

<b>DATE:</b>	12 May 2009 - 9h30 – 16h
<b>VENUE:</b>	Novotel - After the FEMIP conference on “Sustainable water financing and climate change in the Mediterranean” in Monaco on 11 May 2009
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	EMWIS Steering Committee - Meeting n°13 <b>PREPARATORY NOTES</b>
<b>VERSION</b>	2009-05-08
<b>PARTICIPANTS (invited):</b>	Members of EMWIS Steering Committee : Water Directors of the following countries : Algeria, Cyprus, Spain, France, Italy, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Palestine, Turkey  Mr Walter MAZZITTI – President
<b>OBSERVERS (invited):</b>	European Commission: DG ENV  European Environment Agency  Representatives from Med-EUWI and IME  Technical Unit Manager  Representatives from Technical Unit members (CEDEX, OIEau, SOGESID)  Representative of Monaco Environment Directorate

<b>Agenda</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcome message from the President</li> <li>2. Review of activities carried out in 2008</li> <li>3. Achievement of EMWIS Phase II (Dec'03-June'08)</li> <li>4. Financial statement for 2008</li> <li>5. Strengthening the coordination of existing Regional initiatives and networks on water information and monitoring</li> <li>6. Status of the Union for the Mediterranean in the water sector</li> <li>7. Procedure for Steering Committee members renewal and relations with the Water Expert Group of the Union for the Mediterranean (especially for EMWIS governance)</li> <li>8. Activities planned in 2009</li> <li>9. Budget for 2009</li> <li>10. Collaboration with international initiatives</li> <li>11. Miscellaneous</li> </ol>
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## 1. Review of activities carried out in 2008

Year 2008 milestones:

- **Completion, on June 30th, of the contract signed in December 2003** (ref. ME8/AIDCO/2003/004763/069442 - budget: €3,332,420 including 60% subsidized by the Commission) by the European Commission (DG EuropeAid) and the three partners of the Technical Unit: IOWater (France), CEDEX (Spain) and SOGESID (Italy). The final project report and the financial audit report were submitted to the Commission in December 2008, after consolidation of accounts.
- Launching of a **new contract with the DG Environment** of the Commission (ref. 21.0401/2007/485730/SUB/D2 - ENRTP<sup>1</sup> 2007 programme) dealing with the interface with the Water Information System for Europe -WISE- (January 2008 - June 2009, budget: €375,000 including 80% subsidized by the Commission).
- A **new request for financing** which was submitted to the DG Environment (ENRTP 2008 programme) for the 2009-2010 period, whose budget was already approved (budget: €187,500 including 80% subsidized by the Commission).
- **Early transfer of the Presidency of EMWIS Steering Committee** from France to Italy, which took place in Athens on 21 July, as a side event of the 5<sup>th</sup> conference of the Water Directors of the Euro-Mediterranean countries and South-East Europe, Mr. Pascal Berteaud, who was the French Water Director and President of EMWIS Steering Committee, being appointed to a new position at the beginning of July. On behalf of Italy, Mr. Walter Mazzitti has taken over French responsibilities. It was decided that the renewal of the members of the Steering Committee, including the vice-presidency as well as the presidency and vice-presidency of the Coordination Committee, would be made during the next meeting of the Euromed Water Directors (or assimilated) in 2009.
- **Ministerial water conference** of the Union for the Mediterranean, co-chaired by France, Egypt and Jordan, which took place on the shore of the Dead Sea in Jordan on **22 December 2008**. This conference concretised the efforts made by EMWIS and the Mediterranean water community for a better recognition of this sector within the regional cooperation policy. The declaration of this conference requested the preparation of a regional water strategy, of structuring projects and highlighted the significance of water information and data at the national and regional levels. There is no doubt that the activities undertaken by EMWIS could certainly be developed within this framework.

### 1.1. Overall coordination and management

The following meetings were held:

- Board of Directors and Follow-up of the Technical Unit: three meetings were held in April, May and September 2008, respectively in Sophia Antipolis, Paris and again in Sophia Antipolis, in order to determine the financial activities and needs for the year and, in addition, the practical methods for the change of Presidency, the preparation of the next meeting of the Steering Committee and the preparation of a French-Italian-Spanish joint proposal for a Mediterranean information and resources network using EMWIS assets.
- The 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of EMWIS Coordination Committee from June 25 to 27 in Madrid: this meeting allowed to assess actions carried out by EMWIS and its NFPs at the end of the contract with the DG EuropeAid and to analyse progress made in the implementation of the National Water Information Systems. On going activities within the preparation of the harmonisation with WISE were also discussed.

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<sup>1</sup> Thematic Programme for Environment and sustainable management of Natural Resources, including energy (ENRTP)



- Meeting of the Steering Committee on July 21 in Athens for the transfer of the presidency of EMWIS Steering Committee from France to Italy.
- Annual General Assembly of EMWIS-TU EEIG on 22 September 2008 for the approval of the 2007 accounts. Italy adjusted its financial contribution for year 2007 on this occasion.

## **1.2. Direct support to the countries**

- The last local actions for the NFPs, financed within the EuropeAid contract, were finalised.
- An ad hoc training course on the implementation and use of EMWIS Web portal was held in Sophia Antipolis on June 3d for the new team of the Jordanian NFP.
- Audit assignments, in September 2008, on the Water Information Systems in Tunisia in partnership with the African Water Facility to prepare the financing of the national system and some components.

## **1.3. On-line services**

The international EMWIS website is continuously updated (trilingual electronic Flash disseminated to more than 12,000 subscribers, topical directory, Web pages). A new section on the Union for the Mediterranean was created: it gathers the latest news and the contributions of various groups on the water topic.

Two new languages, Greek and Turkish, were added to the water sector focused multilingual thesaurus which was already available in English, Arabic, Spanish, French and Italian. The data base of projects in the water sector in the Mediterranean area is regularly updated.

The technology used (open source solution initially developed for the European Environment Agency) allows, in particular, sharing contents with EMWIS partners such as BALWOIS (initiative of a scientific and technical water information system for the Balkans) which automatically publishes the latest news provided by EMWIS on the Balkan countries.

Within the dissemination of information related to MEDA-Water projects, the website of the EMWater project was transferred on a server of EMWIS Technical Unit.

EMWIS also implemented and developed the website of the ministerial conference on water of the Union for the Mediterranean (<http://www.medaquaministerial2008.net/>).

## **1.4. Promotion of the system**

Ten national information and promotion seminars were held by the NFPs between December 2003 and November 2007. In 2008, EMWIS was represented in the following meetings:

- Final conference of the MEDA-Water programme, 28-30 April 2008 in Marrakech (session on information systems),
- BALWOIS conference in Orhid (Macedonia) in May 2008 (presentation of EMWIS and of the Mediterranean water observation mechanism),
- Steering Committee of the GeoAquifer project between Algeria, Tunisia and Libya, 5 and 6 June 2008 in Tunis,
- Needs for research related to Integrated Water Resources Management in the Mediterranean countries, Valencia (Spain) June 10 and 11,
- Definition of indicators on drought and water scarcity for Europe, European Environment Agency, June 10 and 11 in Copenhagen,



- Mediterranean Talks, June 12-13, Barcelona,
- Preparation of a North-African system for water follow-up/evaluation (African Water Facility and CEDARE) June 10 and 11 in Cairo,
- Meeting of the monitoring and research sub-group of the Horizon 2020 initiative, October 9-10 in Athens.

### **1.5. Promotion products:**

Various promotion products were prepared in 2008:

- o Country profiles introducing the NFPs and the institutional structure of the countries,
- o A cybercard-formatted CD-Rom including in particular: an animated presentation of EMWIS in English, Arabic and French, all the regional studies undertaken by EMWIS, a presentation of the on-line services,
- o A new publication of EMWIS e-news Flash in Arabic, English and French.

### **1.6. Implementation of topical activities (analyses, summaries and events)**

Based on the priority topics defined in 2006 by EMWIS Steering Committee, thanks to additional financing from the DG Environment of the European Commission, two groups of experts, common with the Water Framework Directive / EUWI Joint Process, could progress (see web pages and on-line report) and continue their work:

- [Drought and water scarcity](#): the report of this group was finalised in June 2008;
- [Monitoring network](#): the mandate and action plan were validated by the Euromed Water Directors during the Bled conference in December 2007. A survey of the situation in the Mediterranean Partner Countries is being prepared.

### **1.7. Liaison with the international initiatives**

A new agreement was signed with the World Water Council (especially regarding the Alliance for a global water observation mechanism) and EMWIS Technical Unit became a member of GWP-Med in order to strengthen regional coordination.

For information purpose, agreements have been previously signed with the International Network of Basin Organisations and its Mediterranean component (MENBO), IME, coordinator of the monitoring project of MEDA programme on the environment (SMAP-RMSU) and Greece for the Mediterranean Component of EUWI (EU Water Initiative). An action plan was defined with the European Environment Agency; its implementation is supported by contracts with the DG Environment of the European Commission.

### **1.8. Study on a regional water observation mechanism**

This study was carried out in 2006-2007, following the request of the Euromed water directors (Rome, November 2005) to study “the objectives and feasibility conditions with volunteer countries, within EMWIS, of a Mediterranean water observation mechanism for monitoring the indicators on achievement of the millennium objectives related to water and sanitation in the Mediterranean area, as well as the implementation of the “water” component of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, based on information from the national water information systems when they exist”.



Following this decision and after agreement from the European Commission, the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of this study was launched in June 2006 and the first outcomes submitted at the Euromed Water Directors' conference. Following the decisions made during this Conference, the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the feasibility study of a regional water observation mechanism was launched in 2007.

The outcomes were favourably received by the Euromed water directors (Athens in November 2006 and Bled in December 2007). The [final report](#) was published in June 2008. The main conclusions of this study (reinforcement of the national information systems and coordination / harmonisation of the regional initiatives) appear in the declaration of the Dead Sea ministerial conference on water (December 2008) and in the concept note on a Mediterranean Water Knowledge Hub.

### **1.9. Towards a Mediterranean Water Information mechanism compatible with the Water Information System for Europe**

The objective of this project is to prepare a Mediterranean Water Information mechanism which will be compatible with the European information system -WISE- and which will support the Med joint process between the EU Water Initiative and the Water Framework Directive. In the long term, this mechanism will facilitate access to quality water data in the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs). The partner countries which are characterised by developing or transition economies will benefit from a better access to the information necessary for good governance of the water sector. This will also facilitate the development of policies compatible with the principles of sustainable development fostered by the EU.

As the contract with the DG EuropAid was completed in June 2008, work on this contract only began in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half year with, in particular:

- An on-line catalogue of metadata of the water information sources in the Med partner countries. Work for comparing the available tools began. A feedback workshop will take place in May 2009.
- Preparation of a survey on the status of the water monitoring networks and programmes in the Mediterranean Partner Countries. A feedback workshop will take place at the end of September 2009.
- Preparation of a scenario for the implementation of a "Mediterranean" entry point to WISE website.
- Cooperation with the European working group on indicators related to water scarcity and drought.

An extension up to the beginning of 2010 will be requested from the Commission to carry out all the planned actions (regional synthesis on stakes related to water scarcity and drought, technical guidance documents to build water information systems interoperable with WISE, organisation of a meeting of the drought / water scarcity group, 6 national workshops).

Finally, a request for financing on the ENRTP 2008 budget was sent to the DG Environment of the European Commission in November 2008, in accordance with the project sheet drawn up at the end of 2007. This project amounting to € 187,500 for a 18-month duration, entitled "towards a European water information mechanism" is the continuation of the WISE interfacing project and aims at contributing to the development of a Mediterranean water information system compatible with WISE by improving data gathering and formatting, thanks to the support of the topical working groups of the European Water Initiative / European Water Framework Directive Joint Process.



## 2. Main achievements of EMWIS Phase II (Dec'03-June'08)

During this period supported by a contract with the European Commission, EuopeAid, two main results have been achieved according to the initial work programme (the table with benchmarking indicators –BMI- is provided in annex):

- a) **The accessibility and availability of online water information have significantly improved** thanks to the regional website managed by the EMWIS Technical Unit and the 16 national websites launched by the water authorities of MEDA countries. They act as information hubs or reference access points to direct international & national users to the right information. All together, they form a unique network providing access to water information in the Mediterranean region. Access is available in Arabic, English and French for the regional information, while the national information is provided by the local websites in nine languages (Arabic, English, French, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and Turkish) to ensure the accessibility by national water communities.
- Today 16 countries have launched an EMWIS National website focusing on water issues (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine, Israel, Jordan, Turkey; Cyprus, Greece, Malta; Italy, France, Spain and Portugal) while in 2000, only 3 countries had such a website. The last one was the Egyptian website launched in February 2008 (and recently revised) thanks to a financial support obtained from the Italian cooperation (kick-off meeting held in February 2007). These national websites are now covering all the Mediterranean Partner Countries except Syria (that did not take part in any activities since 2004). During this 2<sup>nd</sup> phase, most of the web sites have been redesigned and new content added. The other EU countries that have nominated a NFP (i.e. Luxembourg, Belgium and Austria) are playing an observer role in EMWIS and did not launch a dedicated website.
  - Thanks to the promotion activities, the new services implemented and the daily updates, the online information provided has attracted more and more users: from about 200 000 yearly visitors in 2004 to more than 1 000 000 at the end of June 2008 on a yearly basis. The part coming from the MEDA region is difficult to assess as statistics are based on registered domain names and that domains such as “.org” or “.com” are considered as coming from North America. But an analysis of subscription to the e-news flash shows the strong interest from MEDA region users.
  - In addition to the website, information is also pushed to registered end-users thanks to an electronic monthly news flash providing briefs on the latest developments in the region, projects, publications, call for proposals, training, events, etc. 69 issues have been produced (see BMI A3.1.) in Arabic, English and French. This news Flash is very popular among the water community with today more than 14 000 subscribers (see BMI A3.2), registration has been increasing regularly during all the project duration.
  - The EMWIS international portal is becoming a reference system with more and more organisations contacting the EMWIS to make announcements and an increasing number of citations or links in relevant information sources, media and websites (see BMI A3.3), today more than 140.
- b) In order to build efficient water information systems, **sharing of information at regional and national levels** is necessary mainly because water management responsibilities are split between various institutions. In most of the countries sharing quantitative data has never been discussed before the feasibility studies launched by EMWIS in 2005. The situation was improved at both national and regional level:
- At the national levels:
    - The awareness on the benefits of developing water information systems shared among the main stakeholders (so called NWIS: National Water Information Systems) was increased thanks to the organisation of 13 national



- information seminars involving a wide range of water stake-holders and high political representatives (see BMI B3)
- Following the EMWIS studies and exchanges of experiences that took place during study visits or workshops, Lebanon and Jordan are in the preparatory phase for the development of their National Water Information System, Algeria and Tunisia are preparing a revision of their legislation to include water information sharing, Turkey and Morocco are strengthening their in-house systems before opening it to other institutions. Today, the Algerian system (strongly supported by bilateral funds from the EC: a 20 M€ contract to support for the water sector has been signed at the EMWIS seminar in June 2006) is used as flagship for other countries. The Tunisian system is going to be supported by the African Water Facility in the framework of the PISEAU II, 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the investment program for the water sector jointly funded by the World Bank, the French Development Agency –AFD- and the African Development Bank. The Moroccan system will be funded with National funds, 50% from the State Secretariat for water and 50% from the Public administration modernisation fund.
  - At the regional level:
    - Eight countries (see BMI B4: Algeria, France, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Spain, Palestine and Tunisia) have been exposed to the sharing of information with the EMWIS Technical Unit. Their EMWIS NFPs have implemented the EMWIS metadata standards for automatic exchange of bibliographic and legislation references, news or events. This allowed them to better understand the underlying mechanisms.
    - The feasibility study on a regional water observation mechanism allowed to reach a consensus among the international organisations involved in water information management in the Mediterranean area (FAO, UNEP-MAP, World Bank, Eurostat, African Water Facility, World Water Council, etc.) on the fact that their current data collection could be improved by a coordinated support to National Water Information Systems (becoming a reference source of quantified data on water for each country) and the harmonisation of indicators they are using. Now, the development of such mechanism relies on its governance that has to be defined at the Ministerial level. But a similar approach is now supported by the African Water Facility in its water monitoring and evaluation initiative for Africa and more particularly for North Africa Countries.

This second phase of EMWIS allowed the **capitalisation and the sharing of experiences among Euro-Med countries** thanks to:

- The websites created that store and make available a wide range of knowledge relevant for the Med water community. The monthly pushing of information to some 14 000 persons facilitated the sharing of the information collected and the direct contacts with experiences owners.
- A common vocabulary specialised on water (EMWIS thesaurus) comprising about 1000 terms and definitions in Arabic, English, French, Italian, Spanish, Turkish and Greek. It allows multilingual indexing and search. With the new technical architecture implemented, it is the foundation for the semantic web required by the e-infrastructure foreseen across the Mediterranean in the framework of EUMEDGRID and EUMEDCONNECT.
- The launch of 5 working groups by the EMWIS Steering Committee (Water Directors from 13 countries) to exchange experiences at the institutional level and prepare joint





pilot projects to foster the ownership of the know-how transferred (see BMI P1 and P2). The activity of these working groups is planned for the next phase of EMWIS, except for some groups managed jointly with the Med-EUWI / WFD Joint Process: water scarcity (report published in 2008), waste water reuse (report published in 2007) and water monitoring (started in July 2007). Funding has been secured for 2 of these working groups: water scarcity and water monitoring thanks to a contract between EMWIS and EC DG Environment to carry out additional activities (mainly focusing on indicators).

- A study visit from Algerian and Tunisian experts to French organisations involved in the management of the National Water Information System to review the legal and organisational context as well as the technical facilities of the French system.
- The organisation of regional conferences and workshops (see BMI P3):
  - For exchanges between decision makers: 3 Euromed water directors' conferences. As only one was planned in the current contract, the 2 last ones have been jointly organised with Med-EUWI (as part of MEDA-WATER RMSU contract). This process, initiated by EMWIS, is now becoming a routine similar to the EU water directors meetings, to discuss a wide range of cooperation issues related to the water sector in the Med area.
  - For exchange of experiences on technical issues during regional workshops: one on National Water Information Systems and one for the Med water observation mechanism. These workshops as all the other EMWIS meetings are documented online.

The experiences gained during this 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of EMWIS, (especially on NWIS and water observation mechanism) will serve for preparing the interface between the Water Information System for Europe –WISE- and Mediterranean water information systems. This new project will be implemented by the EMWIS Technical Unit with the European Environment Agency thanks to a grant from the EC DG Environment.

In addition to the information tools outlined above, EMWIS has contributed to the **improvement of the cooperation among the Euro-Mediterranean Countries in the Water Sector** and therefore the regional water policy by initiating regular Euromed conferences of water directors in 1997 (Naples), 2001 (Madrid), 2005 (Rome), 2006 (Athens), 2007 (Bled). The EMWIS 10 years' strategy, presented in Rome, was proposing to use the forum of Euromed water directors as a body for reviewing regional cooperation in the water sector. In this context, the water directors agreed that their forum could serve as institutional support for the implementation of the Med-EUWI. Since 2006, the water directors meetings were jointly organised (by EMWIS and Med-EUWI) and a broader range of stakeholders were invited.

The under-evaluation of the priority given to the water sector in ENPI regional program for the Mediterranean was a major concern among EMWIS Steering Committee members. Indeed, most of them took part in the definition of the Turin Action Plan and have supported the launch of the MEDA-Water program. This is the reason why they decided to propose the organisation of a Euromed Ministerial conference on water, and they launched a study on the assessment and prospects for cooperation in the Mediterranean water sector in 2007. The French EMWIS Steering Committee Presidency proposed to organise this conference during its EU Presidency to give more visibility to the event and to provide the necessary resources for the assessment and prospect study.

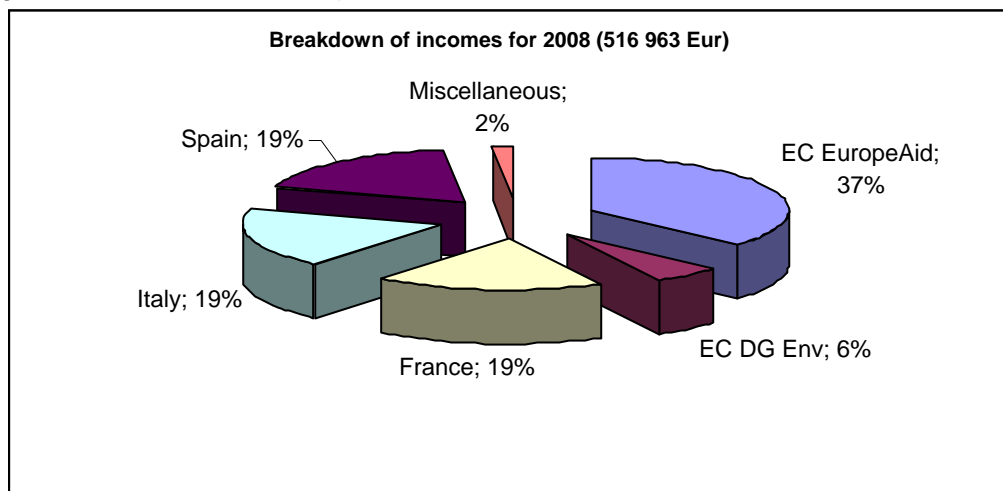


### 3. Financial statement 2008

The total amount of expenditure of the EMWIS Technical Unit for 2008 is: **516 963 EUR**

Budget lines	Expenditures in Euro for 2008
Staff	211 669,31
Experts	112 668,56
Travel and perdiem	46 595,56
IT supply and services	8 621,78
Meetings logistic	4 969,95
Promotion & translations	21 831,86
NFP support	62 587,19
Office & administrative costs	48 019,04
	<b>516 963,25</b>

The expenditures for 2008 are mainly balanced by financial contributions from the 3 countries of the Technical Unit (France, Italy and Spain) and European Commission grants. The breakdown is provided below:



#### 4. Strengthening the coordination of existing Regional initiatives and networks on water information and monitoring

Following the recommendations of the UfM Ministerial conference on water (Dead Sea in Jordan, December 2008), EMWIS and UNEP-MAP / Blue Plan initiated a working group based on the results of their recent activities (studies on national water information systems and a Mediterranean water observation mechanism on one hand; the monitoring of MSSD indicators and the setting up the SIMEDD (*Mediterranean Information System of Environment & Sustainable Development*) on the other hand. As a result of a 1<sup>st</sup> working group meeting held on 19 March in Istanbul during the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, the concept note was adopted together with an outline action plan (see annex). On this basis, a first budget has been prepared to implement the activities planned at regional and national levels over 2 years (national activities could be covered over a six month period for each country):

Two years budget overview	Costs years 1+2 (€)
<b>Regional activities</b>	
Set-up of priority tools for the regional infrastructure	250 000
Preparation of guidance documents	350 000
Data aggregation, quality control and first regional synthesis	300 000
Organisation of 4 regional workshops	200 000
Overall management and coordination	150 000
<b><i>Sub-total Regional level</i></b>	<b><i>1 250 000</i></b>
<b>Standard support to national activities (per country for 6 months)</b>	
Contribution to investment costs (computer, telecom, software)	10 000
Contribution to the coordination / awareness activities	5 000
Strengthening organisational and institutional frameworks (technical assistance)	90 000
Preparations of terms of reference for setting up a national system	20 000
<b><i>Sub-total National level support</i></b>	<b><i>125 000</i></b>

It is proposed to develop these national activities with a few pilot countries (at the national or river basin level) and a limited thematic coverage (to be defined with the selected countries in accordance with Mediterranean priorities). The extension to a broader thematic coverage and the deployment to other countries will be undertaken on the basis of lessons learnt from the pilot countries. Exchange of experiences among countries will be carried out all along the process.



On the basis of past experiences and existing diagnosis, a first list of criteria that could be used to select the pilot countries or basins is:

- Commitment on the provision of sufficient resources to conduct the pilot activities (human, technical and eventually financial)
- Setting-up a steering group or pilot committee on water information involving the key institutions providing or using data and including the civil society (universities/research, user associations, NGO, private sector)
- Commitment of key stakeholder to conduct the pilot activities at the national level or on a pilot area.

Candidate countries should provide a brief description of their status with regards to these criteria as well as an adapted work programme and budget for 2 years based on the overall structure proposed by the concept note and the related budget outline.

Issues for discussion:

- Opinion on the concept note and the approach
- Countries interested for the pilot activities
- Country(ies) to present this approach to the UfM Water Expert group



## 5. Status of the Union for the Mediterranean in the water sector

The Egyptian and French representatives as co-chair of the Union for the Mediterranean will inform the participants on the current status of the Union for the Mediterranean in the water sector and the future steps.

At the UfM Ministerial conference on water (Dead Sea, December 2008), the Ministers decided to mandate a “*Water Expert Group, composed of government designated representatives of national authorities in charge of water policy of Euro-Mediterranean countries having the capacity to take decisions (e.g. water directors) and the European Commission to elaborate further the Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean as well as to assist its implementation and follow-up*”. The current nominations for the UfM Water Expert Group are provided in annex.

## 6. Procedure for Steering Committee members renewal and relations with the UfM Water Expert Group

The EMWIS Steering Committee membership is composed of water directors from Euro-Mediterranean Countries; it is renewed every 3 years during a meeting of all the Euromed Water Directors. Three seats are allocated to countries providing direct financial contributions, i.e. France, Italy and Spain. From 1998 till 2005, it was composed of 9 members plus the European Commission as observer. At the Euromed water directors meeting in November 2005 in Rome, it was decided to extend it to 13 members. The table below provided an overview of past membership:

Period	Membership	Presidency	Vice-Presidency
1999-2002	Algeria, Cyprus, France, Italy, Jordan, Malta, Morocco, Spain, and the Palestinian Authority	Italy	Jordan
2002-2005	Algeria, Cyprus, France, Italy, Jordan, Malta, Morocco, Spain, and the Palestinian Authority	Spain	Cyprus
2005-2008	Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Spain, Turkey, and the Palestinian Authority	France	Lebanon & Morocco
2008-		Italy	

EMWIS Steering Committee membership 1999-2009

The Presidency and Vice-Presidency of the EMWIS coordination committee are renewed at the same time. The coordination committee is gathering all the nominated EMWIS National Focal Points, it meets once a year and is in charge of the implementation of the activities with the Technical Unit. The table below presents its membership since the launch of EMWIS initiative:

Period	Presidency	Vice-Presidency
1999-2002	Italy	Jordan
2002-2005	Spain	Cyprus
2005-2008	Algeria	Cyprus
2009-		

EMWIS Coordination Committee 1999-2009



At the Euromed water directors meeting in 2005, it was decided to open EMWIS to Mediterranean countries not signatories of the Barcelona Declaration who would request it officially, in particular the Balkan countries and Libya. The table below gives an overview of EMWIS vs UfM member countries

<b>Sub-group of countries</b>	<b>EMWIS</b>	<b>UfM</b>
EU	27 EU countries	27 EU countries
Mediterranean Partner Countries of the Euromed Partnership	10 Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, and the Palestinian Authority	10 Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, and the Palestinian Authority
Other Mediterranean countries (not signatories of the Barcelona Declaration)	9 Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo Libya, Monaco	7 Albania, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro  Libya (observer), Monaco Mauritania

Traditionally, EMWIS was reporting its activities to EMWIS Steering Committee and to the so-called Euromed Water Directors forum that used to meet on regular basis (thanks to EU subsidies).

With the launch of the UfM, the Euromed Water Directors Forum is likely to be replaced by regular meetings of the Water Expert Group.

Issues for discussion/decisions:

- Opening of EMWIS membership to all the UfM countries
- Renewal of EMWIS governance structures (Steering and Coordination Committees) during Water Expert Group meetings
- Reporting to the water expert group and/or water directors?
- Steering Committee membership opened to water directors and/or members of the UfM water expert group?



## 7. Activities planed for 2009

The table below provides a brief outline of the activities planned for 2009/2010 taking into account the budget available and the contracts signed with the European Commission – DG Environment-

Activities	Status	Issues for discussion
Operation of EMWIS online services	- On going updating process	
Preparation of a Metadata catalogue on Med water information resources	- Workshop in June 2009 (Nice) for content standardisation and tools selection - Back to back to a EMWIS coordination seminar	
Technical Guidance on compatibility with WISE	- Will be based on WISE distributed architecture - Will be available in September 2009	
Status of water monitoring programs and networks (Joint Process working group)	- Survey sent to the 10 Med Partner Countries - Working group meeting planned early October 2009 - 1 <sup>st</sup> report, early 2010	
Water scarcity & drought working group (Joint Process): test on the availability of indicators in partner countries	- Based on proposed indicators used for the EU quantitative assessment - Meeting to be planned early November 2009	- working group meeting location
Preparation of an information product on water quantities	- Analysing the opportunity to use the water foot print approach with some countries	
National workshops on water information systems	- September-December 2009 - Presentation of guidance documents - Metadata collection - Consolidation of working groups outputs	- 6 countries to be defined
Med Entry point for WISE	- New WISE home page recently launched - Revision of EMWIS portal to follow WISE design rules	
Enhancing the EMWIS water multilingual thesaurus	- To be launched end of 2009 - Adding Arabic water concepts, H2020 and water accounts vocabulary	
Supporting water data harmonisation in 2 pilot countries	- Pilot exercise to be launched in Tunisia in June	- 2 <sup>nd</sup> country to be identified
Preparing a Mediterranean water web map server	- Test of open source solutions - Focus on hydrological networks, river basins, etc.	
Contribution to H2020 sub-group on monitoring & research	- Identification of relevant information resources - Review of relevant monitoring networks	
Strengthening the coordination of existing Regional initiatives and networks on water information and monitoring	- Preparing an horizontal action as part of the Med water strategy	See details on the dedicated chapter of this note
Technical and organisational support to the UfM co-chair (France)	- Website for the Water Expert Group - Organisation of various meetings	

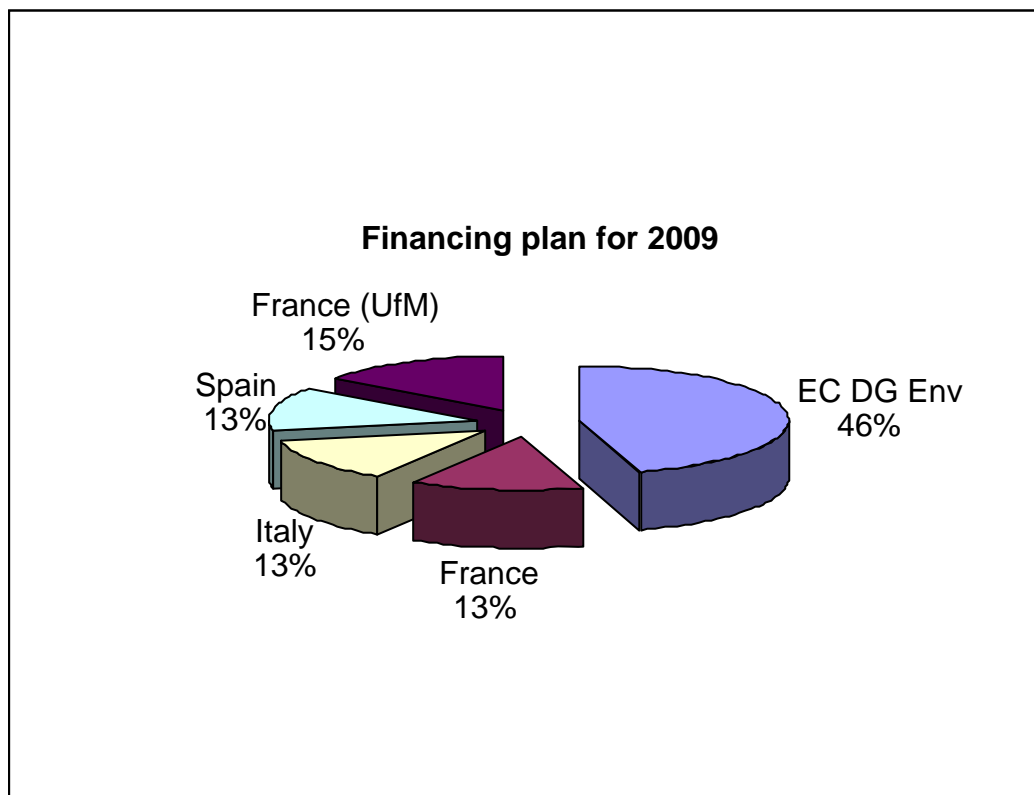


## 8. Budget 2009

The following provisional budget will allow implementing the activities outlined before:

Budget lines	Budget in Euro for 2009
Staff	202 325,40
Experts	124 112,60
Travel and perdiem	178 062,60
IT supply and services	8 328,81
Meetings logistic	73 045,44
Promotion & translations	22 537,60
NFP support	0,00
Office & administrative costs	51 523,14
<b>Total</b>	<b>659 935,72</b>

The financial contributions for 2009 are based on EC contracts with DG Env (46%), Technical Unit member countries (39%) and France (15%, additional specific activities in the framework of the Union for the Mediterranean)





## 9. Collaboration with international initiatives

In the table below, we summarize the current agreements<sup>2</sup>:

Organisation	Agreement date	Partnership type
EEA	2007-10-16	<b>Action plan</b> aiming at: Interfacing WISE and the “Mediterranean Water observatory mechanism/ information system” & Stimulating the production and sharing of data by Med Partner Countries
INBO-MENBO	2005-05-23	<b>Partnership</b> notably works towards the exchange of knowledge on water management at river basin level and in particular the application of the European Union Water Framework Directive (WFD).
GWP (GWP-Med)	2008-12-10	<b>EMWIS Technical Unit</b> became <b>member of GWP</b> (obviously of GWP-Med as well), which will allow to EMWIS TU participate in GWP meetings and coordinate some activities with.
MED-EUWI	2006-07-24	<b>Memorandum of Understanding</b> focusing on promoting and disseminating MED-EUWI activities (Joint Process Working Groups) through EMWIS website, etc.
IME	2003-06-30	<b>Partnership</b> focusing in particular on trans-national cooperation in sharing information on Mediterranean water management.
WWC	2008-12-16	<b>Partnership</b> to collaborate for improving the collection and dissemination of information and documentation on observation, monitoring and evaluation processes related to the water sector
BALWOIS	2007-07-05	Collaboration to support national information systems in Balkan countries (Balkan Water Observation and Information System)
SMAP-RMSU	2005-06-30	<b>Memorandum of Understanding</b> aiming at improving the collection and dissemination of the information and documentation on integrated water resources management

Moreover, many other international and national organisations are in contact with EMWIS Technical Unit for various types of cooperation, either through a formal partnership agreement or a Memorandum of understanding, or informal cooperation that targets to participate together in project proposals, tendering, common working groups, in pilot activities, etc.

Hereafter the main ones:

- The Group on Earth Observations (GEO), which is coordinating efforts to build a Global Earth Observation System of Systems, or GEOSS: Information on that network is provided in the annex.
- The Regional Water Governance Benchmarking (ReWAB) project, funded by the USAID: an informal proposal was sent by EMWIS Technical Unit to ask this project to formalize our cooperation and eventually undertake some of their tasks, but we did not receive yet any response.
- The West Asia - North Africa (WANA) Forum launched in April in Jordan to bring people from WANA region to discuss environmental, economic and social issues. A Water panel has been launched, and a working plan (2009-2010) is to be defined soon.
- Badia Research and Development Centre (BRDC) from Jordan: asked to collaborate on desertification and climate change studies
- The Arab Young Scientists Network (Water WG): asked to collaborate in water quality and quantity assessment studies and be part of EMWIS working groups.

<sup>2</sup> The agreements texts are available online at : [www.emwis.net/partners](http://www.emwis.net/partners)



- The French Research Institute for Development (IRD): asked to collaborate with EMWIS in water research programmes
- USAID: asked EMWIS to think about some action plans on water governance and water information dissemination through the Net, as well as the possibility of launching technical solutions through forums or e-learning for capacity building in close cooperation with the Arab Water Academy
- INWEH-UNU: the regional coordinator in the UAE asked to collaborate with EMWIS in disseminating and/or implementing capacity building and training programmes
- Middle East Desalination Research Center (MEDRC): asked to collaborate on desalination issues (capacity building, training and information dissemination)
- The National Office for drinking water supply in Morocco (ONEP): collaboration on the Mediterranean Water Centre of resources (Hub), mainly in training & capacity building activities, as well in implementing national water information system in Morocco.
- CMU and RMEI: The community of Mediterranean Universities and the network of Mediterranean engineering schools asked many times EMWIS to collaborate with them in order that Mediterranean universities and engineering schools take part in EMWIS activities in general as well as considering and dissemination their research results. A Mediterranean water master was also mentioned as a possible project.
- African Water Facility: is seeking to collaborate with EMWIS in implementing water information systems in North Africa countries (Morocco, Mauritania, Algeria, Tunisia & Egypt). The AWF has also invited EMWIS Technical Unit to take part in the workshop that took place in June 2008 with the aim to discuss the launch of "A North Africa Water MDGs Monitoring and Evaluation Programme". In this workshop, it was agreed that EMWIS NFPs in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia & Egypt can play a role of national coordination under this programme.
- WHO / JMP: EMWIS could play a role in disseminating information and data on access to drinking water & sanitation in the Euro Mediterranean region.
- MEDA-Water projects: even if MEDA-Water programme has ended practically, some of its projects asked EMWIS to keep disseminating their outputs and main deliverables.
- [Water Foot Print Network](#): innovative approach useful for awareness raising as well as for decision making
- [Projet MELIA](#) 'Mediterranean dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management': dissemination of results and potential launch of new projects around knowledge management and dissemination of research results.

In the table below, we summarize the possible near future agreements:

Organisation	Potential date	Partnership type
Water Foot Print network	Sept/oct. 2009	<b>Becoming a member</b> to use this approach with interested Mediterranean countries
GEO	Sep/Oct. 2009	<b>To be member</b> in such huge network, in order to work with many other international organisations under this network on water issues (data and information collection, etc).
WHO / JMP	2009	<b>Partnership</b> notably to make their data on access to drinking water and sanitation available through EMWIS
African Water Facility	2009	<b>Partnership</b> notably to assist through EMWIS Technical Unit and EMWIS NFPs the programme "A North Africa Water MDGs Monitoring and Evaluation Programme"

Issues for discussion/decisions:

- Mandate to the President and Technical Unit to join GEO and the water foot print network as well as to prepare agreements with WHO/JMP and AWF
- Potential process for other future partnerships: evaluation by President and vice-presidents based on analysis provided by EMWIS Technical Unit



