



Number 4
January 2005

ISIIMM news

EURO-MEDITERRANEAN REGIONAL PROGRAMME for Local Water Management
ME8/AIDCO/2001/0515/59763-P 016



Seminars as a tool: mutual learning and exchange

Implementing of the second phase of the ISIIMM project is now in process. This phase is oriented on exchanges of experiences and knowledge between national teams and stakeholders of project partner's countries on the base of case studies.

According to the EU contract 19 seminars and workshops have been planned during the project life. Some seminars have been already implemented in France, Morocco, Italy and Egypt on horizontal subjects. The results of the first phase (case studies drafts, local seminars) have raised a lot of new questions and issues of common interest. This stimulated off new programme of more adapted and relevant seminars. Scientific committee and Ensuring Coherence mission largely contributed in comparative and inter-country management of the seminars contents. Strict financial framework imposed by the EU contract will request adapting size and format of seminars and precise targeting for participation.

Integrated Water Resources Management and Irrigation (Lebanon)

The ISIIMM Workshop, organised for Lebanon from 30 March to 3 April 2005 is aimed at institutions, irrigation managers, administrators and users. It is proposed to be discussed on the basis of concrete examples the following issues:

- Place and role of the irrigation agriculture in the IWRM
- Water governance forms in the project partners' countries
- IWRM tools and their applicability

A specific section will be devoted to the groundwater use and management of the Mediterranean areas.

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) is a process which promotes the co-ordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems (GWP, 2000).

Seminar on Irrigation Systems and Water Management in Plain Areas (Egypt - France)

The Seminar on Irrigation Systems and Water Management in Plain Areas will take place in Egypt and France on 19 - 26 March 2005.

In accordance with recommendations of the Scientific Committee this seminar will be organised on the "back to back" scheme (people of two different countries exchanging during field works in the two countries). This seminar format was specified in the initial project proposal. In this way the coming meeting will allow to evaluate the real feasibility of this approach from technical, financial and logistics points of view. The final agenda (2005 - 2006) and the topics of the following seminars will be fixed depending on the results and lessons learned from this event.



Valencia, Spain
(see article p.3)

Briefly, in this release

- Results and Recommendations of Scientific Seminar and Ensuring Coherence mission
- Seminar: Water Framework Directive
- ISIIMM Participation at Brindisi and Krakow Conferences
- ISIIMM's Italian Partners
- Good Reads
- Upcoming Events



Scientific Seminar in Treviso

Scientific Seminar



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Ten persons involved in the ISIIMM project scientific support met on the 14-16th of October, 2004 at the Consorzio di Bonifica Destra Piave office in Treviso, a major city in the Piave river-basin area, for Scientific Seminar and extra-ordinary ISIIMM scientific committee. They had to share some views about crucial issues regarding “social sciences and water management and irrigation” and to review the “ensuring coherence” grids for completing ISIIMM case studies.

The first session of the Scientific Seminar was dedicated to **project issues and first outputs**. A good support for discussion was the new version of “*ISIIMM Issues*” film (by T. Ruf). The first lessons of case-studies critical analysis, as a geographer critical review, were presented by Jean-Paul Cheylan, Scientific Committee animator. This was followed by discussion on **comparative assessment of case studies reviewing**.

The second session was focused on the **methodological and scientific inputs and the Social sciences contribution** with four key presentations:

- Irrigation development and the point of view from social sciences and agronomics, by Thierry Ruf, IRD, ISIIMM Scientific advisor
- Agro-environment economics,

irrigation management and changing water policies in the Euro-Mediterranean. Issues, paradigms, contradictions and perspective. By Dr Consuelo Varela-Ortega, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain .

- Social anthropology contribution. How to read a peasant irrigation system? By Dr Olivia Aubriot, CNRS France.
- Water and Power. Hydropolitics and irrigation at local and regional level. By Dr Julie Trottier, Political Sciences Dept, University of Newcastle, UK.

A general discussion focused on the core definitions of social and institutional innovations in irrigation and its implication within ISIIMM activities. As result, the participants have elaborated the practical recommendations for each river-basin and country and made more precise the overall scientific orientation of the project.

The Italian team, seminar hosts organised an interesting **field trip** on the Piave river basin and irrigated areas of Consorzio di Bonifica “Destra Piave” with visits of the Vajont dam, the pumping station of a sprinkling irrigation system under construction (Municipality of Nervesa) and the water derivation plant in Nervesa della Battaglia.

Treviso



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Ensuring Coherence mission

A key project purpose is to allow not only the national participating teams but other Mediterraneans to draw lessons from the ISIIMM experience. For this to be possible, the analyses, conclusions and recommendations must be comprehensible to everyone. The coherence team reviewed the reports on case studies submitted by the six countries currently involved in the ISIIMM. A common basis for reflection aiming at comparability and coherence has been put forward.

The coherence team has provided “Coherence grids”. This working tool is equally valid for the analysis of each case. It enables an understanding of the **SIX** key project axes (social, institutional, historical, agricultural, hydraulic/hydrological, territorial), leading eventually to conclusions and recommendations in the **TWO** domains, social and institutional. This passes through **FOUR** fields of analysis of initial studies (economic, social, access to water and land, political).

Seminar: Water Framework Directive

VALENCIA, SPAIN: The first trans-national and cross-thematic ISIIMM Seminar was held in the offices of the Acequia Real del Júcar (ARJ) during 3-5 November 2004.

The aim of the seminar was to compare and analyse the European Water Framework Directive for ISIIMM partner countries, particularly France, Italy and Spain, but also to draw findings for the southern ISIIMM partner countries: Lebanon, Morocco and Egypt.

The seminar was facilitated by Claude Lefrou, a WFD expert from Association VERSeau. A wide range of stakeholders attended the seminar from farmers to water authorities to economic analysts. Participating countries included France, Italy, Spain and Lebanon.

Implementation of the WFD in Europe is now well underway and despite the common approaches imposed by the WFD and the common issues faced by the Mediterranean countries, the approaches adopted and the implementation progress in Spain, Italy and France vary.

Teodoro Estrela, President of the Confederacion Hidrografica del Jucar presented Spain's particularly technical approach that has involved detailed mapping and analysis.

According to Jean-Louis Simonnot from the Agence de l'Eau Rhône-Méditerranée-Corse, France has embarked on a more practical approach with a balance of technical analysis and key stakeholder involvement.

WFD Seminar



© T. Svo

In Italy, however, the WFD has not yet been formally acknowledged. Existing legislation already deals with the majority of aspects envisaged in the WFD and the main challenge is how to integrate existing legislation in order to fulfil WFD requirements.

The questions raised will be further explored during phase 2 of the project.

The seminar raised **Mediterranean specifics** important to the understanding of WFD implementation in the Mediterranean:

- *Climate and hydrology: How do we define « good status » of water and other terms of reference?*
- *Importance of transition zones, particularly coastal lagoons with unique ecologies*
- *Irrigation is the principal water use*
- *Long tradition of gravitational irrigation and management of irrigated land*
- *Growing population in coastal areas*
- *Strong seasonal tourist activity*

In treating the questions surrounding WFD implementation in the Mediterranean, the seminar has identified important **opportunities for Southern Mediterranean countries** to exploit:

- *Observation of WFD implementation at European scale*
- *Bilateral cooperation on the pilot basins between north and south mediterranean countries (having similar physical economic characteristics and possibly social) can be facilitated.*

The EU Water Framework Directive has entered the active implementation phase. The importance of this and interest in it is expressed through numerous events.

The ISIIMM coordination unit members and project partners have taken part in several of them.

Meeting & Workshop

International INBO Meeting in Krakow



© INBO

International INBO Meeting on the implementation of the European Water Framework directive Krakow 2004-09-27/29

Representatives from more than 36 Countries took part in the *First International Meeting of the International Network of Basin Organisations (INBO)* on the implementation of the Framework Directive. Water Directors and leaders of Basin Organisations in Europe, the Mediterranean, Africa and North America participated in this open meeting. The meeting aimed to actively and informally exchange real field experiences. Key topics included inventories, pressures and impacts, economic analysis, « good ecological status » and « water masses with risk », transboundary basins and flood prevention and control.

“Linking rural development and land degradation mitigation with river basin management plans” Workshops on mediterranean dimension of Pilot River Basins (PRB) Brindisi 2004-09-22/24

The workshops focused on sharing Mediterranean Pilot River Basin (PRB) experiences and discussing concepts of river basin management plans as drivers for integrated resource management. One of the main objectives was to enhance cooperation by establishing linkages at operational level among various environmental strategies in the Mediterranean area. The Jucar Pilot River Basin experience on the integrated management of aquifers was also presented.

Good reads



Agricultures familiales et développement rural en Méditerranée
(Family agricultures and rural development in the Mediterranean)
Collectif.
Ed. Karthala/CIHEAM

Fifth work of the RAFAC (Network comparative family agricultures). This work concerns the environment of family agriculture. It is comparative analysis. It begins with a methodological and conceptual clarification. Eleven national studies treat state of the rural zones from the national point of view then regional. The synthesis of the national studies try to define the invariants and the differences between the countries. It shows the effect of the history but also that of the economic policies.

ISBN: 2845860390
In French - 34.00 euros



La guerre de l'eau aura-t-elle lieu ?
(Will water war take place?)
Nguyen Tien-Duc.
Ed. JOHANET

Can one consider that the people will have the wisdom to establish reasonable division of a limited resource? Can this water, which is unaware of the borders established by men, ultimately constitute a link between people instead of separating them?

ISBN : 2-900086-75-2
In French - 32 euros

ISIIMM news

(also available in PDF, see ISIIMM website)

"Promoting an integrated and balanced management of water resources by reconciling respect for the environment with economically viable irrigated agriculture"

ISIIMM

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Design & layout: Olivier PIAU (Agropolis Productions)
Printed in France by Les Petites Affiches (Montpellier)

Printed on recycled and chlorine-free paper

ISSN: 1765-3207 - Legal deposit: January 2005

The Mediterranean Partners

Autorità di Bacino Alto Adriatico (ABAA)



The *Autorità di Bacino Alto Adriatico*'s main activity is river basin planning, in accordance with article 17

of Italian State law no. 189 of 18 May 1989. This law states that the river basin plan has the validity of a territorial plan and is the instrument by which technical operations are programmed. Activities and norms have as their goals the conservation, defense and the evaluation of the land and the correct use of water, on the basis of the physical characteristics and climate of the territory. Studies are conducted with particular reference to mountain river basins, to high altitude torrents and to deep valley water courses. According to article 17 of Italian State law no.189 of 18 May 1989, the river basin plan has an immediately binding character for administrations and public agencies, as well as of private citizens. The general objective of the current plan is the management of water resources and their qualitative and quantitative protection.

Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM)



Fondazione
Eni
Enrico Mattei

The *Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei* is a non-profit, non-partisan institution

established to carry out research in the field of sustainable development. Recognised by the President of the Italian Republic in July 1989, it has since become leading international research centre. One of its principal aims is to promote interaction between academic, industrial and public policy spheres in order to comprehensively address concerns about economic development and environmental degradation. The Foundation's activities are guided by four fundamental criteria:
i) to analyse relevant and innovative research areas,
ii) to focus on "real" world issues,
iii) to integrate multi-disciplinary approaches,
iv) to create and foster international research networks.

FEEM also supplies technical support and advice to public and private decision-making process in the economic and environmental field, at the national as well international level. The research unit involved in the ISIIMM Project intends to contribute to the knowledge of factors that influence demand and supply of water in the Mediterranean regions and of policies and management practices that increase efficiency in the use of water.

Upcoming conferences

12-17 February 2005

Beirut (Lebanon)

EMPOWERS / INWRDAM Training Workshop
The training workshop will focus on Participatory Planning for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). The training is targeting experts and practitioners from Government, NGO and research centres/universities working in the water sector.
Four representatives of partner teams from Lebanon and Egypt will take part in this workshop



15-16 March 2005

Istanbul (Turkey)

1st ZerO-M Conference on Sustainable Water Management in Mediterranean countries
ZerO-M project aims at concepts and technologies to achieve optimised closed-loop usage of all water flows in small municipalities and settlements (e.g. tourism facilities). The conference will deal with recent findings and successful case studies highlighting new technologies, novel applications of established technologies and innovative solutions to historical operational challenges and emerging issues.



Questions about the newsletter or its content?
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