

Euro-INBO meeting Istanbul 2012 round-table 3
“improve governance in trans boundary basins”
Special guest key note speech

Euro-Mediterranean issues
on trans boundary cooperation

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UfM aims to achieve Cooperation and Development between 43 members through Positive Dialogue, Constructive Discourse and Common Projects



Our Governance

The UfM is chaired by a **co-presidency** representing the two shores, one from the European Union **and** the other from the southern side.

The Senior Officials of the 43 UfM countries, take decisions by consensus on the project proposals submitted by the Secretariat for approval and endorsement.

Our Added Value

Unique Platform for political dialogue among 43 countries

Agree on Euro-Mediterranean policy frameworks

Label concrete projects so as to give them visibility and fund-raising help

Policy framework for land-based sources of pollution: UNEP MAP hotspots for the Mediterranean



The UfM labeling of projects

PROMOTION: once the UfM Senior Officials endorses the labeling of a project, the Secretariat works to facilitate its promotion, especially its financing needs, in collaboration and agreement with the project's promoters. This requires the Secretariat to contact/ discuss with funding banks and institutions, whether public or private, as well as to assist in the removal of obstacles or impediments.

LABELLING: unanimous decision by the 43 member countries acknowledging a project will deliver concrete benefits for the citizens in the region.

ASSESSMENT: each Division of the Secretariat will carry out a proper assessment of project proposal.

REGISTRATION: presented and duly signed by its promoters; includes complete informative elements; includes a financial undertaking from the promoters to cover part of initial development cost (preliminary feasibility, market research etc.) and participate in funding subsequent implementation costs.

MONITORING: once financing arrangements have been finalized and the project is launched, the Secretariat monitors progress in its implementation, ensuring at the same time that criteria required for obtaining and keeping the UfM "project label" are being met. Progress and status reports will be regularly submitted to the UfM Senior Officials by the Secretariat.

Trans boundary water resources: Solutions from the World Water Forum

- improvement and strengthening of legal and institutional frameworks for surface and groundwater resources
- multi-dimension solutions (from data sharing methods to program monitoring)
- increase in professional training for trans boundary water management and conflict resolution
- partnerships between basin organizations and other institutions,
- bottom-up approaches and the use of indigenous knowledge, enhance dialogue between stakeholders, aim at finding common interests
- strong political commitment
- long-term financing

Trans boundary water resources: Commitments from the World Water Forum

- Finland: technical expertise to support the implementation of the UNECE Convention
- The Butterfly Effect, WWF, and Green Cross International : promote international legal cooperation for peace and access to water, 1997 UN Convention and development of basin organizations
- INBO, UNESCO, UNECE, GEF, GWP: elaborate the practical “Handbook for Integrated Water Resource Management in trans boundary Basins of Rivers, Lakes and Aquifers”
- ONEMA and the French water agencies: support institutional twinning river basins to promote the establishment of river basin organizations or to strengthen existing structures
- The GEF (Global Environment Facility): support to institutions managing trans boundary basins and aquifers;
- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC): develop and disseminate operational guidelines, best practices for local and/or international conflict settings based on lessons learned
- ISARM: knowledge on trans boundary aquifers (data collection, ...), partnerships, capacity-building and education through regional centers f (e.g. Tripoli, ...), consensus on groundwater governance with an agreed framework for action
- UNESCO: celebrations for the 2013 UN International Year on Water Cooperation and the 2013 World Water Day

State-of-the-art: knowhow well-known and disseminated

- Trans boundary management of aquifers
2010
- Handbook for trans boundary water resources
2012: 10 items with recommendations and good examples



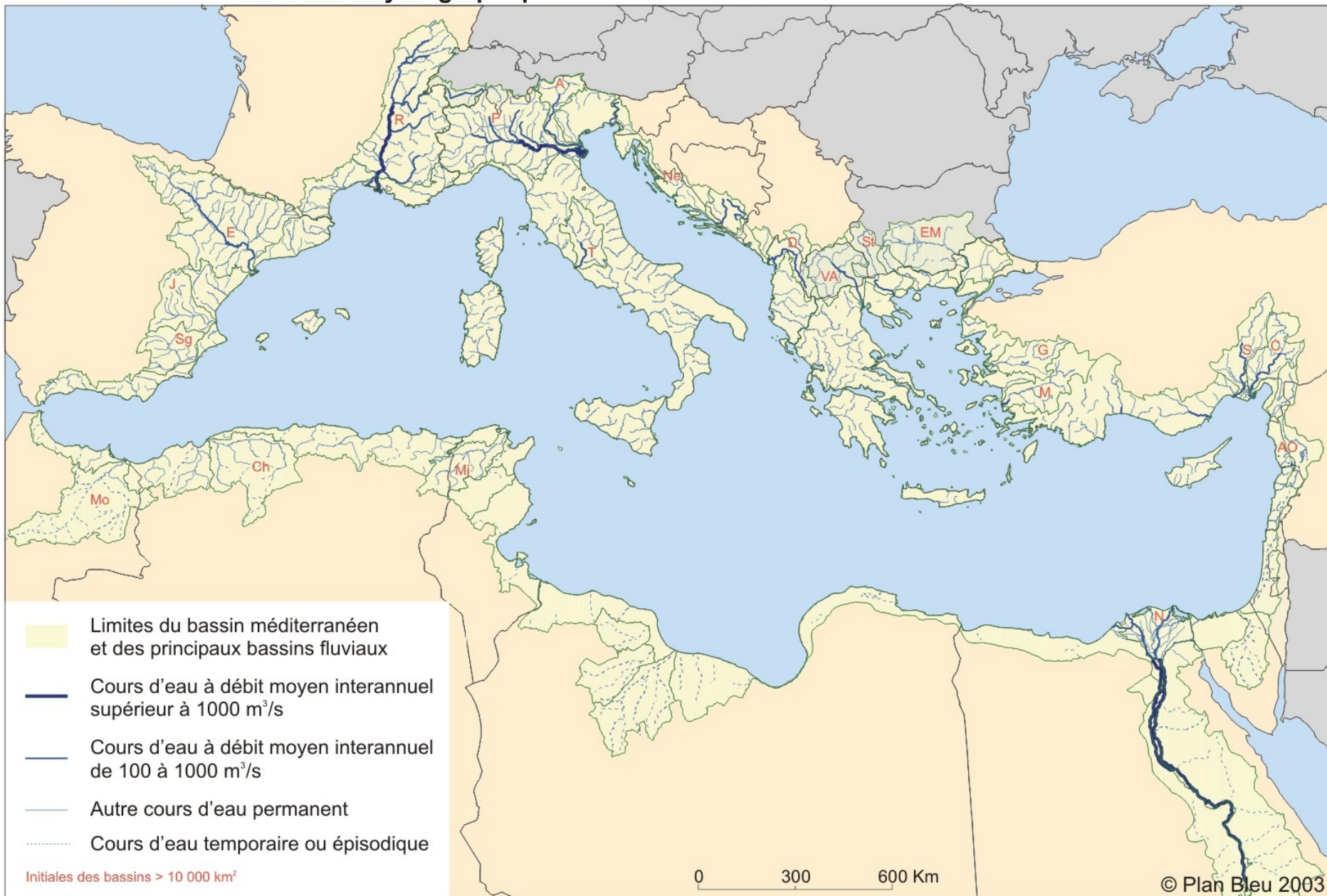
Main aquifers in the Mediterranean

Structures hydrogéologiques et aquifères dans le bassin méditerranéen



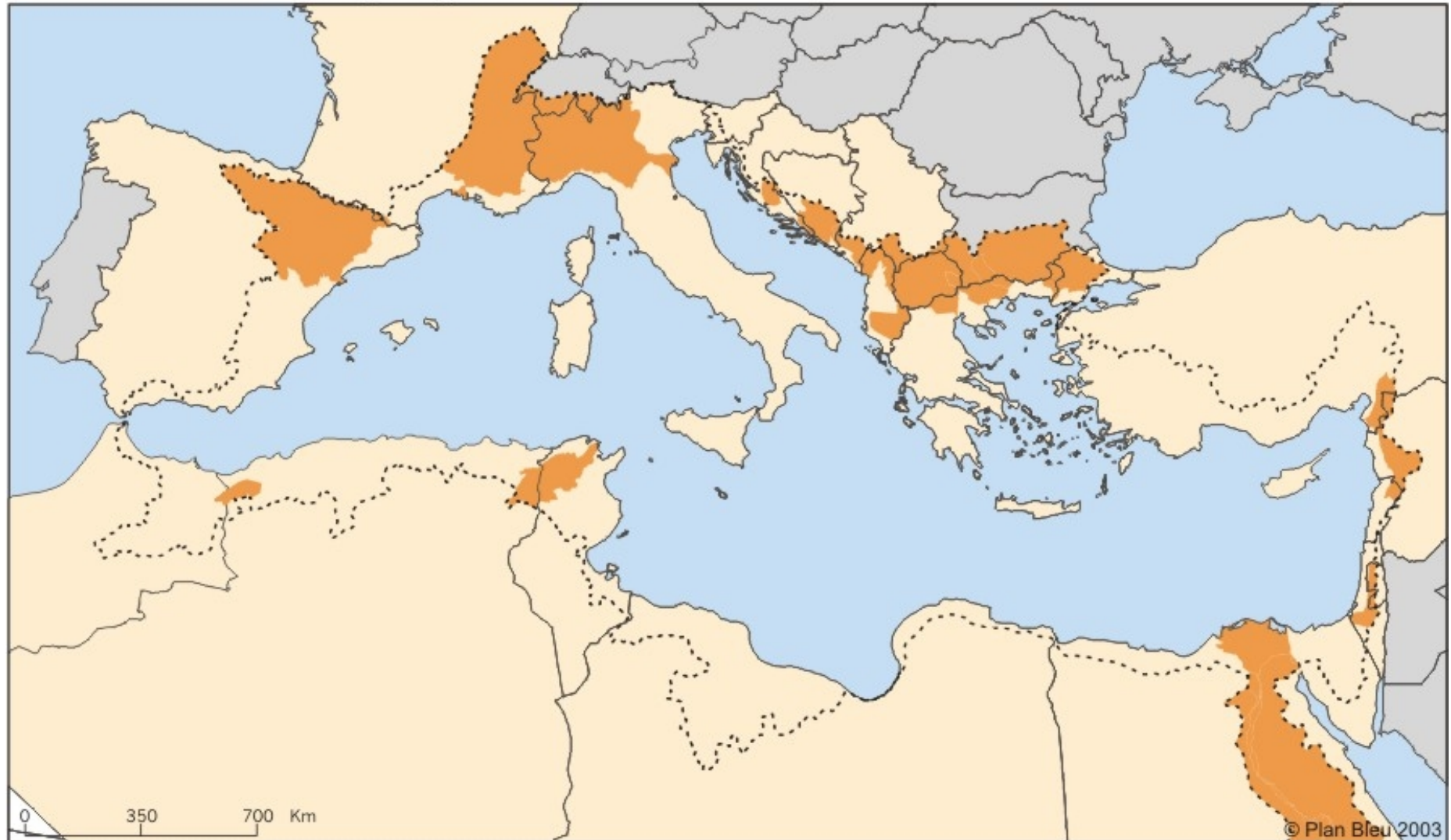
Rivers discharging in the Mediterranean Sea

Bassin méditerranéen. Réseau hydrographique et bassins fluviaux



Trans boundary river basins discharging in the Mediterranean sea

Bassins méditerranéens partagés



Stakeholders dialogue and Basin Management Plans (handbook item 6)

- UNECE framework, GEF methodology with TDA and SAP
- MENBO
- Existing trans boundary organizations in the Mediterranean, e.g. Prespa Park coordination Committee, Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel, RENA network....
- Request for UfM support but not yet evaluated: Albania, Drin dialogue, Buna/Bojana aquifer

→ I invite all organizations sharing trans boundary water resources to request the UfM label for their water resources monitoring or planning projects

Project of Mediterranean water Information System (handbook item 3)

- Initial mandate from the Ministerial meeting in Jordan 2008
- Consortium of 3 promoters: Ministry of Energy and Water of Lebanon, League of Arab States, EMWIS
- involvement of 4 pilot countries (Lebanon, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia) and of regional institutions (UNEP MAP, EEA)
- Project development Nov 2012, UfM label Jan 2013, fund-raising April 2013
- **Objective: set in place up-to-date IS including all the data needed by IWRM planners or regulators**



Project structure

Consortium
Steering Committee

COMPONENT 1

Strengthening the development of harmonized National Water Information Systems

Overall Project management

Leader: EMWIS

Activities: guidelines, templates for terms of reference, capacity building, consensus building, technical assistance

Geo coverage: all UfM countries

COMPONENT 2

Enhancing National Water Information Systems

Leader: EMWIS

Activities: terms of reference, technical assistance, fund raising, system development and operation, training

Location: 5 pilot countries

COMPONENT 3

Sub-regional center of excellence for Water Information

Leader: MEW - Lebanon

Activities: Training National Focal Points, establishing of a regional database, collecting water-related data

Location: Lebanon

Geo coverage: voluntary countries

COMPONENT 4

Setting-up a database on shared water resources

Leader: COWAS

Activities: Development, training, data collection, exploitation

Location: xxx pilot countries

Geo coverage: UfM Arab voluntary countries

Project of Mediterranean water Information System

Role of the UfM Secretariat:

- Political agreement
 - Fund-raising
 - Technical support: cooperation between Water Resources Management Organizations and the project
- I invite water resources planners of Basin Organizations to join the actors of the UfM project in a temporary working group on data needed for good IWRM planning**

Possible recommendations from roundtable 3

- Support the UfM regional water Information System project and its goal of providing water resources planners with adequate data bases; river basin organizations willing to cooperate in this field are invited to join a working group
- Non-EU organizations willing to set in place dialogue or planning on trans boundary rivers, lakes or aquifers should submit the idea to the UfM Secretariat in order to test the UNECE principles and GEF methodology
- Twinning between trans boundary water resources organizations around the Mediterranean could be supported by the UfM