



Euro-Mediterranean Information System on the know-how in the Water Sector EMWIS is a program of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

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HEADLINE

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1. **The Water Development Department (WDD) of Cyprus** is one of 20 existing **EMWIS National Focal Point (NFP)**. To raise the awareness of the national water community on the importance of sharing information, and to promote the System, the WDD, under the Authority of the minister of agriculture natural resources environment, is organising an **Information Seminar** in Nicosia (Cyprus) the 29th October, 2004. It will also be the opportunity to review MEDA-Water projects implemented in Cyprus. [Click here](#) for more information.

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IN BRIEF

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2. **Information and training seminar for EMWIS data managers** will be held in Madrid between 22nd and 25th of November 2004. The main objective is to define common metadata to allow exchanges or aggregation of “water information” among the National Focal Points (NFP) and to evaluate the use of a common multilingual water thesaurus. It will also be the opportunity to review the progress of the EMWIS thematic studies and more specially the one related to the interest of the EU Water Frame Work Directive for the Mediterranean Partner Countries. [Click here](#) for more information.

3. The EMWIS has published **updated leaflets** in 3 languages: [English](#), [French](#), and [Arabic](#). Click on each language to get it.

4. The EMWIS Technical Unit is preparing a brief review of existing **water glossaries and thesaurus** to be published on EMWIS website. On the basis of this review, EMWIS will analyze the potential use of some of these resources in the EMWIS framework, i.e. to facilitate indexing and searching. A preliminary list of resources identified can be consulted on the EMWIS public forum. Comments on these resources (additional information, user feed-back) or additional resources are welcome. [Click here](#) to view it.

5. **The MEDA National Indicative Programme (NIP) 2005-2006 for Syria** was signed on 12 October in Damascus by Syrian government and the European Commission. The NIP means € 80 million of MEDA funds for co-operation in areas as diverse as Private Sector Development, Trade, **Water**, Higher Education, and Civil Society. For further details [click here](#).

6. Plans to use sea water to irrigate the parched southern parts of **Spain** have been revealed by the country's Environment Minister, **Cristina Narbona**. **Desalination plants** will use the vast natural resources provided by the Mediterranean Sea to provide irrigation

and fresh water to Valencia and Murcia, where nearby rivers and reservoirs have been unable to meet demands. The end product will be priced according to its intended purpose, with farmers paying the least and golf clubs the highest fee. [Click here](#) for more information. (By Jane Kettle)

7. **Morocco** has allotted **€280 millions** to fund drinking water and sanitation projects. This amount will be invested in towns and villages where the access to drinking water is 54% for the year 2003. The production of drinking water by the ONEP has achieved on the year 2003 696 millions m³, among them 481.2 millions m³ have been sold to the distributors, and the rest has been distributed directly by the Moroccan Office. For further information, [click here](#). (Jeune Afrique)

8. **Greek authorities** ordered 100.000 drinking fountains to be disconnected following the discovery of high levels of cadmium, an extremely toxic metal, in several of the appliances. The Hellenic Food Authority, the country's sanitary control authority, also asked all owners of fountains to send water samples for analysis. The government just finished installing thousands of water fountains around Athens and at all sporting venues ahead of the Olympics and Paralympics. 6% of the **557 water fountains** that were checked in June have been found to contain the toxic metal in excess of the safety level. For further information [click here](#).

9. Amended Legal Regulations for Hygienic Criteria Applicable for **Drinking Water and Quality Control in Slovakia** to follow the EU Water Framework Directive. For more information [click here](#).

10. The EC supports 109 environmental innovation projects with **€76 million**. The EC has approved **funding for 109 environmental innovation projects** in 18 Member States under **the LIFE Environment programme 2004**. The projects apply ground-breaking technologies to tackle environmental problems in several areas, thus contributing to improving Europe's environment. LIFE Environment is one of three funding strands under the EU's environmental funding programme LIFE whose goal is to support the implementation of EU environmental policies and legislation. Funding under LIFE approved in 2004 totals **€160 million**. For further details [click here](#).

11. Minute amounts of organic pollutants—including oestrone - can now be detected in **river water** as a result of a new optical sensing instrument realised in a project funded by the EU's Environment Programme. For further information, [click here](#).

12. Until 2007, **MEDA** will remain the main financial assistance instruments for partner countries of the south and eastern Mediterranean. It will provide support for the **European Neighbourhood Policy** (ENP) and in particular for the implementation of the Action Plans. Starting from 2007, the new European Neighbourhood Instrument will replace MEDA to support cross border co-operation as well as regional co-operation projects involving both EU member states and partner countries in the Mediterranean region. For more information [click here](#).

13. The European Commission has proposed a new simple and streamlined funding programme for the environment. It will come into place in 2007 when the EU's new budgetary period begins. The new programme called "**LIFE+**" (LIFE plus) would become the EU's single financial instrument targeting only the environment. LIFE+ should closely support the priorities of the 6th Environment Action Programme (2002-2012) which are to

combat climate change, to halt the decline in bio-diversity, to minimise negative environmental effects on human health, and to deal with natural resources and waste in sustainable ways. The Commission has proposed to commit a total of **€2.19 billion** from 2007 to 2013. For more information [click here](#).

14. The EC and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) announced that they will strengthen their **cooperation to fight global threats to the environment** more effectively. The agreement takes the form of a Memorandum of Understanding that will reinforce policy dialogue and collaboration at all levels between UNEP and the Commission. This co-operation will support sustainable consumption and production, biodiversity, **water** and sanitation, renewable energy and chemicals. For further information [click here](#).

15. **EMPOWERS** one of the **MEDA WATER** projects organises a **Training Workshop on Participatory Integrated Water Resources Management**, which will be held between 12 and 17 February 2005 in Beirut (Lebanon). Applications must be sent to **INWRDAM** only by fax or airmail before **November 31st, 2004**. For more information [click here](#).

16. The **AQUALIBRIUM project** was carried out in 2002 as part of the 5th Framework Programme of European Research Policy. The aim was to summarise the current debates on the role of private operators against the different national backgrounds of **water services management** in order to gain some insight in the factors influencing the various interests and assessments articulated in the discussion. For more information [click here](#).

17. The EC has just funded a 5 years Integrated Project on Flood Risk Management under **the 6th framework research programme**. The FLOOD site Project covers the physical, environmental, ecological and socio-economic aspects of floods from rivers, estuaries and the sea. For more information on this research work [click here](#).

18. At the end of September, the European Commission and Italian authorities organized a 3 days workshop on sharing **Mediterranean Pilot River Basins (PRB)** experiences and discussion on concepts of **river basin management plans** as drivers for integrated resource management. Significant contributions were made to open a dialog between experts of the EU and the Mediterranean Partner Countries around some identified themes of the **EU Water Framework Directive**. Follow-up actions should be launched within the Med component of the **EU Water Initiative**. [Click here](#) to view workshop page on EMWIS site.

19. European Space Agency gives green light to funding for GMES (**Global Monitoring for Environment and Security**), in Cornwall on 21 and 22 September. An agreement was reached at this meeting among ESA's Member States to release a total of **€80m** to fund the next stage of the ESA component of the European GMES initiative. More importantly, the Board gave the green light to the start of work on the space component of GMES by approving **€30m** for preparatory activities comprising architecture studies, ground segment design and initial definition studies for the five "sentinels" which will be the backbone of the future European Earth Observation System to monitor the environment. For more information [click here](#).

20. Hosted by **the International Rivers Network (IRN)** the list serve will focus on the role of International Financial Institutions (IFIs) in promoting and developing large dams. It will disseminate information from IRN, other NGOs, financial institutions, and the media. It will

be information and not a discussion list. To subscribe send an email to [IFI](#) with 'subscribe' as the subject.

21. **The World Water Congress & Exhibition** held in Marrakech (**Morocco**) on last September has concluded with the launch of the Bonn Charter for **Safe Drinking Water** as part of the world water congress. For more details [click here](#). At the same time, the website of this congress has published the opening keynote speech of John Briscoe (World Bank). [Click here](#) to download it.

22. **The 2nd Alternative World Water Forum** will be held on the 18th and 19th March 2005 in Geneva, Switzerland. The Forum's key objective is to further develop and promote institutions and public policy that will finally provide access to potable for all human beings and have water management done in a democratic, united and sustainable manner. For more information [click here](#).

23. Delivered off campus using a **web-based virtual learning environment**, and with a short introductory workshop at the outset and before the final project, this **MSc programme** that will be held in Staffordshire University (UK) provides a clear understanding of how '**environmental management**' applies to **the aquatic environment**. It covers **drinking water** and **wastewater treatment process/technology**, air pollution regulation and control, solid waste management and disposal and contaminated land management and remediation. To apply online [click here](#), and for further information [click here](#), or contact Dr. [Glynn Skerratt](#).

24. Getting expertise where it is needed in **wastewater treatment** is the goal of [TELEMAC](#), which has developed remote, and local monitoring and control solutions so industries can obtain all the benefits of anaerobic waste treatment while minimising costs and complications. For more information [click here](#).

25. The EC's Joint Research Centre (JRC) is to gain real-time access to the weather forecasts of the European centre for medium range weather forecasts (ECMWF), following the signing of a cooperation agreement. The data is to be used primarily to develop a **system for early flood warnings**. For further information, [click here](#).

26. The EPANET calculating model is considered to be the world standard of calculating models for **water main networks**. It is available free of charge and the users thereof may enter a chat group in the internet. EPANET is a core of commercial models, as e.g. WATERCAD and CYBERNET or MikeNet (Odula). For more information [click here](#).

27. Since the second half of 2002, protection zones of **water resources** have been determined according to a new legal regulation – the Act of the **Slovak Ministry of Environment**. For unified interpretation of this legal norm and for unified procedure in application thereof in practice, a methodological instruction was prepared in 2003. For more information [click here](#).

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NOMINATIONS & VACANCIES
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28. **Algeria:** Mr. **Abdelmajid Chadi** has been nominated new Water General Director. This post was previously held by Mr. Abderahmane Saidi.

29. **Spain:** Mr. **Jaime Palop Piqueras** has been nominated new Water General Director after the demission of Mr. Juan López Martos ex-Water Director due to sanitary reasons. Jaime Palop was nominated on 30th of April president of The Hydrographic Confederation of "Guadalquivir".

30. **Mr. Stavros Dimas** will be Europe's next **environment commissioner**. The former Greek government minister is to take over the role of environment commissioner from Margot Wallstrom on **November 1, 2004**.

31. **Ms. Benita Ferrero-Waldner**; Austria's former foreign minister arrives in Brussels as the new European Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy. This high profile post, was previously held by UK commissioner Chris Patten. [Click here](#) to view the new European Commissioners.

32. Ms. **Tea Tornros** from SYKE has joined the **SMAP/RMSU** (Short and Medium-term priority environmental Action Programme/Regional Management and Support Unit) in Rome as new Project Manager, filling the position left vacant by Mr. Erkki Siirila. Previously, Ms. Tornros worked in the International Consulting services of the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE).

33. By decision of EWA's Management Committee, **Johannes Lohaus**, Acting Managing Director of ATV-DVWK (German Association for Water, Wastewater and Waste – soon to become DWA) has from October 1st 2004 been appointed **new General Secretary for EWA** (European Water Association) for an interim period till the Management Committee of EWA meets in April 2005. For further information [click here](#).

34. **Hydrologist, Land and Water (United Kingdom):** Suitable candidates will hold an MSc in Hydrology, with membership of CIWEM or equivalent. They should have 7-15 years experience in hydrology. The deadline for submission of proposals is **15 November 2004**. For further information, [click here](#).

35. **Vacancy at EWA** ([European Water Association](#)): EWA wishes to appoint a Technical Management Assistant who will be accountable to the Secretary General. The main purpose of the post is to provide a management and administrative focus for the organisation, but with some technical awareness and understanding. Closing date for applications is **12/11/2004**. For further information, [click here](#).

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PUBLICATIONS
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36. At the 12th session of the [UN Commission on Sustainable Development \(CSD-12\)](#) in April 2004, **water, sanitation and human settlement issues** were brought to the forefront of the international agenda. A half-day seminar at last month's World Water Week in Stockholm discussed the preparations for CSD-13 in April 2005, the way forward and how to overcome the obstacles and challenges to reach the targets on water, sanitation and human settlements. The **Seminar Report** is now available. [Click here](#) to download it.

37. Revised version of "[WHO Guidelines for drinking-water quality](#)" has been published. WHO issues revised drinking water guidelines to help prevent water-related outbreaks and disease. "This third edition of the WHO Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality is the most significant water-related public health development since the introduction of chlorine. The Guidelines' requirement for drinking water safety plans should be incorporated in regulations across the world," says Dr Michael Rouse, President of the International Water Association (IWA). To download this edition, [click here](#).

38. **The World Water and Climate Atlas of the International Water Management Institute** (IWMI) provides online access to global climate and moisture maps. At the core of the Atlas are data recorded by weather stations around the world during the period 1961–1990. The data can be extracted in summary, manipulated using the Atlas software, or exported in a standardized format for use in other applications. For more information, [click here](#).

39. The Meeting the MDG **drinking-water and sanitation target** has published a report. This report, produced by the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme on Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP), provides the latest estimates and trends on where we stand today. The JMP's estimates are critical for calculating rates of progress towards national goals and for highlighting priorities, especially those that target the underserved. [Click here](#) to download it. You can also download related documents, [click here](#).

40. The 6th Meeting of **SMAP** Correspondents held in June 2004 in Brussels has published all the related documents. [Click here](#) to check it.

41. The conclusions of the symposium "Water as a catalyst for peace" organised by the UNESCO in Zaragoza in support of Zaragoza candidature to [Expo 2008](#) has been published. [Click here](#) to download the Spanish version.

42. A new publication of the **Global Issue papers** n°11 deals with the UN concept of **water as a human right** in the Arab countries of the Middle East (Egypt, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon) and it is meant to identify the main areas of concern in each country regarding water as a human right. For more information, [click here](#).

43. The [EGU](#) Production Office is giving up issues of **Hydrology and Earth System Sciences** for almost free, just the postage need to be paid. For further information [click here](#).

44. A new report has been published: "**Taking into Account Environmental Water Requirements in Global-scale Water Resources Assessments**". This report summarizes results of the first pilot global assessment of the total volume of water required for the maintenance of freshwater ecosystem functions in world river basins. These volumes are referred to as Environmental Water Requirements. [Click here](#) to download it.

45. Electronic Journal: **European Water Management Online** (EWMO): European Water Management Online (EWMO) is the e-journal of the European Water Association (EWA). Since the beginning of 2002 the electronic version of the EWA journal was adopted when it was decided to move from the hard copy journal «European Water Management» published since 1991 to a modern and easy way of communication through the Internet. For further information, [click here](#).

46. New issue of the international magazine "**Stockholm Water Front**" has been published. Stockholm Water Front is a quarterly, English-language magazine that spreads knowledge on important water and water-related issues. Stockholm Water Front presents a mix of popular scientific information and news reporting about the activities of the Stockholm International Water Institute. [Click here](#) to download the last issue.

47. A new book has been published by IWA Publishing (Editor: P.A. Vesilind) under the title: "**Wastewater treatment plant design**". Based on the Water Environment Federation's (WEF) MOP 8, Design of Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants, Wastewater Treatment Plant Design packages the most important design principles and professional experience in wastewater engineering into a useful and organized textbook. For further information [click here](#).

48. A new book of "Jean-Luc Martin-Lagardette" has been published by Johanet Editions, under the title: "**Drinking Water and Sanitation**". This small guide makes it possible to have a global vision on all the aspects of water management and sanitation and being accessible to the majority. It is a kind of mini-encyclopaedia of water, written with some pedagogy. For further information, [click here](#).

49. A new book has been published by Johanet Editions, under the title: "**Water guide: 2004-2005**". This work of more than 950 pages, makes available to its users a whole documentary part describing the missions and attributions of all the organizations being competent in the field of water at international level and in France. It is also available on CD format. For further information, [click here](#).

50. A new publication of "David G. Stevenson" under the title: "**Water Treatment Unit Processes**" has been published. This book is divided into three sections: the first reviews the main processes available for treating water for drinking (potable) purposes, the second goes into some detail about the design and operation of the non-filtration (clarification) processes, and the third deals exclusively with filtration and related applications. For further information, [click here](#).

51. A new book of "Arcadio P. Sincero", under the title: "**Physical-Chemical Treatment Of Water & Wastewater**" has been published. Water characterization, quantitation, and population projection are presented as preliminary topics. Chapters then cover unit operations such as flow measurements; flow and quality equalization; pumping; screening, sedimentation, and flotation; mixing and flocculation; conventional filtration and carbon adsorption; and aeration, adsorption, and stripping. To know more [click here](#).

52. A new publication of "H. Roques" under the title: "**Chemical Water Treatment: Principles & Practice**" has been published. This book is a comprehensive sourcebook on the chemistry and chemical treatment of natural water, wastewater, and water treatment adapted to various end uses. The systematic and complete coverage of water chemistry and water treatment will benefit both professional water chemists and university instructors. To know more [click here](#).

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CALL FOR TENDERS and PROPOSALS
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53. The **EMWIS Technical Unit** will launch soon a competitive negotiated tender procedure to carry-out **feasibility studies** to build or enhance existing [National Water Information Systems](#) in the Mediterranean Partner Countries (estimated budget: **€192.000**, see presentation to [Coordination Committee in Rabat](#), July 2004). Any interested organization should send a declaration of interest presenting its relevant expertise to the [EMWIS Technical Unit](#) in order to be invited to tender in **November 2004**.

54. Call for entries into the RSPB/CIWEM living wetlands award 2005: RSPB and CIWEM are calling for entries for **the 2005 Living Wetlands Award**. The prize includes **GBP 1.500** to enhance the winning scheme's impact and the closing date for entries for the 2005 Award is **30 November 2004**. All entries for the Award must contribute to the delivery of the priority targets on species and habitats for wetlands set out in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. They should also demonstrate sustainability and deliver multiple environmental benefits – for example flood alleviation, wastewater treatment, recreation, eco-tourism, or water resource security. [Click here](#) for more information.

55. **New deadlines for LIFE projects 2005**: Due to the delayed publication of the LIFE Regulation the indicative proposal submission dates for LIFE-Nature and LIFE-Environment Demonstration projects given on this website have been changed. There has been no change for LIFE- Environment - Preparatory actions and LIFE-Third Countries. The new dates are: LIFE-Nature (Submission to the national competent authorities: 30th November 2004, Submission by the national competent authorities to the European Commission : 7th January 2005); LIFE Environment - Demonstration projects (Submission to the national competent authorities: 30th November 2004, Submission by the national competent authorities to the European Commission: 14th January 2005). For more information [click here](#).

56. **The ACP Water Facility** has put available the guidelines for the **call for proposals** that is expected to be published soon and a presentation made at the consultation that was made to the Netherlands Water Partnership on the ACP Water Facility. [Click here](#) for more information.

57. A new **SMAP III** financing proposal has been presented for a **€15 million** environmental programme that will concentrate on technical assistance for the furthering of sustainable development policy as well as the preparation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management plans. This concentration on more limited goals than previous [SMAP](#) funding programmes was proposed in an effort of improving the effectiveness of SMAP funding. The first component is foreseen to be launched by the end of 2004, while the second during 2005. [Click here](#) to view the current programme summary.

58. Appointment of a Regional Monitoring and Supervision Unit to provide Monitoring Collection and Dissemination of Results of the [MEDA Water Projects](#). Reference: EuropeAid/120333/C/SV/Multi. Budget: €2.5 million. Status: Open until **05 November 2004**. For further information, [click here](#).

59. **EU funding for environment in candidates: Croatia & Turkey** are among the beneficiaries of newly-approved EU funding for preserving the environment. The European Commission designated projects eligible for aid under the EU's LIFE programme for 2004. **Albania** is also to receive funding: a project for sustainable traffic development in Tirana aims at improving the urban environment. The Commission also approved funding for 77 nature conservation projects under the LIFE Nature programme 2004, extending the EU-

wide Natura 2000 network of areas safeguarding important wildlife habitats and threatened species, including two projects in **Romania**. For more information [click here](#).

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CALL FOR PAPERS
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60. [Arid Lands Newsletter](#) No. 56 (November/December 2004) and No. 57 (May/June 2005): What are some of the strategies being developed to address these problems in the drylands of the world? What new innovations are being developed? How and where are various **water efficiency strategies** being applied? What additional steps need to be taken by individuals, the private sector, and the public sector to encourage more **efficient water use**? Articles are currently being solicited for No. 56 which will examine these questions in terms of urban and **industrial water use**, and for No. 57 which will examine them in terms of rural and agricultural water use. Proposals for papers, comments, suggestions for possible authors, suggestions for resources (web, paper, CD-ROM etc.) to be included, etc. in either of these issues, are welcome. Contact Ms. [Katherine Waser](#) or [click here](#).

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EVENTS
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2004-10-27/29 - International Workshop on Impacts of Large Dams, Istanbul, Turkey.
For more information, [click here](#).

2004-10-28/29 - VEDUNIA Congress 2004: From the Third Man to the Third Millennium
Vienna's sewage system of the future, Vienna, Austria.
For more information, [click here](#).

2004-10-29 - EMWIS Promotion Seminar, Nicosia, Cyprus.
For more information, [click here](#).

2004-10-30/31 - Workshop: «Water and the right, the right to Water», Calvi, France.
For more information, [click here](#).

2004-11-01 - The International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth
Observation organise the course: "**Advanced Use of Remote Sensing in Water
Resource Management, Irrigation and Drainage**". Starting date: 4 April 2005, Place:
Enschede, The Netherlands. Duration: 3 months, & application deadline: **1 November
2004**. For more information, [click here](#).

2004-11-03/05 - 4th Impact Project Workshop, Zaragoza, Spain.
For more information, [click here](#).

2004-11-10 - CIWEM Conference: Integrating Land-use & Water in practice, London, United Kingdom.

For more information, [click here](#).

2004-11-10 - FP6 financial management workshop, Cambridge, United Kingdom.

For more information, [click here](#).

2004-11-10/12 - 2nd European Flood Alert System (EFAS) workshop, Ispra, Italy.

For more information, [click here](#).

2004-11-15/17 - Membranes in Drinking and Industrial Water Production, L'Aquila, Italy.

For more information, [click here](#).

2004-11-19/23 - SIER2004: Water and risks into the Saharian context, Laghouat, Algeria.

For more information, [click here](#).

2004-11-22/26 - EMWIS seminar for data managers, Madrid, Spain.

For more information, [click here](#).

2004-11-25/26 - 4th International seminar and inter-disciplinary seminar of PCSI, Montpellier, France.

For more information, [click here](#).

2004-11-25/26 - UNESCO meeting to create The Water Cooperation Facility, Delft, The Netherlands.

For more information, [click here](#).

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