M E L I A

"Mediterranean Dialogue
for Integrated Water Management"

"Creating and nurturing the MELIA Community of Practice (CoP): A strategic Coordination Action for the establishment of an Information and Knowledge Management, Sharing and Dissemination Platform for the IWRM in the Mediterranean Area – http://www.meliaproject.eu"

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Water Management

✓ **Research on water management is and has been a priority in national and Euro-Mediterranean projects, especially in the INCO-Med programme.**

✓ **It has been observed that the outcomes of these research programs and projects rarely succeeds in improving the efficiency of water use and its management due to the lack of dialog between the different protagonists.**

✓ **Research in this topic is of common interest of the EU and its Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC) in view of the economic integration of both sides of the Mediterranean area, the risks associated to the climatic change and the increase in frequency of water risks events, such as droughts or floods, in the area.**

Why MELIA ?

✓ There exists a general perception that water management models are still constructed from points of view that ignore contributions by all the key stake-holders (especially users and citizens). The local cultural, social and economic peculiarities are critical to generate the necessary efficiency of water planning and management, and the collective concern on its issues.

✓ There is a need to further analyse and consider the social, economic, environmental and institutional dimensions in water management.

✓ Another general perception in the Mediterranean area is the lack of visibility of the important role that Science and Technology play in the sustainable development of the Mediterranean region.

✓ Part of these problems is due to communication gaps between political bodies, administrative institutions, scientists, sociologists, lawyers, economists, end-users and citizens.

Why MELIA ?

✓ **MELIA aims at structuring an open dialogue between experts from both sides of the Mediterranean and among the key stakeholders concerned and affected by water use and management (scientists, professionals, decision makers, policy makers, water providers, media professionals, educators, citizens…) whose awareness on the issues should be raised by using appropriate dissemination instruments, language and content.**

✓ **In this view, there is a need for horizontal and vertical integration and dialogue. The achievement of this dialogue and the dissemination and exploitations of the recommendations obtained will create real added value at European and Mediterranean scale.**

✓ **This dialogue intends to create a Community of Practice (MELIA CoP) where water players can share knowledge, find consensus and propose new perspectives on the emerging needs of the different stakeholders (agriculture, industry, trade and tourism and urban development). This involves also looking beyond the physical aspects of water supply and sanitation.**

✓ **In this way MELIA is in the condition to build a consensus, to propose widely agreed solutions, and to promote the convergence of the water policies in the Euro-Mediterranean region on the basis of the Water Framework Directive recommendations.**
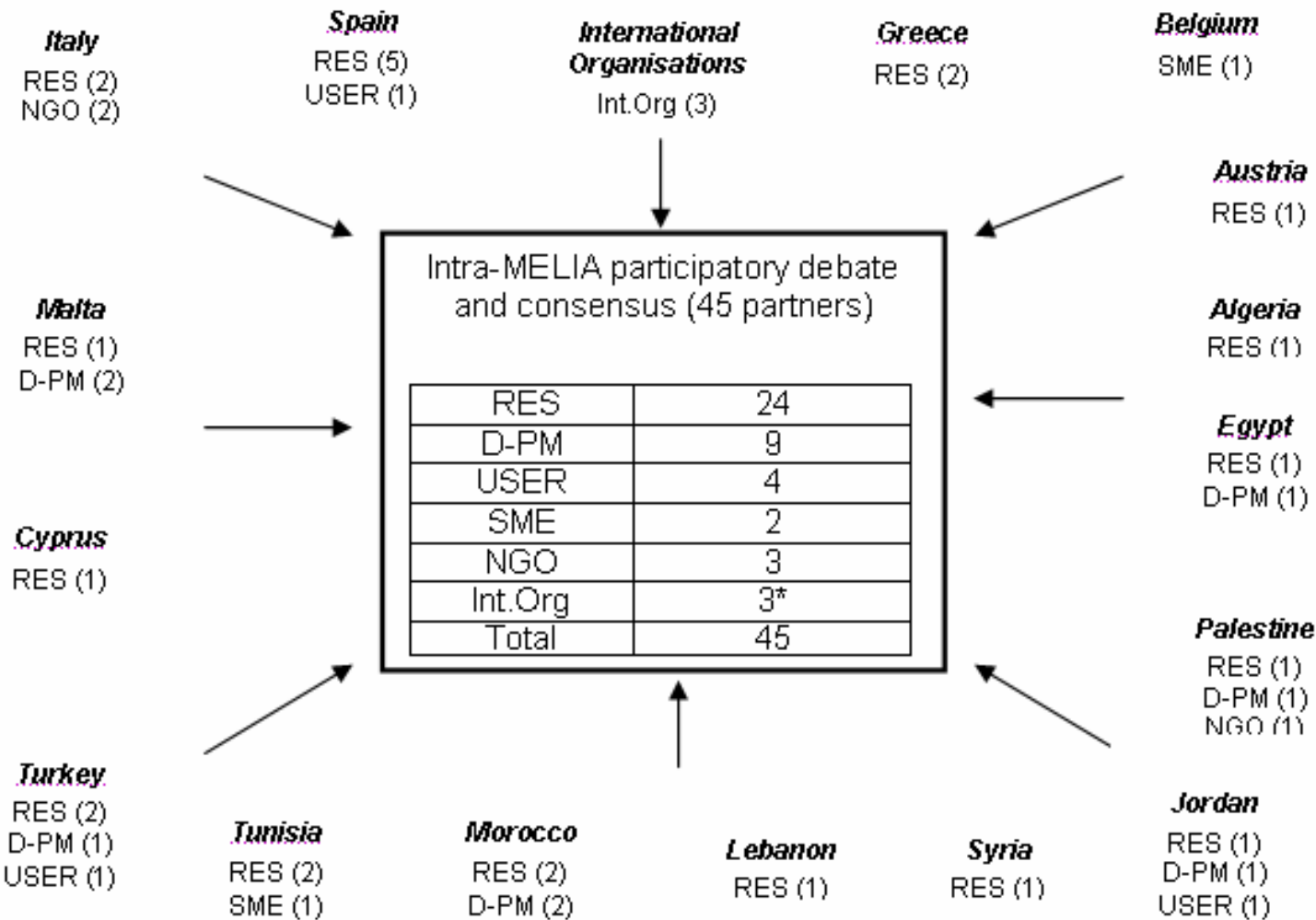
The Partners

✓ **The partnership of MELIA has been structured in a way to include, on the one hand, players with experience in the scientific, technical and socio-economic sectors, experienced in past or on-going European, national or regional projects and committed to a dialogue without prejudices.**

✓ **Other actors, such as basin management organisations, water suppliers to cities, industrial groups, agriculture water users, NGO with well known experience in daily management of water related issues, bring their deep knowledge about the current management systems, the expected demand and the possible baseline of the future conflicts.**

✓ **The presence of groups and administrations from different sectors and countries will allow MELIA to create a wide dialogue to prevent and avoid conflicts related to water availability.**

The Consortium

➢ **The MELIA Consortium (CORE GROUP) is composed by 45 partners representing 17 countries from both the EU (Italy, Spain, France, Cyprus, Greece, Belgium, Malta, Austria) and the Mediterranean (Turkey, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine) and different categories: Research Institutions, Decision-Policy Makers, Users, International or Intergovernmental Organizations, NGOs.**

➢**The wide range of categories involved in MELIA and the governmental and intergovernmental status of some partners will help to reach and apply concrete results and will be effective on the problems related to water management in the territory. The structure of MELIA includes most of the relevant water stakeholders in the discussion of the issues related to the integrated and sustainable water management in the Mediterranean area.**

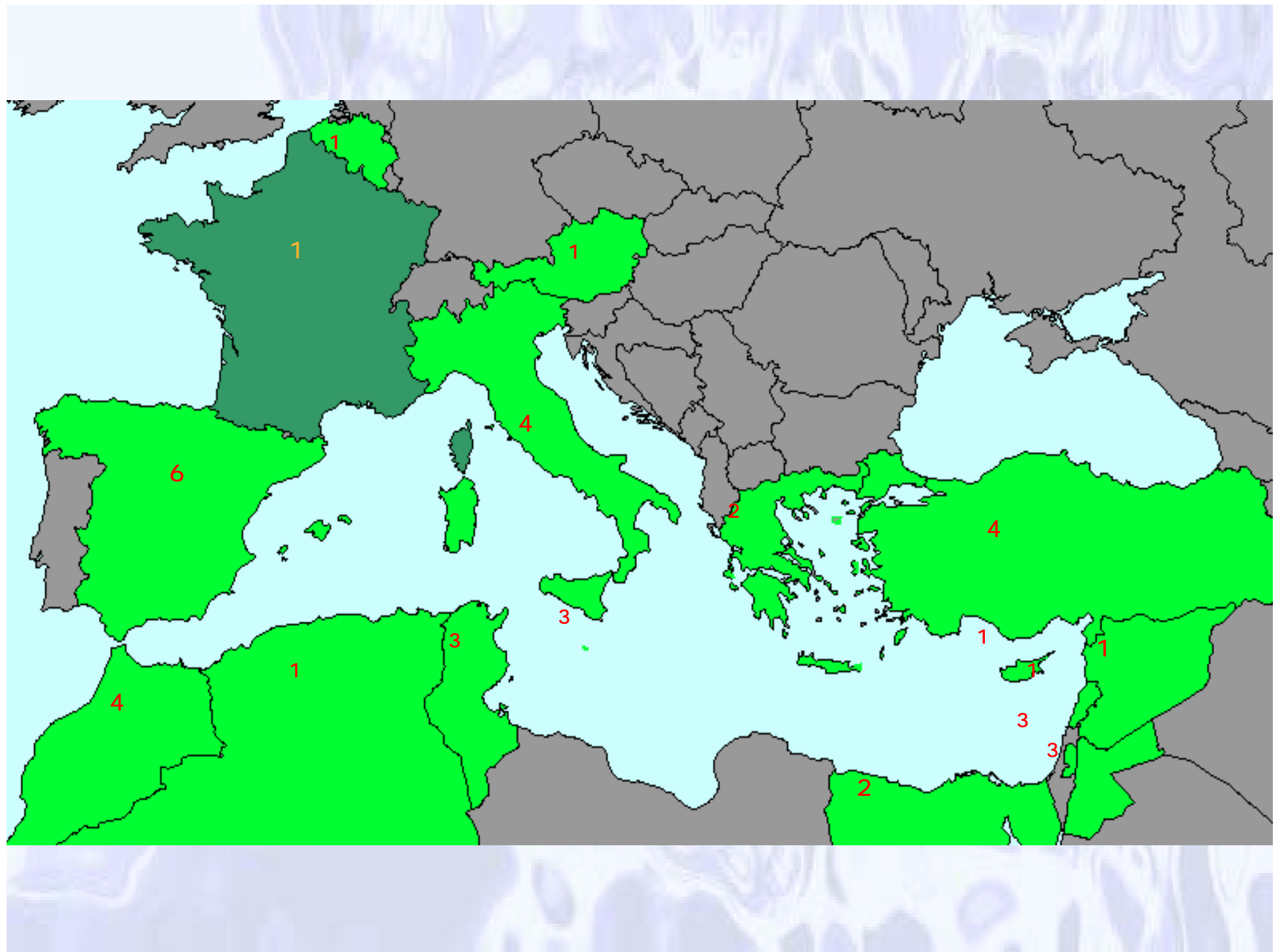# Structure of participation by different countries and categories

Italy
RES (2)
NGO (2)

Spain
RES (5)
USER (1)

International Organisations
Int.Org (3)

Greece
RES (2)

Belgium
SME (1)

Austria
RES (1)

Malta
RES (1)
D-PM (2)

Algeria
RES (1)

Egypt
RES (1)
D-PM (1)

Cyprus
RES (1)

Palestine
RES (1)
D-PM (1)
NGO (1)

Turkey
RES (2)
D-PM (1)
USER (1)

Tunisia
RES (2)
SME (1)

Morocco
RES (2)
D-PM (2)

Lebanon
RES (1)

Syria
RES (1)

Jordan
RES (1)
D-PM (1)
USER (1)

Intra-MELIA participatory debate and consensus (45 partners)

RES	24
D-PM	9
USER	4
SME	2
NGO	3
Int.Org	3*
Total	45

Legend:
RES: research Institution   **D-PM**: Decision-Policy Maker Institution   **USER**: water user, water services, boards
Int. Org: International or Intergovernmental Organisation **NGO**: non-governmental organisation

* **Int. Org**: International or Intergovernmental Organisations (3): P2 CIHEAM-IAMB, P7 OIE, P44 REMOC
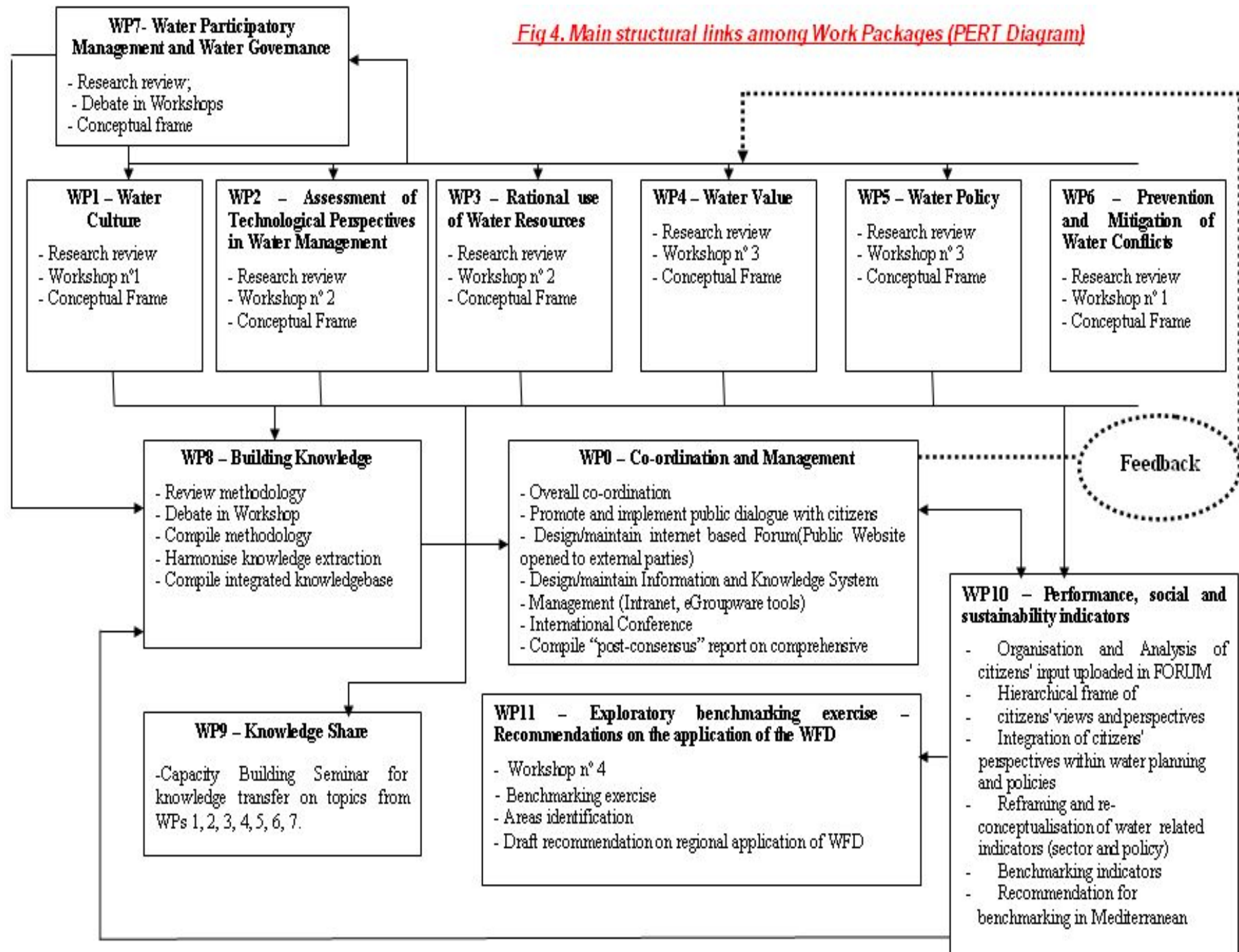
Main targets (I)

➢ **Building a knowledge base for integrated water resources management (IWRM) planning, based on integrating contributions from different perspectives, involving the wide spectrum of stakeholders and based on the general frame defined by EU Water Framework Directive.**

➢ **Develop a Mediterranean-wide awareness of the social (cultural and participatory), economic and technological issues related to water management.**

➢ **Propose participatory mechanisms and prevention tools to avoid competition in resources allocation between regions states and different waters users.**

➢ **Provide legislative and administrative bodies with criteria and arguments agreed in a consensual way by a wide representation of social, economic, scientific and political actors from different countries, to support sustainable water policies and economy.**

Main targets (II)

➢ **Provide the intellectual basis and the indicators to perform a benchmarking exercise of Integrated Water Resources Management in the Mediterranean area through the debate and conceptual frame made with the aim of defining indicators that need standards for the measurements of selected parameters common to Mediterranean countries within homogeneous context. These standards will help the implementation of future benchmarking in selected areas.**

➢ **Contribute to the construction of a common frame and knowledge, and to the development of a common terminology and semantic and help water negotiations through Thematic Workshops.**

	WP1 Water culture	WP2 Assessment of Technological perspectives in Water Management	WP3 Rational use of water resources	WP4 Water value	WP5 Water policy	WP6 Prevention and mitigation of Water Conflicts
WP7 Water Participatory Management and Water Governance	1) Integrated Participatory Approach throughout WPs 1-6 and Gender participation. 2) Conceptual frame of Water Governance through WPs 1 to 6					
WP8 Building Knowledge	Construction of the integrated knowledgebase through WPs' 1 to 6, including also knowledge related to WPs 7, 10, 11					
WP9 Knowledge share	Activate and manage seminars for knowledge share and transfer on thematic aspects of WPs 1 to 6					
WP10 Performance, social and sustainability indicators	1) Analysis of dialogue with citizens on issues related to WPs' 1 to 6 2) Re-frame water scarcity indicators. 3) Create a frame of sustainability indicators for water management					
WP11 Exploratory benchmarking exercise – Recommendations on the application of the WFD	1) Benchmarking perspectives in the Mediterranean considering the control and marking of parameters/indicators of WPs 1 to 6. 2) Formulation of 1st draft of recommendation to policy-decision makers on integrated water management considering knowledge of WP 1 to 6, including outcomes of WPs 7 and 10.					

Fig 4. Main structural links among Work Packages (PERT Diagram)

WP7- Water Participatory Management and Water Governance

- Research review;
- Debate in Workshops
- Conceptual frame

WP1 – Water Culture

- Research review
- Workshop n°1
- Conceptual Frame

WP2 – Assessment of Technological Perspectives in Water Management

- Research review
- Workshop n° 2
- Conceptual Frame

WP3 – Rational use of Water Resources

- Research review
- Workshop n° 2
- Conceptual Frame

WP4 – Water Value

- Research review
- Workshop n° 3
- Conceptual Frame

WP5 – Water Policy

- Research review
- Workshop n° 3
- Conceptual Frame

WP6 – Prevention and Mitigation of Water Conflicts

- Research review
- Workshop n° 1
- Conceptual Frame

WP8 – Building Knowledge

- Review methodology
- Debate in Workshop
- Compile methodology
- Harmonise knowledge extraction
- Compile integrated knowledgebase

WP0 – Co-ordination and Management

- Overall co-ordination
- Promote and implement public dialogue with citizens
- Design/maintain internet based Forum(Public Website opened to external parties)
- Design/maintain Information and Knowledge System
- Management (Intranet, eGroupware tools)
- International Conference
- Compile "post-consensus" report on comprehensive

Feedback

WP10 – Performance, social and sustainability indicators

- Organisation and Analysis of citizens' input uploaded in FORUM
- Hierarchical frame of
- citizens' views and perspectives
- Integration of citizens' perspectives within water planning and policies
- Reframing and re-conceptualisation of water related indicators (sector and policy)
- Benchmarking indicators
- Recommendation for benchmarking in Mediterranean

WP9 – Knowledge Share

-Capacity Building Seminar for knowledge transfer on topics from WPs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.

WP11 – Exploratory benchmarking exercise – Recommendations on the application of the WFD

- Workshop n° 4
- Benchmarking exercise
- Areas identification
- Draft recommendation on regional application of WFD

MELIA CoP

The *dissemination of the results of MELIA will be the most relevant and appreciable output*, carried out by means of a wide communication strategy, addressed to all those involved actors in water use who set up the *MELIA Community or Practice (CoP),* in rising awareness at educational level, in research, administration and policy making.

- **The activities' results will be made available and disseminated in the form of dedicated brochures, leaflets, pamphlets, videos and educational material, CD-ROMs, newsletters in *English, French and Arabic,* in order to promote and establish continuous interactive dialogue with citizens and private-public Institutions.**

➢ **Another focus of MELIA will be the establishment of contacts in each of the participating countries and with regular media interaction and educational structures in order to increase public and political awareness on water management and use.**

✓ **In this way, *MELIA Community or Practice* is a strategic response to the demands for increased skills and capacities in the water sector leading towards the implementation of IWRM in the Mediterranean Area.**

✓ **At this point, a proper communication system based on the new Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) within the MELIA CoP is central for its efficiency and to facilitate information mapping sharing. _MELIA Community of Practice is about people and their interactions, and thus information and communication are critical._**

➢ *MELIA Work Packages (WPs)* **aim at a symbiosis of physical and virtual work environments. The availability of** *MELIA CoP members* **and their work environment becomes uncoupled from their physical locations.**

➢ *MELIA Work Packages Workspaces* **need to offer team members intuitive and ubiquitous access to each other, and to information and resources of their Work Packages, secure and transparent to their physical workplaces and their own tools.**

✓ *Therefore, MELIA CoP Platform will facilitate the collaboration of people in teams into each Work Package, providing a ubiquitous and secure access to selected Web services required for the teamwork within the respective context.*

✓ *A **context-oriented platform** will be first created to support spatially distributed Work Packages teams.*

➢ *All these concerns are reflected in http://www.meliaproject.eu whose main skeleton is based on a Thematic Work Packages structure which aims at a symbiosis of physical and virtual work environments.*

Site Map   Accessibility   Contact

MELIA
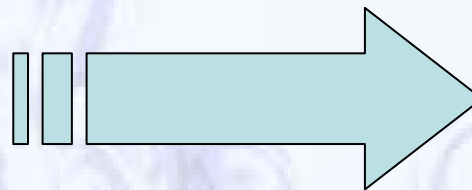
Mediterranean Dialogue on Integrated Water Management

Log in

You are here: Home

All resources like library of documents, addresses, Web services (Email, Instant Messaging, Fora, Intranets, Video and Audio Conferencing, Smart Search/Taxonomy tools based on Semantic Web algorithms…) may be accessed on the web portal.

Groupware tools are plugged in or removed as required, allowing to adapt the collaborative environment to specific needs. This could be different kinds of team awareness tools, different document, address, or calendar servers, or also additional features like project management tools (Documents and Activities Workflow, External Editors, …) With respect to this, the web user interface proved to add a significant contribution to flexibility.

Figure Example of the Taxonomy of Work Package 11

WP11 - Exploratory benchmarking exercise - Recommendations on the application of the WFD

Presentations and Papers

Working Documents

Workgroup Documents Library

Rest of deliverables

WP11 Dialogue Board

News

Events

Links and resources

Information management and *knowledge generation* enhances *MELIA Community of Practice* performance as it:

✓ *Makes things visible:* for a network, the most active way of gaining visibility is through operational information management and knowledge generation. As much as it is important for networks to have a formal structure, they acquire reality once their active operations begin, and this as we have seen is through information management, knowledge generation and delivery of capacity building.

✓ *Promotes policy acceptance:* in the case of networks this is promoting and raising awareness about the need for IWRM. *The core of the content is IWRM and as information (and then knowledge) circulates policy is impacted within the water sector and related target groups, including decision makers and governments in the Mediterranean Area.*

✓ *Facilitates platform processes:* the information management and knowledge generation cycle requires effective networking. Without effective participation of *MELIA Community of Practice* members *(MELIA partners, independent experts, anonymous contributors …)* and recipient groups there will be no real information management. Network development and information management are simultaneous processes contributing to each other.

Thank you very much !

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