



SEMIDE

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Système Euro-
Méditerranéen
d'information sur les
savoir-faire dans le
domaine de l'Eau



النظام الأورو- متوسطي للإعلام
حول المعرفة في ميدان المياه

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EMWIS

<http://www.emwis.net>

Euro-Mediterranean
Information System on
know how in the water
sector





The Euro-Med Partnership in the water sector

Barcelone'95	Euro-Mediterranean conference of Foreign Affairs Ministers <i>Creation of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership</i>
Marseille'96	Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial conference on water management <i>EMWIS creation</i>
Helsinki'97	Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on the environment <i>EMWIS taken into account</i>
Naples'97	Euro-Mediterranean conference of the 27 Water General Directors <i>Approval of EMWIS</i>
Turin'99	Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial conference on local water management <i>Approval of the Action Plan for the MEDA Water call for proposals</i> <i>Strengthening of EMWIS</i>
Madrid'01	Euro-Mediterranean conference of the Water Directors <i>Approval of EMWIS Strategic Plan for Phase II</i>
Rome'05	Euro-Mediterranean conference of the Water Directors <i>Approval of EMWIS Strategic Plan for 10 years</i>
Athens'06	Euro-Mediterranean conference of the Water Directors



OBJECTIVES OF EMWIS

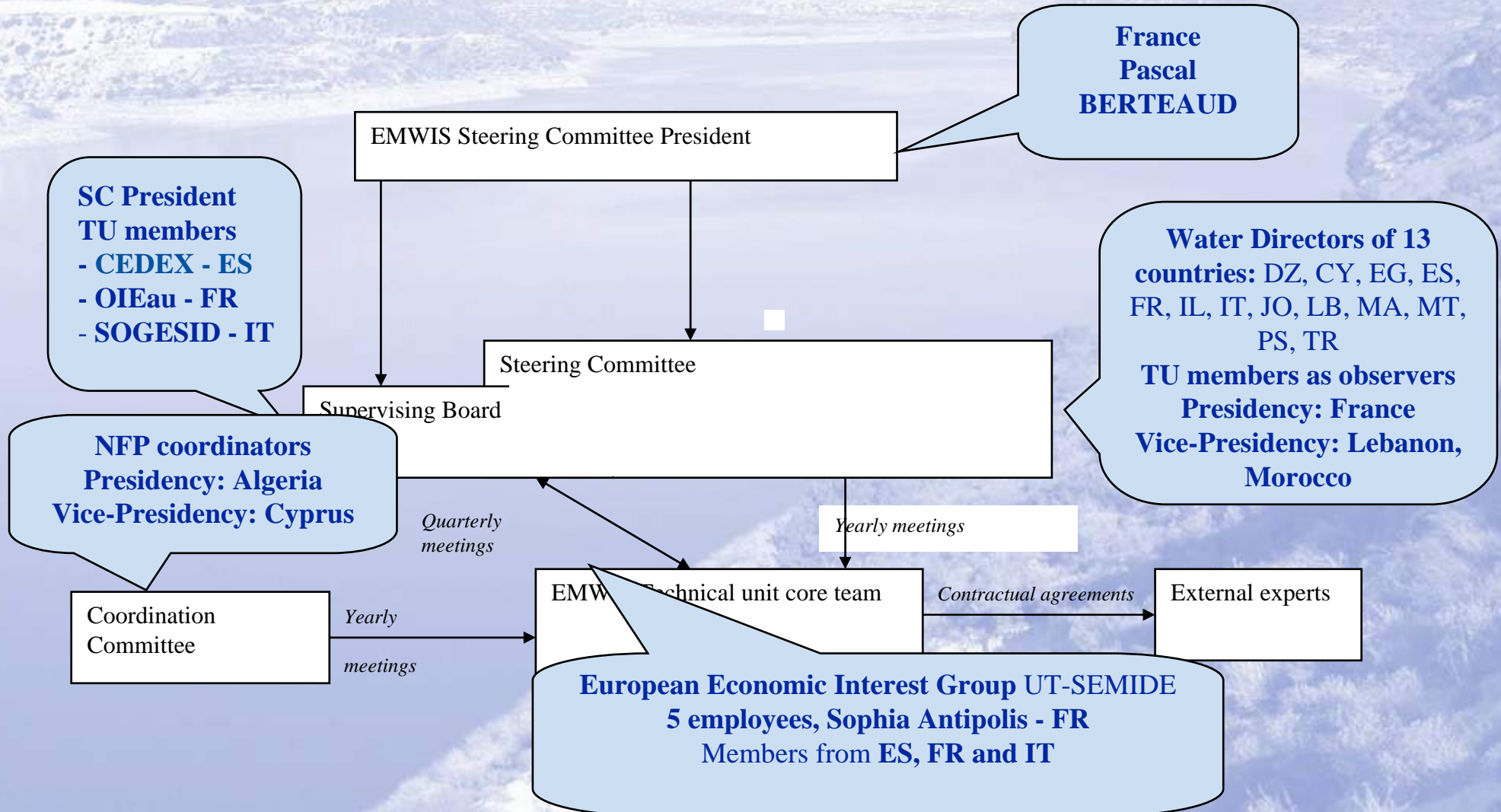
To create a tool for cooperation between the European and Mediterranean countries whose aim is to:

- **Facilitate access to the existing information** on know-how;
- **Develop the sharing of information** to enable anyone to make known his activities, his topics of interest ...;
- **Create common products and cooperation programmes** to develop available information and to promote the collection of the lacking information.

In the water sector

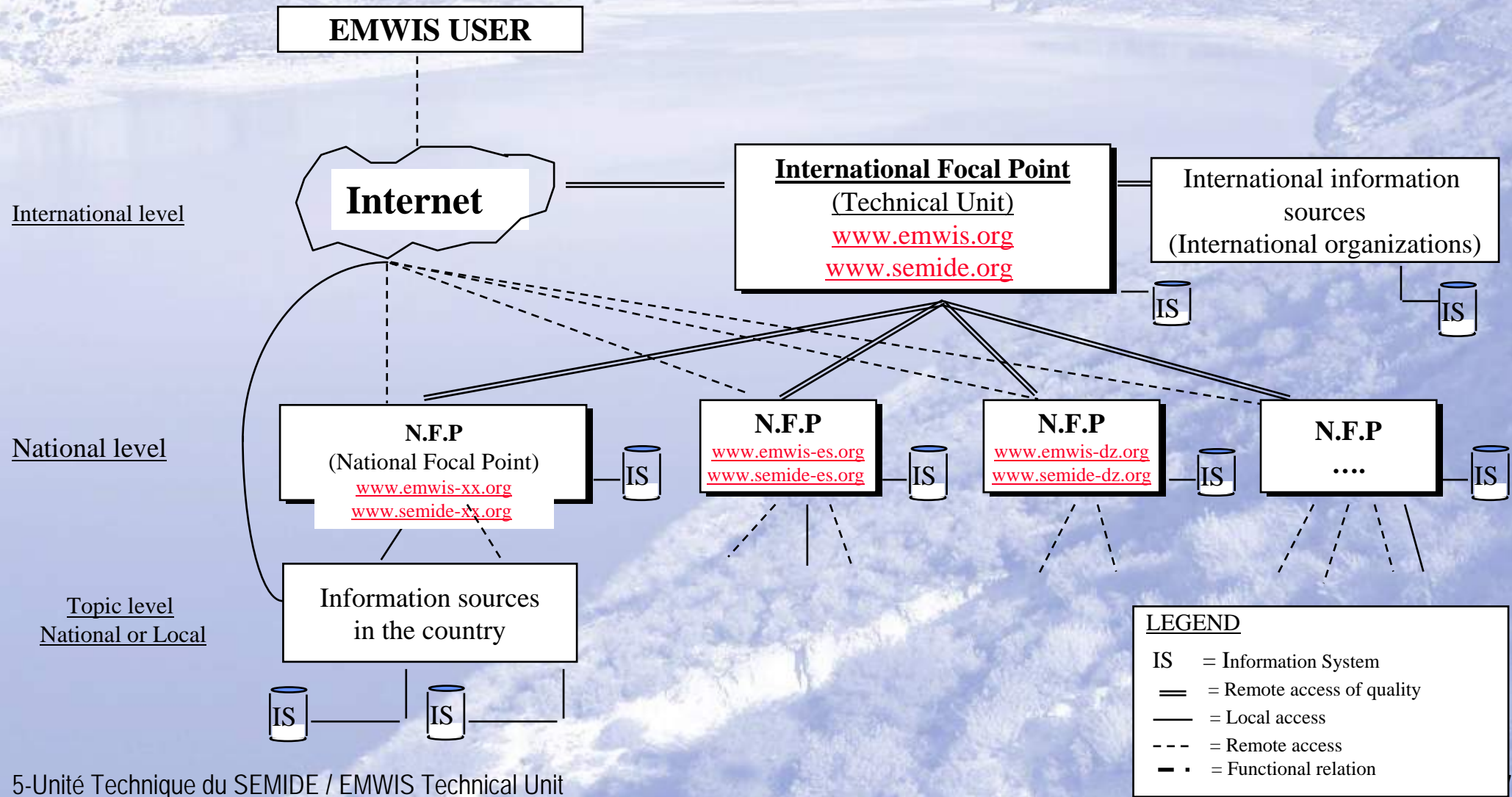


Organisational structure





EMWIS Architecture





Principle of subsidiarity

<p>European Commission and Technical Unit Countries (contractual budget) France, Italy and Spain</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Participation costs of non EU representatives to meetings➤ Technical assistance and training costs➤ Organization of seminars, conferences and meetings➤ Investments and running costs of the Technical Unit ■➤ International Focal Point➤ Specific support to NFP for international activities
<p>Countries of the Euro-Med Partnership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Investments and running costs of their National Focal Point



The role of National Focal Points

- **Implementation and management of the national water information server as an EMWIS node**
- **Ensuring relations with country's users/providers**
- **Making an inventory and approving the available sources of information**
- **Agreements with information sources managers for access through EMWIS**
- **Development of common access to these information sources**
- **Information collection and implementation of the thematic directory**
- **Information brokerage**



Added value of EMWIS focal points for each country

- **The water information portal for the country**
- **The window on the country know-how in the water sector**
- **A major tool for building new collaborations**
- **A node of the Euro-Med system**



Main EMWIS milestones

- **Dec. 1997 – Decision of Euro-Med water directors to implement EMWIS**
- **July 1998 – Creation of the EEIG EMWIS TU**
- **July 1999 – EC grant signature for Phase 1**
- **Nov. 1999 – T.U. operational**
- **Nov. 2001 – Phase 2 strategic plan approved by Euro-Med water directors**
- **Dec. 2002 - End of phase 1**
 - **First national websites**
- **Dec. 2003 - EC grant signature for Phase 2 (Dec. 2003 – Nov. 2007)**
- **Nov. 2005 – 10 years strategic plan approved by Euro-Med water directors**
 - **Enhanced national websites, focus on building National Water Data systems**
- **Nov. 2006 – Feasibility study on a regional water observation mechanism welcome by Euro-Med water directors**

The National Focal Points

➤ European Union: 25 countries

10 NFP created and 7 active websites

Austria, Belgium, **Cyprus**, France, Greece, Italy,
Luxembourg, **Malta**, Portugal, Spain

➤ Mediterranean partners: 10 countries

10 NFP created and 9 active websites

Algeria, **Egypt**, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco,
Palestine, **Syria**, Tunisia, Turkey



Current activities

- **Capacity building for NFP**
- **Definition of common metadata to allow sharing of information**
- **Regional water information portal**
 - **New web portal based on the open source content management system used by the European Environment Agency**
 - **Multilingual water thesaurus and glossary**
 - **Database of regional water projects**
- **Information clearing house on EU regional water initiatives**
- **Thematic studies → current status**
 - **EU Water Framework Directive, Use of non-conventional water resources, Irrigation water management, Management of water and sanitation services at local level**
- **Definition of working groups → exchange of experiences**
- **Analysis of National Water Information Systems**
- **Collaboration with international initiatives in the field of water information**
 - **Feasibility study on A Mediterranean mechanism for Water observation**

Single access point to online services



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CYPRUS FOCAL POINT



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Maps



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MEDA



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Action Plan 2007-2010

National water
information
Systems

Extreme
phenomena

Non conventional
water resources

sanitation &
domestic pollution

Participative
approaches

Transfer of know-how

Public Regional and National water information services

Regional and National water observation mechanism

Euro-Med Water Directors forum



Themes for transfer of know-how

➤ Objectives:

- Sharing knowledge between countries water authorities
- Preparing pilot experiments based on the lessons learnt from other countries

➤ Themes selected by national water authorities

- Participative approaches in IWRM
- Extreme phenomena:
 - Water scarcity (with the Joint Process Med EUWI – EU Water Framework Directive)
 - Floods
- Non conventional water resources:
 - Desalination
 - Waste water re-use (with the Joint Process)
- Local management of **sanitation services** and the prevention of **domestic pollution**
- Water monitoring

Findings on National Water Information Systems

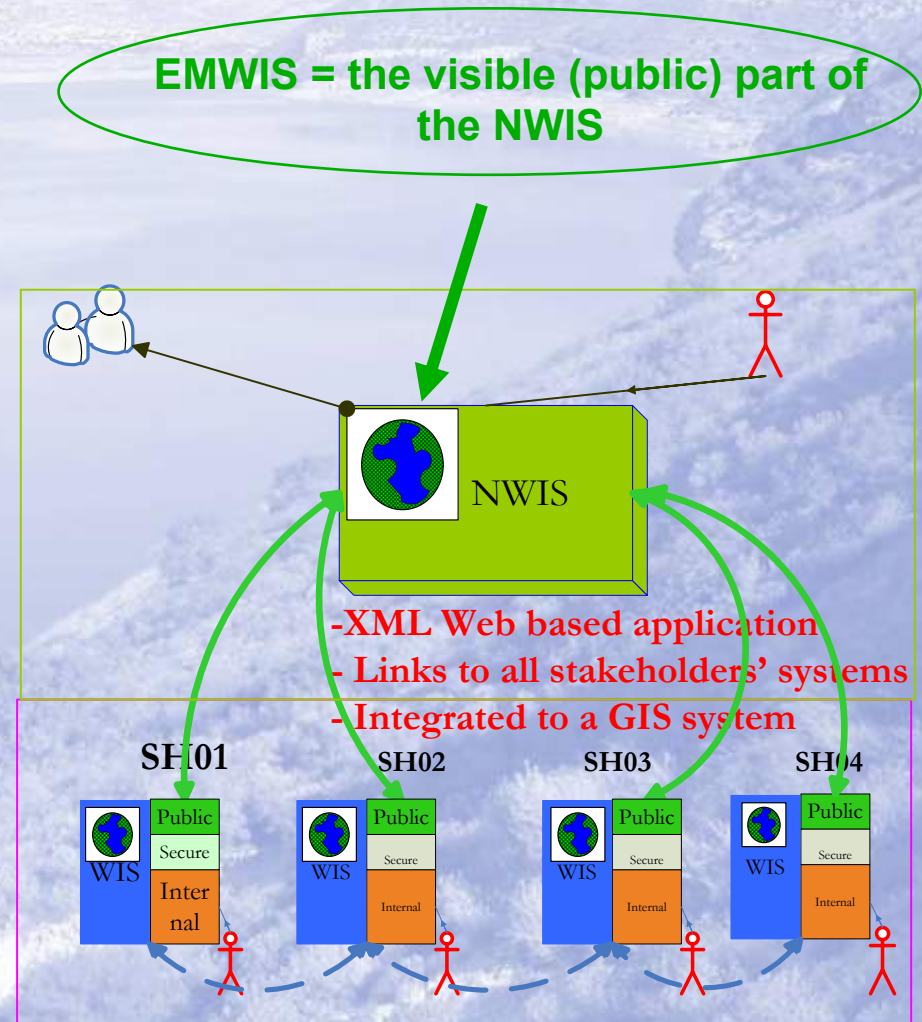


➤ All countries are willing to establish a NWIS but...

- Lack of awareness on NWIS benefits
- No policy for data access & sharing
- Lack of Communication among Stake Holders
- Data exchange is difficult internally: Sensitive data, mentality: "Sharing = Less Power"
- Need Technical & Financial support

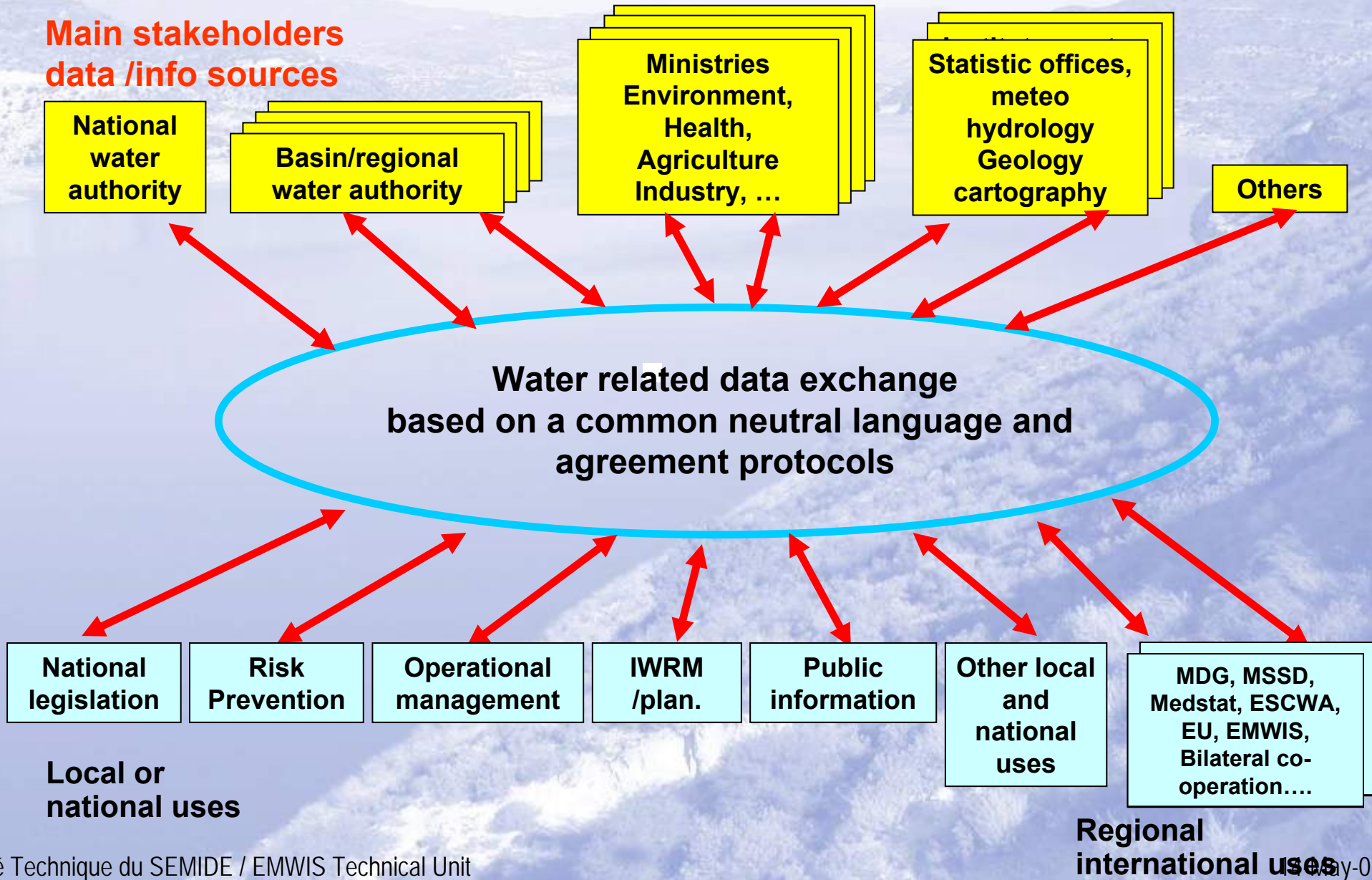
➤ Countries are progressing:

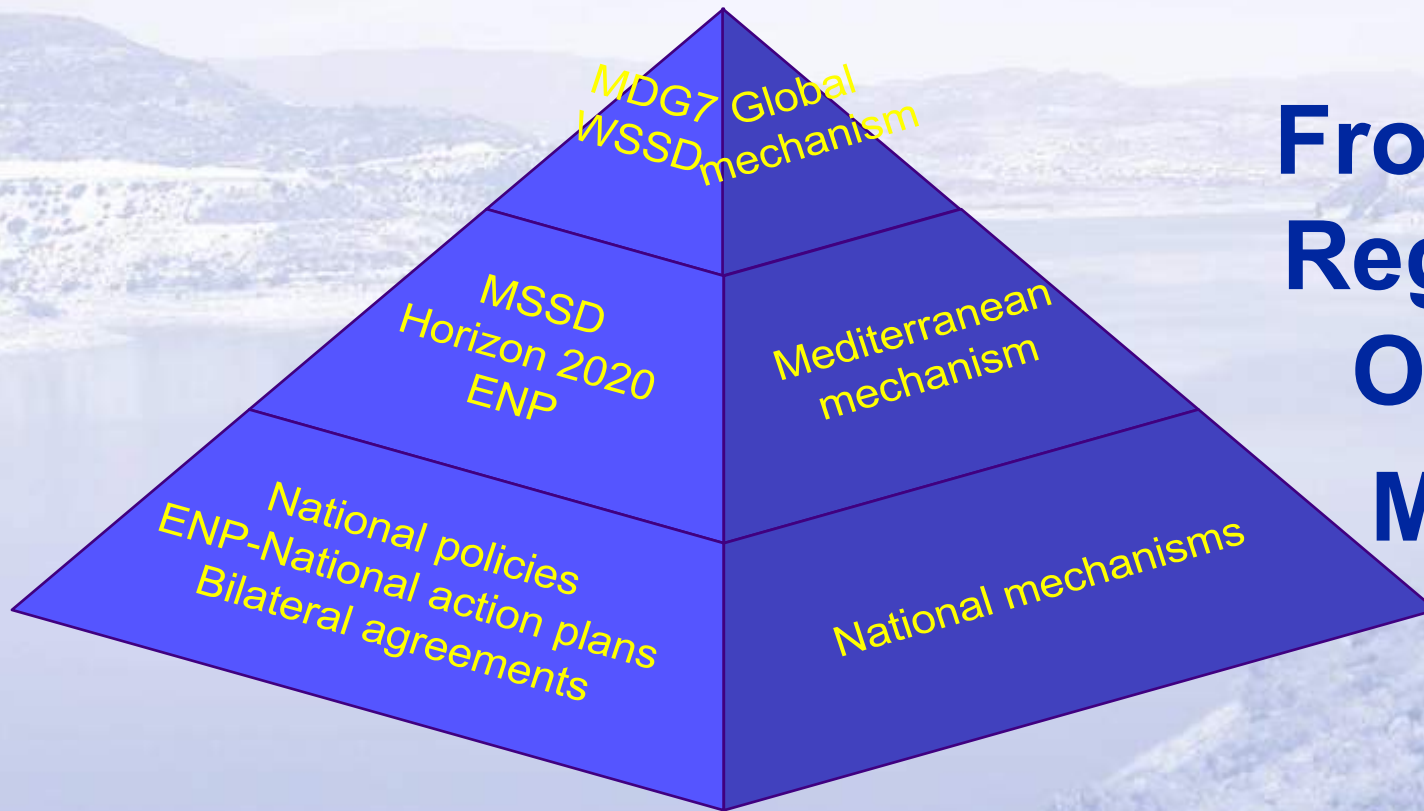
- Algeria launched 1st NWIS components
- Tunisia NWIS in a study phase
- Cyprus NWIS starting a pilot
- Morocco has a WIS -> NWIS
- Turkey and Israel are developing WIS
- Jordan and Lebanon are in fund raising phase





NWIS responding to different needs



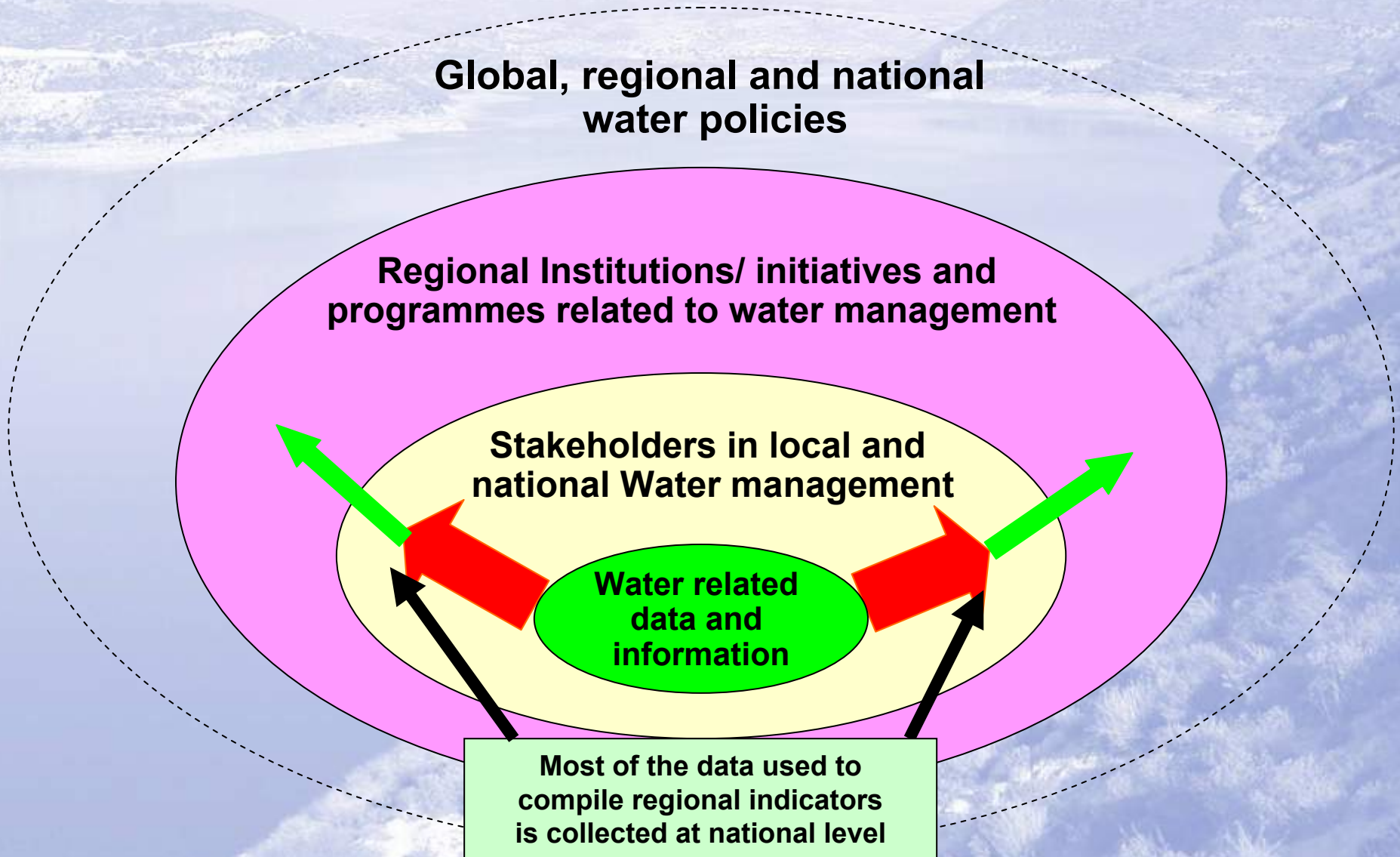


From NWIS to a Regional Water Observation Mechanism

- 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**

Water Observation Mechanism

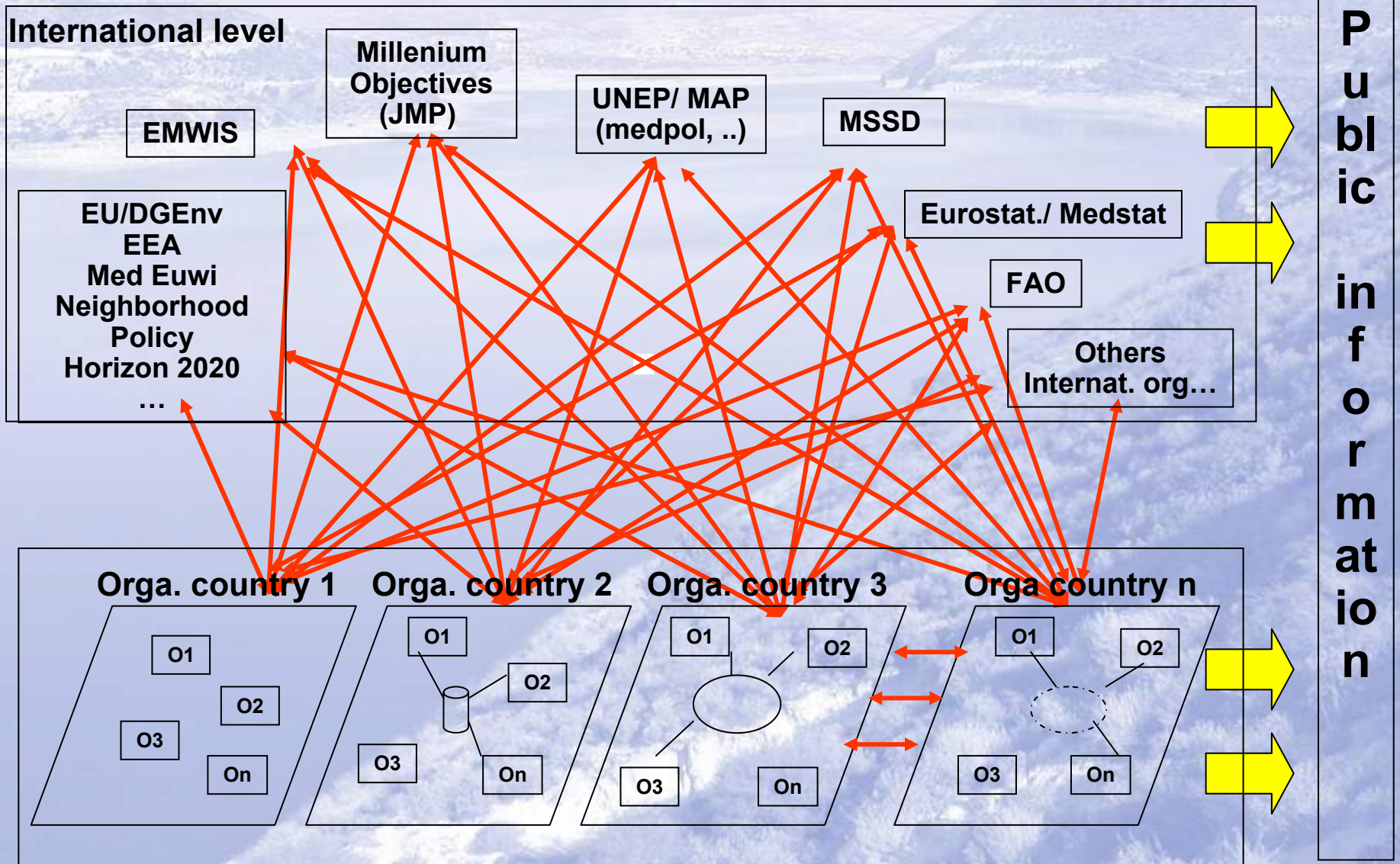
Global context overview





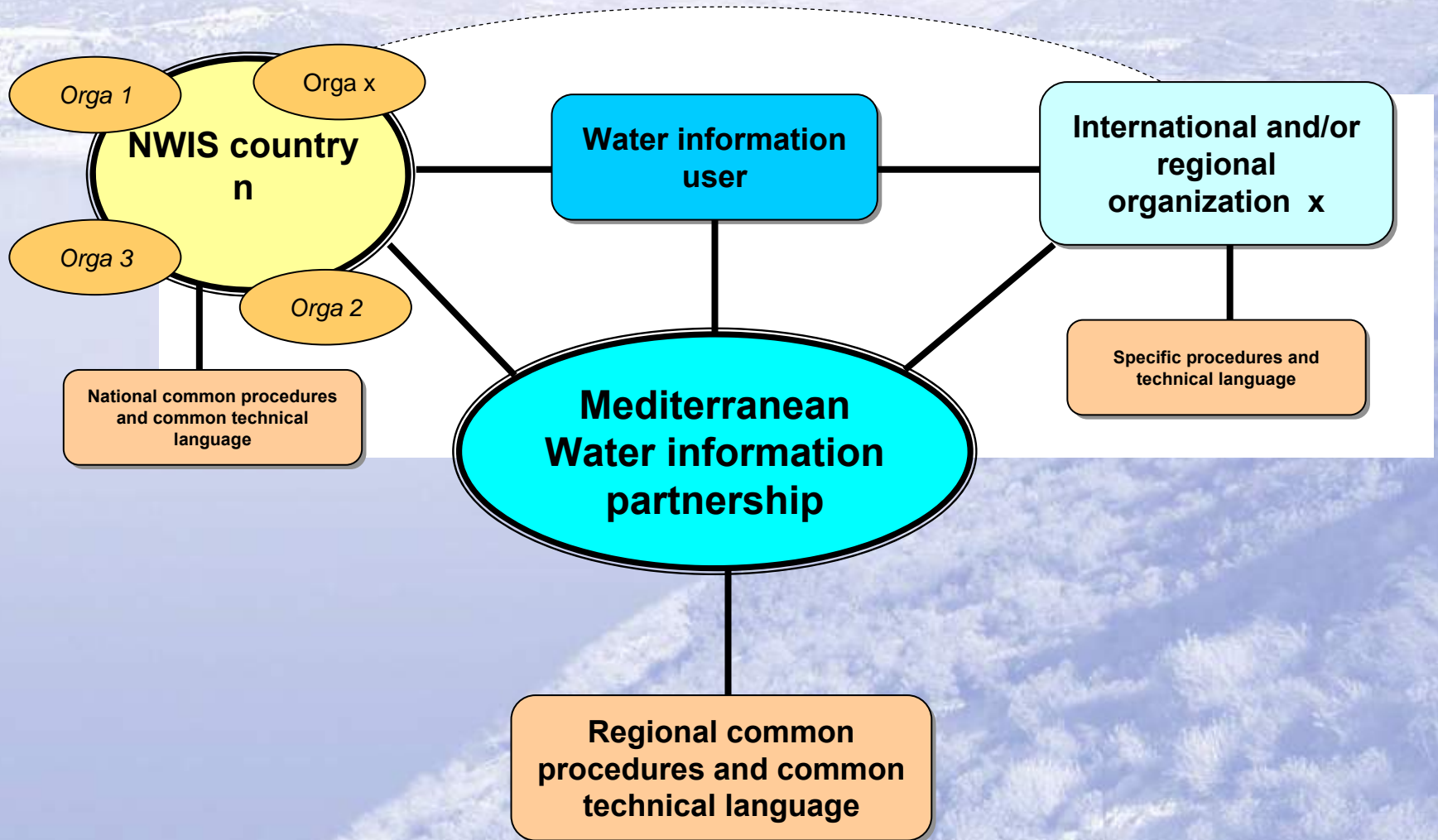
Water Observation Mechanism

Current data collection processes





Long term vision for water observation





Water Observation Mechanism

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 2nd 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 4 additional countries: Cyprus, Libya, Malta and Morocco
 - Further concertation with regional initiatives
 - Detailed recommendations to set-up the Partnership
 - Experts workshop, 3-4 July, Madrid



Water Observation Mechanism

First priority objectives identified

- **Reinforce Country Water Info System**
 - 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)
- **Support existing regional/international systems**
 - By 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



Building trust and confidence

*Between countries and water stakeholders within each country
is a key part of EMWIS activity*

- **EMWIS reflects a real need and a strong demand of all the partners with an approach based on**
 - **Transparency**
 - **Distributed management reflecting the information ownership**
 - **Voluntary participation**
 - **Level of access defined by the information owners (confidentiality)**
 - **Delivery of official information (validated)**
- **A very powerful tool supporting the implementation of sustainable development policies in the field of water management**
 - **Giving access to knowledge in the institutional, technical, and know-how fields**



Thank you

➤ For additional information:

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