

# Value of the EU Water Framework Directive concepts for the MEDA Countries



Presentation of results  
of the study

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# 1. Main study characteristics

# Objectives, area and target groups

## 1) Overall objectives

- to provide analysis and synthesis covering all the Mediterranean Partner Countries on subjects of interest to the Euro-Med water community
- to initiate new content for EMWIS (to be published on the Internet)
- to organise a workshop and a presentation during an EMWIS conference

## 2) Specific objectives

The objective of this contract is to **identify the concepts defined in the EU- WFD of interest for the MPC**

## 3) Geographical area to be covered

**Euro-Med countries** and more especially the **10 Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs)**

## 4) Target groups

**Water authorities** of the Euro-Med countries

## Expected results

The specific results to be achieved are:

- Proposal of ‘a priori’ concepts of interest for the MPC with **“strength/weakness” analysis**
- Definition of a prerequisite for the implementation **of the selected concepts**
- Individual MPC interest analysis **for the implementation of the selected concepts (based on a survey)**
- Organisation of a session during an EMWIS conference **(including presentation of study results and case studies)**
- Set of recommendations for the follow-up of activities by EMWIS
- Synthesis report for publication by EMWIS

## 2. List of pre-identified concepts of interest

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- **Characterisation of basins**
  - Delimitation of “water bodies”, assessment units
  - Analysis of uses (technical and economic data), pressures and their impact on the environments, and identification of water utilisation
  - definition of the evolution trends; “baseline scenario”
- **Environmental objectives and Water Ecological Status**
  - good chemical and ecological water status in the case of surface water,
  - good ecological potential and good chemical status in the case of artificial and heavily modified water bodies,
  - good quantitative and chemical groundwater status,

## 2. List of pre-identified concepts of interest (Cont'd)

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- **Monitoring programmes**
  - Survey of the ecological and chemical status of surface waters,
  - Survey of the chemical and quantitative status of groundwaters,
  - Survey of the relevant parameters pursuant to the corresponding Community legislation on protected areas.
- **Economic analysis and water prices**
  - **Economic analysis** for each river basin district to report on the measures taken for the application of cost recovery and define the most efficient combination at the lowest cost possible for the necessary measures
  - The water price should integrate **the costs for water services**

## 2. List of pre-identified concepts of interest (Cont'd)

- **Programme of measures**

- The Programme of Measures produced must be targeted at significant pressures, currently poorly controlled, either representing a risk to the environment, or actually causing an impact.
- Measures target specific problem areas, and if 'basic' measures alone are judged to be unlikely to secure the achievement of environmental objectives in the Directive, 'supplementary' measure will be applied

- **Public participation**

- Access to **background information**
- **Consultation** in three steps of the planning process
- **Active involvement of interested parties** in all aspects of WFD implementation



## 2. List of pre-identified concepts of interest (Cont'd)

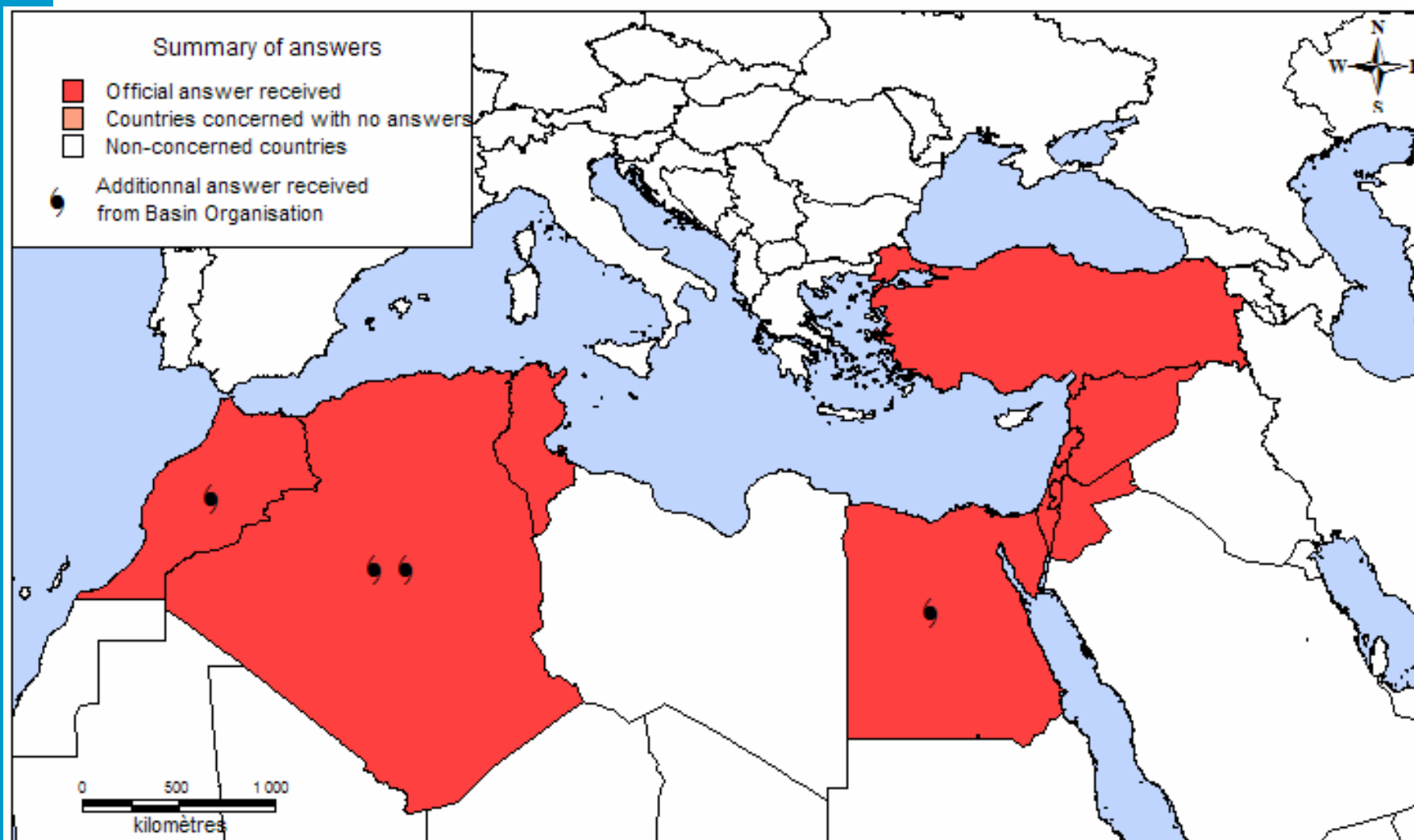
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- **River Basin Management Plan**
  - A territory; the basin (« district »)
  - A competent authority
  - International basins
  - A process of plan formulation

## 3. The Survey questionnaire

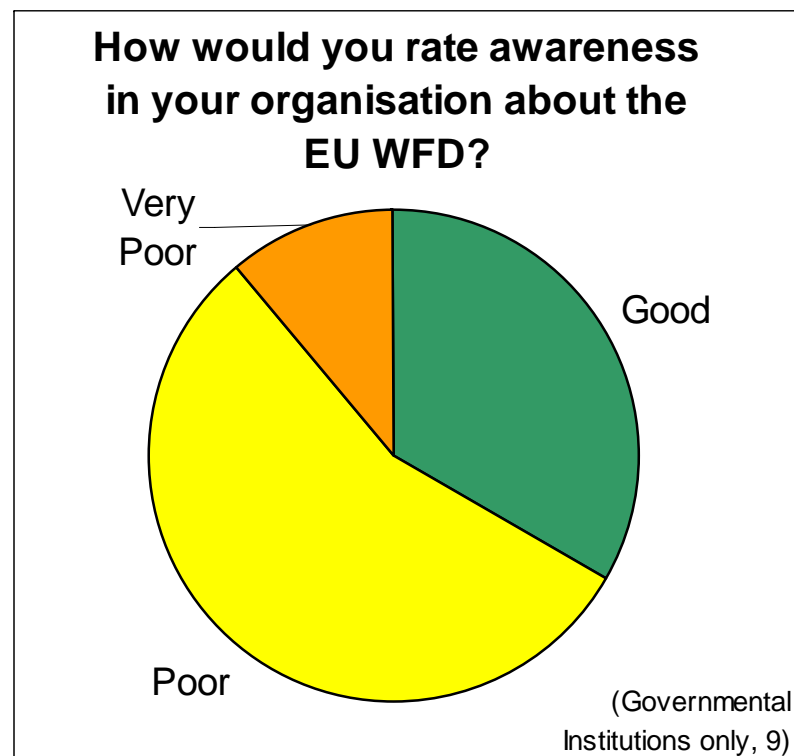
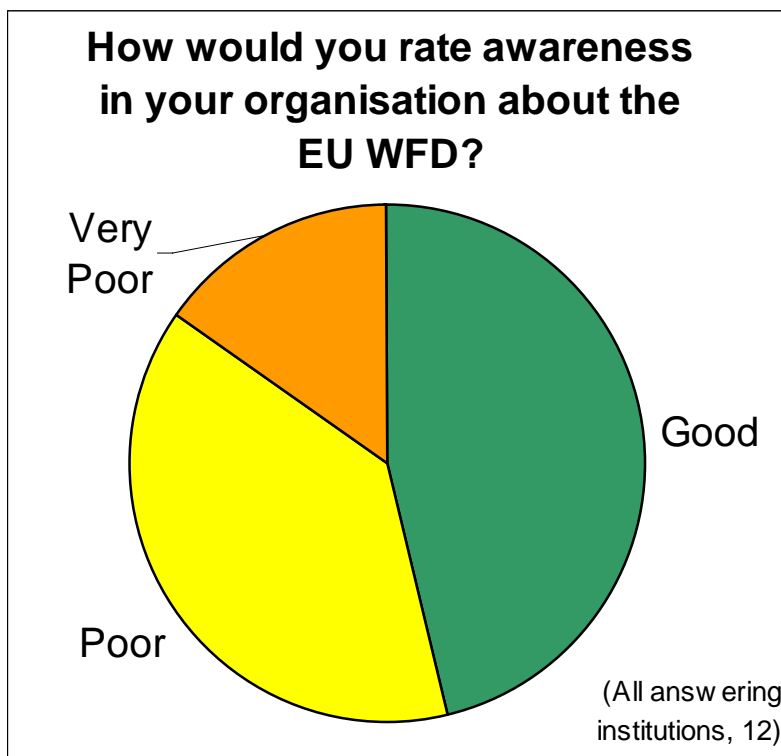
- Targets
  - The 10 Water Directors of MPC
  - + Basin Organisations through MENBO
- Aims at identifying, for each topic,
  - The existing situation in the country
  - The interests for each pre-identified topics and their priorities
  - The needs for future works
  - Other topics of interest

## 4. Results from the Questionnaire



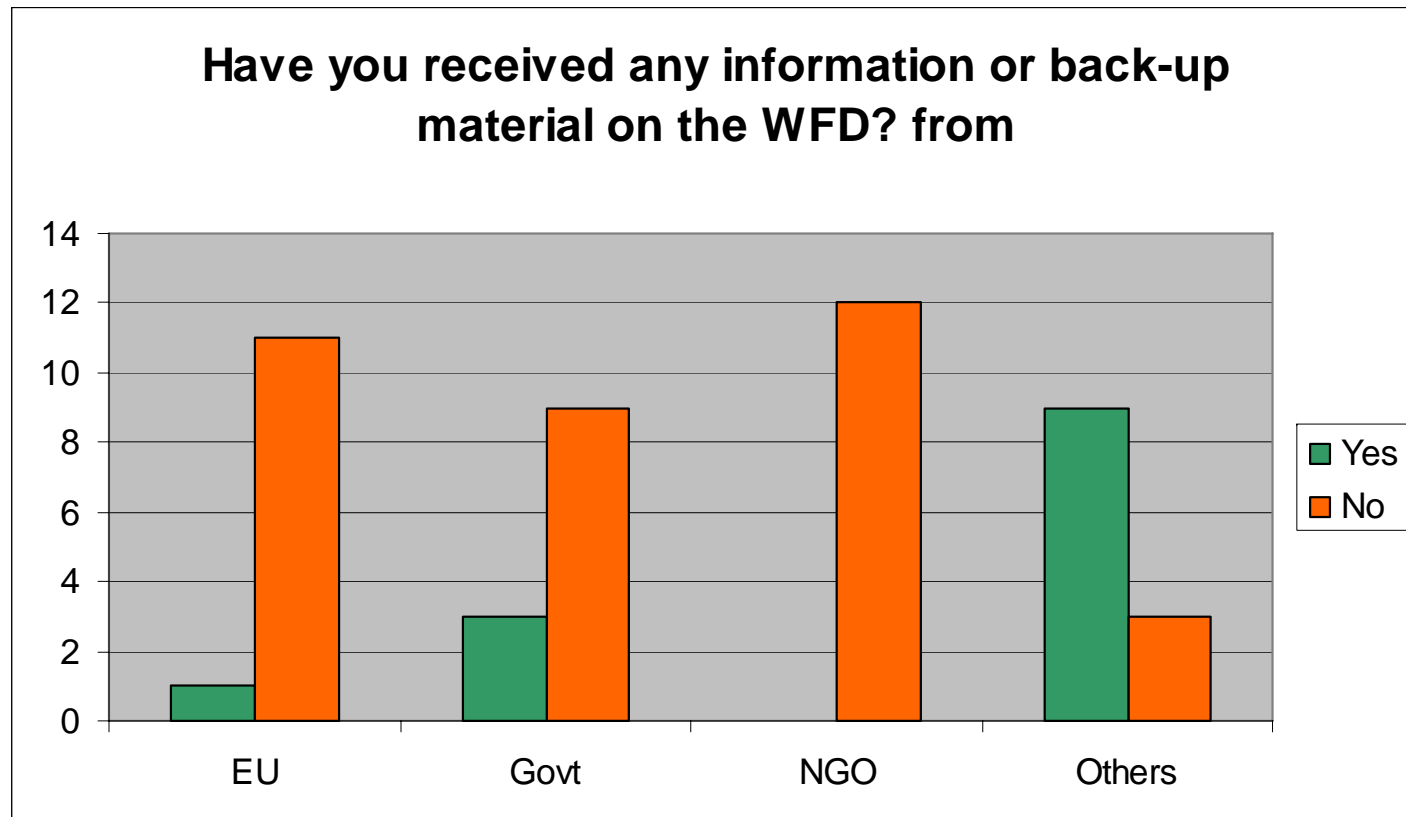
## 4. Results from the Questionnaire (Cont'd)

### *Legislative background and overall level of awareness of Water Framework Directive*



## 4. Results from the Questionnaire (Cont'd)

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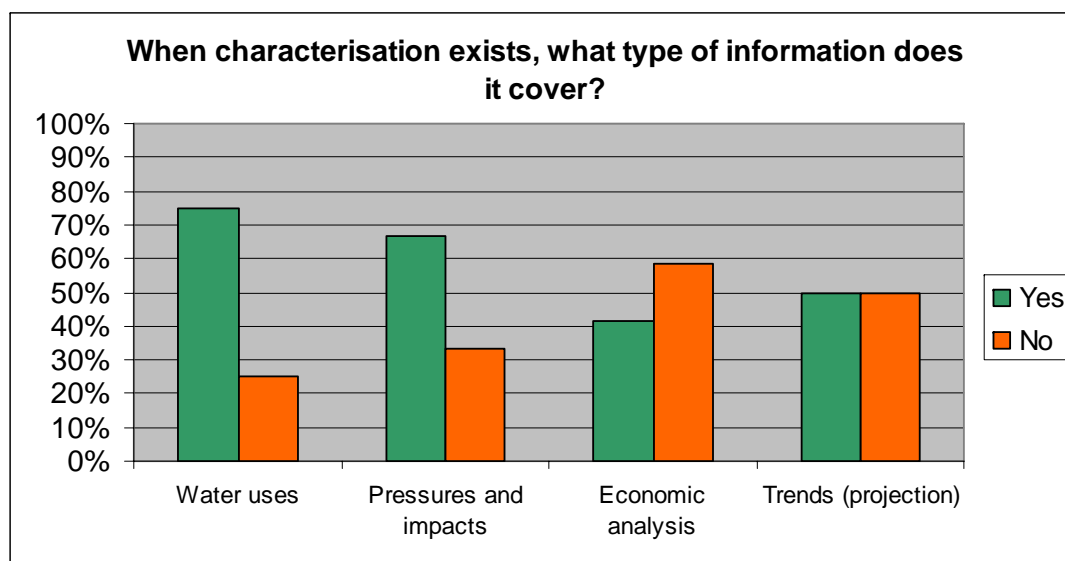
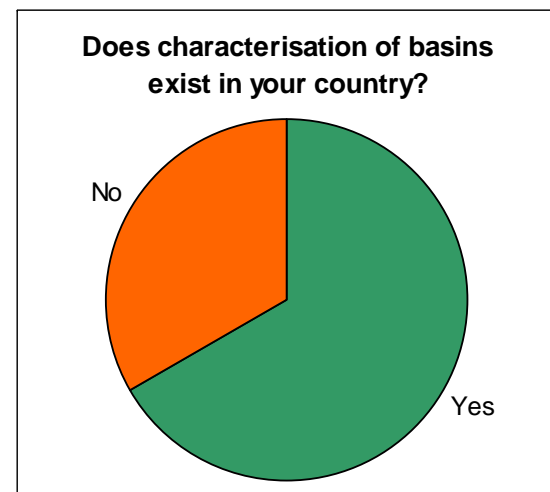
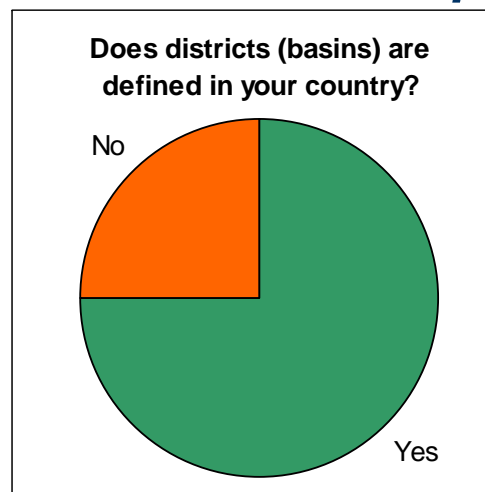


## 4. Results from the Questionnaire (Cont'd)

### Assessment of level of interest on topics included in the WFD,

For each topic:

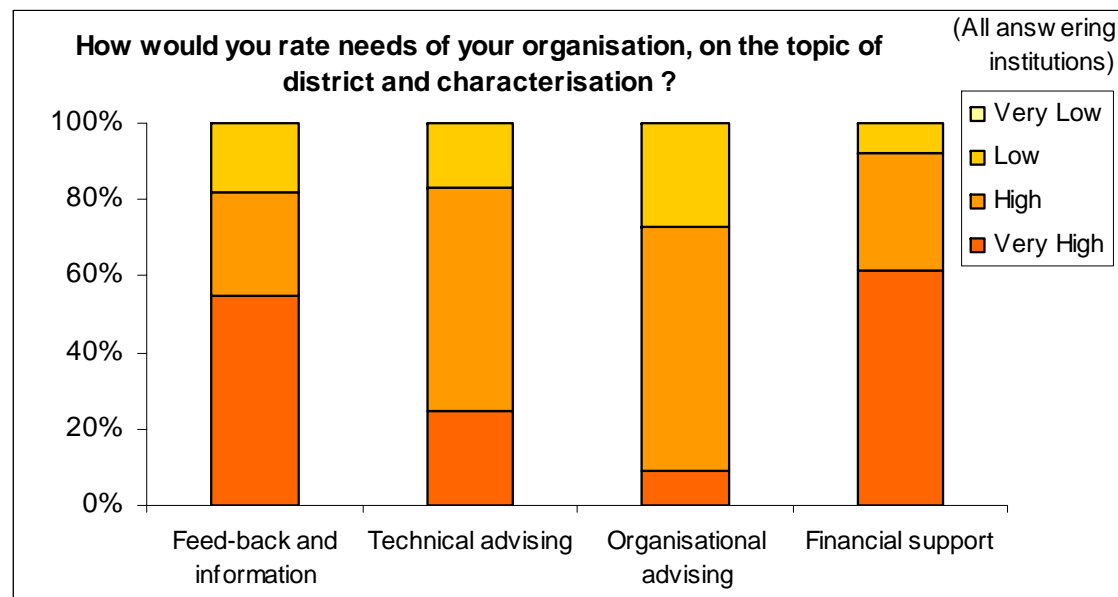
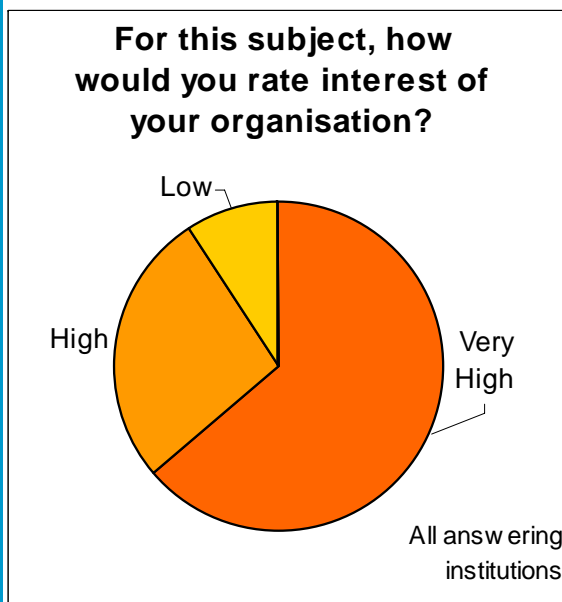
The existing  
situation



## 4. Results from the Questionnaire (Cont'd)

*Assessment of level of interest on topics included in the WFD,*

For each topic: The level of interest



## 4. Results from the Questionnaire (Cont'd)

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

<b>Rank of interest</b>	<b>Topic within WFD</b>
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



## 4. Results from the Questionnaire (Cont'd)

### Preliminary conclusions:

- This survey shows **a lack of awareness on WFD** by MPCs, but also **a strong interest on the follow-up of its implementation** in EU Member States.
- Even if all of the pre-identified topics are not implemented or used in those countries, the related level of interest is really important in most cases.
- Looking more in detail the different levels of interest, one could judge surprising the fact that the **integrated river management plan is not a defined priority**. But this notion is the ultimate goal, probably seen as too general regarding other specific tasks to be carried out for building that plan and expressed by the Directive anyhow.
- The two **first concepts of interest are the characterisation of basins and the monitoring activities**. This underlines strong willingness and needs in terms of acquiring better knowledge of river basins within the MPCs. That preliminary step is crucial before starting the planning task.
- **The second concepts of interest are aiming at management.**
- **Specific matters of interest linked to the Mediterranean context.**

## 5. Recommendations and opened questions

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1. **To disseminate the first feed-back information on the characterisation of districts carried out under Art.5 of WFD** (methodologies, results, differences between countries) using brochures, seminars and information systems. The **EMWIS website could be a portal** for information dissemination, as its status and operational system are aiming at this objective.
2. **To deepen the analysis of MPC needs** (for example on the two top priority subjects: basin characterisation and monitoring). It must be placed in the Mediterranean context. EMWIS could then propose a specific activity to carry out this detailed analysis.

## 5. Recommendations and opened questions (Cont'd)

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**3 - To encourage and improve participation of technical experts from MPCs in the activities of the Common Implementation Strategy or other WFD activities**, as it is the case for the Working Groups developed under the MED Joint Process.

Once again in this case, **EMWIS could provide support on organisational or technical aspects** (electronic cooperation tools, joint organisation of seminars, involvement of local experts, ...).

## 5. Recommendations and opened questions (Cont'd)

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- 4 - To propose **EMWIS National Focal Points** to act not only as relay of information from international to national levels (top-down approach), but also **to receive individual national concerns or questions (Bottom-up approach)**,

National Action Plans linked to neighbourhood policy?

- 5 - To **promote twinning agreements, pilot projects or working groups on specific identified topics** between governmental institutions or basin organisations, for example by using opportunities from the EU neighbourhood policy or the TWINBASINSxn programme. **EMWIS could then provide operational and/or information support** to ease the different processes and to ensure links between the water stakeholders.



**Thank you for your attention**