EUROWATERNET (EWN) is designed to give a representative assessment of all sizes and types of rivers, lakes, groundwater bodies and of the human pressures that affect the quality and quantity of water within a country and also across the EEA area.

In 1998 the EEA has published Technical Guidelines for Implementation of EWN. In accordance with these guidelines member States and candidate countries will re-establish such a network. National networks create EUROWATERNET to provide information about water resources at the European level.

EWN is a process by which the EEA obtains information on water resources (quantity and quality). It needs to answer questions raised by its customers, including the European Commission, policy makers, national regulatory bodies and the general public.

EWN provides information about:
- quality and quantity status of Europe's inland water resources
- how that relates and responds to pressures on the environment.

The network ensures that similar size, number and types of water bodies are compared (like-with-like comparison). EWN gives an opportunity for evaluation of the state and pressures on the water environments based on known power of statistical information and their precision. It helps to reach suitable political decisions in this field. It ensures quality information for customers. Future development will assure testing the efficiency of implementation and reporting of the directives (especially WFD). It is based on catchment scales and applied geographical information systems.

The key concepts of EWN are:
- sampling existing national monitoring and information databases,
- comparing like-with-like,
- having a statistically stratified design,
- having a known power and precision.

The benefits of EWN include:
- "low cost" option, based on national programmes,
- data that are objective, reliable and comparable,
- it is "tailor-made" for specific issues and questions connected with water environment,
- it gives possibility to judge the effectiveness of policy and
- it provides better information for general public.

The objectives of preparing the Slovenian EUROWATERNET (EWN-SI) in 2001 were:
- modelling of accordant information system for monitoring the water status,
- using the system for preparing status of water bodies, for reporting to EEA, conventions and directives,
- enabling the public an access to water information.

EWN-SI is the system of verified and logical integrated information on water. It contains data of water status, water use and their pollution. Data proceed from existing national monitoring bases, from registers and statistical observations. EWN-SI has two levels for general public and for experts. It contains 30 information layers and the selection of monitoring standards on rivers, groundwater and lakes.

If gives general information on all surface and groundwater water bodies in Slovenia. In addition also information for the indicators of comprehensive impact on environment, e.g. driving forces - pressure - state - impact - response. With the development of the system, users will be able to get even more information and some models to determine the possible indicators of effectiveness.