



**Feasibility study on a  
Mediterranean water observation mechanism  
Current Status  
September 2007**

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EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP





# Global objective of the study

- Defined during Euromed Water Directors conference, November 2005, Rome

**“To study, with interested countries, the objectives and the feasibility of building up within EMWIS a regional water observation mechanism based on the information provided by the National Water Information Systems, whenever they exist”**



## Overall principle

- To ensure **effective and long term participation** of the Med countries
- To reinforce existing networks and avoid any duplication **with on-going or planned actions**
- To seek for synergies **between the various organisations involved, either national, local or international**

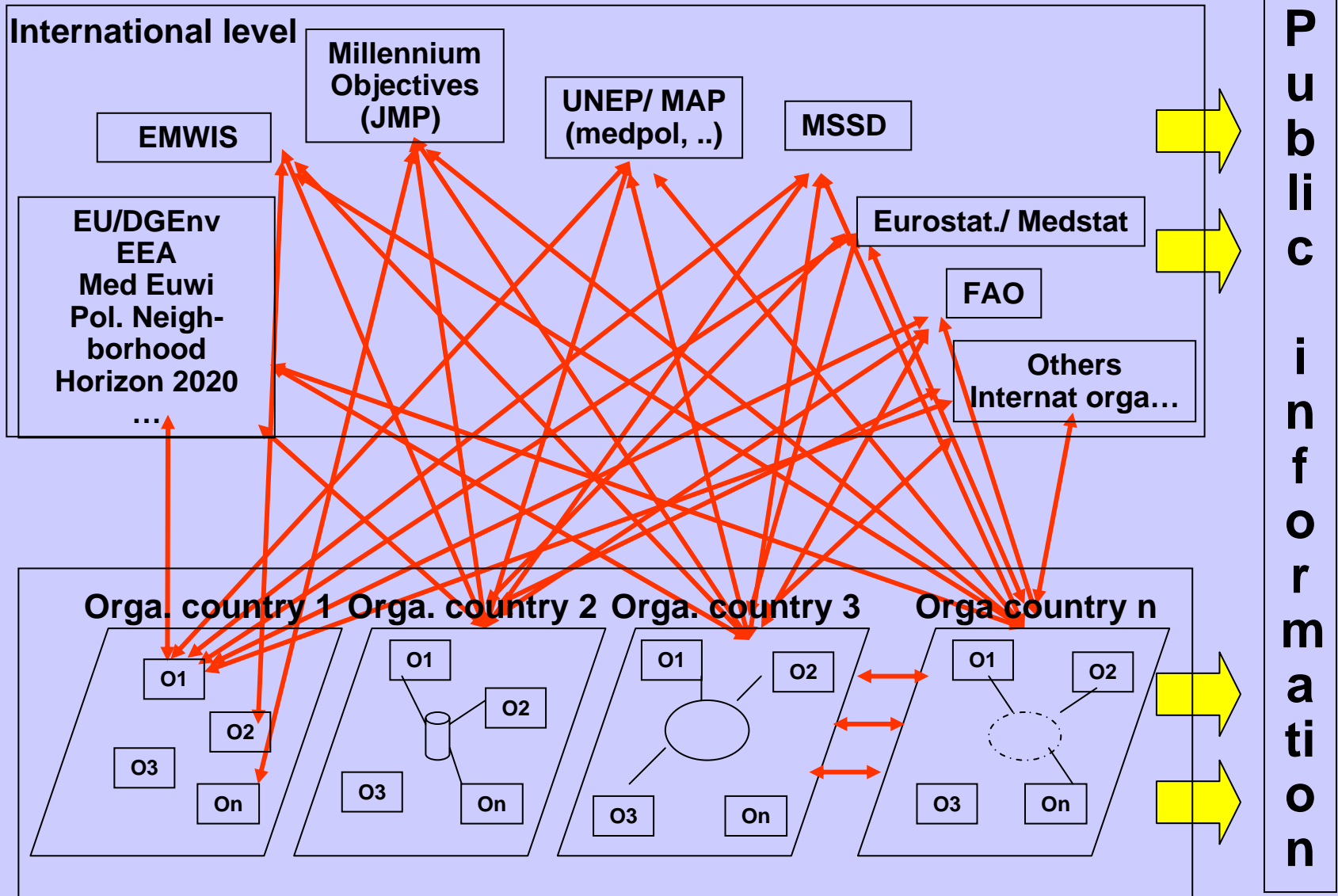


# Organisation of the feasibility study

- **Steering group:**
  - National water authorities, EC, Eurostat, EEA, MAP-Medpol, MAP-Blue Plan, MAP-Info-RAC, IME, JMP, MENBO, OECD, Unesco/WWAP, AfDB-AWF, PSEau-Med, ...
- **Phase 1 – Proposal of a first vision**
  - **July-December 2006**
  - **Diagnostic study with 4 volunteer countries: Jordan, Tunisia, France and Spain**
  - **Diagnostic study at the regional level**
  - **Synthesis, key orientations and recommendations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase -> validated by the Euromed water directors (Athens, Nov'06)**
- **Phase 2 Broader validation of the vision & recommendations**
  - **February-November 2007**
  - **National diagnostic studies in Cyprus, Libya, Malta and Morocco**
  - **Further concertation with regional initiatives**
  - **Detailed recommendations to set-up the Partnership**



# Global context overview





# Expectations at national level

- **Need for support to the development of the NWISs**
  - Organisation of inter-institutional co-operation
  - Organisation of monitoring
  - Development of a common language for semantic interoperability
  - Organisation of the access to data
  - Data enhancement
  
- **Specific expectations related to:**
  - The support to the production of missing information at national and regional level
  - The promotion of common methods for analyses at the regional level (in particular for assessing the resources and uses, socioeconomic impact , drought indicators, water accounts...)
  - The strengthening of international co-operation between Mediterranean countries



# Problems at regional level

- Difficulties in identifying and accessing the data
- Difficulties in collecting **data even with established processes**
- Major problems of heterogeneity, completeness and quality of the received data
- Lack of data adapted to the needs **especially on major topics, such as** Ground water resource, Uses, Socioeconomic aspects, Drinking water supply and sanitation services
- Problems for sustainable financing of monitoring
- Need to develop interoperability of information systems



# First conclusions

- The need for a “regional water observation mechanism” (or equivalent) is expressed by the majority of the stakeholders, within the various water policy framework
- Different visions but unanimity for avoiding duplication (institutions and information systems)
- Priority objectives of the mechanism:
  - **Capacity building** of the Mediterranean countries in order to better meet the needs at the regional level, while each country keep its own autonomy for organising its **national water information system (NWIS)**
  - Developing a **framework for dialogue between regional and national organisations** in order to better meet the expectations on reliable, comparable and quality information necessary for effective water resources management in the Mediterranean





## 2<sup>nd</sup> phase objectives

*The Water Directors recommend that this 2nd phase allow **further analysis and first tests of the proposed regional water information partnership** with linkages with related regional initiatives.*

- **Analysing expectations with new voluntary countries**
- **Validating the first orientations proposed with tests on key priority topics**
- **Proposing an implementation scenario for the MedWIP and the related national mechanisms, with:**
  - **Potential services to be provided**
  - **Organisational and technical structures**
  - **Potential funding**
  - **Priority actions**



# Activities carried out

- 7 national diagnostic studies (MA, TN, JO, MT, CY, SP, FR)
- Potential synergy discussed with the main initiatives managing water related data (UN-Water, UNEP-MAP+ Bleu Plan, EEA, MedStat/Eurostat, WWC, ..)
- Test and assessment of potential activities on key topics with countries involved
  - General indicators on water supply and sanitation (MDG7)
  - Indicators related to water of the MSSD
  - Data on uses of water for agriculture
  - Data on water and sanitation services (as example of topic with dispersed information)
  - Data and indicators on drought
  - Climate change
- Test of some prototype tools (Web portal, catalogue of data sources, Web mapping, regional indicator database ...)
- Experts meeting, Madrid, July 2007
- Feed back from EMWIS Steering Committee



# Current status

**After Experts workshop and Steering Committee meeting, July 2007**

- **The Mechanism should not be another initiative but an extension of EMWIS**
  - Partnership with international organisations,
  - Provision of national data on voluntary basis
- **Focus on support for the national level**
  - Data production processes incl. standardisation and metadata catalogue
  - Collaboration framework
  - Interoperability of services for a NWIS
  - Organising Technical Assistance, incl. catalogue of potential international support
- **Study focus on a limited number of topics to demonstrate the usefulness of the mechanism: MDG-7 and MSSD (water & sanitation)**
- **Standardisation of elementary data type necessary for the production of indicators and international reporting**
- **Interoperability of systems (e.g. with WISE, in agreement with the Action Plans of the EU Neighbourhood Policy)**



# Next steps

- **Defining elementary data types for the 5 priority indicators selected**
- **Analysis of production processes in 4 countries**
- **Analysis of potential bi-lateral support from international organisations**
- **Drafting proposals for the implementation**
- **Preparation of a demonstration of some potential services**
- **Presentation to the next Euromed water directors conference; 10-11 December 2007, Alexandria**



**For further information:**

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