



**SWIM-SM CONCEPT NOTE ON SUCCESS STORIES
ACTIVITIES PROPOSED FOR 2014 PLAN OF ACTIONS**



1 PREAMBLE

Success stories are a powerful tool for exchanging and disseminating experiences and knowledge. They test and validate the applicability of theory in the field/on the ground and help fine-tune it based on lessons learnt through successes and failures. They are a preferred learning tool for experienced, high-level decision makers as they mix existing knowledge with experience from the field and can provide them with realistic and implementable solutions. The compilation and dissemination of success stories is a strong component of the SWIM-SM project.

The scope of this activity is to search, identify, compile, analyse, validate, based on specific criteria, and then disseminate selected solutions falling under the SWIM scope of work and explore possible synergies with previous and on-going projects funded by the EC and/or other donors active in the region. The solutions, if identified through the selection criteria, will primarily fall under the SWIM-SM pillars listed below:

1. Non-conventional
 - a. Wastewater reuse
 - b. Desalination
2. Water Financing, including the theme of private sector involvement
3. Local Governance:
 - a. Water Users Associations (WUAs)

2 APPROACH AND IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES

The approach of SWIM-SM for success stories was to identify topics of interest to the project stakeholders through research, desk reviews and discussions with project focal points. The selected topics were validated during the project steering committee meetings. Further to the identification of topics NKEs, were contracted to identify success stories based on selection criteria prepared by the SWIM project and prepare a document detailing the story.

Already in 2012, selection criteria for success stories were developed and in 2013, a series of success stories on a) increased efficiency in wastewater treatment and reuse and b) non-revenue water management were collected from different Partner Countries (PCs) of SWIM.

2.1 2012 TO 2013

1. **Activity 4.1/2/4.2 Criteria for Screening Success Stories and Best Practices in the SWIM partner countries.** A set of criteria for selecting success stories was developed by the project.
2. **Activity 4.1/2/4.5 Documentation of Best Practices in Non-Revenue Water Management in Selected Mediterranean Countries.** Twelve Best Practices in non-revenue water were identified in 4 different countries: Algeria, Israel, Jordan, and Morocco. These BPs identify different tools that can be used by the different SWIM PCs for reducing non-revenue water.



3. **Activity 4.1/2/4.3 Documentation of Best Practices in Wastewater Treatment and Reuse in Selected Mediterranean Countries.** Twelve Best Practices in wastewater treatment and reuse were identified in 4 different countries: Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and Morocco. These were BPs practices in low- cost treatment technologies, approaches for affecting policy change, institutional frameworks for wastewater treatment and reuse, high-tech-low footprint technologies for upgrading existing facilities, and benefits of the reuse of treated wastewater in agriculture.

3 OBJECTIVES AND PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2014.

“Solutions” is an approach for contextualizing success stories together with suggestions for their potential replication. The term was recently put forth by the Sixth World Water Forum (Marseilles, 2012). For SWIM, the concept of solutions is expected to exert substantial influence on the stories collected hence its success stories will primarily present local solutions for sustainable water resources management. Among key criteria for selection of SWIM solutions will be the potential impact for job creation and the low cost for making the case real.

For 2014, SWIM-SM is planning to collect, analyse and publish additional solutions from the region covering relevant issues addressed under its areas of focus.

4. Merged Activities 4.1/2/4.1-4.1/2/4.2 - Success Stories.

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4. Non-conventional
 - a. Wastewater reuse
 - b. Desalination
5. Water Financing, including the theme of private sector involvement
6. Local Governance: Water Users Associations (WUAs)

If success stories cannot be identified under a certain pillar or sub-pillar then, this pillar or sub-pillar will not be covered by this activity.

The solutions will be identified through a wide consultation process that includes but is not restricted to: SWIM Focal Points, Liaison Officers, EU delegation representatives, participants to SWIM-SM events, SWIM-DEMOS, regional organizations and initiatives, previous and on-going regional and national projects, etc. The process of selection is through the solicitation of solutions will be organized in two ways:

1. SWIM-SM experts will contact relevant authorities and people listed above to directly identify, validate solutions and document the description of the solutions as per the outline in section 5 below.
2. Emails describing this activity and the criteria for selection and asking potential respondents to fill a 2 pages pre-prepared solution identification form that will be disseminated to the SWIM-SM network. The 2 pagers will be collected and



screened using the criteria for selection of solutions. People/organizations that have provided selected solutions will be asked to develop the solution into a full description documented as per the outline in section 5 below.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The following are suggested criteria that can be used for selecting the solutions. The final set will be refined based on coordination with the concerned stakeholders. Some criteria are required for the selection of the stories, while others are optional. Fulfilling optional criteria will add value to the solution.

REQUIRED CRITERIA

- 1) **Adapting/Implementing the IWRM framework and possibly contributing to the implementation of the Draft Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean and/or to the objectives of H2020's pollution reduction in the Mediterranean.**
- 2) **Creating jobs and/or generating increased income** in agriculture, tourism, etc.
- 3) Being **low cost or with a high cost/benefit ratio and/or providing affordable products** to most countries in the PCs such as affordable water without subsidy and/or improved efficiency of water use and accordingly reduced the cost of production in agriculture and increased profit.
- 4) Being **preferably mature/adequately tested**. However, if in prototype or pilot phase, it shall have enough evidence of impact and sustainability. *This criterion can only be validated based on anecdotal evidence and analysis and not on measurable criteria.*
- 5) Being **of relevance to SWIM countries and with potential for replicability** in most SWIM countries while considering the socio-economic, environmental and political specificities of the countries and the region. The replicability of the solution will be measured based on the following sub-criteria:
 - i) Is responsive to the identified and documented regional and/or national needs and priorities.
 - ii) Adds value to the water policy debate within the region
- 6) Having a positive **impact on the project beneficiaries** e.g.; users' groups (including the ecosystem), and local communities. *This criterion can only be validated based on anecdotal evidence and analysis and not on measurable criteria.* Impacts include (Not applicable to WUAs):
 - i) health impacts,
 - ii) environmental impacts

OPTIONAL CRITERIA

- 1) Has led to the **Integration of project outcomes into local/national policies/strategies**, as applicable;



- 2) **Synergizes with other relevant projects/initiatives** within and without the sector, as applicable.
- 3) **Engages project beneficiaries and involves relevant stakeholders**, such as water providers, water user groups, civil society, community based organizations, universities, NGOs, funding agencies, as applicable, in the design, planning and implementation of the project.
- 4) Is **inclusive of vulnerable groups** (particularly the poorest segments of society) and **integrates gender**.
- 5) Has **high visibility** through press coverage that should be beyond a press release by the project

EXAMPLES TOPICS FOR SOLUTIONS

1. Low cost wastewater treatment technologies (conventional and natural) with reuse, and/or resource recovery.
2. Support to the production of crops irrigated with treated wastewater.
3. Successful policy option that has led to improved access to water and sanitation
4. Desalination technology using renewable energy with low environmental impact and job creation prospects
5. Sustainable full fledged WUA with positive impact on participatory water management and consequently on irrigation efficiency.
6. Successful PPPs or other examples of private sector involvement in water infrastructure and the criteria for the success of the PPP is in its packaging or in improved performance, efficiency and quality of service.