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**SWIM-SM AND H2020 CB/MEP TRAIN GOVERNMENTS' OFFICIALS FROM THE SOUTH MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES ON
THE PREPARATION OF WATER PLANS**

PRESS NOTE

Twenty three participants from eight SWIM-SM partner countries (PCs), namely, Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, occupied Palestinian territory, and Tunisia, took part in a training workshop organised on 10-11 September 2012 in Athens, Greece jointly by the EU funded projects SWIM-Support Mechanism (SWIM-SM) and Horizon 2020 Capacity Building / Mediterranean Environment Programme (H2020 CB-MEP). The participants represented mainly middle level government managers from the water, wastewater, environment and agriculture sectors, while the training's audience was enriched with SWIM-SM Consortium Partners and civil society representatives.

The overall objective of the training was to expand the capacity of water and environment stakeholders in SWIM (PCs) in developing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) plans and strategies, with the more specific objective to introduce mainstreaming of water management and participation as basic measures in planning and implementation of IWRM, through informing and training government water officials and stakeholders from PCs on the following:

- 1- Best practices and success stories from countries of the region with emphasis on reasons behind success and achievement of target objectives,
- 2- Main constraints and challenges hindering proper planning and failure in implementing sustainable water resources management within IWRM context,
- 3- Common gaps encountered in PCs and the appropriate measures to bridge them,
- 4- Available opportunities and means to improve these prospects for the advancement of water resources planning and management.

A highly dynamic, interactive, facilitated and participatory approach was adopted during the training, including a) presentations by instructors to stimulate discussions; b) review and discussion of selected case studies from PCs; c) brief interventions from participants on their national experience in achieving objectives, meeting challenges, resolving constraints, making use of available opportunities and suggested policies for effective planning and implementation of IWRM; d) working groups and facilitated discussions to identify techno-economically and socially sensitive policy options to ensure mainstreaming of water management in non-water sectors; e) presentations and interventions from invited speakers, including SWIM-SM consortium members, to bring in experience from the wider Mediterranean and European regions.

The training was well-received by the participants and was evaluated as much needed and timely, also in view of the water reform processes that are underway in most of the SWIM PCs. Moreover, a series of requests were put forward for further trainings on more specialised aspects of IWRM planning and implementation (i.e.

designing and enforcing legislation, mechanisms for enhanced cross-sectoral coordination, tools for enhanced stakeholder participation, methods for further awareness raising and sensitization, etc).

For more informations:

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Note to editors:

The SWIM Programme

Sustainable Water Integrated Management (SWIM) is a Regional Programme launched by the European Commission to contribute to the extensive dissemination and effective implementation of sustainable water management policies and practices in the Southern Mediterranean Region. This is in the context of increasing water scarcity, combined pressures on water resources from a wide range of users, desertification processes and in connection with climate change.

The Programme, with a total budget of approximately € 22 million, is implemented under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), following the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conferences on Environment (Cairo, 2006) and Water (Dead Sea, 2008).

SWIM Partner Countries are: **Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, the occupied Palestinian territory, Syria and Tunisia.**

SWIM consists of two major Components, which are inter-related and complement each other:

- A Support Mechanism, funded with a budget of € 6.7 million and
- Demonstration Projects funded with a budget of € 15 million

SWIM – Support Mechanism (SWIM-SM)

SWIM-SM is the Component of the Programme that provides Regional Technical Assistance to the Partner Countries. This Component, of the duration of 4 years (2010-2014), aims at:

- Providing strategic assistance to the Partner Countries in designing and implementing sustainable water management policies and plans, involving inter-sector dialogue as well as stakeholder consultation and participation;
- Contributing to institutional reinforcement, to the development of the necessary planning and management skills and to know-how transfer;
- Raising awareness on the threats on water resources, the necessity to switch to more sustainable consumption models and possible solutions to face challenges.

Furthermore, SWIM-SM also:

- assists technically the Demonstration Projects implemented under the second Component of the SWIM Programme and;
- undertakes Capacity Building activities related to water resources management identified under the Horizon 2020 Capacity Building – Mediterranean Environment Programme (H2020 CB/MEP).

SWIM-Support Mechanism is implemented by a Consortium formed by a combination of nine international and regional companies and institutions:

- LDK Consultants Engineers & Planners SA: Leader of the Consortium
- Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean (GWP-Med): SWIM-SM Technical Direction
- Arab Countries Water Utilities Association (ACWUA)
- Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)
- DHV B.V.
- Greek Ministry of Environment, Energy & Climate Change, Department of International Relations & EU Affairs
- Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water, General Directorate of Hydraulic and Electrical Resources
- Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Bureau de l'Inventaire et des Recherches Hydrauliques / Direction Générale des Ressources en Eau
- Umweltbundesamt GmbH - Environment Agency, Austria

SWIM Demonstration Projects

- 1- **Adaptation to Climate Change of the Mediterranean Agricultural Systems (SWIM-ACLIMAS)**
Leader of the Project's Consortium: International Center for Advanced Studies on Mediterranean Agriculture – Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (CIHEAM-MAIB), Italy

- 2- **Jordan River: the Trans-boundary Master Planning of the Lower Jordan River Basin (SWIM-Jordan River)**
Leader of the Project's Consortium: Friends of the Earth Middle East

- 3- **Innovative Means to Protect Water Resources in the Mediterranean Coastal Areas through Re-injection of Treated Wastewater (SWIM-IMPROWARE)**
Leader of the Project's Consortium: Italian Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea

- 4- **Network of demonstration activities for sustainable integrated wastewater treatment and reuse in the Mediterranean (SWIM-Sustain Water MED)**
Leader of the Project's Consortium: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German International Cooperation - GIZ) GmbH

- 5- **Water harvesting and Agricultural techniques in Dry lands: an Integrated and Sustainable model in MAghreb Regions (SWIM-WADIS MAR)**
Leader of the Project's Consortium: University of Sassari, Italy