

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

- 08:30 Registration**
- 09:00 Welcoming Addresses**
*Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and the Environment (MANRE)
EC Officers
Director of Water Development Department (WDD)*
- 09:20 The INECO Experience: Main outcomes and lessons learned from participatory Case Study processes, D. Assimacopoulos, INECO Project**
- 09:45 The establishment of an independent entity for water management in Cyprus,**
C. Omorphos, WDD, MANRE, Cyprus
- 10:00 The INECO Cyprus Case Study on groundwater exploitation in Pegeia, Paphos. Outcomes and perspectives, I. Glekas, Aeoliki Ltd., Cyprus**
- 10:15 Water stress mitigation in the Damour River Basin, Lebanon, C. Tabbal, Conseil et Developpement s.a.l, Lebanon**
- 10:30 Addressing groundwater overexploitation in Tunisia, F. El Ayni, Tunis International Centre for Environmental Technologies, Tunisia**
- 10:45 Coffee Break**
- 11:15 The development of River Basin Management Plans in Cyprus – Lessons learnt from the public consultation process, P. Chatzigeorgiou, WDD, MANRE, Cyprus**
- 11:30 Coping with water stress in the Oum Er Rbia Basin, Morocco, F. Zahrani, ISKANE Ingenierie, Morocco**
- 11:45 Water pricing policies in Cyprus, A. Hantzipanteli, WDD, MANRE, Cyprus**
- 12:00 Towards enhanced policies for addressing water quality degradation in the Barada River Basin, Syria, M. Haddad, Studies and Integration Consulting, Syria**
- 12:15 Efforts to address water quality deterioration in the Bahr Basandeila Canal, Egypt, M. Abou Rayan, International Consultants, Egypt**
- 12:30 Wastewater reuse in Cyprus, A. Larkou, WDD, MANRE, Cyprus**
- 12:45 Addressing water quality degradation in the Seybouse River Basin, Algeria, A. Bouchedja, Agence de Bassin Hydrographique Constantinois-Seybouse-Mellegue, Algeria**
- 13:00 Economic instruments and water pricing for Integrated Water Resources Management, A. Maassarutto, Istituto di Economia e Politica dell'Energia e dell'Ambiente, Universita Commerciale Luigi Bocconi, Italy**
- 13:15 Round Table Discussion**
- 14:00 Lunch**

OTHER CYPRUS WATER WEEK EVENTS

- 5 Information kiosks are open in 5 Municipalities (Nicosia, Larnaca, Limassol, Paralimni- Ammochostos, Geroskipou – Pafos), where members from the Municipalities and the local Offices of the WDD will distribute leaflets on water conservation practices.
- Piano concert at Ag. Athanasios – Limassol, organized by the Limassol Water Board on 12/06/2009.
- Workshop on “Water Conservation” on 16/06/2009, organized by the Water Development Department and the Environmental Association.

CONFERENCE VENUE



Journalists' House
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CONTACTS FOR QUERIES AND FURTHER INFORMATION



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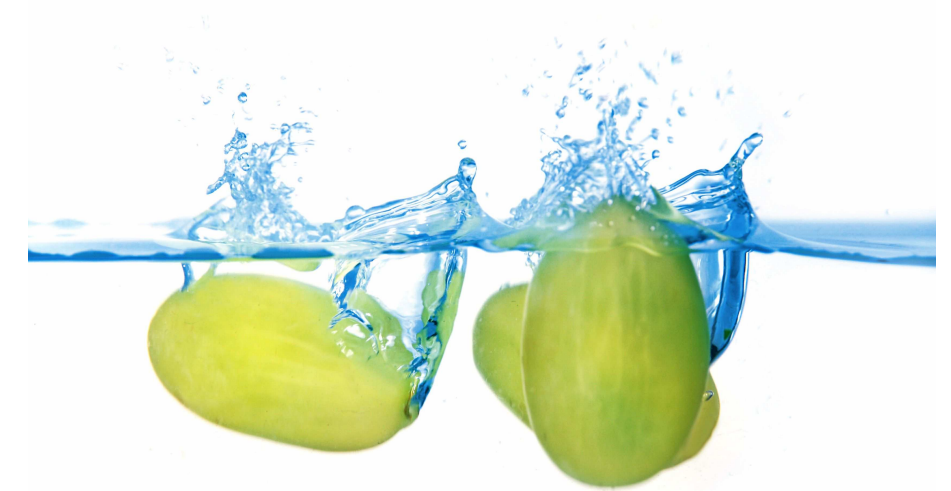
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INECO



CYPRUS WATER WEEK

Conference on
**Institutional and Economic Instruments towards
Integrated Water Resources Management in the
Mediterranean Region**



*Thursday, 11th June 2009,
Journalists' House, Nicosia, Cyprus*



In brief:

The Conference on “Institutional and Economic Instruments towards Integrated Water Resources Management in the Mediterranean Region” is the final event of the INECO Coordination Action EC-funded Project. It is jointly organized by the Water Development Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and the Environment of Cyprus and the INECO Consortium, within the framework of the Cyprus Water Week, which includes a series of events aimed at raising public awareness on water stress and water conservation practices.

The overall objective of the event is to disseminate to a wide audience water policy-related recommendations, derived from an in-depth analysis of cross-cutting water management issues and institutional conditions, and the experiences of decision-makers and stakeholders in integrated water management and planning in the Mediterranean region.

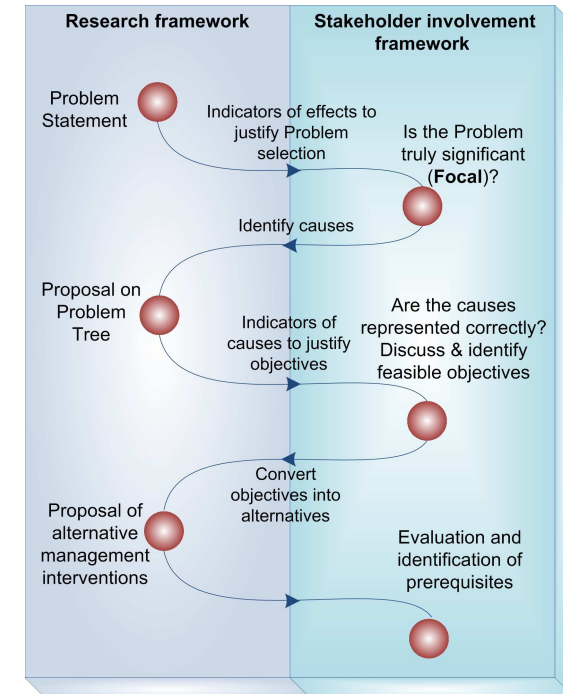
The Conference includes several presentations from the INECO Case Studies and the Water Development Department, highlighting recent developments and challenges in policy framing, public participation and development of incentive-based mechanisms for addressing factors contributing to water stress problems.

RATIONALE OF THE EVENT

Water stress is gradually becoming a critical issue in most Mediterranean Countries. Foreseen increases in water demand as a result of the development of important economic sectors, particularly tourism and agriculture, coupled with water quality degradation have contributed towards the development of policies for water supply management and enhancement of the knowledge-base on water resources. In addition to the management of increasing water demand and adverse quality effects, a major challenge arises from the need to properly maintain and rehabilitate hydraulic infrastructure, the development of which has been the dominant policy for supplying water to local communities. With water management problems becoming more and more acute, it is gradually being recognized, at the international, national and local level, that in the majority of cases the solution does not lie in the further increase of water supply, as there are significant technical, environmental and financial constraints.

There is a shift, albeit slow, towards a new approach, which considers the entire water cycle in a holistic way, introducing policy instruments to allocate water according to principles of economic efficiency and developing schemes flexible in

managing variations in supply and demand. Changes include planning that integrates water quality and quantity, promotion of demand management, cost recovery for water supply, sanitation, and irrigation, strengthening of government agencies, decentralizing responsibility for delivering water services to financially autonomous utilities and stronger enforcement of environmental regulations. The significant economic, social and environmental trade-offs, often common to both developed and developing countries, call for the development of an appropriate



The INECO framework for stakeholder involvement
the objective to discuss problems in the decision-making process and the deficiencies of current water governance structures around the Mediterranean Basin. The research of INECO followed a case-study driven approach, focusing on alternative or improved institutional and economic instruments which can promote equity, economic efficiency and environmental sustainability, and emphasizing on the shared dimension of water management problems. The project built on participative processes, in order to disseminate applied research and lessons from successful policy implementation regarding the application of economic instruments. Major project outputs include the development of adaptive sets of guidelines on institutional and economic instruments for sustainable water management in

mix of policies for reaching an appropriate balance between environmental protection and economic development, without compromising the interests of the affected groups. Stakeholder involvement and public participation are broadly considered a key premise for the development of such policies. Enhanced cooperation, exchange of views, and joint planning are often advocated in national legislation, but can also be hindered by lack of enabling conditions, such as limited availability of information, inadequate capacity and limited trust on participation processes by traditional decision-makers.

In the above context, the INECO Project was officially launched in July 2006, with

Mediterranean Countries, and the INECO Web Toolbox, an integrated platform for retrieving information and discussing on alternative policy approaches to water management issues. Seven case studies were developed by the project, each focusing on a locally important water management issue. Lessons learnt from these Case Studies, as well as from policies already adopted for the mitigation of similar issues are considered relevant both at the local and European level, as they provide a framework for orienting research and policy to specifically address the needs of local societies.

CONFERENCE SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

The Conference event is planned to provide a framework for discussions in the field of policy development and implementation for Integrated Water Resources Management. It focuses on major challenges faced by decision-makers today, in the frame of balancing economic growth and social considerations on the one hand, and environmental sustainability and protection of water bodies and water-dependent ecosystems on the other. The presentation of innovative, incentive-based policies, as well as inhibiting factors and institutional barriers to successful policy implementation, form the backbone of the Conference themes. Emphasis is given on lessons learnt from the overall effort to promote interactions between the science and policy spheres and the strengthening of stakeholder-driven processes as key for successful policy development and implementation. Case-specific results are also presented, covering a wide geographical spectrum of Mediterranean countries and cross-cutting water management issues (industrial pollution in urban areas, groundwater management, water allocation, efficiency improvements in irrigated agriculture, etc.).

