

The Euro-Mediterranean information system on know-how in the water sector (EMWIS / SEMIDE)

Objective

EMWIS seeks to facilitate access to existing information on know-how in the water sector. It promotes sharing useful information from different institutions and stimulates the development of co-operation programmes at the regional and national levels.

How does EMWIS work?

EMWIS is providing validated water information using the Internet in a decentralised way. The project supports and encourages the partners in the Mediterranean area to establish their own water information systems. The information is not put in a common database but remains at the level of the providers. Each information source will guarantee the quality, updating and the reliability of the information. This approach is followed in Latin America by SIAGUA and in Africa by AWIS.



EMWIS has a central Technical Unit and a National Focal Point in each country. The central Technical Unit is based in France and is a permanent structure. The National Focal Points are small teams within a public or semi governmental organisation in charge of the collection and dissemination of information related to the water sector. Together with the National Focal Points, the Technical Unit prepares implementation strategies and annual action plans and it supports the National Focal Points in their implementation.

Added value

EMWIS has been the first operational initiative and co-operation system of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership in the water sector at the regional level. It provides a framework for cooperation between national water authorities around the Mediterranean area. EMWIS is acting as a public access point for water information and facilitates the exchange of experiences and the access to water knowledge. In the longer term, the development of National Water Information Systems initiated by the project will allow for better water management and creates a mechanism to monitor the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development in the field of water and sanitation.

Project partners

EMWIS works with 10 institutions from the MEDA countries Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey and 10 institutions from the EU countries Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal and Spain. The project is coordinated by UT SEMIDE, a specially created consortium of 3 institutions from the EU countries France, Italy and Spain.



Total Budget: € 3.33 million
Duration: 36 months
Estimated end: November 2006