



## INFORMATION NOTE FOR THE FIRST CORE DESALINATION GROUP MEETING IN ATHENS

11-12 June 2012

### 1.1 Background

Within the scope of Work Package 3 (WP3) – "Activation of Water Management Plans" Activity 3.1, the EU-funded SWIM-SM Project is performing several tasks with the aim to develop mechanisms and procedures to facilitate regional dialogue, consultations and exchange of experience among the most water intensive sectors such as agriculture, tourism and urban development. This is served within the four SWIM-SM Thematic Pillars including the one on Non-Conventional Water Resources Management.

To this effect, SWIM-SM is carrying out an assessment of Best Available Technologies (BAT) for desalination in rural/local areas. The report aims at providing decision makers in SWIM-SM Partner Countries (PCs) with a close-up look and recommendations on applied and potential BAT for desalination in one of the most arid regions of the world with special emphasis on applications in rural areas.

In order to ensure the inclusion of state-of-the-art knowledge, and following recommendation by the European Commission (EC) and approval by the PCs, an Advisory Core Group on desalination was formed within SWIM-SM. It brings together internationally renowned experts to review and discuss the outcomes of the range of desalination material (assessments, studies, reports, etc) and related activities to be undertaken by SWIM-SM. The Group has a focus on desalination for rural areas, inland and on coast line, with emphasis on the use of using renewable energy. Such advice will assist SWIM-SM to service its PCs on policy orientations, to provide articulated suggestions to EU political and financing institutions on related aspects, and to convey messages to the wider stakeholder community in the region towards more sustainable desalination practices. At the same time, synergy with other regional initiatives and programmes on the subject is pursued, including with a scope to promote replicable cases.

Within such a context, SWIM-SM is planning to hold the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Core Desalination Group (CDG) in Athens from 11 to 12 June 2012. The first day will be devoted to reviewing the outcomes of the Assessment on Desalination Best Available Technologies (BATs) in Rural and Local Areas and will be a closed session of the Group. The second day will aim at establishing a dialogue between the DCG and national desalination experts towards shaping a regional vision and policy options for desalination in South Mediterranean Countries (SMCs).

### 1.2 Objectives & expected results

#### 1.2.1 Objectives

The main objectives of the proposed 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the CDG are

- (a) To review, discuss and validate the findings of SWIM-SM assessment on the subject;
- (b) To discuss the necessity for the formulation of a regional vision and strategic plan for desalination tacking stock of existing knowledge and good practices, including previous assessments by UNEP and UNEP MAP, EC funded



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projects on techno-economic potential on combined solar power desalination plants, work of specialized organizations, etc.;

(c) To establish a dialogue with national desalination experts on desalination BAT applicable to the region;

### **1.2.2 Approach to meet workshop objectives**

In order to achieve the meeting objectives, a highly dynamic, interactive and participatory approach will be adopted, involving

- On the first day (closed Group meeting): a briefing on the main outcomes of the SWIM-SM assessment on the subject and holding long round table discussions.
- On the second day (Workshop): plenary sessions involving national experts designated by the PCs and CDG providing the forum to establish an interactive dialogue on the necessity for the development of a regional vision and strategic plan for desalination that is techno-economically feasible and sustainable as a non-conventional water resource to face augmenting water scarcity in the region.

### **1.2.3 Expected Outcome**

- A validated, complimented and/or amended regional desalination BAT assessment report reflecting the inputs from the CDG;
- A structure and/or blue print for the development/update of detailed Guidelines to support desalination decision making at national and local levels using the course of action provided in the BAT assessment.
- A decision on the necessity for the development of a Regional Vision for desalination that is techno-economically feasible, socially acceptable and environmentally sound.
- A dialogue is established between national desalination experts and CDG on the need and configuration of a Regional Vision and Guidelines on desalination.

## **1.3 Outline of the Agenda**

### **Day 1: Closed sessions for CDG.**

#### **9:00-9:20 Session I: Workshop Opening**

- Welcome Speech (Project Director – SWIM-SM)
- Opening remarks (Gestionnaire – SWIM-SM/ Gestionnaire de programmes, Unité F.4 - Programmes régionaux pour le voisinage méridional, Commission Européenne)
- Orientation remarks (Technical Director – SWIM-SM)
- Introduction and orientation (Team Leader – SWIM-SM)

#### **9:20-11:00 Session II: Reflections and Comments on Desalination BAT:**





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- Presentation on desalination BAT in rural areas. (20 minutes)
- Round table discussion of the findings (80 minutes)

**11:00-11:30 Coffee Break (30 minutes)**

**11:30-13:00 Session III: Modalities for assessing local community needs for desalination:**

- Round table discussions on factors to be considered in deciding on communities need for desalination as the appropriate choice.

**13:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break (60 minutes)**

**14:00-15:30 Session IV: Factors for assessing and deciding on the optimum desalination option:**

- Round table discussions on factors to be considered by decision makers in assessing and selecting the best desalination option.

**15:30-16:00 Coffee Break**

**16:00-18:00 Session V: Guideline to support decision makers in screening and assessing options for desalination**

- Round table discussion on the necessity for the development of detailed guidelines to support desalination decision making.
- Suggested structure and content of the proposed guidelines.

### **Day 2: Open sessions for CDG and national experts:**

**09:00-09:10: Welcoming remarks and briefing by SWIM-SM Project Director (10 Minutes)**

**09:10-11:00 Session VI: Presentation and discussions of 1<sup>st</sup> day outcomes.**

- Power point presentation on the main outcomes of the first day discussions on desalination BAT for rural areas, assessment of communities for desalination and factors to be considered in deciding on desalination options. (20 Minutes)
- Round table discussions on the major outcomes. (90 Minutes)



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**11:00-11:30**      **Coffee Break (30 minutes)**

**11:30-13:00**      **Session VII: Development of guidelines screen and assess the appropriate desalination option.**

- Briefing on the core experts deliberations on the need and structure of guidelines to support desalination decision making. (15 Minutes)
- Round table discussions on suggested structure, scope and content of the guidelines (75 Minutes)

**13:00-14:00**      **Lunch Break**

**14:30-16:00**      **Session VIII: Development of a regional vision & strategic plan for desalination in SMCs**

- Briefing on the outcomes of CDG deliberations on the necessity and scope of a regional desalination vision and strategic plan (15 Minutes)
- Round table discussions on the suggested vision and scope (75 minutes)

**16:00-17:00: Session IX: The way forward, wrap up and closing remarks**

### **1.4**      **Proposed Location and Date**

The workshop is planned to be held in Athens for two days on Monday and Tuesday 11 and 12 of June 2012. Planned arrival in Athens for CDG is 10 June and departure 13 June. Planned arrival and departure for national experts is 11 and 13 June respectively.



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