



REPORT ON SWIM-SM

**TRAINING OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON THE PREPARATION OF WATER
PLANS IN ATHENS**

10-11 September 2012

Athens, Greece

(WP2 Activity 2.2.1)



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List of Abbreviations & Acronyms

EC	European Commission
H2020 CB/MEP	Horizon 2020 Capacity Building/Mediterranean Environment Programme
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
PCs	Partner Countries
SWIM-SM	Sustainable Water Integrated Management – Support Mechanism (Project funded by the EC)
WP	Work Package



1 Background, Objectives

INTRODUCTION

The Sustainable Water Integrated Management – Support Mechanism (SWIM-SM) is an EC-funded Regional Technical Support Project that includes the following Partner Countries (PCs): Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the occupied Palestinian territory, Libya, Syria and Tunisia. The project aims to promote actively the extensive dissemination of sustainable water management policies and practices in the region given the context of increasing water scarcity, combined pressure on water resources from a wide range of users and desertification processes, in connection with climate change.

Within the scope of Work Package 2 (WP2) – "Capacity building activities" Activity 2.2.1 and in connection to Work Package 1 (WP1) – "Water governance and Mainstreaming", SWIM-SM Project is performing several tasks with the aim of developing mechanisms and building capacity of SWIM-PCs on sustainable water resources management policies and practices.

In this connection, SWIM-SM has convened a training workshop entitled "Training of Government Officials on the Preparation of Water Plans/Strategies" in Athens, Greece on the 10 and 11 of September 2012.

OBJECTIVES

The overarching objective of the workshop is to expand the capacity of water and environment stakeholders in PCs in developing IWRM plans and strategies. The specific objective of the training is to introduce mainstreaming and participation as basic measures in planning and implementation of IWRM. This activity was carried out in Athens in synergy with H2020 CB-MEP. Achieving the workshop's objectives was realised through informing and training government water officials and stakeholders from PCs on the following:

- 1- Best practices and success stories from countries of the region with emphasis on reasons behind success and achievement of target objectives,
- 2- Main constraints and challenges hindering proper planning and failure in implementing sustainable water resources management within IWRM context,
- 3- Common gaps encountered in PCs and the appropriate measures to bridge them,
- 4- Available opportunities and means to improve these prospects for the advancement of water resources planning and management,

2 Methodology and Approach

The participants to this workshop were middle level national water and/or environment managers in addition to middle level officials from relevant sectors such as agriculture, water and wastewater sectors. A highly dynamic, interactive, facilitated and participatory approach was adopted, including the following:

- Power point presentations by the SWIM-SM Key Experts and one Non-Key Expert.
- Presentations and interventions from invited speakers, including SWIM-SM consortium members, to bring regional experience into perspective.



- Interactive and facilitated discussions during the sessions on the participants' national experience in achieving objectives, meeting challenges, resolving constraints, making use of available opportunities and suggested policies for effective planning and implementation of IWRM.
- Working groups and brief interventions from participants to identify techno-economically and socially sensitive policy options to ensure mainstreaming of water management in non-water sectors.

Copies of the presentations and supporting documents were distributed to participants on memory sticks.

3 Topics addressed during the course

The workshop covered the different topics related to IWRM planning as follows:

Session I: IWRM planning & current status in SWIM PCs

In this session, the main concepts behind IWRM were presented through the intervention of Prof. Michael Scoullou on the philosophy of integration with emphasis on water governance as the foundation of IWRM planning and implementation. The planning cycle of IWRM was presented by Mrs. Suzan Taha taking the participants through the different steps required to plan for IWRM. Finally an overview of the status of IWRM planning in the PCs was presented by Ms. Anthi Brouma. Participants expressed interest in the topic and discussions were focused on the planning steps for IWRM. Reactions focused on levels of planning in terms of strategy and plan and on the geographical scope of the plan.

Session II: Action Plans & ways to overcome challenges and constraints in planning and implementing IWRM Strategies

Action Planning for IWRM was the main focus of this session. Mrs. Taha presented steps for the formulation of an IWRM plan including capacity requirements. Dr. Khordagui took the participants through the different barriers and challenges that will be encountered in the planning and implementation processes. Ms. Brouma closed the session with ways to overcome the barriers and challenges presented previously.

Reactions stressed on the need to develop examples of use to the countries and mechanisms to deal with the time element of planning, on the gap in legislation, enforcement of water laws and the need to decouple price and quality of water.

Session III: Water Governance for better IWRM Planning and Implementation

The enabling environment for the success of IWRM was presented in this session. Topics covered were Integrity in the water sector in a changing political landscape by Mr. Charbel Rizk, stakeholder participation by Mr. Essam Nada and the session was closed by the presentation of Mr. Lotfi Moncef of the new Tunisian Water Code. Questions were raised on the issue of stakeholder participation and details on the Tunisian Water Code.

Comments were expressed on the need to organize public participation through possibly local council and water experts and a strong involvement of people in projects to ensure acceptance and ownership.

Session IV: The Economics of IWRM

Moved to the practical issues related to IWRM such as financing. Mr. Pietersen of DHV talked about PPPs in IWRM and ways to move forward on such partnerships.

Session IV closed the first day



Session V: Management Instruments for operationalizing IWRM approaches

Tools for proper management of IWRM were presented in this session. Indicators and monitoring were presented by Dr. Khordagui, followed by Mr. Schonbauer on information in planning and implementation of IWRM plans. Finally, Mr. Rizk who presented innovation in wastewater treatment and reuse closed the session.

Questions were raised on the purpose of the indicators as being a reference for the existence of IWRM plans or the level of application of IWRM as a concept on the meaning of a score for an indicator and its significance. Suggestions were made on the need for indicators to have targets and quantified measures to monitor progress. The need to have standardized indicators was highly stressed consequently benchmarking becomes easier.

Session VI: Management approaches towards IWRM

Moving to real life examples Ms. Brouma presented a case study from the Drin Basin, followed by Mrs. Taha on Water Users Associations and Mr. Rizk on the linkages between water and environment. The participants followed through by sharing their national approaches for linking water and environment.

Session VII: Working Groups – National practices undertaken to plan and implement IWRM

The participants from each country were asked to group themselves per country and debate on mainstreaming water issues in their country through 3 principle questions and then present it in plenary session to the rest of the participants.

1. Examples of mainstreaming
2. What is the perception of others
3. Recommendation for improved mainstreaming

The presentations of participants focused on:

Question 1

Several coordination mechanisms exist either through such as councils that represent different ministries and agencies or through bilateral cooperation among different ministries based on the sectors/themes being discussed.

Question 2

The perception of other ministries varied among countries from highly appreciated, with the creation of coordination bodies, to not well appreciated or recognised as a priority.

Question 3 – recommendations

The following recommendations for mainstreaming were voiced by the participants:

- Improve access to information,
- Promote a scientific approach to planning with and IWRM approach,
- Promote water rights
- Improve compliance and enforcement of water laws
- Improve cross-sectorial planning and coordination platforms,
- Improve financial support,



- Create national councils and basin committees where it does not exist
- Improve communication among sectors

In the closing session participants were thanked for their presence and valuable contribution.

The workshop covered IWRM planning in a holistic manner. It included theory backed-up by practice

4 Workshop Evaluation

RESULTS FROM EVALUATION FORMS

Organizational/Administrative	Scores ¹					Total responses (out of 25 participants)	Average
	1	2	3	4	5		
Good Handling of Invitations, Visa Support, Information Sharing and Smoothing Obstacles	0	0	0	7	18	25	4.72
Smooth flow of programme, efficient handling of emerging needs and attentiveness to participants concerns	0	0	0	13	12	25	4.48
Efficient Logistics: Accommodation, Transportation, Tools and Equipment	0	0	2	8	14	25	4.40
Sub-Total	0	0	5	32	49		4.53
Planning for the Workshop							
Efficient and Effective Communication of Objectives, & Expectations from Participants	0	0	1	16	8	25	4.28

¹ **Scale:**

1 = "Strongly disagree," or the lowest, most negative impression

3 = "Neither agree nor disagree," or an adequate impression

5 = "strongly agree," or the highest, most positive impression



Efficient and Effective Follow-up of Preparations and Progress towards the Event	0	0	0	11	13	24	4.54
Clarity, Coverage and sufficiency of concepts, Objectives, anticipated outputs and outcomes	0	0	4	10	8	22	4.18
Procedural issues: Selection and Design of Methodology, Programme/Daily Agenda and Work Rules	0	0	4	11	10	25	4.24
Presentations Correspond and contribute to the Planned Objectives and Conducive to Enhanced shared Understanding and participation of Relevant Issues	0	0	5	12	8	25	4.12
Sub-Total	0	0	14	60	47		4.27
Executing the Workshop:							
Efficient and Effective Performance and Interaction by Participants	0	0	3	12	10	25	4.28
Efficient and Effective Facilitation	0	0	5	7	13	25	4.32
Efficient and Effective Cooperation and Team Spirit	0	0	2	9	14	25	4.48
Acceptable Level of Achievement of Planned Objectives	0	0	2	14	9	25	4.28
Positive Overall Impression On the Personal Level of Participants	0	0	1	7	10	18	4.50
Sub-Total	0	0	13	49	56		4.37

RECOMMENDATIONS OF TRAINEES

Liked

- Organization
- Nice and experienced lecturers
- Objective of the workshop
- Practical presentations
- IWRM and Indicators



Needs improvement

- Workshop too short and intensive (requested several times)
- Need for practical case studies (requested several times)
- Ensure transport from airport of participants (requested several times)
- Another workshop to follow with deeper discussions of IWRM (requested several times)
- Deepen the concepts especially with regard to indicators (requested several times)
- More interaction between participants (requested several times)
- Free day
- Halal food

5 Workshop agenda

DAY 1	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:30	Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening remarks – Mr. Stavros Damianides, <i>Project Director, SWIM-SM</i> - Opening remarks – Ms. Anastasia Roniotes, <i>Horizon 2020 Capacity Building/Mediterranean Environment Programme (CB/MEP)</i> - Introductory remarks – Mr. Vangelis Constantianos, <i>Technical Director, SWIM-SM</i> - Orientation and purpose of the training – Dr. Hosny Khordagui, <i>Team Leader, SWIM-SM</i>
09:30-11:30	Session I: IWRM planning & current status in SWIM PCs \
	The philosophy of integration – IWRM concepts and principles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prof. Michael Scoullou, <i>Team Leader, H2020 CB MEP</i> (35 minutes – presentation through video projection)
	The Planning Cycle of an IWRM Strategy/Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Suzan Taha, <i>Water Expert, SWIM-SM</i> (20 minutes + 10 minutes discussions)
	Status of water resources planning and management in SWIM countries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Anthi Brouma, <i>Non-Key-Expert, SWIM-SM</i> (20 minutes + 10 minutes discussions)
	Facilitated discussion (30 minutes)
11:30-12:00	Coffee Break
12:00-13:30	Session II: Action Plans & ways to overcome challenges and constraints in planning and implementing IWRM Strategies
	Formulation of plans of action for IWRM Strategies and capacity needed for implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Suzan Taha, <i>Water Expert, SWIM-SM</i> (20 minutes + 10 minutes discussions)
	Main constraints and challenges in planning and implementing IWRM in SWIM PCs



	- Dr. Hosny Khordagui, <i>Team Leader, SWIM-SM</i> (20 minutes + 10 minutes discussions)
	Measures and policies to bridge the gaps and enhance implementation of water plans in SWIM PCs - Ms. Anthi Brouma, <i>Non-Key-Expert, SWIM-SM</i> (20 minutes + 10 minutes discussions)
13:30-14:30	Lunch
14:30-16:00	Session III: Water Governance for better IWRM Planning and Implementation
	Transparency, accountability and rule of law in IWRM: integrity in the water sector - Mr. Charbel Rizk, <i>Environment Expert, SWIM-SM</i> (20 minutes)
	Stakeholder participation in planning and implementation IWRM - <i>Mr Essam Nada, RAED</i> (consortium partner) (20 minutes)
	The new Water Code in Tunisia - Mr Mohamed Lotfi Nacef, Ministry of Agriculture, Tunisia (consortium partner) (20 minutes)
	Discussion (30 minutes)
16:00-16:30	Coffee Break
16:30-17:15	Session IV: The Economics of IWRM
	Financing IWRM and creating the enabling environment for public private partnerships - Mr Winfried Pietersen, DHV (consortium partner) (25 minutes + 10 minutes discussions)
	Closing remarks (10 minutes)



DAY 2	
09:00-11:00	Session V: Management Instruments for operationalising IWRM approaches
	The use of indicators and monitoring mechanisms in IWRM - Dr. Hosny Khordagui, <i>Team Leader, SWIM-SM</i> (20 minutes + 10 minutes discussions)
	Information for IWRM planning and implementation - Mr Arnulf Schonbauer, <i>Environment Agency, Austria</i> (consortium partner) (20 minutes + 10 minutes discussions)
	Utilising Innovation: best available technologies for non-conventional water resources - Mr. Charbel Rizk, <i>Environment Expert, SWIM-SM</i> (20 minutes + 10 minutes discussions)
	Discussion (30 minutes)
11:00-11:30	Coffee Break
11:30-13:30	Session VI: Management approaches towards IWRM
	Promoting integrated management: the Drin River case - Ms. Anthi Brouma, <i>GWP-Med</i> (20 minutes + 10 minutes discussion)
	Managing water at the lowest level (subsidiarity principle): the role of Water Users Associations - Ms. Suzan Taha, <i>Water Expert, SWIM-SM</i> (20 minutes + 10 minutes discussions)
	Environmental considerations in IWRM - Mr. Charbel Rizk, <i>Environment Expert, SWIM-SM</i> (20 minutes + 10 minutes discussions)
	Discussion (30 minutes)
13:30-14:30	Lunch
14:30-16:00	Session VII: Working Groups – National practices undertaken to plan and implement IWRM
	<p>The participants will be divided into three working groups to discuss national practices undertaken to plan and implement IWRM (45 minutes):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">i. Institutional and legislative reforms undertaken in their countries to implement IWRM.ii. National policies for mainstreaming water in other sectors.iii. Integrating environment in IWRM. <p>Plenary session to discuss outcomes of the three working groups with interactive discussions (45 minutes)</p> <p>Coffee to be served inside the room</p>
16:00-17:00	Closing Session: Lessons learnt and the way forward



	<p>Identify the key lessons learnt as well as the capacity building needs towards IWRM implementation</p> <p>Facilitated discussion by Dr. Hosny Khordagui, <i>Team Leader, SWIM-SM</i> (50 minutes)</p>
	<p>Wrap up and closing of the training (10 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr. Vangelis Constantianos, <i>Technical Director, SWIM-SM</i>- Dr. Hosny Khordagui, <i>Team Leader, SWIM-SM</i>



6 List of Participants

	NAME	SURNAME	POSITION	DEPARTMENT	ORGANISATION	E-MAIL ADDRESS	COUNTRY
Mr.	Ahmed	ASRI	Ingénieur d'Etat en Hydraulique	Direction des Etudes et des Amenagements Hydrauliques	Ministère des Ressources en Eau Algérie	hydro_vert@yahoo.fr	Algeria
Mr.	Abdelkrim	KACEMI	Director des Ressources en Eau - Illizi		M.R.E.	dhwilizi@yahoo.jo	Algeria
Mr.	Mourad	BOUKROUNA	Chef de Département		Agence de Bassin Hydrographique Algérois-Hodna-Soummam (ABH-AHS)	moural26@yahoo.com	Algeria
Mr.	Amre	ELKADY	Deputy Director of the National Water Resources Plan Project	Planning Sector	Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigatiion	amreelkady1969@yahoo.com aekady@nwrpeg.org	Egypt
Dr.	Nader	EL-MASRI	Senior Water Resources Planner	National Water Resources Plan Project	Planning Sector - Ministry of Water Resources and	Nader_mwri@yahoo.com	Egypt



Sustainable Water Integrated Management (SWIM) - Support Mechanism

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NAME	SURNAME	POSITION	DEPARTMENT	ORGANISATION	E-MAIL ADDRESS	COUNTRY	
				Irrigation and Member of Arab Water Council			
Mrs	Ekhlas	GAMAL EL DIN	Head of the Central Dept. for Water Quality	Environmental Quality Sector	Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA)	ekhlassg@hotmail.com	Egypt
Mr.	Essam	NADA	Executive Director		Arab Network for Environment and Development "RAED"	e.nada@aoye.org ; info@raednetwork.org	Egypt
Mr.	Efim	ABRAMZON	ENGINEER	MUNICIPAL WATER&WASTEWATE R ADMINISTRATION	WATER AUTHORITY	yafimab@water.gov.il	ISRAEL
Mrs.	Rivka	ADI	Regional Planner	PLANNING DIVISION	WATER AUTHORITY	Rivkaa@WATER.gov.il	ISRAEL
Dr.	Ilan	ZADIKOV	Projects Manager	Natural Resources	Ministry of Environment Protection State of Israel	ilanz@environment.gov.il tahelb@water.gov.il	ISRAEL



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	NAME	SURNAME	POSITION	DEPARTMENT	ORGANISATION	E-MAIL ADDRESS	COUNTRY
Mrs.	Nisreen	HADDADIN	Director	Water Demand Management Unit	Ministry of Water and Irrigatiion	Nisreen_haddadin@mwi.gov.jo Nisreen_haddin@yahoo.com	JORDAN
Mr.	Ali	HAYAJNEH	Head Division of National Water and Irrigation	National Water Master Plan Directorate	Ministry of Water and Irrigatiion	Hayajneh78@gmail.com	JORDAN
Mrs	Mona	FAKIH	Director of Water	General Directorate of Hydraulic and Electric Resources	Ministry of Energy and Water	monafakih@hotmail.com	Lebanon
Mr.	Bassam	FARHAT	Infrastructure and Solid Waster Sector Manager	Project Manager	Council for Development & Reconstruction - Beirut	bassamf@cdr.gov.lb ; bassamfarhat@hotmail.com	Lebanon
Mr.	Hafid	EL OUALJA	Chef de Service	ENVIRONNEMENT	Ministère de l'Énergie, des Mines, de l'Eau et de l'Environnement	h.oualja@gmail.com	MORROCO
Mr.	Khayri	DAMIDI	Director	Operation & Maintenance	West Bank Water Department - Palestinian Water	Khayri_2022@yahoo.com	Palestine



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NAME	SURNAME	POSITION	DEPARTMENT	ORGANISATION	E-MAIL ADDRESS	COUNTRY	
				Authority			
Mrs.	Hadil	FAIDY	Head of Section of Water Projects Planning	Strategic Planning Directorate	Palestinian Water Authority (PWA)	hadeel_faidi80@yahoo.com	Palestine
Eng.	Mohammedimad	MASRI	Manager	Water Supply and Sanitation Dept	Nablus Municipality	efmasri@nablus.org	Palestine
Mr.	Hani	SHRAYEDEH	Water Resources Directorate Engineer	Water Resources Development Directorate	Palestinian Water Authority (PWA)	h.shraideh@hotmail.com	Palestine
Mr.	Winfried	PIETERSEN	Project Director	Rivers, Deltas and Coasts	Royal HaskoningDHV (formerly DHV)	Winfried.pietersen@rhdhv.com	THE NETHERLANDS
Mr	Mohamed Lotfi	NACEF	Directeur	Bureau de l'Inventaire et des Ressources en Eau	Ministère de l'Agriculture	nacefml1@yahoo.fr	TUNISIA
Mr	Arnulf	SCHÖNBAUER	Water Expert	Groundwater	Umweltbundesamt GmbH	arnulf.schoenbauer@umweltbundesamt.at	Austria



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	NAME	SURNAME	POSITION	DEPARTMENT	ORGANISATION	E-MAIL ADDRESS	COUNTRY
Mme	Awatef	LARBI EPOUSE MESSAI	Chef de service eau et assainissement	Direcion Générale de l'Environnement et la Qualité de la Vie	Ministère de l'Environnement	awatef.messai@yahoo.fr	TUNISIA
Ms	Suzan	TAHA	Water expert		SWIM-SM	s.taha@swim-sm.eu	
Mr	Ahmed	MOAWAD	The head of technical support and planning sector .	Technical support and planning sector	The Holding company for water and wastewater	ahmed.moawad@hcww.com	Egypt
Mr	Imed	ELMISSAOUI	Chef de services	Bureau de Planification et des Equilibres Hydrauliques	Ministère de l'Agriculture	elmissaouiimed@gmail.com	TUNISIA
Mr	Charbel	RIZK	Environment Expert		SWIM-SM	c.rizk@swim-sm.eu	Lebanon
Prf	Hosny	KHORDAGUI	Team Leader		SWIM-SM	h.khordagui@swim-sm.eu	
Mrs	Najet	BEN TEKAYA EP GHARBI			Ministère de l'Agriculture	najet_gharbi@yahoo.fr	TUNISIA



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	NAME	SURNAME	POSITION	DEPARTMENT	ORGANISATION	E-MAIL ADDRESS	COUNTRY
Mr	MOHAMED LAZHAR	ELECHI	Sous Directeur	Direction Générale des Etudes et du Développement Agricole	Mnistère de l'Agriculture ; Tunisie	lazharechi@yahoo.fr	TUNISIA
Dr	Mahmoud	SAIED	Deputy director of Soils, Water and environment	Soil improvement and conservation	Soils, Water and environment Res.Inst.	mahmoudsaied55@yahoo.com	Egypt