

EURO-MEDITERRANEAN INFORMATION SYSTEM ON THE KNOW-HOW IN THE WATER SECTOR



SEMIDE
EMWIS

NATIONAL FOCAL POINT ALGERIA




MINISTRY OF
WATER RESOURCES



EURO-MEDITERRANEAN
PARTNERSHIP



Meeting the information requirements of the partner countries



EMWIS is a strategic tool for exchanging information

and knowledge.

This tool is essential for implementing the Action Plan approved during the Turin Conference in 1999.

Steps of the water partnership

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Barcelona 1995 | Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Creation of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership</i> |
| Marseilles 1996 | Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water Management <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Creation of EMWIS</i> |
| Naples 1997 | Euro-Mediterranean Conference of the General Water Directors <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Approval of EMWIS</i> |
| Turin 1999 | Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Local Water Management <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Approval of the Action Plan</i>• <i>Consolidation of EMWIS</i> |
| Madrid 2001 | Euro-Mediterranean Conference of the General Water Directors <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Approval of EMWIS progress and of a strategic development plan</i> |
| Rome 2005 | Euro-Mediterranean Conference of the 35 General Water Directors <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Reaffirmation of the validity of the system and definition of the strategy for the next 10 years.</i> |

Providing information on know-how in the water sector

Water management requires a lot of information, more and more sophisticated.

However, this information is still highly fragmentary. This is the reason why the twenty seven Ministers of Water decided, in Marseille in 1996, to create a system to rationalise the exchange of information. EMWIS was approved in Naples a year later. Its task is to make an inventory and gather all available information, thus providing its access to everyone.

It is based on an active participation and on the sharing of the information and experience acquired by the partner countries at local, regional and national levels.

EMWIS assignment covers three objectives to

- **Allow**
access to the information
- **Develop**
the sharing of information
- **Develop**
joint products and co-operation programmes.

An original approach

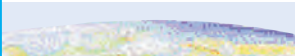
achievement of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership in the water sector. EMWIS is an original pattern for increasing knowledge of water management in the region. It complements the many other international actions

It is open to everyone

Access to the information proposed by EMWIS is open to everyone interested in water management issues.



A unique portal of approved information



Internet, a tool for access and exchange

The Internet availability and quick spreading in the partner countries makes it the ideal tool for the information provided by EMWIS.

Thanks to Internet, not only users have easy access, but the exchanges between the Technical Unit and the National Focal Points are also taking place.

Guaranteed quality information

Each National Focal Point is responsible for identifying, guaranteeing quality and access to information sources.

The only information sources accessible via the system are those approved by EMWIS.

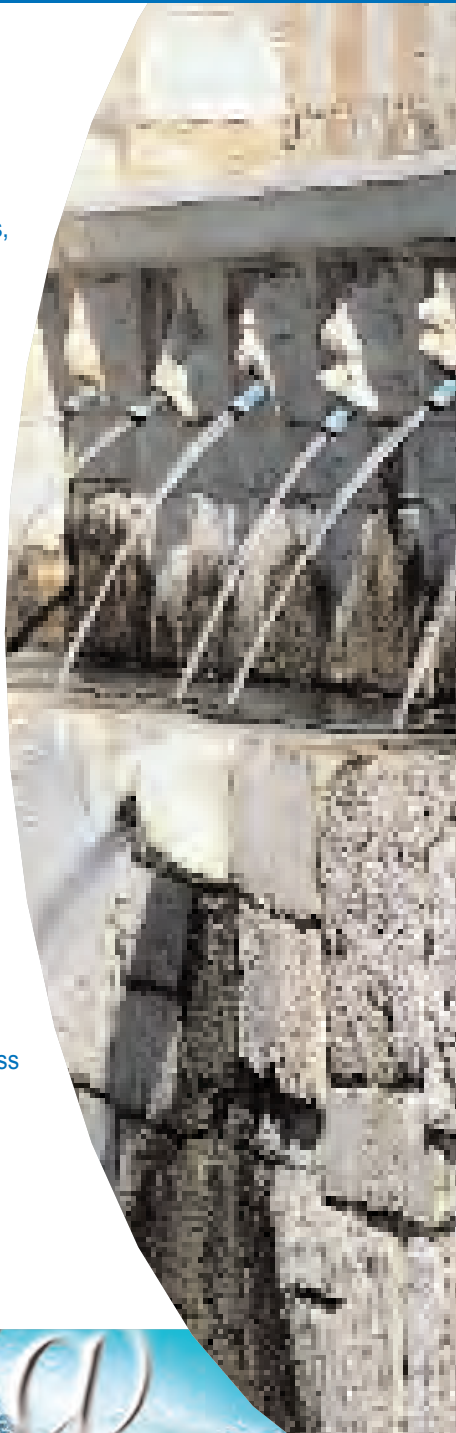


A distributed information system

Each partner country manages its own information server providing access to national information and know-how. All these servers are interconnected through Internet but, for the user, the search for information is carried out in a transparent manner using a single access point.

Multilingual access

In French, English and Arabic, but open to all the other languages.



Priority main lines

EMWIS deals with five priority main lines regarding know-how in the water sector. Other topics are added upon decision of the Steering Committee, such as: the use of non-conventional water resources, the EU Water Framework Directive, the irrigation water management and the integrated management of local drinking water supply, sanitation and sewage.

● Institutions

Type and organization of institutions, people involved



● Documentation

Organization and type of existing centres, means and technologies used for processing, accessing, consultation and dissemination, standardization, quality certification.



● Training

Existing organizations, programmes, localization, trainers, methods, training materials, quality certification.



● Research and Development

Existing organizations, programmes, people involved, means and technologies, publications, partnerships, funding sources.



● Data administration

Existing organizations and databases, methods used for data gathering and checking, publications.





A TWO-LEVEL STRUCTURE

Decision-making level

■ Steering Committee

Members

- Water directors of 13 countries,

Tasks

- Defining strategic orientations,
- Validating obtained results
- Validating the action plan and annual budget.

■ Co-ordination Committee

Members

- Representatives of the Technical Unit and of all the National Focal Points.

Tasks

- Drawing the annual activity programme,
- Proposing the annual budget.

Operational level

■ The National Focal Points (NFP)

Composition

- Teams made up of a co-ordinator, a data manager and a computer scientist.

Tasks

- Creating and developing a national information server
- Organising and developing procedures for communication and access to existing information
- Ensuring that the information is available
- Establishing relations with the users in their own country.

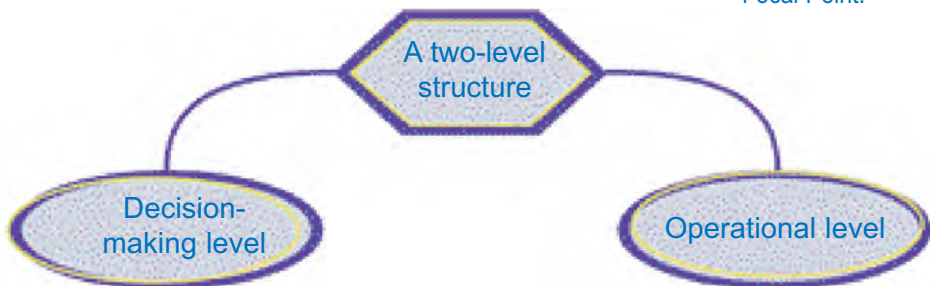
■ The Technical Unit

Composition

- CEDEX (Spain), OIEau (France), SOGESID (Italy).

Tasks

- Proposing annual budgets to the Steering Committee and participating in the definition of strategic orientations and action plans
- Co-ordinating, leading and providing technical assistance to the National Focal Points
- Developing and managing EMWIS information portal
- Being the International Focal Point.



The Algerian National Focal Point

EMWIS in Algeria

During the Euro-Mediterranean Conference of the General Water Directors in Naples in 1997, Algeria becomes a member of the Euro-Mediterranean Information System on know-how in the Water Sector; first concrete operational system of integration and co-operation at the regional level.



The National Focal Point Creation

The decision of creating the Algerian National Focal Point was taken by the end of 1999

The Hydrographical Basin Agency of Constantinois-Seybousse-Mellegue (ABHCSM) was appointed by the Ministry of Water Resources as the NFP (a center for collecting and distributing information).

The Algerian Focal Point was officially presented on July 9, 2001 at the EMWIS regional information seminar organized in Algiers.



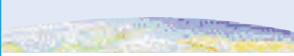
The Algerian NFP setting up

The Algerian NFP was the first focal point of a Mediterranean Partner Country to create a national web server dedicated to the EMWIS on the following address: <http://www.semide.dz>.

This website provides an arabic, french and english information on algerian institutions, legislation, press news, training and bibliographical references.



The Algerian NFP Organization



Team

Composition of the algerian NFP team :

- a co-ordinator,
- a data manager,
- an Information Technology manager,
- a collecting information manager,

Tasks consist on:

- developing and maintaining a national information server,
- organising and developing procedures for communication and access to existing information,
- ensuring the availability of information,
- updating the content of the website.

Functioning

The NFP is supported by the Ministry of the Water Resources in the form an annual subsidy on the basis of an approved action plan.

The NFP is also given an aid by the Technical Unit (training, share in the expenses of Internet connections and equipment).



Role

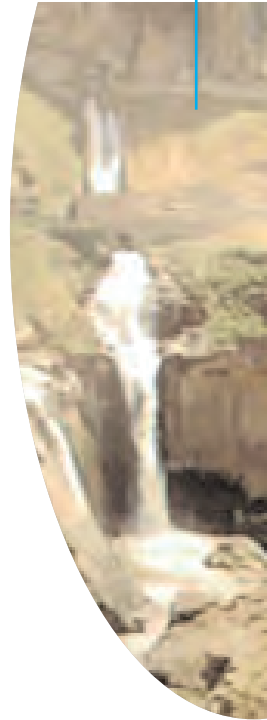
- Implementation and management of the EMWIS national server.
- Collection of information and implementation of the thematic directory.
- Development of common access to the sources of information.
- Setting up of an annual working programme.
- Promotion of the activities of communication at the national level.



Algeria as a Mediterranean Partner Country (MPC) is strongly engaged in the way of Partnership.

The Algerian National Focal Point (NFP) regularly takes part in the activities and the development of the system:

- The EMWIS Coordination committee including the National Focal Points (NFP) and the Technical Unit (UT) met in Madrid (Spain) the 14 and 15 November 2001 under the presidency of Algeria following the seminar of the Water General Directors of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (12 & 13 November 2001).
- Algeria belongs to the group of countries and organizations members of the EMWIS Steering Committee with Cyprus, Egypt, France, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Spain, Turkey and the Palestinian Authority.
- Since 2004 the Algerian NFP takes part with France and Spain in the working group on the metadata :definition and management of the common metadata, application to the synchronization of the events and news agendas between the NFP and the Technical Unit.
- The Presidency of the Coordination Committee has been taken by Algeria represented by its Water Resource Ministry at the Euro-Mediterranean conference of the 35 Water Directors held in Rome in november 2005 for a period of 4 years.



New technologies for the sharing of information



Participation in the EMWIS activities

The NFP takes part in the annual meetings of the EMWIS coordination committee, as well as in the meetings organized by the Technical Unit.

It also contributes to the development of the total programme of the EMWIS activities.

Additional training and further information are brought to the managers of operational websites to help them :

- to enrich and better exploit their websites (existing tools, thematic analyses, new technologies)
- to develop at long-term a strategy for a better integration in the EMWIS network
- to manage in a better way the interactions with the existing systems at the national level.



Extension and development of on line services

The technical specifications of the new technical platform of contents management were defined. This new platform will allow in particular a better localization of the contents (multilingual management, including arabic).

Within this framework the whole of the access interfaces to information were translated into arabic.

The EMWIS' NFP website publication

One of the main objectives of the Algerian NFP is to publish and maintain a national reference website in the water sector with a content available in the EMWIS international exchange languages: arabic, french and english, in order to provide useful contents at the international level.

This website must respond to the national needs, and to be a node of the EMWIS on an international scale.

It must provide information around the EMWIS five main topics.



The geographic area covered by the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership

With the enlargement of the European Union EMWIS accounts today 35 member states including 20 NFP created and 15 operational websites.

25 countries of the European Union

- Austria
- Belgium
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom

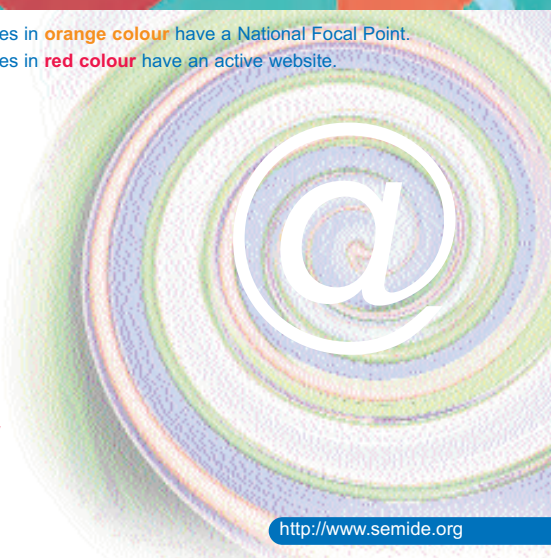


The countries in orange colour have a National Focal Point.
The countries in red colour have an active website.



10 Mediterranean partners

- Algeria
- Egypt
- Israel
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Morocco
- Syria
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- The Palestinian Authority





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Implemented with the support of the European Commission

<http://www.semide.org>



<http://www.emwis.org>