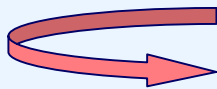


# ***GEWAMED***

***" Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions  
into Water Resources  
Development and Management  
in the Mediterranean Region "***



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Gender Refers to the social, economic, and cultural roles and relations between women and men; takes into account the different responsibilities of women and men in a given culture or location and different population groups (children, aged people, ethnics groups, etc.)." FAO, 2003

Gender mainstreaming was defined by the ECOSOC in 1995 as the "process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women as well as men concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all spheres so that women and men benefit equally (UN, ECOSOC, 1995). Its application to the water sector implies the active involvement of women and men in all related processes.

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) is a cross-sectorial policy approach to respond to the growing demands in water in the context of finite water supply. It is an approach that aims to ensure the coordinated development of water, land and related resources to optimize economic and social welfare without compromising the sustainability of the environmental system (GWP, 2000)

# Historical Review

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Water scarcity has been in the top of the agenda of many politicians and decision makers for many years but the integration of women in all aspects of the development of a society has also received considerable attention at international and national events.

**International Conferences and numerous forum** were held in parallel with UN conferences bringing together many NGOs, which provided an opportunity for women to express themselves and be recognized as leaders of many positive experiences

- **The World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg (2002)** made a political declaration in favor of women empowerment and emancipation in all activities related within the agenda 21.
- **The International Conference on Freshwater in Bonn (2001)** made a Ministerial declaration recommending that women should have an equal voice in managing the sustainable use of water
- **The Second World Water Forum in The Hague (2000)** made also a Ministerial Declaration on Water Security, where the role of women is emphasized in several water use activities

## Why women should be involved in IWRM

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- Women and men play different roles in the use of water by each sector (agriculture, drinking water supply, industry, environment and others). Women play an important role in water management
- Men and women have differential incentives for investing time, labour and capital in irrigation and water management activities, reflecting gender differences in responsibilities.
- Irrigation interventions have often failed to take into consideration the existing imbalance between men and women's ownership rights, division of labour and incomes.
- Women's involvement in water resources management is not only important to improve women's status but also essential for effective use of finite water resources for present and future generations
- Three broad areas in irrigated agriculture production systems were identified where gender analysis can help create effective, equitable and sustainable irrigation policies and programmes: (1) irrigation design, (2) legal, administrative and organizational arrangements and (3) implementation of the irrigation projects

- The Management of water resources is still characterized in many countries by a **fragment approach whereby each use is managed independently of the others** while any action taken in one sector affects the others
- The process of gender mainstreaming in IWRM is done by information dissemination; consultation, advocacy, decision making; participatory processes and actions to promote gender sensitivity organizations. **Gender mainstreaming in IWRM will lead to greater effectiveness, efficiency, development, sustainability and equity**
- Participatory processes have been promoted in the water sector during the last two decades and they have achieved a remarkable success. However, it has to be recognized that such processes have been largely dominated by male participation as they are often the main actors in the use of water

# Main problems that are limiting the integration of women in water management

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- 1 **Legislation** (must be modified to be more gender-sensitive)
- 2 **Communication and Awareness of Gender Issues** (education at school and universities in gender issues is important for increasing awareness)
- 3 **Inadequacy of Analysis** (new tools & guidelines needed for gender issues)
- 4 **Lack of Participation of Women in Water Governance** (women are absent in management and policy-making processes)
- 5 **Centralization of Water Management and Governance** (insufficient knowledge of local problems resulting in poor technical assistance)
- 6 **Institutional Capacity** (lack of coordination mechanisms among institutions related to participatory and gender approaches)
- 7 **Extension** (few female extension officers/gender specialists. Training material is rarely gender sensitive)

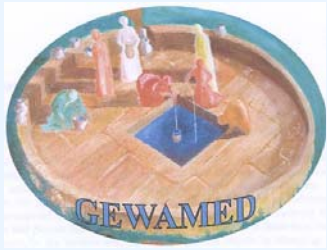
- 8 **Impact of Globalization** (is affecting social roles in rural communities and agricultural management)
- 9 **Cultural Heritage and Social Norms** (in most countries inequity and inequality are dominant because of social and cultural reasons)
- 10 **Poverty** (due to lack of training and other reasons women remain unskilled workers in agriculture)
- 11 **Lack of Access to Information** (lack of access for needed information and technology, insufficient knowledge about their rights)
- 12 **Lack of Gender-Sensitive Indicators** (absence of institutional set up for monitoring process of gender integration in WM)
- 13 **Gender-disaggregated statistical information** (difficult to quantify the gravity of situations related to access of women and men to land and WR)

## Suggestions for solving the mentioned problems

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- Establishment of a Mediterranean network to be interlinked with national and where applicable, to existing local networks
- Develop information and communication strategies
- Develop a national agenda for mainstreaming of gender issues in water resources
- Undertake national seminars and workshops with women associations and government agencies
- Provide information at all levels addressing issues on water and sanitation, and risk assessment
- Capacity building on gender analysis and participatory tools in water resources management
- Sensitive policy-makers on the importance of integrating a gender perspective in integrated water resources management





***GEWAMED*** is a project financed by the INCO within the 6FP of the European Commission and addressed to the countries of the Mediterranean Region.

The project is a Coordinated Action (CA) **emphasizes networking** and co-ordination of on going research activities.

Essentially, is a **Forum for discussion** and not for undertaking research in the traditional sense.

## Consortium of partners

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*The GEWAMED Consortium* is composed by 18 partners from North and South East Mediterranean Countries (Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey) under the coordination of the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute-Bari (CIHEAM-MAIB)- [gewamed@iamb.it](mailto:gewamed@iamb.it)

from different sectors: National Institutions, International Organizations and NGOs

In the project will also be involved other institutions and interested parties of the region to amplify its objectives and impact but they are not formal part of the Consortium

## Overall objective of *GEWAMED*

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The project plans to build an extensive knowledge base for mainstreaming gender dimensions into IWRM

by

- Building a regional network and
- Establishing 6 national ones

using

- Internet technology in countries of the Southern East Mediterranean Region (SEMR)

**The regional network** will be essentially a mean for exchanging experiences, disseminate results and allow for enhanced coordination among national projects' activities and participants.

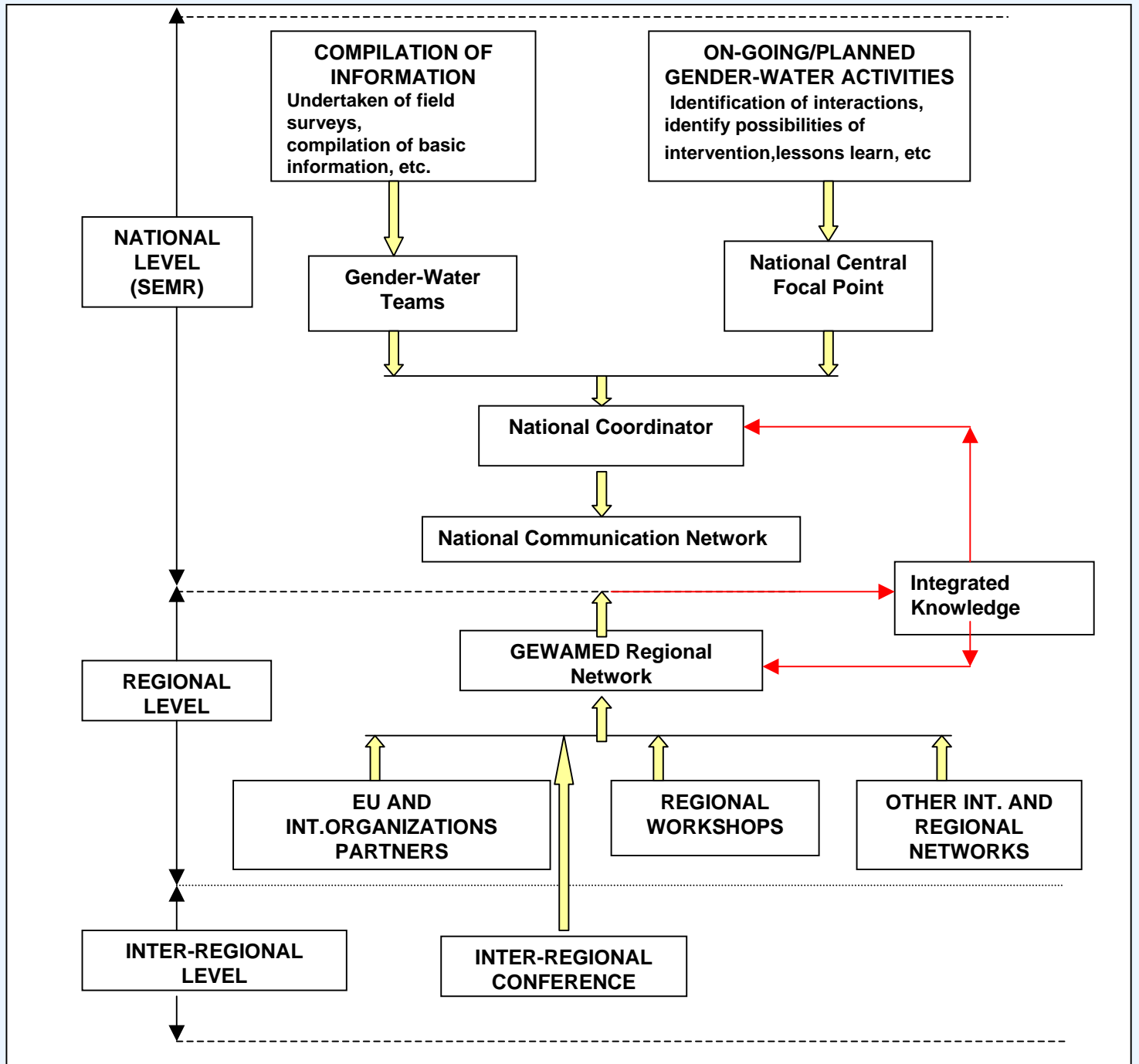
**The national networks** will be a powerful tool to store and disseminate gender information

# Strategic Objectives of GEWAMED

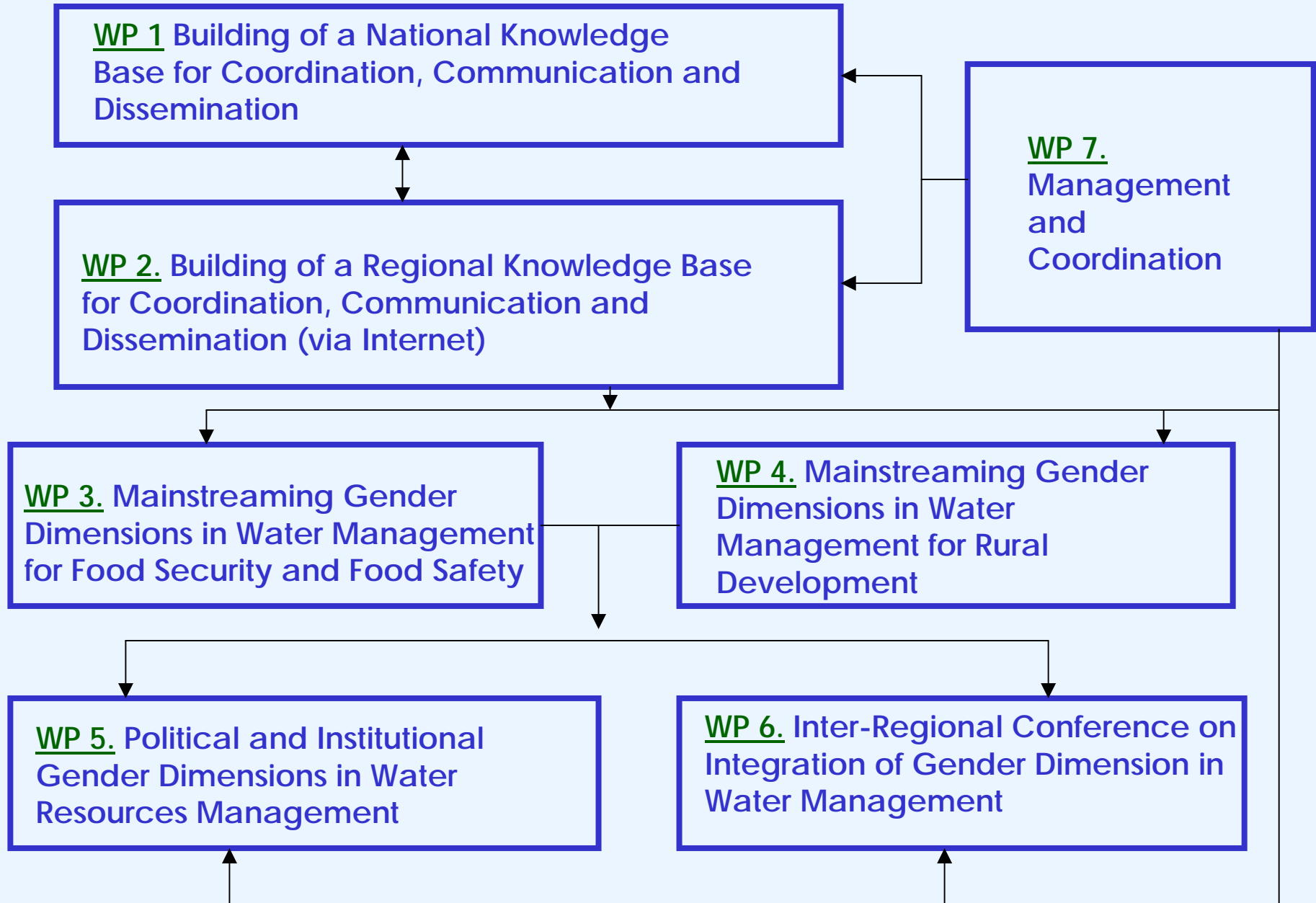
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1. Building a national and regional shared knowledge base on gender issues, policies, actions and measures to support gender mainstreaming in all processes related to IWRM
2. Enhance the cooperation and dialogue among Mediterranean countries but also within each country promoting the exchange of information and its dissemination among national governmental agencies, NGO's research institutions, international organizations, private sector and communication media involved in gender related issues and water sector
3. Contribute to the adoption of national policies and other related instruments (strategies, approaches, guidelines, incentives and legislation) by involving decision makers and politicians in the processes of mainstreaming gender dimensions in IWRM

# Flow of information for knowledge acquisition



# Graphical presentation of work packages



# List of main activities during the first 6 months of operation

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<u>No. of activity</u>	Activity
1.1	Organization and undertaking of regional <b>Kick-off meeting</b>
1.2	Preparation of <b>proceeding of Kick-off meeting</b> with recommendations of participants
3.1	Establishment of a dedicated <b>Regional internet web site</b>
3.4	Preparation of Quarterly <b>Newsletters</b>
10.1	Establishment of the Project Management and monitoring of project activities
10.2	Management, coordination and monitoring of project activities
10.3	Administrative and financial control
10.4	Establishment of M&E system for project implementation
10.5	Consultation and Advisory <b>Gender Committees meetings</b> and related minutes

# List of main activities planned for the next 6 months of operation

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No. of activity	Activity
1.3	Establishment of national Web sites in 6 SEMR countries
1.4	Maintenance of the National web sites
2.1	Development and implementation of a structured Data Base
2.2	Collection, processing and dissemination of gender-water related information
2.3	Preparation of a report containing a set of gender indicators
3.2	Maintenance of web site
3.3	Stimulate communication with partners through the web site
4.1	Organization and undertaking of a Regional workshop on Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions in water management for food security and food safety
4.2	Review and coordination of the knowledge base at country level
5.1	Establishment of a National Central Focal Point in each of the SEMR countries
5.2	Reports of the National Central Focal Point
5.3	Final Plan for using and disseminating knowledge and exchanging information
10.6	Preparation of annual and final reports



A circular illustration of a traditional wooden bathhouse. The structure is built with light-colored wood and has a central square well with a blue interior. Several people in traditional, brightly colored clothing (orange, white, red, green) are depicted around the bathhouse. Some are standing, some are sitting, and one is using a bucket to draw water from the well. The entire scene is framed by a dark green circular border.

*Thank you very much  
for your attention !*

**GEWAMIED**