

Reflections on the Training Workshop in the Netherland

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Training workshop, at UNESCO-IHE, Delft

3.6.13-6.6.13

Organized by: SWIM-SM

Funded by: The European Union

Goal: To develop the capacity of prosecutors and investigators for the enforcement of water and environment legislation.

Participants: Water and Law Professionals from the following countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority and Tunisia.

Main experts: Water - Dr. Hosny Khordagui

Law - Dr. Stefano Burchi

Event coordinator: Ms. Mirella Batziana

Main Topics covered in Delft

- The legal and institutional framework for water management in Europe.
- Compliance and enforcement in the Netherlands and France.
- Capacity building and methods for compliance and enforcement in water management.

General Reflection On The Workshop

Structure: *Very well structured workshop.*

- General Organization:
 - Participants – Law and Water experts.
 - Good combination of: lectures, discussion time, brain storming, teamwork and feedback and evaluation
 - Well organization of : flights, schedule (breaks, food), hotels and transportation.

Main Topics covered:

- Basics of setting the legal framework.
- Legislation.
- Licensing.
- Monitoring.
- Regulating.
- Enforcement.

Innovative Approach

- A water workshop combining expertise of water and law.
- Strong emphasis on integrative work between regulators and prosecutors;
from stage of establishing the legal framework to legislation, licensing, monitoring, regulating and enforcement.
- Analysis of policies and their enforcement at the European level, National level, and down to the Regional level (river basins).

Main Outcomes of the Training that can be Applied in Israel

We received good tools that will help us increase implementation.

Background:

- We have up to date advanced water regulations.
- We collect and treat more than 98% of our waste water.
- By 2015-2016 all of the WWTP will be treated to tertiary level.
- 80% of the treated WW is already used for agriculture, and sludge is used as fertilizer.
- We reduced our point source pollution loads, in our main rivers, in the last 20 years by 60%-90% (total organic carbon-87%, total nitrogen-64%, total phosphorus-94%).

Main Outcomes of the Training that can be Applied in Israel

- Collaboration between water and legal experts at all stages of water management.
- Water regulators should have appropriate legal training and vice versa.
- Suitable in-service professional training for water officials
- Unified supervision and enforcement strategy including: up to date national database, clear work programs, clear and consistent criteria for enforcement, etc.
- Exact formula for penalty calculation, based on: the extent of the damage, duration of the offence, co-operation by the offender, failure to pay the penalty on time, etc.
- Increase emphasis on prevention.

General Principals Raised in the Training to be Implemented In Israel

- Improve coordination between all governmental water regulators.
- Adopt long term approach in planning and budgeting.
- Bridge the gap between advanced regulatory standards and the ability to implement them (lack of budget, personnel shortage).
- Increase public and stakeholders collaboration from the stage of policy proposal all the way to enforcement, particularly at the local/municipal level.

- Increase public assistance in implementation.
- Increase the incorporation of "polluter pays" principle.
- Decrease enforcement time frames from years to months.
- One stop permits (integrative licensing now underway).
- Increase the use of online sensing technologies for inspection and supervision.
- Promote sustainable approach for the treatment of diffused sources.

For the future

- **Further Planning**– Workshops on sustainable water management in collaboration with Horizon 2020.
Expose more relevant people to the workshop content
(Jordanians, Palestinian and Israeli legal and water experts).
- **Additional topics to be addressed:**
 - Reuse of treated water, for agricultural, rather than seeking additional freshwater sources.
 - Olive Mill wastewater - technologies and feasible treatments.
 - Transboundary rivers - management basics, rules and regulations, implementation.

Using water in a responsible manner,
will leave enough for all useful purposes !



THANK
YOU!