

Sustainable Water Integrated Management: Support Mechanism (SWIM-SM)

A new regional programme of the European Union, 2011-2014



Context

Water is essential to sustain life and develop societies. In the Mediterranean, water is a scarce resource. Intensive abstraction and misuse for agricultural, domestic and industrial purposes has led to depletion of surface and groundwater bodies. The situation is alarming, particularly with a rapidly increasing population and under conditions of climate change.

Over the last decades, investments in the water sector have primarily focused on water infrastructures. These included dams, irrigation and drainage systems, water supply and wastewater treatment systems, and hydropower electricity production. However, the institutional and regulatory framework to manage such investments as well as to plan far-reaching targets has not been adapted as rapidly. Several countries are currently undertaking water governance reforms and orienting priorities and practices towards **integrated water resources management (IWRM)**. In this context, water and food security issues as well as the water-energy and water-agriculture-environment nexus should be addressed.

The European Union supports actions in the Mediterranean region in the water sector through a range of framework programmes as well as bilateral assistance.

The SWIM-SM Project

Launched in January 2011, **SWIM-SM** is a regional programme aiming at promoting the extensive dissemination of sustainable water management policies and practices in the region.

The Project addresses four core themes that are reflected in the **draft Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean** (i.e. water governance, water and climate change, water financing, and water demand management and efficiency). It also targets water issues that are linked to the three main sources of pollution identified by the **Horizon 2020 Initiative to De-Pollute the Mediterranean**: municipal waste, municipal wastewater, and industrial emissions. Operational linkages are also established with the objectives of the **Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI)**.

Having a regional scope and aiming to add value and complement other regional processes through replicable regional and national activities, SWIM-SM endeavours to:

- Provide strategic assistance to EU Partner Countries of the Mediterranean in designing and implementing sustainable water management policies and plans, involving inter-sector dialogue as well as stakeholder consultation;
- Contribute to institutional reinforcement and the development of the necessary planning and management skills and facilitate know how transfer.

SWIM-SM supports:

- Improved water governance and mainstreaming of water considerations and objectives into sector policies such as agriculture, industry, tourism, etc. in order for water to become a prominent feature of national development policies and strategies;
- Water institutions empowerment through the development of national and regional capacity building programs;
- The application of Sustainable Water Management Plans by promoting exchange of experiences among water intensive sectors;

- The identification and dissemination of good practices in water management and de-pollution of the South Mediterranean region;
- The Development of a Communication and Awareness Raising Strategy adapted to regional and national key stakeholders inside and outside the water sector.

The **target groups** of this project include relevant ministries (water and irrigation, agriculture, environment, industry, tourism and trade), water utilities, river basin organisations, municipalities, water users associations, NGOs, media, Parliamentarians, universities and regional and national research centres.

SWIM-SM will also provide technical assistance to a set of **Demonstration Projects** launched in 2011 as the result of a European Commission Call for Proposals with a 15 million Euros budget.

The Project ID

European Commission Programme Framework:

European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) South - Environment



Partner countries of the regional programme:

Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the occupied Palestinian territory, Syria and Tunisia

Implementing Consortium:

- LDK Consultant Engineers & Planners SA (Leader)
- Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med)
- Arab Country Water Utilities Association (ACWUA)
- Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)
- DHV B.V
- Greek Ministry of Environment, Energy & Climate Change, Dept of International Relations & EU Affairs
- Austrian Ministry of Environment, Umweltbundesamt GmbH
- 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

Total Budget: 6.7 millions Euros

Duration: 4 years (2011-2014)

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