

Overview of National water institutional settings in Mediterranean countries

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⇒ Summary table

This table provides an overview of institutional framework for water management in Euromed countries involved in the Euro-Mediterranean Information System on know-how in the Water sector. The table is followed by a brief analysis of the information collected. More details can be found on the National information sheets that also include some basic data and indicators on the country (when available). For each country, the information provided has been validated by the EMWIS National Focal Point.

ABBREVIATIONS USED:

HH.	House holds
Ind.	Industry
Irr.	Irrigation
Nat'l	National
Reg.	Regional
WFD	EU Water Framework Directive
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
WRM	Water Resource Management

⇒ Institutional and legal framework

All Mediterranean countries have allocated their institutions responsible for water management at the highest administrative level. Only Portugal has assigned the management task to a national institute, while Italy has mandated the basin authorities with the overall management; all others have chosen national Ministries. In the sanitation and drinking water sector it can be stated that small countries like Jordan or Portugal preferred a management at the national level, others have chosen a combined solution and larger countries have a more prominent role of local authorities. The tendency is that water supply and sanitation is managed closed to its delivery location. The analysis of the legal framework in water management of the Mediterranean countries highlights that all countries are devoted to the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management. With some exceptions all countries provide for an up-dated legislation or are in the process of comprehensive revisions. Those countries that have chosen a sectoral approach to water legislation are now moving towards a coherent unified water law. While the legal basis for water management provides for sound management foundations, the practical implementation still faces significant challenges and it will take some more time until all the demanding requirements of integrated water resource management are met by the institutional set-up in practice as well as the prevailing management practices.

⇒ Inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral coordination

Most often an inter-ministerial council has been chosen for the needed co-ordination among sectors. In some cases this also includes the involvement of additional stakeholders and interest groups. In other cases the responsible national authority is also in charge of co-ordination. Since all countries are on their way towards more integrated approaches to water management it can be expected that all countries will favour joint councils or commissions for co-ordination in the near future.

⇒ Territorial water management

In general, the principles of IWRM are applied to the territory of a river basin and not to national administrative borders. Especially those countries belonging to the European Union and thus obliged to implement the WFD are currently on the way to apply territorial water management at the scale of the river basin, which also includes transboundary co-operation. But also most other Mediterranean countries move towards basin approaches. However transboundary co-operation requires overcoming different administrative structures and some times a number of conflicting interests. But the need to share water resources is widely acknowledged among the riparian states to the Mediterranean.

⇒ Cost recovery

Data on cost recovery are not fully available for all Mediterranean countries. Many countries however provide for a high cost recovery for households (80 – 100%). Those countries that have a low cost recovery for households (20 – 60%) all face severe challenges in regard to water scarcity where the costs for the provision of clean drinking water are much higher. Cost recovery for water supply for industrial use is generally high where figures are given, but only half of the countries have such data available. For the agricultural sector, the availability of data is even lower. For those countries that have given figures for the agricultural sector cost recovery is generally low ranging from 0-50%, only Turkey has stated a cost recovery of more than 80%.

In order to be able to give a more complete picture of cost recovery in the Mediterranean countries the current status of cost recovery should be assessed in more detail. In general it can be stated that cost recovery could be improved in nearly all Mediterranean countries; however, one needs to consider the rationale of the low cost recovery rates in some countries. Social and regional justice, as well as economic effects (e.g. competitiveness of the agricultural sector), are reasons for subsidies provided by the government and not reaching full cost recovery.

⇒ Water pricing

All Mediterranean countries have established a water pricing system. Countries belonging to the European Union have allocated the authorities for water pricing at the regional or local level. The others have preferred to control pricing at the national level.

Country	Legislation	Main administration for WRM	Institutions in charge of			Inter-sectoral coordination	Territorial water management	Cost recovery	Water pricing			Water master plan
			Drinking water supply	Sanitation	Irrigation management				HH	Ind.	Irr.	
Algeria	Single water legislation (2005), (Arabic, English & French)	Ministry of Water Resources (MRE)	Algerian Waters under MRE	National Sanitation Office under MRE	Office National de l'Irrigation et du Drainage (ONID) under MRE	National Water Council Basin committees	5 basin organisations	HH: 60% Ind.: 80% Irr.: 20%	Nat'l	Nat'l	Nat'l	Under preparation (2010-2030)
Cyprus	Single water legislation (2004), (Greek)	Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment	Water Development Department (National), Water Boards, (local)	Water Development Department (National), Sewage Boards (local)	Water Development Department and the Department of Agriculture	Under preparation (national)	Nat'l	HH & Ind.: 60,4 % Irr.: 67,4 %	Local	Local	Nat'l	Under preparation in accordance to WFD
Egypt	2 main laws (1980)	Ministry of water resources and irrigation	The Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Development	The Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Development	The Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation	Cabinet Council (National)	Nile Water Sector	Derived from tax payers	Nat'l	Nat'l	Nat'l	Issued in 2005; valid until 2017
France	Single water legislation (2006)	Ministry of Ecology, energy, sustainable development and territorial management – MEEDDAT-	Ministry of Health Local authorities	MEEDDAT Local authorities	Ministry of Agriculture	Interministerial Sustainable Development Committee Interministerial Water Mission	6 basin organisations	HH : 100%	Local	Local	Local	issued in 1996 under revision for 2009 (SDAGE)
Greece	Single water legislation (2003), (Greek)	Central Water Agency of the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works	Municipalities	Municipalities	Regional Water Directorate Ministry of Rural Development & Food	National Water Committee	Water districts according to WFD	HH & Ind. 34% – 108% Irr.: 6% – 56%	Reg'l	Reg'l	Reg'l	Issued in 2008 in accordance to WFD
Israel	Single water legislation (1959/2006) (Hebrew)	Governmental Authority for Water and Sewage under the auspices of Ministry of National infrastructures	Authority for Water and Sewage Municipalities	Authority for Water and Sewage Municipalities	Authority for Water and Sewage	Council of the Authority for Water and Sewage	River Authorities	-	Nat'l	Nat'l	Nat'l	Transitional one to be replaced in 2010 by a full master plan
Italy	Decree (2006) transposing the EU-WFD (Italian)	Ministry of Environment	Municipalities and provinces (ATO)	Municipalities and provinces (ATO)	Land Reclamation and Irrigation Consortia	Regions/River Basin Authorities	River Basin/ Region/ ATO	HH: 100% Environmental costs partially recovered	Nat / Reg.	Nat / Reg.	Nat / Reg.	issued in 2003 under revision
Jordan	Several laws (English & Arabic)	Ministry of Water and Irrigation	Water Authority of Jordan (national),	Water Authority of Jordan (national)	Jordan Valley Authority Ministry of Agriculture	Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI)	Local	HH: > 80% Ind.: full Irr.: < 50%	Nat'l	Nat'l	Nat'l	Issued in 2004

Lebanon	Single water legislation (2000), (French & Arabic)	4 regional public water establishments (EPRE) Lebanese River Authority (LRA) Ministry of Energy and Water	4 EPRE	4 EPRE	4 EPRE LRA-	National (i.e. inter-ministerial)	4 EPRE LRA	-	Reg / Nat'l	Reg / Nat'l	Reg / Nat'l	10 years plan issued in 2000
Malta	Sectoral laws (Maltese & English)	Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs –MRRA-	Water Services Corporation	Health Department	Department of Agriculture within MRRA Malta Resources Authority –MRA-	National	-	HH 40% Ind. 60% Irr.: 4.5%	Nat'l	Nat'l	Nat'l	Policy paper under preparation
Morocco	Single water legislation (1995), (French & Arabic)	Secrétariat d'Etat chargé de l'Eau et de l'Environnement (SEEE)	ONEP (rural areas), local authorities (water utilities)	Local authorities Ministry of Health	Ministère de l'Agriculture et des Pêches Maritimes (MAPM)	National & river basins	Basin organisations	HH: > 80% Irr. ~50%	Nat'l	Nat'l	Nat'l	To be approved in 2009
Palestine	Single water legislation (2002), (English)	Palestinian Water Authority –PWA-	West Bank Water Department, Municipalities	Palestinian Water Authority (PWA)	Ministry of Agriculture in cooperation with PWA	Ministry of Planning	PWA	HH & ind.: < 20% Irr. < 80%	Nat'l under preparation	Nat'l under preparation	Nat'l under preparation	Issued in 2004, not yet approved by Nation Water council
Portugal	Single water legislation (2005)	Instituto da Água (INAG)	Águas de Portugal (ADP)	Águas de Portugal (ADP)	Directorate-General of Agriculture and Rural Development	INAG	Regional Coordination and Development Commissions	-	Nat'l	Nat'l	Nat'l	Under preparation
Spain	Single water legislation (2007), (Spanish & English)	Ministry of Environment and Rural and Marine affairs, Basin Organisations	Ministry of Health, Municipalities	Municipalities	Autonomous Regional Governments	National Water Council	River Basin Organisations	HH: 80% Ind.: 80% Irr.: 80%	Local	Local	Reg.	Hydrological Regulation (2007)
Syria	Single water legislation (2005)	The Ministry of Irrigation (MoI)	The Ministry of Housing & Construction (MHC) and regional	The Ministry of Housing & Construction (MHC) and regional	MoI The Ministry of Agriculture	Syrian State Planning Commission (SPC)	13 regional administrations	-	Nat'l	Nat'l	Nat'l	Five Years Plans (2006-2010)
Tunisia	Single water legislation (available in French and Arabic)	Ministry of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources (MARH) Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD)	National water utility company (SONEDE) MARH	National Office of Sanitation (ONAS)	MARH	MARH (National)	24 regional administrations (CRDA)	HH : > 80% Ind. : Full - Irr. : < 50%	Nat'l	Nat'l	Nat'l	10 years plan (2001-2011) Long term strategy (2030)
Turkey	Sectoral laws (available in Turkish and English)	Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF): General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works (DSI) and General Directorate of Environment Management (DGEM)	DSI, Iller Bank and Municipalities	DGEM	DSI, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs	MoEF, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	National coordination	HH : > 80% Ind. : > 80% Irr. : > 80%	Local	Local	Nat'l	At river basin scale. 5 years land and water Development Plans (2007-2013)