

1. Advancing the Transboundary Water Resources Management agenda in Southeastern Europe

The International Workshop on “Transboundary Water Resources Management in South-Eastern Europe” was organised on 18-20 May 2009 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Workshop was invited by UNECE and the Regional Cooperation Council (successor of the Stability Pact for the Balkans) and was facilitated by GWP-Med.

The Workshop was attended by 65 participants from 20 countries and constituted one more concrete step for promoting integrated transboundary water resources management in SEE been part of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses.

Among other, the Serajevo International Workshop enriched the background of the 2nd Assessment of Transboundary Waters in Southeastern Europe in the framework of the UNECE Convention that will be presented at the Ministerial Conference of the Parties to the Convention in November 2009, in Geneva. In service of that process, GWP-Med was tasked by UNECE to prepare the technical draft of the Assessment for SEE.

On the side of the Serajevo International Workshop, GWP-Med in collaboration with other partners (UNECE, UNDP and the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process) organised a “Consultation Meeting for the Promotion of the Joint Management in the Drin River Basin”. The Meeting followed up the launching of the process in November 2008, in Tirana, and contributed to the systematic work already undertaken having as far-reaching objective the establishment of a formal framework for collaboration among the countries sharing the Drin and the joint and sustainable management of the resource.

2. Advancing the MED EUWI activities in Egypt

During May, the final product –and key analytical output- of the MED EUWI Egypt Dialogue on Water was produced. The Report on the *Financing Strategy for the Water Supply and Sanitation Sector in Greater Cairo* was finalised and is now available at www.gwpmed.org. This final product will be presented to the Egyptian stakeholders involved in its development, as well as to a wider audience from within the country and the donor community, during an event envisaged to take place at the beginning of July 2009.

Activities of the current phase of work in Egypt are supported by the MEDA Water Programme of the European Commission and the Hellenic Aid / Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

3. Coordination meeting with the Palestinian Water Authority (Athens, 4-5 May 2009)

In the framework of the MED EUWI (Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative) activities in the Palestinian Territories, coordination meetings were held with the head of the Palestinian Water Authority, Dr. Shaddad Attili, and his legal advisor Mr. Fuad Bateh during their mission to Athens, 4-5 May 2009. During the meetings, the work programme on issues of water governance in the Palestinian Territories was concretized and specific next steps were decided upon. The planned activities align with and form part of the Water Governance Programme the Palestinian Water Authority has initiated in order to reform the water sector, with emphasis placed on institutional and legal aspects.

4. MEDIES Teachers Training in Lebanon (Beirut, 2 and 3 May 2009)

A Lebanese Teachers' Training on water-related issues was organised in Beirut, 2 and 3 May 2009, by GWP-Med, MIO-ECSDE and the Lebanese Ministry for Energy and Water. The one-day Training, which was repeated over two days, was attended by a total of 58 participants. The goal of the Training was to provide Lebanese educators, at primary and secondary levels as well as those of the non-formal system (staff in NGOs, museums, parks, etc), with efficient teaching tools to assist them with addressing the critical issues of water management, including water demand, pollution, consumption, etc.

The Training combined theoretical presentations with experiential activities selected from the MEDIES Water Kit (produced by GWP-Med and MIO-ECSDE). Through group work discussions and kinetic games the participants practiced selected methods of Education for Sustainable Development relating to water and more specifically on; i) the construction of a concept map, ii) addressing and stimulating self efficacy of students, iii) setting up and performing a panel discussion (role play exercises). The participants evaluated the training as relevant and useful to their profession (particularly the experiential part of the training), asked for the organisation of more training courses like this and expressed their interest in the MEDIES network and their willingness to become members.

5. Rainwater harvesting

Works for the project 'Stakeholder Collaboration for Pilot Application of Rainwater Harvesting Techniques in Greek Islands' were completed. The second and third Teachers' Seminar for the Educational Package was organized on 6 May 2009 in Syros Island and on 7 May in Tinos Island, with the participation of around 30 teachers in each place. The new Education Package 'The Gift of Rain' (only in Greek for the moment) that was produced by the MEDIES Team was used.

In addition, the second and third Training Course for local technicians on rainwater harvesting techniques was organized on the same date in the two islands (Syros and Tinos), with the participation of around 15 technicians in total.

Activities of the project (pilot technical applications) were implemented in close cooperation with the local municipal authorities in the three selected Cyclades islands and, further to their actual value for the people using the buildings they serve, are expected to trigger more applications by local partners.

The project was implemented by GWP-Med in coordination and with the financial support of the "Mission Water" corporate responsibility program of Coca-Cola HBC Greece & Coca-Cola.

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