



Establishing a national framework for water data supporting water policies

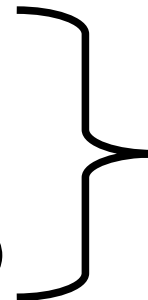
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*ONEMA- The French National Agency for Water
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Context and challenges (1/2)

- Objectives set at national or EU level
 - Example: the Water Framework Directive (2000), sets objectives of “good status” of water by 2015
- Implementation of monitoring and measures at the local and river basin level: vast quantities of data, produced by a large number of organizations (State services, water agencies, local governments, NGOs, companies, research organizations...)
- Reporting data at the national level on the progress made in reaching the goals and compliance with deadlines : need for reliable and comparable data at national and EU levels

Multiple data producers
Multiple aims and end-users
Multiple scales
(local-basin-national-EU- international)



**Need for a shared
framework, technical
coordination and
reference systems**

Context and challenges (2/2)



2000 : Water Framework Directive

2006 : Directive INSPIRE

2006 : French Water Law

2007 : Creation of ONEMA

2008 : Elaboration of the National Framework for Water Data

The French Water Information System contributes to improving knowledge on water resources and aquatic environments. It provides information to the State, water managers, water users, experts and citizens who need to know the aquatic environment characteristics on which their activity can impact

Objectives of the French Water Information System

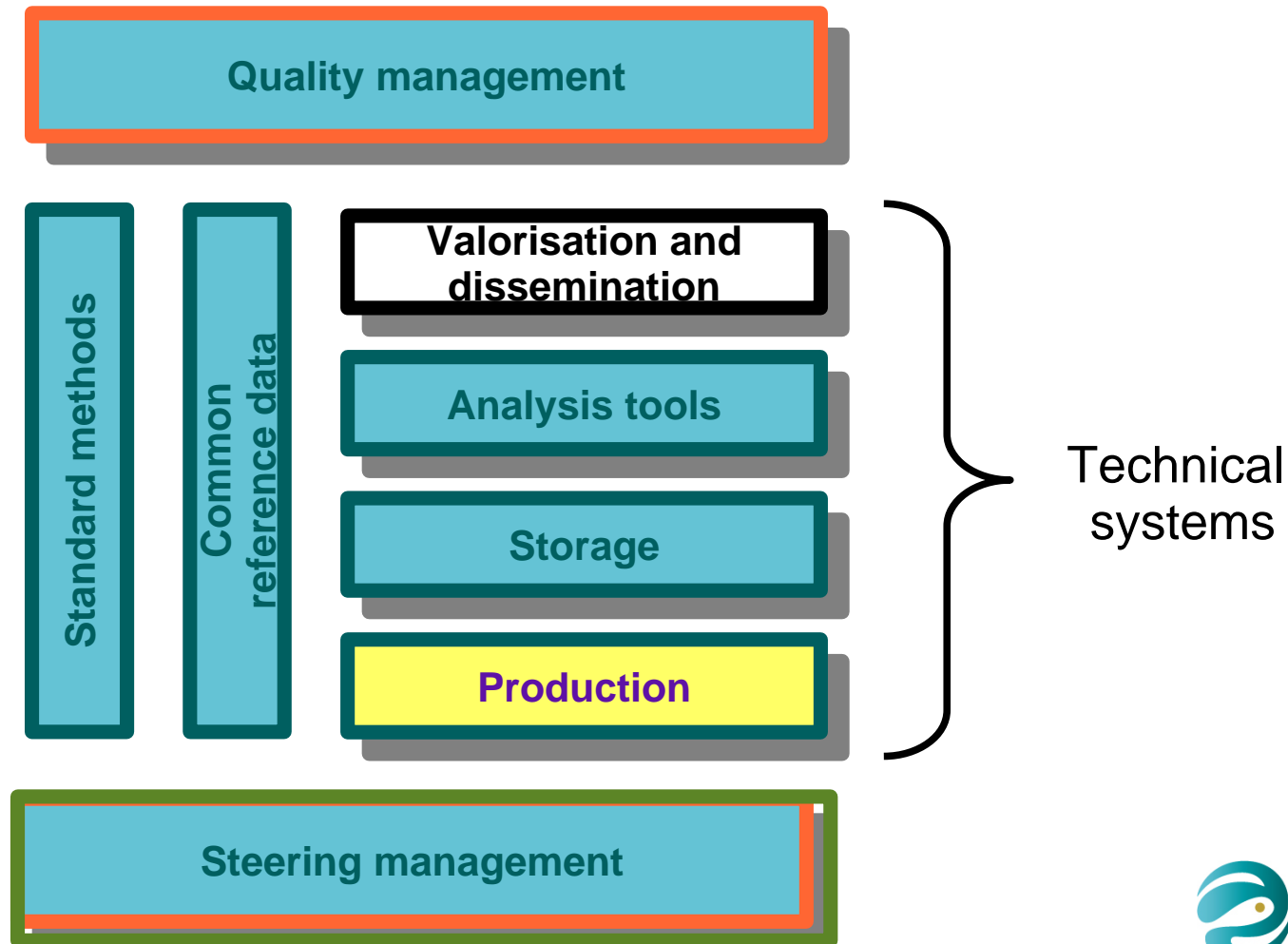
Objectives	End-users
1. Check compliance with European and National policies implementation requirements	National and European authorities
2. Analyze pressures and uses and assess the status of aquatic environments	River basin or local authorities
3. Assess efficiency of policies (particular focus on the performance of water and sanitation services)	Managers
4. Support to decision making (e.g. for setting up Programmes of Measures or for water police activities)	Policy makers
5. Inform and facilitate public participation	Public
6. Provide data for other information systems and for applied research	R&D; Other Information systems

Scope of the French Water Information System

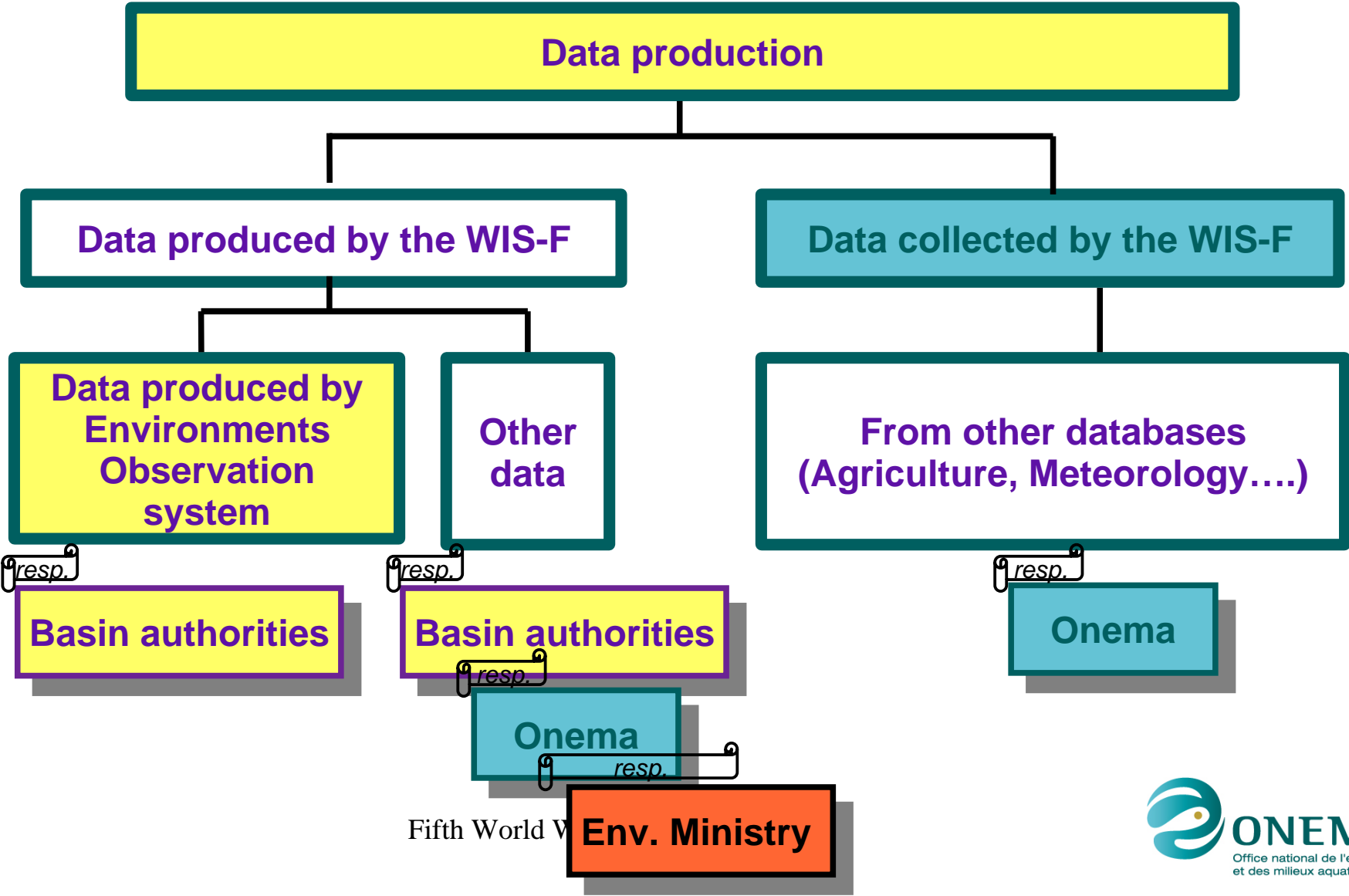
- **Organizes the production, collection, storage, analysing and dissemination of data**
- **Data covers:**
 - *Indicators on the status of water and aquatic environments and their uses (i.e. pressures) and water and sanitation services*
 - *rivers and lakes, coastal waters and groundwater*
 - *all of continental France, the main overseas territories and Mayotte*
- **All sources of data:**
 - *Measurements and observations in the field (e.g. samples of water, sediment or biota)*
 - *Other data sources, such as surveys, inventories, declarations, reports, studies or administrative documents*
 - *Data produced by other information systems, notably socio-economic, health, weather and risk-prevention systems.*

Need for common and shared tools and methodologies....

...in order to have data which are reliable and comparable



Data production



Development of common tools (1/2)

- **Standard methods**

- Common methods for data collection, storage, analysis and valorisation

- **Common reference data**

- Common language for representation of information
- Frameworks for data exchanges
- Interoperability with other systems at the international level (e.g. WISE) and national level

- **Storage in national databases**

- National databases, managed at the local level by data producers
- Examples: Groundwaters (22000 stations); Hydromet; Quality of surface waters (4500 stations); Sanitation; Fish species ; Marine waters...

Development of common tools (2/2)

● Common tools for data analysis

- Common tools developed at the national level, locally used
- Examples: pressures-impacts models; evaluation of the status of water bodies; economic assessment....

● Dissemination and valorisation

- Indicators (reliable, up-to-date, comparable and responding to the needs of end-users)
- Maps and geographical tools
- Report on EU directives and other policies (through WISE)
- Web sites, available through a unique portal: www.eaufrance.fr
- European and international networks on information systems (e.g. EEA, Eurostat, OSPAR, Barcelona convention,...)

● Governance and quality management

- Governance at the national level and the river basin level
- Shared quality management system

Some examples of the use of the Water Information System

- A water agency needs information on the quality of water resources and aquatic environments to set up, for its river basin, coherent tariff zones and fees on the water consumed and pollution of aquatic environments.
- A local administration wanting to build a water-treatment plant must first learn about the environment to limit the impact of effluents and ensure that the capacity of the environment to cleanse itself is sufficient.
- Companies producing drinking water need data on the available resource before setting up production units and starting to draw from aquifers.
- Citizens may need information on the quantity and quality of drinking water or of bathing water in areas in order to participate in the decision making process
- Etc.