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REPORT OF THE FIRST COORDINATION REGIONAL WORKSHOP OF GEWAMED

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The Workshop was held at the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (MAI-B) from 20 to 22 February 2006 with the participation of 40 experts from 15 countries.

1. OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

The general objective of the First Coordination Regional Workshop was to create the conditions for initiating the Project work. This included the following objectives:

- a) To develop a dialogue around the project activities and work packages creating a common base of understanding of the work to be undertaken.
- b) To establish the bases for the preparation of the Plan of Work of each participant.
- c) To provide an opportunity for the Project partners to interact with each other and understand the responsibility and scope of their respective organizations.
- d) To brief project partners on the financial management of the project.

2. ATTENDANCE

The workshop was attended by all partners of the Consortium of GEWAMED with the exception of Syria, that, due to last minute circumstances, was not able to participate but had sent a copy of its presentation and inputs.

In addition, several other external resource persons were invited to contribute to the meeting by introducing some key note papers related to the objectives of the meeting and contribute to the discussion; including: Mrs. Ilaria Sisto, FAO, Gender and Development Division, Mrs. Judith Gracey, DIMITRA Project, Mr. Rafael Rodriguez, Coordinator of the MELIA project, Mrs. Felicitá Scapini of the WADI Project and Mrs. Julie Trotier, University of Newcastle. Moreover, a substantial number of staff from CIHEAM/IAM-B attended the workshop, including: Mrs. Giuliana Trisorio Liuzzi, Vice-President of CIHEAM and Professor at the Department of Engineering and Management of Agricultural and Forest Systems, University of Bari; Mr. Cosimo Lacirignola, MAI-B Director; Mr. Nicola Lamaddalena, GEWAMED Coordinator; Mr. Juan A. Sagardoy, GEWAMED Project Manager; Mr. Atef Hamdy, GEWAMED Project Adviser; Mrs. Rosanna Quagliariello, GEWAMED Technical Officer, Mr. Maurizio Raeli, MAI-B Vice Director; Mr. Claudio Bogliotti, GEWAMED Project Adviser; Mr. Luigi Sisto, Head of the Documentation Center; Mr. Saverio de Santis, GEWAMED Financial Assistant, Mr. Raouf Guelloubi, GEWAMED Technical Secretary, and other technical and assistant staff who actively participated in the organization and undertaking of the meeting.

3. MAIN SESSIONS OF THE WORKSHOP

The Workshop was organized according to the following sessions:

- a) **Opening Ceremony.** The meeting was officially opened by Dr. Cosimo Lacirignola, Dr. Giuliana Trisorio Liuzzi, Vicepresident of the CIHEAM, Dr. Cornelia Nauen, Senior Scientific Project Officer, European Commission (EC) and Mrs. Maria Maugeri, Environmental Adviser of the Bari Town Council, and was chaired by Dr. Nicola Lamaddalena, Project Coordinator. Mrs. Silvia Godelli, Mediterranean Adviser of the Puglia Region could not be present at the opening ceremony but

¹ The report prepared intends to summarize the main sessions of the Workshop and related discussions but also to provide some technical guidance with respect to the main issues discussed.

addressed the participants during the second day of the meeting. Authorities emphasized the important role that women can play in the development and management of water resources, even though this is still not often recognized due to many external factors and other constraints. The GEWAMED Project has to face an important challenge in contributing to remove these factors. Dr. Nauen made a presentation calling the attention of the participants on the considerable gap existing between the knowledge generated by research projects and its dissemination and adoption by large audiences. There is an urgent need for developing a strategy that shortens such long process, from the beginning of the operation of all research projects.

- b) **Presentation by Partners Organizations and Plan of Work.** The programme was scheduled to have presentations from all the project partners, with a brief description of the activities and structure of the respective organization and a vision of the activities planned during the initial period of 18 months. Finally, due to the need to discuss other important issues, five partners were not able to present their work but their inputs were included in the CD-Rom distributed to all participants on the last day of the workshop.
- c) **Establishment of National and Regional Web Sites.** The main purpose of this session was to share the experience of other programmes and projects in the establishment of web sites and international networks. Presentations were made by Mrs. Judith Gracey of the DIMITRA project; Mrs. Barbara Tomassini of The Mediterranean Information Office for the Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE) from Greece, Mr. Patrice Burger of the Programme Solidarité Eau (pS-Eau) from France and Ms. Veronica Navarro, of the National Observatory for the Women Work and Enterprises in Agriculture (ONILFA) from Italy. All these organizations have important web sites which description could be a point of reference for the discussion.
- d) **Use of Gender-Sensitive Indicators to Measure Gender Mainstreaming in Water Resources.** The session was opened by a keynote presentation by Mrs. Ilaria Sisto from FAO, who gave the general framework for the establishment of gender sensitive indicators and provided examples of indicators for management of natural resources, with emphasis on water. The presentation was followed by an interesting discussion on how to develop indicators for the project.
- e) **Briefing on the Preparation of Cost Statements.** Some of the participants had already experience with other EC Research projects, while for others it was the first time. Hence a briefing session was organized to inform participants of how to carry out the control of project expenditures and report them. Mr. Claudio Bogliotti and Mr. Saverio de Santis introduced the subject and an extensive discussion took place to clarify the questions raised by participants.
- f) **Establishment of National Networks.** Although this session was not initially foreseen as a separate issue for discussion, it was obvious from former discussion that the nature of such national networks was not entirely clear to all participants and that a more detailed discussion of the issue was needed. Therefore, a brief session was dedicated to clarify the structure of the national networks foreseen in the project document and the role of the national focal point and the National Coordinator.
- g) **Closing session.** The closing of the workshop started with a speech by Mrs. Anna Paladino, Mediterranean Advisor of the Bari Province, who informed the participants that a legal text regarding the defence of the women parity rights in the access to work was in preparation in the EC and will be signed in the near future. The text will be made available to the MAI-B as soon as signed. A CD-Rom with all the presentations made at the Workshop and some of the notes taken during the discussions and the list of participants was distributed to the participants at the end of the workshop.

4. MAIN TOPICS DISCUSSED

4.1. Work Plan Session

In their presentations, participants shared their views on the main activities to be undertaken in the next period of 18 months. There was a great diversity in the presentations and the planned work:

while some participants were very specific, others presented general ideas on the work to be undertaken or initiated during the concerned period. After some clarifications and discussion, it was considered necessary to provide a list of activities that the project's partners have to cover in their Work Plan. The tentative list of activities to be included in the work plan was presented and generally accepted by all participants. The list is presented below for the records of the meeting:

- a) Establishment of the National Web sites in the concerned countries with the respective structured database;
- b) Maintenance of the national web site;
- c) Collection, processing and knowledge generation of gender-water related information;
- d) Preparatory work for the organization and planning of a Regional Workshop on Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions in Water Management for Food Security and Food Safety;
- e) Contribution to the proposal of a set of gender sensitive indicators to be used in the respective countries;
- f) Management structure at national level defined and implemented;
- g) Network of collaborating institutions defined and operation initiated;
- h) The conceptual framework to improve private and public awareness and education at different society levels will be initiated during the first year and completed in the third year of the project;
- i) Preparation of annual report; and
- j) Financial and administrative control initiated.

Participants felt that in order to prepare such Work Plan, they needed to first consult with their supervisors and collaborating institutions and reasonable time will be needed to complete the plan. It was proposed that the Work Plans should be returned within a period of two months.

4.2. Establishment of National and Regional Web Sites

The discussion of this topic took considerable time and involved all participants. Some of the points raised needed further clarifications, while other relevant issues will be sorted out and resolved during the project implementation. Some of the main issues discussed are listed below with the intention of recording the main views expressed:

- a) What will be done in those countries where such web sites will not be installed? The Technical Annex of the GEWAMED foresees that at least six partners out of the nine that are integrated in the South East Mediterranean Region (SEMR) will create web sites. In principle, the project has foreseen financial resources for the installation of web sites in all nine organizations of the SEMR, but if due to technical or political difficulties, this cannot be accomplished, the Project will not be considered as not delivering the committed outputs. Therefore all partners of the SEMR should endeavour to the establishment of the national web sites and if by any exceptional reason this cannot be accomplished, the National Coordinator will define other ways and means to collect and disseminate information.
- b) Separate web sites for GEWAMED or integration in the existing ones of partners? Several partners have already a website dedicated to their organizations. The question was raised if GEWAMED would require a separate web site or could be integrated in the existing ones. To maximize resources, it was agreed that the GEWAMED would be integrated in existing sites.
- c) Who is responsible for the establishment of national web sites? The responsibility is basically of the National Coordinator. The MAI- Bari and other institutions may provide some assistance and orientations on their establishment, but still it remains a responsibility of the National Coordinator.
- d) One common structure for all the national web sites or each one can be different? The national web sites should be basically oriented to satisfy local needs and accordingly the National Coordinator may define its structure. However, the MAI-Bari will develop the architecture of the Regional Web site (computer programme with HTML files) to be shared with project partners so that they can use it to build their own GEWAMED sites. By using the same architecture, a common identity will be created for the web sites, even though it may prove difficult to integrate with the existing sites of partners using a different technology for developing their sites. In general, it was considered advisable to use such common architecture but the final decision relies with the National Coordinator, considering the specific conditions of her/his organization.

- e) Proposed structure of the Website. To initiate the dialogue with respect to the structure of the web site, a proposal is presented in Figure 1. Considerable discussion took place on the proposed structure with the final support of most participants. It should be noticed that data shown under WEB DATA are only examples and are not a formal part of the structure.

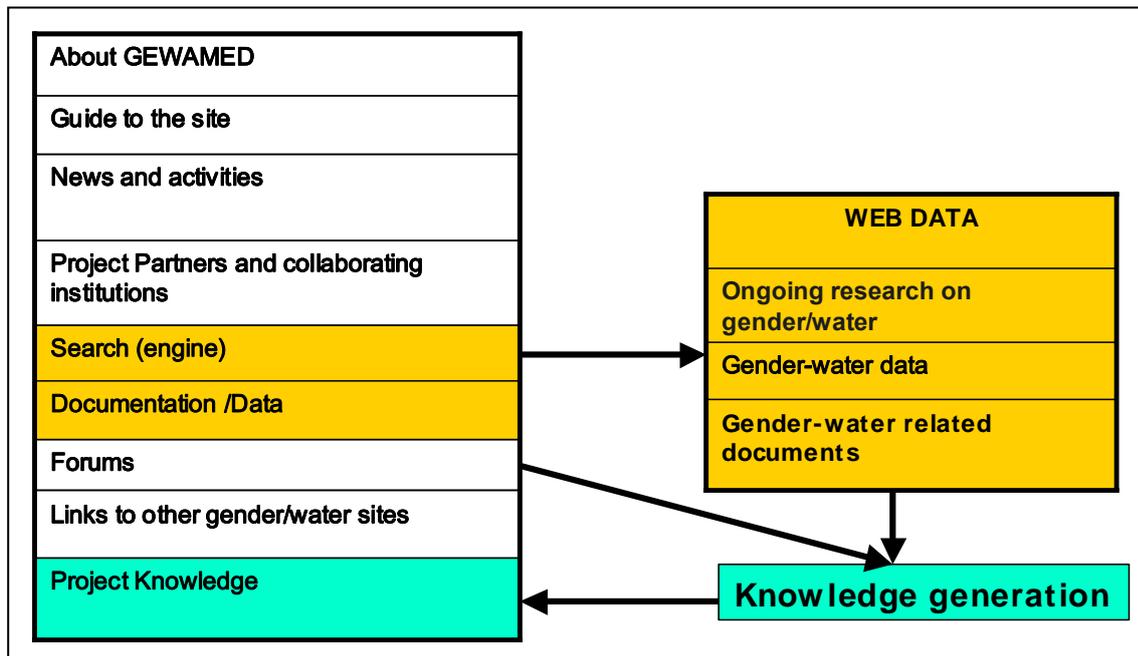


Fig. 1. Suggested structure for the National web sites

- f) Type of data to be entered in the web sites. There was a long discussion stressing the fact that the web site should not be an accumulation of data that could be obtained somewhere else in the country. In that sense, it was considered useful to include links to other web sites where such information could be found instead of presenting the same data in the web site. The type of data to be included in the web site should be the result of a well defined process, where the questions to be researched are clearly defined and the information entered is a function of such questions. In such a way, the data to be entered are a function of the basic questions that the project intends to answer. Caution should be exercised that the web data does not become a set of not well connected data or documents, although there should be space for collecting success stories and making a stock-taking inventory of available knowledge on the interface of gender and water.
- g) Difference between knowledge and information data. In several instances, the issue of the difference between knowledge and data was mentioned. This difference is particularly important in the case of web sites where data are only the means to generate new knowledge through a process of data examination and analysis. The project GEWAMED must generate new knowledge that is shared by all partners, participating institutions and the public at large. In this respect, it is important to stress that new knowledge does not only include the positive results of investigations but also negative ones, as the latter can tell that for certain areas of research there was not enough information or it was inconclusive and further research is needed to draw general conclusions.
- h) Language of national web sites. The national web sites have an important function of disseminating local information but also of sharing knowledge with other national web sites and the regional one. As a matter of fact, the Regional web site will be largely depending on the national web sites to fulfil its role of disseminating common knowledge. For these reasons, it is important that the regional web sites uses English as the language of communication among all partners but also local languages for the dissemination within the country. This means in practice that to some extent the national web sites should be bi-lingual, as far as possible. The documentation to be included in the section of "web data" can be stored in the local language as it is of more restricted use.

- i) Sources of information for the web site. The information to be entered in the web site should always be a function of the basic question to be answered, the sources for retrieving information and subsequent knowledge building. One important source is represented by the National Central Focal Point who will coordinate the national networks. Another important source is data collected by universities and research institutes where information can be retrieved through a context among students or other mechanisms that stimulates staff and students to search for relevant data within the framework defined. An additional source of generating knowledge are internet forum and electronic conferences. The use of questionnaires and other surveys should be limited to specific situations where such information may be very relevant to project objectives. It should be remembered that GEWAMED is not a traditional research project but a Coordinated Action. Questions were also raised regarding the nature of the information in the domain of water resources. Although agriculture remains the main user and therefore the one to receive greater attention, other uses of water should be considered as well.
- j) Use of forum for generating knowledge on essential questions. There was a long debate on the use of forum as a mean of generating new knowledge. Nearly, all participants have positive and negative experiences with the use of forum. However, at the end, it was recognised that it remains an important mean of gathering information, opinions, views, and experiences on essential issues and therefore the idea of using it was generally supported. The project Coordinator and Project Manager will formulate a set of questions to be answered through this modality of communication and initiate a forum in the near future.
- k) Technologies for the use of forum. There are basically two technologies that can be used for a forum. One is to make it part of the web site and the other is to use existing platforms that can be used without the existence of the national web sites, such as the so called D-Groups. Participants were informed that the MAI of Bari has one of such platforms used for distance learning and other communication purposes, which could be made available to the partners of the GEWAMED project. As this second alternative is already available and does not need to wait for the development of the web sites, it would be the most advantageous solution and therefore the one to be used in the near future.
- l) Maintenance of web sites. Some concerns were expressed regarding the need to feed new information into the web site and keep the site attractive for visitors. This will largely depend on the capacity to generate new knowledge which is one the major responsibilities of the project. However, there should be also space for lessons learnt (positive and negative) in order to have clear vision of existing knowledge. As far as the actual feeding of information into the web sites, the respective National Coordinators remain responsible for ensuring such a process, taking into consideration that the turnover of staff is rather frequent in NGOs and therefore measures should be taken to prevent a discontinuity in the feeding of the information.

4.3. Use of Indicators to Measure Gender Mainstreaming in Water Resources

The session was opened by a keynote paper presented by Mrs. Ilaria Sisto (FAO). Some of the points emphasized in the presentation were:

- Gender Sensitive Indicators (GSI) are used over time to monitor gender-related progress or change over time. They can be used at project level to monitor change in response to project interventions at a regional, national or global level to monitor broader impacts of policy and international pressures.
- Indicators of empowerment have been promoted for more than 2 decades but empowerment is difficult to measure and therefore it needs to be defined clearly before developing some indicators.
- FAO has assessed the status of GSIs in the natural resources management (NRM) and found that a) there was a lack of practical experience in this area, b) a low level of use of GSI in NRM and that c) there was a lack of GSI to analyse gender issues in agriculture at project, regional and national level.
- The choice and development of indicators is largely determined by the needs of users (i.e. community, project managers, technical staff, planners, policy makers or others).

A considerable debate took place with regard to the development of indicators within the GEWAMED project. The debate can be summarized by saying that the project should adopt a double approach that consists of:

- a) On one hand, it should collect and/or develop gender sensitive indicators at sector level that provide useful information regarding the access of women and men to: decision making positions, land and water resources, employment, technical training, credit facilities, benefits arising from work and others. Table 1 provides a tentative set of such indicators for the agriculture sector but others will soon be developed for other uses of water. In a first attempt, the project partners should try to compile the necessary data to calculate the corresponding indicators. This will provide a first indication of the availability of such data and of the difficulties that their calculation imply. The collection of the necessary data should start as soon as possible and a first report will be expected within 6 months.
- b) On the other hand, the project partners should develop a set of basic questions (or knowledge objectives) for which the partner will search information to provide answers (positive or negative) and this should constitute the essence of the generation of new knowledge. Within this process, partners will develop a set of specific indicators that will provide useful information regarding those basic questions. The term of "additional indicators" was used at the Workshop to designate such indicators which may not be an entirely clear denomination. The term of "Project knowledge gender sensitive indicators" could reflect better their scope. This second set of indicators will be very important because it will measure the progress made (or absence of it) in achieving a knowledge goal. As the development of this knowledge process may take some time, the development of these second set of indicators is expected for the second part of the year.

4.4. Working Session on the Establishment of National Networks

The Technical Annex of the GEWAMED contract describes in details the national networks to be established in the SEMR countries. However the concept was not entirely clear to all participants and a working session was dedicated to this topic. Some of the salient features of the discussion are reflected below:

1. The relation between the National Coordinator and the National Central Focal Point is a line of coordination and communication but not of command (Figure 2). Therefore, the national networks is an informal group of collaborating experts representing several sectors that interact with the National Coordinator by providing and disseminating information on gender water related issues.
2. It would be desirable that the National Networks be created by a high level official of the Government and that their members represent officially their institutions but, as this may not always be possible, a more informal level of collaboration will be acceptable.
3. In setting the National Networks the following points need to receive attention:
 - a. The national Central focal point should be a person with political relevance capable of coordinating the contributions from other members of the network.
 - b. Terms of reference of the Network need to be prepared.
 - c. Terms of reference of the National Central focal point need to be prepared.
 - d. Terms of reference of each member of network should also be prepared.
 - e. The collaboration among focal points of different countries should be promoted and for this purpose regional workshops could be held.

Table 1. Suggested gender indicators to assess the access of women to basic factors

Number of indicator	Sector or main activity	Name of indicator	Description of the indicator	Observations
1	Access to technical Work	Share of women workers in the Ministry of Agriculture / Irrigation	This indicator will show the percentage of women working in the Ministry of Agriculture/ Irrigation.	Consider only full time workers in all categories.
2	Access to decision making levels	Share of women with decision making capacity in the Ministry of Agriculture / Irrigation	The indicator will give the percentage of women with decision making capacity in the concerned Ministry.	It will require a careful definition of what is “decision making capacity”. It would normally include, directors, Chiefs of Units and Senior Officers.
4	Access to technical Information	Coverage of extension workers	$\frac{\text{Total number of extension workers in irrigated agriculture}}{\text{Total irrigated area}}$	It gives an indication of the actual coverage of the extension services in the irrigated agriculture. In some cases it may be difficult to separate the extension workers working only for irrigated agriculture.
3	Access to technical information	Share of women extension workers in the Ministry of Agriculture / Irrigation	The indicator will show the percentage of women extension workers in the Ministry of Agriculture / Irrigation.	The term “Workers” includes all categories working in extension activities.
4	Access to governance in Water Users Associations (WUA)	Share of women participating in the management of WUA	$\frac{\text{Total number of women participating in the water boards}}{\text{Total number of members of the water boards}}$	If there are WUAs of different level this indicator may need to be broken down by categories of WUA.
5	Access to land	Share of women heading irrigated farm-holdings	$\frac{\text{Total number of women heading irrigating farms}}{\text{Total number of irrigated farms}}$	This information may be difficult to be obtained unless it is included as part of the regular statistics to be generated by the concerned Ministry.
6	Access to land	Percentage of irrigated farms that are jointly owned by men and women	$\frac{\text{Total number of farms owned by men and women}}{\text{Total number of irrigated farms}}$	Farms are normally owned by husband and wife but many other possibilities of joint ownership are possible.

Table 1. Suggested gender indicators to assess the access of women to basic factors

Number of indicator	Sector or main activity	Name of indicator	Description of the indicator	Observations
7	Access to employment	Percent of women that have a permanent work in the agricultural sector	This index provides an indication of the access to forms of work outside the household and the family farm.	It would be desirable if this indicator could also be developed for the irrigated agriculture sector but these data are unlikely to be available.
11	Access to Irrigation work	Share of women in the work on the irrigation farm	$\frac{\text{Number of days worked by women on farm}}{\text{Number of days worked by men and women on the farm}}$	This information can only be collected by samples. Farm sizes should be stratified. It refers to the total number of days per year.
12	Access to technical training	Share of women in participating in training activities in irrigated agriculture	$\frac{\text{Number of women that have participated in training activities}}{\text{Total number of participants in training activities}}$	The data should be referred to a calendar year; a clear definition of training activity should be provided.
14	Access to credit	Share of women receiving official credit in the irrigated agriculture	$\frac{\text{Number of women receiving credit activities}}{\text{Total number of farmers receiving credit}}$	The data should be referred to calendar year. It may be difficult to obtain the information for the irrigated agriculture sector. In such case the information will be collected for the agriculture sector.

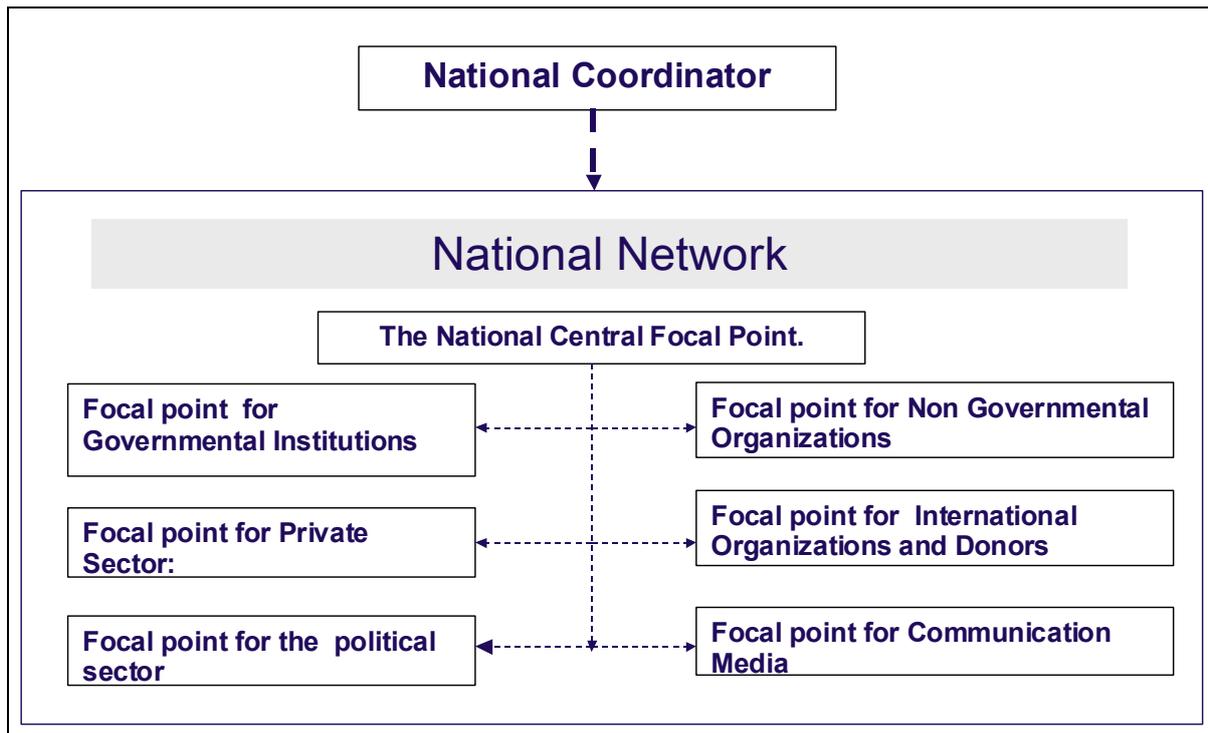


Fig. 2. Interrelation between the National Coordinator and the National Network

4. During the workshop, an attempt was made to develop terms of reference for the National Coordinator and the National Central Focal Point but the lack of time prevented a comprehensive work. Therefore, it is considered more advisable that each SEMR country prepares Terms of Reference according to the local conditions.
5. A question was raised about the possibility that the National Coordinator and the National Central Focal Point be the same person. This possibility was not considered advisable as it is unlikely that the institutional requirements of these two persons coincide in one.
6. Participants were reminded that the establishment of the National Network is envisaged during the first year of operation of the project.