

2. Introduction

2.1. Main Terms of Reference of the Project (as from the Contract signed and its - approved and to-be-presented - Addenda)

Project Title: **IMPROWARE – INNOVATIVE MEANS TO PROTECT WATER RESOURCES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN COASTAL AREAS THROUGH RE-INJECTION OF TREATED WATER**

Europe Aid ID: IT-2011-BDU-2705303261

Date of Contract Signature: 21 December 2011

Project Location(s)

Location(s) of the action:	Originally, Coastal areas of El-Arish, Northern Sinai, Egypt, and Korba, Tunisia. Following a communication from EEAA, an Addendum no. 2 is in preparation to change the Egyptian site to a new location identified as: Nobariya, Egypt.
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Partners of the Consortium

Leader, Beneficiary and Principal Recipient Organisation	Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land, and Sea, Via Cristoforo Colombo, 44, 00147 Roma, Italy
Partner 2	University Consortium for Industrial and Managerial Economics (namely, CUEIM), IT-2011-BDU-2705303261, Italian, 09/06/1982, No profit association with legal personality approved with Decree of the Italian President (G.U. n. 207 of 05.09.1989, p. 23).
Partner 3	Consorzio Universitario per la Ricerca Socioeconomica e per l'Ambiente (CURSA), IT-2011-AXW-0906499029, Italian 29/07/2008, Non profit making,
Partner 4	Aarhus Universitet (AAH), DK-2009-AYM-1702242081, Denmark, 01/10/1964, Research Institution

Partner 5	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), PIC: 986502514, Egyptian, 1982, Governmental Body
Partner 6	National Sanitation Utility (ONAS), TN-2011-DHH-0306458359, Tunisian, 03/08/1974, Governmental Body
Associated Partners	Alexandria Sanitary Drainage Company

Budget

Estimated total eligible cost of the action (A)	Amount requested from the Contracting Authority (B)	% of estimated total eligible cost of action (B/Ax100)
€ 3,593,908.33	€2,875,126.66	80,00%

Objectives

Overall Objective(s)

- To demonstrate, promote and disseminate environmentally sustainable water management policies and practices;
- to build consensus and sustainable co-operation on water issues among the two Partners ENPI Countries and in the ENPI Mediterranean Region.

Specific Objective(s)

- To reduce the current over-exploitation of drinking groundwater and improve the economic development prospects of rural communities in the targeted Regions by increasing water availability for agricultural activities;
- to draw the attention of policy decision-makers and stakeholders in the Partner Countries and in the ENPI Mediterranean Region on the existence of solutions to tackle water scarcity problems;
- to facilitate know-how transfer and thus contribute to build-up the necessary planning and management skills at sub-regional and regional level;
- to encourage co-operation in the area of sustainable and integrated water management through capacity building, institutional strengthening and participation.

Target Group(s)

The target group of IMPROWARE includes the following subjects:

- a) Relevant Institutions of the two ENPI Partners Countries:

In Egypt:

- Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency - EEAA;
- the Governorate of Nubariya;
- the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation - MWRI;
- the Holding Company for Water and Wastewater

On November 2012 the need to add the Research Institute for Ground Water (RIGW) in the Target Group has been identified. The change will be included in the addendum no. 2, under preparation.

In Tunisia:

- Office National de l'Assainissement – ONAS;
- Direction Générale des Ressources en Eau – DGRE at the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources (MAgWR);
- Groupement de Développement Agricole – GDA;
- Commissariats Régionaux au Développement Agricole –CRDA;
- Association Tunisienne de Protection de l'Environnement de Korba.

b) Farmers and other members of rural communities that work in the agriculture sector, and in particular, in the Project sites.

Beneficiaries

- **Immediate beneficiaries:** i) Officials of relevant Institutions in the ENPI Partners Countries; ii) inhabitants of the areas around the two Project sites.
- **Indirect beneficiaries:** i) Public Authorities, Development and Environmental Agencies and Institutions; National Research and Extension Services; Communication centers and networks; NGOs in the ENPI Mediterranean Countries; ii) the population of the areas where the Project will be replicated.

Estimated Results

1. In the two ENPI Partner Countries:

- cost-effective, environmental-friendly, easily-replicable methodologies to treat waste waters and to use these to recharge aquifers developed as “pilot” models;
- water availability for agricultural activities increased;
- saltwater intrusion in coastal aquifers reduced;
- living conditions of rural communities improved;
- employment opportunities increased.

2. In all countries of the ENPI Mediterranean Region:

- know-how transferred;
- planning and management skills improved at sub-regional and regional level;
- regional co-operation in the area of sustainable and integrated water management increased;
- policy decision-makers and society empowered to: i) tackle increasing demand for water resources; ii) adapt to climate changes; and iii) act against desertification.

Main Activities

- Establish 2 demonstration sites, in Egypt upgrading a pilot plant; and in Tunisia by improving the existing treatment and aquifer recharge plant.
- Investigate and apply specific methodologies for reusing wastewaters to recharge coastal aquifers and irrigate arid regions suffering from saltwater intrusion. Compare the different methodologies used at the two sites.

- Ensure extension and communication, social awareness, and participation at national and regional levels.
- Improve Institutional capacities, and enhance regional cooperation for sustainable and integrated management of water resources.
- Export the experiences gained in these sites to other ENPI Mediterranean Countries by disseminating the results of the Project, demonstrating best practices and state-of-the-art technologies.

Working Packages

The Project is comprised of five (5) distinctive components as described in the contract and named Working packages (WPs)

WP1 - Project Management

WP2 - Technical Survey

WP3 - Hydrogeological Setting at Nobariya-Wadi El-Natrun, Egypt

WP4 - Pilot Projects at Nobariya-Wadi El-Natrun, Egypt; and Korba, Tunisia.

WP5 - Involvement of Local Stakeholders and Central and Regional Water Management Institutions, Communication, Capacity Building Dissemination

2.2. Structure of the Inception Report

Section 3 describes synthetically the activities held during the inception phase and the key issues which were discussed between the partners, with the Contracting authorities, and a number of other stakeholders. In particular the section will contain the progress reports of the activities, including field missions, included in the 5 Working Packages.

Section 4 consists in a detailed narrative on a selected number of the main administrative issues occurred during the inception phase.

Section 5 provides information on the final structure of Project, as resulting from the joint discussions held during the inception phase and to be formalised in the addendum 2. This section also describes the overall workplan.

Section 6 provides detailed plans for the next quarter. In the annexes a logical framework and a number of relevant documents are incorporated.