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**FACING CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON WATER RESOURCES IN THE SOUTH MEDITERRANEAN THROUGH NO-REGRET
MEASURES**

PRESS NOTE

The scarcity of water in south Mediterranean countries is central and critical to human development. Climate change impacts are expected to add an increased burden on the availability of water resources.

Promoting innovative solutions is a commitment for the Regional Programme **SWIM -Sustainable Water Integrated Management** - funded by the European Commission, with a total budget of approximately € 22 million that aims to contribute to the implementation of sustainable water management policies and practices in the Region.

Within the framework of SWIM – Support Mechanism, one of the two components of the overall SWIM Programme (the other one being the Demos Component), a regional training workshop was organized in Amman from 3 to 5 October on “**The identification and development of climate change no regret actions in the water sector**”.

The main objective of the training was to develop the capacity of SWIM Partner Countries (PCs) **Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia** to undertake immediate precautionary measures towards the adaptation of the water sector to potential negative impacts of climate change.

Climate change impacts on water resources, including the degree of vulnerability of the partner countries to such change and the extent of the risks on environment and development, socioeconomic consequences, adaptation policies and case studies were some of the topics addressed in three days, in nine different sessions.

The training addressed effective concepts, and mechanisms contributing towards the adaptation of the water sector to potential negative impacts of climate change and for planning and implementing no-regret climate resilient options in the water sector, i.e. actions that are likely to protect from climate change irrespectively if this would vary and to what extent. The audience of the workshop were middle level professionals, including government officials, water resources practitioners, environmentalists, planners, stakeholders, involved in water planning and management activities who, based on the evaluation session, considered the activity very useful.

Eng. Kilani, Chief Technical Advisor of the World Health Organization (WHO) contribution to the Millennium Development Goal (MDG_F) programme, noted that the workshop was instrumental in introducing appropriate approaches and the requirements of the enabling environment for planning, strategizing and developing no-regret actions measures, plans and policies for integrated water resources management as well as the tools to score the

adaptive No-Regret Actions to secure safe and sufficient sources of water supply, in spite of potential pressure due to climate change.

Journalists from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia have been invited to the Training workshop and to a media information event organized back-to-back with the training, with the aim to know more about how their country could prepare to face the possible challenges of climate change on their water resources and to possibly contribute to this by informing the public through their media.

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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