

What is Nostrum-DSS?

It is a Co-ordination Action, funded by the EC FP6, which aims to improve 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 are 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. They are composed of three kind of leaflets:

- Case studies leaflets
- Policy leaflet
- Technical leaflet

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 on 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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Overview

The process of water management is normally regulated by a normative system. In the EU countries, this process is marked by the development of EU Water Framework Directive, which has a clear compulsory end point: the water status has to be good at the end of its implementation in 2015. On the other hand, the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC) are not bound to any international agreement to achieve the same objectives in their watersheds.

In some countries, the normative system is split by numerous laws, leading to significant overlapping of functions and jurisdictions of multiple governmental departments, which drives to several competence conflicts responsible for backwards in the process of sustainable water resource management.

In Turkey, control of water pollution is in the hands of 4 different entities: the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources monitors water quality while the Ministry of Environment and Forestry detects violators and reports them to the local governor who is the only authority which can issue fines on violators. The fines are then collected by the Ministry of Finance but they do not return to the environmental sector.

Types of Decision Making Processes and approaches

Top-down approach

The decision-making processes are traditionally restricted to the first level of stakeholders, either at National, Regional, or local level.

Top-down approach with potential participation of secondary stakeholders

Secondary stakeholders can be involved by law in the decision-making process. Often actual participation of this group is hindered by conflicts and lack of willingness to communicate between different actors.

Interactive process

In this case, decision-making is structured as an interactive process in which every effort is made to arrive at an outcome which is a satisfactory compromise to all stakeholders. Stakeholders are formally involved in the decision-making process, and their contribution significantly enhance the quality of the decision taken.

Bottom-up approach

Within this approach, secondary stakeholders take active part in the decision-making process at different levels and drive the process.

For complete definitions of Primary, Secondary and Key stakeholders, see the NOSTRUM-DSS Glossary

Experiences from the Nostrum-DSS Case Studies

Examples of top-down approaches

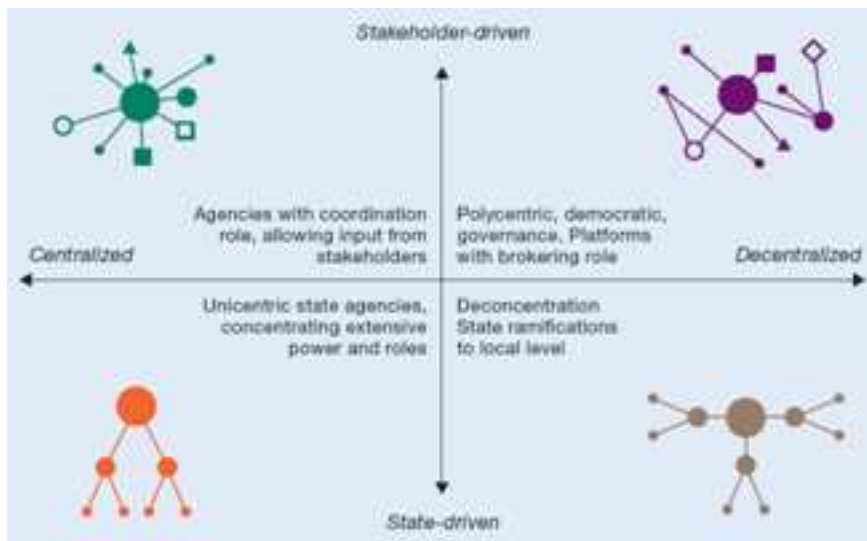
See the following NOSTRUM-DSS case studies:

- Tunisia - The Djerffara plain
- Syria - The Asnober basin

Examples of bottom-up approaches

See the following NOSTRUM-DSS case studies:

- Croatia - The Cetina Watershed
- Greece - The island of Paros



Main challenges in the Mediterranean Area

Water policies in the region need to face:

1. a lack of tradition of public involvement and integrated work with other institutions trying to achieve common goals;
2. a public more concerned for its well-being than for the environment, posing a challenge for environmental administrators, since raising economic welfare is beyond their jurisdiction;
3. lack of expertise both for the administrations and the stakeholders to sustainably manage watersheds;
4. lack of environmental awareness and responsibility among administrations, as well as among stakeholders;
5. lack of data for identification of problems, assessment of the state of water resources and economic and stakeholder analysis.

- See also the **NOSTRUM-DSS Leaflet on Governance and water management in the Mediterranean**
 → | <http://www.nostrum-dss.eu>
 Home » Final products » Policy support » Policy leaflets
- To see how DSS can effectively support communication and awareness see the **NOSTRUM-DSS leaflet on DSS implementation**
 → | <http://www.nostrum-dss.eu>
 Home » Final products » Technical support » Technical leaflets

Key measures to improve decision making

1. Allocation of financial and human resources for responsible administrations;
2. the responsibility for the implementation of different measures should be shared among public authorities and stakeholders, depending on their specific competencies. This requires capacity building and the involvement of all interested parties in the planning and management of catchments;
3. assessment and collection of data needed for decision making by (re)designing monitoring programs, sharing and making available scientific results of international research projects, experiences, and all available national data;
4. involvement of national experts into water protection projects;
5. development and application of decision support systems;
6. organise training courses for local and state managers, with experience exchange meetings;
7. curriculum adjustment of academic programs to align contents with water management needs.

For complete list of laws for other participating countries see Annex 1 of the Deliverable D6-2.
 → | <http://www.nostrum-dss.eu>

Laws pertaining to water resource management

Law N° 83-17 (16/07/1983) Completed by n°96-13 (15/06/1996)

Law n° 83-03 (5 feb. 1983)

Law n° 03-10 (19/07 2003)

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Sample of laws Laws pertaining to water resource management for Algeria

Water law National water policy

Protection of Environment:

General principles and rules of environment protection

Protection of the Environment within the context of sustainable development
 General principles and rules of environment protection in relation with sustainable development

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