



*International
Office
for Water*



FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL WATER OBSERVATION MECHANISM IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

**First results the diagnostic
analysis phase 1**

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Characteristics of the study (phase 1)

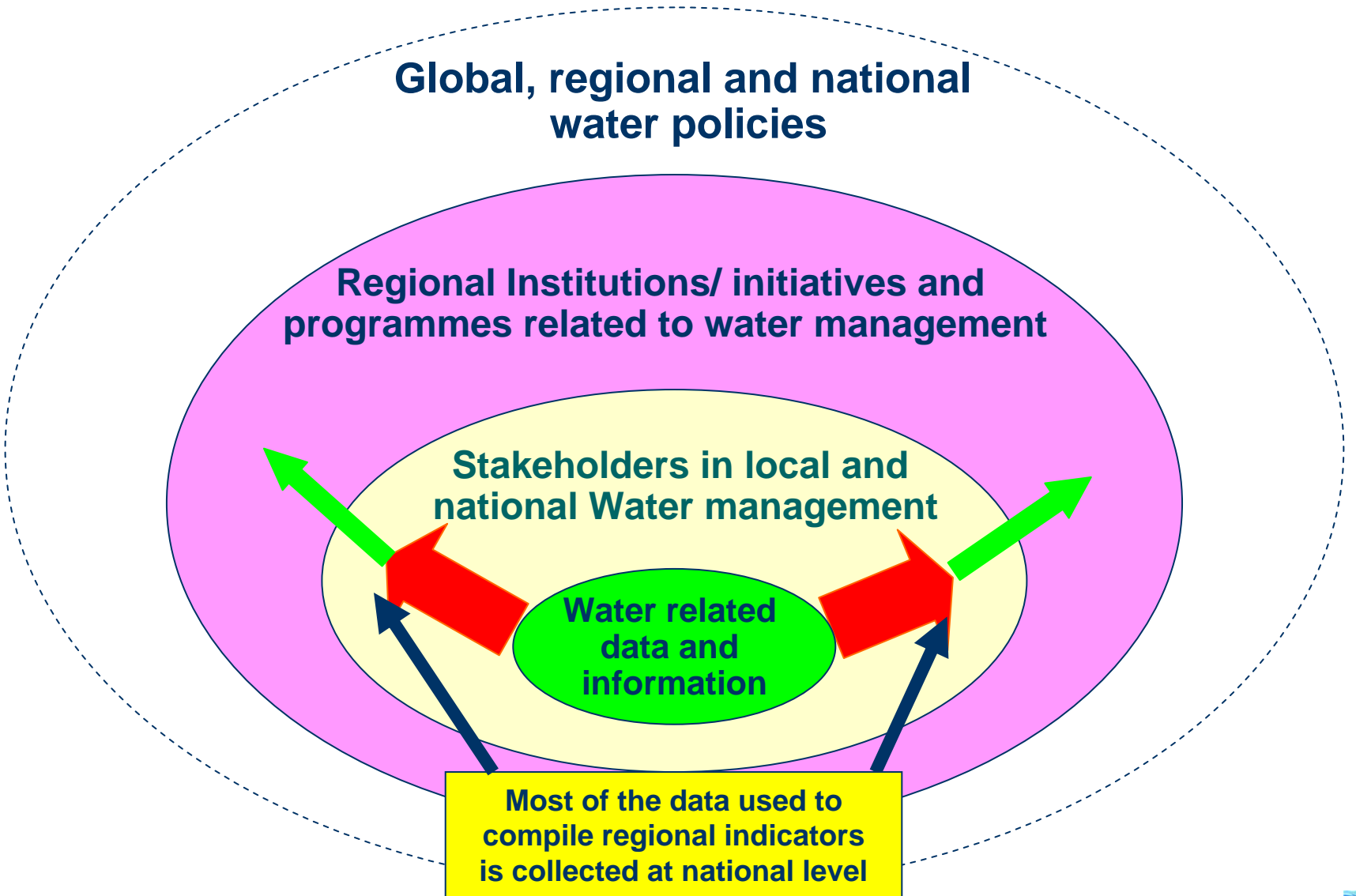
- **Objective of the first phase (3 month duration)**
 - “Formulating a first vision and main orientations which would be given to this observation mechanism”

 - **Analysis of the situation and needs based on:**
 - **A study of the collection and dissemination processes at international level:**
 - EC/ DG Env, EEA, Eurostat/medstat, EUWI-med, FAO, GWP, IME, Info-RAC , JMP, MEDPOL, OSS, Blue Plan, UNEP/MAP, UNESCO/WWAP World bank, World Water Council, ...

 - **The assessment of the situation in 4 pilot countries:**
 - France, Jordan, Spain, Tunisia.
- => « Thanks to all contributors »**

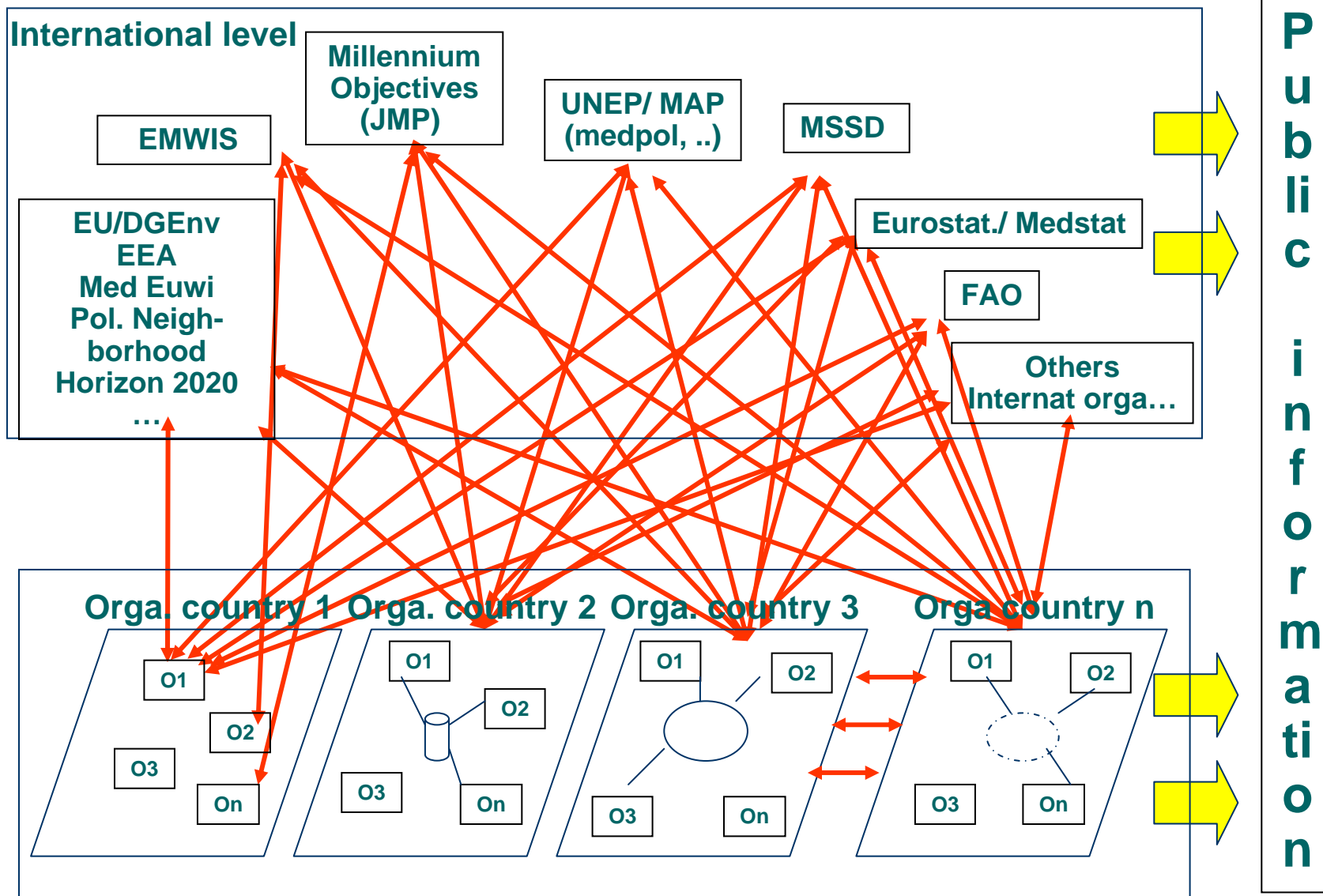


Global context overview





Global context overview: national/regional interface





Summary of the national context

- **Specific water management policy in each country**, with specific organisation of the monitoring and data management ;
- **Multiple information systems** (thematic, sub regional, local ..);
- **Data usually heterogeneous, dispersed and not very accessible** at the national level:
 - Little fluidity of exchanges between national institutions
 - Small data enhancement
- Few countries have a national water data management organisation, but **most of them wish or are in phase to develop their own National Water Information System (NWIS)**



Specificities of the regional context

- **Various water policy framework** using data and information
- **Many regional stakeholders** intervening in action plans of the various regional political frameworks:
 - MDG : JMP, EUWI/ MED-EUWI, ...
 - MSSD : MAP unit, Blue Plan, ...
 - MAP : UNEP, MAP unit, Medpol, 6 RAC, ...
 - EU Water policy: EU DG Env, Eurostat, EEA, JRC,, ...
 - EU Pol with Med.: ENPI, Horizon 2020, EEA, RMSU, ...
 - EuroMed Partnership : EMWIS, Medstat, ...
 - African Vision : AMCOW, ADB/FAE, ...
 - Others: FAO, WWC, GWP med, MEMBO, WWAP, UNSD, GEF, BM, OECD, IME, CEDARE, OSS, ESCWA, EXACT group, IUCN, WWF....
- **Various information systems:** WISE, Eurowaternet, EIONET, INFO/MAP, EMWIS, JMP database, Monitoring water alliance website, AQUASTAT, IBNET,
- **Various groups** (think tanks) for improving the processes: UN-WATER, DGenv/EEA/JRC on Wise, EEA/UNEP on MAP, ...



Expectations at national level

- **Need for support to the development of the NWISs**
 - Organisation of inter-institutional co-operation
 - Organisation of monitoring
 - Development of a common language
 - Organisation of the access to data
 - Data enhancement

- **Specific expectations related to:**
 - **The support to the production of missing information at national and regional level**
 - **The promotion of common methods for analyses at the regional level** (in particular for assessing the resources and uses, socioeconomic impact , drought indicators, water accounting...)
 - **The strengthening of international co-operation between Mediterranean countries**



Problems at regional level

- **Difficulties in identifying and accessing to the data**
- **Difficulties in collecting data even with established processes**
- **Major problems of heterogeneity, completeness and quality of the received data**
 - Problems linked to the **lack of clear production processes and common technical language**
 - Problems linked to the **lack of metadata**
 - **Discontinuity in monitoring** over time or geographically
 - **Incomplete or not adapted data provided**
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Expectations at regional level

- **Lack of data adapted to the needs** especially on major topics, such as:
 - **Water resource** (Description of aquifers, Groundwater quality, Availability of the resources)
 - **Uses** (Water demand for the various uses, especially agricultural, self supply....)
 - **Socioeconomic aspects** (on on-going investments, on the investments necessary to achieve the MDGs, Impact of water shortages and drought, socio economy of the uses...)
 - **Drinking water supply and sanitation services** (WSS in rural areas, benchmarking, ...)

- **Need for key data allowing regroupings or studies at basin level, function of the kind, by eco-region ...**

- **Problems for sustainable financing of monitoring**

- **Need for a better structuring of IS (national and international) not adapted to the exchanges**



Conclusions and first recommendations



First conclusions

- **The need for a “regional water observation mechanism” (or equivalent) is expressed by the majority of the stakeholders, within the various water policy framework**
- **Different visions but unanimity for saying: “careful, not to duplicate what already exists (institutions and information systems)”**
- **Priority objectives of the mechanism:**
 - **Capacity building of the Mediterranean countries** in order to better meet the needs at the regional level, while each country keep its own autonomy for organising its national water information system (NWIS)
 - **Developing a framework for dialogue between regional and national organisations** in order to better meet the expectations on reliable, comparable and quality information necessary for effective water resources management in the Mediterranean



Recommendation 1: Through a « Mediterranean water information partnership »

- **Organising a « Mediterranean water data and information partnership » - MEDWIP (or equivalent)**
- **Objective :**
 - Streamlining collection process of reliable information following needs
 - Promoting data identification (metadata), availability and enhancement
 - Supporting the countries in the development of their IS
 - Facilitating exchange of comparable and quality data and information, between national and regional organisations, especially through the promotion of common processes and language
 - Promoting the exchange of experiences between Mediterranean countries
 - Strengthening synergies and collaboration between organisations and regional think tanks regarding data management and enhancement
- **Under the Political framework of Water Directors committee**
- **Topics covered:** Priority topic of MDG and MSSD but also any topic on water and sanitation and on uses and associated socioeconomic aspects, following needs



Recommendation 1: Partnership principles

- **A Partnership** based on a **charter/convention** defining basic principles such as:
 - **The principle of voluntary participation** of the members
 - **The principle of opening** to all organisations producing, managing and or using water data and information in the Mediterranean
 - **Advantages offered to the members:**
 - **Privileged access to common** tools, means for self presentation (catalogue, facilitation for on-lining documentary references...)
 - Access to reports of working groups (**shared folders**)
 - Privileges access to training/ information (Info. flash, ..)
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 - **The principle of confidentiality**
 - **The principle of searching for quality** (metadata, « Peer review », ...)
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Recommendation 1: MEDWIP priority actions

- **Priority output: a «Concerted plan for Mediterranean water data and information»**
 - **A road map for MEDWIP activities**
 - Assessment of the national/regional needs for data and information
 - An inventory (who produces what ...)
 - Identification of the actions to implement, the means to provide for meeting the common needs at the regional and national levels (project sheet)
 - **A result of collective work**, this regional plan could relies on national and topical plans for water data.



Recommendation 2: Enhance study follow-up

- **To include preliminary actions for MEDWIP in the finalisation of the feasibility study (phase2)**
 - Preparation of a draft partner charter
 - Identification of the first potential working groups related to the action plan (topical and horizontal)
 - Prototype catalogue of information sources with voluntary partners
 - Prototype collaboration tools (common folder, web portal)
 - First exchanges on monitoring experience (ex: through Joint Process on WFD)



Thank you for your attention

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