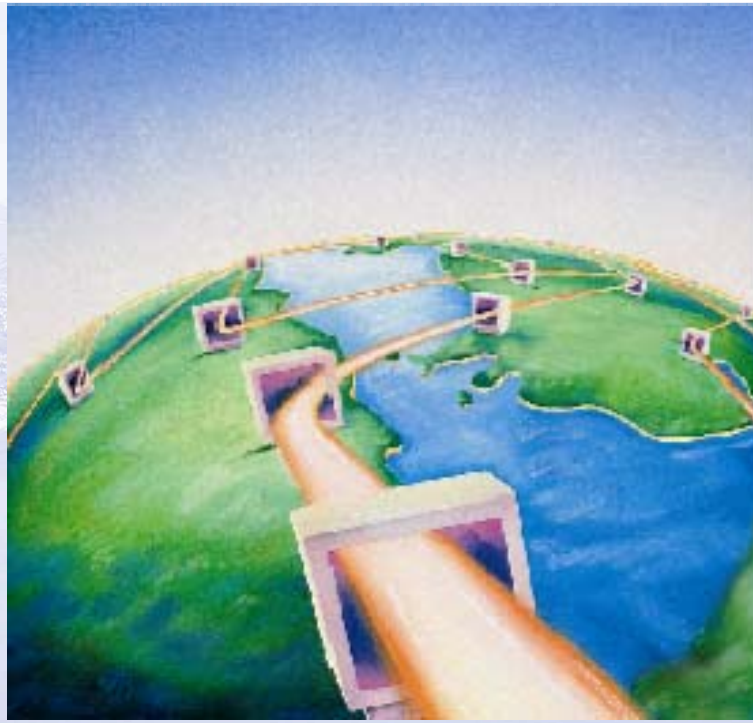


SEMIDE
EMWIS

SEMIDE

<http://www.semide.org>

Système Euro-
Méditerranéen
d'information sur les
savoir-faire dans le
domaine de l'Eau



النظام الأورو- متوسطي للإعلام
حول المعرفة في ميدان المياه

Eric Mino
EMWIS Technical Unit
Unité Technique du SEMIDE

EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP



EMWIS

<http://www.emwis.org>

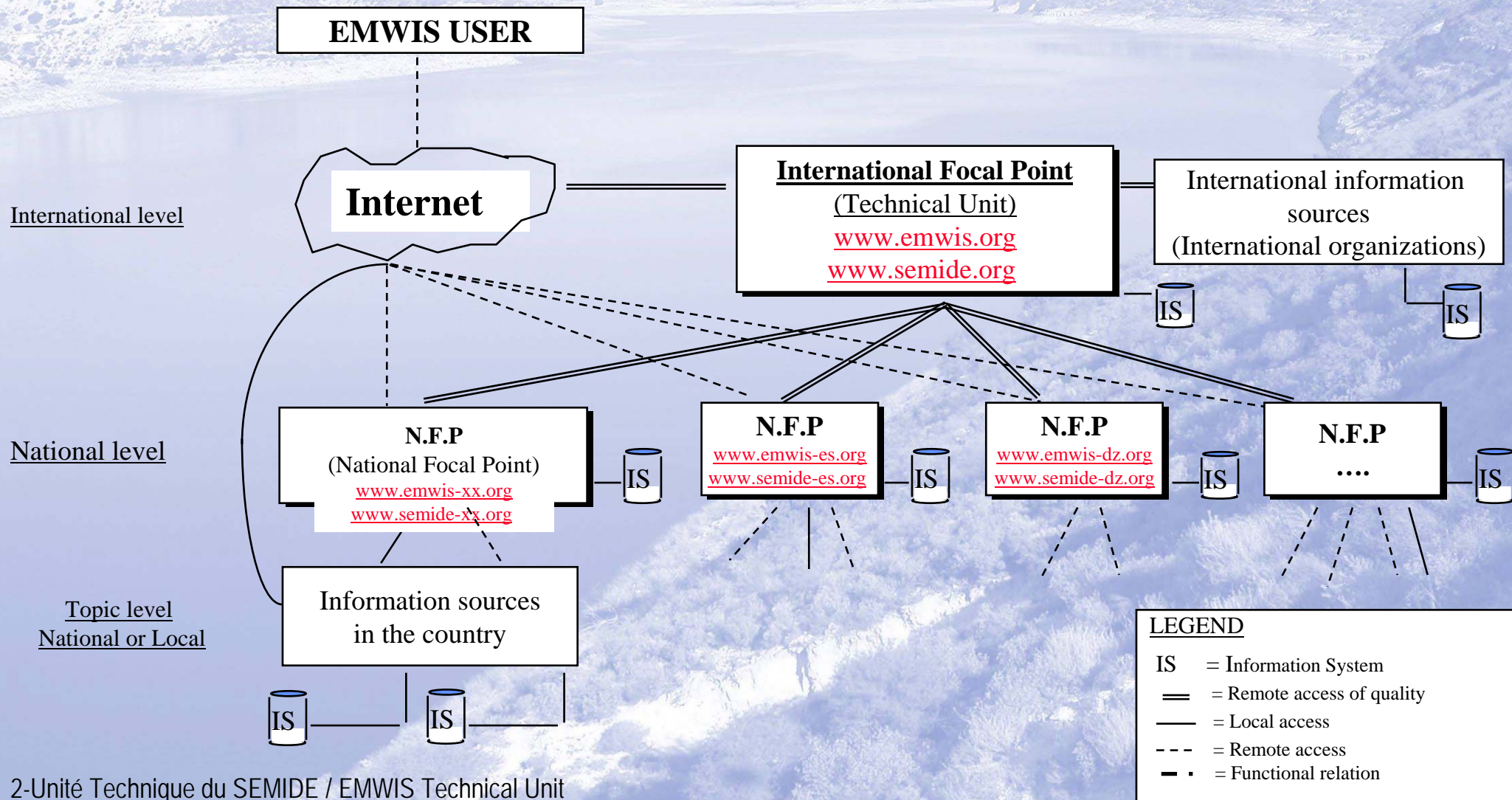
Euro-Mediterranean
Information System on
know how in the water
sector





EMWIS Architecture

Role of EMWIS Technical Unit





Main EMWIS milestones

- Dec. 1997 – Decision of Euro-Med water directors to implement EMWIS
- July 1998 – Creation of the EEIG EMWIS TU
- July 1999 – EC grant signature for Phase 1
- Nov. 1999 – T.U. operational
- Nov. 2001 – Phase 2 strategic plan approved by Euro-Med water directors
- Dec. 2002 - End of phase 1
- Dec. 2003 - EC grant signature for Phase 2 (Dec. 2003 – Nov. 2006)



Partners' contributions

<p>European Commission and Technical Unit Countries (contractual budget) France, Italy and Spain</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Participation costs of non EU representatives to meetings➤ Technical assistance and training costs➤ Organization of seminars, conferences and meetings➤ Investments and running costs of the Technical Unit➤ International Focal Point➤ Specific support to NFP for international activities
<p>Countries of the Euro-Med Partnership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Investments and running costs of their National Focal Point



Services offered

- **Thematic water directory: « who does what » per topic and per country**
- **Information search tools through all National websites**
- **Multilingual search engine on distributed bibliographical databases**
- **A circle for exchanging information: mailing lists and thematic electronic fora**
- **Information portal:**
 - **What's new in each country**
 - **Institutional water structure in each country**
 - **Other services developed by the National Focal Points**



Second phase: enhancing and consolidating the achievements (2003-2006)

- 1. Maintaining a strong co-ordination with political structures**
- 2. Reinforcing the NFPs**
- 3. Expansion and development of services**
- 4. Review of the technical architecture (XML based)**
- 5. Operating information existing services**
- 6. Fostering the promotion of the system**
- 7. Development of topical activities**
- 8. Information clearing house for International actions:**
 - 1. E.C. MEDA – Water programme**
 - 2. MED component of the EU water initiative**
- 9. Liaison with international initiatives**
Incl. Analysing the set-up of a WaterML initiative to harmonise information exchange



1. Co-ordination activities

Overview and status

- **Annual Steering Committee meetings**
 - May 2004, Malta
 - June 2005, Athens
- **Annual Coordination Committee meetings**
 - July 2004, Rabat
 - Sept'05, Amman
- **Liaison with the partner countries, the European Commission, the main international initiatives**
- **Technical Unit co-ordination**
 - Annual report delivered to the EC in December 2004
 - Mid term report delivered in June 2005
- **Conference of the 35 Euromed Water Director Generals**
 - 24-25 November 2005, Italy
 - In the framework of the 10th Anniversary of the Barcelona Process



2. Reinforcing NFPs

Overview & status

- Annual training seminars for IT or data managers
- Remote and ad-hoc support
- Technical and financial feasibility studies of National Water Information Systems
- Examples of NFP good practices
 - Practical organization to run an EMWIS NFP and to organise the information network with the different partners,
 - Promotion of a National Water Information System,
 - Multilateral water information systems based on the experiences coming from initiatives such as WaterNet and EXACT, OSS (Observatory of Sahara and Sahel)
- Development of work programme and monitoring tools for each NFP
- Management of direct financial aid
 - Investment costs (up to 10 000€)
 - Web site translation costs (up to 8 000€)
 - Running costs (promotion, local training, local technical assistance - up to 10 000 Euros per year)



3. Expansion and development of services

Overview & Status

- **Integration of the Arabic language for international access**
 - Monthly news flash produced in Arabic
 - Translation of the interfaces ready (prototype demonstrated in July 2004), to be launched with the new technical platform
- **Sharing calendars of events**
 - Based on the meta-data to be defined during this seminar
 - Small group of NFP for prototyping and testing
- **Development of a Water meta-crawler**
 - Specifications defined
 - To be integrated with the new technical platform
- **Other services:**
 - Multilingual water thesaurus
 - Multilingual water glossary with reference to existing glossaries



4. Review of the technical architecture

Overview & Status

- **Improving flexibility:**
 - Publication of same content on several web sites
 - Better integration of heterogeneous resources
 - Better decentralised content management
 - Common structures for content sharing (XML)
- **Main components agreed with NFP:**
 - Common meta-data
 - Multilingual Water Thesaurus
 - Overall technical architecture
- **New technological platform for the TU**
 - Content Management System developed for the European Environment Agency
 - Open Source software
 - The solution will include a web portal builder
 - The portal will be multilingual: Arabic, English and French. But open to other languages



5. Animation and operation of information services

Overview & Status

- **Update of web site content**
- **Re-design of services**
 - A new structure will be implemented with the new technical platform
- **Up-dating and extending of the thematic directory**
 - Updating and consultation application improved
- **New thematic forums**
 - Ground water, Water glossaries, satellite images, etc.
- **Monthly eNews Flash in Arabic (28), English (5045) and French (2220)**



6. Fostering the promotion of the system

Overview & Status

- **Promotion plan validated in May 2004, available online**
- **Electronic marketing**
 - eFlash, cross-links, web directories, crawlers
- **Developing promotional media**
 - Updated brochures in Arabic, English and French
 - Brochures files available for customisation by NFP
 - EMWIS design rules and EC visibility guidelines available for national products
- **Press releases and articles for the specialised magazines**
 - Press releases for Promotion events and Steering Committee meetings
 - Article in Hydroplus to published in June 2005
- **Taking part in national and international events**
 - EMPoWER symposium, 2005
 - Med Network of Basin Organisations, 2005
 - Hydrotop 2005
 - CMU-RMEI meeting, 2004



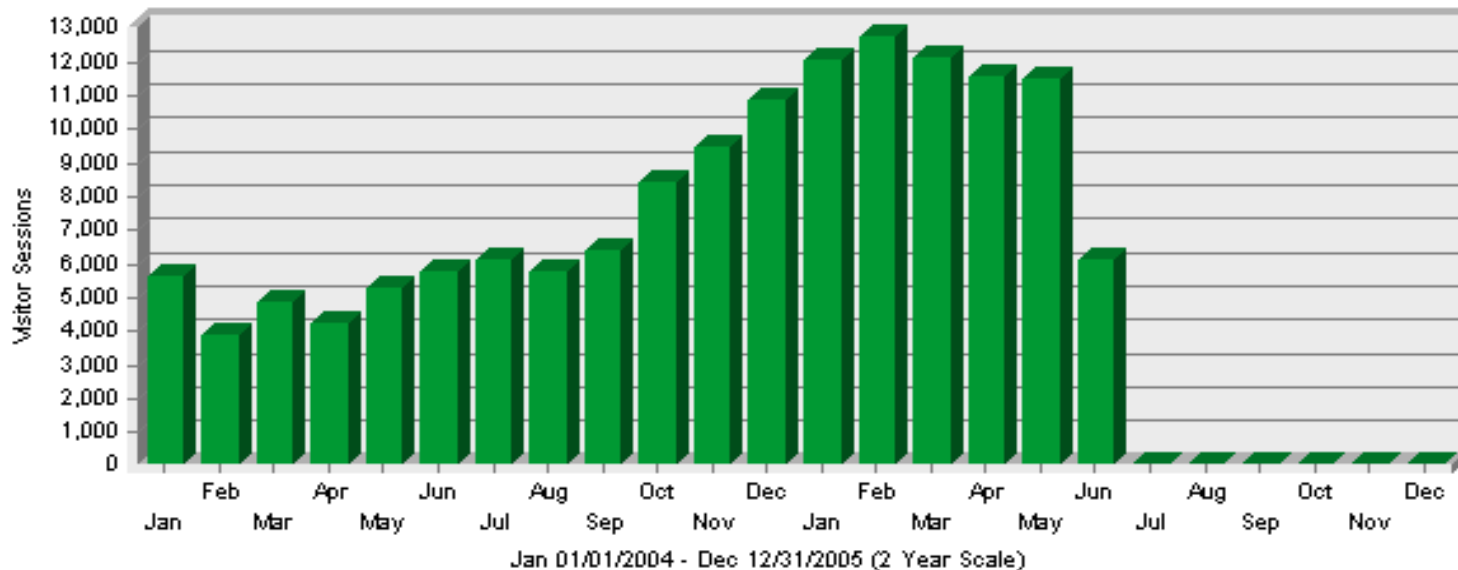
Visibility on Internet search engines

- **EMWIS is always on the 1st result page when searching for « water mediterranean »**
 - **2nd on Google**
 - **2nd on AOL**
 - **8th on Altavista**
 - **9th on Yahoo**
 - **9th and 10th on MSN**



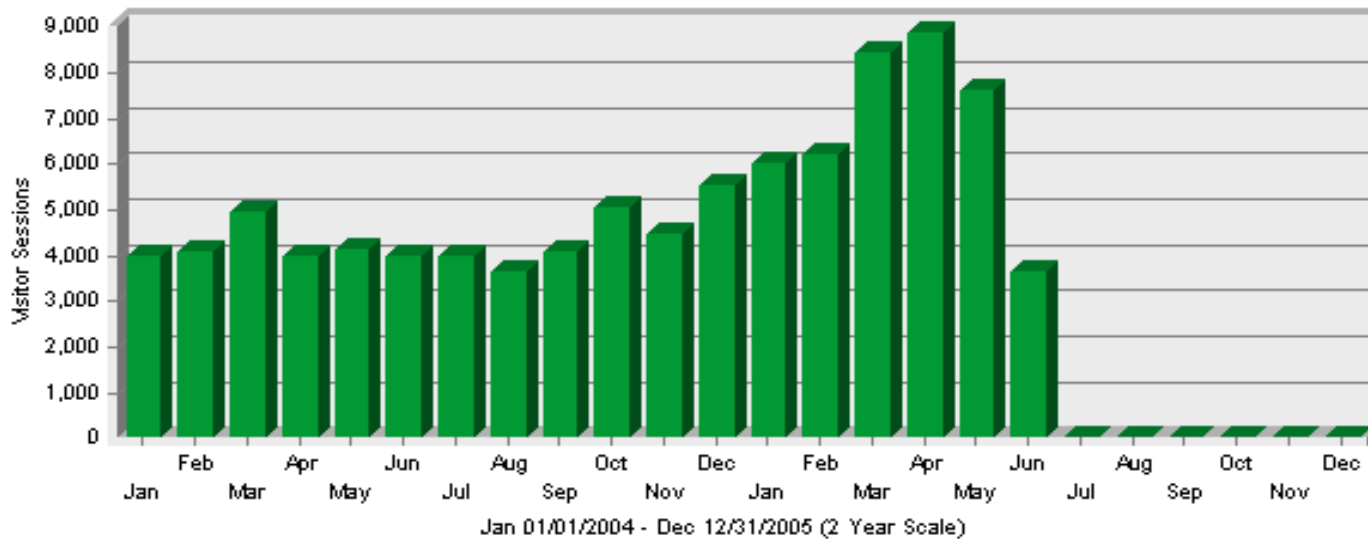
Web statistics

Visitor Sessions

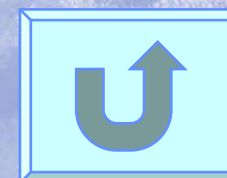


www.emwis.org

Visitor Sessions



www.semide.org





7. Development of topical activities

Overview

Approach

- Synthesis of experiences led by experts
- Presentation during EMWIS conferences and events

Selected topics

- EU Water Framework Directive
 - International Office of Water
- Use of non-conventional water resources
 - CEDEX
- Irrigation water management
 - IMIDA and FENACOR
- Integrated water management at local level
 - SOGESID

8. Information clearing house for EU Water activities Status



- **EMWIS web sections on:**
 - MEDA-Water programme and projects
 - EU Water Initiative and its Med component
 - Water Framework Directive
- **MEDA-Water Programme**
 - Waiting for the selection of the Regional Monitoring Unit: expected during summer 2005
- **6 MEDA-Water projects presented:**
 - Rabat, July 2004
 - Cyprus, October 2004
 - Amman, September 2005
- **International water projects database:**
 - Under development, model under discussion

9. Liaison with international initiatives



Overview & Status

- **Co-ordination of activities and agreement preparation**
 - **Mediterranean Water Institute**
 - **Global Water Partnership Med**
 - Contribution to the Med component of the EU water Initiatives
 - **International Network of Basin Organisations (and Med network)**
 - Promotion and exploitation of the thematic directory
 - Extension/follow-up on the study on the EU Water Framework Directive
 - **SMAP-RMS (APAT, IT)**
 - Agreement for managing the water section of the SMAP clearing house
 - **EXACT**
 - Cross participation to meetings in 2005
 - Good practice example
 - **European Environment Agency (EnviroWindow portal, thesaurus, glossary)**
 - **FAO, IPTRID**
 - Discussion on the EMWIS technical architecture
- **Other relevant initiatives:**
 - **The Blue Plan: MEDSTAT environment project, water and sanitation indicators**
 - **The World Water Council**
 - **BALWOIS**





Conclusions

- **EMWIS reflects a real need and a strong demand of all the partners**
- **By giving access to knowledge in the institutional, technical, and know-how fields, EMWIS proves to be a very powerful tool supporting the implementation of sustainable development policies in the field of water management**



Conclusions

- **The building blocks are now available but EMWIS is a long term process**
- **Mediterranean Partner Countries confirmed:**
 - **Their commitment in EMWIS approach**
 - **Their willingness to build National Water Information Systems**
- **EMWIS provides an institutional network suitable to transfer results from innovative initiatives into the national water structures**