



## Towards a shared vision of local water management

Quite apart from its technical nature (hydrology/hydraulics), irrigation is a domain in which man can have an impact on the environment and thus can integrate social, territorial, institutional and historical aspects

### OBJECTIVE

**ISIIMM** aimed to promote integrated management of water resources while respecting the diversity of local situations by adopting innovative institutional solutions.

A research programme involving the study, training and exchanges in the Mediterranean area, ISIIMM is a project within the Regional Euro-Mediterranean Programme for Water Management (EU-MEDA Water). Its aim is to share experience and knowledge, build new institutional tools and develop new perspectives for sustainable water management in Mediterranean agricultural systems. It is based on a shared understanding of six key elements: social, institutional, historical, agricultural, territorial, hydrology/hydraulics.

### The project's activities

Capitalization of knowledge and skills in terms of collective water management, based on the organization of collected data (creation of the OSIRIS database) and of a network and coordination of partners and actors involved, are the main activities in this project.

Training is another important aspect through the organization of local, national and international seminars, workshops and knowledge exchanges (shared apprenticeships) involving water consumers, development actors, institutions, etc.

### A wide range of study sites

Eleven study areas where water is a major issue for social and economic life were selected in 6 Mediterranean countries. A comparative analysis of the range of organizations in countries, regions and local sites has enriched the overall picture, but has highlighted its complexity. A single organizational model for irrigation has been proved to be inappropriate. New perspectives in terms of irrigation development policy and local water management have been identified: common approaches for social and institutional reinforcement have also emerged.

A formidable network for exchanges and partnerships, together with information sharing via the web site, the project has helped irrigation specialists in Mediterranean countries to develop proposals and form a lobby.



*Young people participating in the educational project on environmental management and protection at Mostafa Agha (Egypt).*



*Meeting and exchange of experience between Lebanese and Italian farmers (Bekaa, Lebanon).*