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ADVANCING INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (IWRM) APPROACHES IN SWIM-SM COUNTRIES

PRESS NOTE

A Regional Workshop on Advancing IWRM in SWIM-SM Countries, with a focus on National IWRM Strategies and Plans, has been organised in Athens on 13-14 June 2012 in the framework of the EU funded Project “Sustainable Water Integrated Management – Support Mechanism (SWIM-SM)”.

The Regional Workshop is inscribed in the framework of SWIM-SM activities directed to improve Water Governance and Mainstreaming in the SWIM Partner Countries (PCs).

27 participants from 7 SWIM PCs from water and environment sectors, Regional organisations, along with two experts of international calibre, participated in the Regional Workshop and:

(a) Evaluated and validated the findings of the regional review of national water plans and/or strategies realised in the framework of SWIM-SM activities with the view of suggesting a series of policy options for further actions towards advancing with the implementation of IWRM approaches and mainstreaming water resources management in other sectors;

(b) Discussed the reported degree of success and achievements in PCs with regard to the planning and implementation of IWRM principles, such as institutional and legislative reforms, governance frameworks including the level of stakeholder participation, cross-sectoral/horizontal coordination and a series of management instruments including financing and infrastructure development, among others;

(c) Deliberated on the main constraints, gaps, shortcomings and challenges facing proper implementation of IWRM principles and the most applicable measures to bridge the gaps and identify measures to overcome the challenges;

(d) Examined available and upcoming opportunities, agreed on a series of measures and plausible policy options and proposed further measures to expedite implementation of IWRM principles with a main focus on advancing with the implementation of IWRM approaches and mainstreaming water considerations in other sectors. The key areas for priority action, as identified by the participants, included institutional capacity building, cross-sectoral coordination, stakeholder participation and decentralisation.

More importantly, the workshop facilitated a structured dialogue, based on the analytical work of the regional review and country analyses on the topic, and identified politically plausible, socially acceptable and financially implementable policy options and recommendations for advancing the preparation, implementation and monitoring of IWRM plans and/or strategies with replicability potential in the PCs and the Mediterranean at large.

For more informations:

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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