



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

### Newsletter

#### In this issue:

**"Women, Environment and Sustainable Development Conference", Isantilla, Huelva, Spain;  
8-9 June 2006**

**"IWRM Science Communication for Impact Workshop-cum- Training", Brussels;  
20-22 June 2006**

**"Planning Workshop on Gender Mainstreaming in IWRM in the Arab Region", UN-House, Beirut, Lebanon;  
4-6 July 2006**

**Collaboration with the INECO Project**

**Visit of the President of the Italian Republic to the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari;  
14 September 2006**

**CAWTAR: Meeting of the Tunisian National Water and Gender Committee;  
15 September 2006**

**MIO-ECSDE and GEWAMED Activities**

**Important Events**

**Publications**

**The Consortium of GEWAMED**

#### Issue No 2

September 2006

#### Women, Environment and Sustainable Development

The Andalusia Women Institute (AWI), one of the GEWAMED partners, in collaboration with the Division of Environmental Education and Sustainability of the Spanish Secretary for Environment and the Secretary for Equal Opportunities and Social Welfare organized a Conference in Isantilla, Huelva (Spain) from 8 to 9 June 2006, to analyse the role that women play in the environmental management. The conference was attended by more than 200 participants including **Mr. J.A. Sagardoy** and **Mrs. R. Quagliariello** from the MAI of Bari.



The Conference was framed within the GEODA Programme, initiated in 2003, which objective is to include a gender perspective in all environmental activities and competences. The Conference of Isantilla was the third within the Programme and focussed in Gender Mainstreaming in the Environment and Sustainable Development and Employment.

The Conference was organized as a technical debate around the main topics above mentioned. For this purpose, a number of keynote papers were presented and two round table discussions were set-up. The keynote papers include the following topics: Establishing the linkages gender equality, environment and employment; Sustainability, innovation and employment under a gender perspective; Gender, environment and development cooperation; Gender issues in the legal instruments for the environmental protection.

The two round tables focussed on:

- a) Gender, Environment and Quality of Life, and
- b) Project Experiences.

The GEWAMED project was presented under the theme of the second round table and generated quite some interest and discussion.

The conference was a space for discussing the interrelations between gender and environment. While there were some positive experiences from projects, it was clear that still women have a limited access and deciding power in environmental matters of global concern.

**Ms. Soledad Ruiz**, Director of the Andalusia Women Institute, explained well the need to eliminate this barrier: *"It is regrettable to corroborate that in our relation with the nature, the gender roles and the patriarchal approach continue to position women as responsible for the consumption and far away from the research, resources and the active involvement in the emerging development processes and the generation of employment"*. On the other hand, it is true that sustainability concerns have been an important new drive that have contributed to generate non-traditional activities where employment has been generated and women have found jobs.

The activities of the Conference had a good coverage by newspapers and TV. A nice visual display was made at the conference hall with the projects in which the AIW is involved.



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## IWRM Science Communication for Impact

The workshop was organized by the EC's International S&T Cooperation Programme. Its purpose was to work in an interactive mode on how researchers can best engage constructively with the mindsets of water users, water managers, practitioners and the water policy community.

The workshop was attended by some 60 participants from some 20 water projects of the INCO programme. From GEWAMED, **Ms. Kadouja Mellouli**, **Mrs. Dora Chimonidou** and **Mr. Juan Antonio Sagardoy** participated.

The Workshop was essentially divided in three parallel workshops preceded by some introductory presentations. The introductory presentations included an overview of the objectives of the Workshop by **Mrs. Cornelia Nauen** (INCO) and was followed by a summary of the Report on "**The Review of INCO Water Projects from 1994 to 2006**", which can be downloaded from the website that is indicated below. Some of the project leaders presented brief summaries of their projects with special reference to the communication side. These introductory presentations underlined the importance of keeping policy makers involved from the beginning of projects in their main activities. It also emphasized the need to communicate the results of research to large audiences.

The rest of the Workshop was scheduled in three parallel workshops lasting on morning or afternoon and covering the following subjects:

- A. Multi-stakeholders dialogues,
- B. Dealing with media,
- C. Using the internet effectively.

A brief summary about the main issues dealt with in these workshops is given below, but readers interested in having greater information should consult the web-site of the IWRM Workshop: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/water-initiative/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/water-initiative/index_en.html) where an ample documentation has been included about the themes of the Workshop as well as other relevant information.

The workshop on Multi-StakeHolders Dialogues (MSHD) provided guidance and some tools to be used in the context of conflict resolution. One of such tools is a standard role playing game where participants take roles and develop a stakeholder matrix and negotiate to find common interests. The multi-stakeholder dialogue assumes that the stakeholders have already been identified, in a previous phase, which another interesting exercise which is well documented. One important consideration is that the dialogue in itself is an important objective so that stakeholders understand each other views and concerns.

When a dialogue is initiated, each stakeholder has a different vision of what he/she may want to achieve for their respective group or organization but, at the end of the dialogue process, the results will be compromised arising from the understanding of each other situations. The presenters provided guidance on situation where the MSHD has proven useful and were not. Essentially, where there is an intense conflict or lack of perceived problems or broad agreement, the MSHD does not seem to work. They also provided orientations on the principles for building alliances. Readers wishing to contact the main speaker: **Mr. John Butterworth**, (IRC, NL) for more detail information should write to: [www.irc.nl/la](http://www.irc.nl/la)

The Workshop on Dealing with Media was of more general nature providing some orientations in how to deal with the media. In first place, the speaker, **Mr. Martin Ince** (Media Training, UK) made clear that the area of research is of no particular interest to journalists and, therefore, often the project staff has to approach them to promote their interest. In approaching them, it is important to bear in mind that the subject must be presented in an attractive and concise manner. To understand better how journalists operate, participants played a role game where one played the role of a journalist while the other was a project manager trying to



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15 September 2006

MIO-ECSDE and GEWAMED Activities

Important Events

Publications

The Consortium of GEWAMED





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*MIO-ECSDE and GEWAMED Activities*

*Important Events*

*Publications*

*The Consortium of GEWAMED*



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communicate what was important on her/his project. This exercise showed some of the difficulties involved in transmitting important messages in a concise form but also of the need to put ourselves in the role of journalists to better understand their needs. Also the different kind of dissemination tools that can be used: TV, radio, newspapers, press releases, periodicals, advertising, and newsletter, were briefly discussed.

The third workshop was concerned with **"How to Use effectively Internet"** but in reality most of the presentation was geared to provide orientations on how to establish effective web-sites. The subject was highly relevant for the GEWAMED Project where most of the partners are concerned with the establishment of websites. Hence, a detailed report has been prepared with the main aspects that were discussed at the workshop and sent to all GEWAMED project partners. In the website of the Workshop, several documents can be consulted about the topic of the Workshop and for those interested in further details, the responsible of the Workshop: **Mr. Bernd Ueberschar**, can be contacted at: [bueberschaer@ifm-goemar.de](mailto:bueberschaer@ifm-goemar.de).

## Planning Workshop on: "Gender Mainstreaming in IWRM in the Arab Region"

The Economic Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in collaboration with Gender and Water Alliance (GWA), International Network for Capacity Building in IWRM, International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR) and AWARENET (Arab Integrated Water Resources Management Network) organized a preparatory meeting from 4-6 July 2006 in the UN-House of Beirut, Lebanon to plan a Training of Trainers Workshop in IWRM for the Arab region.

The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the on-going regional initiatives on capacity building in gender mainstreaming in IWRM and review the existing training and resources material available on the subject. Furthermore, efforts were made to identify research priorities in the domain of gender mainstreaming in IWRM.

The meeting was attended by some 25 participants and the GEWAMED project was represented by: **Ms. Kahdouja Mellouli** from the Center for Arab Women Training and Research (CAWTAR); **Ms. Delphine Compain** and **Nadine Fawzi Roumieh** from the René Moawad Foundation (RMF); and **Mr. Juan Antonio Sagardoy** from the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (CIHEAM-MAIB).

The outcomes of the main sessions of the Workshop are reported below and were essentially taken from the report of the meeting prepared by: **Maysara Mohamed Salih**, Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) and **Khadouja Mellouli**, CAWTAR, and edited by **Joke Muylwijk**, Executive Director of GWA.

*Only a few days after the workshop in Beirut, violence of war broke out, disrupting the beautiful society we witnessed in Beirut, destroying so much of the Lebanese infrastructure and killing many innocent people. When strolling around the impressively restored centre of Beirut, it could not have crossed our minds that the situation would change so drastically in such a short time. As far as we know all the Lebanese participants were transferred to safe places. The influence which this war will have on the plan which was developed in the workshop is not known.*

**Joke Muylwijk**, Executive Director of GWA

### A. Country Case Studies:

Country case studies were presented from Yemen, Jordan, Egypt and Tunisia as inputs to the workshop to document specific situations related to the objectives of the meeting. Some of the points emerging from these presentations were:

- Women's status is changing with modernization, irrigation and economic progress.
- Women's role is different as per ecosystems and area.
- Few real data are relevant and verifiable.
- Gender is rarely included in water laws and policies and projects.
- Donor-led gender units may not be sustainable.
- Illiteracy and lack of awareness and health rights are major constraints.
- Women's participation in social organizations is not active and often rather representative and rhetoric.
- Stereotyping in the region; women are invisible except for Tunisia, and their knowledge is not taken into consideration.
- There are women specific issues in water resources that need to be resolved, e.g. night irrigation.
- Women are not represented at high level posts in the administration of water resources.

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15 September 2006*

*MIO-ECSDE and GEWAMED Activities*

*Important Events*

*Publications*

*The Consortium of GEWAMED*

- Gender sensitization or perspective are lacking in policies.
- Women have a restricted access to resources such as land and livestock.
- Sanitation and water quality are very important for women.
- Training programmes in gender issues for both men and women are strongly needed.
- Indicators need to be developed and successes documented.
- Capturing and preserving knowledge on women's indigenous practices is important.

## B. The GEWAMED Project:

**Mr. Sagardoy** explained the new EU-funded project of Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions into Water Resources Development and Management in the Mediterranean Region (GEWAMED). Its objectives are similar to most of the institutions present at the workshop and the need for cooperation was emphasized.

## C. Assessment of National IWRM Planning in ESCWA and other Arab Region Countries:

ESCWA's report of Assessment of the Process of Developing National IWRM Plans in the 13 Countries (ESCWA) was presented by **Ms. Roula Majdalani**. The objectives were to investigate policy, organizational structure and management tools for implementing IWRM. The report (in Arabic with English summary) was presented earlier this year in Mexico. The surveys were done in 2001 and in 2004. Furthermore, it is based on national reports, interviews and visits.

According to this report, the progress made in the implementation of a IWRM strategy is modest with only 3 countries (Jordan Palestine and Yemen) having a plan for its implementation and the rest making different steps in its implementation.

Most of the material consulted showed that a gender perspectives was not taken into consideration, unless issues related to stakeholders' analysis were discussed. The ESCWA's report itself is also not gendered.

**Ms. Mellouli** informed that Morocco, Algeria and Egypt have initiated their national IWRM plans, but gender aspects are hardly integrated.

## D. Training Material:

A number of presentations on the various training materials available were made. The objective was to examine how far they can be helpful in implementing training activities on mainstreaming gender in water sectors in the Arab Region. The presentations were as follows:

- Cap Net-GWA Tutorial was presented by **Kees Leendertse**.
- GWA Resource Guide (UNDP) by **Joke Muylwijk**.
- ToT Gender and IWRM (GWA) by **Joke Muylwijk**.
- ToT Manual prepared by the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari within the INGEDI project by **Juan Antonio Sagardoy**.
- The module of ESCWA on Gender and IWRM by **Rawya Kansoh**.

It was concluded that all the above resources will be very helpful to contribute to the synthesis of training material for the Arab Region to be used in the context of the planned ToT workshop. A lot of basic work has already been done. Copies of the mentioned material can be obtained from the mentioned sources.

## E. Outputs of the Workshop:

- **Plan for Research and Knowledge Dissemination:**

The priorities for research in gender mainstreaming in IWRM in the Arab region were identified as follows:

- Integration of gender dimension in national water policies and strategies,
- Inequitable access in distribution of resources (land, money, water, credits, livestock...),
- Assess constraints impeding women and men extension staff from reaching women (of different socio-economic positions),
- Absence role of women in decision making level,
- Capture knowledge on women's and men's indigenous practices,
- Assess existing gender myths and stereotypes (cultural and religious myths),
- Investigate constraints impeding fulfilment of policy convention objectives on both fields and institutional levels and investigate measures needed,
- Need for disaggregated data that are verified relevant of quality at regional level,
- Conduct needs assessment for mainstreaming gender concerns,
- Documenting success stories,



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**MIO-ECSDE and GEWAMED Activities**

**Important Events**

**Publications**

**The Consortium of GEWAMED**

- Assess women's and men's concern in water supply and sanitation in rural and urban areas,
- Unaccounted for costs on women's burdens (family, health, education, unpaid labour, leisure time, ...),
- Land and water rights; awareness of rights + entitlements + claims,
- Better practices to minimize negative health impacts (contribution's alternatives),
- Impact of water privatization on women,
- Analysis on gender budgeting in water management,
- Gender relations regarding water in conflict areas.

## • Training of Trainers on Gender Mainstreaming in Water Management in the Arab Region

The workshop came up with the content of a Training of Trainers workshop, which will be carried out in 2007. The programme will include:

**Module 1:** Inter-relation between Gender and Integrated Water Resources Management.

**Module 2:** Gender-Sensitive Training Skills.

**Module 3:** Mainstreaming Gender in the Planning and Implementation in IWRM, especially for National IWRM Policies (include qualitative and quantitative indicators).

**Module 4:** Gender Analysis and Mainstreaming Tools.

**Module 5:** Gender Mainstreaming in Organizations and Policy Process: the module has to be adapted in a way it addresses water management (institutional, organizational levels, ...).

**Module 6:** Planning Training of Trainers (ToT) Workshops.

**Module 7:** Monitoring and Evaluation of Projects and Training: Developing Gender Indicators.

**Module 8:** Case Studies (to be adapted from the GWA ToT Manual).

The timeframe initially foreseen was that the ToT Workshop will be carried out in the fall of 2007 but this date is subject to modification. The unfortunate events that happened in Lebanon immediately after the meeting will certainly affect the planned activities.

For more information contact:

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**Ms. Khadouja Mellouli**, CAWTAR; Email: [khadouja.mellouli@cawtar.org](mailto:khadouja.mellouli@cawtar.org)

**Mr. Juan Antonio Sagardoy**, GEWAMED, Project Manager; Email: [sagardoy@iamb.it](mailto:sagardoy@iamb.it)

## Collaboration with the INECO Project

The Institutional and Economic Instruments for Sustainable Water Management in the Mediterranean Region (INECO) Project had the kick-off meeting on 13 and 14 July at the Central Library of the National Technical University of Athens (Greece). The overall purpose of INECO is to establish a Mediterranean Network of research institutes, public authorities, and stakeholders for coordinating research and to analyse decision making practices regarding the application of institutional instruments in the water sector.

The INECO project is also a Coordinated Action (CA) dealing with objectives that have areas of common interest with the GEWAMED. For this, a coordination of the activities of both projects appeared relevant and that's why the GEWAMED project was requested to participate at the abovementioned event and it was represented by **Mr. Juan Antonio Sagardoy** (Project Manager).

A presentation of the GEWAMED project was made and after the subsequent discussion, a memorandum of collaboration between the two projects was drafted. The areas of foreseen collaboration will be: a) development of indicators, b) establishment of websites and information systems, and c) participation in workshops and technical fora. Copies of the memorandum of understanding are available on request.

For further details contact:

**Mr. Dionysis Assimacopoulos**, INECO Project Coordinator, Email: [assim@chemeng.ntua.gr](mailto:assim@chemeng.ntua.gr)

**Mr. Juan Antonio Sagardoy**, GEWAMED, Project Manager, Email: [sagardoy@iamb.it](mailto:sagardoy@iamb.it)

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*Collaboration with the INECO Project*

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14 September 2006*

*CAWTAR: Meeting of the Tunisian National Water and Gender Committee;  
15 September 2006*

*MIO-ECSDE and GEWAMED Activities*

*Important Events*

*Publications*

*The Consortium of GEWAMED*

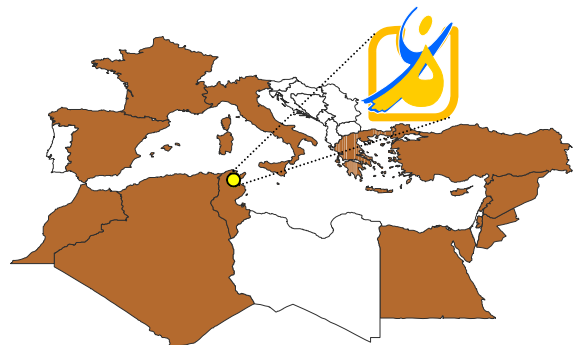
## Visit of the President of the Italian Republic

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of September, The Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari was honoured by the visit of the **President of the Italian Republic, Giorgio Napolitano**, together with the **Minister of the Agricultural, Alimentary and Forestry Policies, Paolo de Castro**. The president was received by the **President of CIHEAM, Mouin Hamzé**, the **Vice-President of CIHEAM, Giuliana Trisorio Liuzzi**, the **Secretary General of CIHEAM, Bertrand Hervieux**, the **Director of MAIB, Cosimo Lacirignola** and the **Mayor of Valenzano, Nicola Tangorra**. The programme of the visit included a walk where the President of the Republic had a look at the major activities and on-going projects of MAIB, illustrated in posters. During this occasion, a poster entitled **"Women for Development through Integrated Water Resources Management"** about the GEWAMED project was prepared, exhibited and presented to the President of the Republic.



## CAWTAR: Meeting of the Tunisian National Water and Gender Committee (NWGC)

The Centre of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR) has organised a National Water and Gender Committee (NWGC) meeting chaired by **Mrs. Soukeina Bouraoui**, Executive Director of CAWTAR with the participation of most of the relevant experts involved in the field of Gender and Water Management. The meeting took place at CAWTAR building on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006. The participants represent different



governmental and non governmental organisations, national and international organizations active in the field of water resources management and interested in gender mainstreaming into water development and management. The objective of the meeting is to acquaint the group with GEWAMED objectives, goals and outcomes. The meeting was also an opportunity to present the progression of GEWAMED project. The participants made valuable comments on the report, the national web site content, the organisation, ... etc.

The NWGT was actively involved in the project and showed a lot of interest in its outputs and its future impacts on water stakeholders.

## MIO-ECSDE: and GEWAMED Activities

- **MIO-ECSDE and the World Environment Day (UN WED):** the MIO-ECSDE Secretariat participated in the celebrations (3-5 June) of the World Environment Day (WED) contributing to informing and sensitizing many citizens about crucial issues relating to the sustainable development in the Mediterranean region. During this occasion, information about the GEWAMED project was distributed at the MIO-ECSDE kiosk that was located in the main square of Athens (Syntagma square), Greece.



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**MIO-ECSDE and GEWAMED Activities**

**Important Events**

**Publications**

**The Consortium of GEWAMED**

- **MIO-ECSDE and the GEF-IWLEARN:** GEWAMED was shortly presented to the Deputy Director of GEF-IWLEARN, **Ms. Janot-Reine MENDLER de SUAREZ**, during an informal meeting (on 30 May 2006). She was participating in a coordination meeting of IWLEARN Activity D2 organised by GWP-Med in Athens. The International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW:LEARN) is a Global Environment Facility (GEF) partnership of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Bank (IBRD) and other participating international agencies and NGOs. Basically, MIO-ECSDE is keeping GEF-IWLEARN informed about the activities and the progress of GEWAMED.
- **GEWAMED and the Euro-Mediterranean Non-Governmental Platform:** from 12 to 14 July 2006 in Paris, GEWAMED was presented to the Board of the Euro-Mediterranean Non-Governmental Platform. The Board is the decision-making body of the Platform which gathers regional, sub-regional, national and local networks and organisations from the EuroMed region. These represent a diverse range of civil society interests, including the environment, trade unions, human rights, development, transparency, culture, women and youth. Additional information can be found in the following web site:  
[www.euromedforum.org](http://www.euromedforum.org).

## Important Events

1. The MELIA Project held the kick-off meeting in Seville (Spain) from 4-7 September.
2. The GEWAMED project plans to hold the first Session of the Advisory Committee on 27 September at MAI-Bari. The external members of the Committee will be: **Mrs. Giuliana Trisorio Liuzzi** (Vice-President of CIHEAM), **Mrs. Ilaria Sisto**, (FAO), **Mrs. Rasha Omar** (IFAD) and **Mrs. Joke Muylwijk** (GWA).
3. The Third Thematic workshop of the NOSTRUM Project will be held at Paphos (Cyprus) on November (dates to be announced).

## Publication:

### "Institutional Coordination and Streamlining Partners Activities in the Framework of GEWAMED Project"

#### Options Méditerranéennes, Series A: Mediterranean Seminars. Number 68

This publication reports the main activities undertaken under the First Regional Coordination Workshop of the "Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions into Water Resources Development and Management in the Mediterranean Region (GEWAMED) Project" held from 20 to 22 February at the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (MAI-B), which is part of the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM).

The Publication is divided in three parts, namely:

- The first part contains the introductory papers and the key-note papers prepared by invited speakers and dealing with specific issues related to the project activities such as the definition of gender-sensitive indicators, information collection and dissemination. Furthermore, to promote coordination and exchange of experiences with other similar projects like MELIA and WADI, that also focus on information and knowledge management, their Coordinators were invited to present a summary of their respective projects.
- The second part contains the contributions of the project's partners. They normally describe the role of their organizations within a gender context and the proposed activities to be undertaken.
- Finally, the third part is a summary report of the exchange of views held during the meeting regarding the project implementation.

Electronic copies of the Publication can be obtained from: [gewamed@iamb.it](mailto:gewamed@iamb.it)



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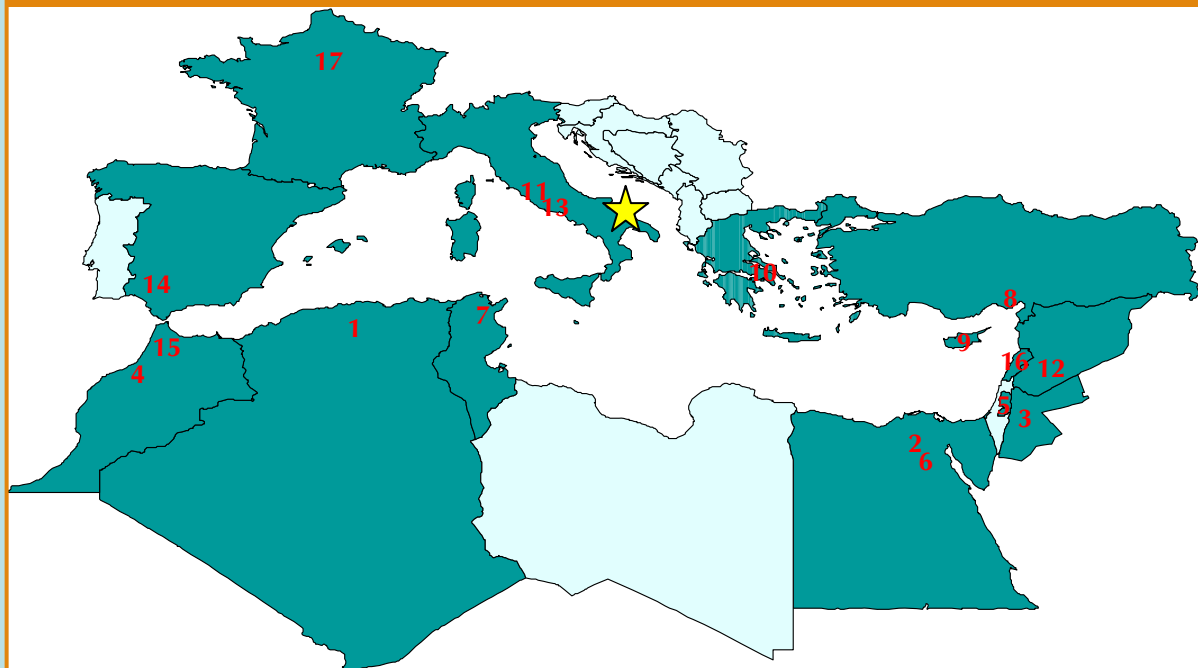
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*MIO-ECSDE and GEWAMED Activities*

*Important Events*

*Publications*

**The Consortium of GEWAMED**



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- 1 Centre de Recherche en Économie Appliquée pour le Développement (CREAD), ALGERIA
- 2 Strategic Research Unit-National Water Research Center, (SRU-NWRC), EGYPT
- 3 Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jordan (UJ-FA), JORDAN
- 4 Association Marocaine de Solidarité et de Développement (AMSED), MOROCCO
- 5 Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee (PARC), PALESTINE
- 6 Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), EGYPT
- 7 The Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR), TUNISIA
- 8 Çukurova University, Faculty of Agriculture (CUKUR), TURKEY
- 9 Agriculture Research Institute (ARI), CYPRUS
- 10 Mediterranean Office for Environment, Cultural and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), GREECE
- 11 Osservatorio Nazionale per l'Imprenditoria ed il Lavoro Femminile in Agricoltura (ONILFA), ITALY
- 12 General Commission for Scientific Agricultural Research-Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (GCSAR), SYRIA
- 13 International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage-Italian Committee (ITAL-ICID), ITALY
- 14 Instituto Andaluz de la Mujer - Junta de Andalucía (IAM-JA), SPAIN
- 15 African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development (CAFRAD), MOROCCO
- 16 René Moawad Foundation (RMF), LEBANON
- 17 Programme Solidarité Eau (pS-Eau), FRANCE

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