



Mediterranean Water Knowledge Platform

Exchange of experience workshop on Water Information Systems (WIS)

Barcelona – 19 - 20 October 2017

Conclusions

INTRODUCTION

This document presents the state of play of the implementation of the Mediterranean Water Knowledge Platform and proposed actions considering the latest developments of international initiatives in the region. It is the results of the exchange of experiences workshop held in Barcelona on 19-20 October 2017, attended by 23 participants, representing Mediterranean and Balkan countries as well as International organisations (see http://www.semide.net/initiatives/MWKP/meetings/mwkp_Oct17).

MEDITERRANEAN WATER KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM OVERVIEW

The project « Mediterranean water knowledge platform » was approved unanimously for UfM label by the Euromed Senior Officials (SOM) during their meeting on 7 April 2014. It is the result of a long process driven by Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries, since the UfM ministerial conference on water held in Jordan in December 2008, requiring support for integrated data management systems and decision support tools on Integrated Water Resources Management. Although a wider range of South Mediterranean countries were interested in becoming pilots (e.g. Albania, Turkey, Palestine), Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia were sufficiently advanced with the right level of political commitment to be part of national activities of the project first phase.

The overall objective is to improve IWRM thanks to data driven planning while facilitating international reporting on water issues. The specific objectives are:

- to provide a common basis for the development of National Water Information Systems (NWIS) in four pilot countries from the Southern Mediterranean region;
- to deliver an assessment of water resources management and use (drafting of a White Paper) by collecting and exploiting data from the pilot countries.

The project total cost was estimated to 9.5 million Euros, for the first phase, covering:

- Guides, tools, capitalisation, regional training and validation of the benefits for international reporting: M€1.3 (total phases 1&2: M€ 2.7)
- NWIS: Jordan: M€ 0.85 (Total M€1.9); Lebanon: M€ 0.28 (M€2.85); Morocco M€ 1.37 (M€2.15); Tunisia: M€ 2.425 (M€3.33);
- Mediterranean White Paper on Water : M€ 3.3

The beneficiaries are the national and local water authorities and other government agencies involved in the water sector, especially the ministries and their supervised agencies in charge of the





environment, agriculture, health and statistical institutes. Data management will be strengthened with a win-win approach for all institutions involved to guarantee success and better appropriation.

The project is based on the knowledge gained on water data management in Europe (Shared and enlarged Environmental Information System -SEIS, Water Information System for Europe -WISE, INSPIRE Directive for spatial data infrastructure), the United Nations system (System of Environmental Economic Accounting for Water - SEEA-W), in some developed countries (France and Spain - Spanish White Paper in particular) and tools and data provided by the European Space Agency.

MEDITERRANEAN WATER KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM PROGRESS STATUS

The initial funds committed have been focused on national components while regional activities were based on promoters own resources and therefore limited, up to the end of 2016. In 2017, thanks to a financial support from the French Ministry in charge of Environment, lessons learnt from first NWIS implementation, in particular in Tunisia, have been used to organise a regional training session as well as a legal framework analysis and the current exchange of experience workshop.

The current implementation progress is summarized in the following table:

Components	Status	Funding source
Jordan	Definition and technical specification of the NWIS done in 2015 and implementation on going	European Commission delegation grant
Tunisia	MoU signed by 5 Ministers 1 st phase of implementation of SINEAU delivered in December 2016 Institutional study and water law revision going-on	African Water Facility + National funds Promoter (French funds)
Morocco	Definition study done in 2015 New water law addressing water information adopted in Oct. 2016 Implementation started in 2017 National multi-stakeholders NWIS working group launched	National funds EC twining project
Lebanon	Preparation of ToR for the feasibility study to be carried end 2017-early 2018	FAO
Regional	Definition of a list of common IWRM indicators (2014) Steering Committee meeting, 2014 (SP) NWIS training session July 2017 (FR) Legal framework analysis (2017) Data management for WFD session as part of SWIM-H2020 regional training, July 2017, (BE)	Promoters/Plan Bleu + ONEMA (FR) + UfMS Promoters + Min. Env (SP) Min. Env (FR) Min. Env (FR) SWIM-H2020 SM (EC)



COUNTRIES EXPERIENCES

The tables on the following pages present briefly the country experiences in setting up their National Water Information Systems. Table 1 presents the experience from MWKP pilot countries while table 2 presents the experiences of other Mediterranean countries.

Table 1: Experience from MWKP pilot countries

WIS	Morocco	Tunisia	Jordan	Lebanon
Funds	0.5 M€ National	3.3 M€ AWF, National, AFD/WB (loan monitoring network)	2 M€ EC	50 k€ (study) FAO
Status	2014 study 2017 -2018 implementation	2004 (1 st study) Implementation 2013- 2017 (1st phase)	2015-2020 Under implementation	2010 Definition study ongoing 2017
Challenges	Lack of user commitments	Institutional settings for sustainability	Sustainability after project	
Data sharing MoU	Protocols not signed yet New water law (2016) with NWIS articles	Protocol signed by ministers in 2010 but outdated New water law under preparation	Prime Minister decision Agreements under preparation	-

Table 2: Experiences from other Med countries

WIS	Albania	Egypt	Palestine	Turkey
Funds	Not started Linked to national water policy with targets / indicator	2007 SIDA Not successful (no user engagement)	2010 National+ UNICEF, various small projects	2.5 M€ National
Status		In house integration Functional	Functional Continuous improvements	Functional
Challenges		integrating other institutions	Dedicated staff Adaptation to new water law Financing system extension	
Data sharing MoU	Prime minister coordination	linked to National water action plan	MoU signed sector / sector Bylaw (for water utilities)	New water law (not yet approved)



MAIN CHALLENGES FACED

The first components of NWIS are being implemented in South and Eastern Mediterranean countries without the planned regional coordination, guidelines and exchange of experiences (not implemented due to the lack of funding). Therefore the original action plan of the MWKP has to be reviewed and adapted, considering the experiences resulting from the different countries, updated national priorities and international reporting and commitments.

The key challenges identified from the first national implementations and regional concertation organised so far are related to:

- Governance:
 - Multidisciplinary Governance at national level
 - Sustainable financing of NWIS and contributing systems (thematic systems)
 - Keeping the momentum with the stakeholders during the (long) implementation process
- Content:
 - Integrating data management into planning and investment (i.e. defining data priorities based on water priorities)
 - Developing shared information products for decision making
 - Streamlining international reporting
 - Public data access (open data)
- Infrastructure:
 - Technical capacity for managing ICT subcontractors: Terms of Reference, validation of system specifications, validation software application against agreed specifications

SYNERGY WITH ONGOING PROCESS

The MWKP is closely related to the UfM regional process on water, known as the UfM Water Agenda and to the sub-regional 5+5 process on water, Water Strategy for the Western Mediterranean (Algiers and its Action Plan (Marrakech, November 2016).

The MWKP is key pillar for the development of the UfM Water agenda following its launch at the UfM Water Ministerial meeting in Malta in April 2017. As decided by this conference, the UfM water agenda will be elaborated and implemented by UfM water expert group (WEG), therefore:

- MWKP will report to the WEG at their bi-annual meetings
- MWKP will coordinate its development to fulfil the needs





Following the last WEG meeting (July 2017, Barcelona), 4 priority work areas were selected:

- Water, energy, food, ecosystems nexus
- Water supply and sanitation
- Climate change adaptation and water
- Water employment and migration

In addition, three main processes have been considered in the initial implementation of the MWKP:

- Water Strategy of the League of Arab States (LAS), in particular the implementation of a database on water resources shared between Arab countries
- The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (UNEP-MAP)
- Pollution reduction of the Mediterranean Sea -H2020 (joint initiative EU / UNEP-MAP supported by the EEA), in particular water related indicators (see concept note in annex) as well as industrial emission to water (see concept note in annex).

For these 3 processes, the MWKP addresses data harmonization should support data harmonization and indicator reporting. The implementation is foreseen in cooperation with the LAS, UNEP-MAP Regional Activity Centers and the European Environment Agency (EEA).

WAY FORWARD

The workshop highlighted the need for building the ownership around the NWIS with more commitments from decision makers and ensuring financial support for all activities of the platform. To achieve this objective, case studies of NWIS applications demonstrating the value of investing in knowledge are necessary.

As a first step, it was agreed to review priorities and associated indicators or targets:

- at national levels (when existing)
- at regional level: 5+5, UfM water agenda, LAS, H2020/SEIS and SDG

In parallel, it was proposed to further work in the implementation of the following action lines:

- **Ensuring regional coordination:**
Steering committee meeting back-to-back with SEIS South Steering Committee meetings
- **Supporting NWIS governance**
 - Prepare legal framework revision
 - Develop comparative cost analysis of NWIS components in each country covering the full life cycle (conception, implementation, operation/maintenance, evolution) and all components (e.g. monitoring, water analysis, human resources, data collection, data processing)
 - Developing advocacy / Awareness raising material and activities in particular in synergy with SWIM-H2020-SM and ENI SEIS South
 - Organise national coordination committee at least once a year





- **Service demonstration / case studies for progressive development of NWIS starting with priority decision support tools:**
 - Priority thematic focus and geographical scope for demonstrating NWIS value to be defined by countries
 - Should be inline with National strategies (e.g. water, climate change)
 - Of interest for donors / IFIs
 - Supporting international reporting
 - Examples foreseen:
 - Assessment of water infrastructure for water provision: Large storage dams, WWTP (reuse), desalination (brackish and sea water)
 - ENI-SEIS / H2020 water indicators
 - Some Water SDG targets
 - Assessment of ecosystems as Natural Based solutions for IWRM
 - Water Energy Food nexus

- **Sharing experiences and capacity building:**
 - Developing guidelines from country's experiences
 - Regional workshops and training sessions
 - Study visits

ANNEXES:

- List of participants and presentations (see http://www.semide.net/initiatives/MWKP/meetings/mwkp_Oct17)

