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EMWIS

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Système Euro-Méditerranéen d'information sur les savoir-faire dans le domaine de l'Eau **Euro-Mediterranean Information System on know how in the water sector**

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EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP





The Euro-Med Partnership in the water sector

Barcelone'95	Euro-Mediterranean conference of Foreign Affairs Ministers <i>Creation of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership</i>
Marseille'96	Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial conference on water management <i>EMWIS creation</i>
Helsinki'97	Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on the environment <i>EMWIS taken into account</i>
Naples'97	Euro-Mediterranean conference of the 27 Water General Directors <i>Approval of EMWIS</i>
Turin'99	Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial conference on local water management <i>Approval of the Action Plan for the MEDA Water call for proposals</i> <i>Strengthening of EMWIS</i>



OBJECTIVES OF EMWIS

To create a tool for cooperation between the European and Mediterranean countries whose aim is to:

- **Facilitate access to the existing information** on know-how;
- **Develop the sharing of information** to enable anyone to make known his activities, his topics of interest ...;
- **Create common products and cooperation programmes** to develop available information and to promote the collection of the lacking information.

In the water sector

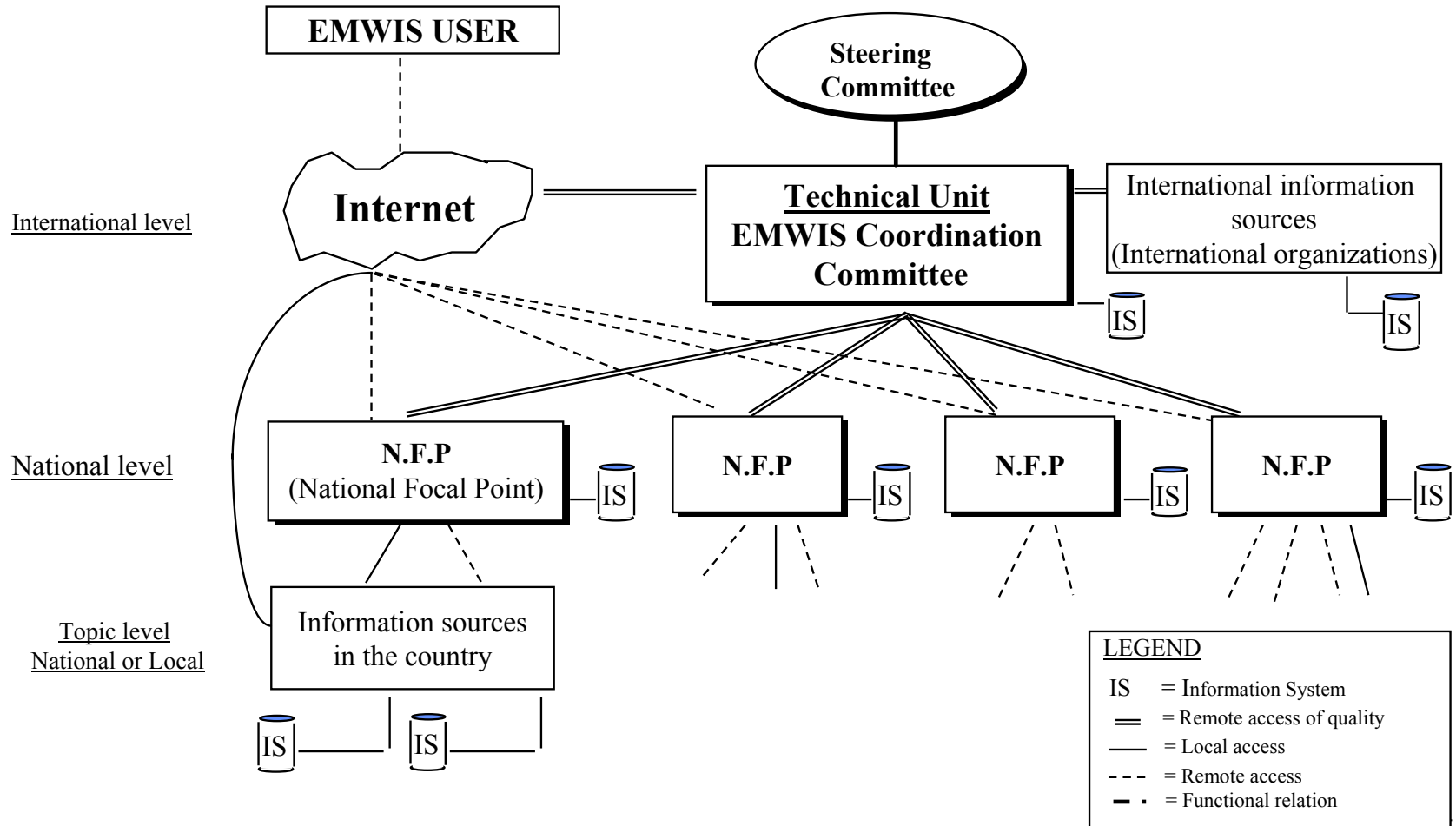


EMWIS CHARACTERISTICS

EMWIS is
an Euro-Mediterranean system of
shared and approved
information on know-how in the water
sector



EWMISS Organisation





The steering committee

European countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ France➤ Italy (Honorary Presidency)➤ Spain (Presidency)
Countries of the Euro-Med Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Algeria➤ Cyprus (Vice-Presidency)➤ Jordan➤ Malta➤ Morocco➤ The Palestinian Authority

- Formulates the main strategic orientations and validates yearly budget and progress reports.



The Technical Unit

- **France (International Office of Water)**
- **Italy (SOGESID)**
- **Spain (CEDEX)**

- Is a permanent body which executes the yearly action plan with the National Focal Points (NFP). Its assignments consist in proposing strategic orientations, action plans and yearly budgets to the Steering Committee, coordinating and providing technical assistance to the NFP, being the International Focal Point, developing and managing EMWIS information portal.



The National Focal points (NFP)

1/2

➤ **European Union (15 countries):**

8 NFP created and 5 active websites

**Austria, Belgium, France, Greece, Italy,
Luxembourg, Portugal, Spain**

➤ **Mediterranean partners (12 countries):**

12 NFP created and 9 active websites

**Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon,
Malta, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey**



The National Focal points (NFP) 2/2

The protagonists of EMWIS

- **Are small teams working in a public or semi-public organisation responsible for water related-documentation and information. Their tasks consist in creating and developing a national information server, organising communication processes and access to vetted information, ensuring information availability in the working languages (English or French), developing access to the information and maintaining relations with the users in their country.**



Partners' contributions

<p>European Commission (contractual budget)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Support to the international communication network➤ Participation costs of non EU representatives to meetings➤ Technical assistance and training costs➤ Organization of information seminars
<p>Technical Unit Countries (contractual budget) France, Italy and Spain</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Investments and running costs of the Technical Unit➤ International Focal Point
<p>Countries of the Euro-Med Partnership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Investments and running costs of their National Focal Point



The 5 priority topics in the water sector

- **Institutions**
- **Documentation, including legislation**
- **Education and training**
- **Research and Development**
- **Data administration**



System development over the first 3 years (1999-2002)

- **Technical Unit creation in Sophia Antipolis (FR)**
- **Organisation of National Focal Points**
- **Set-up of national web sites**
- **Development of a water thematic directory**
- **Technical support to Med countries**
- **Promotion**
- **Direct access to available documentary resources**



Services offered

- **Thematic water directory: « who does what » per topic and per country**
- **Information search tools through all National websites**
- **Multilingual search engine on distributed bibliographical databases**
- **A circle for exchanging information: mailing lists and thematic electronic fora**
- **Information portal:**
 - **What's new in each country**
 - **Institutions water structure in each country**
 - **Other services developed by the National Focal Points**

EMWIS Thematic Directory



Who does what in the water sector in the Euro-Med countries

Distributed database managed by the NFP with a common model. It provides information on :

- **Organisations**
- **Information sources**
- **Contacts**
 - **Persons representing the organisations**
 - **Managers of information sources**
 - **Experts**

MEDA-Water Programme



- **Budget: 32,6 M€** **2002-2005**
- **Areas of Action**
- **I. Integrated management of local drinking water supply, sanitation and sewage**
- **II. Local water resources and water demand management**
- **III. Prevention and mitigation of the negative effects of drought and equitable management of water scarcity**
- **IV. Irrigation water management**
- **V. Use of non-conventional water resources**
- **VI. Preparation of national and local scenarios until 2025**
- **Horizontal Themes**
- **A. Strengthening institutional capacities and training**
- **B. Exchange of information and know-how**
- **C. Transfer of know-how and technology**
- **D. Awareness raising, mobilisation of commitment of the population**



MEDA-Water – EMWIS role

- **Dissemination of information**
 - Call for proposals published on EMWIS web sites
 - Electronic flashes to more that 1500 subscribers
- **Support for project preparation**
 - Partners identification
 - Electronic forum for declaration of interest
 - Identification of national priorities
- **Exchange of information and know-how from projects**



Main achievements and future plans



Difficulties faced

- **Socio-political: heavy, and sometimes tense international context**
- **Financial: late availability of the E.C. funding**
- **Organisation and planning difficulties for the implementation of the NFP (appropriate means not available in due time: budget, possibility of obtaining an Internet connexion, etc.)**
- **Work Languages: Difficulties for some NFP to find representatives speaking English or French**
- **Lack of interest of North EU countries**



But very stimulating results

- **High level political commitment**
- **The only operational and interactive regional project of the Euro-Med Partnership in the water sector**
- **Strengthening of the Partnership spirit**
- **EMWIS is entering into the 'national water culture': creating a favourable momentum for further developments both technical and organisational**

Objectives of the second phase

(2003-2005)

1. **Co-ordination with political structures**
2. **Reinforcement of the NFPs**
Incl. Support for developing National Water Information Systems
3. **Expansion and development of services**
Incl. Integration of the Arabic language, meta-crawler development
4. **Review of the technical architecture (XML based)**
5. **Operating information existing services**
6. **Fostering the promotion of the system**
7. **Development of topical activities**
8. **Development of the MEDA – Water activities**
9. **Liaison with international initiatives**



Conclusions

- **EMWIS reflects a real need and a strong demand of all the partners**
- **By giving access to knowledge in the institutional, technical, and know-how fields, EMWIS proves to be a very powerful tool supporting the implementation of sustainable development policies in the field of water management**



EMWIS:
a collaboration tool among
Euro-Med countries in the
water sector

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