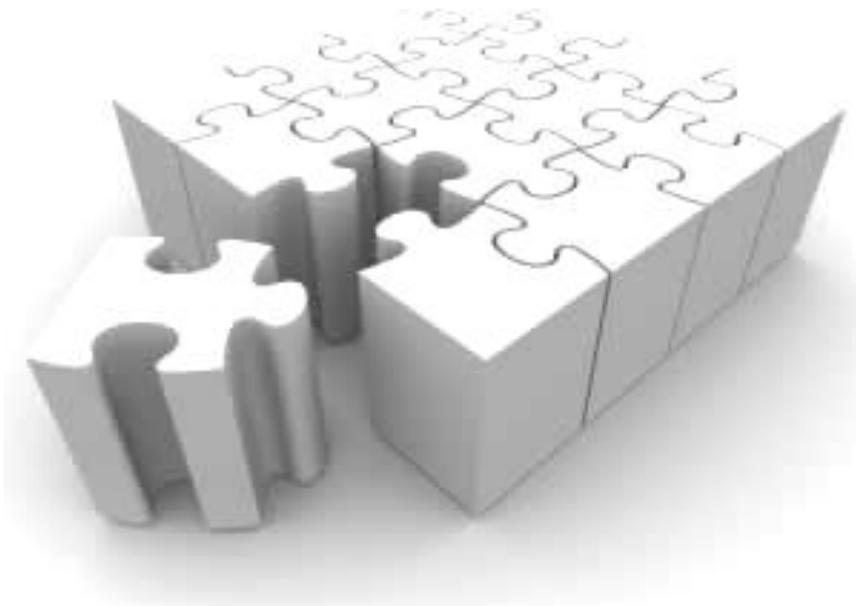


Addressing Water Governance in the Mediterranean



Anthi Brouma
anthi@gwpmed.org

**Regional Conference on Water Governance:
Sharing experiences between OECD and Arab Countries**

Tunis, 8th July 2009

Water in the Mediterranean: a snapshot

- **Water Supply Unequally Distributed in Space and Time**
 - **7% (28 mil persons) below 500 m³/year/capita**
 - **29% (115 mil persons) below 1000 m³/year/capita**
- **90% of the total region's GNP is from 5 countries in the North**
- **The population has doubled in 40 years (440 mil today)**
 - **Exploitation indexes have reached in some areas are over 100%**
 - **Agriculture consumes 70-80 %**
 - **Serious water pollution of surface and groundwater**
- **A region with great water challenges, established national water agendas, South-North/South-South regional initiatives and a diversity of water partners**



Several achievements but still many challenges ahead



Achievements on and action for

- providing water & sanitation,
- enhancing water efficiency/irrigation
- controlling conveyance losses,
- promoting participatory water management,
- protecting & improving water quality
- promoting drought management and climate variability strategies,
- groundwater management policies,
- wastewater reuse plans, *etc...*

**Improving water governance
is a defined priority in all countries !**

Challenges, in many countries, include:

- lack of effective operational strategies,
- fragmentation of responsibilities between authorities,
- weak policy implementation and law enforcement,
- weak monitoring and assessment at the national and local level;
- limited technical, management and implementation capabilities to address water challenges,
- financial constraints to implement policies



Water Governance in the Mediterranean



Defining Water Governance



Water Governance refers to the range of political, social, economic, and administrative systems that are in place to develop and manage water resources and the delivery of water services at different levels of society. It comprises the mechanisms, processes, and institutions through which all involved stakeholders, including citizens and interest groups, articulate their priorities, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and mediate their differences.

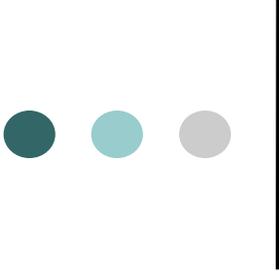
Water governance has four main inter-related and poverty-centred dimensions

The ***social dimension*** points to equitable use of water resources

The ***environmental sustainability dimension*** shows that improved governance allows for sustainable use of water resources & ecosystem integrity

The ***economic dimension*** draws attention to the efficient use of water resources & the role of water in overall economic growth

The ***political empowerment dimension*** points at granting water stakeholders and citizens equal democratic opportunities to influence and monitor political processes and outcomes



Water governance in the Mediterranean: one region, different regimes, same challenges



EU countries / North Med :
Water Framework Directive

SEE countries: EU Association
Agreements, Candidate countries,
voluntary compliance with WFD

Euro-Med Partnership >>> Union for the Mediterranean
No unified scheme on national governance and IWRM planning.

Some processes and initiatives assisting the purpose,
include UNDP, GEF, MED EUWI, African Water Facility , donors, *etc.*

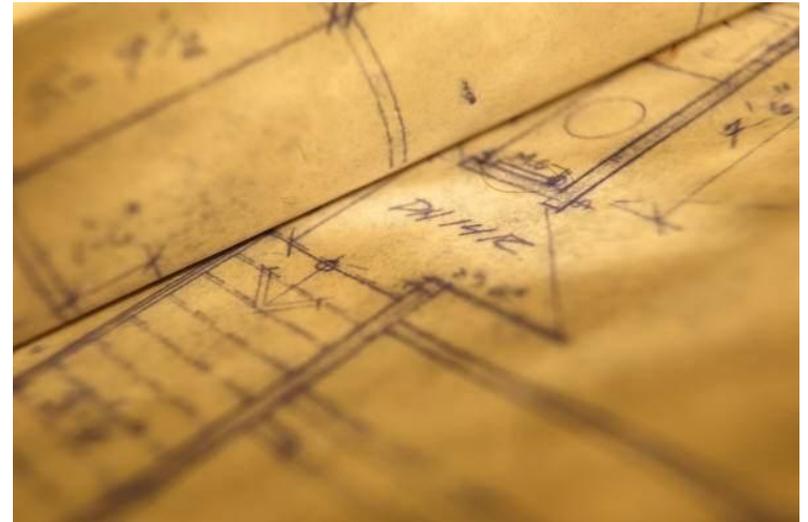
Water governance in the Mediterranean: one region, different regimes, same challenges

**Despite country variations,
most water reforms (ongoing and planned) include:**

- promoting IWRM principles, including watershed management approaches,
- clarifying institutional roles and responsibilities,
- decentralising water decision making,
- increasing stakeholder participation,
- promoting financing innovations

**In the IWRM context,
there is no 'one-solution-for all',
but a lot to learn from each other !**

**Understanding the complexity of IWRM &
securing the political willingness for an
integrated approach**



Main issues with respect to water governance in the Mediterranean

1. Policies are developed, but they face considerable obstacles in their implementation while monitoring tools are missing

- IWRM Planning is progressing
- More policy development is needed on social equity and poverty alleviation
- Concepts change too fast
- Implementation is slow
- Financing is not enough
- Monitoring is poor

2. Overlapping and multiplicity of water institutions continue

- Responsibilities on water planning and legislation have been consolidating
- Responsibilities of the wider water sector still overlap



Main issues with respect to water governance in the Mediterranean



3. Legislation and regulation have to be strengthened and enforced

- More is needed on environmental standards, polluter pays principle, pollution fines, incentives for good practices
- More is needed on water rights, regulation on water allocation, permits
- Lack of inspection mechanisms
- Poor state monitoring capabilities
- Limited enforcement capacity

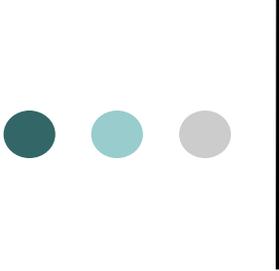
4. Water demand management needs even more effort

- Considerable shift in policies towards WDM, including non-conventional water resources
- Still a lot to do to achieve water efficiency

5. Establishing and maintaining good water governance is expensive and, at the same time, cheap

- Investment on governance pays back !
- Domestic and international funding is necessary
- Socially sensible economic instruments are important tools but more political will is needed
- Involvement of the private sector remains limited and without adequate incentives

6. Corruption remains one of the least addressed challenges in relation to water



Main issues with respect to water governance in the Mediterranean



7. Capacity building, training and development of skills needs to meet current and prepare for coping with future challenges

- More, better targeted and structured CB is needed
- Focus more on institutions responsible for IWRM plans, laws and monitoring
- More professions need to be involved
- Limited CB at local level

8. More and reliable data and exchange of information

- Lack of data coordination and integration
- Need for harmonization and continuity
- More access to existing data and info

9. Operational linkages between research & management remains poor

10. Awareness

and then more awareness !

- NGOs and media are important actors
- Low in rural areas
- A more strategic approach is needed

11. Stakeholder participation is a prerequisite

- Lack of institutional format, continuity and replicability
- Low at local level
- Not all governmental authorities
- Parliamentarians are a 'new' actor

Main issues with respect to water governance in the Mediterranean

12. Education is about investing to our future

- More formal and informal education
- Need for political commitment to this long-term objective
- Need for appropriate education material and organised networks of educators

13. More attention to gender issues

- Limited involvement of women
- Better definition and objectives needed

14. Water governance has to effectively tackle 'new' challenges

- Management of shared water resources
- Climate change adaptation



Some further considerations for achieving good water governance



- Water is not an isolated sector but a part of a wider economic system. Changes in the wider system have great impact on the water sector. Non-water decision makers and experts have to be involved
 - **Gradual change generates more sustainable results**
- Starting from specific water problems have more chances for success
 - **Political and technical champions should introduce and drive the new water paradigm**
- Compromises that take into account realities and tradeoffs including second best solutions, have been the norm rather than the exception
 - **Improving accountability of governments and water services should be among key objectives of water governance reform**
- Multilateral and bilateral donors as well as regional organisations assist countries' efforts – there is need for more coordination, complementarity and replicability



To respond to the challenges...

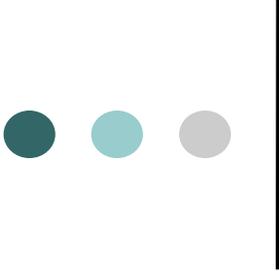
GWP-Med

As the Regional Water Partnership of GWP that promotes action and knowledge exchange on IWRM & sustainable use of water resources

- Facilitates a multi-stakeholder regional water partnership, acting as a platform for interaction
- **Seeks and facilitates multi-stakeholder engagement and donors' support for dialogue and action to promote IWRM at national and regional levels**
 - Makes the principles of sustainable water use and IWRM widely recognised and applied, through information and experience sharing

Main Initiatives & Processes

- **Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (led by Greece and the European Commission)**
GWP-Med holds the Secretariat
- **GEF Strategic Partnership - LME for the Mediterranean**
GWP-Med is the leader of the IWRM Component
- **Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process on Transboundary Water Resources Management in SEE (supported by Germany, Greece, World Bank and GEF)**
GWP-Med is the technical facilitator
- **Rabat Declaration on IWRM Planning in North Africa (GWP-Med is a key partner together with AfDB, AWF and UNEP UCC-Water)**



Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI)



Lead Country: GREECE

MED EUWI at a glance

Setting:

EUWI – launched in 2002

MED EUWI – since 2003

Lead Country: Greece

Secretariat: GWP-Med

EC Funding (MEDA Water Programme) until
April 2009

Objectives-Aims:

- Assist the design of better, demand-driven and result-oriented programmes
- Facilitate better coordination of water programmes and projects, targeting a more effective use of existing funds and mobilising new financial resources
- Foster cooperation for projects' proper implementation, based on enhancing synergies and strategic assessments

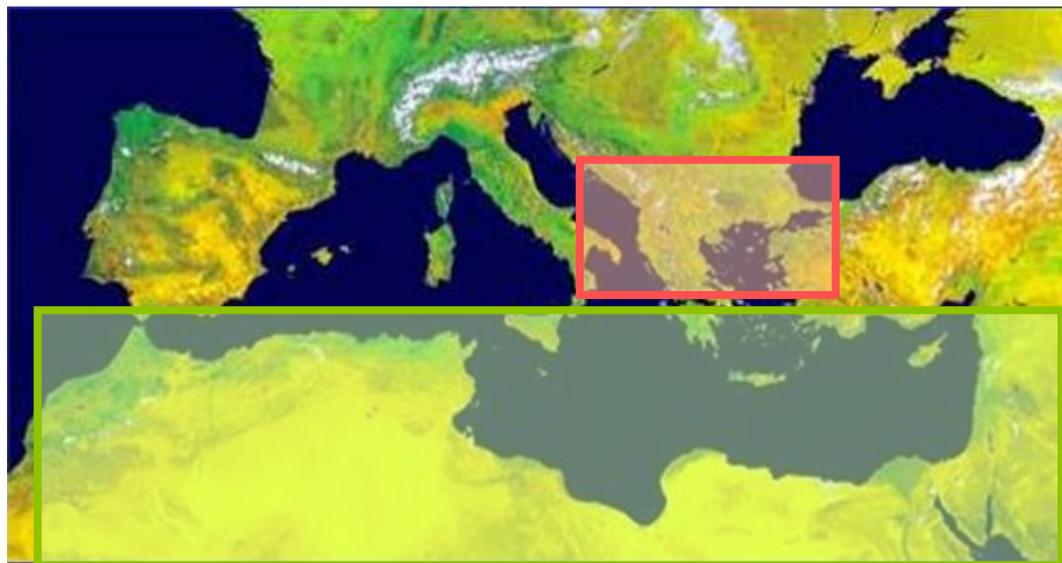
Activities at:

Regional level

IWRM Planning in North Africa, SEE Capacity Building, WFD/MED EUWI, Horizon 2020, MedIES, IWRM Country Assessments

National level

Country Dialogues



Themes:

- Integrated water resources management (IWRM)
with emphasis on planning of national & transboundary bodies
- Water supply & sanitation
with emphasis on the poorest part of the societies
- Water, food, environment interaction
with emphasis on fragile ecosystems
- Non-conventional water resources

and horizontal focus themes:

- Transfer of technology, know-how & training
- Education

MED EUWI

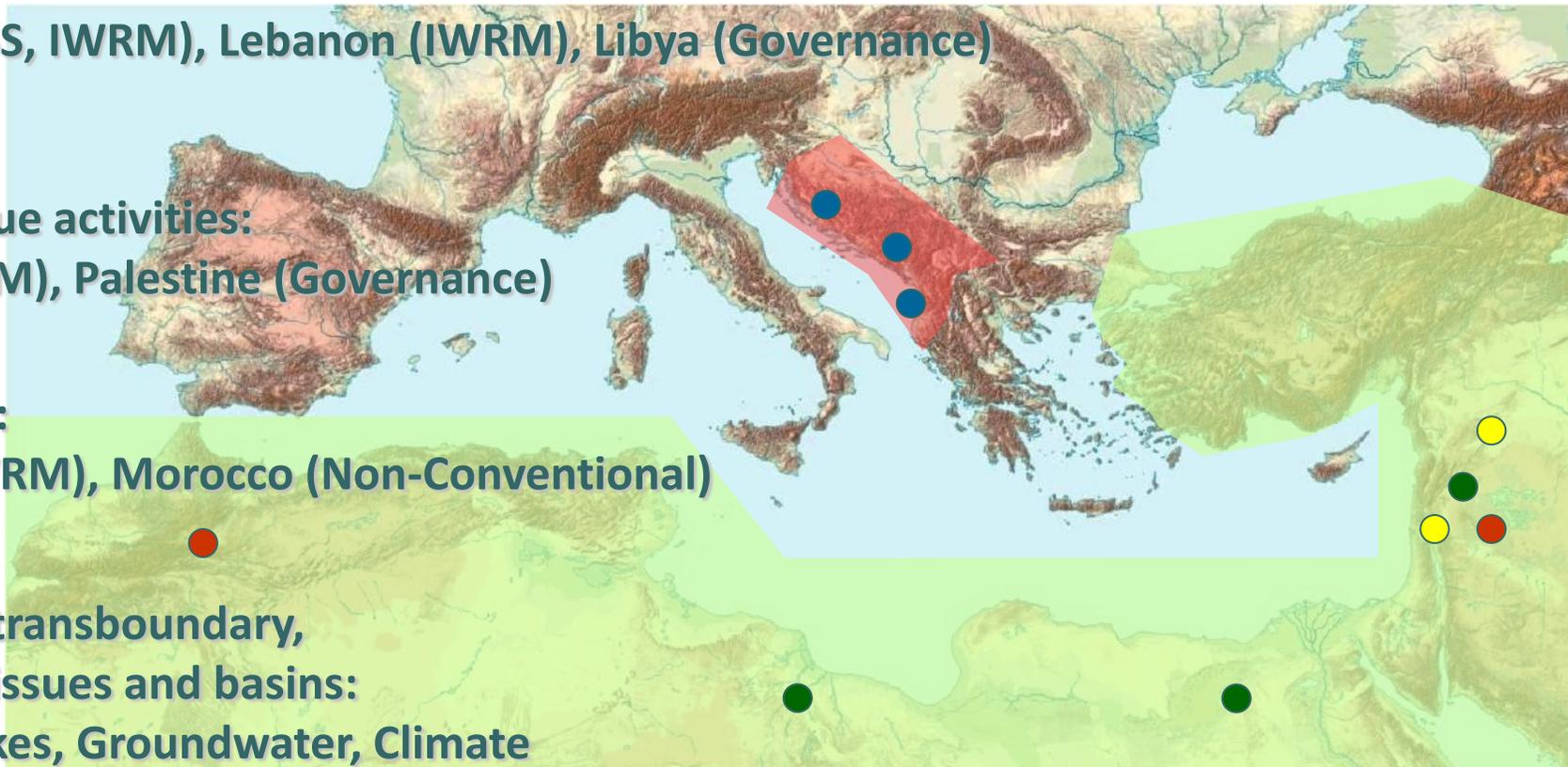
Country Dialogues & related activities (on-going and planned)

● On-going:
Egypt (WSS, IWRM), Lebanon (IWRM), Libya (Governance)

● Pre-Dialogue activities:
Syria (IWRM), Palestine (Governance)

● Requested:
Jordan (IWRM), Morocco (Non-Conventional)

● On-going transboundary,
based on issues and basins:
Rivers, Lakes, Groundwater, Climate
Sava, Drin, Ohrid, Skoder, Prespa



MED EUWI REGIONAL Activities

---Contribution to the preparations of the **Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water** (22 December 2008, Dead Sea, Jordan):

- Preparation of the **Theme Paper on Water Governance** in the Med, with contributions by Palestine and Lebanon.
 - Preparation of the **Theme Paper on Water and Climate Change Adaptation**, with contributions by Spain and Morocco.
 - Organisation of the Conference of the **Euro-Mediterranean and Southeastern European Water Directors**, July 08, Athens, to review the background Theme Papers of the Ministerial Conference.
 - **Regional Assessment on WSS** in the Med, in cooperation with WHO, JMP and UNEP/MAP
 - **Country Overviews on IWRM**, in cooperation with MEDA countries
 - Assistance to the **Civil Society Forum** prior to the Ministerial Conference
- Submission of **project proposal to the Union for the Mediterranean on enhanced coordination for water management in the Med**

--- Intensified linkages with **Horizon 2020**, with emphasis on

- * Developing the agenda of **involving more the private sector** (Conference on Horizon 2020 and the Private Investors Involvement)
- * Contributing to the H2020 Working Group on Monitoring, Review and Research
- * Contributing to the H2020 Working Group on Capacity Building

--- Work on **Climate Change Adaptation** in the Mediterranean with (i) preparation of related Position Paper for the Water Directors Conference (ii) organisation of Side Event at CSD16 (NY, May 08).

--- Continuation of educational activities on water through the **MEDIES Initiative**

--- Intensification of **collaboration with international partners** (and concrete co-financing) GEF, UNDP, AMCOW, Arab League, UN ESCWA, UNEP/MAP, World Bank, AfDB, etc...



***For more information
please visit:***

www.gwpmed.org

&

www.minenv.gr/medeuwi

www.euwi.net