

**OECD Workshop on improving the information base to  
better guide water resource decision-making, 4-7 May,  
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**Opening  
discussion**

**Session 2/part 2  
(draft)**

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# Presentation of 3 important international water data collection/management processes

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- *The challenges of informing global policy makers about water resources - the report of the UN WWAP Expert Group on Indicators Monitoring and Databases (Mike MUELLER)*
- *The SEEA-Water and the International Recommendations for Water Statistics (IRWS) – The international statistical standards for official statistics on water (Alessandra ALFIER)*
- **Official European Water Statistics: State of play and future challenges (Jürgen FÖRSTER)**

# Some key points from the UN WWAP presentation

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- Objective
  - To produce useful, feasible, sustainable set of indicators on key water resources issues
  
- Challenges/shortcomings
  - Different users need different indicators.
  - Main challenge not which key indicators but the systematic generation of core data for calculating the many indicators that meet the needs of potential users.
  
- Elements of strategy
  - Innovative approaches to the generation of data
  - Reinforcing only site-specific hydrologic and user data collection and monitoring
  - Collecting information on actual water use (rather than estimated)
  - Focusing on the production of core “data items”, in addition to the core indicators that WWAP itself uses

# Some key points from the SEEA-Water presentation

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## ■ Objective

- Official statistics for decision-making related Integrated Water Resource Management

## ■ Challenges/shortcomings

- Need not only physical data on quantity but also data on quality and monetary data
- Need integration of data coming from various data sources
- Need strong legal and institutional arrangements

## ■ Elements of strategy

- Framework for organising data items using a system approach integrating physical information on water with economic information
- International Recommendations for Water Statistics (IRWS) with training material and a knowledge base on water statistics
- System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Water (SEEA Water) with standard tables
- Tools to develop and strengthen water information system in countries
- Agreed definitions and classifications of water data items classified
- Guidance on how to organize the data compilation

# Some key points from the Eurostat presentation

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## ■ Objective

- Official European Water Statistics on water resources, water abstractions, water use and wastewater treatment

## ■ Challenges/shortcomings

- Data gaps, quality issues, variable completeness of responses
- Current resolution not sufficient to properly analyse some of the most crucial issues, in terms of time and space
- Lack of statistical capacity among partners in the European Statistical System (ESS)

## ■ Elements of strategy

- Supporting capacity building among ESS partners
- Consistent strategy of data collection, ways to share data and assessment results to ensure the buy-in from the data providers and their support regarding the quality assurance
- Ensuring consistency between different reporting processes (WISE, Eurostat)

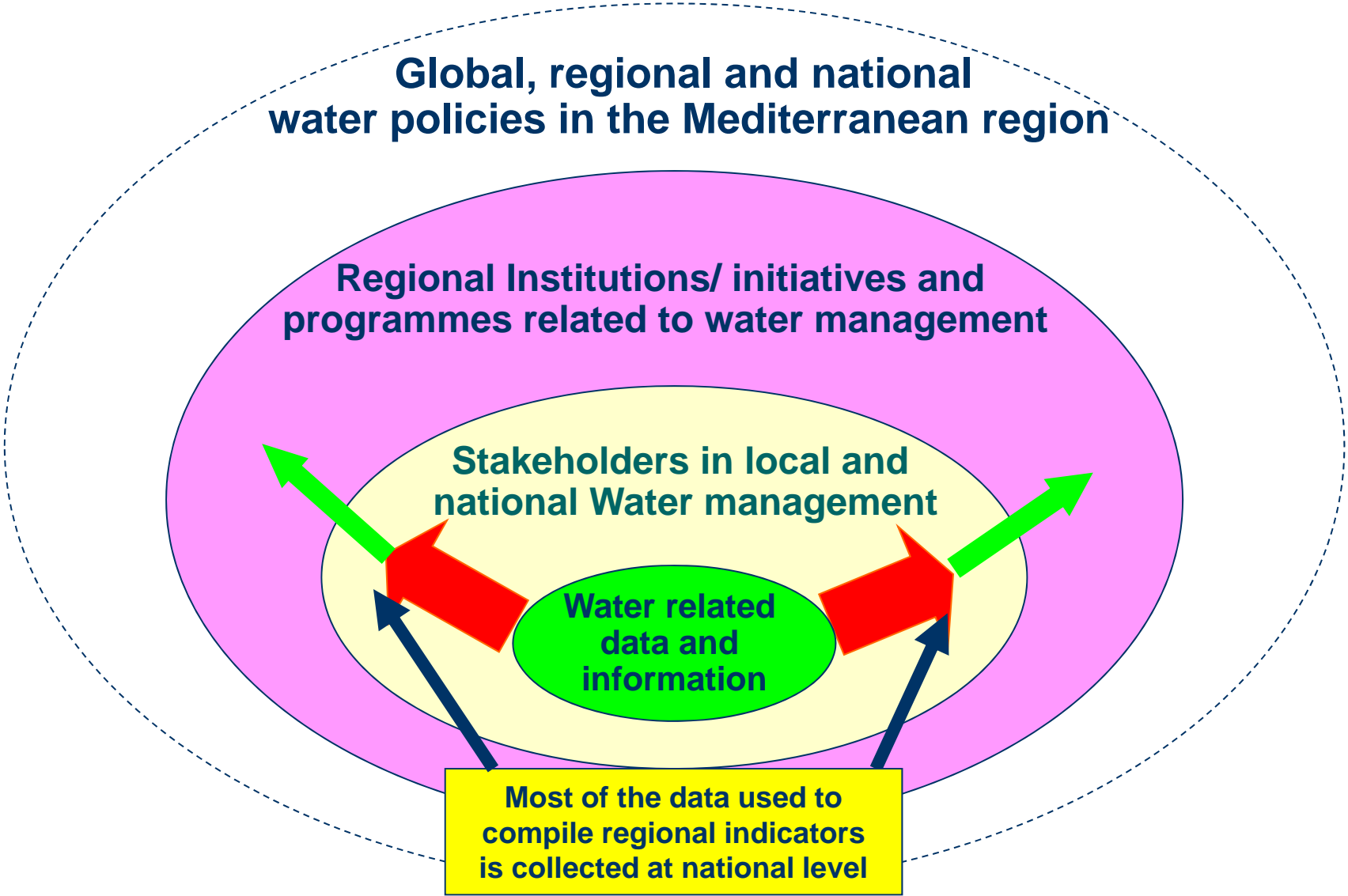
## 2 Complementary general reminds before discussion

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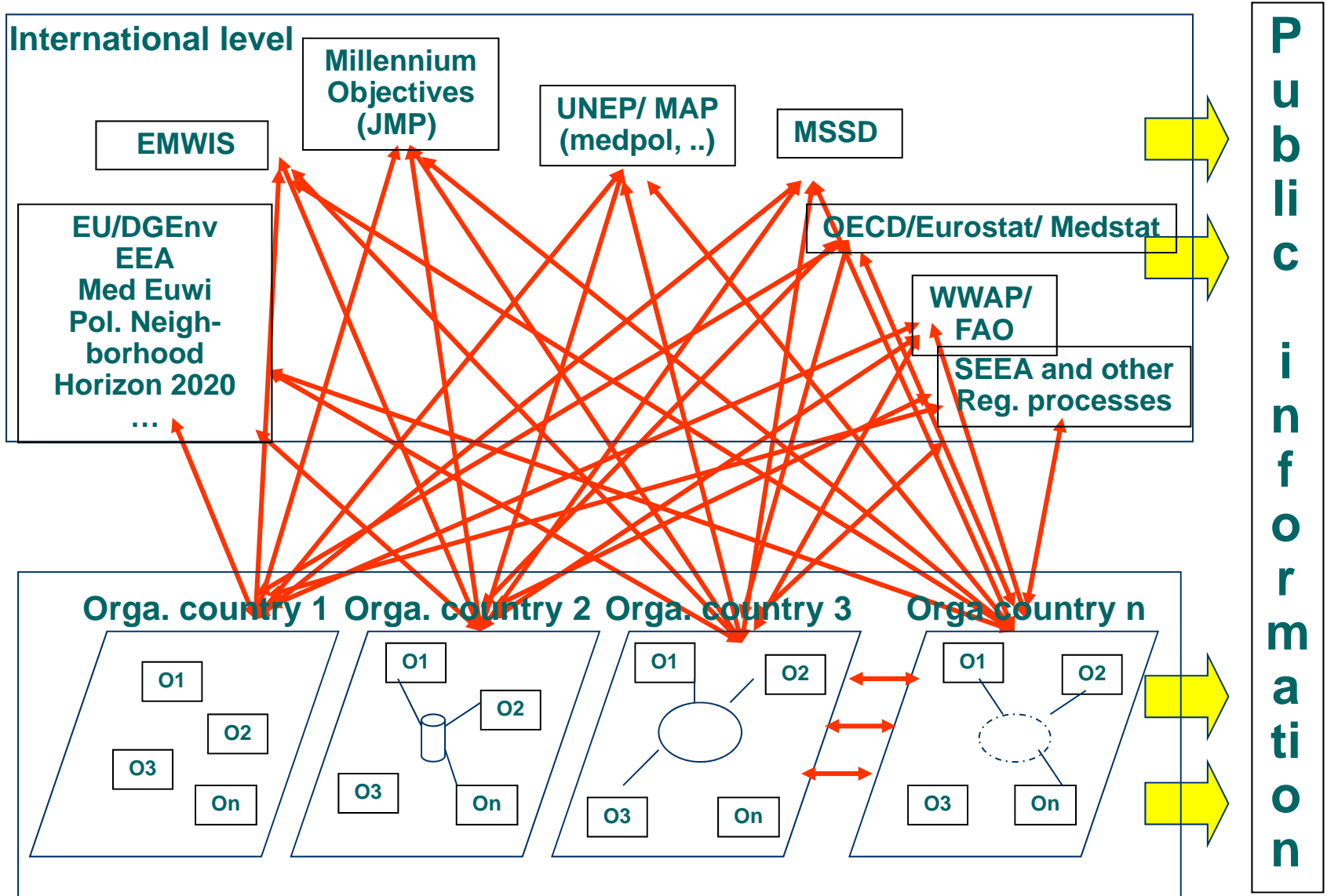
(extract from a feasibility study for establishing a regional mechanism for water observation in the mediterranean countries)

- Global systems mainly rely on national and local data
- National and regional data flows are still perfectible

# Global systems rely on national and local data



# National and regional data flows still perfectible



## 3 main challenges

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- How to insure long term participation of the countries in the global water related data collection processes?
- How to insure that the provided datasets will answer to the needs of the global processes (regular, complete, homogeneous, quality datasets)?
- How to reinforce the collaboration and interoperability between the various global processes, in order to facilitate the task of countries providing datasets ?