

## **An interaction approach to water resource management in Mediterranean countries**

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**Abstract** This study presents the findings of the INGO MED project which analyses the reformation of the public utilities system, with particular reference to water resources management. This is a process linked to broad participation of economic, social, and political agents engaged in processing and implementing decentralised decision-making. The originality of the study consists in using the behaviour of intermediate institutions as a proxy indicator of governance in the water utilities sector. The analysis, which considers three North African countries and Italy, is limited to the last 10 years, and seeks to identify the appropriate institutions with a coherent set of strategies and instruments.

**Key words** Mediterranean countries; stakeholders; governance; economics; water management