

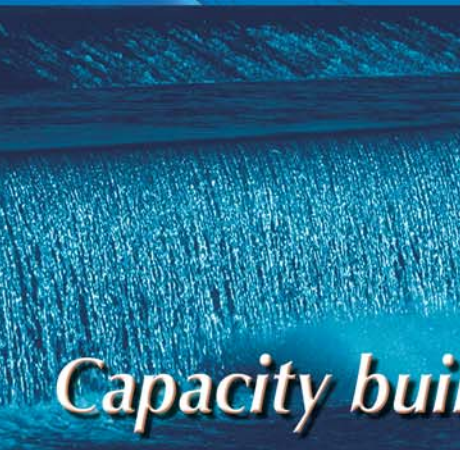
# INTERNATIONAL NEWS



*International  
Office  
for Water*

N° 12 - December 2004  
English Version

## Training Information Management Cooperation



*Capacity building for better water management*



## WIS The French Water Information System focuses on the European Framework Directive

The European Water Framework Directive (WFD) is an ambitious challenge regarding water-related data. Its requirements are huge in terms of knowledge of the environments, uses and costs to prepare management plans and to inform the public.

The WFD implementation in France led to the changing of the National Water Data Network, created in 1992, into a Water Information System (WIS), with broader assignments, that will be later integrated into a European system.

The French Water Information System (WIS) aims at organizing the production, the management and the dissemination of water data in France.

It is firstly involved in the WFD implementation: it means producing data on the knowledge of the status of water bodies and the pressures applied to them as well as the data required for economic analyses and making them available to the public:

- **Water Data Master Plans**, undertaken in all the basins, must make sure that the necessary data will be produced before the WFD deadlines, and plan the actions to be carried out.
- The systems of databases are strengthened at the same time and a new public portal, "**Eaufrance**", is set up: [www.eaufrance.com](http://www.eaufrance.com)
- IOWater manages the **National Data Reference Center for Water (SANDRE)**, which is more than ever essential to ensure the coherence and the sharing of the produced data and which plays a key role to guarantee interoperability between the various WIS databases and portals. It is in charge of standardizing water data and implementing standards for computerized data exchanges.

IOWater undertook a significant change in its site, providing access to the "SANDRE" standards, available in English:

[www.sandre.fr](http://www.sandre.fr)

This site also includes all the frames of reference shared by all the users: especially the geographical frame of reference on watercourses, BDCarthage and on groundwater, on all the measurement stations, regulatory zonings and works.

In particular, "SANDRE" work has been reinforced to allow for:

- the hydro-biological monitoring of water bodies and transition waters,
- the creation of a geographic reference frame on surface and ground "water bodies",
- the specifications of an "interoperable" technical architecture enabling simultaneous access to different databases.

### THE FRENCH WIS PARTNERS:



The Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development



The 6 Water Agencies



The Higher Council for Fisheries



The French Institute for the Environment



IFREMER



Electricity of France



The Research Center for Geology and Mines



The International Office for Water



IOWater also especially follows the development of the French WIS component which deals with sanitation in towns and industries, with the creation of specialized databases in all the basins, with the use of specialized software by Water Policing Departments, by the operators of wastewater treatment plants, by the "SATESES" and the Water Agencies.

Within the French Water Information System, IOWater with the support of the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development, has carried out a significant work since August 2002 for clarifying and making the data on urban sanitation consistent and the building of a specific computer application: UWW DB.

All Water Policing Departments, the DIRENs and the Water Agencies will use the UWW DB.

After the tests made in June 2003 by about a dozen of pilot users, the extension of UWW DB to the whole national territory was completed in December 2003.



Information

Fax: +33 5 55 11 47 48

E-mail: [sandre@oieau.fr](mailto:sandre@oieau.fr)

The French Water Information System

# "SANDRE"

## The catalogue of water data "sources"



The water data "sources" include all the "collection tools": monitoring networks, surveys, self-monitoring networks and all administrative and technical instruments.

Knowledge of these collection tools is a prerequisite to the implementation of the **Water Information System on the French territory**.

**IOWater**, with the support of the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development (MESD), has started, within the **National Reference Center for Water (SANDRE)**, the creation of a database including all the description sheets of the French collection tools.

The "SANDRE" has implemented a computerized system, based on Internet technologies, that guarantees to the

public easy access to this catalogue and also offers a secured area for direct entry, modification and validation of the sheets by the various data producers.

**At the moment, 980 water data sources have been inventoried in France.**

## Data exchanges between laboratories and clients



The water stakeholders are widely using results of water analyses in order to follow up and assess the quality of a watercourse, of an effluent, of a wastewater treatment plant or even of a drinking water intake.

This work is usually delegated to an analysis laboratory and this generates exchanges of analysis orders, abstraction sheets, analysis result sheets, etc.

Computerizing and harmonizing these data exchanges is thus an essential evolution of the clients/laboratories relationship to improve the quality of the produced data, to reinforce information traceability and to speed up the availability of these data to the decision makers and the public.

IOWater started preparing a standard for exchanges between laboratories and clients. For 2 years, IOWater, with the support of the Ministries of Ecology and Sustainable Development (MESD) and of

Health, Family and Handicapped People, has federated all the parties concerned (laboratories, software publishers, public and private clients, etc.) to establish a computerized data exchange standard.

The first draft version of the standard was finalized in March 2004 and is being validated on pilot sites which apply it in an operational context.

A revised and final version of the standard will be published by the "SANDRE" at the beginning of 2005. Then all the water stakeholders will have to apply this standard.

<http://www.sandre.fr>

# WWIS

## Towards a World Water Information System

The World Water Information System project consists in building a global network of water information and documentation centers, offering easy, unified and multilingual access (in French, English, Spanish, Portuguese, Eastern European languages, Arabic, etc.), through a common portal on the Internet, to the documentation, experiences and experts' knowledge available in all the partner countries, especially those participating in the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO).

It relies on **Focal Points in each partner country**. These Focal Points gather information in their respective area. They check, organize and make this information available according to the project specifications and a common organizational framework. This enables access to this information by all the users of each country and of the world through a common server on the Internet.

The WWIS is still starting with first regional pilot experiments in **Central Europe and the Mediterranean**:

- In Central Europe, the **Aquadoc-Inter network** has been extended

between IOWater (France) and VITUKI (Hungary), IMGW (Poland), Povodi Moravy (Czech Republic), and Apele Romane (Romania). In these countries, it has already a portal, with common access in 6 languages, focusing on the European Framework Directive.

- In the Mediterranean, the **Euro-Mediterranean Water Information System (EMWIS)** has been developing for five years in the 27 countries participating in the Barcelona agreement: access is still possible in English, French and Arabic.

[www.aquadocinter.org](http://www.aquadocinter.org)



[www.emwis.org](http://www.emwis.org)





5,000  
Trainees in 2004

# Training



# "CNFME"

## THE "CNFME'S" 2005 CATALOGUE: THE WORLDWIDE REFERENCE FOR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING IN THE WATER SECTOR



The IOWater Training Center for Water Professions (CNFME) allows the water professionals to find all the training programs useful to them.

The 2005 catalogue has been upgraded and is now reaching a total of 234 training programs representing 360 courses!

This 2005 catalogue proposes 21 topics: 1) introduction to the profession, 2) regulations, 3) water quality and analyses, 4) production of drinking water, 5) drinking water supply, 6) laying out and rehabilitation of water supply systems, 7) sanitation systems, 8) wastewater and sludge treatment, 9) on-site sanitation, 10) boreholes, 11) pumping, 12) maintenance and electrical engineering, 13) automation, remote management and sensors, 14) management of water supply and sanitation utilities, 15) safety of the staff, 16) aquatic environments, 17) industrial management, 18) analyses and controls in industry, 19) process water, 20) treatment of discharges, 21) detoxication.

**A very special effort was made on the management of the municipal drinking water supply and sanitation utilities, with an entirely reconstructed offer, in which half of the proposed training courses are new.**

In addition, this new training proposal also includes, in particular:

- **cleaning and restoration of rivers and water bodies**, with new modules including legal and

normative aspects, techniques, management of community utilities, knowledge of aquatic environments, the use of Water management and Development Schemes, WFD, etc.;

- **water in the industry**, which is an entire part of the catalogue with 22 courses.

These training courses can be attended to carry out a personalized training program.

The courses usually last from 2 to 4 days and provide the participants with precise answers, while taking into account the permanent changes in legislation and techniques.

All the technical training courses are based on the concept of training under real working conditions, which is unique in France and Europe. It has been developed for more than thirty years by the International Office for Water, thanks to its outstanding specialized technological units continuously modernized to take into account the technical changes.

25 permanent trainers and the "CNFME" network of specialists provide their technical and educational skills for the design, implementation and facilitation of the training courses.

**The "CNFME" is certified ISO 9001.**

The "CNFME" is able to meet the specific needs of companies and communities by organizing "on-site" training modules on the working places of the personnel concerned.

**All these training courses can be "tailor-made" in English and Spanish and organized in foreign countries.**

The 2005 catalogue can be accessed and downloaded on the Internet:

**[www.iowater.org/cnfme](http://www.iowater.org/cnfme)**



## ADDITIONAL SERVICES ...

### CONTROL PACKAGE, CALIBRATED SCALE, TECHNICAL LEAFLETS

The CNFME, with about 30 years of training experience, has marketed **original educational tools**:

- **The self-monitoring package**, a tool for controlling and regulating small wastewater treatment plants with activated sludge; it meets the criteria of simplicity, reliability, robustness and durability which are a need for operational activities, at a very tight and carefully studied price.
- **The calibrated scale** allows the calibration and checking of flowmeters; it can be used with any system of limni-

metric measurement and any kind of threshold.

- **the collection of technical leaflets**, which develops every year using an accessible but **nevertheless comprehensive** approach, which is the result of our trainers' thinking and synthesis.

**Some of them are in English.**



To order:  
**[waterdoc@oieau.fr](mailto:waterdoc@oieau.fr)**



### Information

Fax: +33 5 55 11 47 01

E-mail: [cnfme@oieau.fr](mailto:cnfme@oieau.fr)

The Training Center for Water Professions

## WATERDOC: CURRENT NEWS ON LINE

IOWater documentation center selects "WATERDOC" references, according to their relevance, among articles from 380 periodicals, received and analyzed, recent publications, study reports, the water references of the INIST-CNRS, etc.

*These references are analyzed by a network of experts. The bibliographical entries, written by water professionals, are available on line and are the first level of analysis and a true guarantee of relevance as to the results gained through research.*

**"WATERDOC", IOWater documentation base has 225,000 international references.**

**It is daily updated and proposes about 6,000 new references each year broken down into 7 field topics:**

- **185,000 references, technical and scientific ones, including the "Water" references of the INIST base**
- **3,000 references, on water-related legal texts in France and the Community, comments and jurisprudence**
- **18,200 references, of local information produced by the French Water Agencies, the Water Directorate of the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development**
- **Studies and Research on Water: 1,920 references the world of European research on water**
- **11,800 references, on institutional management and the organization of the water world**
- **4,770 references, on water economy**
- **WFD: 310 references, the new documentation base especially devoted to the European Water Framework Directive**

**60% of our references are in English, i.e. 133,000 references**



### ● FOR LEARNING EVERYTHING ● ON THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

The Water Framework Directive (WFD), requires the achievement by Member States of the European Union, before 2015, of a good status of surface and ground water resources.

This Directive introduces new concepts (water bodies, heavily modified environments, etc.) and new methods (public information and consultation, economic

analysis, etc.) that deeply change the approach to water management.

This is the reason why the IOWater documentation service opened a "WFD" section reserved to our subscribers.

**This new section already proposes more than 240 bibliographical references:** European guides drawn up by the working groups, texts of law, conference proceedings, reports, articles of periodicals, document from pilot basins.

All the Member States are concerned.

**Many referenced documents are available on line.**



<http://waterdoc.iowater.org>

### "WATERWATCH" ON YOUR E-MAIL

**"Too much information kills information"**

Thanks to the Internet, much information is accessible on the Web, but it is not easily accessible and its processing is time consuming.

*However, it is important for all the professionals to keep updated on current events.*

Today, the International Office for Water proposes "WATERWATCH", an electronic service in real time on the technical, legal and institutional events, by sending E-mails announcing all the innovations, identified by our team, over the world. These short messages present the topic and the interest of the identified document and a link for consulting it.

The covered topics are:

- the Water Framework Directive and its implementation (water policy),
- drinking water (production, supply),
- sanitation (collective, on-site, WWTP, storm water),
- the networks (drinking water supply, sanitation, facilities, patrimonial management),
- the aquatic environments (pressure, uses, floods, drought, planning),
- management of water supply and sanitation utilities and intercommunity,
- public markets and public-private partnerships,
- stakeholders of the water world.

**"WATERWATCH", a press review:**

Among the available products and services, "WATERWATCH" also proposes an electronic press review.

The list of the selected articles is online as soon as the periodicals are published and the articles are available in our center and can be ordered online.

Subscription to "WATERWATCH" is of one-year duration and costs 150 euros free of charge.

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## SANITATION SYSTEMS

### Financing strategy for municipalities

The investments to be planned by municipalities for compliance with the European directives for better protection of the natural aquatic environments are always very significant and often difficult to finance and most of these municipalities, willing to limit the water price, encounter problems in implementing consistent projects planned in the medium term.

**The French Sanitation Syndicate of Mauriac-le-Vigean agglomeration**

**requested the International Office for Water to provide its expertise.**

After having carried out a detailed financial and retrospective analysis of the sanitation utility, **IOWater proposed a financing strategy for the next 10 years**, combining, in the best way possible, the self-financing capacities, the subsidy opportunities and the loan possibilities.

Of course, the validity of this study relies on the accurate estimate of investment expenditures, but also on the operating costs resulting from new installations.

Beyond this strictly financial approach, IOWater was able to propose adjustments with the timetable and nature of the work to be carried out in close cooperation with the services concerned (sanitation, urban planning, roadway system, etc.).



### ANDRA A wastewater treatment plant under supervision ...

**The French National Agency for the Management of Radioactive Wastes (ANDRA) requested in July 2004 the International Office for Water to audit its facilities and operating practices on its sites of Soulaines in Dhuis.**

The malfunction origins and causes were found, thus allowing to propose

orientations for improvement. This first work was completed with the drafting of **an operation manual.**

Beyond this specific action and to validate the proposed choices, IOWater committed itself to assist "ANDRA" during one year.

During this observation period, the results from its operation are analyzed

monthly and advices given to improve operation.

At the end of this follow-up, **the final synthesis will allow a transfer of skills sufficient for effective and optimal operation.**

## ENERGY SAVINGS

### IOWater provides its expertise on consumptions in the drinking water supply and sanitation systems

*In order to optimize energy consumption in the drinking water supply and sanitation field, the French Agency for Environment and Energy (ADEME) shall organize, for this sector as for other ones, the dissemination and promotion of the best suited and less power-consumptive technologies.*

With such a purpose, IOWater collaborates with "ADEME" on three levels:

- firstly, by establishing a **comprehensive inventory of the various processes** used in drinking water treatment and sanitation;
- then, by carrying out a **bibliographical study** on "energy and economic optimization of the water supply and sanitation networks";

- finally, by providing, in the form of **technical assistance** to "ADEME", its expertise for the follow-up of the technical study.

At completion of this 15-month work, the IOWater will propose "ADEME" **awareness campaigns** intended for professionals concerned in order to widely disseminate the findings and save energy in water utilities.

## THE REUNION ISLAND

### Water management overseas



*Inauguration of the LWO of the Reunion Island*

**Since 2000, the French Overseas Departments have gradually created Local Water Offices (LWOs), local adaptation of the metropolitan Water Agencies.**

The main challenge is, however, like in metropolitan France, the financing of local water policy.

The LWOs' use of water charges had indeed been planned for in the law.

But the methods for its implementation were not entirely defined.

It is necessary to determine the level of charges applicable to each use, to establish records of tax payers, to define the procedure for setting up the arrangement, to identify priorities for action to which allocate the funds thus collected, etc.

The LWO of the Reunion launched a study for the definition of water charges to answer these various questions and to orientate the local stakeholders in their decisions.

**This work was entrusted to the DE Consulting firm, in partnership with IOWater.**

The study was completed in October 2004 and provided the Basin Committee and the LWO with the elements necessary for establishing charges in 2005.

# Integrated Water Resource Management: IWRM

## THE WORLD BANK

### French case study

The World Bank wished to gather **some cases studies on the application in some countries** of the integrated management principles developed during the Dublin International Conference in 1992.

**The International Office for Water was entrusted with the presentation of the French experience.**

The document provided to the Bank includes two block tables that gather and summarize:

- the institutions and structures,
- the laws and regulations,
- the economic and financial incentive arrangements,

- the accompanying aspects, such as public awareness, training and data collection.

This diversified information concerns the national, basin and local levels.

These tables are accompanied by a text describing the use of these principles in the Rhone-Mediterranean-Corsica Basin during the last ten years and especially the Master Plan for Water Development and Management and its supervision by the Basin Committee.

This French experience, more than thirty years old, the implementation of the Framework Directive and its transcription into French law may be, for the World Bank, an experience applicable to other countries in the future.

## EUROPEAN COOPERATION

### A strategic approach to water resource development and management

**The Strategic Approach to sustainable, efficient and fair development of water resources is the basis of the new European cooperation policy, the tool of which includes "Guidelines" used to support projects.**

The team, composed of HR Wallingford and IOWater, was entrusted by the European Commission with the organization of workshops for building awareness to this approach, with the local help of CEFOC (West and Central Africa), NCWSTI (Southern and South Africa), NETWAS (East Africa) and NWRI (Kaduna - Nigeria).

## RIVER RESTORATION

### 3<sup>rd</sup> ECRR Conference

**The European Center for River Restoration, ECRR, and Croatian Waters organized, in Zagreb, from 16 to 20 May 2004, the 3<sup>rd</sup> ECRR Conference on River Restoration in Europe.**

INBO Permanent Technical Secretariat delivered a speech, entitled "Together for Integrated Water Resource Management".

The Conference underlined that, in recent years, many European rivers encountered extreme hydrological events,

floods and droughts in particular, which created stress on water resources.

River restoration or rehabilitation includes a number of measures with the common goal to restore the natural functions of rivers which were disturbed by human activities.

It has become clear that most European rivers are transboundary and that one country will not be able to solve water quality and quantity problems on its own. Exchanges of experience and practical approaches within the European countries are needed together with a greater awareness about the values of intact rivers.

INBO members are themselves directly involved in river restoration projects.



ECRR participants

Group of trainees in the Ouagadougou workshop - Burkina Faso



In total, nine workshops were held in ACP countries: in Samoa, South Africa (2 workshops), Kenya, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Chad and Nigeria.

Discussions with the DG External Relations and EU Delegations identified key areas of interest and particular country needs in the ALAMED Region.

CINARA in Colombia and HIAST in Damascus were identified as partner institutions to facilitate the workshops in Bolivia, Colombia and Syria, which gathered 128 new participants.



Information

Fax: +33 5 55 11 47 80

E-mail: [aquacoope@oieau.fr](mailto:aquacoope@oieau.fr)





## GENERAL ASSEMBLY - 24 / 28 JANUARY

### "DECLARATION OF TROIS ILETS"



Pierre BARIL, former President, opens the General Assembly, in the presence of Pascal BERTEAUD, French Water Director

Indeed, river basins are the natural territories in which water runs on the soil or in the sub soil, whatever are the national or administrative boundaries or limits crossed.

③ The representatives of populations, local authorities, water users or of organizations representing collective interest should participate in this management beside administrations, especially in **Basin Councils or Committees**.

Information, awareness and education of populations or users and of their representatives are required.

④ When translating into the national water policy of each Country the principles of integrated management of water resources, and in consistency with their own IWRM national plans, **basin management plans (or master plans) should be prepared, through dialogue and transparency, to set the objectives to be achieved in the medium term,**

Better governance of freshwaters, which are limited and vulnerable, is one of the main keys to sustainable development, as it is essential to sustain life on our planet and ensure the health and socio-economic progress of our societies, while respecting the environment.

From 24 to 28 January 2004, 178 representatives of governmental administrations in charge of water management, of Basin Organizations, already existing or being created, coming from 39 countries, and from interested bi- and multilateral cooperation agencies, met in Trois-Ilets in the Martinique, during the sixth General Assembly of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), to define, all together, the most suitable actions needed for achieving the objectives of integrated and participatory management of inland surface and ground water resources and of related coastal zones.

The delegates reaffirmed that the problems linked to water governance are challenges that can no longer be tackled on a sectoral or local basis, or indeed separately. In fact, the search for solutions must pass through an integrated and holistic approach, organized at the relevant level of basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers, either local, national or trans-boundary.



The new INBO President: Madeleine JOUY De GRANDMAISON

178 Delegates from 39 Countries

The delegates recommended that, in order to achieve these objectives, while taking account of all adaptations required by the different field situations, the following procedures regarding good governance of inland freshwater resources and coastal zones should be used all over the World:

- ① **This Integrated Water Resource Management at the river basin level should aim at meeting, in a holistic, consistent, sustainable and inter-sectoral manner, all essential and legitimate needs of the citizens, at combating wastage, protecting against risk, preventing pollution, at preserving and rehabilitating ecosystems,**
- ② **In each country, a clear legal framework** must specify the rights and obligations, the possible levels of decentralization, the institutional responsibilities of the different stakeholders, the processes and means needed for good water governance,

⑤ **Reliable, representative, harmonized and easily accessible integrated information and monitoring systems** and specific research should be organized in each basin,

⑥ The establishment of **specific financing systems, based on the users' (consumers and polluters) contribution and common cause,** is required in each basin to ensure the implementation of **successive priority action plans, to ensure a balanced management of the resource and improve or maintain its quality, and the smooth operation of community utilities.**

#### Information

Fax: +33 1 40 08 01 45  
E-mail: inbo@wanadoo.fr  
INBO Website :  
www.inbo-news.org





## JANUARY 2004 - THE MARTINIQUE

These contributions, defined by consensus in Basin Committees, should be managed at the level of the basin, in a decentralized manner, by a specialized, technical and financial basin Organization.

- 7 As regards transboundary rivers, lakes or aquifers, cooperation agreements should be signed by riparian Countries and Manage-



Christiane RUNEL  
Director of "INBO Newsletter"

ment Plans designed at the level of whole basin, especially in international or transboundary Basin Commissions, Authorities or Organizations.

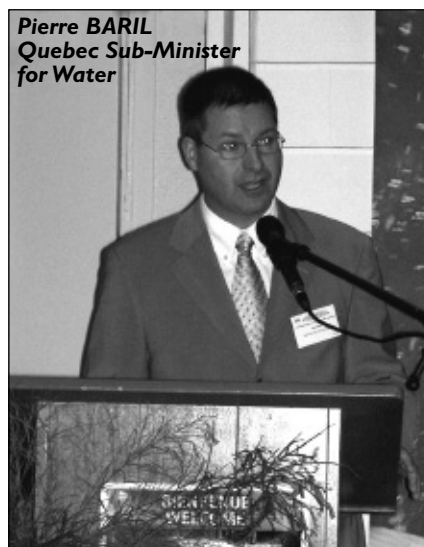
**Water has no national or administrative boundary:** managing jointly the resources shared between several neighboring States of the 263 transboundary rivers and lakes and hundreds of transboundary aquifers over the world is strategic and a priority and should take this reality into account.

The islands are systems which offer a wide range of biodiversity, ecosystems and socioeconomic entities, where management of freshwater and coastal areas is a complex issue which requires special attention, a specific legal framework and adapted means.

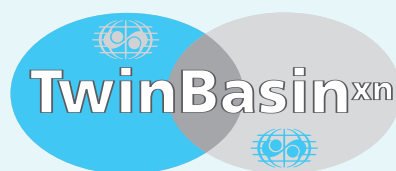
Implementation of the European Water Framework Directive is a major milestone for promoting the principles of good governance advocated by INBO. This topic is a priority for mobilizing its members.

**It is necessary to support the creation and strengthening of Basin Organizations over the world!**

Pierre BARIL  
Quebec Sub-Minister  
for Water



The delegates of the General Assembly of the International Network of Basin Organizations requested that Official bi- or multilateral Development Aid and the programs of International Cooperation Organizations should be refocused to support projects aiming at implementing real concerted actions which meet the above principles, and experimentations, evaluations and exchanges of know-how in these areas.



**The TWINBASIN<sup>xn</sup> project aims to facilitate twinning between Basin Organizations in order to disseminate good practices and strengthen their human resources.**

**It was officially launched on the occasion of the General Assembly of the International Network of Basin Organizations, in the Martinique in January 2004.**

It relies on a **Steering Committee regrouping the 18 founder members:** INBO and its Regional Networks for Africa (ANBO) and the Mediterranean (MENBO), the Seine-Normandy Water Agency (France), the International Office for Water, (France), the Secretariat for Water Resources (Brazil), the Global Water Partnership (Sweden), Techware (Italy), the University of Pretoria (South Africa), the National Water Authority - OVF (Hungary), the Interstate Coordination Water Commission

- ICWC Aral Sea (Uzbekistan), Jara Tirta I Corporation (Indonesia), the Algérois - Hodna - Soumman Basin Agency (Algeria), the Sebou River Basin Agency (Morocco), the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS), the National Water Commission (Mexico) and Apele Romane (Romania).

The main orientations defined by this Steering Committee were:

- the need to prioritize assistance to the existing twinning arrangements;
- the advantage of a "preliminary study" that compiles a summary report and carries out an analysis of the past twinning arrangements: outcome, successes, failures;
- the significance of defining very stringent and demanding criteria for accessing to mobility scholarships;
- the creation of the first three Specific Interest Groups (SIG) on the "twinning", "mobility" and "dissemination" topics. Other SIGs will be created in the future, in particular for the "transboundary rivers" topic.

**The project was selected within the "Global change and ecosystems" priority of the 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Program for European Research.** The European financing of the project will cover the operating expenses of the Network (travels, tool development, scholarships, etc.) for a 48-month period.

A restricted Steering Committee met again in Dakar (Senegal) in November 2004, during the joint Assemblies of the African Network of Basin Organizations and of the Network of International Commissions and Transboundary Basin Organizations.

Contact person:  
[a.bernard@oieau.fr](mailto:a.bernard@oieau.fr)

**Next "EURO-INBO" Meeting:  
Namur - Belgium  
30 Sept. - 1<sup>st</sup> Oct. 2005**

[www.inbo-news.org](http://www.inbo-news.org)



## DAKAR - SENEGAL -

### General Assemblies of the African Network of Basin Organizations

Official opening ceremony  
with President WADE



#### "WATER HAS NO BOUNDARY"

**168** delegates of governmental administrations, responsible for managing water resources, of Basin Organizations and International Organizations coming from 34 countries, met in Dakar (Senegal) from 2 to 6 November 2004, under the auspices of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), at the invitation of the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS) and with the support of French Cooperation.

The meeting was honored by the effective presence of several Ministers in charge of water in the sub-region, of the President of the Council of Ministers of OMVS, of the Prime Minister of Senegal. His Excellency Adboulaye WADE, President of the Republic of Senegal, came to officially open the meeting on 3 November and to support the Network's initiatives.

#### PREAMBLE

The International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) is especially mobilizing for better management of transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers.

Indeed, there are 263 transboundary rivers or lakes and hundreds of aquifers over the world, the basins of which are shared by at least two or more (18) riparian countries.

**Water has no boundary and appropriate integrated resource management of the basins of rivers, lakes or aquifers, shared by several riparian countries, is now of strategic significance.**

Cooperation agreements need to be initiated or signed between the riparian countries for these rivers and aquifers. Such an integrated management obviously requires methods for observation, management, protection and development.

Their specific situation should be better taken into account in the debates and multilateral

agreements on a new governance of water resources.

This is the reason why the numerous participants in the INBO International Conference, held in Thonon-les-Bains (France) on 25 and 26 November 2002, decided to constitute "an informal Network of International Commissions and Transboundary Basin Organizations", based on a voluntary and free participation of its members and observers.

In Evian in 2003, INBO, jointly with several large NGOs concerned, especially drew the attention on these stakes of the G8 Heads of State and Government, who retained this issue among their priorities for future actions in the water sector.

#### OBJECTIVES OF THE NETWORK: PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

In addition to the presentation of the strategies of bi and multilateral cooperation institutions involved and to the study of several real cases of organization on the scale of transboundary basins, the Dakar Assembly widely dealt, in 4 workshops, with 4 central topics for the implementation of IWRM and for facilitating the creation and strengthening of basin organizations over the world:

- 1 statutes and responsibilities of transboundary Basin Organizations,
- 2 preparation of basin management plans and action programs,
- 3 financing Basin Organizations and their programs,
- 4 monitoring and information systems in the management of transboundary basins.

**69 papers were presented during the Dakar meeting.**

#### GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

The participants noted with appreciation the advance achieved for a better management of transboundary basins and the significant progress already made in the implementation of policies and real actions at this level.

- The Dakar participants expressed their wish to continue exchanging their experiences through four complementary activities:
- Organizing regular meetings, either plenary sessions on a yearly basis or topical workshops whenever necessary. Apart from an exchange of experiences, these meetings will result in the identification of the main concerns of Basin Organizations involved in the field,
- Developing a website, using the methodologies, techniques and contents already elaborated within "AQUADOC-INTER" in Central Europe and "EMWIS" in the Mediterranean region. This common website should include case studies and documents produced by Basin Organizations (abstract in English and French, links with the sites of the Basin Organizations). This site would also include current information, a forum for discussions and frequently asked questions, links towards new documents and information produced at the international level,
- Promoting training programs for executives and staffs of Basins Organizations,
- Establishing twinning arrangements between Basin Organizations of different countries facing common problems, notably within the "TWINBASIN" project or already existing agreements.
- The organizations represented in Dakar expressed their support to Pilot River Basins exercises, such as those developed in the European Union for WFD implementation or within the European Water Initiative for Africa for instance, within that of GEF and in an increasing number of countries. They recommended to propose additional pilot basins for widening the exercise to adapt it to the context of each region of the world.





## 03 / 06 NOVEMBER 2004

### (ANBO) and of the Network of Transboundary Basin Organizations

- The Delegates also wished to enlarge the direct dissemination of Pilot River Basins' results to all other Basin Organizations. Generally speaking, in spite of the Web facilities, access to information remains complex.

- **As regards transboundary basins**, it seems necessary to support the creation of **International Commissions or similar Organizations** and to provide better means to those already existing, and to reinforce cooperation between the neighboring countries of each of these basins.

The case of rivers of large federal countries may, for some aspects, be compared to the one of transboundary basins.

- As regards the specific aspects of **the prevention and control of floods and droughts**, which heavily affect many countries, the Delegates confirmed that there is a need to better exchange information and know-how and that it is essential to harmonize the control plans between the countries of transboundary basins.

In particular, they recommended to build reliable and effective systems for quick warning against floods and droughts and to create mechanisms for prevention and action to face the natural disasters caused by water and to protect human lives and properties.

- Consistency of **the water monitoring and information systems**, harmonization of data and Geographic Information Systems and the use of common models are essential for sharing information and following up actions in transboundary basins.

- A joint thinking on **the methods and means for consulting and mobilizing the populations** is urgent. It would also be very useful to jointly formalize strong and easily appropriable arguments likely to justify a real interest and an effective participation of the populations, whose approval is essential for the successful implementation of the projects related to water policy in the basins that are still expecting tangible results.

- The participants also drew the attention of the proper Authorities on taking adequate measures to **prevent the introduction and the dissemination of invasive aquatic species** which cause considerable ecological and economic damage and of which new specimens are continuously discovered.



Mrs. JOUY De GRANDMAISON hands INBO medal to President WADE

- They wished a better participation of the transboundary basins supported by GEF in the Network activities and they asked the INBO Member Organizations to get actively involved in the activities initiated during the operational phase of **"IW-LEARN" Project with GEF support**.

**Mr. OULD MERZOUG, OMVS High Commissioner, will chair the Network of International Commissions and Transboundary Basin Organizations up to its next Plenary Assembly.**

#### REGARDING THE AFRICAN CONTINENT IN PARTICULAR

- ANBO proposes to all interested organizations of the water sector, of Southern, Central, North, East or West Africa, to governmental Administrations, Basin Organizations, either existing or being created, bi and multilateral cooperation Organizations, to become a member to **jointly develop a true common African expertise on the management of the sixty, or about, transboundary basins of Africa.**

➤ ANBO proposes to the European Union, to the bilateral and multilateral cooperation Agencies involved and to the countries concerned, to assist in the implementation of its multi-year action plan. It proposes, in particular, to create and facilitate a **"Permanent Technical Committee" of the African Basin Organizations**, especially the pilot basins selected for the first phases of the European Water Initiative, in order to allow the managers of these basins to regularly exchange their experience, to evaluate their projects, identify the best practices adapted to the African contexts, to define the encountered problems and to make the syntheses necessary for disseminating the lessons learned on the whole African continent.

- ANBO also proposes to organize **training courses on "the six pillars of IWRM"** open to the African executives and technicians concerned.

- ANBO wishes that a project for an **African Water Information and Documentation System (AWIS)** be very quickly launched to federate the information centers, either existing or to be created in the interested basins or countries, to share their references, useful documents and African studies, to store them and make them easily available to everyone.

**The Delegates retained with thanks the proposal from Morocco and the Niger Basin Authority (NBA) to organize in 2005 the next meetings of the Bureau and General Assembly respectively.**

**Information**  
**INBO**  
 Fax: +33 1 40 08 01 45  
 E-mail: [inbo@wanadoo.fr](mailto:inbo@wanadoo.fr)  
[www.inbo-news.org](http://www.inbo-news.org)  
**ANBO**  
 Fax: (+221) 822 01 63  
 E-mail: [amayelsn@yahoo.fr](mailto:amayelsn@yahoo.fr)  
[www.omvs-soe.org/raob.htm](http://www.omvs-soe.org/raob.htm)

International Events - INBO

## GUINEA - ICRC

### The "CNFME" and the ICRC join their competences

Collaboration between the "Water and Habitat" Department (Wat-hab) of the **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**, based in Geneva, and the French National Center for Water Professions (CNFME) has been strengthening for several years.

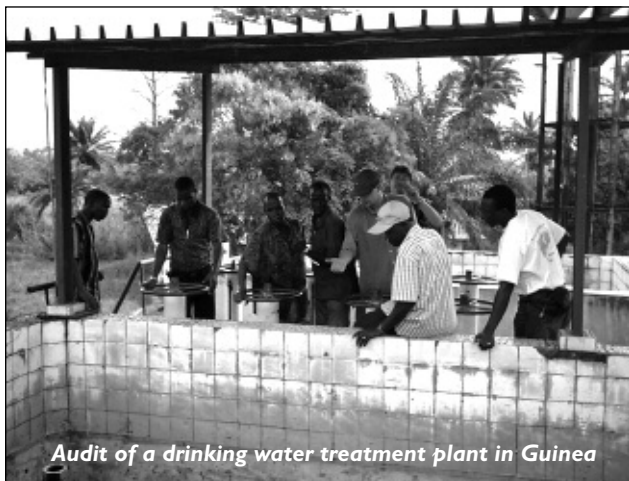
In particular, the "CNFME" welcomed for the third time, from 11 to 14 October 2004, a group of ICRC Project Managers, based all over the world (Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Thailand, Guinea Conakry, Rwanda, Eritrea, Ivory Coast, etc.), for

**a professional training course on the "Evaluation of drinking water infrastructures".**

Moreover, in January 2004, the "CNFME" carried out for the ICRC and in partnership with the Wat-hab unit of Guinea Conakry, **the audit of a drinking water treatment plant supplying the town of N'Zérékoré (~300.000 inhab).**



Maintenance activities



Audit of a drinking water treatment plant in Guinea

This assignment aimed at defining the possibilities for rehabilitating the site and thus for meeting the high population growth in the city. This increase is mainly caused by refugees coming from the bordering countries. This assignment allowed the **drafting of several technical and financial scenarios for the rehabilitation of the whole drinking water supply system.**

After having chosen one of these scenarios, the ICRC launched a reconstruction program which is under way.



# ICRC

## PAN-AFRICAN CONFERENCE ON WATER

Addis Abeba - December 2003



Inauguration of the conference

The aim of the Pan-African Conference, that took place in Addis Ababa in December 2003, was to determine how to jointly achieve the Millennium Development Goals regarding water in Africa.

18 African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, RSA, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe) participated at ministerial level, and all the multilateral and bilateral donors attended.

At the invitation of the FAO, IOWater contributed to the topic **"Water for food security"**.

The rapporteurs noted the weak success of efforts in favor of food sufficiency, particularly in Africa:

- ❖ investments are more costly,
- ❖ the regime of watercourses is very perturbed,
- ❖ irrigation yield is low,

- ❖ infrastructures quickly deteriorate,
- ❖ the competing needs are more and more visible,
- ❖ pollution is also found on the continent,
- ❖ salinization is frequent in soils,
- ❖ public financings are uncertain,
- ❖ the construction of infrastructures encounters more and more social and environmental obstacles, etc.

The IOWater representative described the possibilities offered by Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) at the river basin level, as recommended by INBO.

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# MAURITANIA

## Is the Water and Sanitation Sector still needing reforms?



The Minister and the Director receive the IOWater expert

The sectoral water policy was defined in 1990 in Mauritania. It favors:

- ◆ the meeting of the populations and livestock's needs,
- ◆ the preservation of water quality by monitoring and management of the resource,
- ◆ payment of the water cost by the beneficiaries,
- ◆ and a concern for the development of an autonomous (private even) water industry.

French Cooperation on the Mauritanian water sector emphasizes:

- the building of the administration's capacities,
- the establishment of a local authorities/private sector partnership.

It deals with the institutional reform of central and regional administrations, the training of executives of the new institutions and supports the new National Center for Water Resources.

IOWater stressed the benefit, for Mauritania, of an integrated technical assistance to the national administration and applauded the dynamism of the Mauritanian public stakeholders, well provided with financial resources and staff.

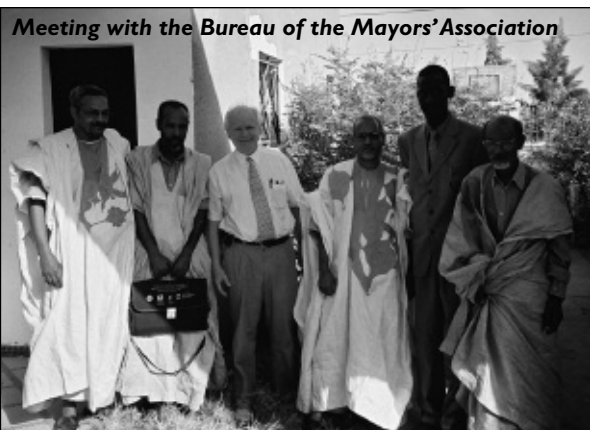
### IOWater presented 27 recommendations.

A one-week mission to Nouakchott in May 2004, allowed providing assistance to the "National Technical Committee" in charge of formulating a revision draft of the water code to be submitted to the Mauritanian Parliament at the end of 2004.

Exchanges with the Committee underlined the need for a reform of the water code, from a legal viewpoint. The following aspects were thoroughly discussed:

- organization of integrated management,
- the precaution principle,
- the user-pays system,
- water and the public domain,
- water resource planning,
- treatment of domestic wastewaters,
- responsibility of the municipalities,
- contracting authority divided between the State and the municipalities,
- a Multisectoral Regulation Authority.

A revised draft code was presented in June 2004.



Meeting with the Bureau of the Mayors' Association

# SOUTH AFRICA

## Creation of a professional training center



The project "support to the creation of a Training Center for Water Professions" in the Republic of South Africa just started during the last quarter of 2004.

Its objectives are:

- creation of a network of Professional Training Centers, whose "core" center will be the "NCWSTI" (National Community Water and Sanitation Training Institute) located in Polokwane (ex-Pietersburg) in the Limpopo and North provinces.
- definition of a training program and the launching of new professional qualifications,
- creation and training of a team of specialized trainers,

- identification of the needs for professional capacity building of the stakeholders working in the sector,
- implementation of a multi-year training program for these staffs.

A very recent mission in the Republic of South Africa allowed the updating of the timetable - from January 2005 to March 2007 - the planning of the financial installments devoted to the project, which will be jointly carried out by the International Office for Water and the SAUR-International's IDFP. The first technical actions will begin in January 2005.

This mission also allowed the preparation of the study tour, in France in December 2004, of a delegation of four top level South-African executives.

On this occasion, exchanges took place in Paris with the Ministry for Foreign

Affairs and the French Development Agency, and the delegation studied the training installations, laboratories and educational units of the French National Training Center for Water Professions (CNFME) in Limoges.



The delegation in Limoges



Information

Fax: +33 4 93 65 44 02

E-mail: [aquacoop@oieau.fr](mailto:aquacoop@oieau.fr)

## KENYA

### Kenyan Water Institute - KEWI

Within the bilateral cooperation between France and Kenya (ARCHE PROJECT) dealing with the **reinforcement of human capabilities in the Kenyan water sector**, the International Office for Water, locally supported by experts of NETWAS (Network for Water & Sanitation), carried out, with the French Embassy Department, 2 technical assistance assignments (May - July 2004) for the Ministry of Water Resources (Human Resources Department) in order to assess the training needs for a sample consisting of 6 water utilities (Water Supply Providers - WSP) in the catchment area of Lake Victoria, Kericho, Kisumu, Birongo, Old Kibichori, Kakamega and Sidindi Malaga.

In order to carry out these investigations, **the International Office for Water defined a comprehensive methodology, integrating tools which enable a functional analysis of the work organization of these water utilities, to emphasize their strengths and weaknesses, to**

**record and analyze the results from their operation, to analyze the problems of equipment and infrastructures, etc.**

A feedback was carried out for each of the 6 WSPs concerned by this audit.

This assessment of training needs resulted in defining a training program adapted to the **Kenyan Water Institute (KEWI)** through the creation of a specific Department for continuing professional training.

IOWater established a business plan for this KEWI Department and identified a 3-year priority training program.



*Feedback of the audit of the Birongo Community Water Project*

The KEWI's implementation of this professional training program (short-term training courses) will be supported by French Cooperation as regards the educational equipment and infrastructures necessary for its completion.

## MAURITIUS

### Central Water Authority

The main Mauritius Authorities in charge of the water sector, under the supervision of the Ministry of Public Utilities (MPU) and represented by the Central Water Authority (CWA), the Wastewater Management Authority (WMA), the Irrigation Authority (IA), the Water Resources Unit (WRU) etc, wish to implement a **significant program for continuing professional training** of their staff to support the reforms of the water sector and the modernization strategy.

Within the framework of the French-Mauritius cooperation program, the French Embassy in Mauritius organized a first technical visit in France of members of the CWA and MPU in June 2004, which enabled these people to meet various French Companies of this sector, and thus discover the installations of the French Training Center of the International Office for Water in Limoges and La Souterraine.

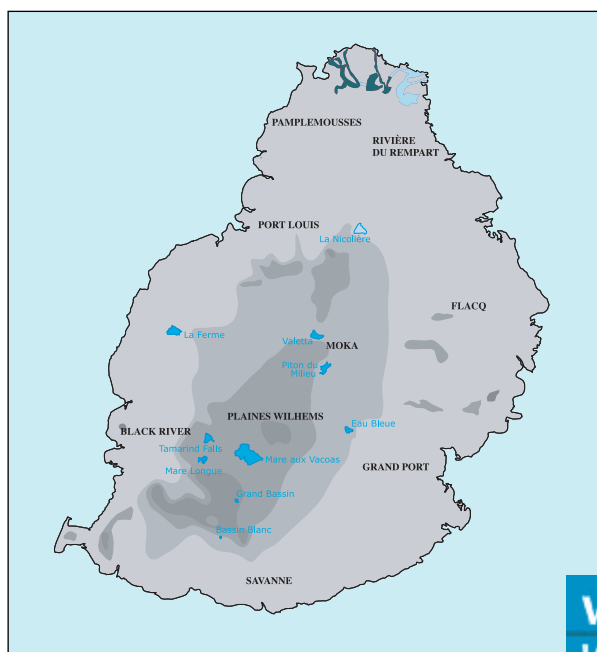
This program also planned for a pre-assessment assignment, carried out in September 2004. It enabled the definition of parameters for the creation of a Professional Training Center in Mauri-

tius and of the training needs to be met for each of these organizations.

This project will also take into account the needs of the agricultural sector, represented by 5,000 small farms and 18 User Associations and of the industrial (brewery, textile, etc.) and tourist sector (hotels, etc.).

It is also planned that this Center can become regional (Seychelles, Comoros, Reunion, etc.).

The Central Water Authority expressed the wish that IOWater carry out in 2005 a complete feasibility study for this project implementation.



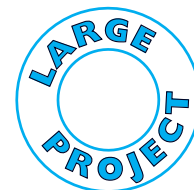
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# AFRICA : EUROPEAN WATER INITIATIVE

## Component on transboundary basin management



Following the Earth Summit on Sustainable Development of Johannesburg, a strategic partnership was established between African countries and the European Union on Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) especially at the level of Transboundary Basins to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

A working group, led by the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs, was entrusted, according to the Strategy approved by the EU and the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW), with the launching of a program:

- ➔ for transboundary water resource management (TB);
- ➔ for drafting national IWRM plans.

Indeed, in each transboundary basin, each riparian country should have the capacity to manage the resources of its national part of the basin.

AMCOW identified the needs for support in four sub-regions (East, West, Central and Southern Africa) and selected five "pilot" transboundary basins for which support will be requested from the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF intra-ACP budget:

- **Southern Africa:** Orange-Senqu Commission (ORASECOM);
- **Central Africa:** Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC);
- **East Africa:** Lake Victoria basin (Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program - NEL-SAP), and Kagera Basin Organization (KBO);
- **West Africa:** Niger Basin Authority (NBA) and Volta river basin.

The International Office for Water was entrusted by the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs with the identification, in relation with the other European Cooperation Agencies involved, of the priority actions that could be financed by the European Union starting from 2005.

A budget of Euro 10 millions has been allocated to this program. The funds should be shared reasonably and equitably between the four sub-regions, following the identified priorities in each of the 5 pilot basins.

### Stakeholders' involvement

During the whole process, liaison and consultation were made with both African (AMCOW-TAC, NEPAD, River Basin Authorities, Regional Economic Commissions, National Authorities such as Ministries of Water and Environment or Water Authorities) and European officials (European Delegations in riparian countries, European bilateral Cooperation and Local Technical Assistants).

Preparatory missions also enabled meetings with local stakeholders of each basin to discuss about priority actions.

Through the assessment of the current situation, the Consultants considered ongoing and foreseen projects, identified gaps and hence priority activities, that can be supported under the program, add value to other activities and help to remove obstacles to improved water management in the basin.

### First orientations

**"Institutional frameworks strengthening" seems to be a permanent need, in all basins.** Indeed, even when financial means appear to be available, it is sometimes difficult to apply them because of weakness of administrative structures.

**"Ownership" is clearly an important issue.** The Consultants systematically looked for River Basin Authorities (main beneficiaries of the Program) and Regional Economic Commissions to own the program.

Ownership will definitely be a key factor for the sustainability of foreseen actions.

### National IWRM is needed

Some institutions still have problems to switch from an official stereotyped speech (IWRM, Civil Society involvement with decision-making process, etc.) to its concrete field application.

Many countries still do not have suitable legislative and regulatory frameworks that define statutes, tasks, responsibilities for national institutions and that allow inter-sectoral and inter-administrative coordination between them.

Most countries have no National Water Resources Management Plan.

Real participative processes, which involve water users, local collectivities, NGOs, etc, are rare.

Improving this situation is urgent, so that strategies elaborated at transboundary level can really apply within each national section of the basins.



### Methodology

Project analysis is based on six IWRM "pillars" or priority areas of intervention:

- institutional frameworks,
- mobilization of financial resources,
- capacity building,
- assessment and monitoring,
- awareness and confidence building,
- basin management plans and action programs.

The IOWater Consultants reviewed many already available documents and numerous meetings and talks with local and regional stakeholders, in each of the five pilot basins, allowed the necessary integration of due information and the identification of priorities.



Information

Fax: +33 4 93 65 44 02

E-mail: aquacoope@oieau.fr

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## CHINA

### The Chinese Year in France on the "water classes" topic

The calendar had been carefully studied. It is indeed on 22 March 2004, World Water Day, that begun the one-week visit of 5 Chinese specialists on the topic of "water classes".

Awareness of children to water management was in fact chosen by the French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development as a priority for French-Chinese cultural and educational exchanges.

IOWater organized the following activities for the delegation:

- ❖ **Introducing the concept of "water classes"** by the Seine-Normandy Water Agency, that launched this tool about 17 years ago and that celebrated its 1,000<sup>th</sup> "water class",
- ❖ **Presentation of the educational tools used and of the program of visits** when accompanying the "water classes" in the field,

- ❖ **Visit of institutions in charge of water management in France:** AESN, SAGEP and BRL,

- ❖ **Examination of requirements for a transfer of know-how** (method, documents) and for the establishment of a French-Chinese partnership to adapt and disseminate this concept in China.

The visitors were positively impressed by the methods used to raise the awareness of the youngest to the issues of water management.

Better knowledge of the Chinese educational system is needed to facilitate this transfer of the "water classes" concept.

It is especially the objective of the next mission to China of French specialists, as, from October 2004, French expertise is being exported to China ...



The Chinese delegation was received at IOWater head office

## TAIWAN

### Taiwan Water 2004



The Taiwan Authorities invited Mr. Jean-François DONZIER, IOWater General Manager, to deliver the introductory Conference of the first International Trade Show "Taiwan Water" which was held in Taipei Exhibition Center from 3 to 6 September 2004. The topic selected was "the new European water policy".

Mr. DONZIER was also invited by the National Taiwan University (NTU) for a one-day course on the institutions and means of water management in France.

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## INDIA

### "Watergateway" to India: priority to training

After having successfully implemented, from 1999 to 2001, a first institutional project concerning the Sabarmati river basin in Gujarat ("Integrated Sabarmati Basin Management"), which constituted the first adaptation to the Indian context of the French know-how on integrated and participative management of water resources, IOWater is strengthening its presence in India by relying on its competence in the training of technicians and local elected representatives.

Indeed, during the last meetings of the French-Indian working group on urban development, led, on the French side, by the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Housing, and, on the Indian side, by the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty

Reduction, the project of creating a training center for water professions in India with French support was retained as a priority, and has just started.

In order to determine the expectations of the Indian party, a top level delegation came to France in December 2004 to visit the "CNFME" installations in Limoges - La Souterraine in particular.

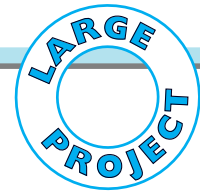
A first analysis assignment of an IOWater expert took place in India in November 2004.

These first exchanges emphasized the need for creating a center in India to train

not only technicians but also local elected representatives, whose role in the Indian democracy is of prime importance.







## KAZAKHSTAN - RUSSIA

### Transboundary management of the Irtysh Basin Omsk Conference, May 2004

The International Office for Water, SAFEGE and ANTEA group has been working in the Irtysh basin since 1998.

At first, during a "FASEP"-financed project for the improvement of water quality in the Irtysh river in Kazakhstan, the idea of implementing basin management for this river, a tributary of the Ob, started to grow.

In 2001, a project started, with financing from the French Fund for Global Environment (FFEM), for a transboundary basin management approach between Russia (Omsk Oblast) and Kazakhstan (Pavlodar and Eastern Kazakhstan Oblasts).

It allowed the development of cooperation between the two countries with the support of French experts concerning 4 main topics:

- **The creation of a common water database between the two countries**, using an inventory of potential data suppliers. These data involved, in a first stage, the qualitative and quantitative aspects of surface and ground waters, data on polluters and water users, on abstractions, on uses and discharges. This work can obviously be extended to other parameters in the future. The management of this new integrated system is made by computer network, and this allows each country to integrate its data and, as a counterpart, to benefit from the information coming from everyone. **This network, called IRBIS (Irtysh Basin Information System) is now operational**; a Web site displays the project results and makes available to the public any information requested by the new International Irtysh Commission.
- **The harmonization of procedures and standards and the collection of qualitative and quantitative data**, that could be integrated in the data files of the IRBIS base. For this purpose, an important work of data synthesis and conversion was needed; then, at project completion, it appeared

necessary to extend the collection of information to radiological and radio-ecological data to take into account the pollution of the nuclear launching range of Semi Palatinsk.

- Finally, the last topic concerned the creation and implementation of a real **International Irtysh Commission** with the support of the Authorities of the two countries and with a possibility of its opening to China, that has several transboundary watercourses with Russia and Kazakhstan.

Within the framework of this project, the Omsk Oblast in Russia organized an International Conference on 20 and 21 May 2004 in Omsk, which gathered about 250 persons around the topic of the protection of Irtysh waters and their transboundary management. The project's French participants and the "FFEM" attended this meeting, that showed the interest of the riparian oblasts.

The participation of China was mentioned, and the Kazakh party let known that bilateral conversations had already started between the two countries.

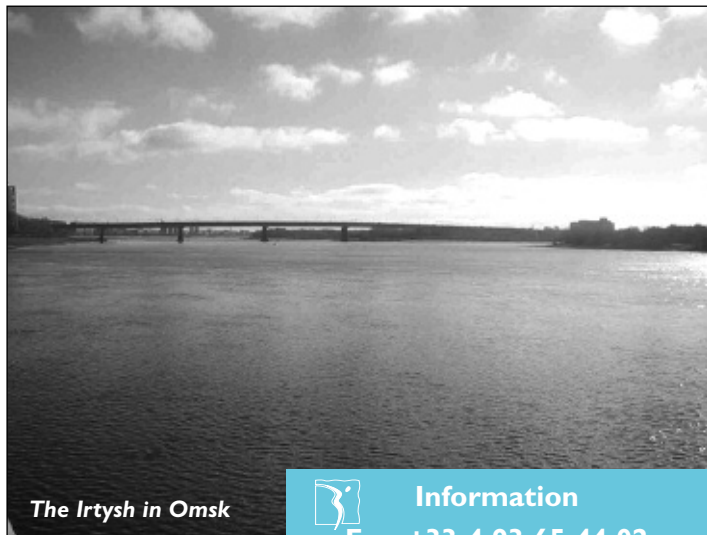
French support was requested, through the project team, for the three coming years, starting in 2005, in order to better reinforce the International Commission and to continue the development of the hydrological model on qualitative aspects and possibly on a larger area.



Omsk Vice-Governor and the project team

- **A need-resource model was built and developed.** It covers an area of about 1,000 km along the Irtysh between the Chinese-Kazakh border in Bouran and the Krasnoyarska station downstream of Omsk in Russia and takes into account the main tributaries and groundwater, mainly in the downstream area, together with the important diversions made (Irtysh Karaganda canal and the future diversions in China).

This model, developed by SAFEGE, was exploited locally by engineers of Omsk Agrarian University and then made available to the Russian Water Department and to the BVU in Kazakhstan.



The Irtysh in Omsk



Information

Fax: +33 4 93 65 44 02

E-mail: [aquacoope@oieau.fr](mailto:aquacoope@oieau.fr)

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# Latin America

## CENTRAL AMERICA

### Regional integration and management of shared rivers

The search for regional integration for better water management is a priority for all the local stakeholders and bi- or multilateral cooperation Organizations in Central America.

In fact, the rationalization of water resource management in Central America requires better management of transboundary rivers in this region, where 57 % of the water resources is shared.

The European experience is an example regarding the level of regional integration and the methodological inputs of the new Water Framework Directive. Several projects are under way in the region (Rio Lempa, Rio San Juan, Rio Coco, Rio Paz, etc.).

On the request of the Regional Delegation of French Cooperation, the International Office for Water relies on the involved authorities (CRRH, SICA) for:

- ◆ sharing information and data;
- ◆ the organization of bi or tri-national cooperation: creation of Commissions, mandates, statutes, etc.;
- ◆ planning methodologies and defining common objectives;
- ◆ financial means used to implement the decisions made.

## BRAZIL

### Towards the creation of a Training Center for Water Professions



Water and Sanitation - Sistema Nacional de Informações sobre Saneamento).

The number of Brazilian staffs concerned by training for water professions is estimated at about 200,000.

This study has therefore shown the need for a Training Center for Water Professions. Its results were presented to the Brazilian Ministry of Cities at the end of 2003.

The estimate resulting from "globalization" of

rain, confirmed their willingness to carry out this project. They were much impressed by the experience and know-how of the International Office for Water.

Since then, several inter-ministry meetings were organized in Brasilia, underlining the true local appropriation of this proposal. The Ministry of Cities now wishes to promote the implementation of the Brazilian Center while looking for a wide partnership with the different stakeholders of the Sector.

In 2002, the International Office for Water was entrusted with a feasibility study for the creation of a Training Center for Water Professions in Brazil.

This study allowed the starting of a collaboration with experts of the Brasilia University (UNB), and received the support of the Brazilian Authorities in charge of water - represented by the Secretariat of Water Resources (SRH) of the Ministry of the Environment, and the National Water Agency (ANA) - in partnership with the French Embassy in Brasilia.

A detailed analysis of the drinking water supply and sanitation sectors was carried out, using the information of the SNIS (National Information System on

the WSS utilities in Brazil amounts to more than Euro 50 Billions over 20 years. In this respect, the investment linked to a Training Center project is quite modest for a potentially interesting return on investment.

The presence in France in May 2004 of Messrs. João Bosco, Federal Secretary for Water Resources of the Brazilian Ministry of the Environment (SRH/MMA), Marcos Freitas, Director of the National Water Agency (ANA) and Sergio Gonçalves, Director in the Ministry of Cities, and especially their visit of the French National Training Center for Water Professions in Limoges-La Souter-



The Brazilian delegation at IOWater head office in Paris



Information

Fax: +33 4 93 65 44 02

E-mail: aquacoope@oieau.fr

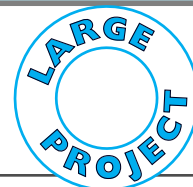
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# MEXICO

## Creation of the national and regional water information systems



The 13 hydrological regions of Mexico

In order to comply with the Mexican Water Law of 29 April 2004, the main part of the work carried out hitherto within the framework of the "CICA" projects (Centros de Información y Consulta sobre el Agua) is going to be included in **the setting up of the national and regional water information systems.**

### Brief reminder of the context ...

At the end of the 1990s, the Basin Councils, created in Mexico according to a logic of decentralization of water resource management, very quickly felt the need to access the information allowing them to make suitable decisions. In order to meet this expectation, the "CNA" (National Water Commission) then planned the creation of information centers called "CICAs" (Centros de Información y Consulta sobre el Agua).

The "CNA" wished to benefit from the French experience in the field of management of water-related data and information.

IOWater and the French Water Agencies provided an organizational and

technical assistance within the "Program of support to Mexico in the water sector" financed by the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs since 2001.

Since 2003, the various recommendations have started to be approved and take effect:

- ◆ Coordination between "CNA" and "INEGI" (Institute of Statistics and Cartography), the "SEMARNAT" (Secretariat in charge of the Environment) and "IMTA" (Mexican Institute of Technologies on Water), for the preparation of cooperation protocols for the exchange of information at the national level;
- ◆ Unanimous adoption by the Basin Committee of the Yucatan Peninsula and by the Basin Committee of Mexico Valley (basin including Mexico City), of the technical and financial projects proposed for the launching of the first two pilot "CICAs", and this with a strong support from the States concerned;
- ◆ Participation of representatives from the "CNA", "INEGI", "SEMARNAT", "IMTA" and the government of Quintana-Roo, in a study tour in France for an analysis of the methods adopted for the management of data and obtained results.

### Changes in the context and new orientations ...

**The Mexican water law of April 2004, appreciably modifies the organization of water management at basin level** and provides for:

- ❖ the creation of autonomous **Basin Organizations**, which will be in charge of, among other things:

- ➔ formulating and proposing Hydrological Plans for their basins;
- ➔ operating the basin financial system;
- ➔ allocating concessions for the exploitation of facilities and water resources;
- ➔ preserving water quality and promoting the effective and sustainable use of water resources in coordination with the States and the Basin Councils.

- ❖ A redefinition of the role of the "**Basin Council**", which has, from now on, the function of a consultative body of the Basin Organization.

With regard to the information systems, the law:

- Reminds the general principles of free access to water-related information;
- Entrusts the "CNA" and the Basin Organizations with the task of disseminating the water-related information;
- Plans that "the national planning and programming of water resources will be carried out on the basis of a national system and regional information systems which will be supported by the Commission and the Basin Organizations."

**The implementation decree should be promulgated in April 2005.**

The "CNA" has just entrusted IOWater, with financing from WMO, with a study of the conditions for including the principles used in the "CICA" project through the installation in Mexico of the National System and Regional Water Information Systems.



## Centro Mexicano de Capacitación para Agua y Saneamiento: "CEMCAS" is now on its own!



Within the French-Mexican cooperation program, IOWater carried out, in March 2004, an analysis of the training activities of "CEMCAS" over the 2000 - 2003 period, in order to formulate some recommendations on its organization and management.

**The audit report shows that nearly 2,500 Mexican personnel were already trained in the Center, and that it can today balance its opera-**

**ting budget, with even some self-financing possibilities.**

In addition, the customers' network is very quickly widening, and "CEMCAS" commercial development tends to increase with the various Mexican water stakeholders.

The Center's Management Board is also broadening its training offer with strategic topics such as **performance indicators for water utilities**, which will enable the Mexican operators to support their modernization process.

This assignment gave also the opportunity of presenting to the Mexican authorities of "CNA" and "CEMCAS", and to representatives of the French Embassy in Mexico and of the Directorate of Foreign Economic Relations (DREE), the technical and financial reports describing the activities and actions led by IOWater

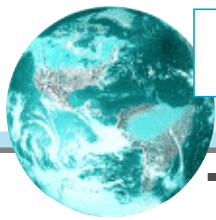
throughout the "CEMCAS" creation project since 1998. **Our initial assignment is now successfully completed.**

**The "CEMCAS" is now on its own with our best wishes!**

A new technical assistance will be provided by IOWater to "CEMCAS" in 2005 **to develop the sanitation topic** which constitutes one of the major stakes for the development of the Mexican water sector.

### The pumping pilot unit and mains





# North America

## TEXAS

### "Global Forum on Water" Hello Houston, we have a problem...

Water scarcity is not restricted to the countries of the South. Some of the richest regions of the Western countries are also encountering an accelerated depletion of the resource, likely to hinder their development in the medium and short term even.

It is the case of Texas, which is hosting the biggest international oil companies and is a concentrate of the pioneers' spirit for whom each acre of conquered land constitutes a private property. The use of water and other natural resources is considered there to be completely free for the land owner. He may thus withdraw the quantities he wants and use them as he wishes, without asking anything to anybody or paying any water tax.

**Obviously, this approach finally raises problems.**

A "Global Forum on Water" was held in Houston from 2 to 4 April 2004, to address this topic.

Organized with the assistance of the well-known "Rice University", this Forum gathered experts from many countries to analyze the situation and find possible ways of improving water resources in Texas.

IOWater, supported by the French Consulate in Houston, highlighted the European Community approach, formalized in the Water Framework Directive, and more particularly the use of economic instruments to control uses and orientate water management policies.

This topic aroused some interest in a country where water price is very low, where infrastructures are degrading and where any action of the public administration is considered with mistrust.

Would the "principle of cost recovery" have many beautiful days ahead on the other side of the Atlantic?

## CANADA

### "CANWELL 2004"

With the support of the French Consulate-General in Vancouver, Mr. Jean-François DONZIER, General Manager of the International Office for Water, was invited to deliver an inaugural speech on European water policy during "CanWell 2004".



This great event, which was held this year in Kelowna (British Columbia), gathered North-American professionals on groundwater, wells and boreholes.



# The Mediterranean

## TUNISIA

### A quality approach for "CITET"

In 2004, the partnership between the French National Training Center for Water Professions (CNFME) and the International Center on Environmental Technologies of Tunis (CITET), which is supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources of Tunisia, was strengthened with financial support from GTZ (German Cooperation).

IOWater helped "CITET" with **technical assistance and audit assignments in the water and industrial sectors** (surface treatment, cardboard factory, agro-food industry, etc.), and with **joint audits of industrial wastewater treatment plants in Tunisia.**

**"CITET" requested the "CNFME's" experience in the quality certification of its training courses.**

The "CNFME", ISO 9001 certified for several years, collaborated with "CITET" on 3 separate actions in 2004:

- ▶ analysis of the organization of "CITET's" Training Center,
- ▶ study tour for the "CITET's" executives in charge of training to the "CNFME",
- ▶ assistance on quality for "CITET" up to its ISO 9001 certification.

The certification audit by TUV is planned for the beginning of 2005.

IOWater also delivered a speech on **"Performance Indicators in Water and Sanitation Utilities"** during the Euro-Arabic Conference.



From one Continent to Another



# ALGERIA

## Partnership with the River Basin Agencies

The Algerian-French cooperation program in the water sector, financed in 2004 by the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs, for a "Support to the River Basin Agencies (ABH)", includes **3 components with actions concerning master plans, information systems and Basin Committees.**

### Water information systems

Within the "Information systems" component, four one-week support assignments were carried out by IOWater in 2004.

In accordance with the orientations wished by the "ABHs", these assignments especially allowed:

- **A synthetic analysis of the water information systems in Algeria** (information sources, existing systems, ongoing projects, human and material capacities at the level of the "ABHs");

- **An assessment of the "ABHs"** needs for information including the water cadastre;

- **A presentation of the French experience (RNDE)** in water data management;

- **An identification and a detailed analysis of the various information systems of the National Water Resources Agency (ANRH)**, main producer of data on water resources in Algeria;

- **A support to the structuring of the "ABHs"** information systems, with, in particular, the production of a first standard entity-relation model planned for the water cadastre;

- **An initiation of the "ABHs" staff to the functionalities available in GIS tools of the ArcGIS type;**

- **A review of the principles used for coding water resources** in France, Europe and in various countries;

- **Organization of a 'think tank'** on the possibilities for coding surface waters (Wadis, lakes, etc.) in Algeria.

These assignments mainly took place in the form of training workshops and working groups, gathering the ABHs, "ANRH", "INCT" (National Institute of Cartography and Remote Sensing), "ANAT" (National Agency for Regional Planning).



## Cooperation with the "Algérienne des Eaux - ADE"

Within the framework of the 2004 Algerian-French Bilateral program, the technical assistance provided by the International Office for Water to the "Algérienne des Eaux" (ADE - Algerian Water Utility) includes **4 main components:**

- **Training in Algeria of a group of about 20 executives from "ADE" and the "MRE" on the techniques of desalination of sea waters** and the operation of desalination units.

- **Training of about 16 technical executives of "ADE"** through their insertion in various French water utilities.

- **A training course for 20 Algerian executives on Performance Indicators for water utilities** as a support to the process of "ADE" modernization.

- A technical and educational assistance for **the creation of a Training Center for Water Professions.**

The "ADE", created by the decree of 21 April 2001 and under the supervision of the Ministry of Water Resources (MRE), is a national State corporation with commercial and industrial management, legal entity and with financial autonomy.

The "ADE" is now finalizing the integration of the staffs coming from the former National Drinking and Industrial Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (AGEP), the 9 national water production and supply companies, the 26 wilaya authorities managing 258 municipalities (EPDEMA), and the 932 municipal public corporations.

**The "ADE" staff should reach 22,000 people** to cover the whole Algerian terri-

tory according to a geographical organization, which consists in 5 main Regions (Algiers, Oran, Constantine, Ouargla and Chlef), 16 zones and 49 units.

With this objective in mind, the "ADE" Management Board is initiating an ambitious capacity building program for its staff, which will rely on the resources of **three Training Centers:**

- **Two Training Centers** (Constantine and Oran), focusing on the Management of water utilities; the Training Center and the Operational Dialing Center (CATO) in Constantine were inaugurated in September 2004,

- **One Training Center for Technical Professions**, which will be created in Algiers with Belgian/ "Algérienne des Eaux" co-financing.

IOWater provides assistance with the implementation of this training plan.

# LIBYA

## IOWater in the "great man-made river" country

Upon the request of the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs, IOWater participated, from 10 to 13 May 2004, in **the first French-Libyan seminar on the Environment and Sustainable Development**, more specifically dealing with the topics of water management and desertification.

At first sight, introducing, as did IOWater, the organization of the water supply and sanitation utilities in France, and thus clarifying the concept of public-private partnership, could seem a challenge in a country, that has remained closed to any external influence for a long time. The very rich debates which

followed, and the interventions of the Libyan lecturers themselves, however clearly showed an awareness to the need for new approaches in the management of the water sector, and their relevance, once adapted to the local context.

The difficulties encountered in water supply, and the quality problems arising in the networks, led indeed gradually to some questioning: why the symbolic project of "the Large Man-made River", if finally the water supply of the coastal cities is not satisfactory?

The training of technicians in the operation and maintenance of facilities emerged like a new concern, to which IOWater could provide suited solutions.

IOWater also introduced EMWIS to the Libyan Authorities, an example of a real Euro-Mediterranean cooperation gathering all the goodwills around the federating topic of water.



Information

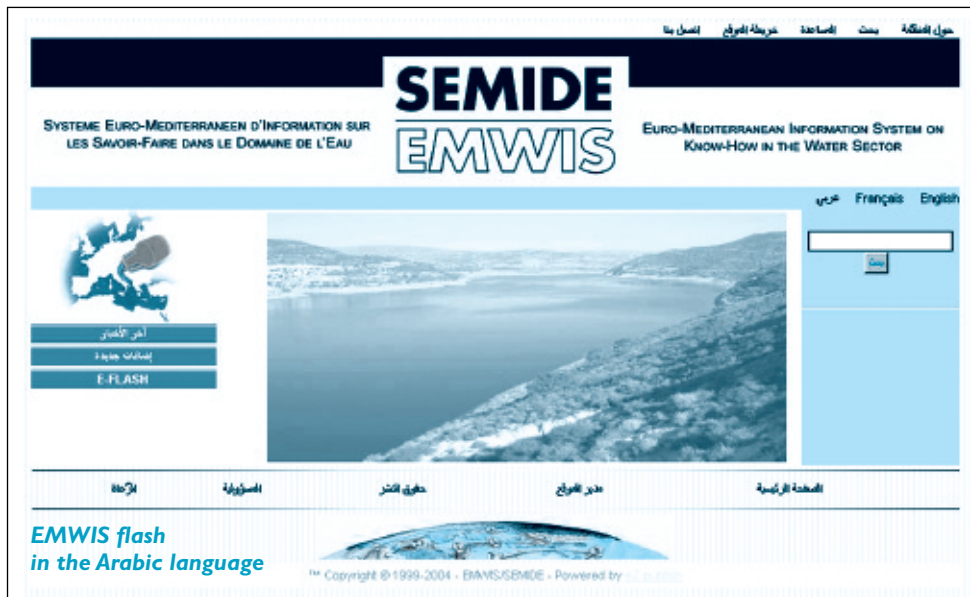
Fax: +33 4 93 65 44 02

E-mail: [aquacoope@oieau.fr](mailto:aquacoope@oieau.fr)



# The Mediterranean

## EMWIS : PHASE II - 2003 / 2006



The Euro-Mediterranean Information System on know-how in the water sector - EMWIS - already proposes direct access to the information managed by 14 countries of the Mediterranean region (Algeria, Cyprus, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Palestine, Portugal, Spain and Turkey).

The contract for financing phase 2 of EMWIS was signed on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2003 by the European Commission, France, Italy and Spain for a 3-year period.

While maintaining the overall objective of strengthening regional cooperation in the water sector, the approach consists in developing EMWIS as an integrated network of National Water Information Systems.

Thus, each Mediterranean Partner Country benefits from a specific support to prepare the development of its own national integrated system.

During the meeting, held in Malta on 5 May 2004, EMWIS Steering Committee defined the rules for allowing all the Mediterranean Third Countries (MTC) to take part and decided to hold a meeting of the General Directors of the 35 countries of the enlarged Euro-Mediterranean Partnership before the end of 2005 to inform the 10 new members of the European Union and to present a progress report.

Four priority topics were also defined for carrying out experience summaries: ① use of non-conventional water resources, ② advantages of

the European Water Framework Directive for the Mediterranean Third Countries, ③ management of irrigation water, ④ integrated management of drinking water supply, of sanitation and wastewater at the local level.

### Electronic flash in the Arabic language

In addition to its bilingual information services (French-English), such as the multilingual topical directory (that inventories more than 2,500 organizations), to the electronic forums or even the national and international legislations on water, EMWIS now publishes its monthly electronic flash in three languages: Arabic, English and French (close to 6,000 recipients). Other services will be

very quickly available in Arabic.

### European cooperation in the Mediterranean region

The European Commission decided to disseminate through EMWIS any information on all the projects relative to the water sector and co-financed in the Mediterranean region, whatever the program (Development Aid, Environment, Research and Development, etc.): any information on the Regional Euro-Mediterranean Program on local water management (MEDA-water) and on the Mediterranean Component of the European Union Water Initiative is now available online on EMWIS website.

For more information: <http://www.emwis.org>



## The search for water information in Arabic, French and English

The ALMA project (Arabic Linguistic Multilingual Application) was completed in September 2004 within the framework of the INCOMED program.

The prototype tool, developed with the assistance of SYSTRAN company, specialized in computer-assisted translation, and of ECA and its L2IC laboratory, specialized in the search for multilingual information, allows:

➤ Access to textual information on water, tourism and sustainable development in Arabic / English / French;

- Availability of a more sophisticated tool for online translation in these 3 sectors of activity;
- The relying on good quality "professional dictionaries" in the 3 languages, with a lexicon of 6,000 translated specialized words, but also on an interactive platform for the development of terminological bases, which was opened for demonstration to experts in October 2004.

Our partners from Tunisia (SOTEL-IT and MASH) and Jordan (Arabtext and University of Amman), provided the expertise needed to validate the terminologies in French/Arabic and English/Arabic.

For testing the demonstration site, please contact: [m.abirached@oieau.fr](mailto:m.abirached@oieau.fr)

[www.iowater.org](http://www.iowater.org)  
Water world on Internet

From one Continent to Another



# TURKEY

## On the way to Europe

Turkey is committed to implement the European regulations in the water sector.

The French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development (MESD/IAS) entrusted IOWater with an evaluation of water management in Turkey with the prospect of accession to the European Union and of a progressive transcription of the European Water Directives in the Turkish national law.

At the end of the 1990s, France had already financed **the pilot project for integrated management of the Aegean rivers in Izmir area**, especially in the Büyük Menderes river basin, where the future principles of the European Water Framework Directive

had been tested, this project prefiguring a beginning of implementation in Turkey. The mission could contact the various Turkish administrations involved in the water sector in addition to the Ministry of the Environment: DSI (State Hydraulic Works), GDRS (Directorate of Rural Engineering), İller Bankası (the Development Bank of local authorities) and its technical departments, SKI (water and sanitation utilities of the large metropolises), etc.

Many things have changed: especially protected areas for the environment were created and appropriately managed.

The regulations on the protection of water quality are officially established and can now be applied in the field.

But much remains to be done to involve the users, organize the financing of water management, using the "polluter-consumer-pays principles" or produce the consistent data necessary for the effective implementation of the European Water Framework Directive.

The IOWater experts also identified the need for a modern system for the vocational training of the Turkish water staffs and efforts to be made for covering the 77,000 "villages" and their 30 million inhabitants.

## Visit of a Turkish delegation to France

On the request of "MESD/IAS", IOWater organized a study tour in France, from 9 to 15 April 2004, addressing a Turkish delegation of the Directorate for Environmental Management of the Ministry of the Environment and Forestry of Ankara.

**This French week focused on the topic of water resource management.** It allowed exchanges with:

- **the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development**, where the delegation highly appreciated the presentation of the French legislation on water management and of regulations on water abstractions and discharges into the aquatic environments;

- **IOWater** that described the situation of water management in France: institutional organization and the role of the different stakeholders;

- **the "Coteaux de Gascogne" Company**, that developed the essential aspects of a controlled water resource management, of the relations between the Company and the Water Agency. The two days spent in Tarbes also allowed the visit of the Arrêt Darré dam;

- **the Loire-Brittany Water Agency** which introduced the role of the Water Agency, its policy on heavily exploited aquifers and the Masterplan for Water Management (example of the SAGE in Beauce);

- **The Regional Directorate for the Environment (DIREN) of the Loire-Brittany basin**, that explained the role and activities of the Department of Water and Aquatic Environments (SEMA), especially its water law enforcement, the quantitative management of highly exploited groundwater (example of the Beauce aquifer), or surface water (Vienne-Clain).

During later contacts in Ankara, the members of the Turkish delegation spontaneously expressed their interest in the topics dealt with during the study tour and in the contacts established on this occasion.

## Sanitation and wastewater treatment

Still within the French-Turkish bilateral cooperation, a mission of IOWater, which took place in July 2004 in Ankara, **allowed a brief analysis of sanitation in towns and wastewater treatment in Turkey**, with the General Directorate for Environmental Management, the General Directorate

of Rural Services, the "Bank of the Prefectures" and with the Water Utility of Ankara.

The aspects of management of services, management and maintenance of equipment and facilities deserve special attention and, in order to meet the medium and long-term objectives of Turkey,

IOWater proposed to develop close collaboration regarding:

- **training** by carrying out short training courses, in France and in Turkey, and by participating in the efforts for structuring and extending the existing Turkish training centers;

- **the transposition of the European Water Directives**, especially the Framework Directive, the directives relative to "urban wastewaters", "dangerous substances", etc.

The experience of "twinning" projects between Member States of the European Union and the Turkish Ministry of the Environment and Forestry could be extended to the water sector.

France could then usefully collaborate with Turkey, using the experience acquired by MESD and IOWater for 7 years in Central and Eastern Europe, in **"pre-accession twinning arrangements"** with the ten new Member States, Bulgaria and Romania.



Work meeting in Ankara at the Turkish Directorate of Rural Engineering



Information

Fax: +33 4 93 65 44 02

E-mail: [snide@oieau.fr](mailto:snide@oieau.fr)



## "RHINE-NET" To develop public participation

The Rhine Network or "Rhine-Net", created with the help of the European INTERREG program, aims at identifying and enhancing good practices in public involvement over a 5-year period up to the end of 2006. The Rhine basin, located at the core of one of the most populated and industrialized regions of Europe, has a rich and varied local knowledge of water management, together with many initiatives from citizens, associations, private sector, public sector, municipalities and transboundary organizations.

These good local practices are especially significant for implementing the European Water Framework Directive that promotes a new public involvement in water management as early as possible, with a true citizens' participation.

**The aim of the "Rhine Network" is to identify and develop local practices of participatory management of water resources, to strengthen European cooperation on the scale of the river basin and to disseminate the acquired local knowledge.**

### Project activities

The activities carried out in this project includes 6 real case studies and the same number of groups of local stakeholders along the Rhine. Participatory practices will be evaluated and compared for each case and then disseminated to promote the best ones:

- revitalization of the upper Rhine (F, D, CH),
- development of the Dreisam in Feiburg (D),
- protection of springs in Luxemburg (L),
- classification of the delta wetlands (NL),
- renaturalization of banks in Karlsruhe (D),

- flood prevention in the Moselle / Saar basin (F, D).

**In addition to these case studies, public information and awareness activities will be organized on the basin scale:**

- local information workshops on the active participation of the Civil Society in water management (Main, Upper Rhine, Moselle / Saar, Rhine delta);
- organization of a poetry contest "Rivers of pictures, rivers of words" in the schools of the Upper Rhine and Moselle / Saar, with a mobile exhibition;
- organization of a "Bathing Day" in the Rhine to entice the population back to the river;
- organization of the "Neckar festival", gathering about a hundred events in the entire Neckar basin.

Knowledge gained about the different participation practices will then be discussed in 2005 to prepare an **"operational guide for participation" addressing stakeholders in water management.**

The obtained results will be widely disseminated. The project will start a Web site to favor exchanges.

**The project which involves 13 partners, is led by "Naturlandstiftung Saar" (D), and coordinated by "Solidarité Eau Europe" (F).**

The total budget of the project amounts to Euro 3.6 Million, half financed by the European INTERREG IIIb North West European (NWE) program.

**IOWater will mainly deal with the evaluation of participatory management practices and with the drafting of the operational guide, which will enable the capitalization of the best practices.**

## SWITZERLAND

### IOWater a privileged partner of "FES"

Since 1990, IOWater have been requested to take part in the preparation and direction of the courses by **"FES" (French-speaking Swiss Group for the Training of Operators of wastewater treatment plants)**. This partnership has developed and IOWater provided 1,000 training hours. Although very satisfied with the training actions, the WWTP operators and the people in charge of FES have wished, for many years, to have this training program recognized at the federal level. In 2003, there were good news, the various delegates of German, French-

speaking and Tecino regions of Switzerland (VSA) agreed and the political authorities followed them to recognize it in the form of a **federal diploma for the job of WWTP operator.**

This led to the launching in 2003 of a training program to which IOWater was very closely associated, by carrying out 7 out of the 8 training courses.

The first examination took place in November 2004, with the participation of IOWater's experts in the written or oral tests, and of course in the jury awarding the diplomas.



## A European base on emissions into water

### First tests

In charge of dealing with "emissions into water" on behalf of the European Topic Center on Water of the European Environment Agency (EEA), in 2004, the International Office for Water continued the collection of data in voluntary basins and Member States.

Year 2003 had shown the advantage and flexibility of the tool developed for the storage of data on emissions. In order to enable the quick integration of this new tool, the latter was developed according to the concepts used for the management of all the water data of the European Topic Center on Water (ETC) gathered in the "Waterbase" which is available on the website.

IOWater modernized its tool to make it available on the Internet under protected access, restricted, for the time being, to the ETC members. The site uses the most modern cartography techniques to enable anyone to create his/her own map and have access to the data.

At the same time, the need for being able to estimate the emissions of the not indexed sources and more widely of all the sources with few data, led us to develop a **table of emission factors** associated with their characteristic sizes and the corresponding bibliography.

Lastly, IOWater contributed to a **prospective study of the changes in sanitation in Europe before 2020.**

### Reporting

Among the other tasks entrusted by the ETC, IOWater updated, as done every year, the **water sheets of the "Reporting Obligations Database - ROD base"**. This EEA base gathers all European and international reporting obligations deriving from the commitments of its Member States.

The elements are available in the form of summary sheets giving access, in particular, to the texts of the Directives, to the guidelines and formats for collection, to the deadlines and other useful information. This tool is also used by EEA to alert the people in charge of reporting when a deadline is near.

**For more information:**

<http://rod.eionet.eu.int>

**Next "EURO-INBO" Meeting:**

**Namur - Belgium  
30 Sept. - 1<sup>st</sup> Oct. 2005**



# MEIF - WATER

## Methods for Evaluating the Investments and modes of Financing

Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PWC), BIPE and IOWater presented the results of the European MEIF project (Methods for Evaluating the Investments and modes of Financing), on 10 and 11 June at La Défense-Paris.

The objectives of this project, financed by the DG Research within the 5<sup>th</sup> Framework Program, were to draw up a report on **the practices and the procedures used in 10 European countries to evaluate the cost of the infrastructures and investments needed in the coming years**, to outline the financing strategies and identify the effects of tariffs on water price.

The field investigations, the syntheses carried out using the literature collected in each of the 10 countries (France, Germany, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom, on the one hand, and Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Romania, on the other), and finally the

lessons learned by experts of each country show that:

- **Significant efforts remain to be made** for each country to obtain sound approaches and procedures for estimating investments. Improvements are proposed for incorporating information, for having representative statistical techniques and for connecting qualified stakeholders from the local level up to the national level.
- **The possible sources of financing vary from one country to another** and yet the strategies used are very limited and often insufficient to meet total recovery of investment costs.

The need for new financial resources in the near future led to **the urgent formulation of new strategies**, based, for example, on regional or national mutualized funds.

- **The price is not a variable for adjusting a good balance between investments / financings / tariffs of services**, the adjustment variable being more related to the features of the concerned territory of which MEIF provides a typology. In several situations encountered, the water price is subjected to such an adjustment constraint that the investment programs are often deferred or largely truncated (Central European countries in particular).

The site [www.meif.org](http://www.meif.org) provides all the papers on line, but also the opinions of potential donors.

## "DEPURANAT"

### Natural techniques for the treatment of domestic wastewater



Within the framework of the FEDER INTERREG III B Atlantic Space program, the "DEPURANAT" project (Depuración Natural) proposed by a consortium made up of "ITC - Instituto Tecnológico de Canarias, the University of Minho - Portugal, the CENTA - Centro de Nuevas Tecnologías del Agua" - Spain, IOWater - France and some Canary and Portuguese municipalities, was retained with a 3-year duration to develop natural techniques for wastewater treatment (also known as extensive techniques) in the south of the European Atlantic Arc.

Based on the study of the operation of 6 plants already using such technologies and of 6 planned or already-built plants applying these treatment principles on the Gran Canary Island, Tenerife Island and in Portugal, the consortium has set its assignments to:

- ◆ **Draw up technical guides** for helping the main contractors to build their treatment plants according

to good engineering practices taking into account the diversity of the natural techniques now available for treating wastewater;

- ◆ **Develop methods for supporting decision-making** to select the best techniques according to the criteria which the municipality is encountering in the field (topography, hydrography, climate, quality of the water to be treated, sub-soil, etc.);
- ◆ **Enhance by-products resulting from these techniques** (sludge, organic matter, treated wastewater, etc.) to achieve a best integration of the plant with regard to social and environmental aspects (landscape considerations included);
- ◆ **Create a market for such techniques in the Atlantic Arc**, considering the economic benefits and taking account of environmental costs (according to the European Framework Directive), but also of the "relation" which is established around such sites with the surrounding population (water classes for children, market-gardening products, flower production, etc.);
- ◆ Finally, **create training tools** to develop a real natural wastewater treatment engineering, thanks to educational supports resulting from "DEPURANAT".

## WFD-COMMUNITY

### We are a community!

In order to facilitate the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, the "WFD-Community" project consists in testing a new method for training young professionals from Basin Organizations, based on a virtual community of professionals.

It deals with:

- the creation of a virtual place on the Internet for training and tutorship between junior and senior professionals,
- remote exchanges of knowledge on the Web,
- opportunities of virtual meetings in addition to the events organized by the International Network of the Basin Organizations (INBO),
- a teaching scenario based on exchanges between working colleagues.

The computerized infrastructure was installed and the experiment will start in the first quarter of 2005, thanks to volunteers.

**If you wish to participate in the project, contact us:**

[n.jacquin@oieau.fr](mailto:n.jacquin@oieau.fr)



Information

Fax: +33 4 93 65 44 02

E-mail: [snide@oieau.fr](mailto:snide@oieau.fr)



## IWRM.NET

### A new network of national and regional research programs on Integrated Water Resource Management

IWRM.Net was born in Stockholm in August 2004 and gathers 35 program managers from 20 countries of the European Union and neighboring countries.

Based on an inventory of research and of its organization in the Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) field in 13 European countries, it appears that real synergies are possible between each ongoing research program on water to succeed, in the next 5 years, in:

- ➔ **Systematizing exchanges of experiences and good practices** on the methods used for the management of existing programs and better sharing of their results,
- ➔ **Defining common strategies**, such as for example the assessment of the needs for research, in relation with the new Framework Directive in particular, but also the practices used for disseminating and transferring the results to water experts and managers,

➔ **Developing joint activities by favoring crossed participations** between programs (launching joint invitations to tender, project evaluation, etc.) up to the planning of real transnational research programs.

**IOWater has developed this network in relation with INBO, starting it with a European cartography of research programs on water in 13 countries.**

It clearly appears that the Water Framework Directive (WFD) strongly renews a demand for research and will result in changes in the methods of thinking, acting, planning in the water field.

The Stockholm Conference clearly shows that research results deserve to be better enhanced and are not sufficiently visible to the community of potential users (decision-makers, managers, elected officials, communities and even the general public).

If our proposal is accepted by the European Commission, within the framework of ERANet (European Research Area Networking), which aims at better coordinating European research financed by public authorities and at strengthening links between programs, the effective launching of the work of the IWRM Network is scheduled for the Summer of 2005. It will be based on the feasibility study and the inventory already available online on the website:

<http://www.iowater.org/eranet>

**At the core of the Framework Directive implementation, IWRM.Net aims at creating new synergies between the stakeholders of good European water governance and research, and more solidarity among the Member States of the European Union.**

### The International Commission of the Maas

IOWater takes part in the group led by EURO-GROUP, selected, at the end of 2003, by the International Commission of the Maas to provide support to its Secretariat during the phase of the inventory preparation planned for in the WFD.

Indeed, the Member States and Regions represented in the International Commission of the Maas (Germany, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and the Brussels-capital, Flanders and Walloon Regions) agreed to develop, in complement to the national report drawn up in accordance with article 5 of the WFD, a **joint report on the characterization of the international hydrographic district of the Maas.**

EURO-GROUP provided support to the Secretariat to coordinate the work and follow-up the working groups on the various aspects of the inventory. IOWater participated in meetings on the methodological analysis, on the consolidation of assessments coming from the various countries concerning the risk of non achievement of the environmental objectives and on the economic analyses.

### UKRAINE Continuation of the South Bug project

In 1999, within a TACIS project, led by the IOWater/Verseau consortium, a working group of the Ukrainian Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources got acquainted with water resource management at the level of river basins.

At the end of this training period, the South Bug Basin Commission was created to coordinate and plan actions of common interest in the basin.

The results obtained in the Bug Basin were sufficiently promising to extend the experimentation stage to national reforms.

The Committee for Environmental Policy at the Parliament (Verkhovna Rada) requested financial assistance to the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Embassy in Kiev) and to the French Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, in order to have access

to the materials necessary for drafting a water law, based on river basin management.

The French experts of Verseau and the International Office for Water, helped by two Ukrainian experts (a legal adviser and an economist), established the baselines for legislative texts, including amendments to the current Water

Code and various implementation texts, which were then handed in April 2004 to the Head of Cabinet of the President of the Committee for the Environment at the Parliament.

A new project on the Western Bug, led by a RODECO/WRC/Verseau

consortium with European financing, should enable to confirm the orientations already defined at the beginning of 2005.



The Bug river





# Central and Eastern Europe

## TWINNING ARRANGEMENTS



Gdańska Fundacja Wody

### POLAND

#### **Assistance with the implementation of the European Water Framework Directive**

Within the PHARE programs for the implementation of the European Water Framework Directive (WFD), a project for twinning between Poland and France started in the fourth quarter of 2004 for a 2-year duration.

The International Office for Water intervenes in the preparation and implementation of this twinning arrangement as operator of the French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development. In Poland, the Ministry of the Environment (Department of Water Resources) is the project recipient.

The project is mobilizing many Polish stakeholders in water management, especially the Water Agencies (RZGWs).

This twinning resumes the principles used in the previous arrangements (called "pre-accession"), with, in particular, the appointment of a French adviser, who will work at the Polish Ministry of the Environment during 24 months. This twinning also implies the participation of

many French experts coming from institutions or organizations involved in the WFD implementation in France: Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development, Water Agencies (Rhine-Meuse, Artois-Picardy, Seine-Normandy, Adour-Garonne and Loire-Brittany), Regional Directorates of the Environment (DIRENs), the Office of Geological and Mining Research (BRGM), the International Office for Water, etc.

**The main objective of this twinning is to assist with the implementation of the European Framework Directive, especially focusing on economic tools.**

The activities will aim at:

- formulating management plans for the hydrographic districts and programs of measures,
- recovering costs and developing water pricing policies,
- public participation in the preparation of management plans,
- strengthening transboundary cooperation in the international districts.

**In May 2005, the Gdansk Water Foundation will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary!**

*This Foundation under Polish law was created in May 1995, within the framework of a cooperation project led by IOWater and gathering Polish (Ministry of the Environment, Gdansk Voivodship and Municipality, Regional Funds for Environmental protection), Danish Cooperation and French Authorities (Ministry for Foreign Affairs, of the Environment, Artois-Picardy Water Agency, Limousin and Nord-Pas-de-Calais Regions) with a complementary financing from the European Commission within the Life Baltic program.*

*With a team of 7 people, managed by Zbigniew Sobocinski, the Foundation carried out in 2004 more than 60 seminars and training courses for a public of about 1,500 professionals of the water sector coming from the entire territory of Poland.*

### ESTONIA

#### **"Water" Directives**

A one-year twinning arrangement between Estonia and France, dealing with the implementation of the Directives on "Drinking Water", "Urban Waste Water", on "Dangerous Substances discharged into aquatic environments" and their Daughter Directives, started at the beginning of May 2004.

The twinning is led, on the Estonian side by the Ministry of the Environment, on the French side by the Ministry of Eco-

logy and Sustainable Development and the International Office for Water as mandated body.

**The objective of the twinning arrangement is a real work jointly carried out by the administrations of the two countries so that the new Member State quickly complies with the European Union's requirements.**

The role of the Resident Technical Adviser and of the two Project Managers is essential to take into account the context in which the local departments in charge of implementing the Directives carry out their activities.

Since the launching of this twinning, French experts from the Ministries of Ecology and Health, the General Council of the Maritime Alps, the Loire-Brittany and Seine-Normandy Water Agencies, "INERIS" (National Institute for Industrial Environment and Risks), "BRGM" (Office of Geological and Mining Research) and IOWater have intervened.

The twinning must provide support to the formulation of investment plans for drinking water supply and sanitation and to take measures for eliminating or reducing dangerous substances.

Two exchange and training seminars already took place:

- In Parnu, from 15 to 17 September 2004, on the implementation of the Urban Waste Water Directive especially focusing on sludge removal,
- In Tallinn, on 6 and 7 October 2004, on technologies adapted to the Estonian situation as regards wastewater treatment plants.

Others are planned to deal with the economic aspects of water management, planning, drinking water and dangerous substances.

The twinning included a study tour of Estonian executives in France in the Maritime Alps, from 2 to 9 November 2004.

It dealt with the organization of local authorities, the role of municipal utilities and private operators. A second will take place in Paris region at the beginning of 2005.

#### **Presentation of the French experience**

**IOWater prepared a kit presenting the experience developed in France for the WFD implementation.**

The kit includes a summary document and transparencies written in English, reminding the WFD objectives and deadlines, the European work and presenting the developed methodologies, the tools selected and the results obtained in the inventory at the level of the French basins.



Information

Fax: +33 4 93 65 44 02

E-mail: [aquacoope@oieau.fr](mailto:aquacoope@oieau.fr)



# Central and Eastern Europe

## ROMANIA

### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

*The bilateral French-Romanian cooperation was particularly active in 2004.*

#### Implementation of the European Water Framework Directive

In the process of accession to the European Union, the Romanian Authorities started the transposition of the European Directives. Today, the main work concerns the methodologies for the implementation of the European Framework Directive adapted to the Romanian situation.

In this process, technical workshops and French experts' assignments took place in Bucharest in 2004.

The first workshop, held in May, consisted in exchanges of experience on the implementation of the inventory in the districts in Romania and in France and on the use of models and tools for assessing water quality for characterization of the districts.

A second workshop, dealing with the economic component of the Framework Directive, took place at the begin-

ning of July. The presentations and debates mainly concerned the economic aspects and the methods used in France for cost recovery, for formulating evolution scenarios or for the calculation of taxes and water charges.

These workshops gathered participants from the National Administration of Romanian Waters (National Administration Apele Romane - NAAR), from the eleven Delegated Water Directorates in charge of implementing the WFD, and French and Belgian experts: José Smitz of Liege University, Denis Besozzi of the Rhine-Meuse Water Agency, Pierre Henry de Villeneuve, Lionel Robaux and Yannick Pochon of the International Office for Water, Thierry Davy, representing the French Water Agencies in Brussels.

#### "RNIDA": the Romanian National Water Information Network

An assignment of Paul Haener, IOWater, allowed progress in the setting-up of a Romanian National Water Information Network, with the analysis of conditions for the modernization of the Romanian National Database on Water and the definition of methods for creating and operating the "RNIDA".

An inter-ministry meeting allowed the drafting of an agreement protocol on the method for operating the Network. The participants in this meeting especially came from the National Institute of Hydrology and Water Management, the National Institute of Statistics, the National Office of Land Registry, Geodesy and Cartography, the Ministry of Transport, the National Company for Land Reclamation, the National Authority for the Regulation of Public Services, the Ministry of Economy and Trade, the National Institute of Meteorology, the Ministry of the Environment and the "National Administration of Romanian Waters".

#### New Water Law in ROMANIA: First light

In 110 articles, the Water Law 310/2004 amended, on last 28 June, the initial Water Law of 1996 for introducing the Framework Directive in Romania.

##### New:

- ◆ The National Administration of Romanian Waters (NAAR) and its 11 Basin Organizations become "public institutions of national interest with legal entity".
- ◆ Flood-prone areas are established in which any new construction is prohibited, while the existing buildings will have to be destroyed, except for owners willing to assume personally the risks.
- ◆ The economic value of water is clearly affirmed and justifies that conservation, reuse and saving measures are financially encouraged. Bonuses and penalties are established with such a purpose in mind. The total recovery of environmental costs is to be achieved

in 2010, by way of a "contribution" applied to all the industrial, agricultural and domestic users.

- ◆ The door is opened to an adjustment of this "contribution" according to "environmental, economic, social, geographic and climatic" considerations.
- ◆ The financing of investments will be ensured by the State budgets and local authorities. To this are added the loans and obligations guaranteed by the State.  
The "Water Fund" is suppressed.
- ◆ The operating expenses of the Water Administration and of the Framework Directive implementation will be ensured, on a case by case basis, by the State budgets and those of local authorities.

#### The Körös/Crisuri transboundary Basin

On 23 November 2004, the representatives of the French, Hungarian and Romanian Ministries of the Environment, of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), of the "FFEM" and IOWater met in Paris to launch the cooperation project for the management of the transboundary Körös / Crisuri Basin, tributary of the Tisza, on the left bank of the Danube.

The meeting enabled to detail the draft action plan of the project for 2005 and 2006. The main objective is the preparation of a harmonized management plan on the two sides of the border and testing the development of programs of measures, by integrating data organization, quality monitoring, economic analysis, public participation in decision-making and the prevention and control of accidental pollution.

[www.iowater.org](http://www.iowater.org)  
Water world on Internet

From one Continent to Another



## AND CAPACITY BUILDING

### Integration of water costs in the SOMES Basin

The consortium, led by ARCADIS (the Netherlands) and including MOTT McDONALD (UK), ECOTERRA (Romania) and IOWater (France), was selected by the Romanian Government to provide a technical assistance with the implementation of the European Water Framework Directive in the two Romanian Pilot Basins of SOMES-TISZA and ARGES, that drain the Capital, Bucharest, before joining the Danube.



IOWater is carrying out an economic analysis and establishing the integration of costs in the SOMES basin.

This work takes into account the impressive ongoing administrative reforms and the socioeconomic and transition situation of Romania.

For a long time, the users and polluters have been paying taxes to the National Organization, which has been a National State Corporation, then a National Company and today the National Administration of Romanian Waters, NAAR, that has just been adapted to

suit the European context and the globalization of the economy through the new water law of 28 June 2004.

Under the impulse of the Romanian Ministry in charge of the Administration of Local Authorities, all the public utilities were prepared to use modern management, taking into account the principles of the new market economy and precisely regulating the delegation of services.

An independent National Regulation Authority (ANRSC) was created.

A National Association of Operators (ARA) was born and works effectively.

#### In the SOMES Basin:

Many industries are close to shutting down or undergoing deep reorganization.

Agriculture remains a subsistence one.

Tourism and recreational activities are developing.

Flood control remains a major objective. Traditional dike and impoundment work was carried out during the previous decades. The authorities now recommend to rely on less heavy infrastructures more respectful of the natural and human environments.

### The International Training Center for Water Professions in Romania

IOWater carried out an assessment of the NAAR needs in internal training and completed the feasibility study of this School for Executives, intended for all the Romanian officials involved in water resource management.



Inauguration of Voina Center

## Water Framework Directive (WFD)

### CEENBO : Regional Network of Basin Organizations

Since 2002, the WFD has also been the main work topic of the Regional Central European Network of Basin Organizations (CEENBO), whose Secretariat is ensured by Apele Romane in Romania.

IOWater provided support to the organization of several regional workshops addressing the representatives of Basin Organizations and the national executives in charge of implementing the WFD in the Central European countries. The workshops dealt with specific aspects, such as the delimitation of water bodies, the



CEENBO workshop in Tulcea

analysis of pressures and impacts, the economic analysis of "the inventory", etc.

The National Administration of Romanian Waters (NAAR) created a Training Center for Water Professions, based in Voina (Arges-Vedea Water Directorate).

This new Center was inaugurated in May 2004 by Mr. Florin Stadiu, Romanian Secretary of State in charge of water resources, with the presence of Mr. Jean-François Donzier, General Manager of the International Office for Water.



#### Information

Fax: +33 4 93 65 44 02

E-mail: [aquacoope@oieau.fr](mailto:aquacoope@oieau.fr)





## FINAL RESOLUTIONS

**126 representatives** of the governmental administrations responsible for managing water resources and of the Basin Organizations or Water Authorities **coming from 32 countries**, Belgium, Belarus, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Macedonia, Morocco, Moldavia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Ukraine and International Commissions (Moselle-Saar, Scheldt, Helsinki, Oder), GWP CEE and the European Commission, **met in Krakow, on 27 and 28 September 2004**, under the auspices of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), of the Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations (MENBO) and of the Central and Eastern European Network of Basin Organizations (CEENBO), at the invitation of the Polish Ministry of the Environment and Polish RZGWs.

## PREAMBLE

In the member or candidate countries of the European Union, the implementation of the Water Framework Directive has entered, since 2002, in an active and operational phase, which directly involves the existing Basin Organizations or the "District Authorities" being created, that are facing many practical and effective problems in its field implementation.

Numerous and interesting studies and works were also developed in many districts and in "Pilot Basins", and it is useful for them to exchange the difficulties encountered, obtained results or very operational and concrete experiences accumulated in the field.

During the INBO meeting in Valencia, Spain, on 11 and 12 November 2003, it appeared that there was a need for informal exchanges of practical experiences between the volunteer Basin Organizations, in addition to the official European platform, organized in working groups led by the European Water Directors and the European Commission.

**That is the reason why, it was decided to organize, within INBO, an open Group of European Basin Organizations, called "EURO-INBO", for the implementation of the WFD.**



The Polish Minister for the Environment opened the "EURO-INBO" Group meeting

INBO activities must indeed be complementary to ongoing efforts and must avoid setting up parallel or competing structures.

**The "EURO-INBO" working group aims at enriching the common strategy for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) without duplicating work already done**, by presenting different approaches and mentioning the very pragmatic questions, which arise in the European Districts.

The objective is to facilitate process in the field by direct contacts between the public bodies in charge, which would be or are yet interested in our group, created on a voluntary basis and free involvement.

**49 papers were presented during the Krakow meeting.**

## GENERAL ISSUES

Five topics were dealt with in this 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of "EURO-INBO" Group of European Basin Organizations in Krakow:

### ① Status of the districts initial characterization:

It should be stressed that a common conclusion of all countries in their initial characterization work is that agriculture will, in many cases, be the limiting factor to achieving the environmental objectives.

- ② **Economic component of the WFD;**
- ③ **Environmental objectives and the "good ecological status" in particular;**
- ④ **The transboundary basins;**
- ⑤ **Flood prevention and control.**

## CONCLUSIONS

Generally speaking, the participants considered very favorably the progress made allowing a better understanding of the WFD and of its instruments, on the one hand, and, on the other, the significant progress already made in the first stages of its implementation.

- The Organizations participating in the "EURO-INBO" group expressed their wish to **continue exchanging their experiences** through four complementary activities:

- **Organizing regular meetings**, either yearly plenary sessions or thematic workshops whenever necessary. Apart from an exchange of experiences, these meetings will result in the identification of the main concerns of Basin Organizations involved in the practical implementation of the WFD,
- **Developing the "EURO-INBO" website**, using the methodologies, techniques and contents already elaborated within AQUADOC-INTER in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Romania and EMWIS in the Mediterranean region. This common website could include case studies and documents produced by Basin Organizations such as the "initial characterizations" for the end of 2004 (abstract in English, links with the sites of the Basin Organizations). This site would also include current information, a forum for discussions and frequently asked questions, links towards new documents and information sources produced at the European level,
- Promoting **training programs** for executives and staffs of Basins Organizations,
- Establishing **twinning arrangements between Basin Organizations of different countries** facing common problems, especially within the "TWINBASIN" project or existing agreements.

- **The Organizations represented in Krakow expressed their full support to the Pilot River Basins exercise developed under CIS during the first phase ending in 2004.** The "EURO-INBO" group recommended to propose additional Pilot Basins for testing in the second phase of CIS starting in 2005. The Delegates also recommended to enlarge the direct dissemination of PRB (Pilot River



# ING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE KRAKOW (POLAND), 27 - 29 SEPTEMBER 2004

Basin) results to all other Basin Organizations. Generally speaking, in spite of the Web facilities, access to information remains complex.

➤ **As regards transboundary basins, it seems necessary to support the creation of International Commissions and provide better means to those already existing**, and to reinforce cooperation with countries bordering EU (Candidate countries, NIS countries and Balkans), through projects supported by the European Commission,

➤ As regards the specific aspects of **the prevention and control of floods**, which heavily affect many European countries, the delegates confirmed that there is a need for better exchanging information and know-how and that it is essential to harmonize the control plans between the countries of transboundary basins. They support the proposal to initiate exchanges between operational Centers for flood control and prevention. In this field, the recent paper of the European Commission should be considered as the basis for future initiatives.

Compatibility between the WFD and flood control in heavily affected areas should especially be looked for.

➤ **Consistency of water monitoring and information systems**, harmonization of data and Geographic Information Systems and the use of common models are essential for sharing information and following up actions, in transboundary basins as a priority.

➤ **A joint thinking on the methods and means for consultation of the general public and for the processing of the received opinions is urgent.** It would also be very useful to jointly formalize strong and easily appropriate arguments likely to justify a real interest and an effective participation of the general public, whose approval is essential for the consultations on the actions and projects related to water policy in the basins.

## European WFD working group

IOWater provides support to the French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development, which jointly leads the European working group on basin management.

In April 2004, a plenary meeting of the group was held in Madrid, during which were presented the notes prepared by the editorial committees dealing with the economic analysis included in the "inventory" and with the methods used for estimating environmental costs. The advantage resulting from starting a work on the joint definition of the contents of the programs of measures was also discussed at length, and it was decided to organize, in a first step, a workshop for the presentation of the experiences of various countries. This workshop took place in Paris in October 2004.

➤ At this stage of their first exchanges, the delegates already stressed several other main concerns of interest for future exchanges of experiences:

- **Specific implementation of the WFD in islands,**

- **Water management in areas with current or past mining activities,**

- **Treatment of historic and future pollution and its impact on the resources and environments** (polluted sites and soils, mines subsidence, sediments, phytosanitary residues, invading species, etc.),

- **Design of an iterative and dynamic approach for formulating programs of measures**, taking into account the existing and future data without delaying the actions to be implemented in the short term,

- Link between the WFD implementation and the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy: **Improvement of consistency between different official aid for agriculture and the environment,**

- **Institutional organization of the District Authorities** according to their specific constraints, for supporting a better convergence for the effective implementation of the WFD,

- **Need for regular information of the District Authorities on the progress made in European work on the definition of "good ecological status",**

- **Effects of the classification of Water Bodies and designation of protected areas on future regional planning and development,**

- **Economic aspects:** consolidation of the information already collected, creation of databases and exchanges at the level of the international districts, tools for public consultation, training of specialists,

- **Improving knowledge of hydrobiology and hydro-morphology.**

The participants thanked the representative of the European Commission for inviting the "EURO-INBO" group to present the conclusions of the Krakow meeting to the Committee of the European Water Directors. It will be a great honor for the group of European Basin Organizations, which confirms its willingness to be fully associated to the CIS process as the other partners already involved.

The "EURO-INBO" Group reminds that the European Commission is permanently invited to its meetings and work together with the Water Directors of all interested countries.

The delegates thanked the Polish Ministry of the Environment and RZGWs for having initiated this first meeting and for their perfect organization of the meeting and their warm welcome in Krakow.

**Mr. Mieczyslaw OSTOJSKI, Polish Water Director, will chair the "EURO-INBO" Group up to its next Plenary Assembly.**

**The delegates retained the proposal from the Walloon Region and Basins Organizations of the Maas international district to organize the next plenary meeting of "EURO-INBO" in Namur, in Belgium from 30 September to 1<sup>st</sup> October 2005.**



126 representatives coming from 32 countries participated in the "EURO-INBO" Group meeting

### Information

Fax: +33 1 40 08 01 45

E-mail: [inbo@wanadoo.fr](mailto:inbo@wanadoo.fr)

INBO Website:

[www.inbo-news.org](http://www.inbo-news.org)

AQUADOC-INTER Website:

[www.aquadocinter.org](http://www.aquadocinter.org)



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International Office for Water - 21, rue de Madrid - 75008 Paris - France

Tel.: +33 | 44 90 88 60 - Fax: +33 | 40 08 01 45

E-mail: [dg@oieau.fr](mailto:dg@oieau.fr) - Web: <http://www.iowater.org>