

# SEMIDE

<http://www.semide.org>

**Système Euro-  
Méditerranéen  
d'information sur les  
savoir-faire dans le  
domaine de l'Eau**



MEDA Water



**EUROPEAID**  
CO-OPERATION OFFICE



النظام الأورو-متوسطي للإعلام  
حول المعرفة في ميدان المياه

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**EMWIS Technical Unit**  
**Unité Technique du SEMIDE**

EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP



# EMWIS

<http://www.emwis.org>

**Euro-Mediterranean  
Information System on  
know how in the water  
sector**





# The Euro-Med Partnership in the water sector

Barcelone'95	Euro-Mediterranean conference of Foreign Affairs Ministers <i>Creation of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership</i>
Marseille'96	Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial conference on water management <i>EMWIS creation</i>
Helsinki'97	Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on the environment <i>EMWIS taken into account</i>
Naples'97	Euro-Mediterranean conference of the 27 Water General Directors <i>Approval of EMWIS</i>
Turin'99	Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial conference on local water management <i>Approval of the Action Plan for the MEDA Water call for proposals</i> <i>Strengthening of EMWIS</i>
Madrid'01	Euro-Mediterranean conference of the Water Directors <i>Approval of EMWIS Strategic Plan for Phase II</i>
Rome'05	Euro-Mediterranean conference of the Water Directors <i>Approval of EMWIS Strategic Plan for 10 years</i>



# OBJECTIVES OF EMWIS

To create a tool for cooperation between the European and Mediterranean countries whose aim is to:

- **Facilitate access to the existing information** on know-how;
- **Develop the sharing of information** to enable anyone to make known his activities, his topics of interest ...;
- **Create common products and cooperation programmes** to develop available information and to promote the collection of the lacking information.

**In the water sector**



# EMWIS: Reference Public Service

## For sharing and disseminating inland water knowledge

### EMWIS Focal Points

Scientific  
and Technical

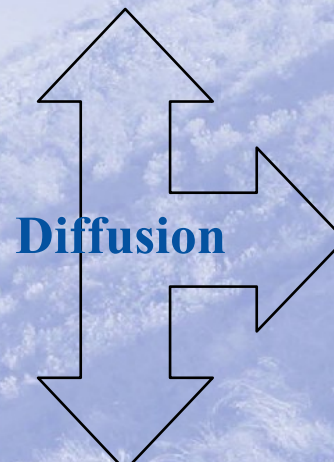
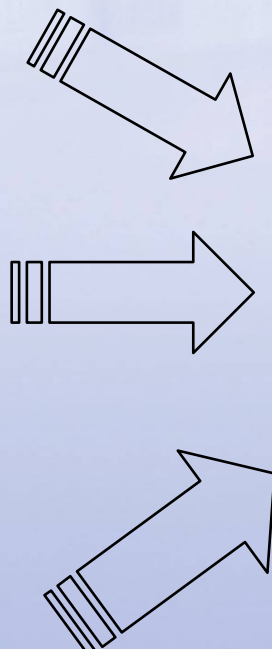
Economical  
And social

Knowledge  
sharing

Political

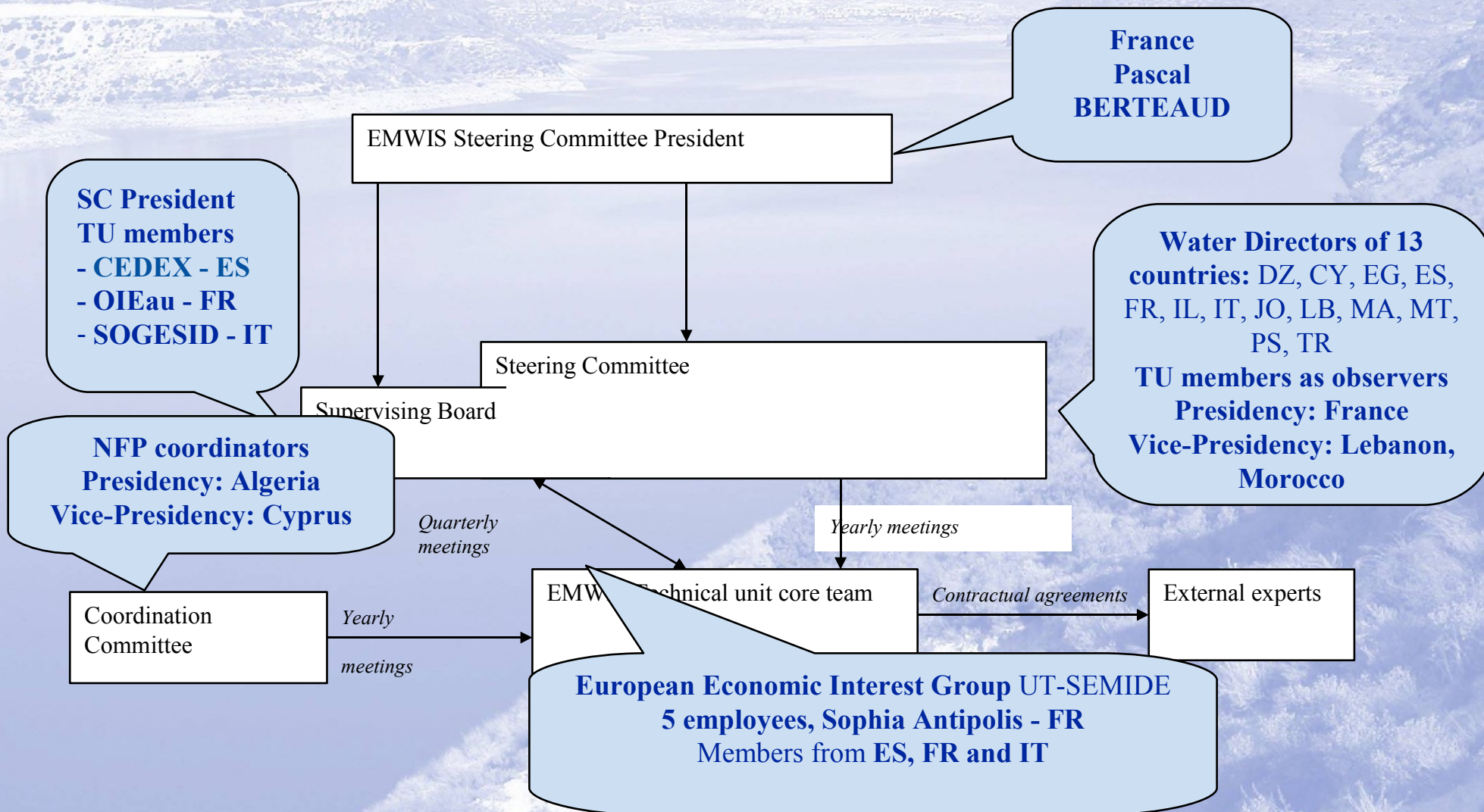
Diffusion

2003-2005





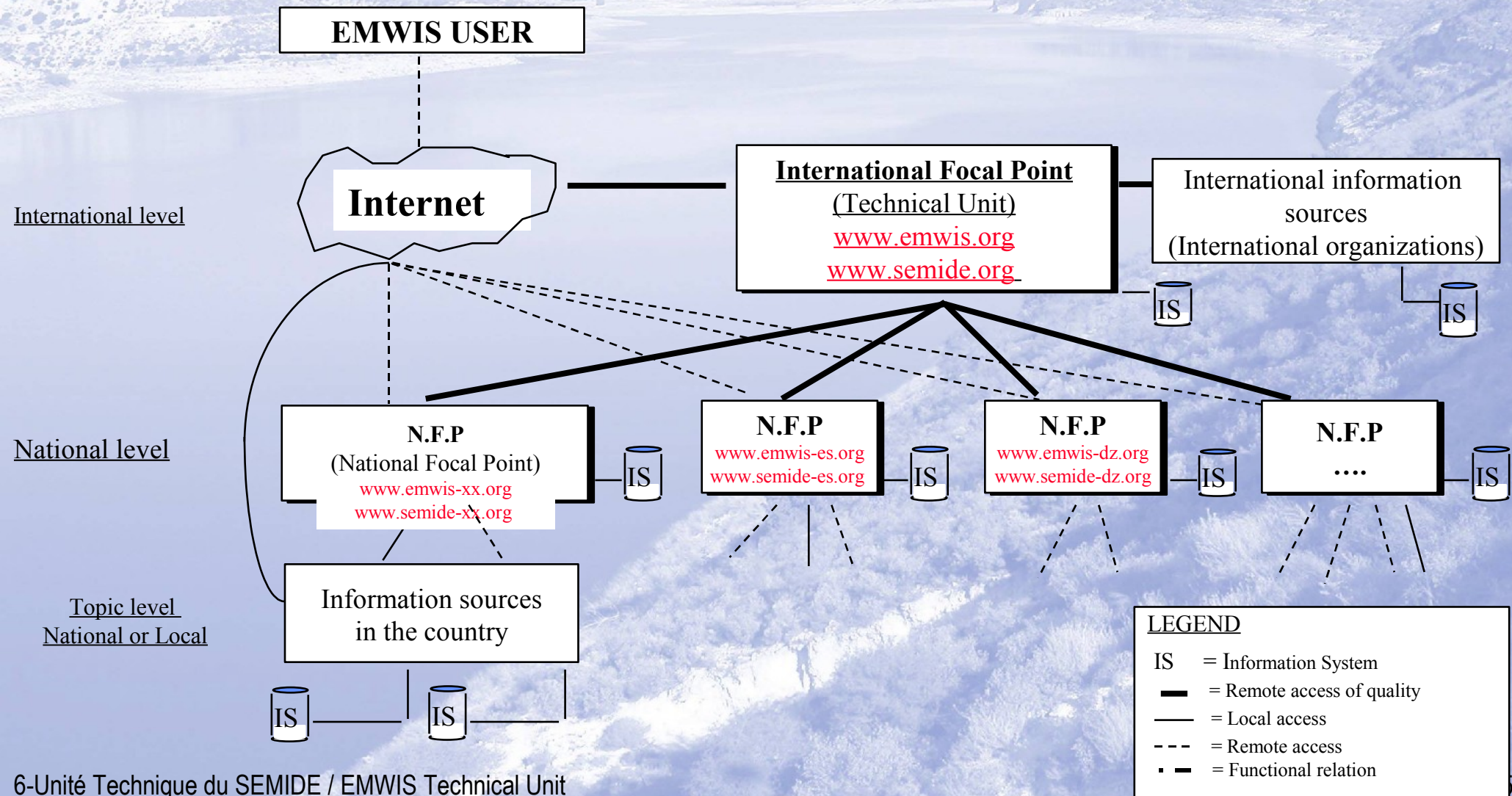
# Organisational structure





# EMWIS Architecture

## Role of EMWIS Technical Unit





# Main EMWIS milestones

- Dec. 1997 – Decision of Euro-Med water directors to implement EMWIS
- July 1998 – Creation of the EEIG EMWIS TU
- July 1999 – EC grant signature for Phase 1
- Nov. 1999 – T.U. operational
- Nov. 2001 – Phase 2 strategic plan approved by Euro-Med water directors
- Dec. 2002 - End of phase 1
- Dec. 2003 - EC grant signature for Phase 2 (Dec. 2003 – Nov. 2006)
- Nov. 2005 – 10 years strategic plan approved by Euro-Med water directors



# Principle of subsidiarity

<p>European Commission and Technical Unit Countries (contractual budget) France, Italy and Spain</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Participation costs of non EU representatives to meetings</li><li>➤ Technical assistance and training costs</li><li>➤ Organization of seminars, conferences and meetings</li><li>➤ Investments and running costs of the Technical Unit</li><li>➤ International Focal Point</li><li>➤ Specific support to NFP for international activities</li></ul>
<p>Countries of the Euro-Med Partnership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Investments and running costs of their National Focal Point</li></ul>

# The National Focal Points

## ➤ European Union: 25 countries

10 NFP created and 7 active websites

Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy,  
Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Spain

## ➤ Mediterranean partners: 10 countries

10 NFP created and 8 active websites

Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine,  
Syria, Tunisia, Turkey



# Main benefits for the member countries

- **Facilitating exchange of information and synergy between national institutions**
- **Improving access to stakeholders (« who does what »)**
- **Taking benefits of new information and communication technologies**
- **Exchange of experiences and good practices with other Mediterranean countries**
- **Water portal of reference for the country**
- **A node of the Euro-Med system**

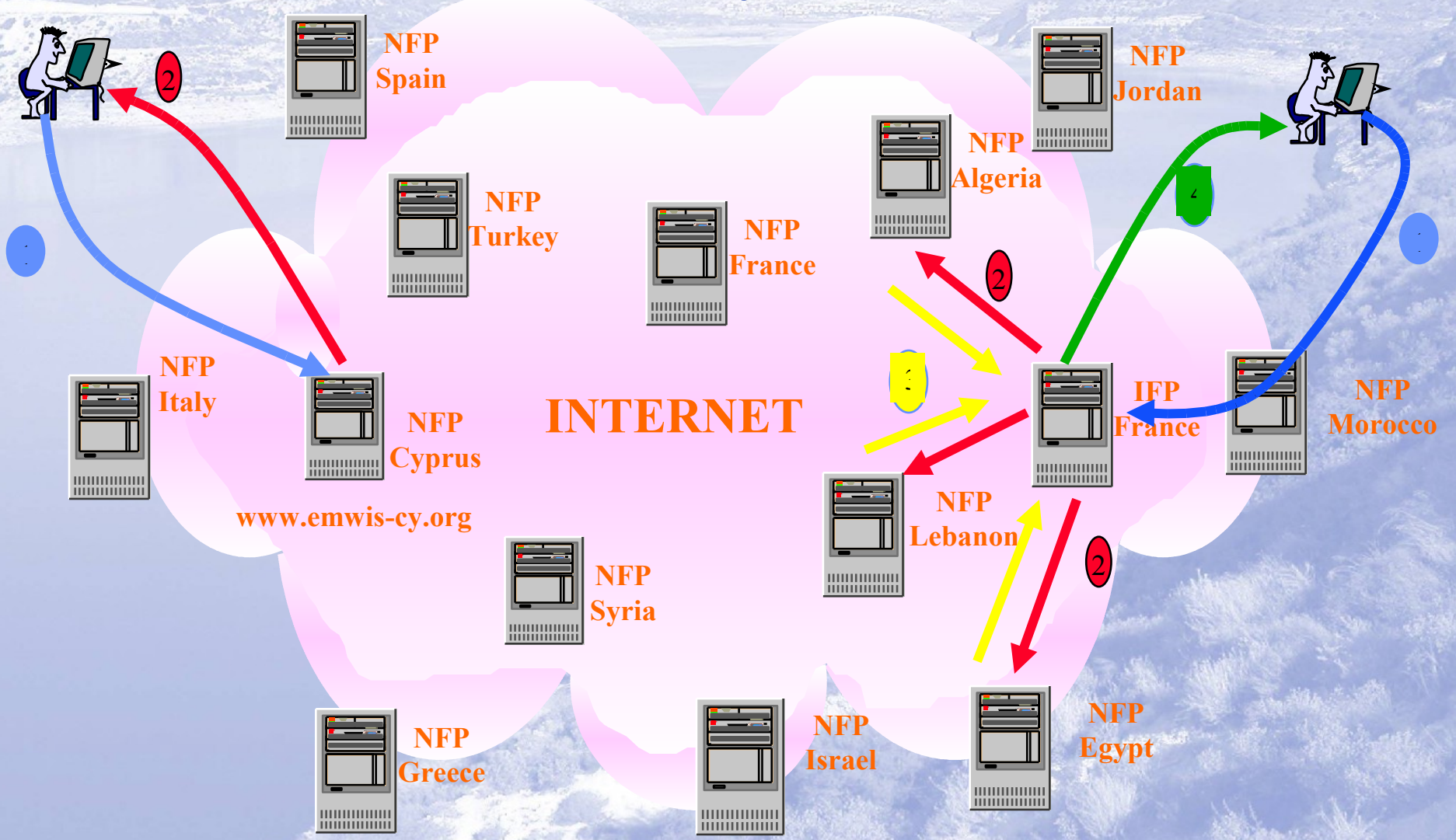


# Services offered

- **Thematic water directory: « who does what » per topic and per country**
- **Information search tools through all National websites**
- **Multilingual search engine on distributed bibliographical databases**
- **Clearing house for EU programs and initiatives**
- **Monthly eNews Flash in Arabic (28), English (5045) and French (2220)**
- **Thematic forums**
  - **Ground water, Water glossaries, satellite images, etc.**
- **Information portal:**
  - **Water news and events in the region**
  - **Institutional water structure in each country**
  - **Other services developed by the National Focal Points**



# The system at work



[www.emwis-cy.org](http://www.emwis-cy.org)



# Language and Access

	NFP server	T.U. server
Access language	National + EN + FR	EN + FR + AR
Content language	National	EN or FR or AR
Search level on the content	National	All servers (max. 36)



# Current activities

- **Capacity building for NFP**
- **Regional water information portal**
- **Analysis of National Water Information Systems**
- **Definition of common metadata**
- **Setting up a new technical platform based on the open source content management system used by the European Environment Agency**
- **Multilingual water thesaurus and glossary**
- **Thematic studies:**
  - **EU Water Framework Directive**
  - **Use of non-conventional water resources**
  - **Irrigation water management**
  - **Integrated water management at local level**
- **Information clearing house on EU regional water initiatives**
- **Collaboration with international initiatives in the field of water information**



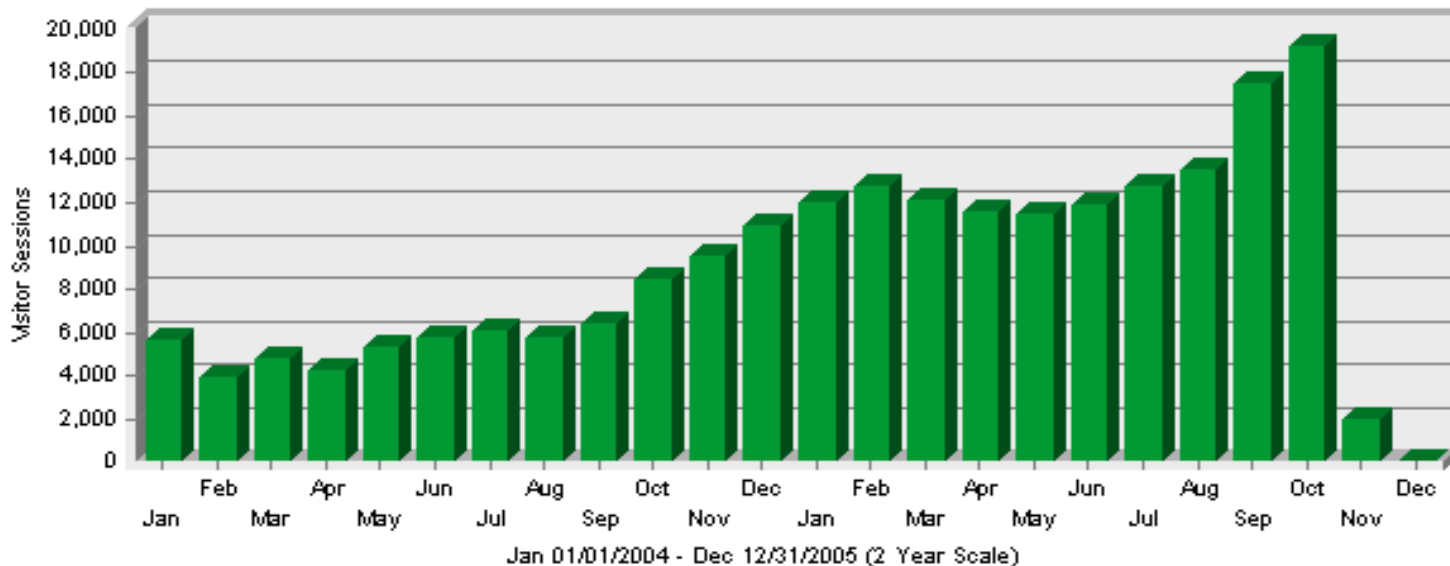
# Visibility on Internet search engines

- **When searching for « water mediterranean »; EMWIS is always ranked on the top 10:**
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> on Google**
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> on AOL**
  - **8th on Altavista**
  - **9th on Yahoo**
  - **9th and 10th on MSN**



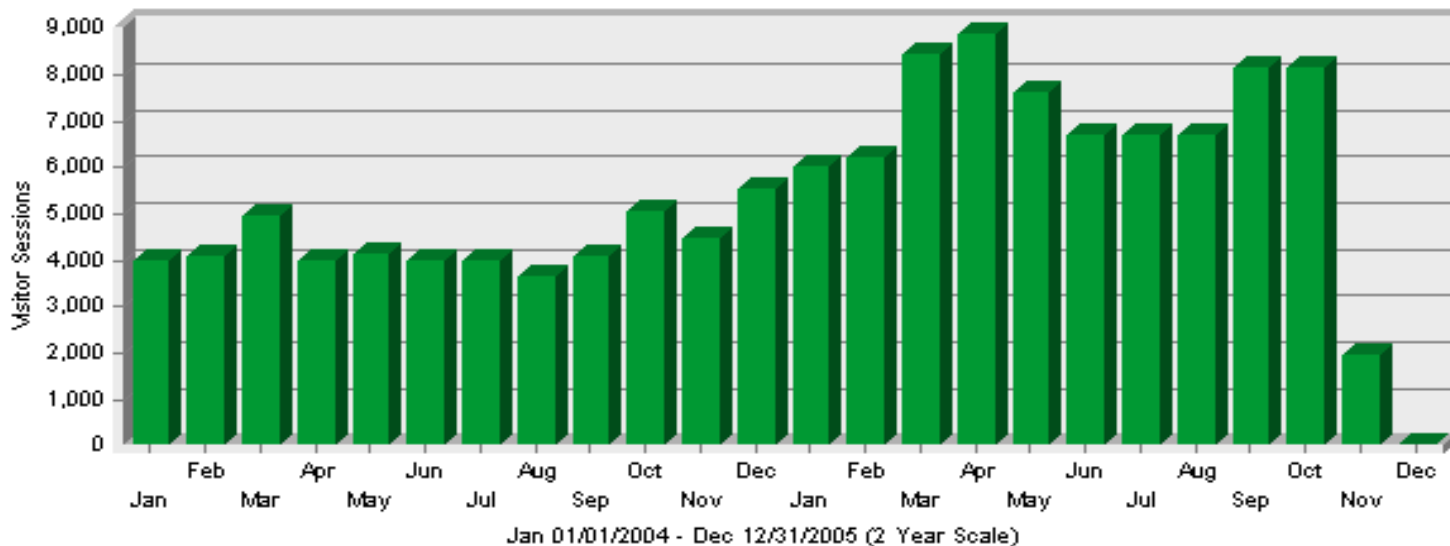
# Web statistics

**Visitor Sessions**



[www.emwis.org](http://www.emwis.org)

**Visitor Sessions**



[www.semide.org](http://www.semide.org)



## EMWIS portal, first prototype!

Euro-Mediterranean Information System on the know-how in the Water sector



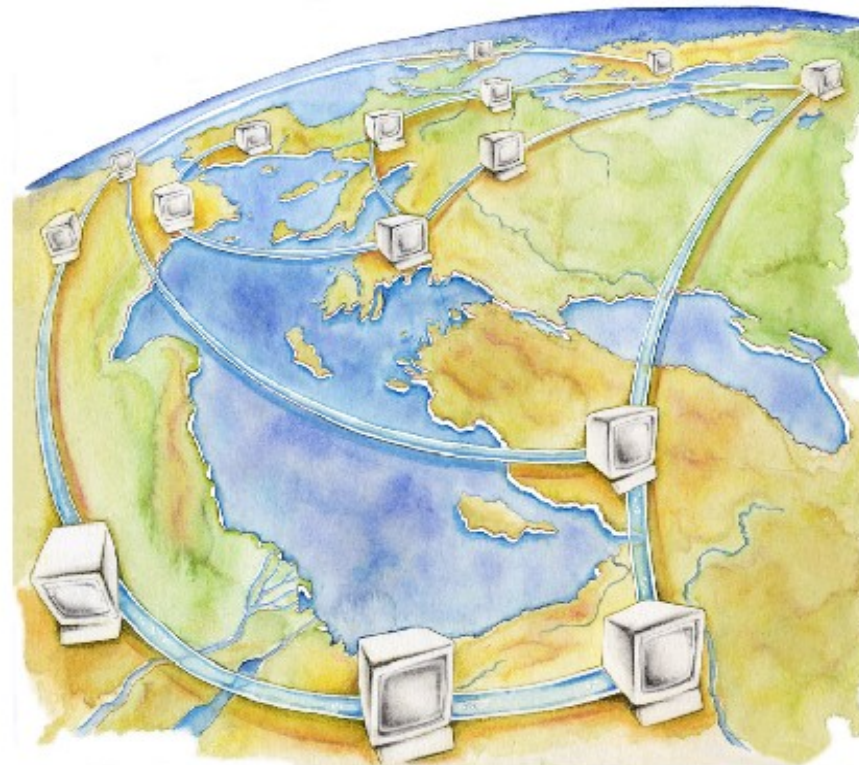
Countries

[Home](#)

Search

- About
- Countries
- Introduction
- Partners
- Initiatives & Projects
- Resources
- PFN
- Multimedia (photos)
- Publications
- Documents

The main objectives of EMWIS website is to provide a single access point to information related to the management of continental water in Euro-Mediterranean area and to sustain the co-operation between the countries. EMWIS meets the needs identified by the Countries Mediterranean Partners to exchange and disseminate information in order to improve local and sustainable water management.



### EVENTS CALENDAR

November 2005						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

### NEWS

[Ground Water in Mediterranean Countries](#)

[Call for papers: New water policies and the WFD](#)

[Integrated Transboundary Water Resource Management Training](#)

[BALWOIS call for papers](#)

test

[XML](#)

### EMWIS E-FLASH

[Register to receive our e-Flash]

### Latest uploads [XML](#)

- [EMWIS information and the water sector in Turkey](#) [posted on: 19 Nov 2005]
- [Euro-Mediterranean conference of Water Directors](#) [posted on: 19 Nov 2005]
- [Ground Water in Mediterranean Countries](#) [posted on: 18 Nov 2005]





## SEMIDE Prototype

Système Euro-Méditerranéen d'Information sur les savoir-faire dans le Domaine de l'Eau



## Portal thesaurus

[Thematic listings](#)[Alphabetic listings](#)[Hierarchical listings](#)

### aquifère

**Definition:** Formation perméable contenant de l'eau en quantités exploitables.

**Definition sources:**  
n/a

**Preferred label:** aquifère

**Sources:**  
n/a

**Alternative label:** gite aquifere

**Theme:**

[HYDROGEOLOGIE](#)

**Broader terms:**

[hydrogéologie](#)

**Narrower terms:**

[barrage souterrain](#)

[karst](#)

[nappe alluviale](#)

**Related terms:**

[caractéristique hydrodynamique](#)

[masse d'eau souterraine](#)

**Scope Note:** n/a

#### Translations

**Arabic:** طبقة حاملة للمياه أو خزان جوفي

**English:** aquifer

**French:** aquifère





# Strategy 2015

## 6 main objectives

**Strengthening** EMWIS National Focal Points  
in all the Mediterranean Countries

Supporting National Water Information Systems  
Creating EMWIS NFP in Libya and Balkan countries

**Asserting** EMWIS as the reference information  
media for inland water for the  
Mediterranean Region

Maintaining quality and up to date information  
Opening the system to the civil society

**Becoming** a node of a Global Water  
Information System

Promoting standards information formats and protocols  
Collaborating with international and regional initiatives

**Providing** a regional water observatory based  
on national water information systems

Responding to National strategies  
Exploiting synergies with regional programs

**Valorising** results from existing initiatives,  
projects and programmes

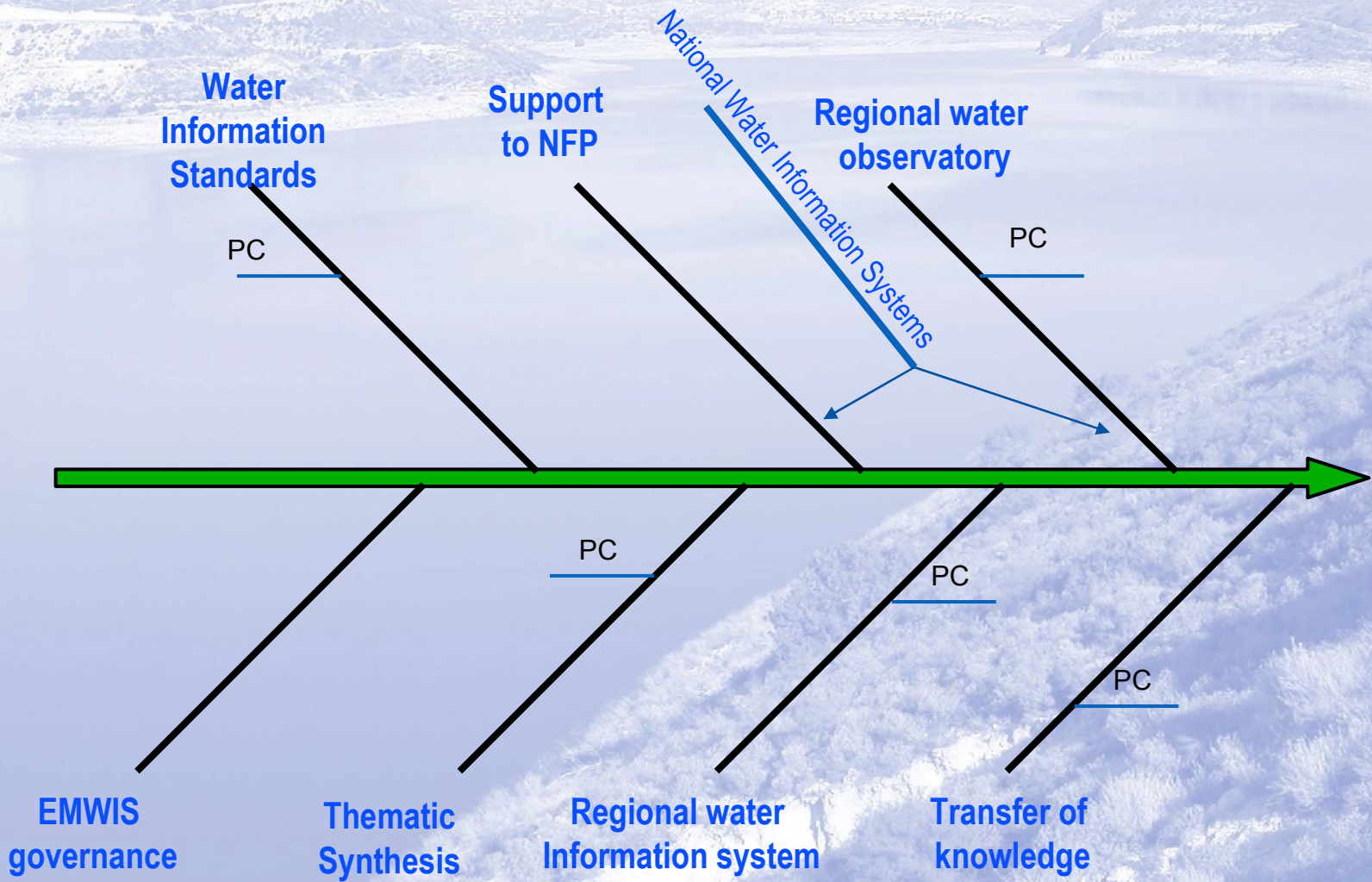
Transferring knowledge from EU programs  
Avoiding duplication of work

**Developing** an advisory network of institutional  
decision makers in the water sector

Providing guidance to regional programs



# Action Plan 2007-2010



PC: Program Collaboration



# Conclusions

- **EMWIS reflects a real need and a strong demand of all the partners**
  - **commitment in EMWIS approach**
  - **willingness to build National Water Information Systems**
- **A very powerful tool supporting the implementation of sustainable development policies in the field of water management**
  - **Giving access to knowledge in the institutional, technical, and know-how fields**
- **The building blocks are now available but EMWIS is a long term process**
- **EMWIS provides an institutional network suitable to transfer results from innovative initiatives into the national water structures**

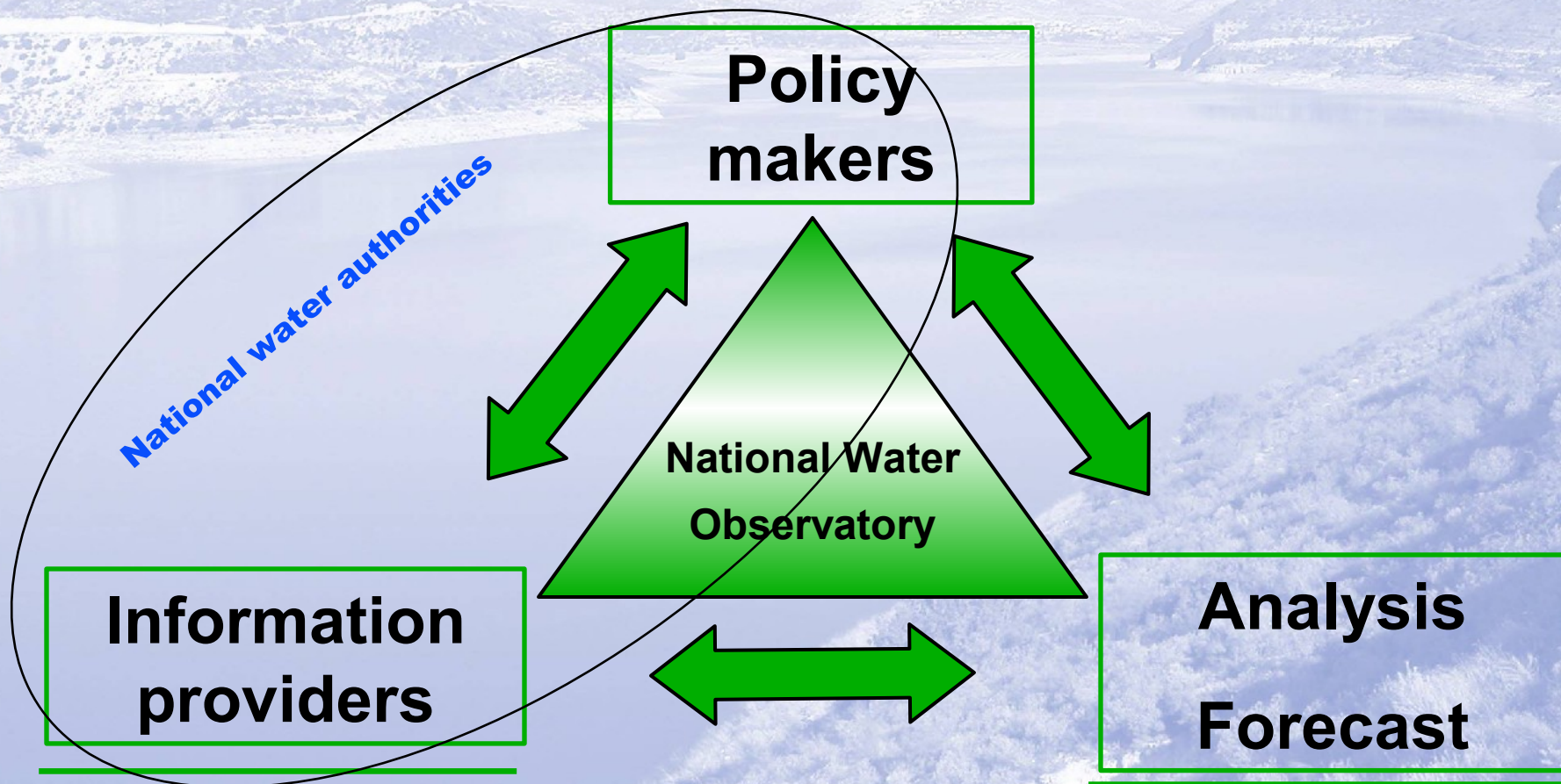


# Regional water observatory

- Mechanism to follow the regional trends towards international commitments in the field of water & sanitation, e.g. MDG, MSSD
- Based on the outcome of the preliminary study to be undertaken by France
- Aggregation of national observatories
  - Integrated in National water information Systems
  - Indicators defined with National Institutions
  - Standardisation of indicators



# Water observatory principle





# **Water information standards to build a Global Water Information System**

## **➤ Why:**

- Reducing information overlap & user information overload**
- Maximise the benefits from limited resources through cooperation**

## **➤ Definition of basic components and standards:**

- Thesaurus, glossaries, news, events, library, projects, ...**

## **➤ Potential partners:**

- World Water Council, GWP, EUNESCO**
- Managers of regional systems: SIAGUA, AWIS**



# National Water Information Systems

## Status and obstacles

- **Not developed except in Algeria**
- **Numerous obstacles:**
  - **Lack of Information on NWIS benefits**
  - **Data exchange is difficult internally**
  - **No policy for data access & sharing (Sensitive Data)**
  - **Mentality: “Sharing = Less Power”**
  - **Lack of Communication among Stake Holders**
  - **Need Technical & Financial support**
  - **Getting the Political decision**



# National Water Information Systems

## Benefits, budget & timeframe

### ➤ **Benefits**

- **Harmonise Data and operation procedures**
- **Ease & Speed up Data Exchange**
- **Improve public access to data & information**
- **Facilitate communication among Stake Holders → →→**
- ➔ **NWIS= forum for discussion on water policy →→**
- => Enhance Water Governance**

### ➤ **Budget & Timeframe**

- **Budget rough estimate: €250,000**
- **Timing: 2 years to start with the core of the system**
- **5 years for a full implementation**



## 4. Results from the Questionnaire

*Priority of actions on the different topics and additional matters of interests.*

**(Cont'd)**

Rank of interest	Topic within WFD
1	Monitoring programmes
2	Characterisation of basins
3	Programme of measures
4	Environmental objectives and Water Ecological Status
5	River Basin Management Plan
6	Economic analysis and water prices
7	Public participation