



22 DECEMBER 2011

CONSULTATION AND SYNERGIES AT THE HEART OF SUSTAINABLE WATER INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT (SWIM) LAUNCHING WORKSHOP

PRESS NOTE

The SWIM Launching Workshop was organized on 7-8 December 2011 in Brussels with the aim to ensure that activities planned under the two Components of the Programme – the SWIM-Support Mechanism and the Demonstration Projects - bring an added value for addressing pressing water challenges in the Mediterranean by filling urgent policy gaps, particularly in an era of reforms in the Region.

Among the most crucial water challenges are the limited access to drinking water - the Mediterranean is home to 60% of the world's 'water poor'¹ and today approximately 20 million people have no access to drinking water, particularly in the rural and peri-urban areas of countries in the South and East of the region - the high exploitation of renewable and non-renewable fresh water resources, serious water pollution and depletion of surface and ground water bodies. Climate change impacts could make the above mentioned challenges even more pressing and render water resources more fragile.

The Workshop involved a set of consultations with National water and environment authorities of six (6) southern Mediterranean countries representing the SWIM Partner Countries, relevant EC Services and Regional stakeholder organizations, institutions and water programmes during which valuable feedback was gathered and possible synergies with on-going regional initiatives were explored.

Activities for the 1st year of SWIM-Support Mechanism's implementation (until September 2012) fall under four main thematic pillars, namely: **1- Non-conventional water resources (including wastewater treatment and reuse and desalination) with emphasis on rural areas; 2- Economic valuation of the costs to remediate water degradation; 3-no-regret actions for the adaptation of the water sector to climate change and; 4- local water governance, with emphasis on the experiences of Water Users Associations**, and imply a broad set of more than 30 interventions in the Mediterranean, including technical assistance, capacity building, transfer of know-how, documentation and dissemination of best practices, communication and awareness raising activities.

Five Demonstration Projects, approved by the EC under the 2nd Component of SWIM, will address the following priorities by adopting a regional or sub-regional approach: **Water Governance, Water and Climate Change, Water Demand Management and Efficiency, including non-conventional water resources.**

In his opening remarks Mr. Marcus Cornaro, the Director of Neighbourhood at DG Development and Cooperation – European Commission, stressed on the urgency of tackling the fragmentation of approaches in water resources management in the Mediterranean Region by adopting an integrated vision, promoting equity and transparency and by reinforcing capacities of relevant stakeholders and know-how transfer. He also mentioned that SWIM – Support Mechanism and Demonstration Projects represent an opportunity to enhance on-going efforts in this direction.

¹ Disposing of less than 1000 m³ of water per inhabitant per year

[For more information:](#)

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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, 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 (ACLIMAS)**
Leader of the Project's Consortium: International Center for Advanced Studies on Mediterranean Agriculture – Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (CIHEAM-MAIB), Italy
- 2- **All Across the Jordan: the Trans-boundary Master Planning of the Lower Jordan River Basin**
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 (IMPROWARE)**
Leader of the Project's Consortium: Italian Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea
- 4- **Sustain Water MED: Network of demonstration activities for sustainable integrated wastewater treatment and reuse in the Mediterranean**
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 (WADIS MAR)**
Leader of the Project's Consortium: University of Sassari, Italy