INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Capacity building for better water management

COOPERATION

MANAGEMENT

INFORMATION

TRAINING

International Office for Water

N° 14 - December 2006
English version

The French National Training Center for Water Professions

5,700 Trainees/year

"Water" and "Wastes" At the top of Professional Training

At the National Training Center for Water Professions (CNFME), the International Office for Water takes care of the stakeholders' continuing professional training on water, and more recently on wastes.

Its training quality is unanimously recognized in France and abroad: Belgium, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Poland, South Africa, Switzerland,… and by all the water stakeholders: Elected officials, managers of services, engineers and technicians, agents of the State services, the Water Agencies, the industrialists, etc.

A few figures to summarize:

- **5,700 trainees** en 2006,
- **284 training programs** offered in the catalogues,
- **428 training courses**,
- **9 training sites** being selected for their field teaching contribution,
- **Our educational units** allow the trainee to study under working conditions, by recreating conditions close to the reality of the field, and also allow the presentation of equipment and advanced technologies in the water and sanitation sector.
  These units are unique in Europe, due to their number, allowing the coverage of the entire water cycle, or to their capacities, identical to real plants.

The CNFME also offers training for elected officials.

A comprehensive offer...

What are the reasons of this success?

First of all **the quality of the permanent trainers,** each one of them specialist in his field, but also **a network of experts** chosen for their skill, not only technical, but also educational. All the great topics of the water and wastes field are dealt with: the city and its sewerage, wastewater treatment, drinking water supply, the aquatic environments, the management of skills and services, water in agriculture and industry, regulations, etc.

The **"CNFME"** proposes modules allowing to gain all the knowledge and skills necessary for serenely fulfilling your duty, either being an operator exploiting a system, a river technician, the manager or department head of water syndicates or subcontractor companies, or even the engineer of a consulting firm or the person in charge of the environment in industry.

The **"CNFME"** would not be entirely "professional" without the capacity to advise a community or a private company in the choice of training programs best suited to each individual or each service.

A continuous evaluation

ISO 9000 certified, version 2000, the "CNFME" systematically tries to measure the quality of its services providing.

For each company, training activities are a real investment of which it is quite legitimate to evaluate the returns. For such a purpose, in 2006, **the "CNFME" developed a powerful tool for measuring training returns.**

A system with "electronic vote" was adapted then developed to reliably measure training feedback, on the one hand, and, on the other, to make a statistical processing of results. Questionnaires are handed to the trainees at the beginning and at the end of the training program and the results may be presented, with strict confidentiality rules, for each individual, for one or several courses.

Extension of the "CNFME"

Owing to its continuous growth during the last five years, the "CNFME"" is preparing the future by doubling the surface area of its technical hall on the Limoges site, in order to increase practical work.

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All the courses can be carried out in English and Spanish.

New: Web-based training

The "CNFME" now proposes remote training via the Internet.

It is a very interactive formula, where each participant, in his/her office and in front of his/her computer, listens to the trainer, sees on his/her screen the supporting documents, asks questions and replies to the lecturer's questions.

In 2007, the "CNFME" catalogue proposes three training programs : the economic concepts of the European Water Framework Directive, wastewater treatment techniques using filters planted with reeds and storm water management.

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Web-based training station


The CNFME hydraulic installations in Limoges

www.iowater.org/cnfme

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WATERDOC: Our world-wide documentation and information service on water

255,000 References in the different European languages

WATERDOC gathers scientific, technical, economic and legal information on water: **this virtual library has more than 255,000 documents in the various European languages including 153,000 in English.**

There are study reports and articles from 62 scientific and technical international periodicals, methodological guides in full text, conference proceedings, legal texts and case studies and syntheses, and, in particular, rich information on **the implementation of the European Water Framework Directive** in France and Europe.

WATERDOC is daily updated at **IOWater.**

Every year, the service proposes about 5,000 new references of documents selected by our study engineers, then analyzed by a network of experts, which guarantees the relevance of later search.

WATERDOC is also:

- **reports** selected on the Web,
- **a personalized watch** on the subject-matter of your choice,
- **syntheses** carried out with the support of the French Water Agencies, "ENGREF" and the Institute of Engineering Sciences of Monptellier.

WATERDOC will evolve in 2007

WATERDOC is adapting to the new Internet context of access to water-related information and to the challenges of the Water Framework Directive implementation, but it must also strengthen its original place among the many search engines existing today.

A new platform and new interfaces will be proposed in 2007 to our partners: search engine, providing of watch and monitoring of water related Websites thanks to the parameterizing of intelligent agents.

There will be also a broad collection of what occurs in the European basins and districts in relation with **the Framework Directive implementation** (characterization, economic analyses, participative management, etc).

A better record of the projects resulting from the 5th and 6th RDFPs is also a priority.

A network for access to the French public studies is being set up. ✔

http://waterdoc.iowater.org

French Water Information System

Data standardization

The Water Information System (WIS) gathers many partners, coordinated by the Water Directorate, for improving data on water and the environments in France and to make them more accessible.

An agreement protocol, signed in June 2003, defines the obligations of the partners with respect to the production, conservation and availability of water data.

The adhering partners are the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development, the 6 Water Agencies, the Higher Council of Fisheries, Electricity of France, "BRGM", "Ifremer", the French Environment Institute, "INERIS", the Water Offices of the Reunion and the Martinique and the **International Office for Water (IOWater).**

There are many public administrations or delegatees of public utilities which produce water data in France.

The purpose of the National Data Reference Center for Water (SANDRE) is to define and standardize the water data, related to many topics, in order to make compatible and homogeneous the definition and exchange of data between all the people involved.

"SANDRE", which is attached to IOWater, develops and disseminates on its website data dictionaries, reference frames, and data exchange formats and scenarios.

The development of interoperable information systems on the Internet - data-processing applications discussing among themselves - now requires the standardization of the "Web services" which allow these dialogues.

To meet the water stakeholders' demand, the **"SANDRE"** organizers propose a technical support to those which develop or upgrade their data-processing applications, for integrating one or more **"SANDRE"** components. ✔

www.sandre.fr

The WIS in maps

The cartographic server of the **"SANDRE"** was entirely rethought, in order to allow the users to browse in all the data layers, and superimpose all the monitoring stations, regulations and zoning on the same map.

It now gives access to the entire French national territory, including the Martinique, Guadeloupe, Reunion and Guyana.

Maps summarize the characteristics of each collection network, especially those related to the **Water Framework Directive**, and give complete references on their operator. ✔

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France

The WFD boosts the "Economy" Site

IOWater has developed and managed, according to a Convention with the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development, a new website of the Water Information System, presenting economic data on water uses for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

It presents the sources of data and structured documentation, according to four broad topics: water-related activities, water pricing, the financing of services, environmental costs and benefits.

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For more information:

www.economie.eaufrance.fr

Situation report on the Environment in France

The French Environment Institute (IFEN) publishes a Situation Report on the Environment in France every four years. For preparing the section devoted to inland waters, it entrusted **IOWater** with the production of tables, graphs and documented maps and the writing of summary notes.

Work included surface water and groundwater quality. A component on the identification of water bodies, required by the Water Framework Directive, was also drafted, using maps and summary tables.

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Public Consultation in the Martinique Basin

Article 14 of the Water Framework Directive requires that the general public be consulted on the main stakes and priorities for better managing water and the aquatic environments.

The Martinique Basin Committee organized, from November 2005 to May 2006, a public enquiry on the important issues regarding the island catchment area.

IOWater provided assistance with the drafting of the enquiry questionnaire and with the implementation and facilitation of the participative public meetings on the entire territory of the Martinique. **IOWater** analyzed the consultation and trained the local organizers to the facilitation of meetings. The enquiry concerned about 2,000 people. Nine significant questions were included in the enquiry.

Three of them are definitely at the top of the Martinique inhabitants' concerns: public health, water quality, and technical and financial means for better water management.

IOWater proposed recommendations for improving next consultation: increasing the information/communication on the enquiry, improving the formulation of the questionnaire, relying on local relays (mayors, "blue ambassadors", organizations for environmental education, etc.) for better reaching the population, having the questionnaires disseminated in the neighborhood (mail boxes, local newspaper, etc.).

There is a strong demand from the population!

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Programs of Measures for the French basins

Economic analysis of the Upper Seine River Basin

The Seine-Normandy Water Agency entrusted **IOWater** with the economic analysis of the Program of Measures for the Upper Seine sub-basins.

The Seine river in Paris

This analysis, required by the WFD, allows support to decision-making throughout the planning process, by assessing the economic significance of water and associated stakes, by evaluating the level of cost recovery while optimizing the selection of combination of measures according to cost-effectiveness criteria.

The study led to the technical and financial sizing of the measures usually planned in the baseline scenario, but also of additional measures, which, in the Upper Seine River Basin, are divided into 3 great priorities: agriculture (nitrates, phytosanitary products), river morphology (restoration, protection, specific development), and specific discharges of cities and industries.

A systematic approach to the costs of the measures implementation and their induced costs was carried out.

A representation of the costs by type of activity (crops, animal husbandry, industries, environments, etc.) was considered for each geographical area, by identifying the zones where the costs would be regarded as disproportionate, with objectives to be revised or deferred consequently.

A presentation to the geographical Commission of the Upper Seine Basin will follow the cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit analysis.

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France

INTERREG III B

A strategic analysis of the European Atlantic coast

An experts' mission was entrusted to **IOWater** by the Authority for the Management of the INTERREG III B "Atlantic Spaces Program" and supported by the Poitou-Charentes Regional Council. It aimed at **analyzing the results of the 2000-2006 program,** as compared to the announced framework, and at showing how the implemented projects met these orientations as regards the topics related to water management (monitoring, risk management, alternative techniques, resource management and supplies, etc.).

Eleven projects related to water management were reviewed according to an evaluation grid conceived by IOWater and allowing the measurement of their effects on the environment, spaces and the regional economy.

The preparation of the future program, using an enquiry carried out in the Atlantic coastal regions and also using **an analysis of the main stakes** which arise (problems regarding oyster culture, droughts, floods, good coastal governance, etc.) then constitute **the second component of our analysis.**

It is supplemented by proposals on the methods to be used for selecting and following up the new projects presented within the INTERREG IIIB program 2007-2013 in the Atlantic space.

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Renewable energy potentials :

Hydropower

A study was financed by the Limousin "DRIRE" to find consistent responses to the objectives of the French "POPE" Law (Orientation Program for Energy Policy) of July 2005 and to the European Water Framework Directive (WFD).

Thus, the International Office for Water developed two decision-making supporting tools:

- firstly, **about twenty indicators of the available regional hydropower potential,**
- secondly, a more technical **evaluation grid for the selection of the best hydropower projects** at their planning stage.

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Urban Community of Limoges Metropolis

An IOWater audit of the sanitation utility

The decision to transfer the responsibility of a municipal water or sanitation utility to an Urban Community always implies some uncertainty in the elected officials' mind.

The problems related to this transfer are complex and concern all the aspects of the service. They are of a technical, administrative, legal and financial nature. This is the reason why, the Urban Community of Limoges Metropolis, gathering 17 municipalities and about 200,000 inhabitants, called upon the **International Office for Water** to assist with the definition of its future community wastewater treatment utility and the identification of the difficulties to be deal with before its setting-up.

The **IOWater** study was carried out in 3 steps:

- Firstly, **an inventory of the existing sanitation systems**, giving the status of the equipment and its level of adaptation to the regulations. At the same time, the organization and the resources of the technical and administrative departments were examined and a retrospective financial analysis was carried out in each department, in order to determine their strengths and weaknesses within the future Community service;
- It was followed by **a technical and financial evaluation of the installations to be created over the next fifteen years.** It must take into account the needs for renewal of the installations, the planned extensions in zoning, the evolution of the regulations (WFD) and the local constraints regarding the protection of the aquatic environments;
- And finally, **a prospective financial analysis allowed the simulation of a sole sanitation tax for 2013.**

Started in January 2006, the first two phases of the study were completed in May. The final adjustments and financial simulations (pricing and investment plan) presented in October will enable the elected officials to make the choices necessary for the transfer of competences.

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4th World Water Forum
MEXICO 2006

In Mexico City, France has shown that it is a "great water power":

- thanks to a strong delegation gathered within the French Partnership for Mexico (PFM), at the initiative of the Ministries of Ecology and Foreign Affairs,
- thanks to its strong implication in the organization of official sessions and side events,
- thanks to the attractiveness of the "French space" in the exhibition,
- thanks to the successes of French-Mexican cooperation, such as **the Mexican Training Center for Water and Sanitation (Cemcas) and the national Water Information System (Sina),** which were well enhanced,
- thanks to the active presence of our minister, Mrs. Nelly Olin.


French PFM space

It is now necessary to act quickly in the field and to concretize the conceptual advances by tangible and significant actions.
Time is short!

Coordinación Francesa
Partenariat Français
French Partnership
México 2006 - IV Foro Mundial del Agua


Mrs. Nelly Olin

4 INBO Official Sessions

For Integrated Water Resources Management at the Basin Level

INBO organized four Official Sessions in the IWRM day on 18 March 2006 in Mexico City:

- **African river basin management,**
- **The European Water Framework Directive,**
- **Public participation in basin management,**
- **The transboundary basins.**

These sessions received more than 1,200 participants in the entire day.

INBO Recommendations

In many countries, the seriousness of the situation requires the implementation of a comprehensive, integrated and consistent management of water resources, aquatic ecosystems and territories.

The International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), whose secretariat is taken care of by **IOWater,** aims at improving the management of water resources and aquatic environments over the world.
It regroups 158 member organizations or permanent observers in 52 countries.

INBO has reminded its members and observers to come to Mexico City to present their field experiences, to exchange and discuss in order to develop and improve basin management over the world.

What progress has been made since the 1990s!

Management at the level of basins of rivers, lakes or aquifers experienced a quick development in many countries, which made it the basis of their national legislation on water or experimented it in pilot basins.

The European Water Framework Directive sets an objective of good ecological status in the national or international river basin districts of the 27 current Member States and the Countries applying for accession to the European Union.

Lastly, the management of the transboundary basins of the **263 rivers and hundreds of aquifers** is taken more and more into account within Commissions, "Authorities" or international Organizations.

This gained experience allows today to affirm that:
"management at the basin level works!" ... when there is a continued political will to establish it and make it work!

Based on this observation:

INBO recommends that water resources management be organized:

- **on the relevant scale of** the local, national or transboundary **basins** of rivers, lakes and aquifers;
- **with the participation in decision-making** of the concerned Governmental Administrations and local Authorities, the representatives of different categories of users and associations for environmental protection or of public interest;
- **based on Management Plans** or master plans that define the medium and long-term objectives;
- through the development of **Programs of Measures** and successive multiyear **priority investments;**
- **with the mobilization of specific financial resources,** based on the "polluter-pays" principle and "user-pays" systems.

INBO recommends the establishment of appropriate legal frameworks that take into account these five global principles.

"Users' participation should be organized within official bodies for dialogue and a real mobilization of partners".

INBO recommends that this participation be organized in Basin Committees or Councils.


More than 1,200 participants

INBO, an active participant in the World Water Forum!

These Basin Committees should be involved in the decision-making related to water policy in the basin, using procedures that clearly define their role.

In particular, they should be associated to the formulation of long-term objectives and to the preparation of Management Plans, to the selection of development and equipment priorities and to the implementation of Programs of Measures and multiyear priority investment programs, as well as to the setting of financing principles and to the calculation of water taxes that concern them.

"*Information on water resources and the environments should be improved*".

Their role should be facilitated by the setting-up of **integrated water information systems.** This information should include objective elements enabling dialogue and negotiation.

Finally, significant means should be devoted to **raise awareness among the public,** and especially women and youth, and enable their participation, and to the training of their representatives regarding decision-making.

"*Funding by the users is the basis of their participation*".

The investments necessary for the sustainable management, conservation and control of water resources and ecosystems, and for the exploitation, maintenance and rehabilitation of public utilities require huge financial resources.

All analyses converge to show that traditional centralized public budgets (subsidies) have reached their limit to meet alone the financial needs of the water sector.

Therefore, it is necessary to set up everywhere complementary funding systems that are based on the participation and common cause of the users.

INBO recommends the establishment of basin water taxes, which have shown their efficiency everywhere they have been applied.

Such water taxes enable the mobilization of significant funds to finance the sector, while ensuring common cause between the upstream and downstream parts of basins and between the categories of users with an interactive effect on consumption reduction and pollution control.

INBO recommends that the use of water taxes be gradual in order to adapt these modern systems to the proper situation of each country and to the solvency of local populations.

It is advisable that these water taxes be defined by consensus in Basin Committees and be managed at this level by a specialized organization with the approval of the public authorities.

"*Water has no boundary*".

There are 263 transboundary rivers over the world, the basins of which cover an area of about 50% of the emerged lands.

Water has no national or administrative boundary. Managing resources, shared between several neighboring Countries, should take into account all the transboundary basins concerned.

INBO recommends that, for transboundary rivers, lakes or aquifers, cooperation agreements be concluded or signed by the riparian Countries and that Management Plans be designed at the level of all their basins, in particular within international Commissions, basin Authorities or suitable international or transboundary Organizations.

INBO recommends that these international agreements for transboundary river management plan for the participation of local Authorities and users of water and the environments, while respecting national sovereignty.

The creation of international commissions, that would frequently and regularly meet and would associate, at the level of the entire basin, all the administrations concerned, local authorities and users of the riparian countries, **should enable better dialogue, the exchange of useful information, the solving of possible conflicts and the sharing of benefits from better joint management and the strengthening of transboundary cooperation.**

INBO also recommends that the concerned multilateral institutions and national Authorities take into account the specificity of water and environmental management in insular environments. Cooperation between the islands in relation to this matter should be strengthened, using the above-mentioned general principles.

INBO recommends that Official bi- and multilateral Development Aid be especially mobilized to support such projects for creating local, national or transboundary basin organizations, in accordance with the above principles.

It is advisable that International Development Aid reserves sufficient resources for creating conditions suitable for dialogue between the people in charge in the countries concerned by the same transboundary basin and for financing studies preliminary to the formulation of essential international agreements and to the establishment of institutional and technical tools for their application.

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NEXT WORLD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF INBO

Debrecen - Hungary - 06-09 june 2007

Get registered!

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4th World Water Forum
MEXICO 2006

IOWater / CONAGUA Official Session

Creation and Development of Water Information Systems

Recommendations

"Improving knowledge of water resources, environments and their uses is necessary for decision-making and for sustainable management"

In order to achieve overall management of water resources, at basin level in particular, it is of prime importance for decision-makers (Directors of Basin Organizations and Administrations, Basin Committee members, representatives of Local Authorities, users and associations) to have access to comprehensive, representative and reliable information, at all relevant levels, on:

- **The status of surface and ground water resources,**
- **The situation concerning biotopes and the aquatic environments** and their degrees of sensitivity,
- **Water uses** (withdrawals) and particularly, irrigation and drinking water supply for populations **and pollution sources** (discharges) whether point or non-point,
- **The risk of recurring extreme phenomena** such as floods or droughts and accidental pollution,
- **Economic indicators,** costs, price, taxes, etc.

It was established that **this information is often dispersed, heterogeneous and incomplete ...** and that it is rarely comparable and adapted to the prerequisites for objective decision-making. Moreover, it is a fact that public, para-public and even private organizations may have this information but lack sufficient means for exchanging, gathering, standardizing, summarizing and for capitalizing it among them.

Water issues are global and concern, in most cases, a simultaneous combination of various levels of action: local, basin, regional, national, international, etc.

As a response, the organization of shared Water Information Systems (IS) allows the enhancing of existing data and information at various levels of action with an overall approach which benefits to all the stakeholders.

On 21 March 2006, the FT5-13 session of the 4th World Water Forum, jointly organized by the International Office for Water (IOWater) and the National Water Commission of Mexico (Conagua), allowed to underline the advantages of these shared water information systems for risk and sustainable resources management.

After the presentation of several case studies, recommendations, which aim at facilitating the implementation of these systems, came out of the discussions.

It especially was deemed necessary to:

- **Raise the awareness of the political and technical people in charge at all levels** for a consistent and comprehensive management of the data and information needed for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and risk management.

The Water Information Systems should be considered as priority tools necessary for good governance of water resources.

- **Define an overall strategy for the organization and implementation of the information system,** based on a consistent assessment of the needs and of what already exists and on the recognition of the central role of data and information producers and managers existing at the various levels.

Special attention should be paid to **the organization of the prime contracting of monitoring networks and data bases,** to their financing, as well as to a suitable role for specific basin organizations with regard to other participants.

Gathering this information, requires a consistent organization of monitoring networks, analyses laboratories, data transmission and their checking and control, management of databases, their accessibility and their "products".

It should be reminded that, if investment costs for obtaining appropriate information (stations, laboratories, teletransmission, automatization, etc.) are high, the qualification of intervening experts (training) and the functioning and operating costs are, by far, on the medium and long-term, the most significant and recurring items of expenditure. **Thus, it appears unreasonable to invest without ensuring positive means for optimum and continuous functioning of the systems over a long period of time** which, of course, requires substantial, appropriate and unceasing financial resources.

It is important to avoid using highly sophisticated tools, that favor the use of advanced technologies to the detriment of a real thinking about a suitable organization and of using simple solutions, that are most often very efficient.

Information systems only operate when able men are responsible. The solution is never to use technological gadgets.

Coordinación Francesa
Partenariat Français
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México 2006 - IV Foro Mundial del Agua

CONAGUA
COMISION NACIONAL DEL AGUA

International Office for Water


More than 250 participants

Information: a priority!

transboundary basins and to centralize the synthetic information needed for the definition of governmental policies.

Information Systems on transboundary rivers and aquifers would gain by being designed in a consistent and global manner on the scale of the whole basin, within the framework of agreements between riparian countries.

Moreover, if the information is to be useful, it must not remain in the form of raw data, but should be organized according to requirements, whether it be the study of characterization or scenarios, Management Plans, action programs, budgetary simulations or the basis for water taxes, the issuing of administrative authorizations or the study of projects, the regulation of public works, warning systems or even the evaluation of the results of implemented policies or, finally, the information of the general public, etc.

If the information is to be used, it must be made available in the most appropriate forms.

It is generally considered that access to public raw data must be open and free for the various users. However, due to additional costs for processing and disseminating the information, it would appear quite normal that the processed information be paid for.

It is also necessary to define common standards for globally gathering comparable information produced by the various stakeholders, in order to organize real observation systems at the level of national or

When effectively building **shared Information Systems,** it is especially recommended to establish processes, which aim at:

- **Examining the nature** (parameters, indexes, integrators, frequency, representativeness, standards) **of the useful information;**
- **Organizing and facilitating the partner network** of producers and users of data and information;
- **Inventorying the existing data and information sources** and analyzing the conditions for their production and availability (metadata, etc.);
- **Adopting a common language** for allowing the exchange of comparable data;
- **Developing an overall technical architecture for the Information System** in order to optimize exchange capacities according to the existing ones and to expectations, and to draft technical specifications allowing technical compatibility of exchanged data;
- **Drawing-up,** on a case by case basis, **procedures for the exchange and enhancement of the data** made available by the various producers, while complying with the rights of access to the information which will have been defined;
- **Developing,** according to the users' priorities and available means, **data enhancement tools and products;**
- **Organizing the production and dissemination of knowledge necessary for decision-making and good public information and participation.**

It is also recommended that concerned Public Authorities and bi- and multilateral cooperation agencies:

- Promote the development of specific means and engineering proficiency in the field of water data,
- Support the works that aim at defining common standards and nomenclatures for data administration in order to exchange, compare and summarize the information between partners at all relevant observation levels,
- Promote, as a prerequisite, the setting-up of observation systems for water resources and their use at basin level, either national or transboundary.

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www.iowater.org
www.cna.gob.mx

"CNFME" also committed itself...

On 18 and 19 of last March in Mexico City, the French National Training Center for Water Professions (CNFME/IOWater), in liaison with the MESD and World Water Council (WWC), organized two training sessions in the "Learning Center" of the World Forum.

These sessions were intended for elected officials:

- **"Local water governance": stakeholders' role, dialogue and decision-making, institutional arrangements and performance indicators, etc. … with the experience of the Nantes Urban Community and comparisons with the German, Italian, South African and Mexican approaches.**
- **"Sanitation systems for small communities": specificity and difficulties of the sanitation systems in areas with low density of population, choice of collective, semi-collective or on-site solutions, selection criteria for the various wastewater treatment techniques, with the experience of the Mixed Syndicate for the Development and Rehabilitation of the Largue (SMARL) and ENDA on sanitation work undertaken in a peri-urban district of Dakar, which gave a very tangible approach to the concept. ✔**

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Governance of water utilities...

...presentation of the successful French experience

The Working Group on "Governance of water utilities", set up within the French Partnership for Mexico (PFM), established a common vision of the various stakeholders involved and shared the experience on the management methods used in France.

At the Mexico Forum, the French partners organized two sessions, one on transparency, performance, democratic control and governance of local drinking water supply and sanitation utilities and the other on the needs of the cities in developing countries and solutions from international initiatives.

The work of a group of **"ENGREF"** students (National School of Agricultural Engineering, Water and Forestry), directed by **IOWater,** on "French Governance of drinking water supply and sanitation utilities" is an interesting contribution.

After having underlined the French characteristics, which are the role of the Water Agencies, a decentralized public organization of water utilities at the level of municipalities or groups of them, and an experiment in publicly controlled or delegated management, the document thoroughly deals with the "Sapin" Law (1993), which introduced competition among delegated managers, the "Chevènement" Law (1999) on inter-community management, the "Barnier and Mazeaud" laws (1995) on relations between municipalities and their delegated managers.

The Water Agencies have an increasing role to play in water resource management and protection.

The increasing transparency allowed an improvement in users' information. The consumers' associations also play a more and more significant part.

The establishment of performance indicators allows for better understanding of all the partners. ✔

TWINBASIN^{XN}

Twinning agreements between Basin Organizations for better Integrated Water Resources Management practices

Since September 2004, **the TWINBASIN^{xn} project, financed by the European Commission and directed by the International Office for Water and INBO,** has significantly progressed in achieving its objectives. **26 twinning agreements are now active, involving more than 40 Basin Organizations from 27 different countries and very diverse geopolitical areas** (France-Brazil; Spain-Romania; Kenya-Uganda; Australia-Philippines, etc.).

New rules were formulated in 2006 to facilitate access to the project with new twinned basins. Thus, for the first time, the Steering Committee, which met during the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico, approved a twinning with three basin organizations from Kenya, United Kingdom and Poland.

The Water Forum offered an important platform for promoting the project and disseminating its results.

In particular, a Press Conference allowed an enhancement of the lessons learned by the twinning between the Seine-Normandy Water Agency (France) and the Regional Water Directorate for Mexico Valley "Gerencia Regional del Agua del Valle de Mexico" (Mexico).

Owing to the good progress of many ongoing twinning agreements, several partners requested an extension of the project support, to continue their exchanges on the development of Integrated Water Resources Management. Several extensions of twinning agreements have already been approved.

The **TWINBASIN^{xn}** community has now more than 70 assignment reports.

In accordance with the recommendations of the last Steering Committee (Megève - France in September 2006), emphasis is currently given to the capitalization and dissemination of the obtained results: reports, general and topical syntheses, etc.

TWINBASIN^{xn} has also another aim: exchanging information with the "Cluster" projects, especially through web-conferences. **This cluster gathers five other projects registered in the 6th Framework Program for Research and Development of the European Union:** Wade, Rivertwin, Twinbas, Brahmatwin and Striver. All these research projects have the same objective to improve Integrated Water Resources Management by developing management models.

Thus, **TWINBASIN^{xn}** contributed to the development of these models through three web-conferences in 2006: "**TWINBASIN^{xn}** a model for basin management"; "Creating a twinning with the Twinbasin project"; and "Economic instruments for IWRM and planning tools".

The project is beginning its 4th and last year. The doors are still open to potentially interested partners.

It is still time to join us!

For more information on the twinning agreements, **TWINBASIN^{xn}** results and web-conferences, please consult the website:

www.twinbasin.org

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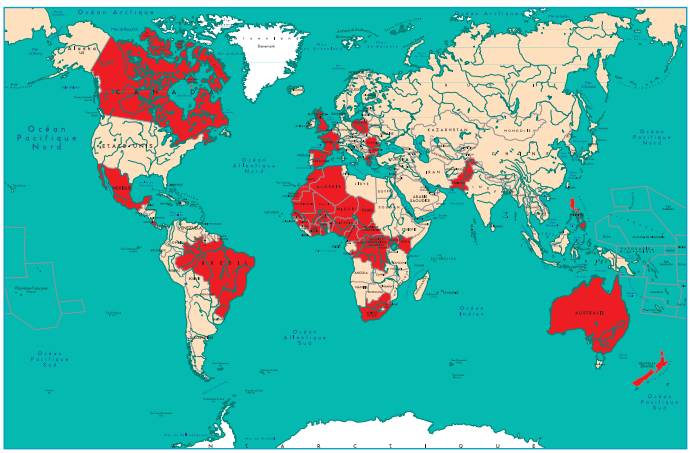
Countries involved in TWINBASIN^{xn}



AFRICA

African Development Bank

Towards a mechanism for following up the Millennium Goals

The conclusions of the International Conference on "Achieving the Millennium Goals for water and sanitation in rural Africa", organized in Paris on 1st April 2006, include the "creation of a regional observation mechanism, accommodated at the African Development Bank (AfDB), which will follow the progress made towards achieving this Millennium Goal (MDG7) in Africa and will give advice to the Consultative Water Committee of the Secretary General of the United Nations".

The French Ministry for Foreign Affairs requested JMB CONSULT and **IOWater** to prepare a note, to be submitted to the donors, presenting:

- **An analysis of the demands, needs and expectations of the African Countries** for an evaluation of the progress made towards MDG7, in particular, the evaluation of the coverage rate of access to water and sanitation.
- **Recommendations for the creation of an observation mechanism** (operating mode and processes).

After completion of their mission, JMB Consult and **IOWater** proposed to rely on a federative body composed of existing national, regional or international institutions already involved in the water and sanitation sector. The proposed scheme should be consensual and would gather many partners, such as, for instance, UNICEF, WHO, UNDP, AAE, JMP, OECD, WRC, EMWIS, and, of course, the national institutions specific to each country.

The core would be the African Water Facility, acting under the aegis of the African Ministers' Conference on Water (AMCOW) and accommodated at the AfDB, which aims at developing an institutional environment favorable to effective and efficient water resources management as well as to the financing of small innovative water-related projects in rural areas.

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The Ziga dam (Ouagadougou) © BAfD

West Africa

Feasibility of a Regional Water Observation System

The West African Governments, have adopted a Regional Action Plan for Integrated Water Resources Management (RAP-IWRM/WA) and set up a Permanent Framework for Coordination and Follow-up (PFCF) within the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

This permanent framework is supported by four bodies:

- a Ministerial Follow-up Committee,
- a Regional Council for Dialogue on Water Resources,
- a Technical Experts' Committee of the National Focal Points,
- a Regional Coordination Unit for Water Resources (CUWR), a Department of ECOWAS Executive Secretariat.

Whereas the first RAP-IWRM/WA projects are starting to be financed, **IOWater,** with financing from the Danish Agency for Development Assistance (DANIDA) and under CUWR supervision, is contributing to the implementation of **a feasibility study for a regional Water Observation System in West Africa,** which will have to facilitate the steering of the entire PFCF program, and to ensure the follow-up of water management at the level of the countries and basins.

The results of the study were presented to the Ministerial Follow-up Committee in November 2006.

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Kenya

Support to Capacity Building with the Kenyan Water Institute (KEWI)

The "ARCHE" Project (Support to Human Resource Capacity Building in the Water Sector) was completed in March 2006.

Please be reminded that the main objective of this project of the Ministry of Water Resources (MWRE), financed on the French side by the Fund for Study and Assistance to the Private Sector (FASEP), consisted in increasing human resources in the Kenyan water sector, relying on the KEWI training institute in Nairobi.

During the last semester of 2005, a number of educational units, inspired from those of **IOWater-"CNFME"** in France, were built to carry out practical training on the exploitation of drinking water supply networks.

The implementation of this project was entrusted to the French Consulting Firm SEURECA, on the basis of a conceptual document previously prepared by the **International Office for Water**.

In February 2006, the MWRE executives again called upon **IOWater** to carry out a training course for about twenty KEWI trainers, in order to facilitate their new orientation as regards the continuing training of adults under professional conditions.

This **IOWater** activity gave the opportunity of identifying new needs for assistance to the Kenyan Water Service Providers and Water Service Authorities.

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AFRICA
Capacity Building

Large project

South Africa - NCWSTI

Creation of a network of Professional Training Centers with the National Community Water and Sanitation Institute (NCWSTI)

Within their capacity building strategy for the water sector, the South-African Authorities designated the NCWSTI (National Community Water and Sanitation Training Institute) as national operator of a consistent policy for the professional capacity building of the South-African stakeholders. It can be summarize in 5 issues:

1. creation of a network of professional Training Centers,
2. definition of course programs and the launching of new professional qualifications,
3. creation and training of a team of specialized trainers,
4. identification of the training needs of the stakeholders working in the sector,
5. implementation of a multi-year training program for these staffs.

The French Embassy and the South-African party launched an international invitation to tender for this project implementation, financed by the French Priority Solidarity Fund (PSF).

In September 2003, the International Office for Water, associated with the SAUR, was the successful bidder of this project.

An Inception Phase allowed to fit the entire project with the South-African needs and to provide reference documents for the building of educational units.

5 priority topics were retained: drinking water treatment, wastewater treatment, electro-mechanical engineering, mechanical maintenance, customer management, with the aim of **developing training modules and qualification processes,** which were validated by the Project Steering Committee (PSC).


Building of the "network" unit

The creation of two Regional Centers (Branches), located in the Kwazulu Natal and the Eastern Cape provinces, supplemented the NCWSTI training means.

The project continued with the implementation of several training courses in 2006, dealing with the following topics:

- Drinking water treatment: 2 courses carried out by I**DFP - SAUR;**
- Wastewater treatment: 2 courses carried out by **CNFME - IOWater;**
- Electrical maintenance: 1 course carried out by **CNFME - IOWater;**
- Customer management: 1 course carried out by **IDFP - SAUR.**

Each training activity has a twofold purpose: on the one hand, to train groups of South-African trainers for them to train the operators coming from their respective geographical areas, and, on the other, to provide NCWSTI with educational kits for developing and reinforcing its training offer in compliance with the standards enacted by the South African Authority Qualification, and meeting, in particular, the procedures known as "National Qualification Level".

Several activities were carried out in Durban in order to widen the geographic coverage of this national training network.

At the same time, the NCWSTI, using the plans provided by IOWater, built the first educational units, dealing with drinking water supply networks, which will allow for the practical training under real conditions of the staffs of the sector.

The appointment of the new General Manager of the NCWSTI, Professor George Djolov, consolidates and impulses the continuation of this project together with the members of the Project Steering Committee, gathering representatives of the French Embassy in Pretoria and of the Department of Water Affairs & Forestry (DWAF).

Other actions, carried out by **IOWater,** dealt with the Management of Services (performance indicators, human resources management).

The official inauguration of the NCWSTI new facilities is planned for March 2007.

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Training unit for the laying out of mains

ICRC "Wat-hab"

Started several years ago, **the collaboration between the "Water and Habitat" (Wat-hab) department of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), based in Geneva, and the IOWater's National Training Center for Water Professions (CNFME) is now strengthening.**

IOWater received in Limoges, from 2 to 13 October 2006, for the fifth consecutive year, a group of ICRC Project Managers, based worldwide (Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Thailand, Guinea Conakry, Rwanda, Eritrea, Ivory Coat, etc.), for a professional training course on the "Audit of drinking water infrastructures".

In 2006, **IOWater** also carried out, on behalf of the ICRC and in partnership with the Wat-hab cells of the concerned countries, **several training courses** on the design and exploitation of drinking water supply networks, in Burundi, and on the management and audit of drinking water production plants, in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

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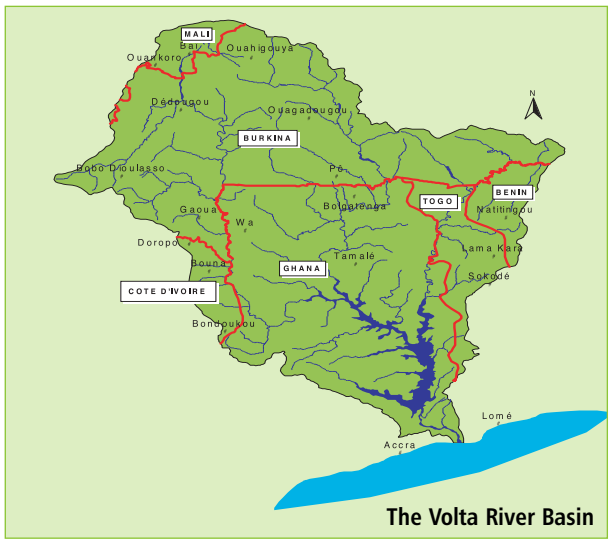
AFRICA
Transboundary River Basins

Large project

The Volta

Creation of a Volta Basin Authority



The Volta River Basin

An outstanding political will led the people in charge of the Volta River Basin, which involves six countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Mali and Togo), to build a framework necessary for the Integrated Management of their shared water resources.

Thanks to the support of French bilateral cooperation, **the International Office for Water** could provide them with effective technical assistance.

The **IOWater** team has accompanied the Volta Basin Technical Committee (VBTC) since 2004 in the creation of an organization responsible for Integrated Management of Water Resources, of ecosystems and other related resources of the Volta Basin.

This allowed the drafting of statutes for the Volta Basin Authority, and of its internal and financial rules.

Of course, this work has fully taken into account the national strategies related to water resource management in each of the six Member States.

It also integrated the convergent actions carried out in the basin, under the aegis of the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the European Water Initiative and of FFEM and other donors and stakeholders.

✔

Ethiopia

An institutional framework for the Abbay River Basin on the Ethiopian Nile

On the request of BRL Engineering, successful tenderer of a general bid, **the International Office for Water** participated in the implementation of the "Institutional setup studies of the Ethiopian Nile Basin (Abbay Basin) Project" by seconding in 2006 an expert to the Ministry of Water Resources of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia.

Our expert contributed in **the drafting of a Law on Basin Organizations,** which was approved by the Ethiopian Authorities concerned. He also raised the Ethiopian partners' awareness to the operating of French and international basin organizations and to their activities related to integrated water resources management at the level of river basins.

A ministerial visit to France is planned in the near future.

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Niger River Basin

From Audit to Partnership

In 2003, the World Bank had called upon **the International Office for Water (IOWater),** to carry out an Audit aiming at proposing institutional and organizational reforms for **the Niger Basin Authority (NBA).**

Within the "shared Vision" process, which should lead to a Sustainable Development Action Plan and an Investment Program, the Niger Basin Authority benefits from financial resources from the European Water Facility for Africa.

IOWater is the NBA partner in this project, and will especially deal with the following topics:

- Legal instruments;
- Consistency with the National Processes of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM);
- Preparation of the Investment Program and of its Implementation timetable;
- Formulation and methods for the implementation of Investment Projects.

IOWater assists NBA with the supervision of the services provided by consultants and consulting firms, as regards the:

- drafting of Terms of Reference,
- sending of Invitations to Tender,
- organization of the selection procedure,
- analysis of the offers and selection of the candidates,
- preparation of agreements with the selected service providers,
- support to the follow-up of studies.

IOWater will also support the organization of the donors' round table.

Whenever needed, on-site missions will allow analyses and proposals before the providing of external services, and the post-evaluation of the orientations formulated by the local consultants and the selected consulting firms. ✔


The Niger River

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LATIN AMERICA

Large project

Mexico - CONAGUA

For five years, many information and cooperation missions have been carried out by experts from IOWater and the French Water Agencies, within the "Program for support to the Mexican Water Sector", financed by the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

The National Water Information System (SINA) & Regional Water Information Systems (SIRAs)

The Mexican National Water Commission (CONAGUA) has been interested in the French experience and especially in the know-how developed by IOWater in the field of water data and information management.

The Mexican Water Law of 29 April 2004 (Ley de Aguas Nacionales) stipulates that "planning and national programming of water resources will be based on **a National System (SINA), and Regional Water Information Systems (SIRAs)".**

The CONAGUA became in charge of creating and developing this National Water Information System of Mexico (SINA) and of supporting the new "Basin Organizations" in the creation of Regional Water Information Systems (SIRAs).

Within its partnership with **IOWater,** CONAGUA and the Mexican institutions concerned by this project carried out a detailed analysis of the legislative, institutional and technical context of water data and information management in Mexico, in order to define:

- a vision of the SINA and SIRAs in the medium term (main tasks, targeted public, types and fields of data and information to be managed, etc.);
- the organizational and inter-institutional tools to be developed and the various essential technical aspects of the project;
- a multiyear action program and a detailed plan for the first two years.

In 2005, the "SINA/SIRA project" started its implementation phase with a continuation of **IOWater** technical support.

At the inter-institutional level, **a Water Topical Group** was officially created as well as specialized sub-groups from the main institutions concerned at the federal level: CONAGUA; SEMARNAT (Governmental Secretariat in charge of the Environment), INEGI (Cartographic and Statistical Institute responsible, in particular, for standardizing the Mexican sectoral information systems), etc.

The Planning Department of the CONAGUA is coordinating these topical groups and developing common tools for the system:

- **the SINA website** for presenting ongoing actions, enhancing already existing products (SUIBA, etc.), making available the elements of the common language, etc.;
- **the catalogue of Mexican water stakeholders** ("yellow pages").

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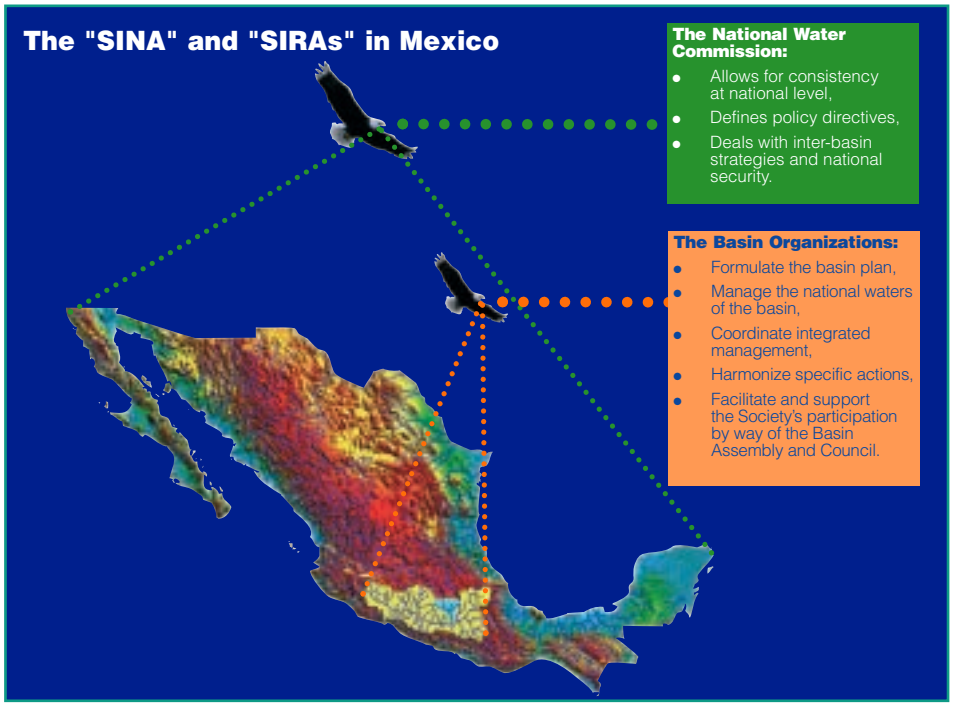
www.conagua.gob.mx/SINA



LATIN AMERICA
Mexico – CONAGUA

Reform of planning processes

With a view to progressively evolve from a single multiyear planning of hydraulic infrastructures to a true water integrated planning in the medium and long term, the French experts, mobilized by the **International Office for Water,** wrote, together with their Mexican colleagues, a series of recommendations, dealing with:

- consistency between federal and regional levels;
- adequacy between "water management" and "regional planning";
- the definition of clear, transparent and quantified objectives;
- a progressive decentralization of decision-making;
- an evolution of sectoral policies towards comprehensive management.

The French and European experiences were also presented and adapted to the Mexican context for proposals related to:

- the participative nature of decision-making processes;
- the integration of environmental aspects, by introducing objectives related to the natural environments;
- equity between users.

Finally, three points were thoroughly discussed:

- **tools for economic analysis, which allow the optimization of investments, the search for a better recovery of environmental costs for each economic sector;**
- **pricing, as an instrument for influencing demands and for recovering management, investment and operating costs;**
- **performance indicators, for evaluating public policies, the introduction of which is interesting for better guaranteeing that the objectives are achieved.**

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Creation of the national documentation system

Financed by the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs and WMO (World Meteorological Organization), **IOWater** intervened for analyzing the production of documents by the various departments of the CONAGUA, and proposing an architecture, for the organization and installation of a modern and effective documentary information supporting tool in Mexico.

The CONAGUA thus wished to benefit from the experience of the International Office for Water in water-related documentation.

With its home office in Mexico City and 33 branches on the territory (20 federal agencies and 13 regional agencies), the CONAGUA and its 20,000 employees produce a lot of information each year.

In addition to the measurements carried out in the field (meteorology, hydraulics, quality follow-up, etc.), reports, evaluations and studies are produced and **stored at the Library of Studies and Projects,** which unfortunately, has no modern tool for information management.

IOWater proposed a complete sequence for document processing, which starts with the definition of a method for information processing, staff training and recommendations for choosing a documentary software and premises for the storage of documents, continues with office automation equipment for the management of documents, and ends with their on-line consultation on the CONAGUA website.


Meeting of the "water" topical group (February 2006)

A circuit of the documents, making the Library of Studies and Projects the custodian of all internal documents of the CONAGUA, will complete its operation, making it the resource center of the institution know-how. Over 15 months, the evolution of the library will equip the CONAGUA with a modern information tool, adapted to the Mexican needs.

✔

www.conagua.gob.mx

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http://waterdoc.iowater.org

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The Mexican Training Center for Water and Sanitation

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EUROPE

EUROPE-INBO 2006 - Megève

The 2nd International Congress of Megève on "water in mountains" gathered, on last 20, 21 and 22 September:

- **the scientific and technical conference on "integrated management of upper basins",**
- **"the Meeting of Elected Representatives from Mountainous areas", on their responsibilities in water management,**
- **the 4th European Conference "EUROPE-INBO 2006" of the European Group of the International Network of Basin Organizations, for a better implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD).**

More than 400 participants, including 250 elected representatives, scientists and technicians of the water sector, as well as 165 representatives of governmental administrations responsible for water resource management, of Basin Organizations or District Authorities, **coming from 33 Countries,** met on this occasion.

The French Minister for Ecology and Sustainable Development, Mrs. Nelly OLIN, who came to open the congress, developed several major points, which especially concern the mountains and which appear in the draft water law under discussion at the Parliament.

Especially addressing the elected officials from mountainous areas, Mrs. OLIN declared: "you are the guardians of this water tower that are your mountains".

Mrs. Nelly Olin

During **the "EUROPE-INBO 2006" Conference,** directed by the **International Network of Basin Organization (INBO),** of which the **International Office for Water** takes care of the secretariat, the participants discussed about **four main current topics for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive in the European River Basin Districts:**

- **Compatibility between WFD and large infrastructures** (hydropower, protection against erosion and floods, inland waterways, etc.), Heavily Modified Water Bodies,
- **The taking into account of quantitative problems** (droughts, water sharing, water transfers and reservoirs, specificity of the Mediterranean climate, etc.),
- **Monitoring, monitoring networks and reporting,** comparisons between Water Bodies of various countries, inter-calibration,
- **Preparation of future action plans,** their cost, the economic studies and financing, etc.

Special attention was paid, of course, to the characteristics of hydrological and ecological regions and Water Bodies in the European mountains, basin heads, and to the specific actions, which are to be considered, for achieving their good ecological status in 2015.

Generally, the representatives of basin organizations favorably considered the first stages of implementation of the Framework Directive, which introduced new methods for very positive analysis and work.

Among the numerous recommendations which were issued, we shall especially retain:

With regard to floods:

- It is, above all, necessary to make the **"upstream-downstream common cause"** a main item of consistent management on the scale of basins and sub-basins,
- **In the transboundary basins,** in particular, cooperation between riparian States for jointly looking for coordinated solutions and for sharing responsibilities should be promoted,
- **Protection against floods must pass through a coordinated approach,** combining the protection of people and properties, the reduction of vulnerabilities, the restoration of the open flows of rivers, the conservation and the re-building of the natural flood storage areas, the forecasting of events, the identification of zones at risk, the publication of "atlases" of floodplains, the control of urbanization, warning and education.

As regards hydropower:

- **The hydropower infrastructures change the ecosystems but produce renewable energy.** On the one hand, the Water Framework Directive strengthens the protection of aquatic ecosystems, even their restoration, on the other, the "Renewable Energy" Directive aims at increasing the energy produced without greenhouse effect, including hydropower… (dams, micro power stations, etc.), how can we apply these two directives at the same time?
- **The modernization and optimization of the existing hydropower installations are a priority.**

With regard to quantitative water management:

- **The availability of fresh water,** in sufficient quantity and quality, may become, in a generation from now, one of the main limiting factors of the economic and social development in many European countries and not only in the Mediterranean area.
- It is necessary to increase the thinking about and prospective on **the consequences of the climate change.** A common approach is necessary to comply with the obligations of the WFD in critical situations.
- **The prevention of future droughts** can no more be done on a case-by-case basis but must be planned in the long term, by solving the structural problems which occur in order to prevent, in the best possible way, their effects and to avoid the total degradation of water resources.
- Mobilizing new resources should only be planned for when they are ecologically acceptable and economically reasonable.


More than 400 participants

- **Plans for the management of water scarcity** should prioritize drinking water supply as compared to the other uses, making sure that water is equitably and soundly shared between the various uses, ensuring a better optimization of water and avoiding wastages.
- **Water saving,** leak detection, recycling, the reuse of treated water, groundwater recharge, the desalination of sea water, research on low-consumption uses must become priorities.

As regards the obligations of establishing monitoring networks and control programs:

- It is **a major concern** for the basin organizations, due to the close deadline given by the WFD,
- There is **a methodological step to make** to pass from the control of physico-chemistry to that of biology, planned for in the WFD,
- It is still difficult to **define the control networks,** because of the lack of benchmarks with the definition of what should precisely be **the "Good Ecological Status",**
- **Significant financial efforts are to be planned** to ensure the creation and operation of these control networks,

As concerns the preparation of the future "Management Plans" and "Programs of Measures":

- **Efforts should be oriented towards the sewerage systems and wastewater treatment plants of small communities,** towards the on-site sanitation sector, the rearing houses, especially in sectors where small rivers have very low self-purification capacities.
- **A better coordination between water policy and the Common Agricultural Policy is essential.** It is necessary to better identify the areas in which agricultural pressures have a significant impact on water quality and to prioritize the means necessary for restoring quality.
- **It is necessary to raise the awareness and inform the general public,** to explain the stakes, so that the people can give their opinion: original approaches, based on the organization of local events or on the use of local communication supporting aids, are effective for mobilizing the citizens, the use of specialists in communication and public enquiries will be necessary, many suitable methods are still to be tested.
- These consultations will have a cost and **it is necessary to plan for significant budgets** to comply with the new obligations of the WFD in this field.
- It is necessary to strengthen cooperation programs with the neighboring countries of the enlarged European Union, for **the management of the International Districts of transboundary rivers,** in Eastern Europe and in the Balkans, and within the neighborhood policy in the Mediterranean and in the Caucasus,
- **The European funds for regional cohesion will have to support the efforts of the new Member States.**
- It is important to find a suited scale for work, sometimes local, to develop the measures to be taken. Plans for sub-basins and local programs of measures (river contracts, etc.) should then be considered, in consistency with the District Management Plan, by mobilizing local participative structures either already existing or to be created.
- To meet **the information needs,** it is necessary to capitalize and promote Trans-European exchanges of experience between the River Basin Districts, by using more and more the new information technologies.

The participants also insisted on the need to increase dialogue between researchers and Basin Organizations to promote demonstration actions in particular.

It is also necessary to promote and develop local initiatives of partnership between the research world and the field experts (workshop areas for example).

Mr. Jacky COTTET, President of the French Rhone-Mediterranean & Corsica Water Agency, will chair the "EUROPE-INBO" group until next plenary assembly in Autumn 2007 in Italy.

The detailed final resolutions of the **"EUROPE-INBO 2006"** conference, as well as the papers and photographs of the sessions are available on the website:

www.inbo-news.org

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The "EUROPE-INBO 2006" Conference

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EUROPE
THE EUROPEAN WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

WFD

The implementation of the European Water Framework Directive (WFD) is an essential concern of the Member States and pre-accession countries. It is interesting other countries of Eastern Europe, the Balkans and of the Mediterranean, which orientate themselves towards water management methods close to the European concepts.
The Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) is defined by working groups led by the European Water Directors and the European Commission, who wrote many very interesting and useful orientation documents for a common understanding of the various aspects of the WFD; these guidance documents were also tested in about fifteen pilot basins, distributed on the entire territory of the European Union and in pre-accession countries.
The International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), of which the International Office for Water takes care of the secretariat, is a member of the Common Strategy Coordination Group for the WFD implementation process and participates in all its meetings.
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CEENBO Workshop


The CEENBO workshop in Bucharest on 22 and 23 June 2006

A CEENBO (Central and Eastern European Network of Basin Organizations) workshop took place in Bucharest on 22 and 23 June 2006, on the implementation of the European Water Framework Directive, with the support of the **International Office for Water.**
It gathered experts from Hungary, Romania, Poland, Serbia, Bulgaria, France, Spain, Czech Republic, Uzbekistan and Belarus to exchange on the definition of the "good ecological status" and potential of "Water Bodies" and on related surface water monitoring.
It gave to the different countries the occasion to present their progress reports on the Directive implementation.
This workshop led to the formulation of common recommendations for the assessment of the "Good Status" and of a methodology for assessing water and environmental quality:

- Use of a common reference system with reliable typologies;
- Definition of an evaluation system: common understanding of the status of water resources and the environment, clear separation of technical and socioeconomic issues, monitoring using common parameters and frequencies, inter-calibration, common criteria for selecting reference sites, preparation of the Program of Measures;
- Importance of the representativeness of the monitoring network;
- Common data management by the different administrative bodies: adoption of a common language for data codification and for acquiring the same metadata, and identification of responsibilities.

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Revision of the list of priority substances

Following a European invitation to tender, **IOWater** and **"INERIS"** were selected to provide technical assistance to the DG Environment of the European Commission during 3 years (2005-2008).
This assignment requires sharp technical expertise on substances, good knowledge of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and of the associated European organization, know-how on data organization for their collection and dissemination and reporting. The assignment also deals with the revision of the list of priority substances given by the WFD (with a priori a new list to be proposed in 2008) and with the drafting of proposals on the future mandate of European experts' groups for supporting the Commission, within the framework of on-going infringement procedures.
Its purpose is to help the Commission in the implementation of article 16, especially in the revision of the methods for selecting the substances, in order to propose an improved method for "prioritizing substances" known as "COMMPS+".
To that are added the collection and analysis of relevant data in order to identify new priority substances, the analysis of reports from the Member States on emissions of priority substances (in accordance with article 5), the identification of Environmental Quality Standards applicable to such substances or even the development of a tool for regular collection of information, integrated into the future European "WISE" system.
The proposal for a "priority substances" Directive, published in July 2006, partly includes these issues.
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WFD - DCE

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EUROPE

LARGE PROJECT

For better European research on Integrated Water Resources Management

Issues requiring new research are arising for a good implementation of the Water Framework Directive up to 2015 and beyond.

European Research has thus to provide responses allowing good water resources management (qualification of good ecological status, economic tools, pressure/impact models, participative management, control of discharges of priority substances, etc.). This requires thorough exchanges with the stakeholders involved in management and decision-making, and passes through:

- the identification and validation of research needs;
- the preparation and follow-up of research programs;
- the dissemination of research outcomes.

The European network **IWRM-NET** (2006-2010) is an ERA-NET (European Research Area - NETworking) project, launched and coordinated by the **International Office for Water (IOWater).** Its aim is to create a European network of national and regional research programs on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

The 17 European partners, involved in 14 European countries, defined an action plan to launch transnational research activities in order to provide the Basin District managers with the means and knowledge suitable for implementing the Framework Directive.

IWRM-Net is also the network, which will enable exchanges on good practices for the management of research programs (definition of needs, selection of projects, transfer of results, performance evaluation of the research programs, etc.), to create new spaces for communication useful for better understanding between decision-makers/managers/researchers, and resulting in activities leading for example to:

- **the development of new responsibilities,**
- **the "translation" of needs into scientific terms,**
- **the dissemination of research outcomes** in terms "appropriable" by field operators,
- **the definition and structure of joint research programs** on local scales where research problems arise in the same way (same hydrological, economic, ecosystemic context, etc.).
- **the starting of real interdisciplinary (and not only multidisciplinary) research programs.**

IWRM-Net relies on 20 research programs, now represented by the project partners, to which can be added later new European programs or neighbor countries as observers.

The assessment of research needs in the short or long term, close relations with the CIS (Common Implementation Strategy) of the Framework Directive and also good complementarity with the other ERA-NET projects, related to the problems of sustainable development and environmental management (CIRCLE, SKEP, BIODIVERSA, SNOWMAN, etc.) are as many pillars on which **IWRM-NET** relies.

It aims at increasing synergies between the organizers of public research on water in the Member States and strengthening their effectiveness for better water policy in Europe!

The topics needed for launching future joint activities, the choice of research programs to be jointly implemented, and the **IWRM-NET** prospects in a supporting and innovative context for the WFD implementation have to be discussed during **a conference, taking place in London on 10 and 11 January 2007** and in which all the interested European managers of public research programs have been invited to participate.

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www.iwrm-net.eu

ETC/WTR

International Reporting on water: a reference tool

For a few years, **the European Environment Agency** has developed a base available on the Internet on the reporting obligations of the countries according to European environmental legislation and various international agreements and conventions (Directives, Sea Conventions, etc.).

This base is presented in the form of sheets: a sheet for each legislative instrument and a sheet for each reporting obligation.

It includes consolidated legal texts, links towards the institutions responsible for data-gathering and towards previous reports, all the guides developed for reporting, with contents and deadlines, the data and other elements to be reported, etc.

IOWater regularly updates the "water" section, and, this year, integrated all the consolidated European legislation on water.

The site is in English with all the consolitated texts.

✔

rod.eionet.eu.int

Information: Fax: +33 (0) 4 93 65 44 02 - E-mail: aquacoope@oieau.fr

EUROSTAT

A European Guide on sanitation-related data

Every two years, EUROSTAT and OECD disseminate to the Member States a statistical questionnaire which covers the whole water cycle.

The questionnaire includes nine sections, from abstractions to consumption and wastewater discharges.

The collected data are available on the EUROSTAT website, free of charge.

The data must cover the entire statistical field (wastewater treatment plants, abstractions, etc.). It is thus necessary to use a balanced combination of all possible means for collecting available information.

A first collection handbook, gathering recommendations, good practices and detailed explanations of the concepts, had been prepared in 2004 by IOWater, associated with CEH-Wallingford, WRc and CEDEX.

The feedbacks from the users led EUROSTAT to wish the development of an improved version of this guide with decision charts, diagrams, digital examples, etc.

IOWater and its Austrian partner "UBA-A" produced this second guide, in order to allow its immediate use for the 2006 data collection.

Designed in such a way as to enable its use as a whole or by section, the document wants to be modular, effective and precise. It includes a set of definitions and the way of dealing with the qualitative aspects of data production and management. It integrates the last evolutions regarding information systems and suggestions for enhancing the already collected data to the maximum for other needs.

This guide, available to the national statistical services, should also be used as a basis for improving the definition of needs for statistical data on water at the European level.

✔

Large project

Hungary / Romania

The Transboundary Basin of the Körös/Crisuri

Launched in 2005, this technical assistance project, supported by the French Fund for Global Environment (FFEM), with a total budget of 3.7 Million Euros, should continue up to mid-2007.

Led by the International Office for Water under the aegis of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), the project recipient, its objective is to enable the Hungarian and Romanian Authorities to integrate a sustainable development policy into the management of the Körös/Crisuri Basin, sub-basin of the Tisza, tributary of the Danube, by taking into account the users' needs and the conservation of aquatic ecosystems.

This project is based on the regulations of the European Water Framework Directive, which make the States impulse a common vision of the water management objectives, through the preparation and implementation of a Basin Management Plan.

Much progress has been made since the launching of the project. The action plan of the French, Hungarian and Romanian experts includes the following steps:

- **Coordinating the various stages** to meet the obligations of the Framework Directive;
- **Analyzing the risk of not achieving "Good Status",** by taking into account the baseline scenario for 2015;
- **Determining the significant issues** related to the basin characterization and to the definition of a Program of Measures;
- **Preparing surface and ground water monitoring,** including the harmonization of the delimitation of Water Bodies, the definition of "Good Status", and the formulation of a Monitoring Program;
- **Drafting a Program of Measures** and testing it on a sub-basin unit;
- **Modeling pressures and impacts,** as a decision-making supporting tool for preparing the Program of Measures; this part includes the selection of various models and their test on a sub-basin unit;
- **A detailed economic analysis** of the planned measures and their effects, for selecting the most suitable measures;
- **Methods for public participation,** with the testing of an enquiry on significant issues on the two national territories.

The project also plans the formulation of a Plan for the Prevention and Control of Accidental Water Pollution.

It inventories the possible sources of accidental pollution, as well as the propagation mechanisms, that could result from it. It describes the processes to be implemented and the various services to get involved, should an accidental event occur.

To achieve these objectives and to complement the assignments of the involved French experts, **two topical study tours were organized in France.** They allowed the Hungarian and Romanian experts to benefit from the French experience in surface water monitoring and water data management.

In these study tours, IOWater relied on experts of the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development, the Higher Council for Fisheries, Rhone-Alps "DIREN", Rhone-Mediterranean & Corsica and Rhine-Meuse Water Agencies, the "CEMAGREF" of Lyons and "BRGM".

Thanks to a common European legislative context, the project has now a positive dynamics, as the results show it, and it can fully benefit to the two involved countries and to the other Danubian Countries.

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Study tour on surface water monitoring in the Rhone River Basin

EUROPE

LARGE PROJECT

Poland

Successful twinning on the European Water Framework Directive

Workshop on the identification of the big stakes during a training program in Gdansk

The PHARE Twinning on the implementation of the European Water Framework Directive (WFD), between the French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development (MESD) and the Polish Ministry of the Environment, was completed in October 2006, after more than 2 years of work, carried out by **IOWater** as project operator.

This project mobilized a full-time French Adviser in Warsaw and 52 experts, coming from the MESD, "DIREN", Water Agencies (Adour-Garonne, Artois-Picardy, Seine-Normandy, Rhine-Meuse), "BRGM" and **IOWater,** who carried out 170 assignments.

The overall objective of this twinning was to provide support to the WFD implementation, and more particularly to the preparation of the Management Plans and Programs of Measures for the Polish River Basin Districts.

A pilot river basin was selected to test the implementation of the Directive: the Upper Vistula Basin, from its spring to the confluence with the Raba River, which covers a surface area of 10,000 km² with a population of about 4.3 million inhabitants and is characterized by an irregular distribution of water resources and by high urbanization and industrial concentration. High salinity and a low groundwater level imply high costs for the supply of water to the population. This region was chosen for its great variety of water management problems.

The experiment has been undertaken for about 18 months in this Upper Vistula pilot Basin.

It allowed the testing of methods for:

- **Improving the Basin characterization,** with a detailed analysis of pressures and of their impacts on water quality; data were gathered and supplemented to allow a test of the PEGASE model, and with an economic analysis of water uses, with, in particular, the organization of sectoral workshops, gathering the main economic stakeholders of the Basin (mines, agriculture, local authorities) to allow the development of baseline scenarios up to 2015;
- **Analyzing the risk of not achieving "Good Status";**
- **Identifying the main water management issues in the Basin.** This work allowed the drafting of a document evidencing priority problems. It was used for consultation of the interested parties and of the public.
- **Formulating a Program of Measures** for Water Bodies at risk of not achieving "Good Status"; a database was previously developed gathering the main measures used in Poland with an indication of the corresponding costs;
- **Public information and consultation:** a committee, representing the Basin local interest groups, was made up to give an opinion on the drawn-up documents to be used as support for a public enquiry (characterization, significant water management issues in the Basin, Programs of Measures, etc.) and on the organization of the consultation itself. Facilitators were also trained and a direct public consultation was carried out.

Special attention was paid to the economic analysis during all the stages of the WFD implementation process: cost-effectiveness analysis of the Programs of Measures, economic justification for the Heavily Modified Water Bodies, estimates of environmental and resource costs, disproportionate costs, etc.

A baseline scenario was drawn up.

It is a set of scenarios on changes, that can occur in all the socioeconomic sectors and that can directly or indirectly influence the aquatic environments, during the time period given for applying the European regulations.

These analyses were also carried out in the Narew Basin.

The aspects specific to International River Basin Districts were dealt with in the Bug Basin, with meetings gathering representatives from Poland, Ukraine and Belarus.

The tests allowed the drawing-up of methodologies and recommendations, which were presented in several topical guides, especially on the baseline scenario, the main water management problems, the Program of Measures.

The main elements were integrated into a final guide, presenting the whole process of a Management Plan preparation.

All these guides were developed according to a process for validation by the Technical Committee, made up for the project and composed of representatives from the RZGWs and main Polish organizations concerned by the WFD implementation.

Seminars and training courses allowed the dissemination of the project results and the presentation of these guides to about 1,000 participants from all the Polish regions.

A conclusion seminar was organized in Pultusk on 2 and 3 October 2006.

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Comparison of methods for assessing the biological quality of rivers

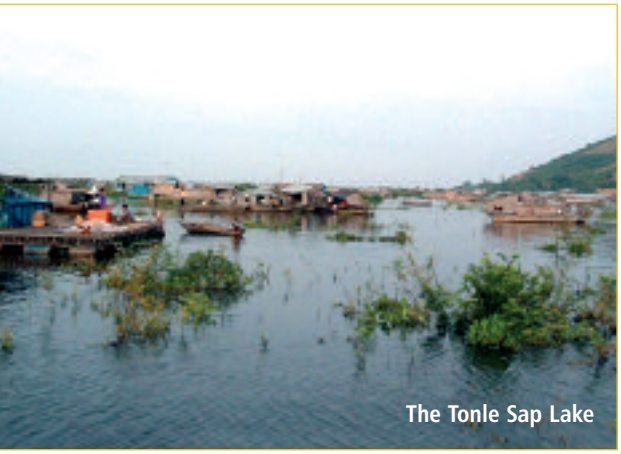
Information: Fax: +33 (0) 4 93 65 44 02 - E-mail: aquacoope@oieau.fr

ASIA

Cambodia

Introduction to IWRM in the North Western Provinces

In spite of the regular and beneficial high water levels of the Mekong, competition for water starts to be felt in Cambodia, due to the increase in population and urban consumption. Water resources are still not well known…


The Tonle Sap Lake

This is why the Cambodian Government wished to set up the bases of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and most of the necessary legal texts had already been written.

It is now necessary to implement this new policy in the field.

Implementation started within the North West Irrigation Sector Project of Cambodia, led by BCEOM and financed by the Asian Development Bank and the French Development Agency.

IOWater was responsible for introducing the IWRM concepts, by "coaching" the people in charge of water in the Cambodian Administration, especially at the local level, in the concerned Provinces of Battambang, Banteay Meanchey and Pursat and in the sub-basins of tributaries of the Tonle Sap Lake in the Western North of the Country.

This pragmatic approach allowed the development of an embryo of a future sub-basin organization with its composition and operating mode.

Cases of conflict on uses were jointly identified with the local partners. The needs for knowledge and new responsibilities were underlined.

The first analyses, that should lead to the joint management of water resources, were started.

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NEXT WORLD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF INBO

Debrecen - Hungary - 06-09 june 2007

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THE MEDITERRANEAN

MEditerranean diaLogue on Integrated water manAgement - MELIA

For better dialogue between the Mediterranean water stakeholders

Within the sixth RDFP, the launching of **MELIA** in Seville, from 4 to 8 September 2006, gathered 20 Mediterranean countries and more than 40 partners at the home office of the CSIC (Spanish National Research Center), which manages and coordinates this project.

MELIA shows a dynamics, which aims at promoting all means for exchanges between the socioeconomic stakeholders of the concerned countries and the principles for sustainable development of inland and coastal waters resources in the Mediterranean region.

The International Office for Water is in charge of analyzing the "water policies" of each country of the Mediterranean Basin and, in particular, the economic aspects, the resolution and management of conflicts, good governance.

This step will have to result in identifying how the Water Framework Directive principles can be implemented in the Southern countries of the Basin. Which are then the implementation constraints and limits?

For three years, **IOWater** will also coordinate the analysis of water policies according to the most crucial stakes; such as the allocation of water resources, pricing, quantitative management, pollution control, respect of natural spaces, etc.

Thanks to **MELIA,** spaces for dialogue or platforms for exchanges will be built, so that decision makers, researchers, water users, representatives of the civil society can better understand the stakes and jointly make decisions.

MELIA objective is also that water-related research in the Mediterranean countries influences the institutional world and that the managers and decision makers take into account its results to formulate adapted water policies in their own countries.

✔

www.iowater.org

The water world on the Web

4,000,000 visitors in 2006!

MEDA-Water

RMSU - MEDA-Water: Monitoring of the Program

The Barcelona Declaration of 28 November 1995 created the "Euro-Mediterranean Partnership" between the European Union, then composed of 15 Member States, and Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, the Palestinian Authority, as well as Cyprus and Malta, which since became Member States.

The MEDA Program is the financial instrument of this partnership. It was allocated 5,350 M Euros over the 2000-2006 period.

The Ministerial Conference of Marseilles (25-26 November 1996) specified the objectives of the partnership and the Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Local Water Management of Turin (18-19 October 1999) specified the content of the MEDA-WATER Program and its Action Plan, which retained:

Six priority fields for action:

1. **integrated management of drinking water supply and sanitation utilities,**
2. **local management of water resources and demands in river basins and islands,**
3. **management of water scarcity and fight against droughts,**
4. **water management for irrigation,**
5. **use of non-conventional water resources,**
6. **preparation of national and local scenarios for sustainable water management.**

Four cross topics:

1. **institutional capacity building and training,**
2. **exchange of knowledge and information,**
3. **transfer of know-how and technology,**
4. **awareness, mobilization and promotion of the population's commitment.**

After the call for proposals of July 2002, the European Commission selected nine MEDA-WATER projects:

- Six devoted to "drinking water supply, sanitation and wastewater treatment utilities",
- Two devoted to "water management for irrigation",
- One devoted to "water management in case of water scarcity and fight against droughts".

These projects started their activities in 2003, for a 3 to 4-year duration.

They gather 25 partners in the Northern basin and 27 in the South.

In autumn 2004, the European Commission launched an invitation to tender for the establishment of a **"Regional Monitoring and Supervision Unit - RMSU-MEDA Water"**, responsible for monitoring, collecting and disseminating the results obtained by the nine MEDA-WATER projects.

The Mediterranean Water Institute (IME), the **International Office for Water (IOWater)** and the Finnish Environmental Institute (SYKE) constituted a group, which successfully winned this bid.

IOWater contributes to the group by seconding the deputy to the RMSU project leader, the Webmaster as well as an expert more particularly in charge of "integrated water resources management".

The RMSU began its activities in October 2005 for a 30-month period.

The project "portfolio" was "extended" to **EMWIS (Euro-Mediterranean Water Information System).**

In a general way, the RMSU project assists the Delegation of the European Commission in Jordan in its activities related to the "MEDA-WATER" Program and facilitates its relations with the projects.

For instance, two training courses, on the establishment of logical frameworks and the benchmarking of projects, were carried out in Amman and Marseilles in 2006.

Two sectoral workshops were organized:

- in Amman - Jordan, on wastewater reuse,
- in Zahle - Lebanon, on the institutional aspects of integrated water resources management in the irrigation sector.

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www.medawater-rmsu.org

FIRST CONFERENCE OF THE "MEDA-Water" PARTNERS
Amman - Jordan - 15-16 April 2007

Information: Fax: +33 (0) 4 93 65 44 02 - E-mail: aquacoope@oieau.fr

EMWIS: Orientations for 2006-2010

During their Rome conference in November 2005, **the 35 Euro-Mediterranean Water Directors,** under the impulse of the new President of the Steering Committee, Pascal Berteaud, noted a positive progress in **EMWIS** (**E**uro-**M**editerranean **I**nformation System on Know-how in the **W**ater **S**ector) activities and wished to continue its implementation, by formulating a series of recommendations to strengthen the transfers of know-how between the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs).

EMWIS is now recognized as being an effective vector for knowledge transfer between the two shores of the Mediterranean, thanks to its wide dissemination capacity and institutional presence in all the Mediterranean countries.

Four vertical topics, associated with operational objectives, were defined for the 2007-2010 period:

1. **Participative approaches** in Integrated Water Resources Management;
2. **Prevention and management of risks** related to extreme phenomena, especially droughts and floods;
3. **Non-conventional water resources,** with two sub-topics: desalination and wastewater reuse;
4. **Local management of sanitation utilities** and the prevention of domestic pollution.

For each topic, the objective is to promote methodological comparisons, transfers of know-how and field applications in the partners countries.

The work initiated about **the European Water Framework Directive (WFD)** by way of an enquiry involving the Water Directorates and working groups of the European Water Initiative Joint Process (MED-EUWI), shows the interest of the Countries and the value of the support provided by **EMWIS** (technical platform, contacts in the countries, institutional support).

Creation of National Water Information Systems

These National Water Information Systems (NWIS) are essential tools for decision-making, for sustainable management of the resource and for the follow-up of national policies.

At the regional level, the **NWIS** are indispensable tools for convergence, consistency or follow-up of the main water-related initiatives: Millennium Development Goals on Water and Sanitation, the "Water" Component of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, the European Union Neighborhood Policy Agreements or the Program, up to 2020, for pollution removal in the Mediterranean Sea.

The feasibility studies, carried out by **EMWIS** in 2005, showed the need for helping the Southern countries in creating or developing their **NWIS.**

New EMWIS website

Based on an innovating technical architecture, the new international Website of **EMWIS** is a unique tool for disseminating information between the Euro-Med countries, especially for better information on the European initiatives and programs and for promoting dialogue and exchanges between all the countries.

It offers a multilingual content in English, Arabic and French, continuously enriched: monthly electronic flash (8,000 subscribers), current events, database on international projects, multilingual specialized thesaurus, topical directory ("who does what"), regional initiatives and programs, documents, international and national legislation, institutional structure of the countries, etc.

This new platform improves information flows with the various National Water Information Systems.

Towards a regional water observation mechanism

The Water Directors launched preliminary feasibility studies for the implementation of a regional water observation mechanism, following up the progress made towards the Millennium Goals and the objectives of the "water" component of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, in coordination with the monitoring working group of the European Water Initiative for the Mediterranean (MED-EUWI) and with the European Environment Agency.

Conference of the 35 Water Directors of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership

The Forum of the Euro-Med Water Directors in Athens - November 2006

The Forum of the Euro-Med Water Directors, initiated by **EMWIS,** has appeared as the most appropriate body to initiate, validate, coordinate, direct or evaluate the various international water initiatives in the Mediterranean: MED-EUWI, MEDA-Water, the United Nations Mediterranean Action Plan, etc. It met again on 6 and 7 November 2006 in Greece, country coordinating the Mediterranean Component of the MED-EUWI Initiative.

The Directors insisted again on a quick launching of the 2007-2010 program of **EMWIS.**

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www.emwis.net

"INECO"

Developing future institutional and economic instruments for sustainable water management in the Mediterranean region

"INECO" (INstitutional and ECOnomic Instruments for Sustainable Water Management in the Mediterranean Region) is a consortium, gathering the stakeholders involved in water management and utilities and coming from the entire Basin (Maghreb, Machrek), and aims at analyzing the decision-making practices.

Launched in July 2006, it consists in a series of coordinated actions for:

- **Promoting the exchange of the best practices,** between the institutions participating in the project, with regard to the role of institutional and economic instruments in sustainable and effective water management (pricing tools, water markets, incentive measures, etc.);
- **Increasing synergies,** by organizing workshops of exchanges on management processes (systems for the authorization of abstractions, management of irrigated areas, etc.) and validating alternative policies for better demand management;
- **Promoting North-South exchanges** on institutional and economic know-how (especially on the application of the WFD principles).

IOWater will more particularly deal with:

- the analysis of the current practices used by developed countries in arid zones (Australia, South-West of the USA, Israel, Chile, Argentina, Brazil), other than EU Member States,
- the role of women in integrated water resources management in the Mediterranean countries,
- the organization of workshops and exchange activities, in coordination with the **International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO).**

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Morocco

The Autonomous Public Corporations strengthen their management

Since the decentralization law, the largest Moroccan cities have become responsible for their water and electricity utilities and delegated management has been possible since the law of 1990. Today, 17 Moroccan Autonomous Public Corporations supply water to the largest cities: 4 are concessions (LYDEC in Casablanca, REDAL in Rabat, and AMENDIS in Tanger and Tétouan), and 13 are municipal autonomous public bodies (Fez, Marrakech, Mekhnès, Kenitra, El Jadida, Larache, Safi, Agadir, Settat, Nador, Beni Mellal, Oujda, and Taza). Fourteen also deal with sanitation.

The other cities are hesitating between direct municipal management and "contractual" management entrusted to ONEP.

From now on, ONEP is also responsible for the contractual management of sanitation on the entire Moroccan territory, outside the 17 Autonomous Public Corporations.

The 13 not conceded Autonomous Public Corporations are thinking about their future as regards the supply of drinking water and electricity.

Financed by the European Investment Bank (EIB) and supported by the German Federal Organization for continuing training InWEnt, they are preparing a training program for their executives.

IOWater was involved in this project by the Consulting Firm Montgomery Watson & Harza. Spread over 18 months, the proposed training program would focus on the acquisition of the most modern techniques for company organization and financial management. It would address 75 managers and senior executive of the 13 Autonomous Public Corporations, who would benefit from 15 to 30 training days. The reference topics are: "company strategy and organization", "development plan", "personal efficiency", "efficiency in specialized jobs". The 156 members of the Corporations' Boards of Directors could also benefit from a 2-day training on the "Governance of Corporations".

The **IOWater** and MW&H experts have developed these topics and drawn up proposals for the practical organization of this training program.

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ONEP: Training and up-grading program on sanitation

The Moroccan National Office for Drinking Water Supply (ONEP) is extending its activities to sanitation after having been mostly involved in drinking water supply for decades.

ONEP decided to implement an Up-grading and Training Program (UTP) on sanitation, addressing executives and technicians. GKW, operator of the German Cooperation (KFW), which finances the project, requested assistance from **IOWater** with the drafting of this UTP.

The **IOWater** work started in March 2006, after some evaluation and planning assignments. A detailed audit of the sanitation sector was carried out in Rabat or in several Regional and Provincial Directorates, regarding the staff (evaluation of skills) and operation (monitoring, reporting, etc.).

It led to a draft training plan and to suggestions on the improvement of their operation.

Various actions came to support the audit, including the training of trainers, the on-site "coaching" of some trainers, the intervention of a technical expert and a seminar on the organization of sanitation operational bodies.

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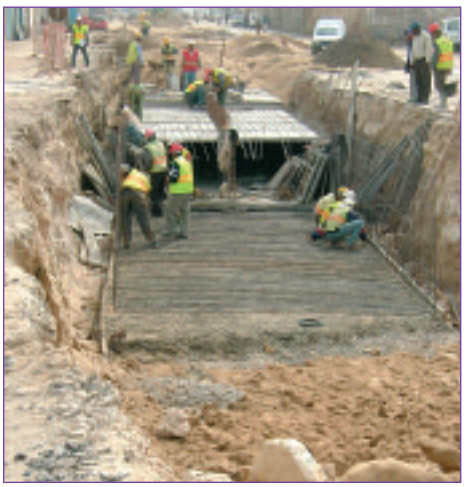

Building site of the sanitation system in Essaouira

THE MEDITERRANEAN

Algeria

The River Basin Agencies (ABHs) levy a tax on "water abstractions"

The Algerian Financial Law of July 2005 entrusted the River Basin Agencies (ABHs) with the levy of taxes for the direct use of water resources from the "Public Water Domain". It aims at inciting the water users to better manage the water withdrawn from the natural environments, by making them pay a use cost by way of this tax on abstractions.

IOWater, in collaboration with the Seine-Normandy Water Agency, supported the "ABHs" within the French-Algerian cooperation program financed by the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs, as the development of this new financially incentive tool requires an adaptation of the organization and a quick capacity building of the "ABHs".

The support missions carried out in 2006 focused on:

- the definition of a strategy and precise timetable for starting the system;
- assistance with the development of an Access application software for the issue and follow-up of the "tax invoices";
- the development of communication with the users;
- the control and follow-up of meters;
- the evolution of the system to make it an economic tool for better quantitative water management.

This action is essential for the River Basin Agencies, because part of the levied tax, excluding the cost of its recovery, could be used to finance actions, such as planning, the development of integrated water resources management, users' awareness on water saving, but also the financing of measures to promote recycling, the fight against wastage, etc.

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Cooperation with the "Algérienne Des Eaux" (ADE)

Within the bilateral cooperation between the Algerian Ministry of Water Resources and the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs, various technical assistance and training activities were entrusted to the **International Office for Water** and carried out at the "Algérienne des Eaux".

The 2006 program identified the three following components:

- **human resources management,**
- **training of trainers,**
- **technical training courses,** meeting the current "ADE" needs related to the exploitation of units for the desalination of sea waters, the improvement of the yields of water supply networks and the automation of pumping stations.

Eighty "ADE" executives, coming from the various Regional Agencies covering the entire country, were trained on human resources management, especially on modern processes for the assessment of training needs, the drafting of training plans, the analysis of the operational organization of the services, the preparation of job description sheets, as well as the yearly evaluation of the staffs.

The training of trainers aimed to prepare the new teams of "ADE" inside trainers to their new assignments and to define the future offer, which will be developed in the "ADE" Training Centers.

The activities carried out by **IOWater** fit in with the "Algérienne des Eaux" strategy, which aims at improving professional skills, while supporting the emergence of new dynamics in the management of the jobs and careers of its staff.

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Creation of the "ADE" Training Center at Cherarba

The "Algérienne des Eaux" (ADE), created by Decree in 2001, has integrated the former "EPEs" (Public water institutions).

It is in such a context, that the decision was made to create an important Training Center for Water Professions (CFME) in Algiers, to meet a capacity building strategy and homogenization of the professional skills of the agents of the sector.

The implementation of this project benefits from a significant financial support, approximately 2.7 million euros, provided by the Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC).

For preparing invitations to tender for the building of this new center, the Algerian-Belgian Committee in charge of this project called upon the experience of the **International Office for Water** for expertise/advice assignments and upon the services of an Algerian architectural Consulting Firm (Eurl - Baus) playing the part of project manager.


Architectural draft of the Training Center

IOWater prepared the Preliminary (APS) and Detailed (APD) project designs for the definition of the architectural and technical specifications for the buildings and educational infrastructures.

The options chosen, at the architectural and technical levels, show the ADE's will to impulse new dynamics for the future and to meet Algerian current and future needs.

The building of the center started during the last quarter of 2006 to be completed in 2007 on the Cherarba site in Algiers.

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Turkey

Implementation of the "UWW" Directive

The French Embassy in Turkey is helping the Turkish Ministry of the Environment to prepare the implementation of the European Directive on urban wastewater, known as "UWW Directive".

In June 2006, about twenty top executives of the Turkish ministries (environment, agriculture, health, tourism, planning) and national institutions: DSI (State Hydraulic Works) and Iller Bank (Bank of the Provinces, organization advising the medium-sized Turkish cities), as well as representatives of six local authorities and a representative of the Mayors' Association gathered at the Turkish Water Directorate to participate in a workshop, in which two **IOWater** experts, specialists in the management of urban wastewater and local authorities, were facilitators.

The workshop included plenary sessions and bilateral meetings with each group of participants. The latter allowed to go further on issues specific to each one.

Coaching was the methodology chosen by IOWater.

Among the main topics dealt with, there were the establishment of sensitive zones, the determination of sanitation areas in cities and the treatment of sludge resulting from wastewater treatment.

One of the main conclusions was the wish for organizing this kind of workshop in the Turkish Provinces, under the supervision of the Ministry of the Environment.

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www.iowater.org

The water world on the Web

4,000,000 visitors in 2006!

A twinning on water and the protection of public health

The purpose of this twinning, in line with the process of Turkey's accession to the European Union, is to provide support to the Ministry of Health in its harmonization of Turkish legislation with the European Water Directives related to the protection of public health and their implementation.

The objectives of this twinning agreement, led by the French partnership between the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Health, with the assistance of **IOWater** as operator, are:

- **the institutional organization, the development of strategies and processes for the monitoring,** conservation or restoration of the quality of bathing waters, drinking water and mineral waters;
- **the management of data and information systems;**
- **the updating of protocols** for monitoring, sampling and analyses;
- **the drafting of national directives,** to deal with incidents on water quality that are a risk to public health;
- the measures to be taken to ensure water quality and develop **the potential market of mineral waters and bottled waters;**
- the updating of the procedures and testing methods for the approval of **substances and materials in contact with water.**

The Twinning started in June 2006 with the arrival in Ankara of the long-term expert coming from the Loire-Brittany Water Agency. Experts from the two French ministries of Health and Ecology and qualified water-related organizations (**IOWater,** BRGM, AFSSA, Water Agencies, laboratories) will participate in the various components of this twinning.

The first missions took place in July 2006 and focused on the characterization of bathing waters, the laboratories dealing with bacteriological analysis, and the overall monitoring of drinking waters.

Others are continuing, from September onwards, on the information systems, legal and regulatory aspects, on public information, quality control processes and the accreditation of laboratories.

All this should up-grade practices and introduce the last developments in the concerned sectors as regards the methods for monitoring drinking water and bathing waters, especially the new Directive on Bathing Waters (2006/7/EC).

The Turkish departments concerned are those of the Ministries of Health, Agricultural and Rural Affairs, the Environment and Forestry, Culture and Tourism and the Interior.

The project will continue until November 2007.

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Steering Committee of the "Water and Health" twinning in Ankara

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The News N° 14 - December 2006

Publishing Director: Christiane RUNEL - N° ISSN: 0769-1995D
Coordination / Production: Frédéric Ransonnette - IOWater - Paris / Editor: Gisèle Sine - IOWater
Design: Carole Daugreilh - Editions DPE - Lyons - Printing: Murcar Graphique - Paris

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