Water Participatory Management and Water Governance

WP 7

Overview

The overall objective of WP 7 is to create and determine a consensus based conceptual framework of Integrated Participatory Water Management (IPWM). The framework will provide focus and secure consistency within the consortium and thus contribute to the development of a coherent type of IPWM that is suitable for the different Mediterranean countries and their context. The dialogue platform of MELIA will then be the instrument of spreading the information in a participatory way to all stakeholders of the Mediterranean.

In this way, a further objective of WP 7 is to improve public and private awareness of the need for restructuring water management taking into account the implementation of adequate Governance.

Activities

MELIA started by compiling a set of existing concepts, working definitions, assumptions and hypotheses. During the first phase of the project, it refined and revised them taking into account the different needs and situations of the Mediterranean region. An integrative management approach, based upon establishing an ongoing consortium-wide dialogue, is being used. Methods used to inform the dialogue include: reviews of the relevant literatures; discussions within the MELIA consortium, commissioners and users; state-of-the-art reviews of available theories, concepts, tools and methods that could contribute to the development of a conceptual framework for IPWM and Governance, focused on Mediterranean needs, liasing with other Framework 6 and 7 projects and Mediterranean wide initiatives on IPWM; and, the development of reference principles and criteria for the framework development, implementation and evaluation.

Participatory approach

IPWM is not only an approach that promotes the coordination of the main users, but seeks the participation of all the main stakeholders in all the decision-making processes. In this sense, the Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) approach is also an integral part of IPWM and thus of the development of the frameworks.

About the MELIA project

MELIA Community of Practice (CoP) aims to set up a dialogue venue among the key stakeholders concerned and affected by water use and management, such as scientists, professionals, decision makers, policy makers, water providers, media professionals, educators and citizens. In this view, there is a need for horizontal and vertical integration and dialogue. These are the fundamental justifications behind MELIA CoP.
The achievement of this dialogue platform and the dissemination and exploitations of the recommendations obtained will create real added value at a European and Mediterranean level.

Determining different challenges and needs of different subregions for IPWM and Governance

The Mediterranean region consists of 4 sub-regions, these are: North Africa, Middle East, European Union, and South-Eastern Europe. Each region has very different needs, biophysiological conditions and political situations. The challenge that faces each sub-region with respect to approximating an IPWM and Governance will be analysed, in order to be able to promote an integrative approach.

Establish an ambitious framework for IPWM and Governance in the Mediterranean context and related development requirements

The work is focussed on the role of an IPWM framework in exploring solutions to persistent problems of unsustainable water management and use. It explores what might theoretically constitute a Mediterranean Framework on IPWM and Governance, including the potential relation to the European Water Framework Directive.

Products

Conceptual framework of IPMW and use of IPMW in water management

Conceptual framework of water Governance and use of water Governance in water management

A normative vision of the potential of the frameworks; principles, requirements and criteria for the framework development in order to fulfil its potential.

This work package liaises with related Framework 7 projects and Mediterranean initiatives on IPWM in the Mediterranean region, so that insights from these projects and initiatives are integrated smoothly and consistently in MELIA.

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MELIAPROJECT

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