

**MARRAKECH 2016**  
COP22 | CMPT2 | CMAL  
OF GLOBAL CLIMATE COOPERATION

**SWIM and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism Project**  
**Official COP22 Side Event**

**“Enhancing the resilience of the Mediterranean region to  
climate variability and change through SWIM-H2020 SM.”**

**Wednesday 9 November 2016, 11.00-12.30,**  
**Room Oum Errabia,**  
**Bab Ighli – Green Zone, Marrakech.**

Working for a Sustainable Mediterranean, Caring for our Future.

This Project is funded by the European Union 

**The Side Event seeks to inform about the specific ways in which SWIM-H2020 SM’s 100 activities scheduled for the coming 2.5 years will contribute by enhancing the capacity of countries and the Mediterranean region as a whole, to adapt to climate change.**

**Join us to explore how we can obtain synergies and multiplication of benefits in an optimum way. SWIM-H2020 SM offers its communication tools including 23 annual meetings in all 8 Partner Countries.**

**Kindly confirm participation at: [eventsenvironment@swim-h2020.eu](mailto:eventsenvironment@swim-h2020.eu)**

## The Context

According to all climate models and predictions, the Mediterranean is a major climate change “hotspot” and serious negative impacts are expected: from sea level rise, reduced rainfalls and reduction of water availability to more frequent and serious droughts, faster loss of biodiversity (accompanied also by greater intrusion of alien species into the Mediterranean Sea) and many more phenomena and consequences that constitute an extremely complex cluster of interlinked problems. Many of them, such as the uncontrolled development, the rapid population growth in the Southern and Eastern coasts, the increasing tourism, the erosion of biodiversity and the overall environmental pollution were known in the region for many years. Furthermore, the recent economic, social and political crises, among which also the high refugee flows, are major new challenges, which make the proper solution of these problems, even more difficult.

Despite major inherent difficulties, at many levels, resulting from a variety of root causes (e.g. inflexible and/or outdated governance approaches, lack of transparency, fragmentation, lack of appropriate institutions and tools), the Mediterranean Countries and the EU, in close cooperation with International bodies, of the region, such as the UfM and UNEP-MAP/Barcelona Convention, as well as bilateral cooperation initiatives and a series of important programmes carried out by NGOs, have tried, and to a considerable degree succeeded, to address many of the challenges mentioned above.

Renewed efforts towards this direction are made within the SWIM-H2020 SM Project (Sustainable Water Integrated Management and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism 2016-2019) which builds on two successful projects (Horizon 2020 Mediterranean Environment Programme and SWIM I). This EU-funded project aims to contribute to the sustainable use of scarce water resources and properly manage municipal waste, industrial emissions and waste water, and therefore enhance, directly and indirectly, resilience to climate variability and change in the entire region with emphasis on the countries of North Africa and the Middle East (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, (Libya), Morocco, Palestine, [Syria] and Tunisia).

The side event seeks to inform about the specific ways in which its more than 100 activities scheduled for the coming 2.5 years will contribute by enhancing the capacity of countries, and the region as a whole, to adapt to climate change e.g. by reducing its dependence on water availability through promotion of non-conventional water resources, by mainstreaming policies, by informing, educating and involving citizens in decision making and campaigns to reduce energy and water demand, by promoting sustainable modes of production, recycling of waste and management practices that significantly reduce the pressures on natural resources and by employing preventive drought management schemes.

Indicative results of interventions at country level and relevant Demonstration Projects of the first phase, of SWIM, will also be presented.

All the above are concrete contributions leading to enhanced water-energy-food and ecosystem security, which is synonymous to the enhancement of the resilience of the region to climate change.

Furthermore, the side event will demonstrate the “facilitating” potential of the project in creating and enhancing synergies with relevant regional programmes and organisations with important projects, augmenting in this way the critical mass of related activities and multiplying the positive impact in increasing resilience.

## Agenda

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The Meeting will be facilitated by Prof. Michael Scoullos, Team Leader of SWIM-Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism.

- **Welcome remarks (10 min)**

Mr. Mohammed Benyahia, Moroccan Horizon 2020 Focal Point  
Mr. Omar Benjelloun, Ministère Délégué chargé de l'Eau  
Mr. Raul De Luzenberger, European Union Delegation to Morocco  
European Commission, Directorate-General for Climate Action, Adaptation Unit

- **Brief introduction to the SWIM-Horizon2020 SM (2016-2019), its overall relevance to climate change and its contribution to enhancing the region's resilience to climate change considering the 'water-energy food-ecosystem nexus' approach (10 min)**

Prof. Michael Scoullos, Team Leader SWIM and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism

- **Indicative SWIM-Horizon2020 SM activities related to different aspects of adaptation to Climate Change scheduled for 2016-2019 (8 min)**

Dr. Emad Adly, Stakeholder Engagement expert SWIM and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism

- **Country experiences (20 min)**

- **Jordan:** Building resilience to water scarcity in agriculture – a SWIM I Demo project ACLIMAS

Dr. Yahya Shakhathreh

- **Lebanon:** Building resilience to water scarcity

Dr. Fadi Comair, Water Director

- **Tunisia:** The case of Lake Bizerte

Ms. Amel Akermi, Head of the Lake Bizerte UGPO

- **Enhancing synergies (12 min)**

- Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat

- Global Water Partnership

- **Discussion (25 min)** on how best we can obtain synergies and multiplication of benefits.

SWIM-H2020 SM offers its communication tools including 23 annual meetings in all 8 Partner Countries.

- **Conclusion of the meeting (5 min)**

## Organiser

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### **Sustainable Water Integrated Management and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism (SWIM-H2020 SM)**

A Project funded by the European Union.

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