



JANUARY 2015

## **SUSTAINABLE WATER INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT IN THE SOUTH MEDITERRANEAN: SWIM PROGRAMME PRAISED AS VALUABLE PLATFORM FOR REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON WATER POLICIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN – EU CONFIRMS ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR A SECOND PHASE OF THE SWIM PROGRAMME**

### **PRESS NOTE**

Thirteen (13) representatives of the Ministries in charge for Water and Environment of seven (7) South Mediterranean Countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia) recently gathered in Barcelona – Spain (15-16 December 2014) on the occasion of the **4<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting of the EU-funded project Sustainable Water Integrated Management – Support Mechanism (SWIM-SM)** to review the advancements of the project and discuss and formulate recommendations for the way ahead. Observers from Regional organizations, institutions and academia active in the Region also participated in the event.

Participants expressed their appreciation for a number of activities carried out in 2014, and in particular for the role played by SWIM-SM in fostering peer-to-peer exchanges among water practitioners in the Mediterranean region.

The European Union officially announced that € 15 million were earmarked in 2014 to finance a SWIM II programme, due to start by the end of 2015. The focus will remain on promoting sustainable water management practices in the same nine Southern Mediterranean countries.

SWIM countries asked to have **more actions on the ground and at the national level**. This approach has been reflected in the 2015 project's Work Plan, with an increased focus on the national dimension, particularly through:

- Assistance in drafting national regulations for controlling groundwater artificial recharge;
- Support in establishing national water / aquatic environment prosecutors and magistrates systems;
- Help in anchoring regional monitoring and evaluation system for participatory irrigation Management (PIM) developed by SWIM-SM in the two pilot countries (Jordan and Tunisia)

**Regional activities responding to countries priority needs** will also be carried out until the end of SWIM-SM Phase I in December 2015 as follows:

- study tours on wastewater management and natural treatment in rural areas
- training on evaluating and structuring Public-Private-Partnerships (PPPs) in the Water Sector
- extracting lessons learnt from best practices related to sustainable integrated water management that are in the process of being collected
- developing Indicators for monitoring and evaluation of IWRM in SWIM-SM region.

SWIM Demonstration Projects representatives had also the opportunity to present their current achievements and the planned work in 2015. Moreover, they contributed actively to the discussions, including about Phase II, since new Demonstration activities will be considered for granting along with a Support Mechanism component.

To download the documents of the meeting [click here](#)

To see the sketches (graphic recording) related to the discussions click here

### 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\*<sup>1</sup> 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

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

## **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 NGO Trans-boundary Master Planning of the Lower Jordan River Basin**  
Leader of the Project's Consortium: Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME)
- 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: Desertification Research Group (Centro Interdipartimentale di Ateneo) University of Sassari, Italy