

**TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL FEASIBILITY STUDIES**  
**OF**  
**NATIONAL WATER INFORMATION SYSTEMS**  
**12 MEDITERRANEAN PARTNER COUNTRIES**



The main objective of SEMIDE/EMWIS is to “Facilitate access to the existing know-how in the water sector, to develop the sharing of information and cooperation programs between the participating countries“.

During the first phase of its execution (1999-2002), EMWIS identified some improvements necessary for the progress and development of the System at the national and international level. The main issues to be addressed are:

- The difference in the level of advancement (and sometimes the absence) of National Water Information Systems in the participating countries: some countries have advanced systems while others have barely started. This difference leads to problems in coordination and communication.
- Lack of coordination between organizations and institutions within the same country which results in data gaps, duplication, discrepancy and availability of data in different formats
- Difficulties to access data, whether because of technical reasons or lack of policies for data access.
- Differences in Information and Communication technical infrastructures, human resources capacity and in adopted processes for data collection, transfer, storage and dissemination in the participating countries.
- A lack of national approach related to water information resulting in fragmented systems lacking consistency and integration. These countries might need guidance to a more holistic approach in building local water information systems which lead to a more coherent multi-stakeholder water information system on a national level.

To improve this situation, EMWIS is now looking at the enhancement of the National Water Information Systems (NWIS) in the participating countries. It is anticipated that improvement of these NWIS would improve and harmonise information exchange and sharing within the participating countries. It is also anticipated that this improvement will have a direct impact on the quality, availability and flow of information from the participating countries' NWIS to the EMWIS international system via the national focal point in each participating country.

EMWIS awarded EasyInfo Consulting Company (Jordan) in partnership with Jean-Marie BARRAT (Team Leader) for conducting a feasibility study to assess the current situation of national water information systems in 12 Mediterranean countries: Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and Palestine.

The main purpose of the study is provide an overview of the current status on National Water Information Systems and to recommend actions for enhancement and improvement of the NWIS in the participating countries, more particularly to remove all obstacles at the national level that impede the advancement of the NWIS. As a consequence, this will improve and harmonise information exchange and sharing between the participating countries and the EMWIS international system.. Improvement of the National Water Information Systems will improve the overall EMWIS system.

This study represents the first step for NWIS enhancement that must be followed by specific actions for each country and a continuous regional coordination.

