



EMWIS Flash - March 2006



**Euro-Mediterranean Information System on
the know-how in the Water Sector**

EMWIS is a program of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

For further information: www.emwis.org

**Monthly Flash produced by the EMWIS Technical Unit- [OIEAU](#), [CEDEX](#), [SOGESID](#)- with the support of
the [E.C.](#)**

[It is available in English, French & Arabic.](#)

Visualisation problem? [Click here](#)

=====

In this issue N°33

=====

HEADLINE

1. 4th World Water Forum: Creation and Development of shared Water Information Systems

IN BRIEF

2. 1st MEDA-WATER sectoral workshop: Synergy on waste water reuse
3. The WWC's Board of Governors selected Turkey as the host country for the 5th World Water Forum
4. Africa takes centre stage at the 4th world water forum in Mexico city
5. World Water Day - 22 March 2006
6. Space tool aids fight for clean drinking water
7. The WSSTP and the process of definition of the FP7 Environment Programme
8. The Euro-Mediterranean Science and Technology cooperation projects: Euro-Medanet/ Euro-Medanet2
9. FEMIP increases its support for development of the Mediterranean partner countries
10. INCO-MED: Improving water management near the Dead Sea
11. EC proposes concrete measures to deliver EU aid better and faster
12. LIFE+ powers up
13. Algerian National Water Information System in the water law
14. Belgium: Wastewater purified within 2 years in the northern periphery of Brussels
15. Netherlands: US officials learn from Dutch flood expertise
16. Romania becomes third ESA European Cooperating State
17. Saving the Danube Delta
18. Growth Projected For Europe/Middle East Industrial Water Recycling And Reuse Equipment Markets
19. "WASH Partnership" towards the Millennium Development Goals
20. EU to open projects to developing country scientists
21. South-South partnership to fight desertification
22. Four years on, Envisat hailed for its contribution to Earth science
23. Horizon 2020 - Depolluting the Mediterranean sea
24. Modelling & Managing Water Quality in Mediterranean River Basins
25. What are the latest best practices in water loss management?
26. Working towards Global Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation
27. Satellite flood mapping service strengthens eastern France civil protection

NOMINATIONS & VACANCIES

PUBLICATIONS

CALL FOR TENDERS and PROPOSALS

CALL FOR PAPERS

TRAINING

=====
HEADLINE
=====

1. The organization of **shared water Information Systems (IS)** allows the enhancing of existing data and information at the various levels of action with an overall approach which benefits to all the stakeholders. These information systems thus often constitute one of the priority tools to be implemented in order to support an efficient policy for water resources management and risk prevention. The [FT5-13 session](#) of the **4th World Water Forum** allowed to underline the advantages of shared water information systems for risk and sustainable resources management. After the presentation of several case studies, among which figured: the Euro-Mediterranean Information System on Know-how in the Water Sector (**SEMIDE/EMWIS**), and the French Water Information System (WIS) presented by Mr. Pascal Berteaud - French Water Director and President of EMWIS, a set of recommendations, which aim at facilitating the implementation of these systems, came out of the discussions. See [the full text](#) of the recommendations.

Up

=====
IN BRIEF
=====

2. The Regional Monitoring and Support Unit (**RMSU**) for the [MEDA Water Projects](#) and the EU Water Initiative plans to organise a 2-day sectoral workshop in April for the MEDA Water projects on the subject of wastewater reuse. The objective of the workshop is to interchange information on project methodologies and results and discuss ways of strengthening co-operation between MEDA Water projects on aforementioned subject. The workshop will be an opportunity to fine-tune the larger technical workshops that are coming up in June ([Zero-M. Medaware](#)) and October ([EMWater](#)) on each other. See [EMWIS website](#) for further information.

3. During the 25th meeting of the World Water Council's Board of Governors last night, candidatures from Qatar, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates were examined in order to select a host country for **the 5th World Water Forum**, which will be held in March 2009. **Turkey**, which was previously a candidate to host the 4th Forum, was selected by a large margin. The Board of Governors has, however, stipulated that a final decision is dependant on the negotiation and signature of a final agreement with the Turkish government within three months. See [4th World Water Forum website](#) for further information.

4. Africa has developed only three percent of its technically feasible hydropower potential while only six percent of its cultivated land is irrigated, according to a new report released on Africa Day at the 4th World Water Forum. The report, "**Water Resources Development in Africa**" was prepared by the African Development Bank, on behalf of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), UN-Water/Africa, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the NEPAD Secretariat. In total, says the report, only 3.8% of water resources are developed for water supply, irrigation and hydropower use. See [the press release](#) for further information.

5. What happened since the last **World Water Day** in water research and its use to advance understanding and developing solutions to problems? What conditions impact? What is planned in 2006? Examples of making research more directly useful to citizens through improving

communication and engagement. This year's motto for World Water Day is '[Water and Culture](#)'. See [EC website](#) for additional information.

6. According to the UN, safe drinking water remains inaccessible for about 1.1 billion people in the world. To address this global dilemma, the UN Millennium Development pledged at the World Summit in Johannesburg in 2002 to reduce by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water by 2015. Meeting this goal will demand reliable, current data and information about how much water is stored in large lakes, rivers and reservoirs around the world – which radar altimetry can provide. Today there are several teams in the world involved in radar altimetry over inland water, using satellite data from ESA, NASA and the French Space Agency (CNES). Hydrologists from each of these research teams met at the '**15 Years of Progress in Radar Altimetry**' symposium, organised by ESA and the French Space Agency (CNES) in Venice Lido, Italy, from 13-18 March 2006, to discuss the abilities of past and current altimeters for **monitoring the Earth's changing inland water resources**. See [ESA website](#) for further information.

7. The deployment of a Plan to implement the SRA (Strategic Research Agenda), not only for 7th (RU RTD) Framework Programme (FP7), but for exploiting at best various sources of public funds (EU, national regional, structural funds, etc.), for mobilising a growing amount of private funds, for engineering additional resources through EIB/bank/VC loans, towards innovation-related activities. This plan should look beyond Europe, seeking for matching **the Millennium Development Goals for water**, attracting international scientific co-operation, designing capacity building and technology transfer through new partnership modes. The WSSTP (Water Supply and Sanitation Technology) is an instrument of the European Water Sector that has the potential for promoting innovation at all levels. The EC looks forward receiving a strong, visionary and agreed SRA and Implementation Plan to be used for the development of the FP7 work programme. See [WSSTP website](#) for further details.

8. The closing conference of the **Euro-MedNet/Euro-MedNet2** (EU INCO programme) projects was organised by "the Institut de Recherche et de Développement" (IRD) in Paris on 22 and 23 March 2006. The aim of this event was to review Euro-Mediterranean S&T cooperation, and lay the foundations for better coordinated and stronger cooperation for the future. These projects will end with the inauguration of seven Information Points (InPs) on the Eastern and Southern rim of the Mediterranean. The role of these InPs will be to disseminate information about S&T cooperation opportunities financed by the EC. The InPs should also encourage a search for partnership between Europe and the Mediterranean. For information about this conference, consult [Euromednet](#) site.

9. Since it was set up in October 2002, FEMIP has established itself as the "**Euro-Mediterranean development bank**", striving to foster economic and social modernisation and enhanced regional integration in the partner countries. Accordingly, FEMIP's top priority remains support for the private sector, to which it devoted 51% of the EUR 2.2 billion lent in the Mediterranean Partner Countries in 2005. At the same time, FEMIP is keen to support investment in basic infrastructure in the environmental sector (Turkey, Lebanon, Morocco). The European Council is, on the one hand, to decide on the budgetary resources and guarantee ceilings for this region for the period 2007-2013 and, on the other, to re-examine the question of whether to turn FEMIP into a subsidiary. The EU and Partner countries' Finance Ministers will be giving their views at the FEMIP Ministerial Committee meeting to be held in Tunis on 25 and 26 June. See [EIB website](#) for more details.

10. Researchers from the Middle East and Europe worked together on a project that explored ways to put a stop to the degradation of the Dead Sea. The aim was to understand **the hydrological system**, how affected people experience the degradation, and to develop scenarios that render water management improvements feasible and valuable for different types of use in the region. See [the website of the project](#) for further information.

11. In three communications approved last March 2nd, 2006, the European Commission proposes concrete measures to improve the effectiveness of EU development aid and external assistance. These proposals follow-up on the EU's commitments in 2005 to scale-up aid substantially and to improve its impact and its speed of delivery, in order to meet the challenges of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. The Commission proposes an action plan including joint programming of assistance with Member States and sees the Union on track to deliver on its financial commitments. In support of the three communications, the Commission has revised and updated the "**EU Donor Atlas 2006**", mapping EU assistance globally. Additional volumes with a focus on a particular region will facilitate more specific analysis of EU donor cooperation in a regional context and facilitate the division of labour within the EU ("who does what where and with whom"). See [EU website](#) for further information.

12. Work is continuing on the preparation of the **LIFE+ programme**, which will take LIFE forward to the period from 2007 to 2013. LIFE+ will have three components: LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity, LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance and LIFE+ Information and Communication. It will be decentralised with around 80 percent of the budget allocated to EU Member States for financing projects through national programmes. See [LIFE website](#) for further information.

13. **Algeria** has adopted on 4th August 2005 a **water law**, which is currently accessible through [the Algerian EMWIS focal point website](#). Regarding information systems, the article 66 of this law stipulates that the Algerian ministry of water resources must establish a **national water information system integrated management**, harmonized with the information systems and the databases from qualified public organisations.

14. Towards the end of 2007, the new **station of purification**, close to the Burned Bridge, in Grimbergen (Belgium), will purify wastewater of one hundred thousand inhabitants of Grimbergen, Vilvorde, Zemst, Wemmel and Meise. This installation constitutes the link missing in the purification of strongly polluted water of the Seine. See "[Escaut sans Frontières info n°33](#)" for further information.

15. Officials from Louisiana (USA), visiting the Netherlands in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, hailed Dutch know-how on Thursday and said they still had much to learn **to prevent future flood disasters**. The US government has committed about \$3.1 billion to strengthen the New Orleans levees but views still vary on how to rebuild flood protection systems, strengthen against future storm surges and restore and protect wetlands and coastal areas. The Dutch stressed - and their US counterparts agreed - that short-term measures would not protect low-lying lands from storms such as the two Category 5 hurricanes that devastated New Orleans, the Mississippi marshes and Louisiana coast last year. See [planetark website](#) for further information.

16. On 17 February 2006 Romania strengthened its relations with ESA (European Space Agency) by signing the European Cooperating State Agreement, becoming the third European country to join this status. Participation in GMES (**Global Monitoring for Environment and Security**) initiative will strengthen the country's use of Earth observation data for agricultural planning, crop forecasting and flood monitoring. Other areas of cooperation will include ESA's microgravity and exploration programme and technology activities. See [ESA website](#) for full details.

17. Despite an international conference pledging **cooperation in the Danube Delta**, one of Europe's most ecologically important areas, WWF remains concerned that construction of the controversial Bystroye Canal in Ukraine will go ahead as planned, jeopardizing critical wildlife habitats, as well as the region's fishing and tourism industries. The waters of the Danube, which flow into the Black Sea, form the largest and best preserved of Europe's deltas. The Danube delta hosts over 300 species of birds as well as 45 freshwater fish species in its numerous lakes and marshes. See [WWF website](#) for further information.

18. **Water shortage** is becoming a pressing global issue, especially in Southern Europe and the

Middle East. Consequently, the industrial water recycling and reuse equipment market is likely to expand tremendously in the next five to ten years. With ever-tightening legislation, participants are becoming increasingly keen to consider more onsite water solutions to avoid rising water supply and effluent discharge costs. See [wateronline](#) for full details.

19. UNICEF and the Geneva-based Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) are forging links and raising their collaboration to a new level by entering into a "**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Partnership**" that was announced at a special event on 6 March at UNICEF House. The new partnership will focus on building links with civil society, hygiene promotion, water quality testing, emergency programming, community support and national capacity-building. The two organizations will work to influence policy at the national level and effect behavioural change at the grassroots level. See [the press release](#) for full information.

20. The European Commission (EC) is providing **€20 million** to allow scientists in developing countries to join existing European projects. The EC announced the 'top-up' funds last 15 February. It is intended to address poor participation by '**third countries**' in projects funded by the EU's Sixth Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development. Eligible nations include those in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Mediterranean and island states in the Caribbean and Pacific. See [full article](#) for more information.

21. An international partnership aiming to boost research on **desertification in developing nations** was launched last 28 February. The CWANA-Plus Partnership will promote scientific collaboration between countries in the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia where human activities are degrading dry land and threatening livelihoods. The partnership aims to research and promote practical ways of tackling desertification and protecting livelihoods. These include ways of reducing or reversing land degradation, and conserving resources such as soil, water and biodiversity. The partnership is between the United Nations University and the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas, whose headquarters in Syria will act as the partnership's secretariat. Governments in these nations will be urged to include efforts to tackle desertification in their national policies for reducing poverty. See [full article](#) for more information.

22. Since its launch in 2002, **Envisat**, the world's largest and most sophisticated satellite ever built, has been providing scientists and operational users with invaluable data for global monitoring and forecasting – and the future looks even brighter. See [ESA website](#) for full details.

23. The EC organised a meeting on 19 December to support the launch of an initiative to de-pollute the Mediterranean Sea by 2020, while providing appropriate financial resources and technical support to implement it. This initiative has been given the name **Horizon 2020**. At this meeting the EC proposed to produce a first draft of the timetable and to informally consult with the various stakeholders and partners before issuing it as a proposal as part of a Communication from the EC scheduled for July 2006. This proposal will then be further discussed with Mediterranean countries with a view to receiving ministerial support for the endorsement of the timetable before the end of 2006. A paper containing the draft timetable and an explanatory note is now ready and open for informal consultation: [EN](#), [FR](#). See [EC website](#) for further information.

24. An International Conference about the Modelling & Managing Water Quality in Mediterranean River Basins is organised in the framework of the tempQsim project next April 24-27, 2006 in Montpellier (France). It will focus on specific water quality dynamics of **dry river basins** and on supporting the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (**WFD**) in the Mediterranean. The tempQsim project aims to support efficient water management strategies for dry river basins in order to optimise the use of the limited water resources. The project assists the implementation of the WFD by improving tools for increasing the efficiency of the integrated water management in the Mediterranean and in arid and semiarid river catchments. See [EMWIS news section](#) for further details.

25. Water Loss Management Strategies is to be held next May 15 - 19, 2006 in Genova and Ferrara (Italy). Fondazione AMGA in conjunction with key industry organisations such as FederUtility (Italian Water Association) and the International Ferrara H2O Fair will hold a series of meetings and workshops in Italy on Water Loss Management involving the International Water Association's (IWA) Water Loss Task Force (WLTF). WLTF is the water industries pre-eminent group examining the issues of demand management, leakage control and pressure management. Organisers will be ensuring that these meetings assist in increasing industry awareness, understanding and implementation of **water loss strategies**. See [Leakage 2006](#) for further information.

26. Over three billion people worldwide each year suffer from water-related diseases that can be fatal, and mostly affect children under the age of five. In response to this challenge, the partnership to health through water launched a new internet resource, the "**WSPortal**". The Portal will assist countries in delivering safe drinking water to their citizens by using Water Safety Plans (WSPs), health-based risk assessments that identify problems in a water system and chart corrective actions to take. [The Portal](#) resides on the World Health Organization website, and represents the first step in the widespread dissemination of best practices for delivering safe drinking water through the use of Water Safety Plans. See [WS portal](#) for details.

27. A **satellite-based rapid mapping service** developed to support civil defence activities in eastern France is ready and on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The pioneering service has been designed to manage flood events – the world's most widespread category of natural disaster. See [ESA website](#) for further information.

Up

=====

NOMINATIONS & VACANCIES

=====

28 - **Peter Gammeltoft** remplace Patrick Murphy à la tête de « **l'unité pour la protection de l'eau et l'environnement maritime** » relevant de la **Direction Générale « environnement »** de la Commission Européenne. Consultez [le site internet de la DG environnement](#) pour en savoir plus.

29 – Le 19 mars dernier, le Conseil d'administration du **Conseil Mondial de l'Eau** a unanimement confirmé **Loic Fauchon** dans ses fonctions de président. Loic Fauchon est donc ré-élu pour une durée de trois ans. Loic Fauchon a co-présidé le 4^{ème} Forum Mondial de l'Eau de Mexico qui s'est achevé le 22 mars dernier, jour de la célébration de la Journée Mondiale de l'Eau.

30 – Le 7 mars dernier, le comité directeur de l'Institut Européen de la Méditerranée a nommé son nouveau directeur général. Il s'agit de l'ambassadeur **Senén Florensa Palau**. Consultez le [site internet de l'IEMed](#) pour en savoir plus

31 - Le **Stockholm Junior Water Prize** est un concours international pour les jeunes ouvert à des initiatives qui visent à l'amélioration de la qualité de l'eau, la bonne utilisation de l'eau grâce à une meilleure gestion, la protection de la ressource en eau et le traitement des eaux usées. Le gagnant recevra **un prix de 5000 dollars**. Les formulaires de participation doivent être envoyés par courriel au [CIWEM](#) ou bien être postés à l'adresse suivante SJWP, CIWEM, 15 John St, London WC1N 2EB. Consultez le site internet du [SIWI](#) pour en savoir plus.

32 – L'Association Internationale pour l'Eau (IWA) organise une remise de **prix et de distinctions** pour récompenser les contributions particulières apportées par ses membres et les professionnels du secteur de l'eau. La période de nomination des candidats à l'obtention de ces prix et distinctions est ouverte, les prix seront attribués lors du [Congrès Mondial de l'eau qui aura lieu à Beijing](#) du 10 au 14 septembre prochains. Les nominations peuvent être adressées par écrit au directeur de l'IWA. La date limite pour l'envoi des nominations est fixée au **28 avril 2006**. Pour en savoir plus, consultez [le site internet de l'IWA](#) ou [l'annonce](#) de l'ouverture de la période de nomination.

=====
PUBLICATIONS
=====

33. Jean-Marc Douguet, Jérôme Longuépée & Olivier have announced the publication of the first eight texts of the 6th online publication: "[Water territories](#)": governance, wetlands, arid areas, nitrate pollution, etc. (Only in French)

34. Water gave life to the Alhambra in Spain. From the River Darro, at the foot of the Sabikha Hill, water was brought to the site by means of a complicated **canalization system with aqueducts to the Generalife and the Alhambra**. The Palace of the Lions has always been praised for the balanced composition of architecture, vegetation and water. The centre of the water arrangement, like that of the Palace itself, is the fountain of the Lions. You can read details on [Nasser Rabbat publication](#).

35. From early December 2005 to January 2006 a group of independent experts forming a mirror group to the **international IWRM review** panel scrutinised [the draft review](#): of EU RTD International cooperation projects on IWRM. See the report titled: "[EU-INCO water research from FP4 to FP6 \(1994-2006\): A critical review](#)", and the report: "[Directing the flow: a new approach to integrated water resources management](#)".

36. A new web site on **Agricultural research** was launched: [SCAR net](#).

37. The **2nd WEKNOW** (Web-based European Knowledge Network on Water) Conference held in Bratislava (Slovak Republic) on June 13-15, 2005 has published its proceedings book. You can [download it](#) at Weknow website.

38. The book: "**Ecohydrology of Water-controlled Ecosystems-Soil moisture and Plant Dynamics**" addresses the connections between the hydrologic cycle and plant ecosystems, with special emphasis on arid and semi-arid climates. It investigates the vegetation response to water stress (drought), the hydrologic control on cycles of soil nutrients, and the dynamics of plant competition for water. This book will appeal to advanced students and researchers from a large range of disciplines, including environmental science, hydrology, ecology, earth science, civil and environmental engineering, agriculture, and atmospheric science. See [Publisher website](#) for further information.

39. **Effect of Climate Change on River Flows and Groundwater Recharge**, A Practical Methodology: A Strategy for Evaluating Uncertainty in Assessing the Impacts of Climate Change on Water Resources (05/CL/04/6). This is a new report published by UK Water Industry Research. It develops a strategy for evaluating uncertainties related to assessing the impacts of climate change on river flows and groundwater recharge. See [UKWIR website](#) for full information.

40. "**Women2000 and Beyond: Women and Water**" by United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, is a new publication that discusses gender perspectives of a growing water crisis and the evolution of the international policy on water. It stresses the importance of integrating gender perspectives in water resource management and warns of dangers of leaving women out of water project design. Gender specific

impacts of environmental degradation, water pollution are given. In addition to providing a list of useful resources on gender and water, the issue draws conclusions and provides some policy recommendations. [Access to the full publication](#) through UN website.

41. The printed edition of the handbook "**Learning together to manage together – improving participation in water management**" was published in January 2006. Ecologic actively contributed to the development of the handbook, which is one of the main outputs of the European project Harmonising Collaborative Planning (HarmoniCOP). See [Ecologic website](#) for further information.

42. [New leaflets](#) on **European Research in Action** has been published. 9 thematic leaflets are available in 20 languages. [See here](#) the leaflets on water.

43. "**Gender and water: mainstreaming gender equality in water, hygiene and sanitation interventions**", produced by: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC / DSC) (2005) is a document that discusses how programme officers and water organisations can mainstream gender equality into SDC water, hygiene and sanitation interventions. It illustrates how to prioritise gender in terms of gender strategies and gender sensitive water policies and ensure that people are engaged and remain committed. This document is [available online](#) at Eldis website.

44. Water Governance Facility (WGF) has just published its [first newsletter](#) issue. **UNDP Water Governance Facility** at SIWI is managed by Stockholm International Water Institute ([SIWI](#)) and funded by United Nations Development Programme ([UNDP](#)) and the Swedish Agency for International Development Cooperation ([Sida](#)).

45. [EMPOWERS](#) (which is one of [MEDA WATER projects](#)) organized its 1st Regional Symposium in **Cairo, 13-17 Nov. 2005**, and published recently a brochure with [the Recommendations](#) issued from the discussions during the EMPOWERS Regional Symposium for Policy and Practice on Improved Local Water Governance in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

46. The INBO (**International Network of Basin Organisations**) has reminded during the World Water Forum of Mexico its members and observers to present their field experiences, to exchange and discuss in order to develop and improve basin management over the world, and published its [recommendations](#).

47. The second edition of the **World Water Development Report** was released on 22 March at the 4th World Water Forum. It presents updated information from the Joint Monitoring Programme on the drinking-water and sanitation targets of MDG7. This report: '**Water, a shared responsibility**', is now [available online](#) in English, French and Spanish. See [WHO website](#) for more information.

48. The new (March 2006) OECD publication **Water and Agriculture: Sustainability, Markets and Policies** -- Conclusions and Recommendations is available (a copy is available in Spanish on request). This publication is drawn from a recent OECD Workshop on Water and Agriculture, held in Adelaide, Australia, November 2005. The Proceedings of the Workshop (450 pages) will be published by OECD mid-2006. To obtain a copy of the report at a discounted price, see the order form at the end of [the conclusions document](#) (offer open until the end of April).

49. The following report has been released on the EEA website: "[Priority issues in the Mediterranean environment](#)". The environment around the Mediterranean Sea region will not improve until there is the political will to enforce current and future environment legislation, says this new report. 'Priority issues in the Mediterranean Environment', a joint report by the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP). The report, which scans existing and emerging pollution issues, draws a picture at the regional level but also provides an environmental profile for each of the Mediterranean countries.

50. The EC has just published a new LIFE Focus brochure "[Integrated management of Natura 2000 sites](#)". This new Focus brochure, examines the contribution that the LIFE-Nature programme has made to the integrated management of [Natura 2000](#) sites. In this context, the term 'integrated management' is used to indicate the nature conservation of a site alongside the management of other activities or resources, such as for examples the management of agriculture, tourism or of the water resources.

51. A new **Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM)** [website](#) was launched by the United Nations Convention on **Biological Diversity** Secretariat and UNEP (United Nation for Environmental Protection). It was conceived as a neutral, cost-effective, and accessible mechanism for sharing technical information and best practices among the nations that ratified the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. It has since evolved into a decentralized, loosely knit policy web that provides a valuable example of how the power of the Internet can be leveraged to support more effective and efficient policy-making through international collaboration and knowledge sharing. [This site](#) is relayed at the European level by [the EEA biodiversity website](#).

Up

=====

CALL FOR TENDERS and PROPOSALS

=====

52. The European Environment Agency (EEA) has launched a call for proposals ([2006/EEA/ADS/06/001](#)) for: European Topic **Centre on Water '2007-2010'**, European Topic Centre on Air and Climate Change '2007-2010', and European Topic Centre on Land Use and spatial information '2007-2010'. **Deadline for submitting proposals: mid-May 2006**, and final decision on selected proposals in November 2006. See [the full text](#) of this call at the Official Journal of the European Union.

53. Funding opportunity and research for non-government organisations (NGOs), Community based organisations (CBOs) or National Agricultural Research and extension systems: '**Basin focal project' (BFP) in the Nile Basin'**: The CGIAR Challenge Program on Water and Food invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) to lead the 'Basin Focal Project' (BFP) in the Nile Basin. The closing date for the submission of the EOIs is **April 6** and the budget offered for the Nile project is **800.000 US\$**. See [SMAP RMSU website](#) for further information.

54. International Scientific Cooperation Policy: [A call for proposals](#) to promote the participation of partners from targeted third countries including the Mediterranean in projects for which contracts are already signed or under negotiation in priority thematic areas of research was announced on 15/02/2006. A comprehensive list is available from the reference below. The total indicative budget for the call is **€20 million**, with 3.7 million euro to Priority 6.3: Sustainable development - global change and ecosystems. To see [the full details](#) of the calls through the EU website.

55. **The 2nd Call for Proposals of the ACP-EU Water Facility** is expected to be launched by **the end of March 2006**, for an amount of **€178 M**. Contrary to the first call for proposals, there will be only one phase of evaluation for the 2nd Call (Due to the sunset clause of the 9th EDF programme the Commission is obliged to commit all funds before the end of 2007). The European Commission unit responsible for the EU Water Facility organized a meeting on December 9th in Brussels, to which representatives of local authorities and NGOs from Europe and Africa were invited. See [EUWF website](#) for further information. See [the website of EuropeAid](#) for further details.

56. **The Work Programme for the fifth call for proposals (SSP-5) on "Scientific Support to Policies"** has been published on **22 December 2005**, with closing date on **22 March 2006**. As for all SSP calls, the instruments are: **STREP, CA and SSA projects**. Official call documents are available at [CORDIS](#) webpage.

57. The Technical Committee of the Global Water Partnership (**GWP**) is putting together a set of case studies on integrated solutions to water and development problems with documented on-the-ground impacts. GWP is interested in **case studies that will demonstrate new ways of thinking about IWRM** as a flexible approach that involves applying knowledge from various disciplines as well as the insights from diverse stakeholders to devise and implement efficient, equitable and sustainable solutions to multi-faceted water and development problems. The search of GWP therefore may encompass case studies that would not traditionally be thought of as "IWRM". The only absolute requirement is that case studies must have documented quantitative impacts in areas such as economic growth, poverty reduction, improved access to resources and services by the poor, improved nutrition and/or health for target populations, and improved ecosystem health. GWP is insisting on this absolute requirement because the search for case studies over the last several months has yielded large numbers of cases with good process information, but very few with good documentation of outcomes and impacts. When you are aware of any case studies that meet this requirement, you can contact Roberto Lenton of GWP. More information can be found on [GWP website](#).

58. With reference to the activities of the ICAM-GI Thematic Network (GI for Integrated Coastal Area Management), and the related project ECO-IMAGINE for the organisation of a series of EuroEvents supported by the 6th Framework Programme of the EC - Marie Curie Conferences and Training Courses, the project work programme foresees the distribution of **20 grants** to early-stage researchers and **10 grants** for experienced researchers in order to support their participation in the Thematic Conference "Building Coastal Knowledge and GI" to be organised within the project. GISIG reserves to increase the number of grants according to budget availability. To this purpose, the procedures for the selection of possible candidates for the participation in the Thematic Conference have started, to be jointly organised by GISIG, ICCOPS and the University College Cork on the 13th - 17th June 2006 in Cork, Ireland. Deadline for application: **April 21st, 2006**. See [EMWIS news section](#) for full information.

59. A new **call for proposals for Marie Curie Conferences and Training Courses** has been published. Deadline: **17 May 2006**. See [CORDIS website](#) for further information.

60. **The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands** and its Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (**MedWet**) are calling for entries for the Ramsar/MedWet Award for films on water and wetlands. The Ramsar/MedWet Award granted at the Ecofilms International Films and Visual Arts Festival, taking place on **20 -25 June 2006, Rhodes, Greece** is offered for the third consecutive year and aims to promote excellence and talent in film making addressing issues related to water and wetlands. See [Medwet website](#) for further information.

61. [Mediterranea CIE](#) (Centre of Ecologic Initiatives) and [MIO-ECSDE](#) (The Mediterranean Information Office for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development) are calling for candidates to be considered for **the 6th Mediterranean Honorific Awards**. This years' theme is **Youth & Environment**, while deadline for application is **31/03/2006**. This award will be given to innovative projects relating to activities on youth and the environment. It is open to all those organisations in the Mediterranean region working in the field of the protection of the environment, culture, as well as on sustainable development issues. See [the announcement](#) for further information.

[Up](#)

=====
CALL FOR PAPERS
=====

62. [The EMWater Project](#) Regional Conference on Efficient Management of Wastewater Treatment and Reuse in the Mediterranean Countries has extended the deadline for electronic

submission of abstracts and registration forms to **15 May 2006**. This conference will be held in **Amman (Jordan) between 10 October and 1 November 2006**. See [EMWIS website](#) for further information.

63. The international congress: "**Water in Mountains, Integrated Management of High Watersheds**" to be held in Megève (France) next 20-22 September 2006, announced a call for abstracts to be forwarded (one page; Arial 11 characters) to the Secretariat of the Scientific and Technical Committee, in electronic format by **30 March 2006** specifying full name and address of authors. The congress aims to support mountain areas in implementing integrated and sustainable water management policies, notably through: exchange of current experiences, actions and policies, and input on up-dated knowledge and research outcomes. See [EMWIS news section](#) for further information.

64. The **III International Symposium on Transboundary Waters Management**, to be hosted at the **University of Castilla-La Mancha**, in Spain, from May 30th to June 2nd, 2006, and co-organizer by **UNESCO** and **SAHRA**, announced a call for papers to be due on March 20th, 2006. The Symposium will be focus on the analysis of all **Water Management Boundaries**, which impose conditions for water managing. Beside the natural or physical boundaries, coming from the basin limits or the differences resources sources (surface, subsurface, or coastal), there are other human boundaries. See [EMWIS news](#) for more information.

65. IRC together with UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education is organising a Symposium on **Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation: Strengthening Capacity for Local Governance**, which will take place from 26-28 September 2006 in Delft, The Netherlands. Deadline for abstracts: **1 April 2006**. Decentralisation has shifted roles and responsibilities from national government to local government and other intermediate level bodies. Many of the actors who have emerged at this level struggle with their new responsibilities and with roles for which they are not fully equipped in terms of financial resources, knowledge, methodologies, tools and experience. See [EMWIS news section](#) for further information.

66. **The 3rd SWIFT-WFD Workshop: "Towards operational monitoring programmes and protocols for implementation of Water Framework Directive"** to be held in Barcelona (Spain) next May 15-16, 2006, has announced a call for papers to be due on **1st April**. The objectives of this workshop are mainly to deal with monitoring activities, latest developments on screening methods based on immunochemistry and biosensors for water monitoring, chemical analytical improvements for identification and trace level quantitation of pollutants in water including novel sampling devices, data treatment interpretation of the monitoring data based on EU funded river basin case studies of AQUATERRA and related projects, and the application of innovative screening tools like ELISA. See [EMWIS news section](#) for further information.

67. The organisers of the International Workshop: "International Perspectives on Balancing Multiple Bottom Lines: Financial, Environmental, and Social Justice" which is organised under the umbrella of the **5th World Water Congress** to be held in **10-14 September 2006** in Beijing (China), look for **potential speakers** who might be able to attend it. See the [Workshop proposal](#) and [an abstract](#) on the main issue of the workshop for further information. You can also contact [Cheryl K. Davis](#). You can finally consult [the official](#) website.

68. **The 3rd International Conference on the Water Resources in the Mediterranean Basin "WATMED 3"** to be held in **Tripoli (Lebanon) on November 1-3, 2006**, announced a call for paper to be due on **30 March 2006**. It aims to review and compare the state of water resources in the Mediterranean basin, to reconcile between scarcity, quality, durability of resources, to interrelationship between global change, drought and desertification, to review the methods of for assessment and monitoring of aquatic ecosystems "health", to formulate strategies and identify ecotechnological approaches for the restoration and management of aquatic ecosystems, and to

identify areas of co-operation in aquatic sciences between Mediterranean countries. See [EMWIS news section](#) for further information.

69. A [Special Session](#) on '**Remote Sensing and GIS for Environmental Monitoring**' is organised within [EEESD'06](#) that will be held in Athens (Greece) on July 11-13, 2006. Deadline for paper submission: **March 25, 2006**.

70. The 3rd Harmoni-CA Forum & Conference (5-7th April 2006, Osnabrueck): "**Supporting the WFD implementation** -Tools for monitoring program design and public participation". In addition to public participation and monitoring program design, the event discusses also tools and methods supporting the decision making process in integrative river basin management. In a total of fourteen sessions, results from finalized and ongoing European projects will be introduced, including special workshops by the projects [HarmoniQuA](#) and [EuroLimpacs](#). For the detailed program and more information, check [HARMONI-CA website](#) or our [EMWIS news section](#). Registration is possible until **31st March**.

=====
TRAINING
=====

71. The International Network on Participatory Irrigation Management (**INPIM**) and the State Hydraulic Works (**DSI**), Turkey announced a **12-day International Capacity Building on Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM)**. The course will be held at the International Agro Hydrology Institute Menemen, near the picturesque city of Izmir, Turkey from June 18-29, 2006. The course is aimed at faculty of training institutes or consultants who are involved in WUA capacity-building, WUA managers, policy makers, and NGOs or Government/Irrigation Agency staff who work with WUAs. The language of the course will be English. The purpose of the course is to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of WUAs, and at the policy level to support and strengthen the implementation of national PIM programs. General information about the Capacity Building Program is provided below. More specific information including the registration form can be viewed at [INPIM website](#).

72. The University of Karlsruhe (Germany) announces a **two-year Master of Science Programme in Land and Water Resources Development** with particular reference to the Developing World. Deadline for applications: April 15th 2006. See [its website](#) for further information.

73. The Network of Mediterranean Universities and other Academic Institutions Network has been established. A **Master in Euro-Mediterranean Affairs (MEMA)** has been designed as a result of the activities of this network. It aims at training new leaders in Euro-Mediterranean affairs. At present, this network is self-funded, directly or indirectly, by a number of public and private institutions. The Master Programme, contributing to the further integration of Europe and the Southern & Eastern Mediterranean, will start its first session on 3rd July 2006. The deadline for applications for enrolment is the 6th March 2006, **however late applications may be accepted** in order to fill up all available positions. Visit [its website](#) for further information. Applications are still accepted even if the deadline of 6 March 2006 has passed.

74. **The National Centre of Training for Water Jobs in France (CNFME)** organises a **training session** to know about **the techniques of sea water desalination for the production of drinking water**, and to study the problems by case studies. This training will be held in **Paris** the days **23 & 24 May 2006**. See [the website of CNFME](#) for more details about it. You can also see the list of training sessions offered by the CNFME in 2006 at [the same website](#).

75. A **4-day intensive course on: "MSF distillation - Fundamentals and Practice"** is organised by the **MEDRC** in collaboration with Oman National Electric Co in Muscat (**Sultanate of Oman**) the days **16-19 of April 2006**. This course is aimed at those new to distillation and to those who wish

to improve their knowledge and understanding of the operation, maintenance and potentials of this important desalination process. The course will be of particular interest to many of those engineers brought up in the power industry, and who now find that their responsibilities include cogeneration systems consisting of boilers, generators and distiller units. See [EMWIS news section](#) for further details.

76. **Intensive Courses in Desalination:** Thermal processes and economics, management and economics, will be held in **L'Aquila, Italy on July 26-27** of the next year. For further information see [EMWIS news](#) section.

77. A course titled: "**International Training of Trainers on Wetland Management**", focusing on the facilitation of multi-stakeholder processes and curriculum development (ICWM-TOT) is to be held in Wageningen (The Netherlands) between **8 and 26 May 2006**. The ICWM-TOT has been designed for (future) trainers in wetland management. The course programme is suitable for wetland managers and land use planners, policy makers, consultants, researchers and NGO staff who have affinity with training. See [EMWIS news section](#) for further details.

78. The UNESCO-IHE organises an **Online Short Course on Flood Modelling for Management**, from **2006-05-17 to 2006-05-26**, This course is a postgraduate study ideally suited for flood managers, water managers, flood modellers, engineers and scientists dealing with floods. This course will address questions such as: How are floods generated and how do they develop in time? What are better ways of designing flood protection schemes using models? What models can be used for forecasting floods? How should model results be used to inform decision-makers? See [The website of UNESCO](#) for further information.

79. ESA - FFG Summer School on 'Monitoring of Natural Hazards from Space' will be organised in Alpbach/Tyrol (Austria) on July 25 - August 3, 2006. **Deadline registration: 31st March, 2006.** Registration fee: €330. See [the website of ISPRS](#) (International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing) for further information.

80. An **European in service training course "Water & Life"** is to be organised in **Pafos (Cyprus) next May 20-26th**, by The the new Media School. The goals of the course are to illustrate the links between life-water-ecology and society, to train the participants in the use of the biotic index for water quality assessment, to promote water as theme for environmental education and to provide scientific tools for sustainable development. See [EMWIS news section](#) for further information.

Up

=====
EVENTS
=====

2006-03-26/29 - 2nd Middle East Conference on Geospatial Information, Technology & Applications (MapMiddleEast2006), Dubai, UAE.
For more information, [click here](#).

2006-03-28/31 - Symposium on Irrigation Modernization Constraints and Solutions, Damascus, Syria.
For more information, [click here](#).

2006-03-30/04-01 - 3rd Mediterranean Meetings of SEMIS Direct, Zaragoza, Spain.
For more information, [click here](#).

2006-04-03/06 - The 2nd Syrian Int'l Environment Exhibition - SYRENVIRO 2006, Damascus, Syria.

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

2006-04-05/06 - The international symposium: Free passage for aquatic fauna in rivers and other water bodies at the International Congress: Wasser Berlin, Berlin, Germany.

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

2006-04-05/07 - The 3rd Harmoni-CA Forum & Conference, Osnabrueck, Germany.

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

2006-04-10/11 - 1st MEDA-WATER sectoral workshop: Synergy on waste water reuse, Amman, Jordan.

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

2006-04-16/19 - A 4-day intensive course on: MSF distillation - Fundamentals and Practice, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman.

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

2006-04-19/20 - UNEP FI Expert Workshop on Water & Finance, Davos, Switzerland.

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

2006-04-22 - Workshop for Young Arab Scientists, Alexandria, Egypt.

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

2006-04-24/27 - International Conference: Modelling & Managing Water Quality in Mediterranean River Basins, Montpellier, France.

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

2006-04-24/28 - International Congress: Ground Water in Mediterranean Countries, Malaga, Spain.

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

2006-04-26/28 - the 1st Euro--Arab Dialogue Forum: Prospects and contents of an euro-arab strategic partnership, Paris, France.

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

2006-05-08/26 - International Training of Trainers on Wetland Management, a course focusing on the facilitation of multi-stakeholder processes and curriculum development (ICWM-TOT), Wageningen, The Netherlands.

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

2006-05-09/12 - 5th World Wide Workshop for Young Environmental Scientists 'Urban waters: resource or risk?', Vitry sur Seine, France.

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

[Up](#)

=====

BRIEF EMWIS SITE MAP

=====

[ABOUT EMWIS](#)

[WATER in the EURO-MED PARTNERSHIP](#): milestones, main players, MEDA programme
[EMWIS NATIONAL WEBSITES](#)

[INTERNATIONAL FOCAL POINT](#)

[LEGISLATION](#): national, European and international

[THEMATIC DIRECTORY](#)

[COMMENTS](#)

[SEARCH EMWIS WEBSITE](#)

=====
CONTACT US
=====

This is a monthly Flash provided by the EMWIS Technical Unit, to which you can get a free subscription, [click here for an open subscription](#).

The EMWIS Flash gives you regular and quality information on the water sector in the Euro-Mediterranean area. The main headlines are: Institutions, Documentation, Training, Research and Development, Data Administration. You will also find updates on: international events, relevant web sites, the Euro-Med Water programme of the European Commission, and much more

This Flash exists also in French and Arabic, you can view it and also the previous issues in our [website](#).

This Flash is also yours, please give us your [comments and information](#) to improve it
[Contact the EMWIS Technical Unit](#)

=====
This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Commission. The content can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union. This disclaimer is not intended to contravene any requirements laid down in applicable national law nor to exclude liability for matters which may not be excluded under that law.

Up