



Sustainable Water Integrated Management - Support Mechanism (SWIM-SM)

Project funded by the European Union

**Report of the Workshop on the
Sustainable Use of Non-Conventional Water Resources**

16 September 2011

Hilton Hotel, Athens – Greece

Purpose of the Workshop

1. Provide a briefing to Partner Countries (PCs) and regional stakeholders on SWIM-SM objectives in the wider spectrum of the non-conventional water resources (NCWR) management agenda, and contribute as a brainstorming meeting to the alignment of the project priorities and activities with regional needs and priorities.
2. Discuss SWIM-SM regional priorities on wastewater reuse as a key issue in the NCWR agenda;
3. Discuss SWIM-SM regional priorities on desalination with emphasis on the possible formation of an Expert Group on Sustainable Desalination within SWIM-SM. Such an Expert Group could promote dialogue among technical and political partners on (i) feasibility of desalination using renewable energy sources and (ii) analysis of the measures to be taken to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate environmental impacts related to the construction, operations and maintenance of desalination facilities.

Session I: Opening Session

Ms. Maria Peppas, Head of International and EU Affairs, Hellenic Ministry for Environment, Energy and Climate Change (SWIM-SM Consortium Partner and MED EUWI Lead Country) welcomed the participants in the meeting.

She highlighted opportunities for synergies between SWIM-SM and MED EUWI activities, particularly in relation to the promotion of National Dialogues on IWRM issues in the SWIM Partner Countries and the support of the Action Plan of the UfM draft Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean (SWM), if the political difficulties surrounding the SWM are resolved.

In her opening remarks, **Ms. Liselotte Isaksson**, Head of Sector for Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Transport, DG Development and Cooperation, European Commission, referred to the process that led the EC to invest approximately 22 million Euro in the SWIM Programme as a concrete contribution to the outcomes of the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water (Dead Sea, Jordan, 2008) that endorsed the preparation of the SWM and its Action Plan. Ms. Isaksson stressed on the regional character of the programme as well as on possible complementarities between SWIM and MED EUWI and the importance of building synergies with other relevant initiatives, actors and projects in the region.

Mr. Stavros Damianidis, SWIM-SM Project Director, introduced briefly to participants the SWIM Project and its two components (Support Mechanism and Demonstration Projects), as well as the purpose of the Workshop. He mentioned that the event mainly aims at informing PCs representatives and other National and Regional stakeholders about SWIM-SM objectives in relation to NCWR and to discuss with them Regional priorities, particularly in relation to

wastewater reuse and desalination, to which the project could contribute, as well as possible synergies that could be developed aiming, among others, to replicable results.

Session II: The SWIM Project

Dr. Sherif Arif, SWIM-SM Team Leader, made a presentation on the SWIM Programme. He referred briefly to the water situation in the Mediterranean, highlighting the major challenges and illustrating the possible role and contribution of SWIM to sustainable and integrated water management solutions, through the implementation of Regional and National activities under four identified thematic pillars:

- Non Conventional Water Resources;
- Economic Valuation of Water Pollution Abatement Interventions;
- No regret Actions for the Adaptation of the Water Sector to Climate Change;
- Water Governance at the Local Level: Sharing Experiences from Water Users' Associations.

Dr. Sherif also informed participants about the activities already implemented by the SWIM-SM Expert Team during the SWIM-SM Inception Phase and the overall Implementation Arrangements of the project. He noted that the Project Steering Committee, comprised by PCs representatives, would meet at the beginning of December to review the final draft of the Inception Report.

Questions and comments raised during the discussion related to the following main points:

1. SWIM-SM interventions on “shared water resources management”;
2. The water valuation activities that could be implemented in the framework of the project and if these will also relate to NCWR and to the cost of degradation of ecosystem services. Moreover, a question was raised about how easily Ministries and institutions in the PCs could be convinced to adopt the results of water valuation activities;
3. The extent and modalities of civil society and NGOs involvement in SWIM-SM activities. It was mentioned that the outreach to and the active participation of final users, citizens and NGOs is essential and should be cared for throughout the implementation of the project and all its activities.
4. The possible synergies with other on-going initiatives and projects.

Outcomes and proposals from the discussion were:

- 1- On SWIM-SM interventions in relation to “shared water resources management”:

- It is suggested that SWIM-SM starts by tackling issues that present less political sensitivities than shared water resources, in order to gather first the acceptance of the PCs. Once this is achieved, and if specific demands for shared water resources management activities come from PCs, SWIM-SM could then evaluate the possibility to engage in relevant interventions;
- 2- On the water valuation activities that could be implemented by SWIM-SM:
- Water valuation is overall considered as an interesting activity to be undertaken by SWIM-SM;
 - The valuation of water degradation will not be limited to the impact of pollution but also to the impact on natural resources, fisheries and tourism therefore enhancing the efforts undertaken by other Regional Organisations (e.g. UNEP/MAP) active in coastal/marine protection;
 - The project will come out with approximate figures concerning the cost of water degradation and of abatement measures alternatives. The results will be delivered to PCs and they will be given the opportunity to use these figures as appropriate and according to their needs and priorities.
- 3- On the extent and modalities of civil society and NGOs involvement in SWIM-SM activities:
- One main priority of SWIM-SM is to involve actively in its activities all relevant stakeholders, of which civil society and NGOs form a key target group. In order to achieve this goal stakeholder analysis will be carried out in view of identifying the social groups to involve and their needs.
- 4- On the possible synergies with other on-going initiatives and projects:
- SWIM-SM will pursue to synergize with all actors and initiatives that deal with related topics in view of benefiting from their expertise and complementing and/or advancing their work.

Other points from the discussion:

- Water capping: SWIM-SM will try to mainstream into existing policies the concept of 'environmental flows', i.e. the priority of allocating adequate quantity and quality of water to safeguard ecosystems and their services along with other sectors (domestic, agriculture, industry, tourism, etc.);
- Israel is ready to contribute to the project's activities by sharing its experiences and best practices;
- Algeria expressed strong interest on the project, including its NCWR agenda.

Session III: Non-Conventional Water Resources Management in SWIM-SM: Wastewater Reuse in the Mediterranean

Ms. Suzan Taha, SWIM-SM Water Expert, delivered a presentation on “Wastewater Reuse in the Mediterranean: SWIM-SM Suggested Priorities and Key Activities”. She referred to the looming water scarcity characterizing most of the PCs – that is expected to increase due to climate change impacts - and to the interventions / reforms needed on the water demand and supply management side to respond to existing challenges. She then highlighted the current use of treated and untreated wastewater in several PCs and the various constraints related to this reuse. Ms. Taha finally described the possible type of interventions that SWIM-SM could undertake, their objectives, expected outputs and potential benefits for the PCs, to be discussed with the participants in the workshop.

Outcomes of the discussion:

There was a general consensus that (a) waste water reuse is a priority for the Region and SWIM can have an added value; (b) the concept note distributed to participants for discussion should be revised to take into consideration the comments provided below.

The following is a brief on the comments and feedback gathered from the floor on the following five key issues and suggestions proposed in the presentation:

1. Terminology and Data verification
2. Process for approaching waste water reuse
3. Reallocation of water resources
4. Economic Valuation and Pricing
5. Networking and Synergy

1. On Terminology and Data Verification:

- The terminology provided in the concept paper should be explicit and self explanatory;
- Reported data and figures need to be from officially accredited sources, cross-checked and systemized to avoid any future discrepancies and arguments.

2. On Process for approaching waste water re-use:

- SWIM-SM needs to be very focused and should address few issues in-depth rather than addressing many issues in general;
- Guidelines on different issues of wastewater reuse are available. What we need are guidelines on how to strategize wastewater reuse at national and local levels for various objectives;
- There is a real need for a bottom up approach to involve all stakeholders to discuss and deliberate in a transparent manner all differences and conflicts and reach an agreement on the real needs of countries in the region regarding wastewater reuse;
- Artificial recharge of treated wastewater is important to address as a wastewater management issue/option rather than a separate non-conventional water resource;

- Groundwater protection from pollution is overlooked and need to be considered even prior to environmental flows when deciding on wastewater reuse and artificial recharge.

3. On Reallocation of Water Resources:

- Reallocation of water resources from the agriculture sector is not readily acceptable. Non-conventional water resources can be allocated to sectors of higher economic return such as tourism, industry, etc.;
- However, future reallocation of water resources from the agriculture sector is unavoidable and countries need to be prepared for that. It may be helpful using the logic/approach of a master plan when discussing/addressing re-allocation issues;
- Environmental flows and allocation of water resources to the environment is difficult to consider by some due to the severe water scarcity in the region. Treated wastewater is suggested to be a good alternative for environmental flows;
- Degrees of wastewater treatment for each specific use and its relation to the export of agricultural products need to be addressed;
- Green water (rain harvesting, dew, etc) needs to be revisited and virtual water needs to be considered for the purpose of optimizing water productivity and efficiency rather than reallocation;
- Renewable energy needs to be investigated for wastewater collection and treatment in rural areas;
- All wastewater (treated & untreated) is already in use in countries of the region and focus should be towards treatment technologies particularly for rural communities;
- Some methods, like cloud seeding, do not represent implementable options and are officially rejected by some countries in the region due to political sensitivities and technical difficulties.

4. On Economic Valuation and Pricing:

- Economic valuation of wastewater reuse needs to be comprehensive to include not just the cost of collection and treatment but also the benefits to the environment;
- Economic valuation will require accurate data and information that are not readily available in the region, thus making the SWIM-SM objectives rather ambitious;
- The term water pricing is an extremely sensitive term that needs to be replaced by cost of service recovery;
- Full cost recovery is very important to force farmer to conserve water, while subsidies should be directed towards outputs, such as crops and their products, rather than inputs such as water, energy;
- When discussing tariffs and cost recovery, food security and pro-poor considerations need to be also duly taken into consideration.

5. Networking and Synergy:

- SWIM-SM needs to take full advantage and take stock from wastewater reuse initiatives, programs and projects already underway in the region and a concrete synergy mechanism is fundamental for constructive collaboration at regional, national and local levels;
- NGOs are well situated and have developed the needed expertise to support wastewater reuse activities in the region;
- Partnership with academia and research centers is missing and needs to be emphasized;
- Mainstreaming and involving stakeholders will not fully materialize until institutional and legislative reforms take place in countries of the region;
- Raising awareness on wastewater reuse should be fundamentally dependent on best practices and success stories from the region and around the world;
- Gender balance needs to be considered when addressing wastewater reuse and duplication of efforts already underway in the region should be avoided;
- Religious and cultural issues should also be addressed.

Session IV: Non-Conventional Water Resources Management in SWIM-SM: Sustainable Desalination, including the formation of an Expert Group within SWIM

Ms. Andrea Nam, Water scarcity and droughts team, European Commission, DG ENV, Protection of Water Environment, held a presentation on Water Scarcity and Droughts Policy in the EU.

She referred in detail to the 2012 Blueprint to safeguard EU Waters and to its relevant activities, such as: a) an assessment of river basin management plans; b) a review of the Strategy for Water Scarcity and Droughts and; c) a review of the vulnerability of water and environmental resources to climate impacts and man-made pressures.

She also mentioned the list of prioritized actions (water hierarchy) that are recognized as the most effective response to water scarcity and droughts. Desalination and wastewater re-use are considered as second rank intervention after demand-side measures are fully exploited.

Ms. Nam finally presented the outcomes of a 2008 assessment of non-conventional water supply options in Europe, including desalination, wastewater re-use, rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge and the work ahead in the framework of the Blue Print undertakings.

Dr. Hosny Khordagui, Key Environment Expert of SWIM-SM, held a presentation on Sustainable Desalination in South Mediterranean Countries. He pointed out issues related to: a) environmental and energy aspects of desalination; b) socio-economic aspects associated with desalination as a non-conventional water resource within the IWRM context and; c) possible areas of intervention for SWIM-SM to ensure the sustainability of desalination in the South Mediterranean countries. Dr. Khordagui stressed particularly on the potential of combining concentrated solar power (CSP) with desalination applications, which represents a sustainable alternative to fossil fuels for large scale seawater desalination in the PCs and makes use of their large and until now untapped solar power potential.

The discussion and resulting outcomes revolved around the following points:

- 1- The proposed technology of chlorination using mercury has now been replaced (although the decommissioning of older plants still presents a problem in terms of mercury pollution prevention) and CSP is not the only technology available for fuel substitution. PV and wind energy are also technologies that can be used for small-scale desalination and also for brackish water in rural areas. The meeting suggested that SWIM-SM could bring an added value if its activities focus on small scale applications and interventions so as to reach even remote and small communities, particularly in rural areas.
- 2- Regarding the definition of “sustainable desalination”, when considering the possible impacts associated to desalination, some participants expressed concern and skepticism as to whether desalination can be sustainable. Others stated that desalination can become sustainability-friendlier when the environmental and social impacts are fully addressed or if it is fuelled by renewable energy. The meeting agreed that the terminology needs to be revisited to better address these concerns.
- 3- The formation of an Expert group on Sustainable Desalination in the framework of SWIM will be useful to advise the countries on the best course of actions for adopting/further using desalination. The group should deal with economic, social and environmental issues related to desalination, including the economic valuation of externalities, mitigation measures and awareness raising needs.
- 4- SWIM-SM will closely cooperate with other regional organizations (e.g. in the framework of UNEP/MAP) and initiatives (Horizon 2020 CB/MEP) that are directly involved in desalination issues so as to take advantage of the work already existing and possibly complement it, while avoid the duplication of efforts.

Session V: Looking Forward: Promoting Synergies amongst Regional Initiatives and Programmes

This session involved panelists representing various regional organizations (UfM, UNEP/MAP, UN ESCWA, ICARDA), and regional programs and initiatives (H2020 MEHSIP, GEF MedPartnership, MED EUWI, Sustainable Med Program) and aimed at promoting synergies amongst regional initiatives and programs focusing on similar areas in order to achieve more.

The panel discussion revolved around cooperation in the following areas:

Ms. Maria Luiza Silva Mejias, UNEP/MAP:

Three areas were mentioned that SWIM should synergize with, and/or can assist:

- Formulation of targets, indicators and measures to reach ecological objectives in the Mediterranean, which was agreed upon by the Partners of the Barcelona Convention. SWIM

can ensure participation of relevant water expertise in the development of targets and monitoring plans;

- Update environmental guidelines for desalination of 2003 and disseminate the revised guidelines;
- Support, as appropriate, the development of the Climate Change Adaptation Framework, particularly as relates to freshwater in the region, which would start early next year.

Ms. Christine Haffner-Sifakis, GEF MedPartnership:

- Assist in the revision of the replication strategy of demonstration projects related to water within the regional component/project of the GEF MedPartnership;
- Support GEF MedPartnership in the formation of the planned Inter-ministerial Committees at national level.

Mr. Nicolas Kotschoubey, Sustainable Med Programme, WorldBank:

- SWIM could benefit from the results of ongoing treated wastewater reuse projects in Jordan, Algeria, Morocco and Palestine. A related project within SustainableMed is still under design and synergies could be investigated. Lessons learnt by projects implemented within Sustainable Med could be disseminated through SWIM.

Dr. Fuad Bateh, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM):

- SWIM could focus on providing very persuasive economic choices with regards to desalination.

Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, UN Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (UN-ESCWA):

- Ensure synergy with the League of Arab States (LAS) in the context of the IWRM projects that emanated from the Arab Water Security Strategy and related action plans, which expand on the use of treated wastewater, desalination, agriculture drainage water, and saline water.
- Relevant activities followed up by ESCWA include
 - The regional monitoring and reporting on the Millennium Development Goal targets (MDGs) related to water supply and sanitation. The activity will result in a database hosting related information (to be housed by ACWUA) including information related to wastewater reuse in the region (type of treatment, reuse type, etc.);
 - Assessment of the impacts of climate change on water resources and socio-economic vulnerability in the Arab Region. Studies can be good reference for SWIM related activities.

Dr. Manzour Qadir, ICARDA:

- Collaboration and synergies with its land and water resources based projects, including non-conventional water resources, in addition to possible collaboration on Environmental Impact Assessment related to grey water use, and on improved management of wastewater, both treated and untreated.

Mr. Vasilis Nikitas, Mediterranean Hot Spots Investment (MEHSIP):

- Review indicators developed by MEHSIP and integrate as applicable with SWIM;

Outcomes and Results:

All members of the panel committed themselves to synergies and cooperation between their organizations/projects and SWIM, and pointed out areas where both are needed. Although the question on the modality of cooperation was raised by SWIM, it was overpowered by the intensive discussions on cooperation and how SWIM can add value to the regional initiatives. Below is a summary of the outcomes of this session:

- SWIM can ensure participation of relevant water expertise in the development of indicators, targets and monitoring plan to reach ecological objectives within the UNEP/MAP GEF MedPartnership. It should cooperate with the components related to Water and demonstration projects within that partnership;
- SWIM could be involved in developing replication mechanisms related to the demonstration projects of the UNEP/MAP GEF MedPartnership and can apply those mechanisms within the project;
- SWIM could contribute to the support of national inter-ministerial committees that are pursued within MedPartnership;
- SWIM can assist in the update and dissemination of environmental guidelines for desalination, and participate in the development of the Climate Change Adaptation Framework in the region (UNEP/MAP);
- Through the desalination expert group, SWIM can provide advice to the different countries on desalination technologies, and how to move desalination towards sustainability by addressing environmental aspects, social costs and costs of environmental externalities; SWIM could also advance cooperation with the EIB on desalination. Scale of desalination should be at rural level;
- Lessons learnt from existing initiatives/projects and programs, including SustainableMed, can be disseminated through SWIM;
- Knowledge databases developed by other initiatives (UN ESCWA MDG+ database and Assessment of Climate Change Impact on water resources and socio-economic vulnerability in the Arab Region, ICARDA land and water based research projects, Sustainable Med treated wastewater reuse projects) should be used by SWIM;
- Other projects can, including H2O20 CB/MEP and MEHSIP, can provide trainers and key contacts for SWIM-SM's capacity building activities ();
- SWIM can review targets developed by MEHSIP and integrate them as applicable within the project;

- SWIM could consider legislative harmonization related to reuse in the SWIM countries;
- SWIM should identify more specifically the focus of its NCWR activities and the scale of the treated wastewater reuse; large scale, versus medium and small scale or rural versus urban.

Session VI: Concluding Remarks

In their concluding remarks and rap-up of the workshop's outcomes, **Dr. Sherif Arif**, SWIM-SM Team Leader and **Mr. Vangelis Constantianos**, SWIM-SM Technical Director, highlighted the following points:

- SWIM-SM has a regional character and will implement soft-type activities; only one of its thematic pillars, NCWR, was addressed in the Athens meeting. SWIM-SM success would be measured by the volume and quality of well-targeted interventions making contribution to front-running processes in the PCs, by its tangible contribution to advancing key regional processes, by its practical synergy and complementarity with other processes as well as by its innovative and out-of-the-box approaches.;
- Wastewater reuse and desalination are recognized as priorities for the Region;
- Bottom-up approaches and transparency need to be integrated in any relevant intervention SWIM-SM will undertake;
- Economic valuation of wastewater, is considered as a useful activity;
- SWIM-SM should provide attention to issues such as allocation, environmental flows, suitable market instruments, etc.;
- The formation of an expert group contributing to drive desalination towards sustainability is also identified as a priority. This group could focus, among other issues, on alternative energy options, environmental impacts, social, economic and environmental valuation, economic variability, etc.;
- In parallel to the clear focus on the draft SWM priorities, SWIM-SM interventions and targets should build on those promoted by relevant regional initiatives and projects to which they could add substance and value (e.g.: the UNEP Guidelines on Desalination, the MDGs-related activities implemented by UN/ESCWA, etc.). In this sense, SWIM-SM is ready to support the UNEP/MAP Climate Change Initiative and the formation of Inter-ministerial Committees foreseen under the UNEP/MAP GEF MedPartnership. In that sense SWIM-SM could act as a facilitator for contacts, as required, among the different initiatives/processes/projects;
- It was also suggested to explore the value/utility of such informal gatherings of regional actors (as those invited to participate in the workshop) to provide insight to SWIM-SM activities in the future.

ANNEX I – FINAL AGENDA



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AGENDA

8:30 Registration

9:00-9:30 Session I: Opening Session

- Welcome Address
Ms Maria Peppas, Head of International and EU Affairs, Hellenic Ministry for Environment, Energy and Climate Change – MED EUWI Lead Country
- Opening Remarks on behalf of the European Commission (10 min)
Ms. Liselotte Isaksson, Head of Sector for Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Transport, EuropeAid F4-Regional Programmes Neighbourhood South, DG Development and Cooperation, European Commission
- Purpose and structure of the Meeting (10 min)
Mr. Stavros Damianidis, Project Director, SWIM-SM

9:30-11:00 Session II: The SWIM Project

Co-Chair: *Dr. Shaddad Attili, Head, Palestinian Water Authority*
Co-Chair: *Ms. Liselotte Isaksson, Head of Sector for Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Transport, EuropeAid F4-Regional Programmes Neighbourhood South, DG Development and Cooperation, European Commission*
Rapporteur: *Ms. Barbara Tomassini, Communications Expert, SWIM-SM*

9:30 - The SWIM-SM Project (30 min)
Presentation: Dr. Sherif Arif, Team Leader, SWIM-SM

- 10:00 Question and Answers (60 min)
- 11:00-11:30 Coffee Break**
- 11:30-13:00 Session III: Non-Conventional Water Resources Management in SWIM-SM: Wastewater Reuse in the Mediterranean**
- Co-Chair: Dr. Fethi Lebdi, Water Director, Ministry of Agriculture & Environment, Tunisia*
Co-Chair: Dr. Sherif Arif, Team Leader, SWIM-SM
Rapporteur: Dr. Hosny Khordagui, Environmental Expert, SWIM-SM
- 11:30 - Wastewater Reuse in the Mediterranean:
 SWIM-SM suggested priorities and key activities (30 min)
Presentation: Ms. Suzan Taha, Water Expert, SWIM-SM
- 12:00 Facilitated Discussion (60 min)
- Key questions for the discussion
- 1) Do SWIM-SM priorities on the subject respond to the needs and priorities of the Partners Countries?
 - 2) What additional activities should be considered by SWIM-SM?
 - 3) With which initiatives and programmes should SWIM-SM synergize?
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch Break**
- 14:00-15:30 Session IV: Non-Conventional Water Resources Management in SWIM-SM: Sustainable Desalination, including the formation of an Expert Group within SWIM**
- Co-Chair: Prof. Michael Scoullos, Team Leader, H2020 Capacity Building MEP*
Co-Chair: Dr. Koussai Quteishat, NCWRM Expert
Rapporteur: Ms. Barbara Tomassini, Communications Expert, SWIM-SM
- 14:00 - Water Scarcity and Droughts Policy in the EU
Presentation: Ms. Andrea Nam, Policy Officer, European Commission, DG Environment Protection of Water Environment (D1)
- Sustainable Desalination in the Mediterranean: SWIM-SM suggested priorities and key activities (30 min)
Presentation: Dr. Hosny Khordagui, Environment Expert, SWIM-SM
- 14:30 Facilitated Discussion (60 min)
- Key questions for the discussion
- 1) Do SWIM-SM priorities on the subject respond to the regional needs and priorities of the Partners Countries?
 - 2) What additional activities should be considered by SWIM-SM?

- 3) With which initiatives and programmes should SWIM-SM synergize?
- 4) Should SWIM-SM organize a Regional Expert Panel on Sustainable Desalination to act as a think-tank for advancing the related agenda in the Mediterranean and assist in SWIM activities? What should the Panel's agenda and synthesis be?

15:30-15:45 **Coffee Break**

15:45-17.15 **Session V: Looking Forward:
Promoting Synergies amongst Regional Initiatives and Programmes**

Panel Discussion

Chair: Ms. Liselotte Isaksson, Head of Sector for Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Transport, EuropeAid F4-Regional Programmes Neighbourhood South, DG Development and Cooperation, European Commission

Rapporteur: Ms. Suzan Taha, Water Expert, SWIM-SM

Members of the Panel:

- Ms. Maria Luiza Silva Mejjas, Executive Secretary and Coordinator, Mediterranean Action Plan / United Nations Environment Programme
- Dr. Fuad Bateh, Senior Advisor, Union for the Mediterranean
- Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherrfane, Chief, Water Resources Section, SDPD, UN Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (UN ESCWA)
- Mr. Nicolas Kotschoubey, Sustainable Med Programme, WorldBank
- Mr. Vasilis Nikitas, Project Coordinator, Mediterranean Hot Spots Investment Programme- Project Preparation and Implementation Facility, Horizon 2020 Initiative
- Ms. Christine Haffner-Sifakis, GEF MedPartnership
- Dr. Manzoor Qadir, Marginal Water Specialist, International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)

Key questions for the Panelists:

- 1) Should we think and act “out of the box” when addressing Non Conventional Water Resources issue in the SWIM Partners Countries and how?
- 2) What is the on-going and planned contribution of the existing regional initiatives and programmes towards that objective?
- 3) What would be the added value of SWIM in that agenda?
- 4) How could SWIM synergize effectively with other regional initiatives and programmes?

17:15-17.30 **Session VI: Concluding Remarks**
Dr. Sherif Arif, Team Leader, SWIM-SM
Mr. Vangelis Constantianos, Technical Director, SWIM-SM

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