocating for and implementing partnership approaches is among its added value.

- **Capacity** of partners to follow activities in a significant way, particularly when it requires a multi-disciplinary technical and political background, is not always adequate and often **has to be built** or critically supported by EUWI while the intervention is on-going.

- **EUWI can catalyze better donor harmonization** and alignment at the national level. Practice has proven that this exists in a limited number of countries in the region while in some cases modalities for actual cooperation may not be at the level needed. Attention has to be paid to engage interested donors from the beginning of a process aiming to enhanced ownership and, hopefully, secure assistance for implementation of the outcomes of the EUWI intervention.

- **Expectations must be realistic** and their impact can be mostly demonstrated in the medium and long-term, particularly since the set objectives respond to related far-reaching targets.

10. Budget for 2008

The required budget as initially estimated for the full implementation of the WP 2008 was 910,000 Euro. Expenses occurred accounts for around 820,000 Euro. Linked to decisions taken at the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water, limited and selected activities of the Work Plan 2008 were not implemented and resources were shifted to targeted actions (ie. in support of the new Strategy on Water in the Mediterranean) to be implemented within 2009.

The WP 2008 relied on funding provided by the European Commission through the MEDA Water Programme, by other donors (institutions and countries) per activity as well as by the government of Greece (Ministry for Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works) mostly for "horizontal/cross-cutting" activities.

11. Conclusions and Looking Ahead

The political and strategic character of the EUWI and its objectives continue to require strong and regular political support by appropriate high-level structures within partner countries and the EU and Member States. On the EU side, this calls for greater commitment from the EU member states and the European Commission and allocation of appropriate financial and human resources for administration, management and follow-up of the EUWI. Closer operational links are needed between the EUWI and ongoing bilateral and regional programmes supported by the Commission and the member states.

The global EUWI Coordination Group recommends the following activities and outcomes as the focus for future work within all components of EUWI:

- An analysis of national plans, such as PRSP's, IWRM Plans and Climate Change Adaptation Plans, to find and disseminate good practices on inclusion of water and sanitation in national planning systems.
- Improving donor coordination and harmonisation of policies on capacity development.
- Promoting programmed-based approaches and collecting experiences from water SWAP's.
- Exchanging experiences on and supporting transboundary water management.
- Integrating research results into the development and policy dialogue.
- Encouraging EU member states to increase sector financing.
- Improving communication on EUWI results and revising the monitoring framework to reflect the specific strategies in each region.

Priority Actions foreseen in 2009 include:

- Continue the National Policy Dialogue activities in Egypt (WSS). Funding contributions were available by the MEDA Water Programme (until April 2009), Greek Development Assistance/Hellenic Aid (until June 2010) while further opportunities will be explored with EC through regional programmes and other donors.
- Continue the National Policy Dialogue in Lebanon (IWRM). Funding contributions were available by the MEDA Water Programme (until April 2009), GEF SPM (until June 2010) while further opportunities will be explored with EC through regional programmes and other donors.
- Launch full scale activities in Palestine (water governance reform). Funding contributions were available by the MEDA Water Programme (until April 2009), GEF SPM (until June 2010), an initial commitment has been expressed by the Greek Development Assistance/Hellenic Aid while further opportunities will be explored with EC through regional programmes and other donors.
- Concretize opportunities for interventions in Syria (IWRM / water governance) and Libya (IWRM / water governance) according to funding possibilities.
- Follow-up the activities on transboundary cooperation in SEE and organise in collaboration with Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process and GEF IW:LEARN, targeted capacity building workshop while continuing systematic action in the shared Drin River basin.
- Assist the work of the Working Groups of the Joint Process between the EU WFD and MED EUWI.
- Contribute in all possible ways to the follow up and implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Water, including in relation to the elaboration of the new Long Term Strategy on Water in the Mediterranean.

Despite any difficulties faced, the feedback that MED EUWI is receiving from partner countries has been greater and more positive than ever, signaling appreciation and impact of the on-going activities. This is demonstrated through the concrete and reinforced demand raised by partner countries for continuing as well as for newly engaging in MED EUWI activities as well as for MED EUWI contribution in key regional and sub-regional policy processes.

For further information about EUWI and MED EUWI please visit www.euwi.net

Annex. MED EUWI WP 2008 and comparison of results achieved

Activities	Targets/Purpose per Activity	Duration/Completion Date
1. 'National Policy Dialogues' in four southern Mediterranean countries	1.1. Continue 'National Policy Dialogue' activities in Egypt	<p>- Throughout 2008</p> <p>1.1. Egypt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key technical documents elaborated and presented for consultation ie. the Household Affordability Assessment of Water Tariffs, the Baseline Scenario for Financing WSS and the Policy Options Paper for Financing WSS; - Expert Workshop for the Dialogue organised, 18.3.08 - Two Consultation Workshops for the Affordability Assessment organised, 21.7.08 and 15.12.08 - One Training Course on the FEASIBLE model organised, 15-16.10.08 - Eight missions of the Dialogue Team organised to advance data collection and secure insight through bilateral meetings with key stakeholders (April, June, July, August, September, October, November, December). - Results of the Egypt Dialogue were presented at the OECD Water Task Force Meetings (April and October).
	1.2. Continue 'National Policy Dialogue' activities in Lebanon	<p>1.2. Lebanon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dialogue ToR were finalized and agreed - Four missions of the Dialogue Team organised to advance data collection and conduct bilateral meeting with key stakeholders (March, July, October, December) while a project manager was established in Beirut; - Technical work related to the review of the Lebanese Strategic Plan advanced and nearly finalized, tackling the issues of water balance, water management, supply and sanitation, irrigation and capacity building.
	1.3. Continue Dialogue activities in Libya	<p>1.3. Libya</p> <p>No activities were implemented in Libya in 2008 due to organizational reform in the government and shift of political mandates.</p>
	1.4. Launch 'National Policy Dialogue' activities in one more country.	<p>1.4.1. Palestine</p> <p>Progress achieved in Palestine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brief scoping analysis on needs for improved water governance in Palestine elaborated and priority fields of actions identified. - Coordination meeting between MED EUWI, PWA and key players for launching activities organised (August, September); - Framework programme of activities on water governance was prepared aiming to promote institutional reform and strengthen the role of PWA <p>1.4.2. Syria</p> <p>Activities in Syria did not advance due to funding limitations. Prioritization for MED EUWI interventions is completed.</p>

Activities	Targets/Purpose per Activity	Duration/Completion Date
2. Regional and Country Assessments on Water	<p>2.1. Country Status Assessments of water policies and major water programmes on IWRM and WSS, including Climate Change considerations, in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. Activities will be implemented primarily with support through the MEDA Water Programme and in synergy with GEF SPM and UN ESCWA.</p> <p>2.2. Regional Overview of Bilateral Assistance for Water in the Mediterranean EU Partner Countries, in collaboration with OECD.</p> <p>2.3. Concept Note on linkages between national Climate Change adaptation measures and national Integrated Water Resources Management planning, in the Mediterranean.</p> <p>2.4. Reference Guide for Advancing National IWRM Planning in the Mediterranean and Brief Status Assessment – Updated version(s), in synergy with GEF SPM and UN ESCWA.</p>	<p>- Throughout 2008</p> <p>2.1.1. IWRM Country Assessments for 12 MEDA countries elaborated</p> <p>2.1.2. Regional Assessment on Water Supply, Sanitation and Health in the Mediterranean elaborated</p> <p>2.2. Activity will be delivered in 2009</p> <p>2.3. Theme Paper on Climate Change Adaptation in the Mediterranean elaborated and presented as background to the Ministerial Conference</p> <p>Covered through the IWRM Country Assessments under 2.1.1 and complemented with the Theme Paper on Water Governance in the Mediterranean that was elaborated and presented as background to the Ministerial Conference</p>
3. Joint Process MED EUWI / WFD	<p>3.1. Facilitation of JP Working Groups, on 'Groundwater Management', 'Water Scarcity and Droughts', 'Agriculture and Rural Development', 'Wastewater Reuse', 'Shared Water Resources Management' and 'Water Monitoring', leading to regional reports and recommendations on the respective subjects. Activities will be implemented primarily with support by the Leaders of the Working Groups.</p>	<p>- Throughout 2008</p> <p>Works implemented coordinated directly by the Leaders of the Working Group and reports delivered</p>

Activities	Targets/Purpose per Activity	Duration/Completion Date
4. Promote action for shared water resources management in Southeastern Europe (SEE)	<p>4.1. Organise four Targeted Capacity Building Workshops, to exchange knowledge and discuss best practices on issues of integrated shared water resources management in SEE. Focus of activity will be on public participation, financing of joint management, institutional settings of joint management bodies and groundwater management. Activities will be implemented in synergy with the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process and GEF IW:LEARN.</p> <p>4.2. Support actions for inter-state collaboration for shared water resources management in SEE, with an emphasis on the Drin River</p>	<p>- Throughout 2008</p> <p>- Capacity Building Workshop on Stakeholders Involvement in Transboundary Water Resources Management, 25-28 March 2008, Podgorica, Montenegro</p> <p>- International Roundtable on Stakeholder / Public Participation for the Integrated Management of Shared Water Resources, 15-16 April 2008, Sofia, Bulgaria</p> <p>- International Workshop on Water and Climate Change in Southeastern Europe, 24-25 June 2008, Tirana, Albania</p> <p>- Capacity Building Workshop on Integrated Management of Shared Lakes Basin, 16-18 July 2008, Ohrid, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</p> <p>- Capacity Building Workshop on Integrated Water Resources Management with emphasis to the conditions in the transboundary Drin River Basin, 25-28 November 2008, Skhoder Lake, Albania</p> <p>- Capacity Building Workshop on Shared Groundwater Resources Management, 2-4 December 2008, Postojna, Slovenia</p> <p>- Consultation Meeting on Integrated Management of the extended Drin River Basin, 24 November 2008, Tirana, Albania</p> <p>- Status Report on Transboundary Water Resources Management in the Drin River elaborated</p>
5. Coordination and administration	<p>5.1. Key Meetings</p> <p>- Organise one meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean and SEE Water Directors Forum to review process and guide MED EUWI development, also linked with the organization of the Euro-Med Ministerial Meeting on Water in 2008.</p> <p>5.2. Coordination</p> <p>(a) Coordinate with on-going policy processes, programmes and initiatives in the Mediterranean e.g. ENPI, Horizon 2020, Barcelona Convention and UNEP/MAP, NAMCOW, UNDP, UN ESCWA, OECD, Water Centre of the Arab League, etc.</p> <p>(b) Further operationalize synergy with the GEF SPM, African Water Facility and Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process to promote common objectives through implementation of activities.</p>	<p>5.1. 5th Conference of the Euro-Mediterranean and SEE Water Directors organised, 21-22 July 2008, Athens, Greece. The Conference served as preparatory meeting for the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water, 22 December 2008, Dead Sea, Jordan.</p> <p>More activities were implemented in relation to the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water – see related part for the Mediterranean in the EUWI Report</p> <p>5.2. Throughout 2008</p> <p>(a) Fully implemented</p> <p>(b) Fully implemented</p>

Activities	Targets/Purpose per Activity	Duration/Completion Date
	<p>(c) Coordinate with the EUWI Secretariat as well as the Working Groups of Africa and EECCA to promote common objectives.</p> <p>5.3. Administration - Run the MED EUWI Secretariat (as described in the MED EUWI ToR) primarily with support by Greece (and possibly the European Commission)</p>	<p>(c) Primarily through the EUWI SC meetings and activities</p> <p>5.3. Various activities (see report)</p>