

What is Nostrum-DSS?

It is a Co-ordination Action, funded by the EC FP6, aimed at improving governance and planning in the field of sustainable water management in the Mediterranean area:

- by establishing a network between the science, policy, and civil society spheres,
- by fostering active involvement of the relevant stakeholders,
- through the development and dissemination of Best Practices Guidelines for the design and implementation of DSS tools for IWRM.

What is the Nostrum-DSS Leaflet Series?

These brief documents summarise the main output of the project and represent an **entry door** to the wide range of products and resources available on the project's web site. The series includes three kinds of leaflets:

- Case studies leaflets
- Policy leaflets
- Technical leaflets

To whom is this leaflet addressed?

As part of the Technical leaflet series, this document is mainly addressed to **researchers and practitioners** interested in gaining insights into how *DSS tools and approaches* can support them in their everyday job, but may be useful to policy and decision makers too.

For further information see the NOSTRUM-DSS website:

→ <http://www.nostrum-dss.eu>

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The NOSTRUM-DSS glossary

The NOSTRUM-DSS glossary follows the approach implemented for all the final products: it is the result of a survey on a set of **45 glossaries freely available** on the World Wide Web (WWW) where the definitions for 65 terms - plus 45 sub-terms - pertinent to Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) were retrieved. The glossaries surveyed were developed by international institutions (e.g. FAO, UNEP, WB) or within EU funded Projects (e.g. Harmoni-CA, WaterStrategyMan).

Thus, for most of the terms presented in the glossary, several different definitions have been selected from the pre-existing glossaries. Our choice was to **report all the definitions available** in order to present a synoptic view of the different understanding of IWRM concepts across disciplines and sectors. Some terms are therefore provided with more than one definition while others with just one.

In total, 435 definitions were collected, allowing to assess and to compare the different understanding of specific IWRM related terms, when these are considered within particular disciplines or sectors.

Two examples of terms are given here below and in the next page (IWRM and DSS), and each definition is preceded by the acronym of the provider in capital letters.

The glossary intends to be a guide for the user to the sources of information freely available on the WWW, rather than a compendium of the relevant references.

Therefore, the NOSTRUM-DSS glossary reports only the provider of the definitions and not the original source.

Example 1: Integrated Water Resource Management

FAO 2 > GWA >A process that promotes the co-ordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, in order to maximise the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems.

MNWRU >A dynamic process of devising and promoting alternative and coordinated sequences of development and management interventions in water, land and related resources, and selecting the sequences or activities that will optimise the achievement of economic and social well being of all stakeholders in an equitable manner and at the same time ensuring the sustainability of the ecosystem.

WWC >Philosophy that holds that water must be viewed from a holistic perspective, both in its natural state and in balancing competing demands on it- agricultural, industrial, domestic, and environmental. Management of water resources and services needs to reflect the interaction between these different demands, and so must be coordinated within and across sectors. If the many cross-cutting requirements are met, and if there can be horizontal and vertical integration within the management framework for water resources and services, a more equitable, efficient, and sustainable regime will emerge (Global Water Partnership, Framework for Action 1999).

Sources quoted in example 1 → FAO 2: FAO 2005 International Conference on Water for Food and Ecosystems; GWA: Gender and Water Alliance; MNWRU: Mediterranean Network on Wastewater Reclamation and Use; WWC: World Water Council.

Example 2: Decision Support System

DSS2 >Information system application that provides its users with decision-oriented information whenever a decision-making situation arises. When applied to executive managers, these systems are sometimes called executive information systems (EIS).

DSS3 >Computer-based information systems that combine models and data in an attempt to solve non-structured problems with extensive user involvement through a friendly user interface

WWF >Z2 >DSS Data warehouse containing information specific to management information needs; designed to contain information necessary to support management projections and decision making.

Sources quoted in example 2 → DSS2: Mc Graw-Hill Learning Center; DSS3: Decision Support Systems and Intelligent Systems; WWF: World Wildlife Fund; Z2: Purdue University.

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Meta-glossary, go to

→ |
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Home » Final products »
Technical support »
Meta-glossary

List of terms available in the glossary

A	D	I	S
Access to safe water	Data Management	Impact	Safe water
Access to sanitation	Decision	Indicators	Sanitation
Actions and Monitoring	Decision maker	Information	Scenario
Actor	Decision rules	Integration	Sensitivity Analysis
Actor Analysis	Decision Support System	IWRM	Sewage
Analysis of Options	DSS Design	J, K, L	Social Network Analysis
Analysis of Water Uses	DSS research and development	M	Stakeholder
Aquifer	Demand Management	Management	Stakeholder Analysis
B	Depletion	Management plan	Supply management
Basin	DPSIR	Management plan (River basin management plan)	Sustainability
C	Driving force	MCA	Sustainability Analysis
Capacity building	Impact	Models and Simulations	Sustainable
Catchment	Pressures	Monitoring	Sustainable development
Climate	Response	N	Sustainable use
Climate change	State	Non consumptive use	T, U
Cognitive Mapping	E	O	Uncertainty
Conceptual Framework	Economic Analysis	Objective	Unconventional water resources
Conflict	Efficiency	P	V
Conflict Assessment	Environmental Assessment	Participatory Modelling	Value
Conflict resolution	Equity	Policy	Virtual water
Conservation	Evaluation	Policy Maker	W
Consultation	F	Policy/Plan Implementation	Wastewater
Consumptive use	Full cost recovery	Polluters pay principle	Wastewater treated
Contamination	G	Pollution	Water
Cost	Gender	Precautionary principle	Water body
Cost-benefit analysis	Gender analysis	Preferences	Water consumption
Cost-effectiveness	Gender mainstreaming	Problem Analysis	Water crisis
Creative System Modelling	GIS and spatial Analysis	Public awareness	Water losses
	Good status	Public Participation	Water mitigation and remediation
	Governance	Q	Water Policies: measures and Instruments
	Graphical Users Interface/ Software Usability	Quality Assurance	Water Quality
	Groundwater	R	Water quantity
	H	Renewable resources	Water requirement
			Water scarcity
			Water stress
			Water supply
			Water Use
			Water withdrawal

