

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

**Strategic Partnership on
Water for Sustainable Development**

Lead Country: Greece

MED EUWI

PROGRESS REPORT

February 2003 – May 2005

May 2005

1. Background

The Mediterranean Component (MED EUWI) is an integral part of the EU WI and shares its overall objectives, aiming to:

- assist 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 and mobilization of new financial resources and,
- enhanced cooperation for project's proper implementation, based on peer review and strategic assessment.

MED EU WI, announced during WSSD, currently runs its Design Phase, giving particular emphasis to Mediterranean and Southeastern Europe priorities.

2. Thematic Areas

The MED EU WI focuses on the following Themes:

- Water supply and sanitation, with emphasis on the poorest part of the societies
- Integrated water resources management, with emphasis on management of transboundary water bodies
- Water, food and environment interaction, with emphasis on fragile ecosystems
- Non-conventional water resources

while as horizontal Themes are identified

- Transfer of technology, transfer of know how, capacity building and training
- Education

Key areas where the MED EUWI could make a difference are likely to include:

- Promoting water as a cornerstone of sustainable development
- Raising the programmatic profile of water in PRSPs and NSSDs of partner countries
- Coordinating funding for water in a better way among the partners of the Initiative
- Linking together the wide range of financing ideas, networks and mechanisms that currently exist for water in the Mediterranean and Southeastern Europe so as to cover gaps and needs in partner countries
- Supporting better project preparation facilities
- Supporting the elaboration of a wider range of models for water sector restructuring in addition to involving private sector participation by competent international operators.

3. Partner Countries – Actors – Modalities

The area of activity of MED EUWI comprises, the following *partner countries* :

In the Mediterranean – Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Turkey, Tunisia.

In the South East Europe – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Romania, Serbia and Montenegro.

MED EUWI is open to all partners willing to commit to the objectives, targets, and guiding principles, having genuine willingness to work with others seeking practical solutions. Partnership refers to partnership between the EU and the Mediterranean and Southeastern European countries as well as partnership between government, civil society and the private sector. Non-EU donors and international organisations (including the OECD, UN Organisations and Agencies, IFIs etc) are also invited and encouraged to join the Initiative.

In line with the general Organisational Framework and Modalities for the EUWI, an open-ended regional Multi-Stakeholder Working Group in the form of a Forum (RMStF) assists in the development and designing of the MED EU WI and of its priorities for action. The RMStF has met three times so far, on 17 February 2003, 20 June 2003 and on 17 March 2004. The Component is led by the government of Greece (Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Foreign Affairs) while the MED EUWI Secretariat has been undertaken by the GWP-Mediterranean Secretariat.

Moreover, following a Call for Building Blocks, the Component encompasses a series of Building Blocks (networks, alliances or programmes and projects, which are either on-going, planned or under preparation) that aim to be brought in the process by various partners and donors so that synergies and complementarities are developed. Financial support to building blocks could rely on individual donors according to interest.

4. Finances

Options and opportunities for financing such a long-term and multi-activity programme are explored by the Lead country and the Component's Secretariat. Bilateral discussions with involved DGs of the EU Commission as well as interested Member States and IFIs are underway in order to secure viable financial support for the Component's activities. To complement these efforts, donors' meetings are also envisaged.

5. Political Commitment

Political commitment for the development of MED EUWI has been already expressed at various Ministerial Conferences and Meetings, inter alia: the EU Informal Council of Environment Ministers (May 2003, Athens), 5th Pan-European Ministerial Conference of the "Environment for Europe" process (May 2003, Kiev), Euro-Mediterranean Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs (May 2003, Crete), two meetings of the North African Ministers Council on Water (February and October 2003, Cairo) as well as at the EU Council of Environment Ministers (December 2003), etc.

6. Activities within the MED EUWI Preparatory Phase and first stages of the Implementation Phase

Within the period February 2003 – May 2005, activities undertaken aiming to reach consensus on the objectives and modalities of the Component, develop a sound background, secure political commitment and raise awareness, as well as promote implementation of preliminary but concrete activities on the ground, include the following:

1. *Meeting with Ministers of the North African countries (sub-regional NAMCOW), 6 February 2003, Cairo, organized by GWP-Med and CEDARE* – presentation made and feedback received. The NAMCOW Ministers have recommended a set of actions for the sub-region within the MED EUWI.

2. *Kick-Off Meeting of the Multi-Stakeholder Forum of the Mediterranean Component, 17 February 2003, Brussels* – presentation of a Concept Note on the MED EUWI, feedback for the development of the MED EUWI received. The Minutes of the Meeting are available. Discussions mainly focused on the need to raise the profile of issues related to agriculture, environmental protection and food security and their linkages to water in the Region within the Component's work, on the lack of comprehensive data on financial flows to partner countries in the Region and the need to compile an inventory of previous and future/channelled ODA flows, as well as on the need to develop specific demonstrations and twinning projects for identified for river basins in the Region that would enable implementation of the IWRM approach on the ground level.

3. *Presentations at the 3rd World Water Forum, 16-23 March 2003, Kyoto, during the (a) 'Day of Europe', (b) 'Day of Middle East and Mediterranean', (c) Ministerial Conference* – reaffirming political will for further developing and implementing the EUWI and particularly the MED EUWI, awareness raising. Discussions during the Day of Europe where the EUWI and all its Components were presented placed emphasis on the common commitments of the EU and its partners: The EU needs to enhance coordination and increase financial and development assistance to the water sector and partner countries need to prioritise and include water as an integral part of their NSSDs and PRSPs.

4. *Presentation at the CSD Meeting, 28 April-8 May 2003, New York* – reaffirmation of political will, awareness raising. Progress on the EUWI and presentation of the concrete actions undertaken under its various Components and particularly the MED EUWI were discussed during the side event organized by the Commission on 28 April.

5. *EU Informal Council of Environment Ministers, 3-4 May 2003, Lagonissi, Athens*, – water resources management in South East Europe was one of the two major issues discussed. The Meeting was attended by the enlarged EU (25 countries), by the Ministers of South East Europe countries and the EU Commissioner for Environment. EU Ministers stressed the importance of promoting an efficient subregional cooperation in South East Europe and the Mediterranean by intensifying transboundary cooperation on environmental matters and encouraging common work on transboundary waters, using water as a catalyst and a means for conflict prevention. It was agreed that concerted activities on water that need to be developed in the Region should be in the framework of the MED EUWI providing an important formal support to Component.

6. *International Conference on "Sustainable Development for Lasting Peace: Shared Water, Shared Future, Shared Knowledge", 6-7 May 2003, Vouliagmeni, Athens, organised by Greece and the World Bank*. Cooperation for the management of transboundary water bodies and aquifers in the South East Europe and the Mediterranean was the priority theme of the Conference, The Conference contributed in reviewing the knowledge base, in assessing opportunities and constraints and in shaping recommendations, with an emphasis on cooperation for sustainable development, peace and stability. The Declaration of the Conference is a substantial contribution to the development of the MED EUWI and it foreseen that its follow up activities, especially with regard to the assessment of regional and national frameworks for implementation of IWRM in countries of SEE and the Med and the initiation of a specific framework program for drafting IWRM and water use efficiency plans for major rivers and lakes in SEE, will be part of the Component.

7. *5th Pan-European Ministerial Conference of the "Environment for Europe" process, 21-23 May, Kiev*. The Ministerial Declaration of the Conference welcomes the initiatives of countries of SEE and the Med, in the context of the MED EUWI, to promote peaceful and productive cooperation by promoting IWRM approaches for transboundary waters. The EU Statements made during the Conference also included reference to the various aforementioned events related to the SEE and the MED EUWI.

8. *Presentation at the Euro-Mediterranean Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, 26-27 May 2003, Crete* – raise of political will. The Meeting was attended by the Ministers of the Euro-Mediterranean and South East Europe countries.

9. *Preparation of an Operation Plan*, describing the context, basic content and proposed structure of the MED EUWI as well as the steps to be taken until the end of 2003. Within the Operation Plan, a Call for Building Blocks was launched aiming to collect by the end of 2003 a first pile of on-going and new projects that consist the start-up working platform of the MED EUWI. The Operation Plan was launched during the Hellenic Water Week, 17-20 June.

10. *MED EUWI Session during the EU Green Week, 5 June 2003, Brussels – awareness*

11. *Hellenic Water Week, 17-20 June 2003, Athens, organized by Greece and the Commission of the European Union.*

- 11.a. *Regional Seminar on the 'Implementation of the Water Framework Directive in the European Union and beyond', 18-19 June 2003, Athens*

The meeting shared experiences from the EU Member States on the development and implementation process of the WFD, as well as from neighboring countries of the region, which share transboundary waters and/or have bilateral and multi-lateral agreements with the EU. The meeting explored the usefulness of the WFD as an eventual model or target for other countries of the region to formulate compatible frameworks. The outcomes of the meeting assisted in enriching the knowledge base of the MED EUWI.

- 11.b. *Regional Seminar on the 'Development of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative', 20 June 2003, Athens.*

The Regional Workshop

- presented to an international audience the scope, structure and scheduled activities of the EU WI

- presented the achievements of the Preparatory Phase of the MED EU WI

- discussed an Operation Plan for the development of the MED EU WI

- elaborated on the different Themes of the MED EU WI, with expression of commitment, suggestions of concrete actions (*building blocks, demonstrations projects*) and development of synergies by different players.

12. *Meeting with officers of the EU Commission, 10 September 2003, Brussels.* The meeting aimed to review the current status of the MED EUWI and plans until the completion of the Design Phase and to discuss and identify appropriate means for making the MED EUWI fully operational within the first semester of 2004.

13. *Meeting with Ministers of the North African countries (sub-regional NAMCOW), 18 October 2003, Cairo, organized by GWP-Med and CEDARE – presentation made and feedback received.* The NAMCOW Ministers have expressed their willingness to actively cooperate with Greece and the EU in order to raise the momentum concerning the MED EUWI, to support efforts for funds raising to finance activities within the MED EUWI as well as to cooperate in finding synergies and prioritizing needs for the sub-region within the Component.

14. *International Symposium of the Euro-Mediterranean Institute entitled "The Mediterranean issues: Water between peace and war", 5-6 November 2003, Paris – Presentation/Distribution of information material on the Mediterranean Component*

15. *'Water Days' - Regional Seminar on the Water Framework Directive organized by the Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations (MENBO), 10-13 November 2003, Valencia, Spain.* 123 participants from 19 countries attended the event – Presentation / Distribution of information material.

16. *Second Meeting of the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD), 13-14 December 2003, Murcia – Presentation / Distribution of information material.* The promotion of the Mediterranean Component at national level by the MPs was included as a task in the COMPSUD Activity Plan 2004-2005. COMPSUD consists of 32 MPs from 13 Mediterranean countries. The Murcia workshop was attended by 21 MPs

from 13 countries, 40 representatives of stakeholders' group, 5 international journalists and representatives of the local press.

17. EU Council of Environment Ministers, 22 December 2003, Brussels - Announcement by Greece aiming at expressing political will and commitment for further developing the Component, raising awareness among partners, informing Ministers on the progress achieved over the period Jan. '03- Dec. '03 and on planned activities for the future as well as stressing the need for mobilizing additional resources for achieving early and tangible results under the Component.

18. Compilation of the first list of building blocks, January 2004 – following the related Call, 28 building blocks were received so far by a variety of stakeholders. The number and mostly the content of building blocks received does not allow for an in-depth analysis at this stage. It has to be noted that the initial approach regarding building blocks is under discussion and revision within the overall EUWI, fact that discouraged wider advertisement and promotion of the Call for Building Blocks to competent stakeholders. Nevertheless, the building blocks submitted constitute a valuable base for further and more systematic development of the approach.

19. Continue cooperation with the World Bank aiming to pursue implementation of the recommendations made at the International Conference on “Sustainable Development for Lasting Peace: Shared waters, shared future, shared knowledge” (5-6 May 2003, Vouliagmeni, Athens) with emphasis on initiating a programme for drafting IWRM and water use efficiency plans in the same area. A start-up project, which is also strongly linked with the Petersberg Process, and focuses on capacity building and information sharing for IWRM planning in Southeastern Europe, is in an advanced stage of negotiation with GEF IW:LEARN and would be linked with the Component's activities.

20. Brief Assessment of water aid flows to the Mediterranean and South East Europe, February-March 2004 - the study seek to elaborate on development aid and other financial assistance provided by the EU Member States (as ODA), the EU Commission, other development agencies and out-of-region donors, IFIs and Development Banks to the Mediterranean and Balkan countries and regional projects. This brief assessment that is being conducted in cooperation with the OECD (Secretariat of the EAP Task Force) using existing tools and data (eg DAC Database) might be used as the basis for a more detailed analysis at a second stage.

21. Development of the methodological framework for estimating the financial requirements for reaching the MDGs/WSSD water related targets in the region, February-March 2004- through this task, the methodology for estimating overall financial requirements for reaching the MDGs/WSSD water related targets will be developed, in terms of a project proposal or ToRs. This framework/approach will provide the basis for a more in-depth study at a later stage. ToR for the project has been developed by OECD (Secret. of the EAP Task Force).

22. Activity Plan 2004-2006, Mid March 2004 - based on the aforementioned products, the first draft of the Activity Plan 2004 -2006 of the MED EUWI has been developed, describing the type of interventions to be undertaken, also taking into areas of possible donor interest. The Activity Plan is built on a modular approach containing 8 key Objectives (3 thematic and 5 horizontal) with specific outputs under each objective. Objectives include initiation of programmes on (1) water supply and sanitation, with emphasis on the poorest part of the societies, (2) IWRM to support national and transboundary IWRM plans, (3) sustainable water use in agriculture and its integrated management for sensitive ecosystems, as well as, (4) strengthen underlying institutions and capacity building, (5) improve coordination between the actors involved in water resources management at country level, (6) enhance funding for supply, management and development of water resources and sanitation, (7)

improve transfer of technology and the use of existing and new scientific knowledge to achieve water related MDGs and (8) promote education on water issues. The draft Activity Plan 2004-2005 entails specific Outputs / Actions under each Objective.

The draft Activity Plan was presented and discussed at the overall 10th Multi-Stakeholder of the EU WI and the 3rd Mediterranean Multi-Stakeholder Forum (March 2004 - see under 23) and is currently further reviewed receiving comments and input from a range of involved parties. Moving forward with the implementation of the Plan will rely to a great extent on interest from individual donors and Agencies/Institutes.

23 3rd Meeting of the Mediterranean Multi-Stakeholder Forum of MED EUWI, 17 March 2004, Brussels - the meeting, attended by about 40 participants representing different stakeholders, elaborated on the contents of a draft Activity Plan 2004-2006, reviewed progress so far, further identified priority actions for the short- and medium-run and discussed mechanisms for enhancing partners' involvement. The meeting was held in conjunction with the 10th Multi-stakeholder Meeting of the EUWI (16 March 2004) and the Member-States Expert Group Meeting (15 March 2004).

24. Euro-Mediterranean Mid-Term Meeting of Foreign Ministers, 5-6 May 2004, Dublin, reference to the MED EUWI in the Meetings proceedings and renewal of support, interest and commitment.

25. Organisation of and participation in side-events and partnership presentations at the 12th Session of the Commission of Sustainable Development of the UN (UN CSD 12), 19-30 April 2004, New York, for the presentation of progress achieved regarding the Component to a wider audience, review set objectives for the next biennium, raise awareness and increase involvement of partners. MED EUWI was presented in the following events during the UN CSD Ministerial Segment:

- Partnership Fair Event on promoting strategic partnerships on water in the Mediterranean
29 April 2004, 10.00-11.25, Conference Room 6
Organised by the Hellenic Ministry for Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works and the Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean

- Side Event on progress achieved within the European Union's 'Water for Life' Initiative
29 April 2004, 13.15-14.45, Conference Room 1
Organised by the EU Commission

- Side Event on the Mediterranean response to WSSD commitments
29 April 2004, 18.15-19.45, Conference Room 1
Organised by the Hellenic Ministry for Environment Physical Planning and Public Works, Italian Ministry for Environment and Territory, UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan and Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development.

26. Organisation of and participation in special Session devoted to the Mediterranean Component of the EUWI at the Stockholm World Water Week, in the framework of the 11th Multi-stakeholder Forum, 15 August 2004, Stockholm as well as *Participation in special seminars organized by the European Commission on the linkages between the EUWI and the Water Framework Directive and dialogues with Stakeholders on the future of the EU WI, 16-17 August 2004, Stockholm*

The objectives, principles and scope of the MED EUWI were presented in detail as well as the progress achieved so far, through a panel discussion with participants from the Hellenic Ministry for the Environment, GWP-Med, Egypt, NGOs from partner countries and private sector. Panelist from partner countries and seminar participants stressed that great progress has been achieved and that the Activity Plan and Component's objectives, which have been

successfully formulated through participatory processes, are fully reflect their national and regional needs and priorities; however, progress is yet to be seen on the ground, an issue pending on further financial support to the Component from other partners. On 16 August, the European Commission together with lead country's representatives presented the objectives of a new initiative to be launched for linking the work to be undertaken in the context of the MED EUWI with the work to be promoted in the framework of the pilot projects of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60).

27. Participation in Workshop on the "Mediterranean Dimension of the Water Framework Directive's Pilot River Basins Network", 22-24 September 2004, Ostuni-Brindisi, Italy

The Objectives, structure and progress of the MED EUWI was presented in detail, to a wide audience of government representatives, NGOs, academia, PRB experts etc, during a Special Extra Session organized on 24 September aiming to steer the "Joint Process" on the Mediterranean particularities and IWRM needs between the Water Framework Directive and the MED EUWI, initiated by the European Commission with the support of Greece, in the context of the general "Enlargement Process" of the EU's policies. The session included presentations of major Mediterranean NGOs, Organisations and Networks on their planned activities on IWRM which will be incorporated in a "Road Map" elaborated jointly by the EU Commission and Greece, that will serve as a direct contribution of the Joint Process to the MED EUWI's Activity Plan, i.e. to the implementation of specific Objectives and Outputs of the Activity Plan related to IWRM. Following this Workshop, a "Call for Contributions" has been forwarded to involved partners inviting them to submit their activities with a direct linkage to the IWRM related Objectives of the MED EUWI Activity Plan. The outcomes of this exercise will be presented to both the EUWI Steering Group and WFD Water Directors Group for further guidance.

28. Organisation of Coordination Meeting between MED EUWI Lead Country and officers of the EU Commission, 18 October 2004, Brussels – the meeting reviewed MED EUWI progress, discussed next steps (institutional arrangements, priority actions, potential from EU sources, etc) and elaborated on the type of activities to prioritize in the MED EUWI Work Programme 2005.

29. Participation at the 1st Meeting of the Steering Committee of the EU Water Initiative, 19 October 2004, Brussels – the meeting discussed issues of the overall initiative as well as of regional and thematic components.

30. Participation at the 2nd Meeting of the Working Group of the Monitoring and Reporting (M/R) Component, 16 November 2004, Rome – MED EUWI follows closely and contributes to the works of the thematic M/R Component, led by Italy. The meeting discussed challenges of the Design Phase of the M/R Component. The importance of creating operational links with the regional components, among them MED EUWI, was emphasized.

31. Participation at the Multi-Stakeholder Consultation with the EU on Advancing the Human Settlements, Sanitation and Water Agendas at CSD-13, 13 December 2004, Brussels – the consultation reviewed EU progress and contribution in meeting MDGs/WSSD targets and discussed opportunities and challenges in view of CSD-13, April 2005. Contributions and ways for enhancing these agendas in the Mediterranean through MED EUWI were presented at the Working Group on Water.

32. Preparation of the MED EUWI Work Programme 2005 – the regional yearly programme focuses on eight (8) specific Activities at the country and regional levels. For the country activities, division is also made to those that will be implemented in South & East Mediterranean counties and those aimed for Southeastern European countries. The Activities foreseen correspond to five (5) programmatic objectives, out of the nine (9) Objectives elaborated in the regional three-year Activity Plan.

33. *Preparation of the MED EUWI Organizational Framework and Modalities document* – the document describes the overall structure of MED EUWI as well as the functions and membership synthesis of its bodies ie. the MED EUWI Multistakeholder Forum, Working Group, Lead Country and Co-Chairs and Secretariat. It also refers to the decision making process as well as to basic financial issues.

34. *Preparation of a MED EUWI Concept and Vision Note* – the note describes briefly the overall objectives, approaches, strategic synergies and orientations of MED EUWI.

35. *Organisation of the 4th Meeting of the Mediterranean Multi-Stakeholder Forum / Working Group, 17 January 2005, Brussels* – the meeting discussed and approved the MED EUWI Concept and Vision Note, the Organisational Framework and Modalities and the Work Programme 2005.

36. *Meeting with EU Commissioner Stavros Dimas and his Cabinet, 17 January 2005, Brussels* – follow up steps and ways of further political and financial support by the EU Commission to MED EUWI were discussed.

37. *Participation at the 2nd Meeting of the Steering Committee of the EU Water Initiative, 18 January 2005, Brussels* – the meeting discussed issues of the overall initiative as well as of regional and thematic components. Among other, the meeting approved the MED EUWI Organisational Framework and Modalities as well as the Work Programme 2005.

38. *Participation at the 3rd Meeting of the Working Group of the Monitoring and Reporting (M/R) Component, 19 January 2005, Brussels* – MED EUWI is following closely and contributes to the works of the 'horizontal' M/R Component under the leadership of Italy.

39. *Initiation of activities within the MED EUWI Work Programme 2005, February – March 2005*. Some activities were initiated and are in progress, according to the regional Work Programme. Financial support to initiate the entire set of activities is still pending.

40. *Participation in side-event organized by the European Commission on the "EU Water Initiative" during the 13th Session of the Commission of Sustainable Development of the UN (UN CSD 13), 11-22 April 2005, New York*. The Side Event's panel speakers included EU Environment Commissioner S. Dimas, Minister Lepeltier from France, Minister Abu Zeid from Egypt as a representative of the AMCOW and Ambassador Vassilakis representing Greece. Ambassador Vassilakis, in his statement, emphasized the particular needs of the Mediterranean as a highly water scarce area, presented the objectives of the MED EUWI and the approach followed for its development through a transparent and inclusive multistakeholder process as well as the key activities that have been designed for initiating its implementation phase that aim at strengthening synergies with partners, avoiding duplication and highlighting gaps and needs. A detailed reference was also made to the Mediterranean Joint Process linking the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive with the MED EUWI aiming at reinforcing the cooperation between EU and non-EU partners to achieve a Homogeneous Vision for water management, shared among all neighboring states in the area.

Aiming to raise awareness, the concept of the EUWI and the MED EUWI was also presented in a series of other regional and international events.

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