

Islands for equal chances

How can EU policies help filling the gap?



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Regions and Cities**
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Balearic Islands (ES)

Corsica (FR)

Sicily (IT)

Sardinia (IT)

Crete (GR)

South Aegean (GR)

Larnaca District (CY)

Mayotte (FR)

Water management

Mr. Jean-Michel Palazzi , Corsica



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The main characteristics of the Mediterranean islands towards the water resource management

The inter-seasonal irregularity of rainfall falling on each island, from which comes the water availability.

Their weakness, all the more marked, because the island is not very mountainous.

These two factors shall increase with the climatic warming which thus results in a fall of resources.

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The limited character of the conventional resources, that they are surface water or ground water, added to the impossibility, or the great difficulty, to transfer water.

The great seasonal variation of needs, with a simultaneous peak of agricultural and household consumption (tourism).

The concomitance of the needs peak with the low-water, which reduces the resources and increases the impact of the throwing out of waste water.

The often perfectible efficiency of the networks, notably the agricultural ones, and of the water management methods.

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The Water Framework Directive defines the politics of de water management within the European Union

(n° 2000/060/EC dated 23 October 2000)

It specifies :

One approach per basin, with notably a management plan every basin
(from 2009, with updating every 6 years)

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The principle of non-degradation.

A socio-economic approach, identifying the uses of water (drinkable water supply, irrigation, industry, play activities), their economical impact.

Transparency on the costs and their distribution between economic actors without requiring the full cost recovery in each sector.

The polluter pays' principle

The public involvement and the decision-making, the nearest possible to the places where the water is used or assigned.

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The orientations to be taken

The availability of the water resources is a key-factor for the Mediterranean islands.

It goes through the implementation of a politics adapted to the natural, human, environmental constraints of their own.

Increasing water supply :

The mobilization of the additional conventional resources can only be marginal.

Resources which are not conventional can be promoted.

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- ✓ In an important way the reuse of the treated waste water, particularly interesting at the concomitance of the peak of agricultural needs human consumption and pressure on surface water at the lowest level of rivers (summer times)
- ✓ The desalination of seawater, to reserve for domestic uses, considering its cost and its environmental impact.

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The demand management :

It is advisable to promote :

The improvement of the efficiency and the reduction of the leaks, notably on the networks of the domestic water systems.

The efficiency of the irrigation networks by developing where it is necessary the pressurized networks and, as for the domestic water supplies, by improving their efficiency.

The fight against waste by the information and the education of the public.

The implementation of tariff systems which encourage to save water (pricing significantly linked with the consumed volume, progressive pricing, different pricing according to the season)