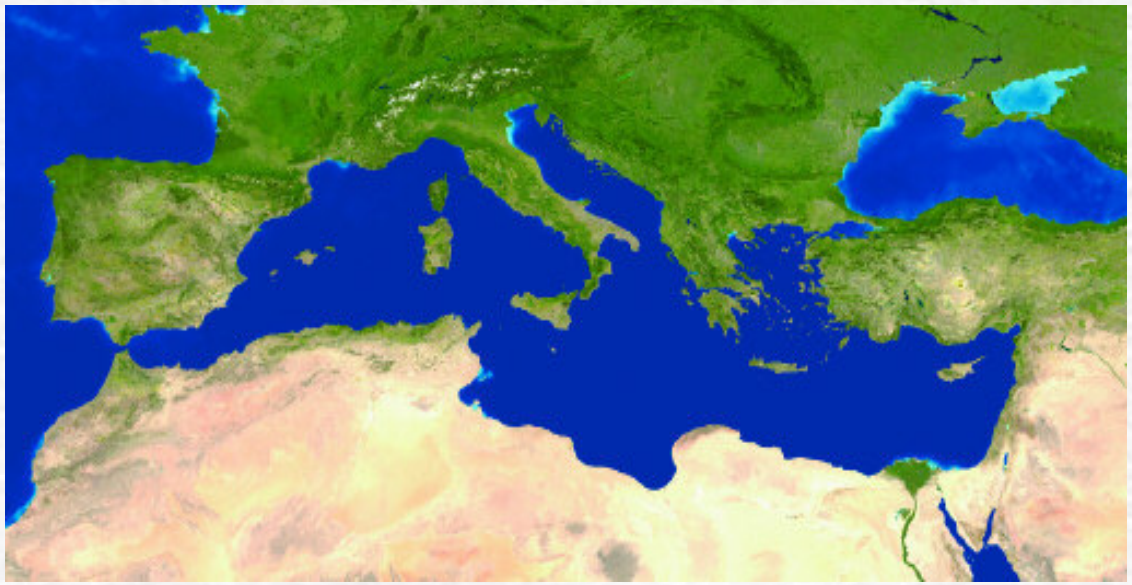
MEDITERRANEAN EUWI/WFD JOINT PROCESS



MEDITERRANEAN GROUNDWATER WG

Second Phase (2007-2009)

Progress and Next Steps

Lisbon, September 2007

First Phase (2004-2006)

Mediterranean Groundwater Report (final version 14/2/07)

- description and analysis of the role and importance of the groundwater resources for the Mediterranean region,
- identification of the most significant problems, pressing needs and challenges for the region regarding groundwater resources management,
- specific recommendations, based on the WFD approach and the experiences of the EU and non-EU countries of the region,
- approaches and aspects of the WFD which need specific attention and proper adaptation in the Mediterranean context.

First Phase (2004-2006)

Mediterranean Groundwater Report

Main topics of the report:

- Facts and trends in the region – GW management problems
- Over-exploitation of GW resources – Non-renewable GW resources
- Deterioration in GW quality (chemical pollution, saline water intrusion) – GW protection
- GW monitoring and data management
- International cooperation – the role and importance of the shared aquifers
- Institutional aspects (strategic planning, GW legislation, economic aspects of GW management, public participation)
- Conclusions – Recommendations

Participation of 26 experts from 11 Med countries and 9 international institutions and organisations

Main Conclusions

- Challenges:
  - GW resources play a major role in the water economy
  - GW, abundant or rare, are unevenly distributed and unequally exploitable
  - GW are very much in demand
  - Major difficulties in the management of GW

Main Conclusions

- Recommendations:
  - Controlling intensive exploitation
  - Reducing pollution
  - Harmonising monitoring
  - Promoting joint management of shared aquifers
  - Developing IWRM including GW resources
  - And promoting exchanges of experiences in the Mediterranean

Main Conclusions

- The WFD: opportunities & challenges
  - *Saline intrusion & overexploitation*
  - *Impacts of tourism & agriculture*
  - Concept of River Basin district
  - Non renewable aquifers
  - Use of economic instruments: water pricing and cost recovery principle

☞ SPECIFIC ANALYSIS AT NATIONAL LEVEL REQUIRED

Euro-Med Water Directors Forum

Conference of the Water Directors of the Euro-Mediterranean and South-Eastern Countries, **Athens 6 & 7 November 2006:**

- **Progress and results** achieved from Phase I (2004-2006) of the Joint Mediterranean Process (JP), linking the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) with the MED EUWI, **were particularly welcomed**.
- The Euro-Med WDs agreed on the usefulness and role of the JP as a technical platform for discussing and assessing Mediterranean specificities in water resources management and promoting convergence of water related legislation in partner countries with a view to, inter alia, to further linking the Process to national concerns.
- The Euro-Med WDs **recommended the development of JP Phase II** (2007-2009) having as focus the themes: **groundwater management**, water scarcity and droughts, linking rural development with water management, wastewater reuse, shared water resources management, water monitoring.

Med EUWI/WFD Joint Process

Phase II (2007 - 2009): 6 Thematic WGs

Med EUWI / WFD Joint Process

- **Water Scarcity and Droughts** (MOR/MENBO/COM/FR/EMWIS)
- **Waste Water Reuse** (COM/MT)
- **Groundwater management** (COM/GR)
- **Shared Water Resources Management** (GWP Med)
- **Agriculture & Rural Development** (COM)
- **Water Monitoring** (EMWIS)

Med EUWI/WFD Joint Process

Phase II (2007 - 2009): 6 Thematic WGs

The main tasks of these thematic Working Groups are, for each issue:

- a study of the current practices in the region,
- an analysis of the implications of the WFD or other EU relevant legislations and finally
- the drafting of recommendations

Med EUWI/WFD Joint Process
Phase II (2007 - 2009): 6 Thematic WGs

Linkages will be established between the thematic WGs of the JP Phase II and the Common Implementation Strategy of the WFD (WFD CIS):

- Expert Group on Water Scarcity and Droughts (ES/FR/IT)
- Working Group C on Groundwater (COM/AT)
- Steering Group on WFD & Agriculture (COM/UK)

Mediterranean Groundwater WG (2007-2009)

Main Objectives:

- analyse the most significant challenges for the Mediterranean region, related to groundwater resources management, with an emphasis on **groundwater over-exploitation and saline water intrusion**,
- transfer, exchange and demonstration of know-how on criteria, methodologies and tools used in the Mediterranean region on various groundwater protection and conservation issues and evaluate best practices and "success stories" existing at international and EU level,
- **develop common approach methodologies and techniques for optimal groundwater exploitation and pollution control** in the Mediterranean region and formulate adequate recommendations and technical specifications,
- improve the awareness raising on issues related to the groundwater protection, conservation and sustainable management and create the basis for additional relative actions in the region.

Mediterranean Groundwater WG (2007-2009)

Final output of the second phase:

A report which will include a description and analysis of the most significant problems and challenges for the Mediterranean as well as technical specifications and specific recommendations on various groundwater protection, conservation and management measures, methodologies and techniques for optimal groundwater exploitation and pollution control in the region

Mediterranean Groundwater WG (2007-2009)

Links with other activities:

- The Mediterranean Groundwater WG will provide information, examples and experiences on good management practices to the WG C and more specifically to the Activity WGC-3 "Integrated Risk Assessment and Management (IRAM)" → Written Contribution expected
- Close links will also be established with all the WGs developed under the second phase (2007-2009) of the Mediterranean EUWI/WFD Joint Process: Water Scarcity and Drought, Linking rural development with water management, Waste water reuse, Shared water resources management, Water monitoring