



Summary

2009 *ANNUAL REPORT*

Based on 2008/2009 data

This report is a summary of the full annual report that can be downloaded from the EUWI website. <http://www.euwi.net/>.

1 Background

A third of the earth's population suffers from water-related ills, particularly no access to safe drinking water and poor or non-existent sanitation. Without effective action, this state of affairs will only get worse. Improving the situation calls for commitment and action at all levels of society from national governments to the grassroots. It requires coherent policies and coordinated and effective use of donor funds for water and sanitation programmes. This is the challenge that the European Water Initiative (EUWI) exists to address.

The EUWI was launched by the EU member states and the European Commission at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa. Its purpose is to help mobilise an integrated approach to water resources management with a view to attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for drinking water and sanitation.

The EUWI is primarily a **political initiative**, in that it uses policy dialogue to improve coordination in the sector and deliver more effective development assistance. It uses a partnership approach, working with different actors - ranging from governments and donors to civil society organizations and the water industry in both Europe and partner countries.

The EUWI has five specific objectives:

- strengthening political commitment to action and innovation-oriented partnership;
- promoting better water governance, capacity building and awareness;
- improving the efficiency and effectiveness of water management through multi-stakeholder dialogue and coordination;
- strengthening cooperation by promoting river-basin approaches in national and transboundary waters; and
- identifying additional sources of funding and mechanisms to ensure sustainable financing.

The EUWI operates through different working groups and these groups have either a regional focus (e.g. Africa, Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), the Mediterranean and Latin America) or they concentrate on cross-cutting thematic issues (e.g. research and finance). The Coordination Group (CG) and the Annual Multi Stakeholder Forum ensures coherence of all EUWI activities. The secretariat of EUWI is managed by the European Commission.

Since 2002, the working groups have gradually adapted their work to their specific context and opportunities.

- In the EECCA and MED regions, demand has mainly been for providing tools for tackling priority water governance issues and for exchanging knowledge and building related capacity. The main instrument has been national policy dialogue, resulting in better policies and financing strategies.
- In Africa the needs vary between different countries; some countries have strong mechanisms for policy dialogue and donor harmonisation in place, while others

have weak institutions making policy dialogue difficult. The EUWI has mainly focused on strengthening the regional dialogue and on contributing to a strategic dialogue on making aid more effective.

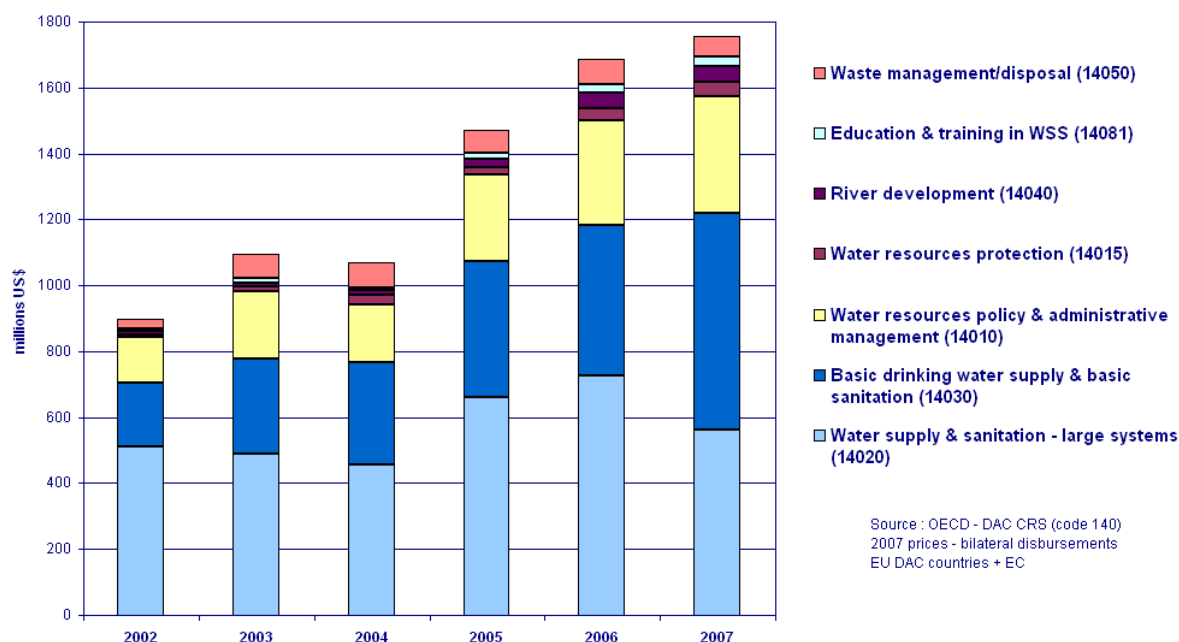
- In Latin America the EUWI is collaborating with regional organisations to support training programmes.

2 EU support to water and sanitation

The results presented below are based on the OECD-DAC Credit Reporting System database. While this data is representative of EU member states¹ earmarked support for water and sanitation activities², it does not include EU indirect or non-earmarked support for water and sanitation issues.

The European official development assistance to the water and sanitation sector has doubled since 2002, the biggest increase being the support delivered through the EC. The average amount spent by all EU donors is about 1 300 millions US\$ annually. However, the water sector is receiving much less bilateral support from donors than the health and education sectors.

- **European ODA to the water sector has doubled since 2002 and has become more pro-poor by increasing its focus on basic systems**

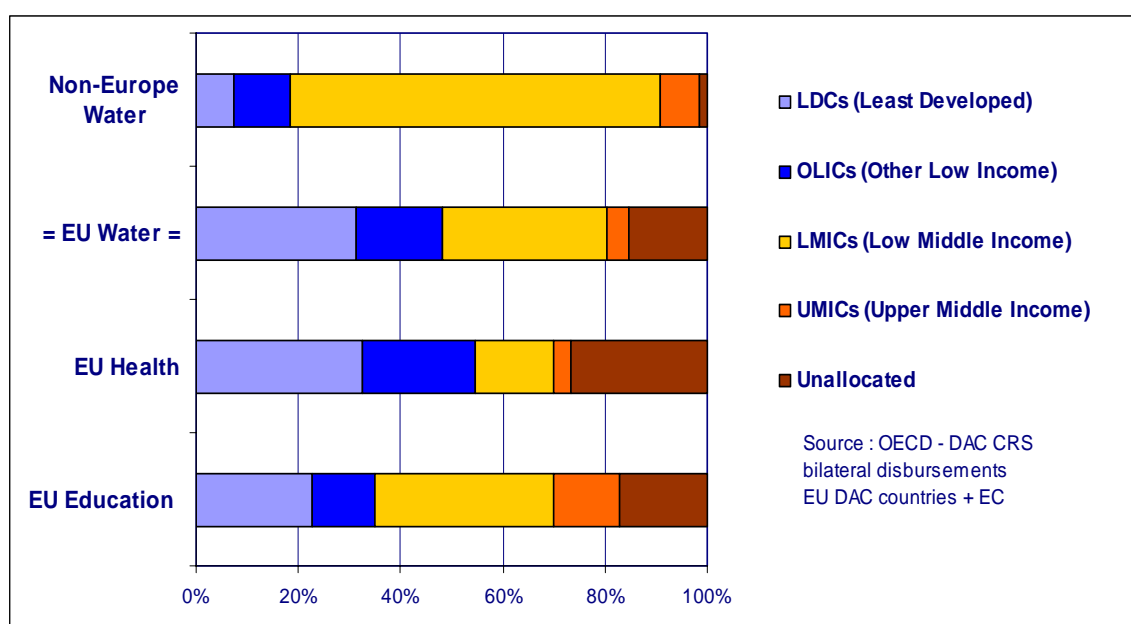


¹ The member states here refer to EU member states and the European Commission, who are also DAC members: i.e. Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and the European Commission.

² In this section, “the water sector” refers to ODA flows directly earmarked as, and reported under Code 140 (Water Supply and Sanitation)

The share of aid allocated to large water supply and sanitation systems has decreased from 57 % in 2002 to 32 % in 2007, whilst the share that goes to basic systems has increased from 22 % to 37 %. This could be interpreted as indicating that there has been an increased allocation to poor people, who are the ones who will benefit most from such basic systems in rural and peri-urban areas. The relative decreasing share to infrastructure compared to other activities could also be related to the increase of programme-based activities or sector budget support, including institutional support and capacity development activities.

- **LDCs receive only 31% of total European ODA to the W&S sector. Hence, there is scope for improved targeting of aid to the countries most in need.**



The share of the EU Aid provided to least developed countries (LDC) increased slightly from 2005 to 2007, but only reached 31% of the total support. Together with other low income countries (OLICs) however, the EU aid to poor countries amounted in 2007 to 48% of the total EU support to water, to be compared with 40% in 2005. However, it should also be noticed that European donors are doing substantially better than non-Europeans³ when it comes to pro-poor targeting, as non-European donors devoted less than 20% of their aid to water to poor countries. Hence, there is still scope to improve the targeting of Aid to the countries most in need.

It can also be observed that bilateral support to the health sector is much more focused on poor countries (33% to LDCs and 22% to OLICs), while support to the education sector is even less targeted than water. This is however difficult to interpret as these two sectors are driven by large multilateral contributions.

³ The non Europe staple includes Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, United States

3 EUWI Regional Components

3.1 *EUWI in Africa*

Organisation of the component

Austria is leading the Africa Component in 2009, taking over from UK who was the lead donor in 2008. The work is supported by EC, France, the Netherlands (Troika members) together with AMCOW-TAC.

Context

Most of Africa is off-track against the Millennium Development Goals for water and sanitation. At current rates of progress, sub-Saharan Africa will only reach the water target in 2035 and the sanitation target in 2109. In 2008, African leaders demonstrated strong political commitment to the sector by signing the eThekweni declaration at AfricaSan, the second African conference on sanitation and hygiene in Durban. The African Union (AU) dedicated its June 2008 summit in Sharm El-Sheik to water and sanitation: Heads of State made important commitments to accelerate progress towards achieving the water related MDG goals in Africa.

Africa and the development community still have much to do to translate these political commitments into outcomes. Financial allocations to the sector have increased in the last 6 years, but largely fall short of the requirements whilst weak institutions and a lack of capacity are limitations on the effective use of the available resources. Funds from development partners are not sufficiently targeted to the areas of greatest need and not always aligned with partner countries own plans.

The Africa-EU Strategic Partnership on Water Affairs and Sanitation, launched at the same time as EUWI itself, is being implemented through the EUWI's Africa Working Group (AWG). The purpose of the partnership is to make an effective joint contribution to achieving water and sanitation related MDGs in sub-Saharan Africa.

AWG is working with the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW) to strengthen its capacity to fulfil a regional leadership role and to develop an implementation strategy for the Sharm El Sheik commitments.

Key results

2008/09 was focused on **improving the dialogue between the AMCOW Advisory Committee (AMCOW-TAC) and the EU**. The appointment of Mr Bai-Mass Taal as executive secretary of AMCOW created a crucial direct link and led to more interaction. An office and transport arrangements have been provided by the government of Nigeria. However, progress has been slow on setting up an operational AMCOW secretariat to support the executive secretary, partly due to administrative difficulties with UNEP over accessing EU support funds.

- Under the auspices of the 2008 International Year of Sanitation, there was an intensive policy discussion on sanitation between all African stakeholders. The

Africa-EU statement on Sanitation was quoted in the AU Declaration of the AU Summit in July 2008.

- Parallel to the sanitation statement and the mapping exercise (see below), a task team from the Africa working group (AWG) coordinated the preparation of the proposal to the OECD-DAC Secretariat aiming to **disaggregate the future reporting of ODA for sanitation and water in the Creditor Reporting System**. The proposal was endorsed at the OECD meeting in May 2009.
- The AWG study on the **mapping of EU aid to Africa in the water and sanitation sector**, developed in coordination with the UN-Water GLAAS (global annual assessment) exercise and with OECD-DAC, was concluded in 2008 and disseminated both in Europe and Africa, to major institutions (Ministries, AfDB, AMCOW) and to NGOs networks. It is already providing the basis for further dialogue on how to improve aid effectiveness in the water sector. Both this report and the changes to the OECD DAC CRS are likely to have significant and measurable long term impacts in targeting aid flows to the countries and sub-sectors most in need.
- The AWG organised a special consultation meeting in March 2009 to prepare **recommendations for the new Water Facility under EDF10**, contributing to a joint statement of 5 EU member states to Europe Aid.

Lessons learnt and Conclusions drawn

- **Need to strengthen ownership - joint vision and goals for the partnership**
Despite strong progress in terms of EU donor harmonisation and aid efficiency, it is now important to re-affirm the vision and ambition of the strategic Africa-EU Partnership on water and re-focus the EUWI planning framework with African partners.
- **Improved relationships with other global partners and partnerships**
The aid mapping study and preparing the sanitation statement have both contributed to a constructive relationship with other global initiatives and organisations like OECD, UN-Water, WHO etc. Although not easy in practice, coordination and alignment in global studies are both possible and effective. Yet the global community can do much to improve aid coordination and alignment and give sanitation more prominence in programming.
- **Re-define the AWG as an operational platform for policy dialogue**
The AWG national policy dialogues show the need to re-focus AWG activities away from national dialogues and towards a more political role of achieving greater aid effectiveness and on dissemination of knowledge in strategic policy areas. This will require greater commitment of from the EU member states.

Country-based activities might still be considered where they have a strategic pilot character, are based on a demand clearly expressed by the country and the role of AWG is clearly defined.

To enhance its effectiveness, the AWG has adopted the following **working principles**:

- Close cooperation with and strong involvement of AMCOW-TAC and the AU

- Alignment and cooperation with other international actors and Africa-focused activities, like UN-Water, AfDB, WSP, G8, GF4A etc
- Improving communications with AWG's members and stakeholders
- Bilingual operations (FR, EN)

3.2 ***EUWI in Eastern Europe Caucasus and Central Asia***

Organisation of the component

Lead country: Romania. Strategic partners in the implementation of EUWI-EECCA are OECD for water supply and sanitation and UNECE for IWRM.

Context

The water sector in EECCA has extensive infrastructure inherited from the Soviet Union, which has so deteriorated over the past 20 years that:

- water services are of poor quality
- parts of the infrastructure are not operational
- governance systems - including for integrated water resources management - are dysfunctional.

As a result, there have been repeated outbreaks of water-borne diseases and the quality of surface and ground waters has suffered severely.

EECCA countries address this situation through a range of policies.

- Some countries are working to approximate with the **EU Water Framework Directive**
- Some have signed the **Protocol on Water and Health** to the 1992 UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) and other relevant UN conventions and protocols
- Regarding water supply and sanitation, countries have adopted the **Almaty Guiding Principles** for Water Supply and Sanitation sector reform (adopted by EECCA ministers of finance/economy and environment in 2000)
- Many pursue active policies to achieve the water-related MDGs.

Key results

National policy dialogues in EECCA are positively influencing the policy-making process and helping governments to reform the water sector.

- In Armenia a EUWI national policy dialogue on financing rural water supply identified realistic policy objectives for minimal water supply standards for rural populations, based on which a law is soon to be adopted. A parallel dialogue on integrated water resources management resulted in a decision to implement the EU Water Framework Directive.
- In Moldova a dialogue on water supply and sanitation financing provided key input to the national water strategy. There is now a demand to translate the strategy into an action and investment plan and to link it into the medium-term expenditure framework. A parallel dialogue on integrated water resources management resulted in a governmental order on waste-water discharge from municipal sources, which should help improve water quality.

Lessons learnt

Successful national dialogue on **sector financing** requires:

- National ownership - a champion & involvement at suitably high level (typically deputy minister or higher); ministry of finance needs to be involved; ensure that the voice of the poor is heard and factored into dialogue, i.e. by involving civil society.
- Need to link/integrate dialogue into existing processes, especially regular budgetary processes (MTEF); align with sector institutions.
- Such processes take time (typically 2-3 years) - support for national dialogue must be flexible enough to accommodate new demands.
- Analytical base: methodology must be credible, with robust data, but intelligible to parties involved (e.g. a financial model); New data and analysis can help to build interest and trust between stakeholders and supporting institutions.
- Donors can help facilitate dialogue and provide incentives, but should not undermine "ownership".

Regarding national dialogue on **integrated water resources management (IWRM)**

- A strong country commitment and cooperation with other international organisations (e.g. European Commission, OECD, UNDP, OSCE, WHO) and other UNECE countries.
- A holistic, rather than piecemeal consideration of issues, as the selected topics of the dialogue process are of relevance to all water-related sectors and cover one or more of the four pillars of IWRM (enabling environment, institutional framework, management instruments, and cross-cutting issues as financing and public involvement).
- Take advantage of the experience of UNECE and the parties to the Water Convention - the topics for national policy dialogues should be closely linked to the Convention's provisions, particularly those on prevention, control and reduction of pollution, the work of joint bodies, consultations among parties, and joint monitoring and assessment.
- the environmental performance review (EPR), conducted by UNECE in EECCA countries following an OECD approach, provides a solid basis for choosing the right topics for the policy dialogue and developing a holistic understanding of environmental problems and sustainable solutions.
- the dialogue should focus on policy issues rather than technical problems, and be a platform where representatives of all competent sectors and the public can meet;
- involve all major stakeholders in the respective countries as well as representatives of relevant international organisations, institutions and programmes - as an important aim of the dialogue process is the implementation of policy (e.g. new governmental regulations), it is important to involve representatives of parliamentary bodies responsible for environmental issues.

3.3 *EUWI in the Mediterranean*

Organisation of the component

Greece is leading the Mediterranean Component since its initiation in 2003. The Forum of the Water Directors of the Euro-Mediterranean and Southeastern European Countries provides political and institutional support and served as the institutional platform for the implementation of MED EUWI.

Context

Significant progress on water and sanitation issues has been achieved in the last two decades in most countries of the Mediterranean. Despite these, water challenges remain enormous exacerbated by population growth and climate change. Furthermore, political tensions have often set back development agendas, including in relation to transboundary water resources management.

Hence, there is an evident need for further enhancing integrated approaches for water resources management. Achieving a sound institutional, social, economic and ecological environment, supported by appropriate planning and implementation capacities, are among key governance-related prerequisites for sustainable management of water resources. Furthermore, water demand management policies and practices should be widely applied. It is also recognized that the sector's self-financing capacities have to be increased, including through recovery of operational costs, while supported by sustainable and bankable projects.

Key results

- Systematic work in **Egypt** (on financing strategies for WSS) and **Lebanon** (on IWRM planning) continued and Phase I of the 2-year multi-stakeholder national policy dialogues was completed in April 2009 in both countries.
- Agreement for action in the **Occupied Palestinian Territories** on water governance reform was reached and a activities were prioritized and selected.
- Assistance to the key **Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference** on Water (22 December 2008, Dead Sea, Jordan) was provided through elaboration of background documents and related consultation. A key decision of the Conference was the elaboration of a new long term Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean.
- **Capacity building** and consultation activities were implemented on transboundary water resources management in South-eastern Europe in the framework of the Petersberg Phase II/ Athens Declaration Process engaging a wide range of stakeholders.
- Collaboration for the management of the transboundary **Drin River Basin** was launched involving countries, stakeholders and international organisations.
- Working Groups of the Joint European Water Framework Directive/EUWI Process continued their work
- Targeted **education activities** were implemented.

Lessons learnt

The Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI) has developed regional (since late 2004) and national (since late 2006) activities. Based on challenges faced by MED EUWI during implementation, the lessons learned are:

- Due to the strong political nature of the activities a key prerequisite is that, these must **respond to demand** raised by key national and regional authorities and be integrally embedded in national and regional political processes. Consequently, constraints and risks are heavily influenced by such political processes and have to be frequently assessed and adjusted. **Anchoring activities at high political level** is an absolute asset, bringing in recognition, support, synergies, outreach, etc.
- EUWI is not a donor agency, but a process, driven by authorities where activities take place and are supported by existing donors working at national and regional levels. EUWI does not intend to have a constant presence in the countries as such (eg. establish country offices, etc) but, at the same time, it expresses a collective long-term commitment from the EU side. Hence, **EUWI has a catalytic effect** on addressing specific water challenges, providing assistance to critical decisions that countries wish to examine and eventually make. EUWI provides targeted assistance by an ‘external’ and ‘neutral’ agent to effectively progress.
- The **design phase of National Policy Dialogues has been time consuming**, particularly when the aim is on highly strategic (eg. review of on-going National Strategy, launching a process for a national IWRM plan, elaboration of priorities for water reforms) or controversial/discursive (eg. water financing) issues where careful steps have to be taken.
- The **stakeholder consultation is a key tool** for setting the agenda for technical activities and policy interventions, for improving governance and transparency and for trying to reach a common understanding and consensus on the themes tackled. In cases, a stakeholder involvement culture is not advanced in the countries of focus. Therefore, EUWI’s contribution on enhancing that culture by advocating for and implementing partnership approaches is among its added value.
- **Capacity** of partners to follow activities in a significant way, particularly when it requires a multi-disciplinary technical and political background, is not always adequate and often **has to be built** or critically supported by EUWI while the intervention is on-going.
- **EUWI can catalyze better donor harmonization** and alignment at the national level. Practice has proven that this exists in a limited number of countries in the region while in some cases modalities for actual cooperation may not be at the level needed. Attention has to be paid to engage interested donors from the beginning of a process aiming to enhanced ownership and, hopefully, secure assistance for implementation of the outcomes of the EUWI intervention.
- **Expectations must be realistic** and impact can mostly be demonstrated in the medium and long-term, particularly since objectives set are responding to related far reaching targets.

Despite any difficulties faced, the feedback that MED EUWI is receiving from partner countries has been greater and more positive than ever, signaling appreciation and impact of the on-going activities. This is demonstrated through the concrete and reinforced demand raised by partner countries for continuing as well as for newly engaging in MED EUWI activities as well as for MED EUWI contribution in key regional and sub-regional policy processes.

3.4 EUWI in Latin America

Organisation of the component

Spain is leading the Latin America component in 2008/2009.

Context

The Latin America component works in collaboration with the Iberoamerican Water Directors Conference (CODIA, in its Spanish acronym) – <http://www.codiastp.org>- which has supported and promoted the “Iberoamerican Water Program”, adopted at the XVIII Iberoamerican Summit of Heads of State and Government (El Salvador, October 2008).

The “Iberoamerican Water Program” includes the “Iberoamerican Water Training Program” that counts with ten different Subject Areas:

SUBJECT AREAS	COORDINATORS	
Basic		
PLANNING, BASIN HANDLING AND MANAGEMENT (IWRM)	Brazil	Colombia, Guatemala, Peru, UNEP
WATER AND ENVIRONMENT, HYDROLOGY, MODELATION	Argentina	Brazil, Costa Rica, Spain
WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION	Uruguay	Colombia, Spain, Mexico
Cross-cutting		
GOVERNANCE	Guatemala	Brazil, Colombia, Honduras, Spain
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND REMOTE SENSING TECHNOLOGIES	Peru	Argentina, Spain, Mexico
Specific		
HYDROGEOLOGY	Cuba	Panama, UNEP
CLIMATE AND EXTREME EVENTS	Brazil	Cuba, UNEP
WATER QUALITY	Argentina	Uruguay, UNEP
WATERWORKS, IRRIGATION AND ENERGY	Portugal	Argentina, Chile
GLACIOLOGY	Chile	Peru, Bolivia, UNEP

Furthermore, the Research, Testing and Training Centre for non-conventional technologies in Uruguay, which favours the corresponding transfer and technological development through dialogue between stakeholders and countries, is also included at this Program.

Key results

The X CODIA was held in Madrid in June-July 2009, within a Seminar on “Gender and Water”, organized jointly by the Iberoamerican General Secretariat (SEGIB) and CODIA.

At the X CODIA the Technical Committee and the Executive Committee were formed and the Rules were approved.

There are 17 training activities scheduled for 2009, five have already been held at the various Training Centres of the Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECID) in Latin America.

The establishment of the Research, Testing and Training Centre for non-conventional technologies will soon start and it will be finished in 2011. It will also allow participants in the training activities to learn the most appropriate water treatment technologies for small rural communities. Likewise, research institutes, schools and private companies will have the opportunity to test the applicability of water purification prototypes, promoting technology transfer in the region.

4 EUWI Thematic Components

4.1 Finance

Organisation of the component

Since July 2006 the FWG is hosted by the Global Water Partnership Organisation (GWPO) in Stockholm.

Context

An important obstacle to development of water supply and sanitation services in many countries has been insufficient focus on financial issues. As a consequence, water supply and sanitation systems are often not financially sustainable. The FWG is collaborating with the OECD on identifying best practice in strategic financial planning around the world. It has contributed to the development of a tool (called FEASIBLE) that can support such approaches.

Key results

In 2008, the FWG focused on initiating a financing strategy study of the water and sanitation study in Lesotho and another in a French-speaking African country.

The contract for the study in Lesotho was awarded in July; field work started in October and has so far progressed well. There have been problems in finding a French-speaking country to host the study. Plans to work in Burkina Faso and Mauritania had to be abandoned. A study was initiated in Niger in May 2009.

4.2 Research

Organisation of the component

SPLASH is the name of the EUWI Research Area Network (EUWI ERA-net). It is a consortium of 16 ministries, funding agencies and national research and technological development authorities from 11 European countries. The component is currently

managed by DFID. The EC is also supporting other research activities linked to the EUWI.

Context

Effective water research can play an important role in supporting developing nations to meet the challenge of providing poor people with access to safe water supplies and improved sanitation. Previous research in the water sector has generally been programmed and managed in isolation by different donors such that overlap and duplication has occurred, and specific gaps and issues may not have been addressed. SPLASH is the name of the EUWI Research Area Network (EUWI ERA-net). It is a consortium of 16 ministries, funding agencies and national research and technological development authorities from 11 European countries.

Key Results

SPLASH is working towards making the concept of a 'European Research Area' a reality by bringing together appropriate research partner programmes from across Europe in a coherent and coordinated way. The EUWI European Research Area Network (Era-Net)/ SPLASH completed a number of outputs which furthered understanding of good research management and practice. In October 2008 we synthesised this knowledge in the form of a series of lessons learnt, and then developed an action plan and joint working mechanism to take these forwards. An initial series of activities were approved in January 2009 by donors namely:

- Support to the development of the Africa Groundwater Network;
- Conduct of a workshop between existing SPLASH partner funded research programmes active in Ethiopia during May 2009, to reduce duplication and improve synergies;
- Development of open source Research Management training materials as a means of disseminating findings so far and addressing an identified knowledge gap;
- The development of a tool to support the evaluation of impact of research programmes; and
- The development and launching of a new jointly funded call for research proposals in the area of sanitation.

In addition we are considering how SPLASH can best provide support to:

1. The NEPAD Office of Science and Technology in the development of a network of African Union/NEPAD Centres of Excellence in water sciences in Africa.
2. A proposal to support small scale hydro power development in the Mekong basin; and
3. Improved research coordination between ongoing programmes active in the Niger river basin.

For more information see <http://www.splash-era.net/>

Several others research projects relevant to the EUWI have also been implemented. Some projects financed under EC Research budget FP6 were finalised during 2008, among them the **New Approaches to Adaptive Management under Uncertainty (NEWATER)** aimed at facilitating change to adaptive strategies for integrated water resource

management in seven major basins (Amudarya, Elbe, Guadiana, Nile, Orange, Rhine and Tisza). **Another** project coming to an end is the **WADI Water Demand Integration: Sustainable management of Mediterranean coastal fresh and transitional water bodies: a socioeconomic and environmental analysis of changes and trends to enhance and sustain stakeholders' benefits**".

In 2008 several new projects with relevance for EUWI were identified for funding under the new EC Research budget FP7. One example is the **Twin2Go** (Coordinating Twinning partnerships towards more adaptive Governance in river basins), another is the **HighNoon** (Adaptation to changing water resources availability in Northern India with Himalayan glacier retreat and changing monsoon pattern).

5 EUWI Coordination and Communication

The EUWI Coordination Group meets twice a year to give feedback on results and plans and to promote exchange of experiences between the regional and thematic components. Its recommendations for the future work of the EUWI are summarised under the conclusions below.

The annual Multistakeholder Forum took place in Stockholm during the World Water Week in August 2008. The purpose of the Forum is to debate the EU Water Initiative, comment on its performance and discuss its strategic choices.

The EUWI Secretariat is preparing a communication strategy and a consultant has been contracted for this purpose. Responsibility for the EUWI website was transferred from the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) to the EC Joint Research Centre (JRC) in May 2008. JRC, together with a communication expert, will improve the efficiency of EUWI information dissemination and improve the interactive tools. JRC is also developing the AQUAKNOW platform as a complementary tool to serve water practitioners in the field in preparing water projects.

As part of this project, EUWI is helping update the Water Guidelines (last edition 1998), to become - in the medium to long term - a capacity building tool for practitioners in the water sector through the African Centres of Excellence.

6 Conclusions and Looking Ahead

The political and strategic character of the EUWI and its objectives continue to require strong and regular political support by appropriate high-level structures within partner countries and the EU and Member States. On the EU side, this calls for greater commitment from the EU member states and the European Commission and allocation of appropriate financial and human resources for administration, management and follow-up of the EUWI. Closer operational links are needed between the EUWI and ongoing bilateral and regional programmes supported by the Commission and the member states.

The Coordination Group recommends the following activities and outcomes as the focus for future work within EUWI:

- An analysis of national plans, such as PRSP's, IWRM Plans and Climate Change Adaptation Plans, to find and disseminate good practices on inclusion of water and sanitation in national planning systems.
- Improving donor coordination and harmonisation of policies on capacity development.
- Promoting programmed-based approaches and collecting experiences from water SWAP's.
- Exchanging experiences on and supporting transboundary water management.
- Integrating research results into the development and policy dialogue.
- Encouraging EU member states to increase sector financing.
- Improving communication on EUWI results and revising the monitoring framework to reflect the specific strategies in each region.

For further information about the EU Water Initiative please visit www.euwi.net