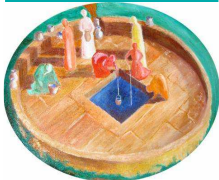




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GEWAMED

Sharing GEWAMED experience in enhancing awareness and knowledge on the gender dimension of IWRM

by

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NOSTRUM-DSS & INECO JOINT EVENT

**“IWRM through coordination, dissemination, and exploitation of research
outcomes”**

25th October 2007- Larnaca, Cyprus

Introduction

1. A brief description of the GEWAMED project as an example of sharing knowledge and enhancing awareness.
2. Sharing our experience in sharing knowledge, disseminating it and adoption of results.
3. Some suggestions for improving the dissemination and exploitation of results.



Mainstreaming
Gender Dimensions
into Water resources
Development and
Management in the
Mediterranean Region

The GEWAMED mission:
To build and disseminate an extensive
knowledge base for mainstreaming gender
dimensions into IWRM in the Mediterranean
Region.

Why a project like GEWAMED ?

- ❖ The GEWAMED is to some extent the response to a Special Support Action (SSA) Project called INGEDI undertaken in 2004.
- ❖ The GEWAMED project is a Coordinated Action.
- ❖ Like other CA projects assumes that there is enough knowledge and research appropriate for its dissemination
- ❖ GEWAMED started on 15 February 2006 and has a duration of 4 years.

GEWAMED objectives

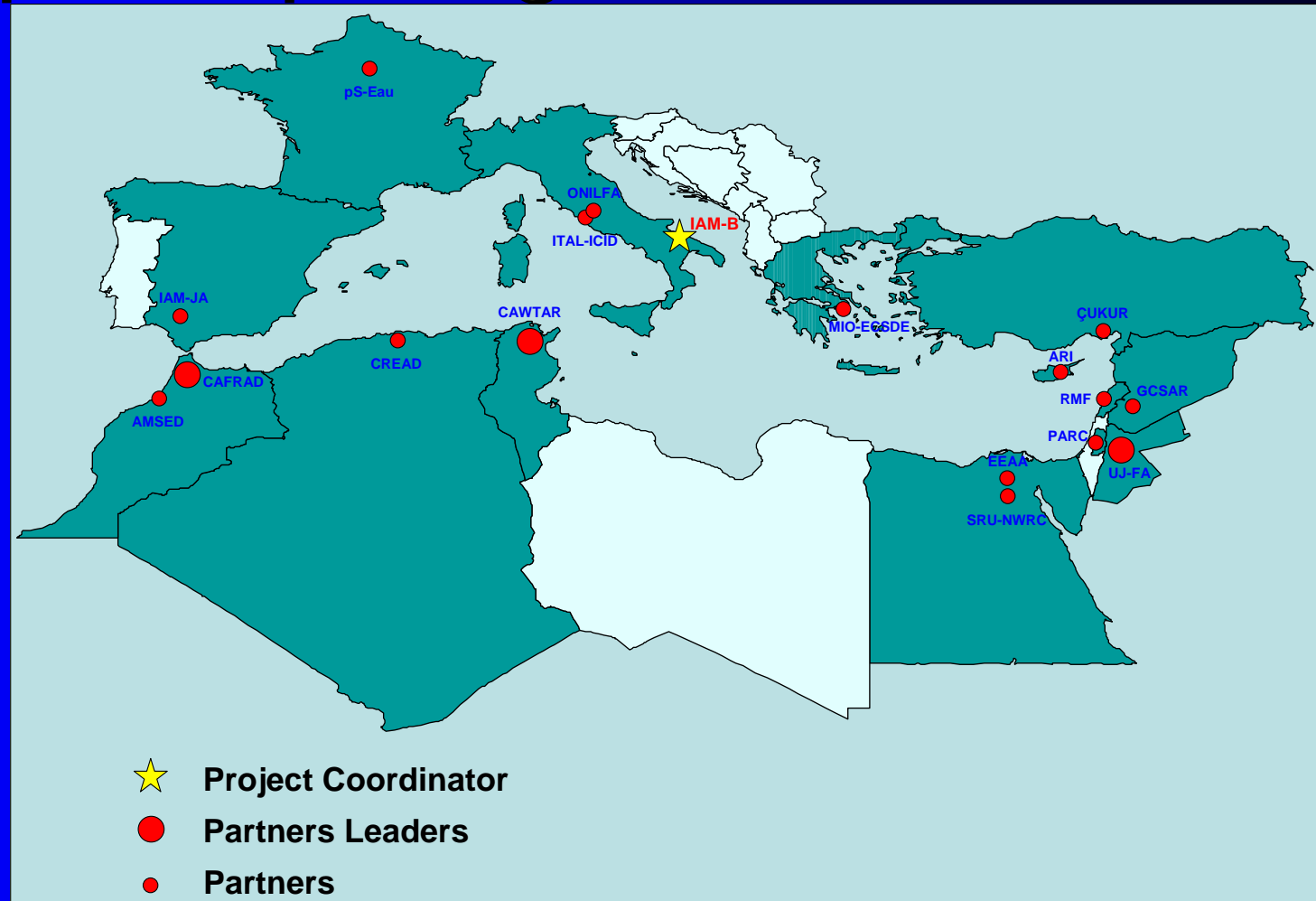
1. Building a **national and regional shared knowledge base** on gender issues, policies, actions and measures to support gender mainstreaming in all processes related to IWRM.
2. Enhance the **cooperation and dialogue** among Mediterranean countries but also within each country.
3. **Contribute to the adoption of national policies** and other instruments (guidelines, administrative regulations, institutional changes) for mainstreaming gender dimensions in IWRM.

Project participants

- A total of 18 institutions from 14 Mediterranean countries of which:
 - 9 Governmental institutions
 - 2 International organizations
 - 7 NGOs
- 9 Countries of the SEMR and 5 EU countries
- Some institutions have good experience in water and others in gender but few in both.

SEMR countries are: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.

Geographical location of participating institutions



Awareness of what and for whom?

- The knowledge to be transmitted arises from project activities (regional workshops, seminars, surveys, etc..) and **existing research**. The available knowledge was less than expected.
- As a project mandate one group where awareness is addressed is to **decision makers and politicians. (top level)**.
- The other group is the **agents of rural development**, in particular NGOs, extension agents and other people working at field level (**field level**).

Exchanging information between EU research Projects

- The issue here is to identify which “other projects” may be interested in “our” project and identify synergies and possible joint activities.
 - In GEWAMED, personal contacts were important to build joint activities.
 - There is a practical limit to the number of meetings of “other projects” that can be attended
- Information regarding future activities of projects is often rather incomplete and not available systematically.
 - Web sites of other projects are available but not consulted regularly
 - Newsletter are good dissemination tools but often reporting on events that already happened. Do Newsletter reach the right people? How to improve distribution lists?

Dissemination of results and knowledge (1)

- In general the **dissemination of gender knowledge** is well accepted but it is difficult to assess the impact made.
- There is a certain **difficulty in identifying the knowledge that needs to be disseminated**. Projects address more than one target audience and different targets groups need different approaches and knowledge packages.
- **Several means of communication** can be used but their effectiveness is also different depending on targets. (Next table)

The communication interfases

Means of communication	Effectiveness			Number of events
	Top level	Profes. level	Field level	
Participation in Intern. Conferences	xxx	xxx	x	6
Regional Project Workshops	xx	xxx	x	2
National Seminars and Workshops	xxx	xxx	xxx	3+(8)
National Communication Networks	x	xxx	xx	5+ (3)
Field days	x	x	xxx	1
Websites	x	xxx	xx	6+ (2)
E-mail communication	xx	xxx	xx	thousands
Technical Publications	x	xxx	xx	3
Training Courses	x	xx	xxx	1+(2)
Brochures	x	xx	xx	1+4
Posters	xx	x	xx	5
Newspaper articles	xxx	xx	x	3

() Events to take place in the future

Dissemination of results and knowledge (2)

- High level **decisions makers are receptive to gender messages** and ready to promote awareness processes but more reluctant to implement radical changes.
- Establishment of **national gender and water committees** are of difficult maintenance and future exploitation but excellent to promote dialogue among stakeholders .
- **Reaching the end user** (poor rural women) is theoretically possible but not sufficient means in CA projects.
- Most of the **CA projects do not have financial resources for capacity building** as a mean to disseminate methodologies and other tools available.

Results exploitation

- ✓ Resistance of international and national institutions to adopt research results in an “**mandatory use**” manner. (for instance gender-water guidelines)
- ✓ Some of the changes needed in gender imply changes in the legislation. **Politicians are resistant to make legal changes.** This needs highest political support.
- ✓ Promoting **institutional changes requires more than seminars.** Positive examples from other countries are useful. “Promotion missions” are needed but need good preparation and financial resources.
- ✓ In general **projects are not well equipped for this phase.** This may need some other mechanisms. (something like SSA projects for one year to implement an specific result)

Some suggestions

1. Promote the establishment of **voluntary cluster of projects** interested in common activities and outputs.
2. Improve the **dialogue among projects**: For instance using the opportunity of international conferences or regional meetings to hold meetings of EU research projects to exchange experiences.
3. Encourage the **presentation of projects results at high level meetings** like the “Water Directors” and “Water Ministers” events in collaboration with MIO- ECSDE.
4. Provide **more opportunities for training** in CA projects.
5. **Use SSA projects (or something similar)** to support the exploitation of specific results.

A photograph showing two women in traditional Middle Eastern clothing working in a field. One woman, wearing a black headscarf and a dark dress, is using a wooden-handled tool to dig in the soil. The other woman, wearing a white headscarf and a brown dress, is leaning over, observing the work. The field is filled with young green plants and rows of dark brown soil. In the background, there are hills and a few trees under a clear sky. A large, bold, yellow text overlay is centered over the image.

Thank you for your
kind attention!