

Feasibility Study on the Mediterranean Water Observation Mechanism

Experts workshop Introduction

3-4 July 2007

CEDEX – Madrid

Workshop objectives

The aim of this workshop is to review the preliminary findings of the feasibility study with key stakeholders in order to define the basic principles that will be presented to the Euromed water directors at the end of 2007. Large parts of the workshop will be dedicated to working groups sessions in order to give an opportunity to all the participants to express their opinions. The specific objectives are:

- to review the needs of the various stakeholders
- to discuss the potential synergy with existing “think thanks” and regional organization managing water related data
- to review the results of preliminary activities on the 6 priority topics:
 - o General indicators on water supply and sanitation (MDG7)
 - o Indicators related to water of the MSSD
 - o Data on uses of water for agriculture
 - o Data on water and sanitation services
 - o Data and indicators on drought
 - o Climate Change
- To define potential horizontal (e.g. common data source catalogue, common methodologies, etc.) and vertical activities for the mechanism
- to discuss the draft content of charter for the Mediterranean Water Information Partnership and potential funding mechanisms

Participants invited

- National consultants involved in the 8 national diagnostic studies
- Institutional representatives from the voluntary countries involved in the study (Cyprus, France, Jordan, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Tunisia, Spain) as well as other interested countries (Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine and Turkey)
- Relevant international organisations and initiatives (JMP, MAP-Blue Plan, MAP-Medpol, MAP-Inforac, FAO, UN-Water, European Commission, MedStat/Eurostat, EEA, IbNet, Med-EUWI, Joint Process Med-EUWI-WFD, CEDARE, WWC, ESA)
- Institutional representatives from Med countries

Organisation of the workshop

The workshop is organised around plenary presentations and working sessions in smaller groups. As around 30 participants are expected, 3 groups will be organised for each working session. The composition of each group will be proposed by the organisers to have coherent groups in terms of language, topics and geographical interest.

Status and expectations (Tuesday morning)

During this session, the consultants who worked on the national diagnostics studies will present in 10 minutes their findings with: an overview of key stakeholders, the status of the National Water Information System (NWIS), the main existing sources of water data (as described in the draft online catalogue), and expectations of stakeholders related to such a water observation mechanism.

Some regional or international initiatives will then be briefly presented (about 10 minutes each) with an emphasis on what could bring a regional water observation mechanism.

Main elements and horizontal needs (Tuesday afternoon)

After a brief reminder on the findings from the 1st phase of the feasibility study, a potential organisational structure will be proposed based on 3 components:

- Vertical (i.e. topical) activities (themes to be discussed on Wednesday),
- Horizontal activities and tools: overview of prototype tools (web portal, data sources catalogue, web mapping) and introduction of other potential activities (use of satellite images, common data model, etc.)
- and a regional Water Information Partnership: a framework for co-operation and dialogue between the regional and national organisations in order to meet the expectations of users and providers of water information. This Partnership would allow, on the one hand, the rationalisation and co-ordination of the production of comparable data, and, on the other, the organisation of the production of and access to reliable, comparable and quality information.

For the working session, each group will have to define maximum 5 potential horizontal activities for the regional water observation mechanism with, for each of them: expected results, who can contribute (i.e. synergies with existing initiatives) and recommendations for their implementation.

Vertical activities: Priority topics

Each of the 6 priority topics selected for the study will be presented during the plenary session (20 minutes for each one):

Synthesis of information collected (5 mins)

- Presenting the indicators
- For each indicator, analysis of the existence and accessibility of data

Working languages: English and French



- Possibility of comparing data between the different sources and possibility of comparing data between countries
- Difficulties/ comments reported

Point of view from an international organisation (5 mins)

Examples from 2 countries (each one addressing different indicators) -

5 mins each-

- data source available in the country, amount and quality of data available, accessibility to the data, comments on the definition used, other difficulties/comments
- Slides based on the word template or direct presentation of the word template.

Topics	Synthesis of information collected	Point of view from an international organisation	Examples
Agriculture	Marta Cimadevilla	FAO	France (value of drained area s percentage of cultivated land) Cyprus (Treated waste water reused,, Area equipped for irrigation, agriculture water requirements)
MSSD	Marta Cimadevilla	Blue Plan	Jordan (Water efficiency index and water demand) Tunisia (exploitation index of renewable resources)
Drought	Marta Cimadevilla		Spain (presented before) Malta (Evapotranspiration and precipitation deficiency)
MDG7	Paul Haener	JMP –tbc-	Morocco (water supply coverage) Spain (sanitation coverage)
WSSS	Paul Haener	World Bank	Cyprus (Mean price of water; % of population connected to urban sanitation network) Jordan (quality drinking water; % uncounted water)
Climate change	Paul Haener		Malta (nb of extreme hydrologic events; Annual average of surface water temperature) France (annual air temperature; Economic impact of flood events)

For the working session, each group will need to identify 5 to 8 potential priority topics for the water observatory mechanism. For each topic, it is proposed to outline the rational for working on it (i.e. why this theme), the objectives to be achieved, recommendations, and when possible relevant indicators

Working languages: English and French



Partnership charter & funding mechanisms

A draft partnership charter as well as potential funding mechanism will be presented. Although, it is too early to define some funding schemas, it is already interesting to review the pro and cons of the different potential mechanisms (e.g. membership fees, in kind resources provided by members, joint project between members, grants)

During the working session, each group will review the draft charter: articles/items to be added; articles to be reviewed, suggestions for content. Suggestions on funding mechanism and synergies are also expected.

Working languages

Simultaneous translation in English and French will be available for all the plenary sessions. The working group sessions will be in English or French.

Working languages: English and French

