

1. The 2nd Beirut Water Week, 4-7 February 2009

The multi-event '2nd Beirut Water Week' was organized from 4-7 February 2009 in Beirut by the Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water and GWP-Med and with the financial support of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative / Greece, the French government, the French Development Cooperation and the Lebanese private sector.

The Beirut events focused on:

- discussions on priority themes of the Mediterranean water agenda as these have emerged from the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water (December 2008, Jordan).
- elaboration of the 'Beirut Input' to the 'Mediterranean Message to the 5th World Water Forum'; the latter will be presented at the Mediterranean Session in Istanbul, 19 March 2009.
- presentation and discussions on the outcomes of the on-going MED EUWI activities in Lebanon.

Discussions were organized in themes including: water governance, climate change adaptation, water demand management, water financing, education for water and, transboundary water resources management. More than 240 participants from national authorities and organizations from most of the Mediterranean countries as well as many regional partners attended the events.

The 'Beirut Input' to the 'Mediterranean Message to the 5th World Water Forum' closely built on and added to the 'Tunis Input' (that was agreed at the key Mediterranean Conference in preparation of the Istanbul Forum, 15 January 9, in Tunis). The final Mediterranean Message, in addition to being an input to the strategic axes of the Ministerial Declaration of the Istanbul Forum, addresses also the governments and stakeholders of the countries of the 'Union for the Mediterranean' as a contribution for building a shared vision on the future of water in the region. In that context, the recommendations of the Mediterranean Message aim to constitute strong basis for the preparation of the Strategy and the identification of concrete water projects.

The wish of the organizers of the Beirut Water Week is to hold this event on a bi-annual or annual basis, contributing to discussions on effective management of water resources in the Mediterranean.

2. Advancing the MED EUWI activities in Lebanon

An open Consultation Event on the MED EUWI Policy Dialogue on Water in Lebanon was organized by GWP-Med and the Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water on 6 February 2009, in the framework of the 2nd Beirut Water Week. It was attended by more than 80 national and regional participants.

Presentations and vivid discussions were made on the preliminary findings and recommendations of the thematic assessments of the Lebanese 10-year National Strategy on Water (2000-2009) and more particularly addressed: hydraulics, drinking water, sanitation and irrigation.

The next steps includes finalization of the related documents and recommendations and drafting of the outline of a national IWRM plan that will be put forward for consultation in a multi-stakeholder approach under the lead of the Ministry of Energy and Water.

Activities of the current phase of work in Lebanon are supported by the MEDA Water Programme of the European Commission. Greece leads the overall MED EUWI activities in the Mediterranean.

3. Advancing the MED EUWI activities in Egypt

The final draft documents of the MED EUWI activities in Egypt (on financing strategies for water supply and sanitation), were completed namely: i) the Affordability Assessment to Support the Development of a Financing Strategy for the Water Supply and Sanitation Sector in Egypt, ii) the Baseline Scenario-Technical Document of the Financing Strategy for the Water Supply and Sanitation Sector in Egypt and iii) the Policy Options Paper to close the Financing Gap of the Water Supply and Sanitation Sector in the Greater Cairo area. OECD's technical lead on the finalization of the documents is an invaluable asset for the MED EUWI activities in Egypt.

The final drafts will be discussed at a Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Event planned for 5 March 2009, in Cairo.

Activities of the current phase of work in Lebanon are supported by the MEDA Water Programme of the European Commission. Greece leads the overall MED EUWI activities in the Mediterranean.

4. Following up activities on transboundary waters in Southeast Europe

GWP-Med continued its systematic work for enhancing synergy on the ground and building capacity of stakeholders for transboundary water resources management in Southeastern Europe. Activities are implemented in collaboration with key partners in the region in the policy framework of the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process and contribute to the implementation of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourse and International Lakes (Water Convention), the GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystems (GEF SPM) and the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI). More specifically:

- Following up the activities for building synergy for the sustainable management of the *extended Drin River basin*, GWP-Med drafted the Work Plan of the Consultation Process for the Drin (as requested at the Tirana Consultation Meeting of November 2008) and submitted it to the partners for follow up.

- Contributing to the preparation of the GEF *Dinaric Arc Aquifer System Project*, GWP-Med elaborated the Project's Stakeholders Involvement Component that provides background on the subject and suggests a wide set of related activities for implementation.

5. Rainwater harvesting

Works for the project 'Stakeholder Collaboration for Pilot Application of Rainwater Harvesting Techniques in Greek Islands' continued. Four public buildings (schools and city halls) in two Cyclades islands (Syros and Tinos) in Greece were equipped with rainwater harvesting systems as pilot applications of this simple and environmentally friendly water management technique. Activities are implemented in close cooperation with the local municipal authorities in the islands and, further to their actual value for the people using the buildings they serve, are expected to trigger more applications by local partners. An educational and training component is currently under development and will be implemented in April and May 2009.

The project is 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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