



OCTOBER 2014

## EU-FUNDED PROJECT SUPPORTS THE ENFORCEMENT OF WATER LAWS IN THE SOUTH MEDITERRANEAN

### PRESS NOTE

How to achieve a **better compliance with water laws** in the South Mediterranean countries was at the focus of a 2 days policy dialogue in Athens, Greece on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2014.

Organized in the framework of the EU-funded Sustainable Water Integrated Management – Support Mechanism (SWIM-SM), the activity brought together **31 experts and NGOs from 7 South Mediterranean countries**, who reviewed the current enforcement issues and gaps their countries experience, deliberated possible policy options, identified measures to improve conformity including capacity needs, and suggested guidelines for countries of the region towards better application of rule of law in the water sector.

Insufficient policies, inadequate legislative and regulatory frameworks, ill prepared judiciary systems, limited technical and institutional capacities and lack of appropriate modalities and operating systems were among the main constraints for compliance and enforcement identified in the Region.

Participants praised the meeting for its structure and high level presentations, its dynamic discussions and very vibrant participation. Facilitation and interventions by the experts were commended and lessons learnt were deemed useful.

**SWIM-SM activities touching upon legislation** include the following:

- [Regional Review of National Water Plans and/or Strategies \(2012\)](#)
- [Regional Expert Group Meeting \(June 2012, Athens\) to review, discuss, complement and validate the findings of the regional review](#)
- [Regional Capacity Building Workshop \(September 2012, Athens\) for training of Government Officials on the Preparation of Water Plans/Strategies](#)
- [A Capacity development program for water & environment prosecutors and Investigators, including a 3-day Workshop followed by a 12-days study tour in 3 European countries \(June 2013\)](#)
- [Regional Guidelines on measures for improving compliance with water legislations and assessing the available enforcement capacity and mechanisms currently practiced in the South Mediterranean Region with focus on Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco](#)

### 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

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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