



EMWIS Flash - March 2005

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 Information Technologies managers of the [EMWIS National Focal Points](#) (NFP) met in Sophia-Antipolis (France) from **14 to 18 March 2005** for a training session dedicated to emerging techniques for distributed web applications (XML, web services, Enterprise Applications Integration, content syndication, open source). This seminar helped the NFP in improving their web site and in developing a longer term strategy for a better integration with the EMWIS framework and for the management of relations with existing national water information systems and applications. [See EMWIS website](#) for further information.

Up

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IN BRIEF

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2. **EMWIS** is carrying out a study related to the identification of topics of interest from **the EU Water Framework Directive WFD for non EU Countries around the Mediterranean Sea**. For this purpose **a questionnaire** has been sent to the Water directors of relevant countries. With the support of [MENBO](#), the same survey is also conducted among Basins organisations. It includes references and extensive explanations of the concepts. The EU WFD is being implemented by the 25 EU member states and will be a valuable guide for exchange of experiences and development aids. [See EMWIS website](#) to download the questionnaire or to know more about the WFD.

3. EMWIS NFP organise a **promotion seminar** in Rabat (Morocco) next **27-28 April 2005**. It will be also the occasion to highlight the role that **Geographical Information Systems (GIS)** play in **water management**. View [EMWIS website](#) for more information.

4. The Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations ([MENBO](#)) is organising jointly with the International Network of Basin Organisations (**INBO**) and the African Network of Basin Organisations (**ANBO**) an International Technical Seminar on **Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)** continuing the trend of the *Water Days* event celebrated in Valencia, November 2003, and [the Istanbul Symposium of November 2004](#). This event will take place in Marrakech (Morocco) next May 23rd-26th 2005, and it will be an ideal occasion to share common practices related to water management among the neighbouring regions of the Mediterranean and with an emphasis in North Africa. View more information at [the page of the meeting](#) in EMWIS website.

5. Industrialists, representatives of local authorities, and experts met from **15 to 17 March in Marseilles** (France) to discuss **the challenge of water for the Euro-Mediterranean region** at the **Hydrotop** Scientific and Technical Seminar organised in partnership with the MEDA supported Euro-Mediterranean Water Information System ([EMWIS](#)). A presentation was made of the **9 MEDA Water projects** by an EMWIS representative at the Seminar on 15 March. Check more information at [EMWIS website](#) or [Hydrotop website](#).

6. River basin planning and management is central to the **WFD**. Substantial progress is being made in EU Member States with early stages of **implementation of the WFD** and a number of the pre-accession states are also modifying their national legislation and procedures to come in line with the Directive. The conference that will be held on **19-20 May 2005** at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest, **Hungary**, will review progress to date, share experience and identify the possible issues which may arise as the WFD is implemented. For more information about the conference and exhibition [click here](#).

7. European Governments are doing little to implement changes to achieve the '**good status**' ratings for all waters as required under **the Water Framework Directive (WFD)**, environmental groups have claimed. A survey conducted by **the European Environmental Bureau (EEB)** and WWF on the implementation of key elements of the WFD - including the national transposition of

EU legal requirements, public participation, and assessment of the environmental condition and economics of water usage - found that a majority of respondents gave their governments a negative rating on water management. [Click here](#) to get the related document titled: "**EU Water Policy: Making the Water Framework Directive work**".

8. **The Malta Resources Authority** ([EMWIS NFP](#)) has launched a web-interface as part of the public consultation process in the implementation of **the groundwater aspects** of the [WFD](#). Currently the site contains information regarding the delineation and initial characterization of groundwater bodies within the Maltese RBD as well details on **the economic analysis of water use** and the setting up of **drinking water protected areas**. More details at [Malta Resources Authority website](#).

9. **Egypt and Iran** discussed recently ways of cooperation in **sharing experiences on new irrigation networks**. Iran`s Agriculture Minister **Jihad Mahmoud Hojjati** in a meeting with Egyptian Minister of Water and Irrigation Mahmoud Abdolhalim Abuzied referred to the Iran`s plans for expanding new and innovative ways of irrigation networks, "The consecutive droughts in Iran has caused us to devise and improve the irrigation system to make more efficient use of water sources," Hojjati underlined. More information at [IRIB news](#).

10. SNC-Lavalin has been awarded a **CAN\$750 million** fixed price contract by the Algerian Agence Nationale des Barrages to design and build a 600,000 m³/day water treatment plant and pumping station at Taksebt, about 100 km east of Algiers. The contract also includes the operation and maintenance of the facilities for a five-year period once construction is completed. More information at [SNC-Lavalin website](#).

11. **Ionics**, Incorporated (NYSE-[ION](#)), a global leader in water purification and wastewater treatment, is preparing a **seawater desalination project in Algeria** with a budget of **\$200 million**. More details at [Ionics website](#).

12. Tunisia's National Sanitation Office (ONAS) is enlisting the private sector in its efforts to build better sewers and stormwater drains, announced Director Nejb Abid. The cost of adding 3000 km of new drains, 40 treatment plants, dozens of pumping stations, and 200.000 new connection points nationwide will be around **600 million dinars in 2005/2006**. The first stage in the program will cover the cities of Mornaguia, Bouarada, Le Sers, Makthar, Jerissa, Meknessy, and Bouficha. ONAS hopes to place the construction and management of **2100 km of drains, 55 pumping stations, and 15 treatment plants** in private hands. More information at [SAHRA website](#).

13. A long-lasting drought threatens to disrupt **water supplies** for 10% of **Portugal's** roughly 10 million residents this year if it continues, according to a recent study. The regions most at risk are those in the centre and south of the country which rely mostly on **wells instead of dams** for their water, according to the study by water-regulator IRAR. Portugal is suffering its worst drought in decades. The country received an average of 542 millimetres (21.7 inches) of precipitation last year, compared with an average of 930 millimetres (37.2 inches) between 1961 and 1990, national weather office figures show. Further information at [Terradaily news](#).

14. A controversial project left dormant for 40 years has been resurrected. The damming of the Aposelemi stream in Potamies, **Crete**, is a major project aimed at solving **the water supply problems** of the town of Iraklion but it has sparked opposition. Experts and local residents fear it will cause widespread environmental damage that will jeopardize plans for developing some tourism. They also question its effectiveness in dealing with the water shortage. Then there is the financial aspect: The project is budgeted at **€586,9 million**, of which 158,5 million has been provided by European Union funds. Further information at [KATHIMERINI news](#).

15. Libya's [Great Man-Made River Project](#) is one of the world's most ambitious, yet largely unsung, infrastructure projects. It aims to bring Libya's pure desert waters, located in aquifers

discovered during the 1950s' quest for oil, to the main population centres on the Mediterranean coast. Further information at [Water conservation portal](#).

16. **EMPOWERS Partnership** in Jordan witnessed a major event on 24 February 2005 when four memorandums were signed off for the implementation of the first group of **pilot projects** in the selected local communities of the Balqa Governorate in **Jordan**. View more details at [EMPOWERS website](#).

17. **Henry Jakouloff, SMAP RMSU Project Manager**, has recently visited the Moroccan component of the SMAP project "[Implementation of a Photo Voltaic Water Pumping Programme in Mediterranean Countries](#)". The project area (42.000 km²) is located in the region of Ouarzazate, 29 PV water pumping stations have been installed in the area. Further information at [SMAP RMSU website](#).

18. "Coping with Drought & Water deficiencies: From Research to Policy Making" is the 4th major event organised in the context of **the ARID cluster** of the EU RTD FP5 program in 12-13 May 2005, which aims to strengthen the interaction between 3 individual projects (**Aquadapt, Medis, WaterStrategyMan**) addressing the water scarcity issue and to promote the sharing of results and methodologies, within the cluster and with the general public. The ARID cluster has been closely associated with a recent initiative undertaken by the EU Water Directors, in the context of the Common Implementation Strategy of the **WFD**, to examine the type of action necessary in this field at the European level. See [EMWIS news](#) for more information.

19. In the framework of a EU project, the first piece of good news comes from **French researchers** whose successful experiments using calcite filters show promising results in **reducing arsenic contamination in water**. Millions of people in Bangladesh have suffered arsenic poisoning through drinking contaminated water from wells. Dangerously high levels of arsenic are present in other parts of the world too. While developed countries have access to sophisticated water treatments, poorer ones need cheap and sustainable alternatives. Two developments bode well for finding a solution to this lethal problem. [Click here](#) for further information.

20. The method of "**water revitalisation**" developed by Johann Grander, a guru of **water treatment**, is said to be responsible for altered physical, microbiological, and even medical properties of the medium. These modifications are said to be induced by devices filled with "**information water**", which are either built into the water pipe or dipped directly into the water. This information water is also the basis of all the other product applications involving Grander Technology. [Click here](#) for further information.

21. The construction of **small and house waste water treatment stations** (WWTS) in current conditions is not simple. The assessment of individual plans should cover different conditions of the given location of construction, with reference to the sources of contamination, sewage network, contamination of the waste water, hygienic and water management requirements for the proposed technology of treatment of waste water and protection of the environment, and the requirements of the operation in order to ensure non-stop and flawless operation, observing the set indicators of admissible degree of contamination. See full article on WWTS in Slovakia at [Aquamedia](#).

22. A regional training workshop on **Participatory Integrated Water Resources Management** (IWRM) was held in Beirut (Lebanon) February 12-16th. The workshop was organized by the Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management ([INWRDAM](#)), in cooperation with the **EMPOWERS Partnership**. View more information at [EMPOWERS website](#).

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NOMINATIONS & VACANCIES

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23. **The World Water Council Board of Governors** unanimously elected its **new President, Loïc Fauchon**, on **March 19 in Rabat, Morocco**. He is the successor to Canadian **William Cosgrove** who left in January for a high-level position in the Environment with the government of Quebec. Mr. Loïc Fauchon is also president and general director of the Groupe des Eaux de Marseille.

24. **Nominations for WSSCC** (Water Supply & Sanitation Collaborative Council) **chairperson**, are open. The person to fill this position is supposed to be the figurehead of WSSCC, responsible for the performance of the Steering Committee, responsible for planning succession, to manage the boundary between governance and management, and to be the line manager for the Executive Director. Nominations should be sent to WSSCC Secretariat, [Tirza Kouwenberg](#) no later than **2nd April 2005**. [Click here](#) for further information.

25. The African Development Bank Group in Tunis (Tunisia) seek Senior water and sanitation engineers to provide technical advice/assistance to Regional Member Countries (RMCs). The deadline is: **4th April 2005**. [Click here](#) for further information.

26. GFE (Energy Management) is looking for Water and Sanitation experts. Candidates must hold an academic degree in engineering (in sanitation and/or water is a pre-condition). PhD is desired but not a pre-requisite and a combination of academic background and work experience can substitute. The interested are called to apply before the **30th April 2005**. [Click here](#) for further information.

27. [CIWEM](#), the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management, is seeking an exceptional and self-motivated individual to fill the post vacancy of **Director of International Development**. The successful candidate will work to establish CIWEM as a respected contributor to the international environmental agenda and to act as the Institution's link with its members, governmental bodies and environmental organisations overseas. The interested are called to apply before the **15th April 2005**. [Click here](#) for further information.

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PUBLICATIONS

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28. At the occasion of **the World Water Day on 22nd March**, which inaugurated the International Decade for Action 2005-2015: Water for Life. The World Francophone Information System for the sustainable development "**Médiaterre**" has launched a new thematic web site entirely dedicated to the question of Water. [Check this new portal](#).

29. The International Office of Water ([OIEAU: French EMWIS NFP](#)) publishes weekly an **electronic newsletter in French** ([Aqua@Veille](#)), with the most relevant events and information in the water sector. [Click here](#) for further information.

30. [FAO](#) and the Goethe University of Frankfurt am Main, Germany co-operated in the development and maintenance of a **global map of irrigated areas**. Irrigation maps were derived from project reports, irrigation sub-sector studies or books related to irrigation and drainage and were compared to satellite images in many regions. [Click here](#) for further information.

31. "**Competition and Economic Regulation in Water**" is the title of the last book of T. Ballance & A. Taylor. The Future of the European Water Industry reviews the main developments in economic regulation and competition in the European water industry and considers ways in which

economic regulation and competition should be further developed. The book focuses on the best means of regulating or introducing competition into the industry in light of its present structure. [Click here](#) for further information.