



MELIA

Mediterranean Dialogue on Integrated Water Management



First Announcement & Call for Papers

MELIA PROJECT FINAL CONFERENCE

**Integrated water resource management in the
Mediterranean: Dialogue towards new strategy**

**20–22 June, 2011
IAV Hassan II, Agadir, Morocco**

Co organized by



Background

Mediterranean countries are in the midst of a water crisis, and they are among the most arid regions in the world, with limited renewable water resources that are unequally distributed in space and time. As early as 2015, almost all southern Mediterranean countries will be below the level of severe water scarcity at less than 500 cubic meters per capita per year; nine countries will be below 200 cubic meters, six of which below 100 cubic meters and climate change will worsen the situation. Over 85% of fresh water is used for agriculture, with more than half wasted due to unsustainable practices. Efficiency levels of water for human use are low, even in countries under chronic stress.

Water availability is a prerequisite for the sustainable development of the Mediterranean region, which is characterized by water scarcity and extreme events of droughts and floods. Major current and future problems with fresh water resources in this region arise from the pressure the meet, agricultural, human and industrial needs of a fast-growing economy that generates growing imbalances between demand and supply of water.

Management of limited water resources has taken many different forms and directions throughout the Mediterranean, but the continuous interaction between the peoples living on its shores has produced a common history and culture.

Given this context, there is an urgent need for action in order to integrate water management in national development plans, enhance the water sensitivity of and promote water considerations within cross-sectoral policies, and mainstream climate change adaptation into IWRM planning. This necessitates developing appropriate tools, building the capacity of water managers, raising public awareness and promoting water-sensitive environmental education, as well as setting up water partnerships at regional and national levels.

In the past 5 years the MELIA Project has worked in putting together the knowledge developed on both sides of the Mediterranean about the issues listed above. MELIA has produced a number of reports, books, and videos and, specially, agreed Conceptual Frames describing the results of the internal and external debates organized. The purpose of this conference is to review the results of MELIA and discuss with a large spectrum of stakeholders its recommendations to facilitate dialogues between Mediterranean countries on national IWRM planning, effective water governance, water and climate, water demand management, water financing and the involvement of the private sector, as well as river basin management and trans-boundary water resources

Objectives

The particular strategic objective of this event is to contribute to **the improvement of the regional water planning and management under scarcity conditions** to enhance sustainable development in the Mediterranean region. In particular, the objective of this conference is the fostering of dialogue and communication among its 46 partners

The aims of this conference are:

- To strengthen the **strategic dialogue** between research centers, governments, regulators, users and providers, in the field of “**Integrated Water Resources Management**”. IWRM is one of the leading topics identified by the Monitoring Committee of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership in Science, Technology and Innovation, as a key field for the sustainable development of the Mediterranean countries and for the implementation of the recommendations formulated at the Mediterranean Water Ministries Conference held in Jordan in 2009.
- To promote widely agreed solutions, and to **promote the convergence** of the water policies in the Euro- Mediterranean region on the basis of the Water Framework Directive recommendations.
- To tackle manifold aspects of **water quality deterioration** in the Mediterranean through securing sufficient water knowledge and advancing monitoring and data collection efforts with the aim of creating a comprehensive regional and national assessment and to draw practical management solutions to face the emerging challenges and the existing key obstacles.
- To bring public and private sectors to work together towards effective water management policies and actions and to link experts with decision makers to promote water policy dialogue and to encourage water professionals to work with society and business
- To build-up and share the **common knowledge and awareness** (at different level of players) agreed in the Conceptual Frames created by the MELIA project, that are addressed to legislators, political deciders, water users and providers and citizens in order to contribute to the sustainable management of limited water resources in the Mediterranean, including exploring solutions to problems created by new challenges such as trade and tourism and the preservation of the natural protected spaces.

Participants

The conference is open to all interested participants. Its aim is to provide the opportunity to bring together scientists, engineers, decision-policy makers, users, international or intergovernmental organizations, consulting establishments. Also, MELIA 46 partners representing 17 countries from both the EU (Italy, Spain, France, Cyprus, Greece, Belgium, Malta, the Netherlands, and Austria) and the Mediterranean (Turkey, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine) will be attending the conference.

Conference Topics

The conference will focus on the following themes:

- Water culture and practical approaches and tools to improve water governance,
- Management of trans-boundary water resources, including prevention and mitigation of water conflicts,
- Bridging IWRM and National Adaptation Plan to face droughts and floods
- Sustainability and assessment of technological perspectives in water management,
- Recycling and reuse of treated waste water: challenges and perspectives

- Climate change adaptation and effective water resources management.
- Water security and food security in arid Mediterranean countries: options and tools.
- Water quality for both human and ecosystem: recommended areas and major needs.
- Balancing competing water demands: mainstreaming social, economic and environmental aspects in water resources management
- Water value and pricing,
- Role of laws and customary arrangements,
- Water Policy along Mediterranean countries and their relations to WFD.

Language

The official languages of the conference will be English and French. Translation service will be available from English to French and vice versa.

Tours and Technical Visit

The conference will organize social and technical tours if sufficient interest is indicated after the announcement of the conference. The Technical visit will be for the whole day with lunch and refreshments provided. Two suggested technical visits will focus on:

A. An irrigated perimeter of Souss Massa within the **private public partnership irrigation project**, water recycling project, and the system of water saving in some citrus orchards.

B. A visit to the Goulimine region to explore UNDP Programmes related to the territorial and sustainable Development of Oasis Zones and to present the partnership developed with the different stakeholders

A post conference “Tour” to the city of Ouarzazate region, returning via the great city of Marrakech and crossing the High Mountain on the high Atlas will be organized if at least 24 participants are interested for this “Tour”.

ITINERANT EXHIBITION

During the period of the conference, an exhibition related to ancient technologies and strategies of water management will be organized by the MELIA project. Several panels will be exposed on the following main axes: (i) MELIA project, (ii) an archaeological approach to Water management in the past, (ii) and managing water for the future.

Venue

The venue of the conference will be at the Beach Club Hotel (4stars A) in the center of the city of Agadir. There will be accommodation available at the hotel at a special rate. Lunches and refreshments will be provided at the conference. There are excellent facilities for common sessions, parallel sessions, exhibitions and welcome reception at the Hotel.

Registration

The registration for the conference is free for all participants from MELIA project. However, other participants should pay directly to the hosting Hotel a fee of 150 Euros to get access to the coffee breaks, and lunches. All participants should take care for their own travel and accommodation issues

Local Organizing Committee

Prof. Redouane Choukr-Allah IAV Hassan II Agadir, Morocco
 Ir. Sanaa Zebakh, IAV Hassan II Rabat, Morocco
 Ir. Abdessadek Nghira ABH Agadir Morocco
 Ir. Lahcen Bellouch ORMVA/SM ABH Agadir Morocco
 Ir. Embarek Boujaajat, RAMSA, Agadir Morocco
 Miss El Omari Halima, IAV Hassan II Agadir, Morocco
 Mr Mohamed Tafraouti Magazine Environment Development, Morocco.

International Organizing Committee

Prof. Rafael Rodriguez, CSIC, Spain
 Prof. Redouane Choukr-Allah IAV Hassan II Agadir, Morocco
 Dr. Erik Mostert, Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands
 Dr. Ana Hidalgo, CSIC, Spain
 Dr. Juan Miguel Gonzalez Aranda, CSIC, Spain
 Prof. Laila Mandi, University Cadi Ayyad- Marrakech-Morocco.
 Dr. Alaa El-Din Abdin, NWRC, Egypt
 Dr Maroun El Moujabber, CIHEAM-IAMBarì, Italy

Scientific Committee

Prof. Rafael Rodriguez, CSIC, Spain
 Prof. Atef Hamdy, CIHEAM-IAMBarì, Italy
 Prof. Nicola Lamaddalena, CIHEAM-IAMBarì, Italy
 Prof. Benno Albrecht, IUAV, Venice, Italy
 Prof. Muhammad Shatanawi, UOJ, Jordan
 Prof. Redouane Choukr-Allah, IAV Hassan II Agadir, Morocco
 Ir. Sandra Junier, Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands
 Prof. Abd-Alla Gad, NARASS, Egypt
 Dr. Gonca Karacabilgen, GAPRDA, Turkey
 Dr. Mohamed Ouessar, IRA - Medenine – Tunisia
 Ms. Maria Serneguet, REMOC, Spain
 Ms. Gaelle Nion, Office International de l'Eau, France

Publications

Papers received will be reviewed and only accepted ones will be presented at the conference. The conference proceedings will be published in a special issue of CIHEAM Options Mediterranean

Important Dates

Final date for Abstract submission	February 28, 2011
Notification to selected authors	March 15, 2011
Registration and Hotel Reservation	April 15 , 2011
Final date for Submission of full papers	May 15, 2011

Invitation to submit a Paper

Abstracts should contain the title of the contribution, the name(s) and affiliation(s) of the author(s) and the address for correspondence, including phone, Fax and e-mail. The Abstract should not exceed 500 words. The subject of the presentation should be focused within the topics of the conference

The Scientific Committee will communicate to the authors the provisional acceptance of their contributions to the Conference. All selected authors will be informed in which session they will be presenting their oral paper or their poster.

Main Outputs of this Event

- Building a knowledge base for integrated water resources management (IWRM) planning, based on integrating contributions from different perspectives,
- Involving the wide spectrum of stakeholders and based on the general frame defined by EU Water Framework Directive.
- Develop a Mediterranean-wide awareness of the social (cultural and participatory), economic and technological issues related to water management.
- Provide legislative and administrative bodies with criteria and arguments agreed in a consensual way by a wide representation of social, economic, scientific and political actors from different countries, to support sustainable water policies and economy.
- Provide the intellectual basis and the indicators to perform a benchmarking exercise of Integrated Water Resources Management in the Mediterranean area through the debate and conceptual frame made with the aim of defining indicators that need standards for the measurements of selected parameters common to Mediterranean countries within homogeneous context. These standards will help the implementation of future benchmarking in selected areas.
- Achieving a **Common Vision** for water management, shared among all neighbouring states in the Mediterranean Region.

CONTACTS

Questions regarding registration, administrative matters, and technical issues can be addressed to Prof. **Redouane Choukr-Allah**, Institute of Agronomy and Veterinary Hassan II, Agadir Morocco.

Email redouane53@yahoo.fr, Phone : 00 212 661 203694, Fax: 00 212 528 243333.