

THE FP5 EUROPEAN PROJECT *SEWING*
"SYSTEM FOR EUROPEAN WATER MONITORING"

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**Short report from the second meeting of FP5 Thematic Network
E-CUISINE**

(European Competence centre for Users of INFORMATION Systems on the Environment)

Utrecht, the Netherlands, 8-9 September 2003

The project E-Cuisine has been running since November 2002 and has as its principal objective to establish a thematic network of the main institutional users of Systems for Environmental Information (SEI) in Europe to have a continuous discussion and exchange of ideas and visions. The core members of the Network consist of European Ministries and Agencies for Environment. The co-ordinator of SEWING had been asked to present the current results of the project.

The main topics discussed by the project members are:

- problem of freedom of access to environmental information,
- mutual impact of environment and ICT,
- strategies and decisions,
- general use of GIS (Geographic Information System).

The meeting lasted 2 days. Forty people attended.

The first day was devoted to presentations of E-Cuisine activities, achievements and plans. These were mainly political and strategic issues, many discussions with Ministries and Agencies about the policy of maintaining and management of environment: air, water, soil, wastes etc. Exchange of opinions concerning data dissemination and accessibility, ways of collecting data (traditional and remote) was the main topics.

The second day was devoted to water problems. Three workshops had place:

- policy aspects and water directive,
- ICT aspects of the water directive,

- special consequences of the water directive for accession countries.

Later 3 IST FP5 projects were presented:

- GIMMI (Geographic Information and Mathematical Model Inter-operability)
- SEWING – our project
- EDEN-IW (Environment Data Exchange Network – for Inland Water)

The slides of SEWING presentation are attached to this report.

During the meeting the problem of environment data availability was broadly discussed. It was agreed that it should be broadly accessible to public; software interfaces should enable international communication among different systems and platforms. Reimbursement of costs to private enterprises is also a problem.

To summarise, the meeting gave a good insight on what is going on in Europe in the domain of European, national and regional policy in environment information. Technical aspects were not the most important issue in the discussion, but much was said about the information technology used and management of environmental data. This information will be useful for the policy of SEWING results dissemination.

The SEWING presentation was accepted with interest, questions were about life-time of sensors, final price of the probe and other practical issues. It is very important that the information about SEWING is now known to the E-Cuisine consortium, it can help in the final implementation of the project results.