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**EU-FUNDED REGIONAL PROJECTS JOINTLY BUILD CAPACITY OF MEDITERRANEAN STAKEHOLDERS ON THE INTERLINKAGES
BETWEEN INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT**

PRESS NOTE

“Integrating the integrated”, as Professor Michael Scoullos, Team Leader of the Horizon 2020 Capacity Building/Mediterranean Environment Programme (H2020 CB/MEP) put it, was the essence of a training on the **interlinkages between Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)**. It was jointly organized by the EU funded regional projects Sustainable Water Integrated Management-Support Mechanism (SWIM-SM) and H2020 CB/MEP in Algeria from the 30th of October to the 1st of November 2012.

24 participants from **Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia** attended the workshop. They represented ministries dealing with water, environment, agriculture, interior issues, land use planning, integrated coastal zone management, etc. Research centers, basin agencies, and the Algerian National Federation for the Protection of the Environment (an NGO) were also amongst the trainees.

As integration in both ICZM and IWRM is taking place across similar systems (same geographical areas, governance issues, sectors, stakeholders, etc.) the training focused on how to enhance the operational linkages between these two management modalities and how to overcome more effectively the ‘silo’ effect, by promoting a multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral, multi-level and inter-generational approach.

The experts brought academic and practical knowledge to those attending the workshop. Successful integrated planning cases from Lake Bizerte in Tunisia, the Buna/Bojana river in Montenegro and Albania and Rhodes Island in Greece, demonstrated to the participants that integrated management of resources involving the key stakeholders from the design phase to the decision making process is feasible and ensures the maximum success possible. The Algerian experience in ICZM and IWRM was also presented. An experts round table discussion, bringing all the integration concepts together under the Integrated Management Framework, closed the first day.

On the second day participants practiced the principles of integrated planning presented on day one through an exercise session consisting of work on three main topics related to integrated management namely: 1. Building the vision; 2. Governance; and 3. Tools and methodologies.

Theory and exercise were followed by a field visit to a water distribution pump station in the commune of Mahlema and a wastewater treatment station in Beni Messous in order to expose participants to the actual tools that can be used in IWRM and ICZM. The managers and staff of both stations presented their facilities in the context of water allocation for different uses, sourcing and protection of the coast from pollution and reduction of fresh water consumption with the treatment and reuse of wastewater in agriculture and landscape irrigation, firefighting in forests, street washing and leisure.

As Ms. Zeina Majdalani from the Prime Minister's Office in Lebanon put it: "The 3-day workshop not only included an informative and detailed overview of the concepts and frameworks relating to Integrated water resources and coastal zone management, but it also provided practical and technical information. It is the first workshop I attend that covered so much valuable information over such a short period of time."

The workshop evaluation forms filled by the participants on the last day show high satisfaction from the workshop and requests for additional capacity development on the same topic.

For more information:

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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*¹ 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

* In May 2011, the European Union decided to suspend all cooperation with Syrian authorities

- 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-All Across the Jordan: 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-IMPWARE)

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