



13 JANUARY 2015

## CONSOLIDATION AND INSTITUTIONALISATION OF A SYSTEM SET UP TO ENHANCE PARTICIPATORY IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT IN THE SOUTH MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES AMONG THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF A RECENT EU-FUNDED REGIONAL CONFERENCE

### PRESS NOTE

Increasing visibility efforts and sustaining the system set up by the **EU-funded project Sustainable Water Integrated Management-Support Mechanism (SWIM-SM)** to enhance Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) and Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT) processes were among the key recommendations formulated during a **Regional Conference organized by the project on 17 & 18 November 2014 in Athens, Greece.**

In this framework, a set of interventions and communication and dissemination tools were identified to enhance the “institutionalisation” of the system and its long-term sustainability after the end of SWIM-SM in December 2015. Lessons learnt from the development and application of the regional monitoring and evaluation (MONEVA) system put in place were also presented and discussed.

Participants in the event included **29 representatives** from the South Mediterranean institutions dealing with or distributing irrigation water to water users associations (WUAs), WUAs, donors involved in WUAs’ establishment and support, regional and local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working in the field in the region, donors-assisted projects, resource persons with relevant experience in the region and finally the representatives of the pilot areas in Tunisia and Jordan where the M&E system was pilot tested and who presented selected results.

The **innovative character of MONEVA**, which comprises both monitoring and evaluation components of the PIM/IMT programs compared to the preceding efforts which were focused mainly on monitoring, and were confined to the performance of the WUAs rather than the entire process, was acknowledged.

Moreover, some of the important system values were clearly highlighted by the people responsible for pilot applications in Jordan and Tunisia, and particularly:

- The flexibility of the system to adapt to the specific conditions of a given country
- Its support in identifying the main constraints that limit the performance of the respective organizations at the national, regional and local levels and actions needed to improve it and;
- Its contribution in promoting a better understanding – and therefore coordination - between the irrigation agencies and the WUAs.

Based on recommendations received activities by SWIM-SM in 2015 shall aim at implementing some of the enabling actions towards the objective of overall consolidating the work done and enhancing the replication potential of the system as well as at intensifying interventions in the pilot countries.

To download the materials of the Regional Conference [click here](#)

### For more information:

e-mail : [info@swim-sm.eu](mailto:info@swim-sm.eu)

SWIM website: [www.swim-sm.eu](http://www.swim-sm.eu)

### 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

---

\* 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-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: Desertification Research Group (Centro Interdipartimentale di Ateneo) University of Sassari, Italy