

## **National Report of GREECE**

SMAP 2005

National Correspondents Meeting, Athens

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### **1. Activities related to SMAP and to the environmental dimension of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EMP)**

The Mediterranean dimension has been a long term focus area for the Greek environment policy. In this framework Greece has been the leading Country of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI), since 2002.

MED EUWI, is giving particular emphasis to Mediterranean and Southeastern Europe priorities and focuses on the following themes:

- Water supply and sanitation, with emphasis on the poorest part of the societies
- Integrated water resources management, with emphasis on management of transboundary water bodies
- Water, food and environment interaction, with emphasis on fragile ecosystems
- Non-conventional water resources and
- Cross cutting issues such as transfer of technology, transfer of know how, capacity building and training and education.

The following partner countries are involved:

- In the South East Europe – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Former Yugoslavic Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Romania, Serbia and Montenegro.
- In the Mediterranean – Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Turkey, Tunisia.

MED EUWI also serves as a platform for promoting strategic partnerships between the EU and the Mediterranean and Southeastern European countries as well as between government, civil society and the private sector. Non-EU donors and international organizations (including the UN family and the IFIs) are also contributing to the component through the promotion of synergies and development of building blocks at sub-regional level.

In terms of the Component's Organisation, the Organizational Framework and Modalities document was prepared and presented in 4<sup>th</sup> MED EUWI WG Meeting (Brussels, 17 January 2005). This document, is a living document that can be refined as work progresses, has been finally amended and approved at the 5<sup>th</sup> MED EUWI WG Meeting (Athens, 22 June 2005).

Moreover, the Component's Concept and Vision Note, that describes the overall objectives, approaches, strategic synergies and orientations of MED EUWI, has been prepared, presented at and approved by 4<sup>th</sup> MED EUWI WG Meeting.

In the beginning of 2005 a concrete detailed Work Programme for the Component for 2005 has also been compiled and agreed by all partners, taking into account input and suggestions by partners including partner countries, Mediterranean networks and cooperating organizations, aiming at matching funds, improving coherence and coordination.

The 2005 Work Programme focuses on nine (9) specific Activities at the country and regional levels. Implementation of the 2005 WP relies greatly on support and funding provided by individual donors (organisations and countries) with a particular interest in the implementation of specific actions. Some of the activities that great progress has been achieved so far are on the sub-regional level, for example IWRM status assessment in N.African countries, Capacity building on transboundary water management in S.E. Europe/Balkans etc. In this context, the funding of a very important project

proposal entitled “Achieving the MDGs/WSSD Targets Related to WSS in the SE Med: Agreeing on National Roadmaps” that has already been submitted to AIDCO, is currently under negotiation.

Efforts are also currently being made, with the support of partners (e.g. UNEP/GPA, UNEP MAP etc) and following requests by partner countries’ governments (e.g. Egypt, Lebanon) launch soon the process of ‘country level dialogues’ in a limited number of country, at a first stage, involving all national and local stakeholders.

A first draft of a Document called “Types of Interventions” has also been prepared and circulated in June 2005 (5<sup>th</sup> MED EUWI WG Meeting). This document was open for comments by partners until the end of August 2005 before its finalization. The Document’s scope is to try to identify broad types of interventions needed to be carried out in order to meet the internationally agreed targets on water, sanitation and IWRM, and aims to contribute considerably to the ENPI process of the EU in the Mediterranean region.

Moreover, the launching of the EUWI/Water Framework Directive Joint Process for the Mediterranean in 2004, during the Stockholm Water Week last year, has also been an important development to foster synergies between the two processes and share the WFD’s experience and expertise with partners in the region.

A closer and more operational link between the Component and the MCSD was attempted and succeeded by making a clear and positive reference to the MED EUWI in the recently approved document of the ‘Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development’ (MSSD) approved by the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD (Athens, 20-22 June 2005). Reference to the Component includes emphasis on its promotion as means of achieving the MDGs and the JPoI as well as strengthening synergies with donors and with other regional cooperation frameworks in support of investment in the region.

In terms of events, the progress of the Component has been presented at related side events (organised either by the Government of Greece or by the EU Commission) in New York, in April 2004 and April 2005, in the framework of CSD12 and CSD13. The Component and progress achieved has also been presented during the Multistakeholder Forums of the EUWI that have taken place in Stockholm during the Stockholm World Water Weeks in August 2004 and August 2005.

In terms of future prospects, one of the most important elements is the creation of more standard and operational linkages between the MED EUWI and other on-going regional initiatives e.g. the MCSD, the Barcelona Process and most importantly the Euro-Mediterranean Water Directors’ Forum which are being systematically explored and promoted, also in view of the coming Meeting of the EMWD in Italy (November 2005).

Finally, it should be also noted that, in the context of the ongoing National Programme of Bilateral Development Cooperation and Assistance in the field of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Hellenic Ministry for the Environment (DAC/OECD), emphasis has been given to the Mediterranean Region and in particular to the water sector, aiming at increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of cooperation between Greece and its partner countries, with several projects aiming mainly to capacity building, water management, institutional arrangements and indicators’ promoting by partner countries in the Med.

## **2. National programming related to the policy objectives of SMAP**

Greece has developed activities in all SMAP priority fields in the context of the new 3<sup>rd</sup> Community Support Framework (period 2000-2006) in which the environment has a strengthened role. Special emphasis is given on:

- Water resources:

Since December 2003, a new legislative and institutional framework has been put into force in Greece. It consists of Law 3199/9-12-2003 (OJG 280A/2003) on the “protection and the sustainable management of the water resources” with which the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) (2000/60/EC) is transposed into the national legislation. This new framework Law foresees a radical reorientation of the respective administrative capacities and introduces an innovative and holistic approach concerning water management that recognizes explicitly the ecological function of water. It lays emphasis on management of water on river basin level as well as on water pricing so that it reflects its full costs. The 3199/03 Law also incorporates the ‘polluter pays principle’ and the objective of maintaining or reaching a ‘good ecological status’ for all water resources through control of pollution by use of thresholds levels and standards. It also introduces innovative approaches concerning protection of water quantity and cooperation on bilateral/transboundary level. According to Law 3199/03, Regional Water Directorates and Councils, supervised by the National Water Agency, will be established for each one of the 13 River Basin District / Water Region (RBDs) of the country, aiming at co-ordinating water policy activities and implementing specific Programmes of Measures and Action Plans for achieving the environmental objectives of the WFD for each RBD. Representation of interested parties in regional Water Councils ensures an active public involvement in the process.

Within this innovative institutional and legislative framework, the Pinios Pilot River Basin Project (Pinios PRB) is being implemented. The overall aim of this Project is to identify the technical and management problems that may come up in real cases of the WFD implementation in the country and to develop pragmatic solutions for their addressing, to test the practicability and efficiency of the technical and supporting Guidance Documents on key aspects of the Water Framework Directive before they are widely applied in the country, to attain a concrete example of the application of these technical Guidance Documents and to inform the interested parties on the implementation of the WFD, through real circumstances, allowing the stakeholders (including local and regional authorities) to learn and be involved in the process from an early stage. The project commenced in mid-2003 and is expected to run for 4 years (until the end of 2006).

Finally, for the full integration of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) the text of the new Presidential Decree for the integration of the technical details of the Directive (as foreseen in Article 15, Par. 1 of Law 3199/9-12-2003) has been completed and is under adaptation. Furthermore, four legislative acts are currently under formation:

- a JMD on the establishment and operation of the National Water Council
- a JMD on the organization and competence of the Central Water Service
- a JMD on the organization and competences of the Water Directions of the Prefectures
- a JMD on issues of licensing for water use and exploitation

- Waste:

In 2002, the Ministry for the Environment (YPEHODE) initiated the update of the National Planning, with the aim to:

- Review the Prefectural Schemes according to the Regional Schemes that were elaborated for promoting integrated solid waste management plans at regional level and the clustering of programmes;
- Elaborate integrated solid waste management systems for the 13 Administrative Regions of Greece;
- Control the operation of non-engineered dump sites and take action for their gradual elimination;
- Develop modern sanitary landfills, covering the whole country until the end of 2008.

During 2001-2003, YPEHODE has focused in the transposition of the community legislation on the waste management, into the national legal system. Based on the recent institutional framework and the review process of the 1<sup>st</sup> National Planning, YPEHODE issued in 2003 JMD 50910/2727/2003 (OJG 1909/2003), on measures and terms for solid waste management, comprising of the following basic axes:

- Adaptation and approval of the National Solid Waste Management Planning so as to incorporate the major principles, goals, policies and actions for the rational management of urban wastes, according to the community legal framework and arising national obligations;

- Establishment of the Regional Solid Waste Management Schemes as the executive action plans in the area of solid waste management, with specifications and goals in consistency with those of the National Planning.

New Joint Ministerial Decisions that were added to the existing legal framework for waste management in 2002 and 2003, include JMD 3418/2002 that defines the measures and terms for harbour installations delivering wastes produced in ships and shipments residues, JMD 29407/3508/2002 (OJG 1572B/2002) on measures and terms for sanitary disposal (harmonization with the EU Directive 99/31/EC), and JMD 18083/1098/2003 (OJG 606B/2003), with provisions for general guidelines regarding the reporting, collection and disposal (retraction) of the devices and wastes containing PCBs. The latter specifies specifically the basic requirements for the registration, labelling and the respective required management action of the devices and material containing PCBs, depending on the volume and the PCBs content in liquid devices.

The application field of Law 2939/2001 (harmonization with the EU Directive 94/62/EEC) on “Packages and the Alternative Management of Packaging and other Materials” extends to packaging wastes, end-of-life vehicles, waste batteries and accumulators, catalysts, used tyres, waste from electrical and electronic equipment, oils and waste oils and demolition and construction waste. For the above waste streams, the following Presidential Decrees have either been issued or are under publication:

- Alternative management of oil wastes –Programme for their alternative management (Presidential Decree 82 / OJG 64A/02-03-2004);
- Used batteries and accumulators (Presidential Decree 115 / OJG 80A/05-03-2004);
- Vehicle tyres (Presidential Decree 109 / OJG 75A/05-03-2004);
- Used electric and electronic equipment (Presidential Decree 117 / OJG 82A/05-03-2004);
- End-of-life road vehicles (Presidential Decree 116 / OJG 81A/05-03-2004);
- Excavation, construction and demolition wastes (Presidential Decree under publication).

This Law obligates the economic actors (producers, importers) to organize or participate in collective (or individual) systems of alternative waste management (i.e. return, collection, transportation and recovery systems) in order to achieve specific quantitative targets. Pursuant to Law 2939/2001, the Ministerial Decisions 106453/2003 (OJG 391B/2003) and 105857/2003 (OJG 391B/2003) approved the operation of two nationwide systems for the collective alternative management of packaging wastes.

Most recently, YPEHODE issued JMD 22912/1117/2005 (OJG 759B/2005) with which the EU Directive 2000/76/EC on waste incineration is integrated in the Greek legislation. Furthermore, the revision on the National Legislation on hazardous waste management is at its final stage. This includes three items, namely the measures and conditions for the management of hazardous waste, the technical guidance for the management of hazardous waste and the National Plan for the management of hazardous waste.

- Coastal zones:

The recent Law 2742/99 on “Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development and other provisions” provides for the elaboration of Special Frameworks for Spatial Development for specific areas bearing significant pressure or having significant ecological value, such as coastal areas. In 2002 a “Special Framework of Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development for the Coastal Areas” was adopted by the Council of Ministers. It addresses issues, such as the delimitation of the boundaries of the coastal zone and the identification of the management zones. It reflects recent developments as expressed at the European level. An Action Plan is included, containing actions to be implemented during the period 1993-2018.

- Hot spot areas:

Management of protected areas including wetlands, was specified in 1999 (Law 2742/99) through the establishment of administrative units (Management Bodies). In 2002, through Law 3044/02, twenty five (25) Management Bodies were established, additionally to the existing two ones. Management of the

most important protected wetland sites in Greece, designated as Ramsar wetlands of international importance, is attained through the establishment of these Bodies (which are financially supported, for the time being, from the state), which will collaborate with the respective regional services to be established according to Law 3199/03, with the mandate to develop and implement regional water management plans. Additionally, according to the requirements of the EU Directive 91/676/EEC (transposed into national legislation with JMD 195652/1906/1999, OJG 1575B), four (4) “vulnerable zones” towards nitrogen pollution from agricultural run-offs have been established and respective special Action Programmes have been planned and adopted, according to art. 5 of the Directive, focusing on the minimization of the adverse impacts on the environment of Greece. The implementation of these programmes is obligatory for all farmers of these vulnerable zones.

- Desertification:

Greece secured the continuous implementation of the UNCCD through the acceptance of the National Action Plan (NAP) for combating desertification by the Government and the publication in the Government's Gazette of the Common Ministerial Decision (CMD) no. 99605/3719, which instructs the public services and the stakeholders to implement it. The CMD contains guidelines for the creation of the required agencies and the application of policies and measures described in the NAP. Furthermore, the Greek National Committee has proceeded in the following actions:

- The 1:000,000 scale Desertification Vulnerability Map of Greece was compiled on the basis of the principles and indicators proposed by Yassoglou (1995) and of CORINE (1992).
- The book "Desertification: Greek Publications" containing a significant number of scientific work by Greek researchers has been published by the Greek National Committee for Combating Desertification (May 2004).
- The *Soil Associations Map of Greece* has been realized in 1:500.000 scale, which provides information on soil type and quality, parent material, desertification vulnerability, sustainable agronomic uses, and restrictions for non-agronomic uses (GNCCD, February 2004).
- A research paper on Early Warning Systems for monitoring and assessment of desertification risk in Greece has been compiled by the GNCCD (Dr. P. Giannouloupoulos, GNCCD, March 2004).
- The GNCCD participated in the CLEMDES project for the creation of an interactive site where information on desertification and relative issues can be published ([www.clemdes.org](http://www.clemdes.org)). The project has been successfully completed.
- A Communications Plan and Flow Chart has been drafted, delineating the actions proposed for disseminating information on desertification among national competent agencies.
- The GNCCD participated in the DESERTWATCH project of the European Space Agency for developing a monitoring and assessment tool for desertification by the use of Earth Observation data.

### **3. Synergies with other International Programs and Organizations**

Greece is supporting actively the Mediterranean Action Plan and its activities, including the MCSD. It is very important that synergies are explored between the different Initiatives and Organizations that are active in the Region.

Greece has signed and ratified most of the main International Conventions and Protocols, in the frame of UN, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCO, Council of Europe, IMO, IAEA, etc.

### **4. Experiences and suggestions**

The experience with environmental policy within Greece and from its collaboration with other Mediterranean partners demonstrates the necessity to strengthen existing activities and expand the effort in several key areas including:

- Strengthening policy implementation through capacity building and education for sustainable development

- Bringing environmental concerns in development and sectoral policies at national and Regional level
- Promote further interventions at country level, according to national objectives and priorities that are identified through participatory dialogue process with the active involvement of all stakeholders in partner countries
- Put greater emphasis on coordination and harmonization of initiatives and activities at all levels as well as on experience and information sharing between EU and non-EU partners
- Build-up capacities of partners (civil society, economic sectors, etc.) in sustainable development
- Give special attention to key issues of Mediterranean significance such as water, coastal zone management, etc.
- Promoting synergies with other International Programmes and Organizations, especially UNEP/MAP and MCSD.
- Promoting synergies with other Initiatives and regions with similar characteristics and context to the Mediterranean Region (e.g. the Baltic Region and the Baltic 21 Initiative).

## **5. Other Initiatives undertaken by Greece related to the Mediterranean Region**

### **a. 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the MCSD**

The members of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) and their partners have met in Athens, Greece, from 20 to 22 June 2005, consisting the 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the MCSD, hosted jointly by the Government of Greece and UNEP/MAP. The outcomes of this session have been very important for the Mediterranean since, for the first time, a comprehensive “Mediterranean Strategy for the Sustainable Development”(MSSD) of the Region has been approved and the “Charter of Athens” has been compiled and agreed upon with which the MSSD is submitted to the Contracting Parties (that will meet in November 2005), inviting them to adopt the MSSD.

### **b. The Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment and Sustainability- MEDIES**

Greece, together with UNESCO, UNEP/MAP, MIO-ECSDE and , more recently Italy, for the Core Group of MEDIES (Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment and Sustainability) that was launched in the WSSD (Johanneburg, 2002) as a the Type II Initiative. MEDIES aims at the facilitation of the educational community to contribute in a systematic and concrete way to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Millennium Development Goals, through the successful application of innovative educational programmes and the facilitation of an educational network on ESD in the Mediterranean. The Task Force of the Initiative involves twelve (12) countries through relevant Ministries, Institutions and Organisations, namely: Albania, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, France, Jordan, Italy, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey as well as UNESCO, UNEP/MAP, GWP-Med and MIO-ECSDE.

### ***MEDIES Publications***

Two educational materials have been developed until now:

- “Water in the Mediterranean”, published in six languages: Arabic, English, French, Greek, Italian, Turkish, and implemented in various countries of the region either in the formal school systems or within environmental NGO programmes in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and schools.
- “Wastes in our lives”, published in Greek and implemented so far in Greece. Its English version will be finalized by the end of 2005 and will be translated in Mediterranean languages, in order to be used by the educators-members of the Network.

Other publications that have been also developed through MEDIES:

- “Handbook on methods used in Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development” MEDIES, MIO-ESCDE, Athens, 2004.
- “Methodologies for the application of educational materials in Education for Environment & Sustainability" Athens, Greece, 25-26 October 2003.
- Sustainable Mediterranean Newsletter: «The Status of in the Mediterranean” Issue no 34, August 2004.

- Sustainable Mediterranean Newsletter: «Environmental Education in the Mediterranean» Issue no 30, August 2003.
- Proceedings of the Conference on “Methodologies for the application of educational materials in Education for Environment & Sustainability” (coorganised by the Hellenic Ministry for Environment, Physical planning & Public Works, the University of Athens and MIO-ESCDE, Athens, 25-26 October 2003).
- Proceedings of the Conference on “Environmental Education: the Mediterranean Perspective” (coorganised by the Hellenic Ministry for Environment, Physical planning & Public Works and MIO-ESCDE, Athens, 14-15 December 2002).

***MEDIES Conferences & Training Seminars for formal and non-formal educators***

- Official Launching of the Arabic "Water in the Mediterranean" – Training Seminar on ESD for the Egyptian educators, League of Arab States, Cairo, 8-9 December 2004, coorganised by the “Arab Network for Environment & Development” and “The Arab Office for Youth & Environment”.
- Official Launching of the Turkish "Water in the Mediterranean" – Training Seminar on ESD for the Turkish educators, Kadis Has University, Istanbul, 12-13 October 2004, coorganised by the Green Steps for Environmental Literacy” and the “Marmara Group Foundation”.
- Official Launching of the Italian "Water in the Mediterranean" – Training Seminar on ESD for the Italian educators, Side Event at the "International Forum on Partnerships for Sustainable Development", Rome 4-6 March 2004, coorganised the Italian Ministry for the Environment and UN/DESA.
- Methodologies for the application of educational materials in Education for Environment & Sustainability” coorganised by the Hellenic Ministry for Environment, Physical planning & Public Works, the University of Athens and MIO-ESCDE, Athens, 25-26 October 2003.
- “Environmental Education: the Mediterranean Perspective”, coorganised by the Hellenic Ministry for Environment, Physical planning & Public Works and MIO-ESCDE, Athens, 14-15 December 2002.

Two more MEDIES Training Seminars and Workshops for educators are foreseen by the end of 2005: in Lebanon and Morocco. Moreover, MEDIES was also included in the EU document “From commitments to actions- Views of the EU for CSD 13” included in the list of examples of innovative initiatives, projects and programmes of EU Member States in relation to sustainable development.