Coordination, Exploitation and Dissemination of Research in the INECO project

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INECO

Contract No: INCO-CT-2006-517673

The INECO project

- Institutional & Economic Instruments for Sustainable Water Management in the Mediterranean Region
- Coordination action
- Duration: July 2006 – June 2009

- Key Concepts
  - Integrated Water Resources Management
  - Institutional & Economic instruments
- Underlying issues
  - Water Governance & Sharing
  - Valuing & Sharing water
  - Decision making & Constructive engagement

The Consortium

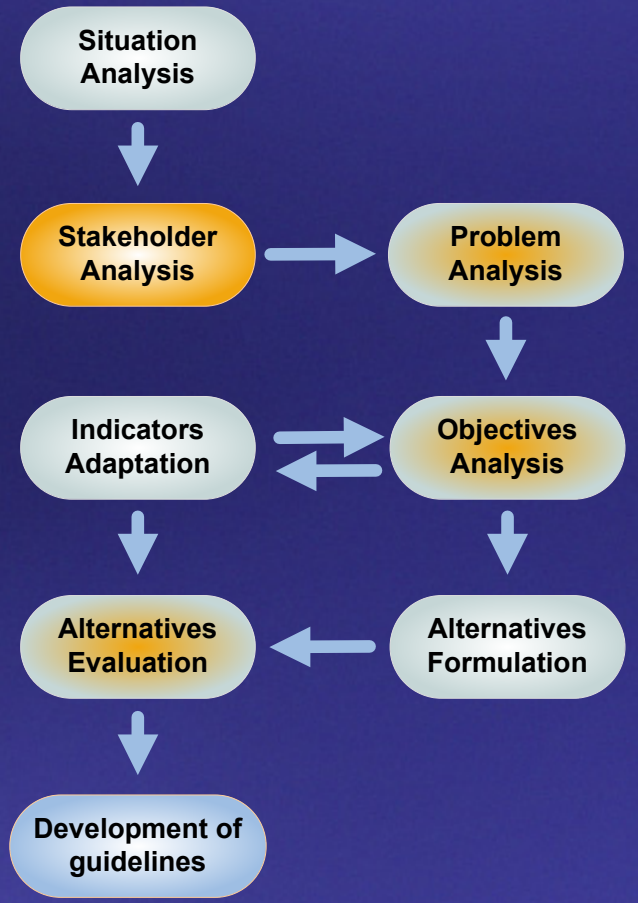
1. School of Chemical Engineering, National Technical University of Athens, Greece
2. International Office for Water, France
3. International Network of Basin Organisations
4. Instituto di economia dell' energia, dell' ambiente e della technologia, Luigi Bocconi University, Italy
5. Water Development Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources & the Environment, Cyprus
6. Aeoliki Ltd, Cyprus
7. Tunis International Centre for Environmental Science & Technology, Tunisia
8. Water Management Research Institute, MWRI, Egypt
9. Ministry of Agriculture & Land Reclamation, Egypt
10. International Consultants, Egypt
11. Conseil et Developpement S.a.L, Lebanon
12. Studies & Integration Consulting, Syrian Arab Republic
13. Agence de Bassin Hydrographique de Constantinois-Seybousse-Melegue, Algeria
14. Iskane Ingenierie, Morocco

The INECO aims and scope

- Strategic goal: Capacity building for a constructively engaged IWRM
- Objectives
  - Promote the exchange of best available practices, information and research on institutional and economic instruments & their role in sustainable and efficient water use
  - Assess through studies, interviews, questionnaires and Web fora:
    - The current institutional and economic framework for WRM in the participating countries
    - The perceptions, positions, interests of Stakeholders
  - Encourage, through participatory workshops:
    - The efficiency of currently applied water management practices
    - The use of alternative economic tools and policies
  - Develop
    - A guideline framework & Guidelines for the application of alternative institutional and economic instruments
    - Web toolbox on Case Studies and Best Practice Examples

A SH participatory process

- Case-Study driven approach
- Building a "Knowledge-Base" of experience & best-practice examples
- Shaping the "Knowledge-Implementation" by demonstrating relevance & discussing applicability



Constructive engagement

- Constructive engagement is understood as a forum that encourages:
  - Openness
  - Sensitivity to particular socio-economic contexts
- Discussion among ALL interested parties before an option is selected and planned
  - Stakeholders are mobilized from the outset
  - Stakeholders have an active role in developing plans and proposals
- Not focusing on a top-down approach but striving for:
  - Public awareness
  - Public involvement
  - Public participation in decision making
- Maximizing opportunities for:
  - Multi-faceted solutions
  - Common visions and goals

Links to policy-making

- A wide forum of stakeholders, diversified according to the issues at hand:
  - Governmental authorities and institutions
  - Water service providers & NGOs
  - Local, regional and national agencies
  - End-user associations
  - Actors from civil society (education, religion, political parties)
  - Citizens

- Raise awareness → map interests
  → discuss deficiencies
  → propose and evaluate alternatives

The INECO Case Studies - Themes

- Cyprus: Aquifer depletion and sea intrusion
- Tunisia: Groundwater depletion and salinisation
- Lebanon: Water stress in the Damour River Basin
- Morocco: Inefficient water use in the Oum Er Rbia River Basin
- Egypt: Water quality deterioration & drinking water quality problems in the region of Bahr Basandeila Canal (Dakahlia Governorate)
- Syria: Water pollution in the Barada River Basin (Greater Damascus Area)
- Algeria: Water pollution in the Seybousse River Basin

Dissemination goals & strategies

Wider goal	INECO Objective	Dissemination strategy
Enhance knowledge sharing	Dissemination & exchange of information on the application of institutional & economic instruments in the water sector	Publications Workshops Web toolbox
Enhance knowledge sharing with the research community	Development of exemplary regionalised analyses on alternative instruments	Scientific publications Conferences
Promotion of synergies with research community Facilitate result exploitation	Formulation of guidelines	Web toolbox Web-based country profiles
Awareness raising among general public	Analysis of governance structures in MPC; also through SH participation	Publications Web-portal Workshops Questionnaires Local media
Training of SH on public participation processes	Initiation of participatory procedures & discussion on alternatives	Local workshops Web fora

Integrating & Strengthening cooperation in research

EC-funded research in the MPC

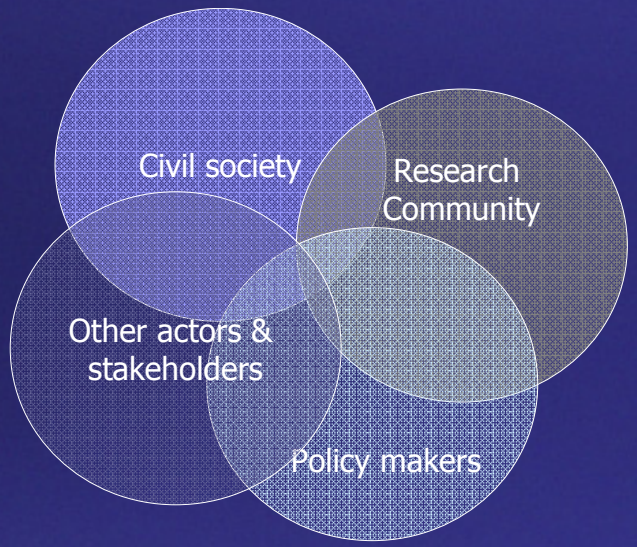
- 4th and 5th Framework
  - Development of a knowledge-base on tangible water management problems
    - Water stress, Water quality, Infrastructure development needs
- MEDA programme: Principal financial instrument of the EU for the implementation of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership
  - Support to economic transition
  - Strengthening the socio-economic balance
- 6th and 7th Framework
  - Mapping of the socio-economic environment and governance framework
  - 2-way dissemination of experience & socio-economic research

But…

- Fragmentation remains a key problem
  - Many programmes and projects (e.g. MEDA, FP)
  - Loss of continuity on:
    - Partnerships
    - Issues examined
- Lack of integration among:
  - Technical innovation
  - Infrastructure development
  - Policies
  - Research and scientific capacity
- Research in many cases does not integrate with societal and policy-making concerns

The INECO experience

- Cooperation is a continuous process, requiring resources & effective collaboration
- Cooperation between SH and research requires:
  - Effort to make research accessible to stakeholders and the general public
  - Capacity to understand the basic results of the research performed
- Research taking into account perceptions, positions and interests of SHs
- Research that links conclusions, solutions and their consequences/impact and uptake potential



Constructive engagement

How to develop effective…

- **Lateral** synergies
  - Bridging the gap between different but related projects
  - Avoid overlap and fragmentation
- **Vertical** synergies
  - Bridging the gap between research and society
    - Integrating local knowledge and pursuing result implementation
    - Developing research relevant to societal issues and concerns
    - Disseminating and demonstrating relevance to policy objectives
  - Maintaining continuity: Water management issues, actors concerned, stakeholders involved