



STRENGTHENING NATIONAL WATER INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR BETTER WATER GOVERNANCE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Charter
Version dated 2012-02-14

Introduction

Facing an increasingly scarcer freshwater resource and a growing demand, the Mediterranean countries should initiate significant investment projects for enhancing the efficiency of different water uses (in particular reduction of demand, modernisation of irrigation and its management methods, more efficient users behaviour), non-conventional resources, mobilising the resource, transferring water, controlling pollution, rehabilitating networks.

The success of water policies and related investments is conditioned by the implementation of good governance in each country, involving the various stakeholders concerned and being based on a reliable **monitoring and assessment system** as well as mechanisms for sharing the necessary knowledge.

To satisfy this need, but also to meet the request from international organisations on indicators, and to satisfy the needs from national stakeholders and water users, it is necessary to enhance national information management and monitoring based on definitions and methods agreed internationally. The improvement of information systems on water and aquatic resources and their use, is an essential pillar of integrated water resources management, combining a good management of water demands and water resources.

The ministerial declaration on water of the Union for the Mediterranean reminds this imperious need at the cross-road between several initiatives launched through different regional processes:

- At the European level with the Water Information System for Europe - WISE- and more recently the Shared Environment Information System –SEIS-
- At the Arab countries level with a data base on shared water resources,
- At the African level with the mechanism for monitoring-evaluation of water sector launched under the aegis of AMCOW

In order to develop such national systems harmonised at the Mediterranean level, the signatories of this charter commit themselves to the following principles:

1. Strengthen, when appropriate, the framework for inter-institutional collaboration in the fields of data management for the water sector through an inter-ministerial protocol or a review of legislation, in order to establishing a sustainable inter-ministerial governance mechanism ensuring the strategic, technical and territorial coordination.
2. Participate in the preparation of technical recommendations and common indicators at the Mediterranean level and consider their application within the National Water Information Systems.

3. Report on the implementation of water related policies through a set of common indicators.
4. Promote data management at the most appropriate territorial (e.g. watersheds for water related data).
5. Encourage multiple uses of collected data to meet the needs of the different stakeholders in the sector by making available reliable, objective and comparable sets of data on the state of water resource and aquatic environments, pressures on aquatic environments, their impacts and on economic activities related to water.
6. Facilitate knowledge on water sector financing and its contribution to countries growth.
7. Mobilise national and international donors for a gradual implementation of National Water Information Systems.
8. Participate in good practice exchanges between Mediterranean countries implementing such systems in order to mutualise knowledge and resources.
9. Report at the next World Water Forum on National Water Information Systems progress based on the principles of this charter.

Signed in Marseille on 13 March 2012

Name Surname

Title and position:

Organism :

Signature