RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE REGIONAL PROCESS

INPUTS FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

Water Education and capacity building: powerful policy tools in addressing the water agenda

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Why we need Water Education

• In order to achieve the much needed water security and address a number of related challenges, including to protect vulnerable water systems, mitigate the impacts of water-related hazards such as floods and droughts, ensure access and sanitation for all and manage water resources in an integrated and equitable manner.

• Apart from providing knowledge and skills, through Education:
  – We build the rights for the non represented (environment) and the future generations
  – We enhance the responsibility to respond to demand management (water economy) and facilitate the cost recovery policies
  – We train people in the dialogue, the basis for the consensus building and participation processes, needed within IWRM
A new approach in Education is needed

- A new approach for Water at all levels of Education and Training is needed, integrating SD principles, considering water security, IWRM and the entire water cycle (including natural and non-conventional water inputs) and employing ESD teaching/learning methodologies, in accordance with the recommendations of the post DESD /GAP.

*Water: fundamental within the non-pillar approach to sustainable development and, therefore it needs to be properly reflected within Education for Sustainable Development.*
Water within the tetrahedron of Sustainable Development

Sustainable water management should also follow these wide Sustainable Development dynamics, in which appropriate water governance is a prerequisite. Water Education needs to duly recognise the role of governance.
Analysis of Governance as a tetrahedron

**Education, itself, is a major tool for Governance**
Water related education is a critical factor for achieving SD and could shape not only people’s behavior on water issues but also build and/or enhance the ability of water professionals.
the Mediterranean Strategy for ESD and its Action Plan

A valuable framework for water related education:

STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT STAGES

• **2005**: Athens, Official Launching

• A long participatory process, engaged universities, ministries, experts and NGOs from the North and the South of the Mediterranean.

• **May 2014**: Strategy formally and unanimously endorsed by the 43 Environment Ministers of the UfM.

• **Nov 2014**: Strategy presented in the Nagoya end Conference of the UN Decade on ESD and the post 2014-era
Key Outcomes of the session

• Education has been identified as a **prerequisite and tool** for management in all Mediterranean Sessions (Governance, Science and Technology, Climate Change, etc).

• There is already a **considerable number** of initiatives and success stories in water related education in the Mediterranean. However there are still **huge needs** for such an education, while the institutional frameworks and human & financial resources are not yet in place.

• Promising **strengths** are the existence of:
  – the **Mediterranean Strategy for ESD** which provides a valuable framework for water related education.
  – A series of competent Mediterranean **Networks** and Foundations.
  – the **dynamic** created by the UN DESD and GAP.
Recommendations of the Session (I)

• In order to reach the needed **new water culture** Water Education should be strengthened to cover the entire spectrum from water **ethics**, sound **understanding** of water issues, to specific technical **skills** of water professionals

• All types of Education formal, non-formal, informal, vocational should be dealt with as a **continuum**.
Recommendations of the Session (II)

• In formal education, the Whole Institute Approach is important, where water should play a central role.

• University Curricula on water issues should enhance good quality science in parallel with interdisciplinarity.
Recommendations of the Session (III)

• For water professional education / trainings pre-service and in service schemes based on sharing experiences within and between companies and utilities should be encouraged.

• At the informal level, large scale water awareness and capacity building schemes involving communities women and youth should be implemented.
Water Specific Topics in the MSESD Action Plan

- Water cycle, including the non conventional water streams
- Climate change
- Water safety and risks, water-energy-food-ecosystems-health nexus
- Vocational training in water management
- Enhancement of links between formal and non-formal education
- Networking
- Whole Institute Approach
- Higher education curricula and open data handling

We need to mobilise considerable additional resources from public and private sources for water related education, since both water and education are pillars for the future of the region.
Thank you!

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Mediterranean Strategy for ESD: www.medies.net