



**NOSTRUM-DSS - INECO Joint Event  
Final Report, with  
Executive Summary  
(25<sup>th</sup> October 2007, Cyprus)**

Prepared by the NTUA and FEEM  
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The contents of the document are the results of the contributions of all the participants of the Joint Meeting held in Cyprus on 25/12/07, reported and written by: D. Assimacopoulos, Y. Depietri, C. Giupponi, J. A. Sagardoy, M. Tamborra.

## Executive summary

### Preamble

The EU Water Initiative - Water for Life (EUWI), officially launched at the 2002 Johannesburg Summit, was designed to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to the targets of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) for drinking water and sanitation, within the context of an integrated approach to water management. Since then a great wealth of research projects has been financed by the European Commission in order to contribute to the aims of the WSSD and to the MDGs, in particular Goal 7 (Ensure environmental sustainability) and more specifically Target 10 (Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation) and 9 (Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources).

Recently, a review of EU supported International Cooperation in the field of water research from FP4 to FP6<sup>1</sup> has shown that there is an increased role in raising awareness among societal actors of the challenges facing political leaders, policy-makers and water users, and that integration of science with policy priorities is being enhanced. Projects tend to place more emphasis on the impacts (environmental, societal and economic) of research. Furthermore, and thanks to the stronger interaction and cooperation between the EU and third countries research teams, new approaches in water policy and policy-relevant water science are emerging.

However, the uptake of research outcomes is still unsatisfactory for various reasons, including the inefficient communication between the science and policy spheres, which limits a wider exchange of information and experiences. As a result, research often does not respond to societal and policy-making concerns and needs. These themes were recently debated at a dedicated workshop at the 2007 Stockholm World Water Week<sup>2</sup> and a joint effort in this direction has been launched also by two coordination actions financed by the EC: Nostrum-Dss<sup>3</sup> (Network on governance, science and technology for sustainable water resource management in the Mediterranean. The role of DSS tools) and INECO<sup>4</sup> (Institutional and economic instruments for sustainable water management in the Mediterranean Region). These efforts culminated in the “Nostrum-Dss & INECO Joint Event” (25 Oct. 2007, Larnaca, Cyprus) specifically aimed at contributing to the EUWI through the identification of common strategies for strengthening the research impact on policies and society.

### State of the art

Research efforts are commonly concentrated on very specific issues or areas, and are not eventually integrated to produce widely applicable outputs. Thus, despite the efforts undertaken in the recent endeavours of EU-funded research towards the development of a knowledge base on tangible water management problems, the implementation of the Euro-

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<sup>1</sup> Gyawali, D. et al. (2006). “EU-INCO water research from FP4 to FP6 (1994-2006) - a critical review”. Luxembourg, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.

<sup>2</sup> Networking and Twinning Initiatives to Improve the Uptake of Research Results at the Local Level – Consolidating the EUWI Research Component ([http://www.worldwaterweek.org/worldwaterweek/2007\\_list.asp](http://www.worldwaterweek.org/worldwaterweek/2007_list.asp)).

<sup>3</sup> See [www.nostrum-dss.eu](http://www.nostrum-dss.eu) for details.

<sup>4</sup> See <http://environ.chemeng.ntua.gr/ineco/> for details.

Mediterranean Partnership and the attempts to establish a two-way feedback and dissemination of experiences and research outputs, a number of problem areas still exist:

**1) Fragmentation in project activities:** there is a multitude of different programmes and projects operating with similar objectives, but a differential and uncoordinated time schedule of research activities, which limits the potential interaction between projects; moreover, there are no mechanisms facilitating continuity on the issues examined in previous research efforts and in terms of the partnerships established. **Difficult communication between projects:** exchange of information, and collaboration between projects require first identifying other projects as potential collaborators. However, information regarding past, ongoing and future activities of projects is not systematically available. Internet remains the only effective means of accessing such information, but information is often rather incomplete, not easy to retrieve, and only partially updated and available/accessible.

**2) Limited effectiveness in the dissemination of research results,** including:

- Limited stakeholder participation in project activities due to lack of interest or insufficient contact or resources;
- Limited impact of the project results at grass-root level, due to the existence of various barriers: in particular linguistic and digital divides;
- Difficulties in engaging into a sharing process with the local communities due to significant cultural differences among the involved parties;
- Lack of financial resources for capacity building as a means to disseminate methodologies and know-how;
- Lack of mechanisms to provide sufficient momentum for a significant impact of the projects to reach the general public after the completion of the work, through the networks of potential users established during the project.

**3) Limited exploitation of research results,** mainly due to:

- The short duration of activities, which can result in limited scope for the exploitation of project results;
- Project-driven research, which does not integrate with societal and policy-making concerns especially at the local level;
- Difficulties for stakeholders to select among the many available initiatives and approaches that are proposed by projects with similar objectives/case studies;
- Difficulties in reaching the intended end-user: even if knowledge may be widely disseminated and may be readily available it is not necessarily taken into consideration by decision makers, who are especially hard to reach, if not through their own networks of advisors, consultants, etc.;
- Resistances and slowness at the institutional level, when the adoption of research outputs requires implementation in official document, regulation or legislation, under the pressures from interest groups and political lobbying but also from international and national institutions.

## **Recommendations**

Coping with the three problem areas described above requires a series of coordinated efforts to be implemented in ongoing and future research activities. Even if not comprehensive and systematic, a series of recommendations developed within recent activities are described below.

- 1) Regarding the problems related to the **fragmentation and communication problems of research activities**, the need emerges for supporting interactions and integration among different projects and of their respective results, in order to offer greater potential for the exploitation of complementarities and synergies. Such coordination efforts would create good opportunities for long-lasting actions, including case studies, while at the same time reducing the degree of overlap and duplication. Furthermore, a greater integration among projects would allow for a coordinated and integrated message for the local stakeholders and end-users who might otherwise receive a multitude of varying information from a number of sources, thus promoting the uptake of project recommendations and their translation into policy.

Potential measures towards coordination include:

- Active promotion of the development of voluntary clusters among projects that are interested in common activities and outputs;
- organization of joint international events;
- Development and enhancement of coordinated online resource centres for projects information and for specific thematic issues (e.g. IWRM and stakeholders involvement in the Mediterranean countries);
- Strategic collaboration with different bodies (i.e. NGOs and other institutions and initiatives, such as the MED-EUWI<sup>5</sup>) involved in the implementation of the IWRM principles in the Mediterranean Region;
- Setting up of follow-up activities (e.g. established permanent links among projects and funding arrangements) including the development of regional exchange networks to continue the transfer of know-how; in particular, the establishment of an integrated Mediterranean network that could constitute a first step towards better integration of research and concerted actions with the adequate multidisciplinary competences.

- 2) Regarding the **science-policy communication interface and dissemination of the projects products**, a crucial issue is the adaptation to the local contexts, taking into account the diversity of ethical and cultural issues in IWRM (e.g. religious beliefs). Continuous cooperation with the local stakeholders since the beginning of the project, and the establishment of an effective collaboration with the allocation of significant resources should be established also with the objective to build trust of people. At this regard it is important to:

- Make clear what are the objectives of the projects products (e.g. clarifying the role of research vs. consultancy; clarify the role of the scientific community in the IWRM and public participation projects; or demonstrating their policy relevance);
- Make clear who are the targets of the products and plan to have different formats for different audiences;
- Guide different users with different technical backgrounds to the available resources;
- Develop best practices and good examples referred to national/regional/local targets;
- Carefully consider the linguistic barriers: technical documents may be provided in English only, but materials targeting policy makers should be in the local language;
- Consider the inclusion of training and demonstration as part of the products to be delivered, in order to facilitate the appropriate use;

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.minenv.gr/medeuwi/> .

- Avoid duplications of previous efforts (i.e. previously published guidelines, toolboxes, manuals, etc.), preferring instead to build upon already existing materials, filtering the usable results of past projects and case studies;
- Focus on activities that promote replicability of results.

More specifically regarding the **dissemination strategies**, there is the need to communicate in a targeted and specific manner, adopting alternative dissemination means for different audiences, and, in particular, developing more effective, simplified and comprehensive languages. The contribution of projects representatives at the Joint Event allowed to identify a number of enhanced dissemination activities and approaches:

- Internet-based technologies are considered the most convenient and affordable mean for dissemination of project results. However, their shortcomings and limitations should be bared in mind: language, digital, cultural divides and long term maintenance after completion of projects;
- Policy briefs, national seminars with clear policy issues and proposals, the involvement of press, radio and TV staff in project relevant activities (e.g. regional meetings and field work) are relevant means to convey project results to decision and policy makers;
- Links already established between the scientific institutions and the governmental and non-governmental organizations, small and medium enterprises and other stakeholders, during the project implementation should play a central role in the dissemination of projects outcomes and should possibly find an institutional setting for long-term perspectives;
- The dissemination of projects results should include the organisation of presentations at high level meetings in collaboration with national and international NGOs and competent authorities

3) In most cases the **exploitation of the research results** introduced by projects needs follow up. Therefore, it is important to:

- Use specific projects and follow up activities for supporting the exploitation of results at the regional and international level. New funding mechanisms should be designed in order to facilitate the establishment of long term networking activities and follow-ups;
- Create regional exchange networks to continue know-how transfer;
- Enforce much closer links between research and EU frameworks. For instance the MED-EUWI is a political initiative were many activities are carried out and represent an opportunity for EU research projects to convey political messages that may have an impact beyond the project life. Synergies with this programme should be sought; while the establishment of links with the EUWI-Eranet programme SPLASH<sup>6</sup> may facilitate the dissemination of the main achievement of the EUWI research component;
- Strengthen the communication between the EU-projects and other organisations active in the Mediterranean Area such as the Coordinating Unit of the UNEP/MAP (MEDU) and some subordinate structures as BP/RAC (<http://www.planbleu.org/>) and INFO/RAC (<http://www.inforac.org/>). Project and follow-on activities should be clearly in line with the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable development (MSDD)

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<sup>6</sup> See <http://www.splash-era.net/> for details.

as prepared by the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) (<http://www.unepmap.org/index.php?module=content2&catid=001017002>);

- Identify measurable indicators of effective communication and develop a wide range of soft indicators to assess the communication impacts and have feedback from end users with effective means.

## Participants List

	Name	e-mail	Affiliation
1	Mohamed Abdulrazzak	<a href="mailto:m.abdulrazzak@unesco.org">m.abdulrazzak@unesco.org</a>	Cap-Net UNDP
2	Khaled Abuzeid	<a href="mailto:kabuzeid@cedare.org">kabuzeid@cedare.org</a>	Centre for Environment & Development for the Arab Region & Europe (CEDARE)
3	Abderrahmane Affia	<a href="mailto:iskane@casanet.net.ma">iskane@casanet.net.ma</a>	Iskane Ingénierie, Morocco
4	Sotirios Aggelides	<a href="mailto:ags@aua.gr">ags@aua.gr</a>	Department of Agronomy, Agricultural University of Athens (AUA), Greece
5	Stalo Anayiotou		Epsilon Consulting Ltd, Cyprus
6	Dionysis Assimacopoulos	<a href="mailto:assim@chemeng.ntua.gr">assim@chemeng.ntua.gr</a>	School of Chemical Engineering, National Technical University of Athens, Greece
7	Ioannis Athanasiadis	<a href="mailto:ioannis@idsia.ch">ioannis@idsia.ch</a> ; <a href="mailto:ionathan@iti.gr">ionathan@iti.gr</a>	Centre for Research and Technology - Hellas (ITI/CERTH), Greece
8	Mohamad Awad	<a href="mailto:mawad@cnrs.edu.lb">mawad@cnrs.edu.lb</a>	National Council for Scientific Research (NCRS), Lebanon
9	Bernard Barraqué	<a href="mailto:barraque@mail.enpc.fr">barraque@mail.enpc.fr</a>	Laboratoire Techniques Territoires et Sociétés, Centre national de la recherche scientifique, France
10	Jean-Marc Berland	<a href="mailto:jm.berland@oieau.fr">jm.berland@oieau.fr</a>	International Office for Water, France
11	Abdoullah Bouchedja	<a href="mailto:bouchedja@yahoo.fr">bouchedja@yahoo.fr</a>	Agence de Bassin Hydrographique Constantinois-Seybouse Mellegue, Algeria
12	Ridha Boulabiar	<a href="mailto:ridha.boulabiar@planet.tn">ridha.boulabiar@planet.tn</a>	ONAS-National Sanitation Utility, Tunisia
13	Ahmed Bouzid	<a href="mailto:boc@citet.nat.tn">boc@citet.nat.tn</a>	Tunis International Centre for Environmental Technologies, Tunisia
14	Anthi Brouma	<a href="mailto:anthi@gwpmed.org">anthi@gwpmed.org</a>	MED EUWI, GWP-Med
15	Merel Cédric	<a href="mailto:Cedric.MEREL@ec.europa.eu">Cedric.MEREL@ec.europa.eu</a>	European Commission, DG EuropeAid
16	Dora Chimonidou	<a href="mailto:Dora.Chimonidou@arinet.ari.gov.cy">Dora.Chimonidou@arinet.ari.gov.cy</a>	Agricultural Research Institute (ARI), Cyprus
17	Nicolas Christofides		Water Development Department, Cyprus
18	George Cojocar	<a href="mailto:gco@tiamasg.com">gco@tiamasg.com</a>	Fundatia pentru Tehnologia Informatiei Aplicata in Mediu Agricultura si Schimbari Globale (TIAMASG)
19	Nathalie Dörfliger	<a href="mailto:n.dorfliger@brgm.fr">n.dorfliger@brgm.fr</a>	Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières Méditerranée (BRGM), France
20	Foued El Ayni	<a href="mailto:unite-chg@citet.nat.tn">unite-chg@citet.nat.tn</a>	Tunis International Centre for Environmental Technologies, Tunisia
21	Fathy El-Gamal	<a href="mailto:wmri@link.net">wmri@link.net</a>	Water Management Research Institute, Egypt
22	Anita Fassio	<a href="mailto:anita.fassio@feem.it">anita.fassio@feem.it</a>	Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM), Italy
23	Mounir Ghribi	<a href="mailto:Mounir.Ghribi@ics.trieste.it">Mounir.Ghribi@ics.trieste.it</a>	International Centre for Science and High Technology (ICS-UNIDO), Italy
24	Carlo Giupponi	<a href="mailto:carlo.giupponi@feem.it">carlo.giupponi@feem.it</a>	Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM), Italy
25	Demetris Glekas	<a href="mailto:dglekas@aeoliki.com">dglekas@aeoliki.com</a>	Aeoliki Ltd, Cyprus
26	Ioannis Glekas	<a href="mailto:iglekas@aeoliki.com">iglekas@aeoliki.com</a>	Aeoliki Ltd, Cyprus
27	Malek Haddad	<a href="mailto:malek@s-i-consulting.com">malek@s-i-consulting.com</a>	Studies and Integration Consulting, Syria



28	Agathi Hadjipanteli		Water Development Department, Cyprus
29	Moulay Idriss Hassani	<a href="mailto:hassanid@hotmail.com">hassanid@hotmail.com</a>	Association pour la Recherche sur le Climate et l'Environment (ARCE)
30	Chrysostomos Kampanellas		
31	Nicola Lamaddalena	<a href="mailto:lamaddalena@iamb.it">lamaddalena@iamb.it</a>	CIHEAM-Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari, Italy
32	George Loucaides		Water Development Department, Cyprus
33	Antonio Massarutto	<a href="mailto:antonio.massarutto@uniud.it">antonio.massarutto@uniud.it</a>	Istituto di Economia e Politica dell' Energia e dell' Ambiente, Universita Commerciale Luigi Bocconi
34	Paola Minoia	<a href="mailto:minoia@helios.unive.it">minoia@helios.unive.it</a>	Centro Interdipartimentale (IDEAS-CESD), Università Cà Foscari of Venice, Italy
35	Pericles A. Mitkas	<a href="mailto:mitkas@eng.auth.gr">mitkas@eng.auth.gr</a>	Centre for Research and Technology - Hellas (ITI/CERTH)
36	Charis Omorphos	<a href="mailto:comorphos@wdd.moa.gov.cy">comorphos@wdd.moa.gov.cy</a>	Water Development Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and the Environment, Cyprus
37	Peter O'Neil	<a href="mailto:P-ONeill@dfid.gov.uk">P-ONeill@dfid.gov.uk</a>	Department for International Development (DFID), UK
39	Ioannis Papadopoulos		Cyprus University of Technology, Cyprus
40	Vlasis Partasides		Water Development Department, Cyprus
41	Photos Photiou		Water Development Department, Cyprus
42	Christina Pitta		Agricultural Research Institute (ARI), Cyprus
43	Marko Prem	<a href="mailto:marko.prem@ppa.htnet.hr">marko.prem@ppa.htnet.hr</a>	Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC), Croatia
44	Sonia Quiroga		Universidad Politecnica de Madrid, Spain
45	Carlos Russo Machado	<a href="mailto:cmachado@uatla.pt">cmachado@uatla.pt</a>	Ensino, Investigação e Administração S.A. / Universidade Atlântica (EIA/UATLA), Portugal
46	Rafael Rodriguez Clemente	<a href="mailto:raro@orgc.csic.es">raro@orgc.csic.es</a>	Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas (CSIC), Spain
47	Juan Antonio Sagardoy	<a href="mailto:sagardoy@iamb.it">sagardoy@iamb.it</a>	CIHEAM-Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari, Italy
48	Alessandra Scardigno	<a href="mailto:scardigno@iamb.it">scardigno@iamb.it</a>	CIHEAM-Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari, Italy
49	Michael Scoullous	<a href="mailto:secretariat@gwpmed.org">secretariat@gwpmed.org</a>	MED EUWI, GWP-Med
50	Constantis Spanashis		Department of Agriculture, Cyprus
51	Claude Tabbal	<a href="mailto:condev@condev-lb.com">condev@condev-lb.com</a>	Conseil et Developpement, Lebanon
52	Marialuisa Tamborra	<a href="mailto:Marialuisa.TAMBORRA@ec.europa.eu">Marialuisa.TAMBORRA@ec.europa.eu</a>	EC-DG research
53	Loukia Vassiliou	<a href="mailto:EuroProg@arinet.ari.gov.cy">EuroProg@arinet.ari.gov.cy</a>	Agricultural Research Institute (ARI), Cyprus
54	Evan Vlachos	<a href="mailto:evlachos@engr.colostate.edu">evlachos@engr.colostate.edu</a>	Sociology and Civil Engineering Dept., Colorado State University, USA

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Aim and scope of this document

This document summarizes the discussions of the NOSTRUM-DSS – INECO Joint event “IWRM through coordination, dissemination, and exploitation of research outcomes“, held in Cyprus on the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2007. The document aims to distil the information from the event presentations and discussions, providing an overview of the most significant points raised. Special thanks are extended to Dr. Juan-Antonio Sagardoy for his report on the Event, which was used in the preparation of this document.

## 1.2 The NOSTRUM-DSS – INECO Joint Event

The event was jointly organized by the Nostrum-DSS and INECO Projects at the Lordos Beach Hotel in Larnaka, Cyprus, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2007. A large number of EU Project Coordinators and researchers, and other interested participants including European Commission Representatives, were invited in order to exchange scientific knowledge and project results on different topics in the domain of water resources management in the Mediterranean region. The event was oriented towards the discussion of problems and criteria for the coordination, dissemination and exploitation of EU-research outcomes relevant to the implementation of IWRM in the Mediterranean region.

During the morning session, brief presentations were made by participating Project Coordinators/Representatives on their experiences and views of the event topics; the afternoon Workshop was dedicated to group discussions and the preparation of contributions for the final conclusions.

The expected outcome of the Joint Meeting was the initiation of an open dialogue towards developing:

- Concrete ideas about how to coordinate activities of different projects, in order to reach a critical mass of products to be delivered to potential end-users;
- Proposals for combining the activities of projects with different timing with the aim of supporting the maintenance of a common stream of actions;
- Plans to expand the collaboration outside the range of projects that will be represented in Cyprus;
- Proposals for improving the effectiveness of future EU-funded research.

## 2. Morning Session – Project presentations

As the main objective of the meeting was the discussion of problems and criteria for the themes of (a) coordination, (b) dissemination and (c) exploitation of research, a number of EU-funded Projects relevant to the implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management in the Mediterranean Region were invited to participate in the event. The participants each presented their experiences, including difficulties encountered, conclusions and views on the three themes. The information included in the presentations has been collected and condensed in the present document, and is summarized below. The Participating Projects and Coordinators/Representatives were:

- INECO (INCO-CT-2006-517673) - Dionysis Assimacopoulos;
- GEWAMED (INCO-CT2005-517696) - Juan-Antonio Sagardoy;
- WASAMED (ICA3-CT-2002-10013 ) - Nicola Lamaddalena;
- MEDROPLAN (2003/059-770) - Sonia Quiroga;
- MEDITATE (INCO-CT2004-509112) - Nathalie Dörfliger;
- MELIA (INCO-CT-2006-517612) - Rafael Rodriguez;
- ISIIMM (ME8/AIDCO/2001/0515/59763-P 016) - Anita Fassio;
- DIMAS (INCO-CT2004-509087) - Sotirios Aggelides;
- NOSTRUM-DSS (INCO-CT-2004-509158) - Carlo Giupponi.



*Figure 1: Group picture of the NOSTRUM-DSS and INECO Joint Event Participants*

### 2.1 Major points raised in the Project presentations

#### **INECO (INCO-CT-2006-517673)**

Despite the efforts undertaken in the recent endeavours of EU-funded Research towards the development of a knowledge base on tangible water management problems, the implementation of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the attempts to establish a two-way feedback and dissemination of experiences and research outputs, a number of problem areas still exist.

Fragmentation still remains a key problem, particularly as there is a multitude of different programmes and Projects operating with similar objectives, and there is limited continuity in terms of the partnerships established and on the issues examined in previous efforts. Research in many cases is Project-driven only and does not integrate with societal and policy-making concerns, while even in cases where it is stakeholder driven there is a marked lack of integration of the research efforts and results with local development, particularly infrastructure, and with regional policy-making.

Ensuring the best possible dissemination and exploitation of results requires a continuous cooperation with the local stakeholders, and the establishment of an effective collaboration with the dedication of significant resources. The Project consortia should endeavour to make research accessible to stakeholders and the general public, as well as to create the necessary capacity so as to promote the understanding of the research context and results. It is vital that a research approach is designed while taking into account the perceptions, positions and interests of the local Stakeholders, including end users, and that constructively engages these interested parties to link research conclusions and results to their consequences/impact and uptake potential.

### **GEWAMED (INCO-CT2005-517696)**

The exchange of information and collaboration between Projects requires that there be a means of first identifying other projects as potential collaborators. The means to achieve this are currently limited, especially as the information regarding future activities of projects is often rather incomplete and not available systematically; the internet remains the only effective means of accessing such information, but there are limitations to the amount of information available/accessible. Furthermore, establishing links to other Projects requires financial and time resources, which are also, in many cases, limited.

In terms of result and knowledge dissemination, it was noted that although knowledge may be widely disseminated, the impact of this is not always easy to assess; although the knowledge may be readily available, it is not necessarily taken into consideration, by decision-makers in particular. Decision makers are especially hard to reach, and an effort to do so requires significant resources in order to effectively disseminate results, which are also needed for capacity building.

As Projects address more than one target audience, different target groups need different approaches and knowledge packages for dissemination, and it is not always easy to discern the degree of knowledge/information to be disseminated to a specific audience. It is possible to communicate results through several different means, the effectiveness of which also differs depending on the targets.

**Table 1. Means of communication and their effectiveness towards different target groups in the GEWAMED Project**

<b>Means of communication</b>	<b>Effectiveness</b>		
	<b>Top level</b>	<b>Professional level</b>	<b>Field level</b>
Participation in International Conferences	xxx	xxx	x
Regional Project Workshops	xx	xxx	x
National Seminars and Workshops	xxx	xxx	xxx
National Communication Networks	x	xxx	xx
Field days	x	x	xxx
Websites	x	xxx	xx

Means of communication	Effectiveness		
	Top level	Professional level	Field level
E-mail communication	xx	xxx	xx
Technical Publications	x	xxx	xx
Training Courses	x	xx	xxx
Brochures	x	xx	xx
Posters	xx	x	xx
Newspaper articles	xxx	xx	x

The exploitation of results can prove problematic at times, as the adoption of research outputs in mandated guidelines and legislation can be a slow and tedious process facing significant resistance from interest groups and political lobbying. Specific mechanisms are needed to translate research into policy and action.

In order to enhance the coordination of research activities among different projects, it is recommended to actively promote the development of Voluntary Clusters among Projects that are interested in common activities and outputs. Furthermore, effective dialogue can also be promoted by using the opportunities offered by international conferences to hold meetings among representatives of EU Projects; additionally, the participation of Project representatives in regional decision-makers' meetings, in collaboration with NGOs, could also enhance the exploitation and dissemination of results. Finally, it would be possible to use specifically targeted Projects (e.g. SSAs) for supporting the exploitation of specific results at the regional and international level.

### **WASAMED (ICA3-CT-2002-10013)**

The WASAMED Project stressed the difficulties encountered in building efficient and operating National teams and in accessing relevant information, in particular the administrative/financial documents needed.

It was proposed that an effort be made towards the establishment of integrated Mediterranean networking, in order to facilitate communication and promote operational collaboration opportunities, building a good degree of trust and establishing an effective level of communication and collaboration.

### **MEDROPLAN (2003/059-770)**

In order to overcome problems on Project coordination and result exploitation and dissemination, the MEDROPLAN consortium has recommended focusing on establishing good communication. Furthermore, the importance of translating Project results and outputs into a number of local languages was stressed as a means for establishing effective communication and dissemination.

### **MEDITATE (INCO-CT2004-509112)**

The MEDITATE Project reported encountering difficulties in collecting and sharing data considered potentially "sensitive" by local administrators in some countries. There were also issues with regard to the reliability of the data collected, particularly at the catchment scale where data are not always readily available and may need to be estimated or extrapolated. Furthermore, it may be difficult for stakeholders to select among the available approaches that are proposed by Projects with similar

Objectives/Case Studies. With regard to the collaboration with other Projects, it was noted that there are time constraints in establishing such interactions, and that the short duration of activities can result in limited scope for the exploitation of concurrent Project Results.

With regard to the dissemination of results, it was noted that cultural differences among interested groups have been shown to play an important role, and may prove to be an obstacle in the sharing process; incomplete knowledge on these may impede a Project from making full use of the potential for local involvement.

Based on the above, it was proposed that efforts are directed towards increasing capacity building through EU Projects in countries where such difficulties are encountered, and transferring the knowledge amassed and technology to local engineer associations, professional fora, and other local contacts, making use of demonstrations, in order to enhance the exploitation of results. Furthermore, involving both NGOs and dissemination experts in the process of result dissemination can assist in building more effective dialogue and communication with the local communities, and in strengthening the links with the local stakeholders and end-users which could build trust and promote the exploitation of Project outputs.

### **MELIA (INCO-CT-2006-517612)**

In order to overcome problems on Project coordination and result exploitation and dissemination, the MELIA consortium seeks a strategic collaboration with different bodies interested in the IWRM in the Mediterranean region, such as NGOs and other institutions and initiatives, in order to create synergies towards dealing with problems regarding water management in the Mediterranean area. Although local activities are at the core of any research effort, common grounds for all Mediterranean Partner Countries should be sought to enhance the scope for result dissemination and exploitation. Also, it is very important to know how to uncover and mitigate the discrepancies and gaps between National Water Policies and the EU-WFD recommendations.

### **ISIIMM (ME8/AIDCO/2001/0515/59763-P 016)**

The development of an appropriate communication strategy taking into account the different target groups was a critical factor in the ISIIMM Project for the dissemination of Project results. This has posed certain problems, specifically in relation to ensuring an impact at the local level; translation of important documents and during events into the local languages was not always possible given existing constraints, and hence the communication and dissemination of results was at times limited. Towards exploitation of results, the main challenge remains how to establish social commitment and promote the autonomous financial and management capacities that would be required for the long-term sustainability of the activities initiated by the Project, after its end.

In terms of dissemination, it is therefore important not only to develop the appropriate outputs to be disseminated to the target audience, but also to consistently target the local communities in their native languages. It is also essential to use the local/national media, in order to reach the maximum number of audience members and produce a significant impact.

Efforts to establish a longer-term and wider-impact set of activities could be made through the development of collaboration with other Projects. ISIIMM undertook a process of information exchange with other Projects through the organization and participation in a cross-cutting seminar as well as international conferences. These events allow for horizontal cross learning from the experiences of others, however they are limited in their scope. The creation of an online resource centre can facilitate access to existing information and allow its sharing among different Project Consortia, disseminating best practices in Project implementation.

The creation of regional exchange networks is also proposed, as a means to continue the transfer of know-how among consortia. Additionally, the establishment of structures permitting the follow-up of previous research efforts could make a valuable contribution to developing research efforts, provided that it is possible to establish the necessary permanent links, and of course funding arrangements. This would further promote the development of institutional capacities and the necessary support in translating research outputs into Policy.

#### **DIMAS (INCO-CT2004-509087)**

In order to overcome problems on Project coordination and result exploitation and dissemination, the DIMAS consortium placed emphasis on establishing a common framework for experimental design and data collection.

#### **NOSTRUM-DSS (INCO-CT-2004-509158)**

In terms of establishing collaboration with other Projects, there is great potential for reaching critical mass through the exploitation of complementarities among Project and potential opportunities for synergies, making the best use of opportunities to meet face-to-face and establish strong links. This would allow for the development of continuous, long-lasting case studies that could yield significant results, while reducing potential activity overlaps and exploiting areas of overlapping objectives/interests. Furthermore, this can promote the uptake of Project recommendations and their translation into policy. It would also permit sending coordinated and integrated messages to the local stakeholders and end-users who might otherwise receive a multitude of varying information from a number of sources.

However, this is not easy to achieve as the differential time schedules of Projects pose significant obstacles to the effective coordination of such an integration effort, and of course the allocation and management of financial resources at such a scale can prove to be problematic.

It should also be noted that it is important to develop diversified dissemination strategies targeted to different audiences, as the potential targets of research results and outputs may respond best to different approaches. Overcoming the cultural and linguistic divides, and effectively reaching the intended end-users, requires the establishment of both effective communication and dissemination strategies, and of follow-up activities so as to prolong and develop the interaction further, facilitating the uptake of the project's outcomes. Increased use of Internet facilities can be a viable method to broaden the impact of Project results and their dissemination; an additional consideration here is the cost of dissemination activities, and the limited funding towards support of result exploitation past a Project's completion date.



*Figure 2. The Event Participants*

## **2.2 Summary of the Points raised**

### **Exploitation of Project results**

Integrated management of water resources, as a multidisciplinary approach, opens new scientific and technological fields for scientists in water-related research fields. The experience gained through several projects and applied in different countries can be used to promote institutional change and support the development of common guidelines, with stakeholder assistance/participation, at the international, national and catchment/local scale.

An important constraint in the exploitation of Project final outcomes is the fact that the impact of project results is often not assessed, or cannot be assessed, in the early phases of projects or even after their conclusion. In addition, there is significant reluctance from the part of international and national institutions to adopt research results towards “mandatory” measures (for instance gender - water guidelines), especially as such an adoption would also require changes in legislation.

Focusing on activities that promote sustainability and replicability is central to the exploitation of project results; to that end, the activities of local actors should concentrate on institutional capacity and policy development (e.g. policy papers). The gap between science and policy can be bridged through engaging into funding schemes in support of the exploitation of results, following completion of the projects.

### **Summary on the Dissemination of Project Outcomes**

The participating Project representatives identified a number of dissemination activities and approaches already implemented in their respective efforts, including public awareness campaigning, the publication and circulation of Project results in different languages, and the establishment of national or regional advisory committees to promote water-related messages and dialogue among stakeholders.



A number of difficulties have been faced by Project participants in the dissemination of results and outcomes. Some difficulties are internal to Project Consortia and related to limited exchange of information and results between partners through internet applications/facilities. In brief, reported problems were:

- Limited stakeholder participation in project activities due to lack of interest or insufficient contact;
- Limited impact of the project results at grass-root level, due to the restricted translation of project documents into local languages;
- Difficulties in engaging into a sharing process with the local communities due to significant cultural differences among the involved parties;
- Lack of financial resources for capacity building as a means to disseminate methodologies and know-how.

For reaching a wider audience (stakeholders, decision makers and end-users), the issue is to identify the knowledge that should be disseminated according to the target group, and the appropriate means to reach the audience (diversify material and means according to target audience). Therefore, participants recommended focusing on the identification and use of a number of alternative dissemination means including internet resources as well as national and local radio stations, TV channels, and press releases, translated into the local languages.

### **Summary on the Coordination and Integration among Projects**

The event participants viewed the creation of interactions and integration among activities of different projects and of their respective results as offering great potential for the exploitation of complementarities and synergies (e.g. e-conferences). Such coordination efforts create good opportunities for long-lasting case studies, while at the same time reducing the degree of overlap. Potential measures towards coordination proposed included:

- Horizontal cross learning through the organization of joint conferences;
- The development of online resource centres (for projects information, for specific thematic issues e.g. IWRM and stakeholders involvement in the Mediterranean countries) aimed at facilitating access to existing information and allowing the sharing of information;
- Setting up follow-up activities (e.g. established permanent links among projects and funding arrangements) including the development of regional exchange networks to continue the transfer of know-how.

Areas of concern regarding the integration of project activities and the interactions among projects are related to difficulties arising in:

- The financial management of such endeavours,
- Coordinating the timing of activities among Projects and of Projects overall,
- Creating inter-Project national/local teams,
- Gaining access to the resources required for such activities, and in
- Overcoming the differences of Project dissemination strategies.

The event participants recommended focusing on efforts to support capacity building in order to overcome these concerns, and the establishment of an integrated Mediterranean network that could constitute a first step towards better integration of research and concerted actions.

### **3. Forum Introduction: EC view on IWRM Research & the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative**

#### **3.1 The EC view on Research towards Policy development & the EU Water Initiative**

Ms. Marialuisa Tamborra (DG Research-International Cooperation) made a brief introduction to the EU Water Initiative, officially launched at the 2002 Johannesburg Summit, which was designed to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and WSSD targets for drinking water and sanitation, within the context of an integrated approach to water resources management. The EUWI was extensively supported by calls for proposals in the FP6 since 2002. Ms. Tamborra noted the support provided by the DG Research on issues related to IWRM research involving international cooperation in the FP5 (through the INCO programme), in FP6 (through INCO and the “Global Change & Ecosystems” priority) and in FP7, where a new approach is implemented towards international cooperation, with all activities and themes being open to third countries (both ICPCs and industrialized countries).

IWRM research was supported in the FP6, with approximately 60 projects being financed by the EC, including 4 Integrated Projects. Some projects were specifically designed to support the EUWI; examples include the support of (a) twinning initiatives among river basins in the EU and third countries, and (b) coordination actions aimed at involving stakeholders and translating scientific knowledge into policy terms. The main achievement of the EUWI research, for the coordination of research undertaken in the EC Member States in relation to water management for the developing world, was the EUWI-ERANET (SPLASH).

The Review of EU-INCO water research from FP4 to FP6 has demonstrated that there is an increased role in raising awareness among societal actors of the challenges facing political leaders, policy-makers & water users, and that integration of science with policy priorities is being enhanced. Projects tend to place more emphasis on the impacts (environmental, societal and economic) of research. Furthermore, and thanks to the stronger interaction and cooperation between EC and third countries research teams, new approaches in water policy and policy-relevant water science are emerging. In this regard, the Review proposed a set of recommendations/orientations for new calls and projects in the FP7, which among others include the need for:

- Promoting constructively engaged research towards IWRM, including gender awareness;
- Aligning research to regional priorities and specificities;
- Addressing communication issues and shortening of project impact times through engaged approaches;
- Continuation of research efforts to connect and integrate different strands of knowledge (local knowledge, socio-economic development, culture, policy, institutions & capacity building).

#### **3.2 Overview of the Mediterranean Component of the EU-Water Initiative**

The overall aims and objectives of the Mediterranean Component of the EU-Water Initiative, as outlined by Prof. M. Scoullou, are to:

- 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 mobilizing new financial resources,

- Foster cooperation for proper Project implementation, based on enhancing synergies and strategic assessment.

MED-EUWI focuses in the following thematic areas: (a) Integrated Water Resources Management, emphasizing joint planning for national and transboundary water bodies; (b) water supply and sanitation, especially for the underprivileged; (c) interactions between water, food security and environmental protection, with emphasis on fragile ecosystems, and (d) the development of non-conventional water resources, such as desalination and water reuse. Horizontal, cross-cutting themes fostered by the MED-EUWI include the transfer of technology, know-how through training in order to enhance capacity building efforts, and education, primarily supported through MEDIES.

Examples of activities in the 2007 MED-EUWI work programme are the continuation of Country Dialogues in Egypt and Lebanon focusing on the link between the reconstruction process and the national water strategy, efforts to launching other National Dialogues, activities in support of national IWRM institutional settings in North Africa, the organisation of the Annual Conference of the Water Directors of EU-Med and SE European Countries, Conferences and workshops to support capacity building and training on IWRM issues, and efforts to strengthen linkages and cooperation with other initiatives and instruments.

The linking of Research to MED EUWI activities involves two steps:

- Step 1: Identification of existing gaps in the collaboration between DG Research and MED-EUWI, through
  - The listing of research programmes thematically and geographically covering the Mediterranean Region;
  - The identification of research gaps and priorities in the Mediterranean, with the aim of enhancing synergies and creating better links among existing regional networks.
- Step 2: Integration of envisaged links into the Planning/Programming of MED-EUWI activities, including not only research that is directly linked to the MED-EUWI objectives but also efforts, addressing issues indirectly linked to these (e.g. climate change, socio-economic trends etc.)

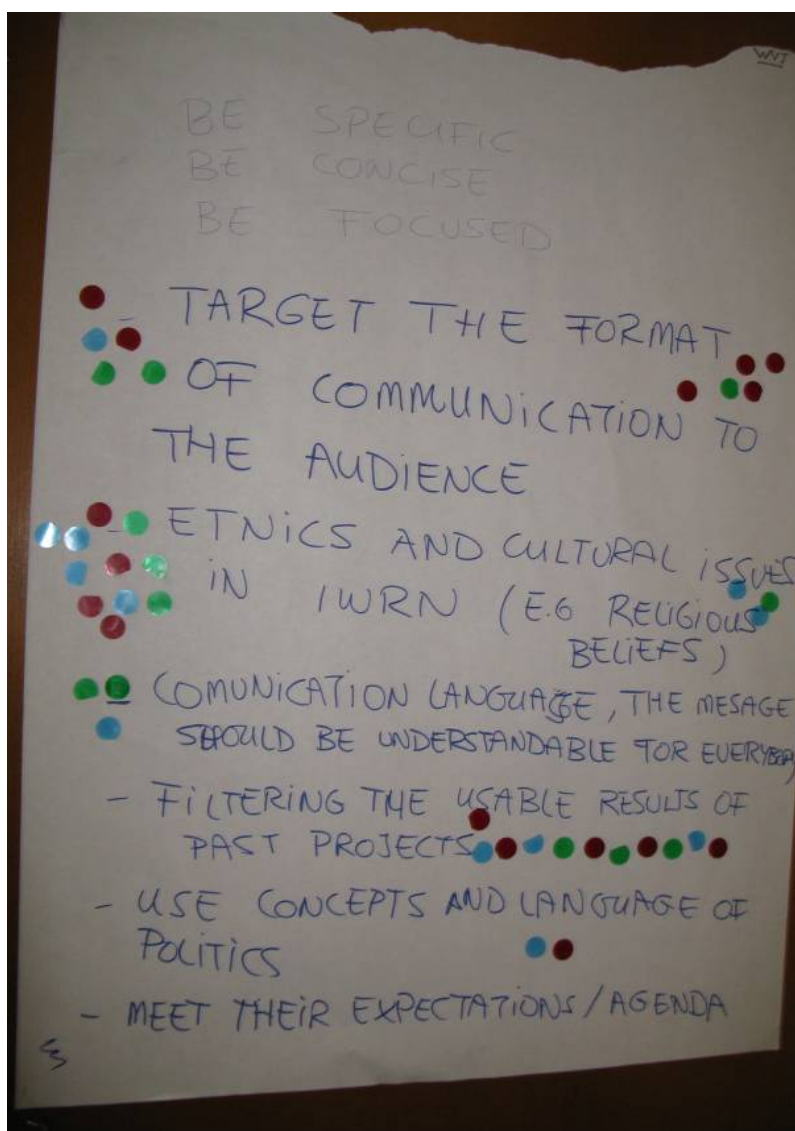
## 4. Afternoon Session and Workshop

The afternoon session was opened by brief talks by representatives of international organisations, who reacted to the presentations of the morning and presented their viewpoints regarding improved coordination of research efforts and exploitation of project results.

The following speakers took the floor, providing food for thoughts and initiating the activities further developed in sub-groups:

- Bernard Barraqué, Laboratoire Techniques Territoires et Sociétés, Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS-LATTS), France
- Anthi Brouma, EUWI-MED, GWP-MED
- Peter O'Neil Department of International Development (DFID), UK
- Khaled Abu-Zeid, Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE). Egypt
- Marko Prem, PAP/RAC UNEP\_MAP Croatia
- Cedric Merel, European Commission, DG EuropeAid
- Mohammad Abdulrazzak, CAP- Net UNDP

Afterwards, the participants were divided into 2 sub-groups, each discussing on specific proposals/actions for enhancing the coordination, dissemination and exploitation of research outcomes. After the drafting of a set of proposals from each sub-group, all participants gathered in the "Agora" (the common room), and contributed to the formulation of a draft declaration on these issues, by indicating their preferences on each proposal statement. Issues were rated by the participants as to their significance and impact by posting coloured chips with different assigned values (red=5, blue =3, green=2) on the board. Each participant was given coloured chips with a total value of 20.



**Figure 3: Voting on the Workshop flipcharts**

The following table presents the results of this voting session by the Workshop participants; the issues have been ranked by total score, and are listed below.

**Table 2. Voting results**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Red votes</b>	<b>Blue votes</b>	<b>Green votes</b>	<b>Total Score</b>
Communicate in a simplified and comprehensive manner (e.g. soap opera)	7	2	4	<b>49</b>
Enforce much closer links between research and EU frameworks	6	3	5	<b>49</b>
Taking into account the diversity of ethical and cultural issues in IWRM (e.g. Religious beliefs)	4	7	4	<b>49</b>
Involve stakeholders from the start	5	4	3	<b>43</b>
Filtering the usable results of past projects	5	3	4	<b>42</b>
Target the format of communication to the audience	6	1	3	<b>39</b>
Dissemination strategy adapted/differentiated according to targeted end-user population	2	4	8	<b>38</b>
Build trust of people	4	2	2	<b>30</b>
Gender as a horizontal issue	2	4	4	<b>30</b>
Continuity of Case Studies	3	2	4	<b>29</b>
Consultancy – Research. What is the role of a researcher?	4	0	3	<b>26</b>
Clarify what our role is in the IWRM & Public participation Projects	3	2	2	<b>25</b>
Sharing of experiences from Case Studies	0	6	3	<b>24</b>
Knowledge management is a science in itself	3	1	2	<b>22</b>
Have feedback from end users with effective means (e.g. SMS for farmers)	1	5	1	<b>22</b>
Identify (clarify) roles of DG Research strategy to link with all relevant actors	2	2	0	<b>16</b>
Avoid duplication	1	3	1	<b>16</b>
Need for broadening multidisciplinary expertises	1	3	1	<b>16</b>
Push governments to collect/share data	1	3	1	<b>16</b>
Benefit from studies on more effective use of public participation	2	0	1	<b>12</b>
How to participate in “high level” meetings (water directors)?	0	3	0	<b>9</b>
Communication language, the message should be understandable for everybody	0	1	3	<b>9</b>
Use concepts and language of politics	1	1	0	<b>8</b>
Double representation	1	0	1	<b>7</b>
Capitalizing Case Studies	0	1	2	<b>7</b>
End users should have the capacity to continue the implementation of research	0	2	0	<b>6</b>
Data→ information → indicators → informed decisions. Experiences are needed	1	0	0	<b>5</b>
Involve people from the marketing sector for advertising research outcomes	0	0	2	<b>4</b>
Show what could happen if available knowledge is not used	0	0	1	<b>2</b>
Meet their (end users’) expectations/agenda	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Plenty of regions not covered by research or Case Studies	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Don’t forget urban systems	0	0	0	<b>0</b>

## 5. Overall Comments and Summary

Fragmentation and the lack of integration in matters of technical innovation, infrastructure development, policy development and research capacity, remain key problems in project implementation. As a result, research often does not respond to societal and policy-making concerns and needs. Research efforts of different Projects are commonly concentrated on very specific issues or areas, and are not eventually integrated to produce widely applicable outputs.

The following figure summarizes all the points made in the duration of the Workshop discussions, outlining the issues arising in the enhancement of Dissemination, Exploitation and Integration of Projects and their results over increasing levels of collaboration.

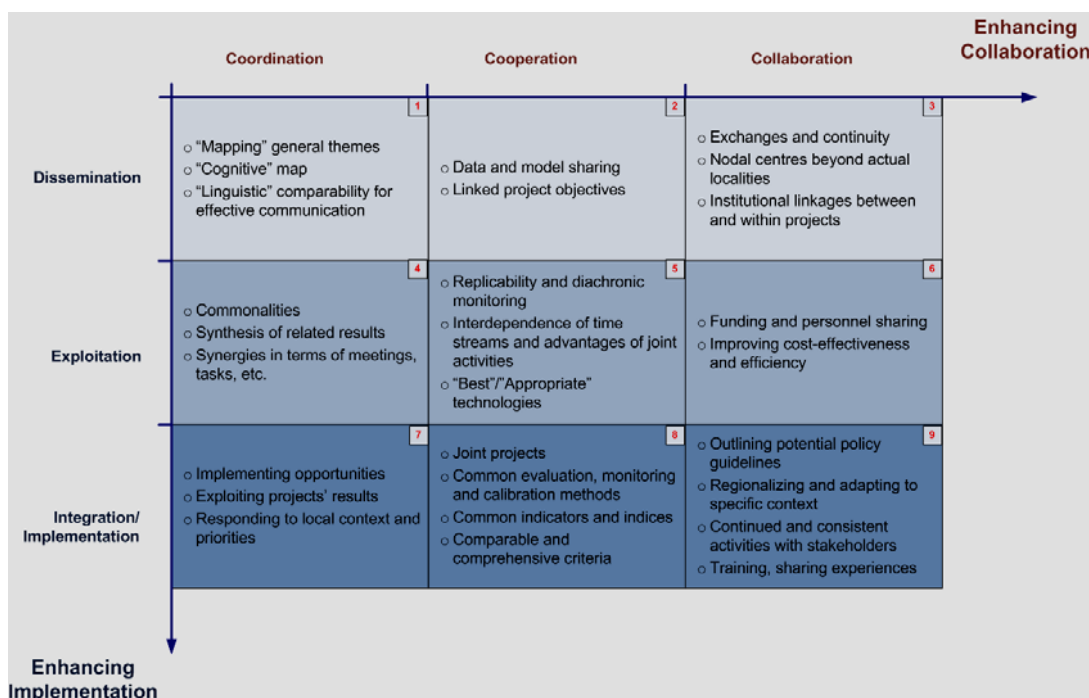


Figure 4. Enhancing collaboration in the three event themes

Overall, the recommendations of Project Coordinators and other interested parties for enhancing the integration of Projects and the dissemination and exploitation of their results can be summarised in the following:

- Strengthening stakeholder participation in Project activities;
- Maintaining the continuity of research and of the involvement of the public and stakeholders; this includes developing effective:
  - Lateral synergies, bridging the gap between related Projects, so as to avoid overlap and limit fragmentation, and
  - Vertical synergies, bridging the gap between research and society through:
    - Integrating local knowledge and pursuing the implementation of relevant and applicable Project result,
    - Facilitating communication among end users, particularly in thematic areas involving conflicting views and interests,

- Developing research relevant to societal issues and concerns by direct involvement of end users and stakeholders,
  - Disseminating results widely and demonstrating their relevance to policy objectives.
- Providing increased opportunities for training in Coordination Action projects;
  - Ensuring that the expected Project outcomes support a holistic approach, aimed at solving problems of technical, environmental, social, economic and institutional nature;
  - Involving dissemination experts in project consortia in order to “translate” scientific and technical results to targeted groups;
  - Transferring the knowledge and technology obtained throughout the project implementation to engineering associations and professional bodies and establishing collaborative links;
  - Involving more NGOs as partners in effort to establish stronger links with stakeholders and to ensure the better exploitations of results;
  - Encouraging the presentation of projects results at high level meetings in collaboration with NGOs,
  - Undertaking follow-up activities to overcome the cultural, linguistic and technology barriers aiming at reaching the intended end-users and at facilitating the uptake of the project outcomes;
  - Promoting the establishment of voluntary clusters of projects interested in common activities and outputs, in order to promote capacity building and exchange of experiences;
  - Finally, fostering a common Mediterranean Water Policy, following the principles of the WFD and other relevant tools such as the Millennium Development Goals and Agenda 21 could permit the integration, to some level, of the research activities in the region, and create a more fertile ground for productive future research efforts.

## Annex I: Nostrum-DSS & INECO Joint Event Agenda

“IWRM through coordination, dissemination, and  
exploitation of research outcomes”

Lordos Beach Hotel, Larnaca, Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup> 2007

<b>9:00-9:30</b>	<b>Opening</b>	
9:00-9:15	Welcoming addresses	
9:15-9:30	Introduction to the Workshop objectives and procedures	Carlo Giupponi
<b>9:30-13:00</b>	<b>Session I: Projects contributions regarding the meeting objectives</b>	
	INECO (INCO-CT-2006-517673) (30')	Dionysis Assimacopoulos
	GEWAMED (INCO-CT2005-517696) (15')	Juan Antonio Sagardoy
	WASAMED (ICA3-CT-2002-10013) (15')	Nicola Lamaddalena
	MEDROPLAN (2003/059-770)	Ana Iglesias/Sonia Quiroga
	MEDITATE (INCO-CT2004-509112)	Nathalie Dorfliger
10:45-11:00	Discussion	
11:00- 11:30	Coffee Break	
<b>11:00-13:30</b>	Continuation of Session I	
	MELIA (INCO-CT-2006-517612)	Rafael Rodriguez
	ISIIMM (ME8/AIDCO/2001/0515/59763-P 016)	Anita Fassio
	DIMAS (INCO-CT2004-509087)	Sotirios Angelides
	NOSTRUM-DSS (INCO-CT-2004-509158) (30')	Carlo Giupponi
<b>12:30-12:45</b>	Discussion	
	Forum introduction – the EC view on Research towards Policy development	Ms. Marialuisa Tamborra, EC-DG Research
	European Water Initiative (EUWI-MED)	Dr. Michael Scoullou, Chairman, Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean.
13:30-14:30	Lunch Break	



<b>14:30-16:00</b>	<b>Session II: Forum discussion involving researchers, stakeholders and invited experts.</b>
14:45-15:45 5' round-the-table talks	<p><b>Session II.1: Reactions from invited experts</b> (Chair D. Assimacopoulos) Invited experts present their reflections about the project experiences reported in the morning</p> <p><b>Invited speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bernard Barraqué, Laboratoire Techniques Territoires et Sociétés, Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS-LATTS), France</li> <li>- Michael Scoullou, EUWI-MED, GWP-MED, Chairman</li> <li>- Anthi Brouma, EUWI-MED, GWP-MED</li> <li>- Peter O'Neil Department of International Development (DFID), UK</li> <li>- Evan Vlachos, Department of Sociology, Colorado State University, USA</li> <li>- Khaled Abu-Zeid, Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE). Egypt</li> <li>- Marko Prem, PAP/RAC UNEP_MAP Croatia</li> <li>- Cedric Merel, European Commission, DG EuropeAid</li> <li>- Mounir Ghribi, ICS-UNIDO,</li> <li>- Mohammad Abdulrazzak, CAP- Net UNDP</li> </ul>
<b>15:45-16:00</b>	<b>Presentation of the Working Group session: Dialogue, exchange, synthesis</b>
16:00-17:30	<p><b>Plenary session II.2: Discussion on specific proposals/actions for enhancing coordination, dissemination and exploitation of research outcomes and Reports from groups</b> Separation into 2 (or 3) sub-groups for discussing on specific actions/proposals on the meeting expected outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussion support: C. Giupponi, D. Assimacopoulos (J.A. Sagardoy)</li> <li>- Group facilitators and rapporteurs: E. Vlachos, A. Fassio (B. Barraqué)</li> </ul>
17:30-18:30 5' round-the-table talks & discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All groups gather in "agora" (common room), reports on group work, invited experts present their reflections about the outcomes of the group discussion.</li> <li>- All participants indicate their preferences in terms of statements to be placed in the Joint Report with coloured cards posted on boards.</li> </ul>
<b>18:30</b>	<b>End of event</b>

## Annex II: Document drafted on the Nostrum-DSS experience<sup>7</sup>

Notes, remarks, tips to be included in the final document of the workshop	Source	Objectives
1. The synergies between different but related projects are a highly cost-effective way to improve the dissemination of projects outcomes (workshops, meetings, training, research objectives etc..)	NOSTRUM-DSS	S D
2. Emphasis should be placed on avoiding duplications of previous efforts (i.e. previously published guidelines, toolboxes, manuals, etc.), preferring instead to build upon already existing materials and facilitating a guided access to available resources.	NOSTRUM-DSS	E
3. Guide different users with different technical backgrounds to the available resources, starting with very concise documents, such as policy or technical briefs.	NOSTRUM-DSS S&P WS	E
4. A participatory strategy is needed since the beginning of the projects, to ensure that the products will take into account stakeholders' needs to produce tailored and accountable products	NOSTRUM-DSS	E
5. Links already established between the scientific institutions and the governmental and non-governmental organizations, small and medium enterprises and other stakeholders, during the project implementation should play a central role in the dissemination of projects outcomes but are hardly systematically maintained	NOSTRUM-DSS 3 <sup>rd</sup> TWS	D E
6. The products should be adapted to the local context responding to the priorities of the different countries.	NOSTRUM-DSS 3 <sup>rd</sup> TWS	D E
a. Make clear the objectives of the products	NOSTRUM-DSS CD	E D
b. Make clear the targets of the products and adapt the communication strategy to the different types of targets	NOSTRUM-DSS CD	E D
c. Plan to have different formats for different audiences.	NOSTRUM-DSS 3 <sup>rd</sup> TWS	D E
d. Best Practices and good examples should refer to national/regional/local targets.	NOSTRUM-DSS 3 <sup>rd</sup>	D E

<sup>7</sup> S = Note useful for the objective of project coordination and synergies; D = Note useful for the objective of dissemination of project results; E = Note useful for the objective of exploitation of project outcomes

e. Carefully consider the linguistic barriers: technical documents may be provided in English only, but materials targeting policy makers should be in the local language	TWS NOSTRUM-DSS CD	E	D
f. Demonstration, field activities and face-to-face meetings are very important whenever the involvement of stakeholders is considered	NOSTRUM-DSS 3 <sup>rd</sup> TWS	D	E
g. Training should be considered as part of the products to be delivered, in order to facilitate the - appropriate - use	NOSTRUM-DSS 3 <sup>rd</sup> TWS	D	E
7. The internet is the most practicable mean for the dissemination of projects results, mainly because of its financial affordability	NOSTRUM-DSS 3 <sup>rd</sup> TWS	D	
a. Effective user friendly interfaces (e.g. translated into the local language) are very important	NOSTRUM-DSS S&P WS	E	
b. Medium-long term maintenance is challenging open tools in which people can add materials could be considered (Wiki?).	NOSTRUM-DSS 3 <sup>rd</sup> TWS	D	E
8. Informal Internet based networks could be considered as means for avoiding the loss of project outcomes	NOSTRUM-DSS 3 <sup>rd</sup> TWS	D	E
9. The main obstacle to the maintenance and updating of the projects is the limited availability of funds and the funding mechanisms.	NOSTRUM-DSS 3 <sup>rd</sup> TWS	D	E
c. Financial means and policy support for that strong dissemination policy should be found in other EC DGs or ideally other regional structures	NOSTRUM-DSS 3 <sup>rd</sup> TWS	D	E
10. Decision makers are effectively engaged during face-to-face meetings which represent a very fruitful opportunity to acquire local knowledge about the traditional practices and decision-making processes	NOSTRUM-DSS E- CONF	D	
d. Even more important is that local knowledge shows what new desirable initiatives and reforms are politically feasible and why.	EU-INCO FP4 to FP6	E	D
11. Researchers should consider that they have a duty to communicate despite predictable unreceptive politics	EU-INCO FP4 to FP6		D
12. Scientists have limited capabilities to communicate effectively outside their well established modes of workshops, training seminars, conferences, technical reports, websites and refereed articles. An equivalent infrastructure to facilitate communication	EU-INCO FP4 to FP6	D	

beyond the science community does not exist.

- |   |                    |   |
|---|--------------------|---|
| 13. It will be necessary to identify measurable indicators of effective communication: it is moreover necessary to develop a wide range of <i>soft</i> indicators to assess the communication impacts | EU-INCO FP4 to FP6 | D |
| 14. New funding mechanisms should be designed in order to facilitate the establishment of long term networking activities   | NOSTRUM-DSS E-CONF | D |

#### **SOURCES:**

- NOSTRUM-DSS: NOSTRUM-DSS experience
- NOSTRUM-DSS 3<sup>rd</sup> TWS: NOSTRUM-DSS third Thematic Workshop – Milan 20-21 December 2006
- NOSTRUM-DSS S&P WS: NOSTRUM-DSS Science and Policy Workshop – Valenzano 14-17 February 2007
- NOSTRUM-DSS E-CONF: NOSTRUM-DSS E-conferences on Science and Communication for impact - <http://www.feem-web.it/nostrum/forum/>
- NOSTRUM-DSS DS: Survey on dissemination strategies
- NOSTRUM-DSS CD: Consensus Document
- NOSTRUM-DSS GOV: Governance in the Mediterranean
- EU-INCO FP4 to FP6: EU-INCO water research from FP4 to FP6 (1994-2006) A Critical Review
- EC-JRC: Science Communication to non-scientist- EC-JRC Ispra – April 2/4 2007