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The EU Water Initiative: Bridging the Gap between Science and Policy in the Mediterranean

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Introducing the EU Water initiative – Water for life

- EU initiative launched at the WSSD (2002) in Johannesburg
- Contributing to MDG and WSSD on water:
 - Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation;
 - develop Integrated Water manag. and efficiency plans.
- Political initiative, not funding initiative
- EUWI at present under review





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EUWI: Objectives

- Reinforcing **political commitment** towards action and innovation-oriented partnership;
- Promoting improved water **governance, capacity building & awareness**;
- Promoting improved **efficiency & effectiveness** of water management **through multi-stakeholder dialogue**;
- Strengthening cooperation through promoting **river basin approaches** in national and transboundary waters;
- Helping identifying **additional financing** resources to ensure sustainable financing





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EUWI Working Groups

- Regional Working Groups:
 - Africa,
 - EECCA,
 - Latin America,
 - Mediterranean;
- Horizontal components/WGs:
 - **Research,**
 - Finance,
 - Monitoring





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EU Research in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

- The commitments taken by the EU at the Johannesburg Summit in 2002 resulted in a boost to **IWRM research and its global dimension**, with FP6 introducing topics in its calls for proposals supporting EUWI & MDGs since 2002.
- In **FP5** IWRM research involving international cooperation was carried out essentially under INCO whereas **FP6** funding was available both under INCO and the priority “Global Change & Ecosystems” with a budget of ~130 Mio €
- IN **FP7** this area of research will be carried out mainly under the **Environment Theme** (areas: Sustainable Management of Resources and also Environmental Technologies)
- Possible contribution can also come for ex. from the Health Theme and Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and Biotechnologies theme.





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Some highlights on achievement of the research component under FP6

- Approximately **60 projects** have been funded under FP6 in IWRM including 4 Integrated projects (5-10 MEuro).
- Some of these projects are specifically aimed at supporting the EUWI, such as the **twinning initiatives** and **coordination actions** that are aimed at involving stakeholders and translating scientific knowledge into policy terms.
- **EUWI-ERANET (SPLASH)**: main achievement of the EUWI research component for the coordination of MS' research in water management for the developing world.

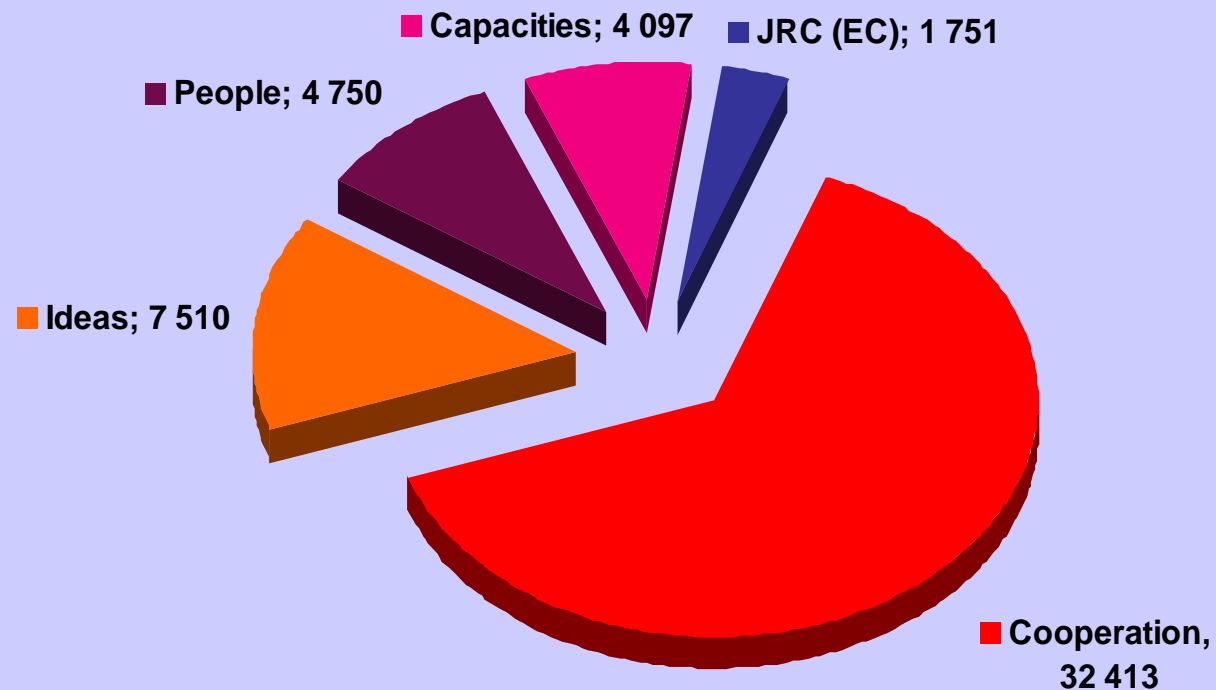




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FP7 budget (€ 50 521 million, current prices)



■ Note: Euratom FP: €2.7 billion over 5 years - not included above



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FP7 2007-2013 'Cooperation' budget

I. Cooperation

Budget
(€ million,
current prices)

1. Health	6 100
2. Food, agriculture and fisheries, and biotechnology	1 935
3. Information and communication technologies	9 050
4. Nanotechnologies, materials and production	3 475
5. Energy	2 350
6. Environment	1 890
7. Transport	4 160
8. Socioeconomic research	623
9. Space	1 430
10. Security	1 400
Total	32 413

* Not including non-nuclear activities of the Joint Research Centre: €1 751 million





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International Cooperation in FP7 - Aims

- Support competitiveness through **strategic partnerships** with third countries in selected fields of science
- enhance knowledge and scientific excellence by enabling European research organisations to establish contacts with their partners in such third countries, thereby facilitating **access to research environments outside Europe**
- Address specific problems facing third countries or global problems on the basis of **mutual interest and mutual benefit**
- Use S&T cooperation to **reinforce the Community's external relations** and other relevant policies





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FP7: A new approach to support International Cooperation

- The theme-oriented international cooperation actions are carried out under the **Cooperation Specific Programme** with:
 - the **opening of all activities to third countries** – both for ICPC and industrialised countries in the Themes
 - the introduction of **Specific international co-operation actions (SICAs)** dedicated to ICPCs.
- The international actions in the area of human potential are carried out under the **People Specific Programme**
- Actions of the **Capacity Specific Programme** are designed to
 - identify **S&T priorities** at the regional level together with Third Countries,
 - reinforce the **participation** of countries with S&T agreement
 - promote a **co-ordinated approach among MS** to S&T international Cooperation.
- (Also the Ideas Specific Programme is open to 3rd Countries.)

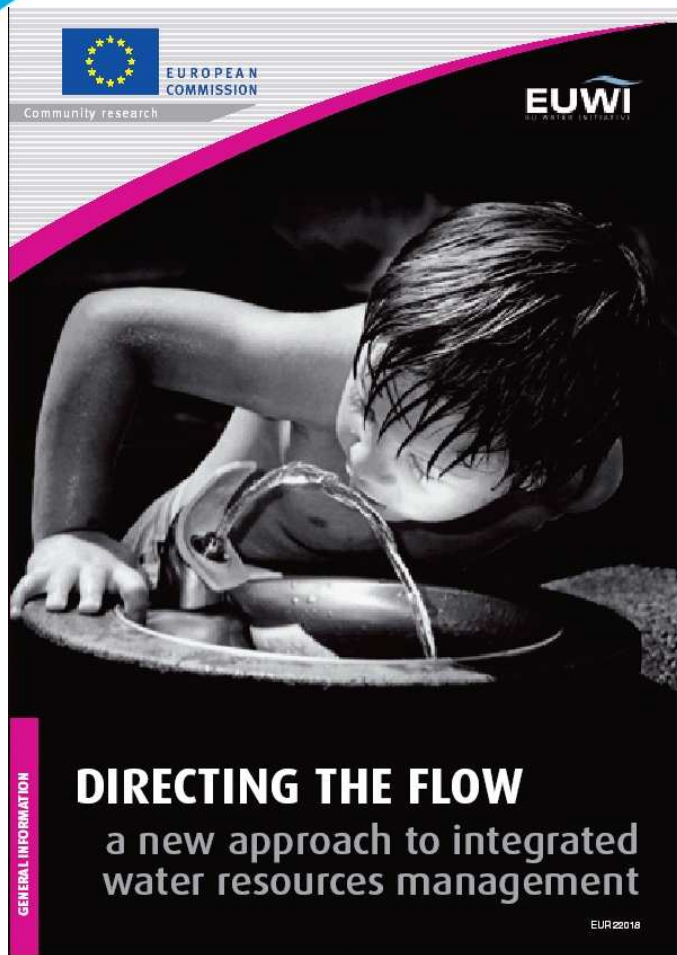




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Main conclusions of Review EU-INCO water research from FP4 to FP6



- Increased role in **raising awareness** among societal actors of the challenges facing political leaders, policy-makers & water users.
- Enhanced integration of **science with policy priorities**
- Increased emphasis on environmental, societal & economic **impacts of research**
- Promotion of **new approaches** to water policy and policy-relevant water science thanks to stronger interplay between EU & 3rd countries research teams.

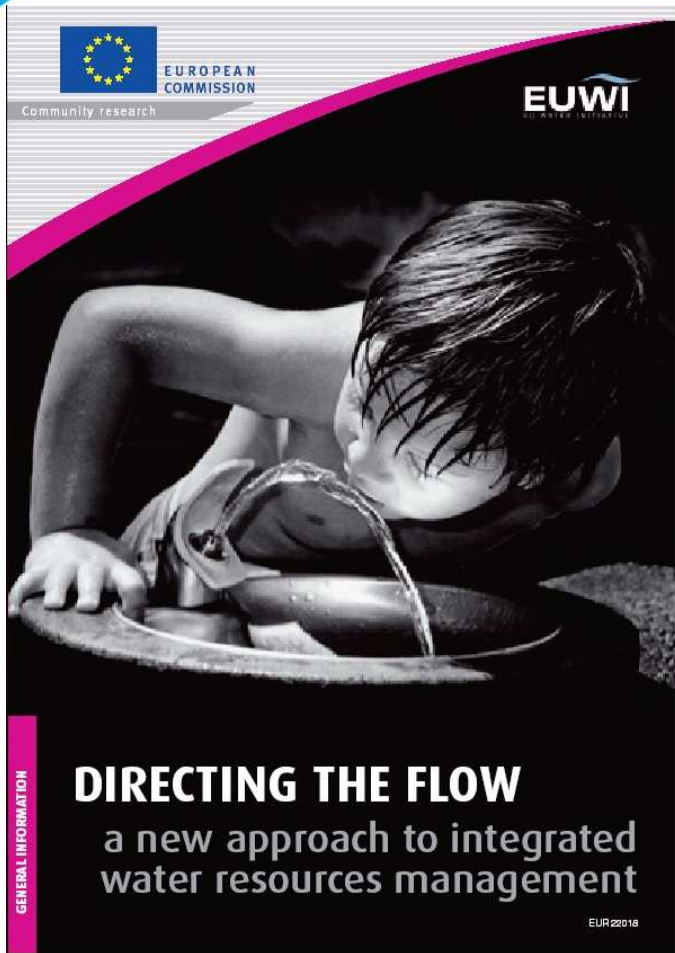




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Recommendations for FP7 of Review EU-INCO water research from FP4 to FP6



- Promote **constructively engaged research** towards IWRM, including gender awareness
- Align more strongly with **regional priorities and specificities**
- Require research to adopt engaged approaches with explicit attention to **communication** and shortening of **impact** times
- Require research to continue to **connect** different strands of knowledge (local knowledge, socio-economic development, culture, policy, institutions & capacity building).





What options for the future ?

- What mechanisms and tools could be put in place to **disseminate** systematically project results and facilitate the **transfer of research results to the policy spheres** at the different institutional levels?
- What mechanisms are effective to **network** single projects with those from other European, national and international projects, EC delegations and development co-operation agencies for critical mass, accountability and impact?
- What options can be considered for **linking and co-ordinating with EUWI regional working groups**?



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Main results from the Stockholm World Water Week 2007

- Knowledge without dissemination is of little use
- Need for a two-way communication (Role for senior researchers that act as government advisors as mediators?)
- Stakeholder involvement as part of the project from start
- Embedding research into political processes – permanent fora/dialogue platforms
- Communication often relies on internet although it is not the best tool (digital divide, language divide, cultural divide)
- Scientists as allies of media – Need for improving communication skills for a wider audience



SEVENTH FRAMEWORK
PROGRAMME



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Main results from the Stockholm World Water Week 2007

- Project results have a potential to be exploited for training and capacity building in view of a long-lasting impact
- Need for establishing a closer collaboration between research people and cooperation people
- Evidence based solutions can be key in policy making - Need for ad-hoc scientific inputs in policies and for flexible mechanisms of funding.
- Building learning alliances





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Information

Framework Programme – General

CORDIS Web Site: www.cordis.lu

EU Web Site: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/>

EU research: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/>

Water research in Africa: www.africanwater.net

EU Water Initiative

EUWI web Site: <http://www.euwi.net/>

EUWI Research Web Site:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/water-initiative>

EUWI ERA-NET: <http://www.euwi-era.net>

