



The 7th World Water Forum

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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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United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
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Why we need Water Education

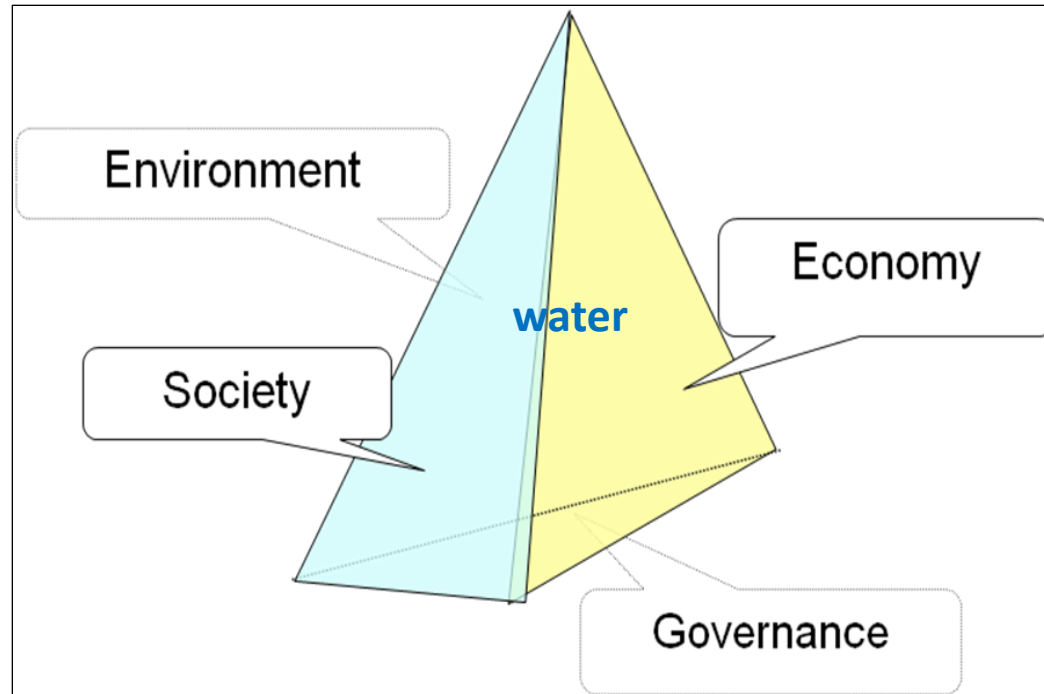
- In order to achieve the much needed water security and address a number of related challenges, including to protect vulnerable water systems, mitigate the impacts of water-related hazards such as floods and droughts, ensure access and sanitation for all and manage water resources in an integrated and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

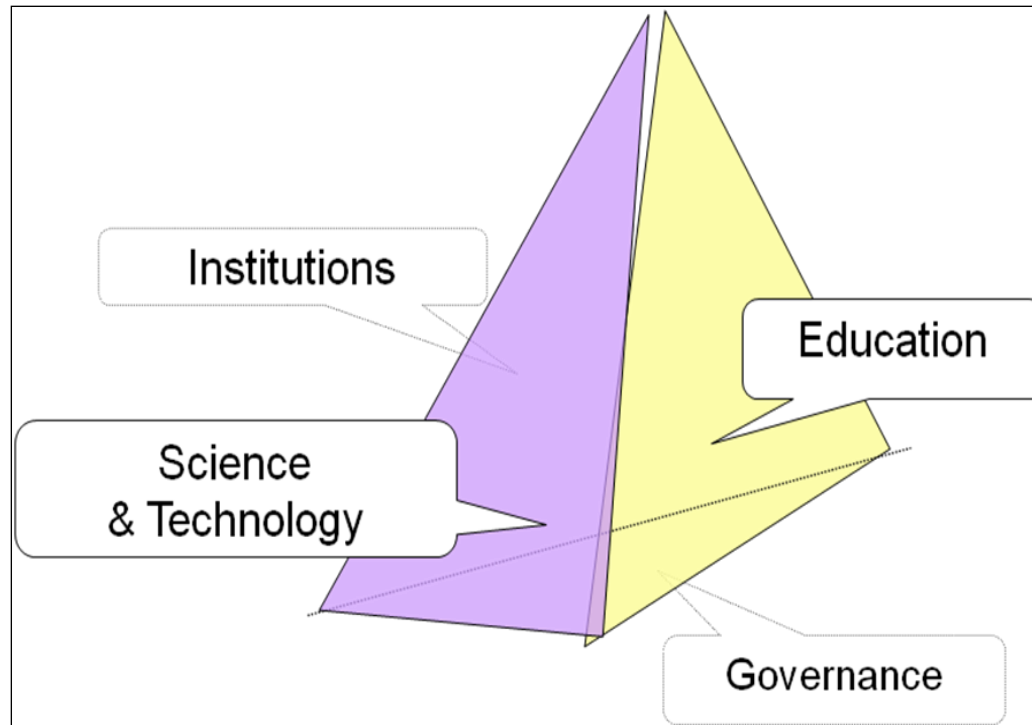
*Water: fundamental within the **non-pillar approach to sustainable development** and, therefore it needs to be properly reflected within Education for Sustainable Development.*

Water within the tetrahedron of Sustainable Development



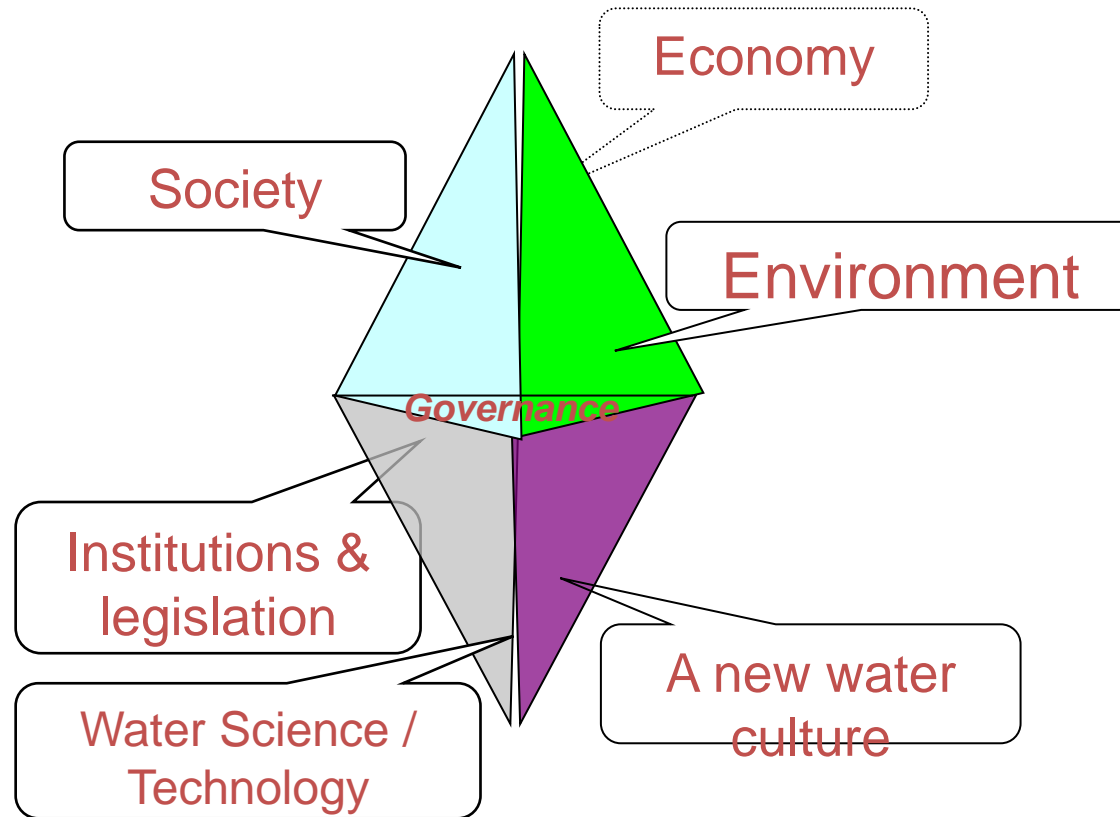
Sustainable water management should also follow these wide Sustainable Development dynamics, in which appropriate water governance is a prerequisite. Water Education needs to duly recognise the role of governance.

Analysis of Governance as a tetrahedron



Education, itself, is a major tool for Governance

Water related ESD content as a double pyramid



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

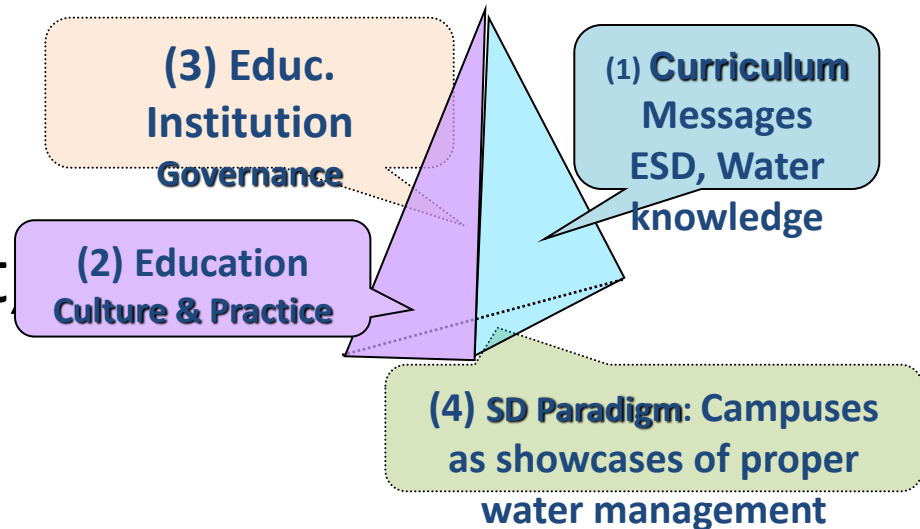
- Education has been identified as a **prerequisite and tool** for management in all Mediterranean Sessions (Governance, Science and Technology, Climate Change, etc)
- There is already a **considerable number** of initiatives and success stories in water related education in the Mediterranean. However 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.

Recommendations of the Session (IV)

Water Specific Topics in the MSED 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