



PRESS RELEASE

30th of July 2013

Improving the water supply at the Water Board of Lemesos (WBL) with the help of the EU

The Water Board of Lemesos participates in and utilizes European programmes, aiming to continuously upgrade the water supply network.

The efficient management of the water resources and finding ways for monitoring, upgrading and modernizing the water supply system constitute some of the main objectives of the Water Board of Lemesos. The participation of the WBL in four European programmes during the past four years, has effectively contributed to the achievement of these goals.

In particular, the WBL has participated and continues to participate in the following programmes:

PM4WAT – “Leonardo Da Vinci Lifelong Learning”



Lifelong Learning Programme

The Water Board of Lemesos, together with six other partners from Greece, Turkey, Italy and Cyprus, participated in the research programme entitled **PM4WAT Preventive Maintenance for Water Utility**, which started in November 2009 and was completed in 2011.

Most of the urban water supply networks include parts of piping systems that have been damaged by erosion and other harms, which are caused by various reasons, such as installation, soil erosion, leakages, earthquakes and material deterioration. The result of all these is the influence of other factors, such as the manufacturing resistance, the reliability, the durability and, generally, the tolerance of the network. Preventive maintenance is the only way to sufficiently estimate such hazards.

The Project **PM4WAT Preventive Maintenance for Water Utility** was addressed to maintenance engineers and personnel, as well as to the manager in charge of the maintenance of urban water supply networks. Within the framework of this Research Project, an innovative web-based distance learning training platform was developed, consisting of a series of specified courses for Professional Education and Training, for preventive maintenance of urban water distribution networks.

Emphasis was given on services of improved maintenance, enhanced reliability and decreased leakages. The system offers proposals for the efficient rehabilitation of the water supply network. The final product that emerged after the completion of the programme was a multilingual web-based series of courses, related to the preventive maintenance of urban water distribution networks.

The overall budget of the project was €530.000 and the EU funded 75% of this amount. For the WBL, the budget was €31.591 and it received a funding of €23.695 from the EU.

MEDIWAT – «Sustainable management of environmental issues related to water stress in Mediterranean Islands»



The programme MEDIWAT falls within the wider “MED Transnational Cooperation Programme”, in which Cyprus participates within the framework of Objective 3 of the EU’s Cohesion Policy for the period 2007-2013 “European Territorial Cooperation”, which is being implemented via the European Structural Funds and, more precisely, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The Government Planning Bureau was appointed as the National Coordinator (National Contact Point) for this programme.

The optimal use and management of the available water quantities, the development of innovative practices towards this direction and the raising of public awareness with regards to the development and the creation of water consciousness in the Mediterranean islands were the main objectives of this European programme.

Apart from the Water Board of Lemesos, nine other organisations participated in the project, coming from Malta, France, Greece, Italy and Spain. In total, the programme lasted 36 months, from May 2010 until May 2013. The total budget of the project was €1.480.000, the WBL’s budget was €130.000, the co-financing from the EU was €110.500 and the funding from own resources was €19.500.

A pilot project of water pressure management with the use of high-technology equipment achieved the stabilisation and the decrease of the average water pressure in every pilot area, and thereby, the decrease of losses.

ENPI CBCMED CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN



The Water Board of Lemesos also participates in another European programme, **AQUAKNIGHT**, which falls under the “European Territorial Cooperation” of the European Union. The programme is co-financed by the ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme, in which Cyprus participates within the framework of Objective 3.

The European Programme **AQUAKNIGHT** (AQUA KNowledge and Innovation transfer for water savinG in tHe mediTerranean basin) is a European research project, which has two main objectives: the improvement of the water supply network performance and the

minimization of water loss. The aforementioned objectives are expected to be achieved through the implementation of five parallel pilot projects, which are being implemented aiming at the decrease of water loss and the increase of the daily management of the water supply network performance.

The partners of AQUAKNIGHT are organisations from Greece, Italy, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan and Cyprus. The programme lasts 36 months and it started in December 2011. The total budget is set at €1.999.129, the participation of the programme is set at €1.799.216 (90%) and the co-financing of the project is set at €199.913 (10%).

It is also noted that within the framework of the programme, the second exchange visit was completed (17th-18th July 2013), organised by the Water Board of Lemesos in Limassol. During the exchange visit, several subjects were presented and discussed, such as good practice on loss management, improvement of the management of water supply systems, use of state-of-the-art measurement systems, techniques of preparation of the water balance etc., while a visit to the AQUAKNIGHT pilot project in Limassol also took place. In this area, various leakage controls and controls of water pressure are being applied. The measurements are stored and the data is transferred and analysed with the use of appropriate technology. The results will constitute the basis for the design of the strategy, which will contribute to the improvement of the water supply network performance, and thereby, to the efficient use of water resources, which is one of the main objectives of the programme.



Programme funded by the
EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



Finally, the Water Board of Lemesos participates in the European Programme **EFFINET (Efficient Integrated Real-time Monitoring and Control of Drinking Water Networks)**. This programme is set within the framework of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) of the European Union, regarding the domain of Information and Communication Technology.

The main objectives are: the creation of a modern management system of water supply networks with benefits such as the optimal control of the water transportation network, the control of water flow and pressure, the minimization of the cost of electric power use, the observation of the water balance and the water quality of the distribution network, as well as the detection of leakages in the network.

In this programme, the Water Board of Lemesos, the University of Cyprus and the company Signal GeneriX represent Cyprus. Several other organisations from Spain, Italy and Germany also participate.

It is also worth mentioning that in June 2013, a second meeting took place in Limassol within the framework of the EFFINET programme, where several representatives of the nine organisations-partners, participating in the European programme, attended. During the meeting, several references of great interest were made, with regards to different subjects covered by the programme. The Water Board of Lemesos will utilize them to the greatest extent, aiming at the operation of an excellent observation, control and management system of the water supply network.

The programme lasts 36 months, from October 2012 until October 2015, with a total budget of €3.152.582, 70% of which is being funded by the European Union. For the Water Board, the budget is set at €194.400 and the participation from its own resources is set at €81.900.

Showing a great respect towards the most precious gift of the planet, the Water Board of Lemesos serves water with the sensitivity, the professionalism and the responsibility that it deserves. Its main responsibility is to provide quality water and an excellent network, serving the needs of each household and each business in the best possible way. This constitutes the Board's commitment towards its consumers. The WBL's participation in the above-mentioned programmes offers the know-how in order to continue providing its efficient work, adapted to today's needs.

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