



FINAL EVALUATION OF THE SWIM PRORAMME

PROVISIONAL FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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Main objectives

- 1- To make an overall independent assessment about the past performance of the SWIM Programme, paying particular attention to the impact of the project actions against its objectives.
- 2- To identify key lessons and propose practical recommendations for follow-up actions.

Assessment scope

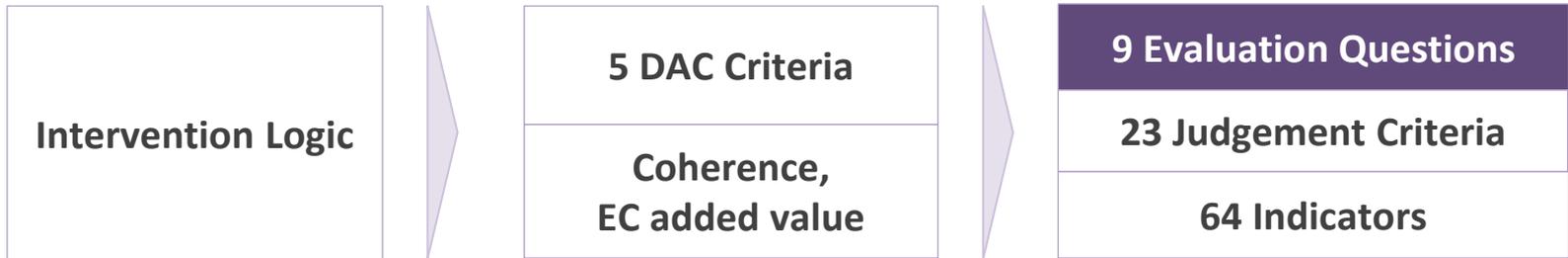
The final evaluation will assess in details the SWIM-SM component and the inter-relations between SWIM-SM and the SWIM-Demos, but it is not requested to make an individual evaluation of Demo projects.

Regarding the relevance criteria, the assessment will be made on the entirety of the SWIM-SM activities, whereas for the other criteria the assessment will be made on a activities sample



Documentation Inventory & Data Collection

Definition of evaluation framework



ANALYSIS



To what extent did the SWIM Programme contribute to enhance effective governance for integrated water management?



Expected

Ad hoc technical support for the review/analysis of policies/strategies/plans, sustainable water management mainstream into other sector's policies/strategies and institutional strengthening through IWRM concept analysis.

FINDINGS

- Ad hoc support and advices on policies and strategies provided by SWIM-SM limited to wastewater;
- No support or guidelines could be provided for inter-ministerial coordination and lack of dissemination of inter-ministerial coordination success stories;
- Weak coordination with other programmes/projects involved in enhancing water governance in PCs to follow-up on SWIM-SM activities at national level;
- Alternative water supply (i.e. desalination) not in line with SWM demand management, but tackled with a highlight on costs, renewable energy and environmental impacts;
- Sustainable management support limited to guidelines to improve compliance with water legislations and mainstream no regret actions in IWRM policies;
- Assessment of prosecution of violators on water legislation, monitoring and evaluation of participatory irrigation management are ongoing (difficult to ascertain at this stage).

Due to contextual constraints, SWIM-SM contribution on enhancing effective water governance remains low

To what extent has the SWIM Programme been able to contribute to empowering water related institutions and increasing stakeholders' capacities?



Expected

Establishing a network of existing national and regional training institutes and developing a national and regional capacity building programmes

FINDINGS

- A three-step capacity building model (assessment -consultation -training) is used for implementing different/distinct actions, but no ad hoc overall institutional reinforcement programme and needs assessment were done in order to design a comprehensive training programme;
- Priority topics events were organised with high level experts involved;
- Various water related institutions were represented with a low gender ratio (26% of women);
- All events organized on regional or sub-regional level were materialized in meetings and exchanges;
- Regional and national training institutes network has not been established, only a list has been used as internal document;
- Intensive short training sessions (with no further follow-up) did not allow a know how transfer;
- Lack/low quality of interpretation during training events represented an obstacle.

SWIM-SM provided a good platform to exchange experience, but contribution to empowering water related institutions and increasing capacities is lacking effectiveness measurement tool

To what extent has the SWIM Programme been able to strengthen intra and inter sector dialogue at regional level (by supporting exchange of experience and harmonization of approaches)?



Expected

Mechanisms and procedures to facilitate regional dialogue/consultation to promote and support regional exchanges of experience, as well as the harmonization of approaches and policies on issues related to SWM

FINDINGS

- SWIM-SM originally designed to assist SWM Action Plan Development is currently limited to support UfM criteria and guidelines to label water and environment projects (not started);
- No mechanisms, guidelines or study tours provided to promote transboundary coordination and/or consultation;
- Basin studies limited to national analysis of investments for mitigating water pollution, with some comments from beneficiaries on not getting the tools to replicate these studies to other basins;
- SWIM-SM provided a good platform for intra and inter sector consultation, exchange and information dissemination at regional and sub-regional level;
- Adaptation to climate change related activities have been cancelled (Clima South).

SWIM-SM provided a good regional and sub-regional intra and inter sector dialogue and networking platform but, due to context, contribution in harmonization of approaches remains low

To what extent has the SWIM Programme been able to increase awareness of water value and the continuous depletion of water resources (as a consequence of water wastage, climate change, water pollution, demographic pressure and modification of life-styles) ?



Expected

Create Project's identity, prepare and disseminate communication and awareness raising packages, and establish a legacy for the Project

FINDINGS

- SWIM-SM pamphlets (in English, and French) distributed to national and regional stakeholders (but not updated), as well as SWIM Programme brochures (in English, French and Arabic);
- SWIM-SM website is set-up (in English, French and Arabic) but seems to be missing some updates and is not user friendly;
- SWIM News Flash (in English, French and Arabic) is a good communication tool;
- SWIM-SM strategy for communication and awareness raising developed to be applied regionally and nationally, but communication at national level is stalled and limited to newsletters and website;
- Awareness raising and consultation meetings is limited to farmers, and activities are still ongoing;
- SWIM Programme legacy related activities are either ongoing or postponed .

SWIM-SM contribution to increase awareness raising have been constrained and reduced mainly to posting information on the website and sharing the newsletter

To what extent has the SWIM Programme been able to contribute to the identification and dissemination of good practices and state-of-the-art technologies at national and regional level?



Identify and disseminate success stories, support exchange of experience, contribute to the transfer of know-how on water management, and further contribute to the visibility of H2020

FINDINGS

- Missed opportunities to create synergies with related initiatives, in particular World Water Forum 2012 (Marseille) and 2015 (Korea) and Med Water Forum (Murcia, Nov. 2014);
- Criteria has been developed for good practices and solutions that have regional replicability potential;
- Collection process to identify and select good practice cases through a questionnaire sent to SWIM stakeholders to guide discussions (ongoing);
- 7 cases of good practices on non-revenue water management and wastewater reuse were disseminated through the newsletter and published on the website;
- Contribution to the visibility of H2020 cancelled (no interest from H2020).

SWIM-SM contribution to the identification and dissemination of good practices and state-of-the-art technologies remains low but activities are still ongoing

To what extent have the two components of the SWIM Programme been able to achieve effective and smooth interaction?



Expected

SWIM-SM supports and strengthens the interaction among/between SWIM-Demos and SWIM-SM, and supports SWIM-Demos in promoting their objectives and communicating results and awareness

FINDINGS

- No clear definition of means for coordination, and no coordination obligation within the SWIM-Demos grant contracts (managed by three different EUDs);
- Coordination is based on exchanges between SWIM-SM and SWIM-Demos coordinators, and no contact/coordination between SWIM-SM and SWIM-Demos local implementing partners;
- SWIM-SM support is limited mainly to the publication of SWIM-Demos activities/results on the website and in the newsletter and to some ad hoc participation in trainings events and activities;
- SWIM-Demos national partners have no/few information on SWIM-SM (mainly through newsletters);
- No coordination among the five SWIM-Demos at national level even when they have the same national implementing partners;
- SWIM-SM and SWIM-Demos coordination meetings exclude SWIM-Demos local partners.

Limited interaction between SWIM Programme components that are in fact segregated into a SWIM-SM and five SWIM-Demos

To what extent has the SWIM Programme been able to coordinate with and to complement other projects/programmes related to integrated water management, de-pollution plans, and climate change issues, funded by the EU or any other donor (including national governments financing) ?



Expected

Exchange and coordinate with other projects in the region to complement approaches and policies and share activities on issues related to the objectives of the SWM

FINDINGS

- SWIM-SM organised several coordination meetings regarding IFIs and regional projects/programmes involved in sustainable water management, but momentum lost
- SWIM-SM team participated in donors water group meetings in PCs;
- SWIM-SM links to major regional programmes, and shared events/activities organised to complement approaches (mainly H2020, GEF Med Partnership, UNEP/MAP);
- IFIs and other programmes/projects participation in SWIM-SM activities;
- There is room to coordinate and create synergies with projects implemented at national level in PCs, but such coordination remains weak;
- EUDs in PCs are not always updated with SWIM-SM activities progress.

Exchanges, discussions and joint activities organized with regional programmes to complement approaches, but coordination with projects implemented at national level remains low

To what extent can the design of the SWIM Programme address sustainable water management problems and needs in the region and consolidate and reinforce EU water and environment-related acquis of other projects and programmes?



Expected

SWIM Programme addressed PCs problems and needs to sustain water management and further consolidate EU acquis and/or other programmes

FINDINGS

- SWIM Programme provided flexibility in adapting with circumstances that led to changes, but the delay to implement these changes is seen to be long by stakeholders;
- The wide scope of SWIM-SM activities led to extensive implementation and dispersal of resources, and decreasing the number of activities allowed reducing dispersal;
- SWIM Programme properly addresses sustainable water management needs and non-conventional water resources in the region;
- Dissemination of previous EU regional programmes (SMAP, MEDA Water) success stories to consolidate and reinforce EU water and environment related acquis remains weak (ongoing activity);
- Stakeholders' involvement in design was limited but higher during fact-findings missions.

SWIM Programme properly addresses sustainable water and non-conventional water problems and needs in the region but still no reinforcement of acquis of previous EU regional programmes

To what extent has the SWIM Programme been able to promote actively the extensive dissemination of sustainable water management policies and practices in the region?



Expected

Draw attention of PCs on water threats and existing solutions and contribute to implementing policies and ensuring institutional, planning and management skills reinforcement in liaison with existing international initiatives

FINDINGS

- SWIM-SM focused on non-conventional water resources as PCs have traditionally centred their efforts into supply management measure;
- Activities were selected on the basis of fact-finding missions and are needs-oriented;
- SWIM-SM thematic matrix of four pillars remains aligned with SWM pillars;
- SWIM-SM activities promoting harmonized IWRM approaches have been limited to a regional review of policies/strategies during inception phase;
- Financing, managing and operating water and wastewater services SWIM-SM activities were limited to avoid duplication, and poor coordination with involved programmes/projects.

SWIM-SM contribution to promote actively the extensive dissemination of sustainable water management policies and practices is difficult to assess

- SWIM-SM design is missing updated stakeholder and institutional analysis; only a compilation of existing information collected at inception phase ;
- SWIM-SM has been effective in providing a regional platform to meet and exchange views despite regional challenges during implementation period;
- Feed back from events was mainly positive;
- The complex Logframe and its amount of activities and OVIs blurs SWIM-SM focus;
- The extent of SWIM-SM contribution to promoting sustainable water management is very difficult to be assessed as there are many other players;
- SWIM-SM efforts to organize events led to a recognition by PCs as good source of regional exchange;
- There is more room for coordination and synergies with other programmes/projects involved in promoting IWRM;

- High interest of water related institutions in PCs in sending senior officials to the meetings and events noted;
- The three-step capacity building model (assessment -consultation -training) could be improved with a fourth step to support follow-up at national level in liaison with existing programmes;
- Know-how transfer to promote good practices replication at national level remains low;
- Limited SWIM-SM financial resources to address the wide scope;
- SWIM Programme management arrangements appear appropriate and showed a high degree of flexibility during implementation;
- SWIM-SM outputs are missing ownership (after SWM has been stalled);
- Active participation of national water related institutions in implementing SWIM Programme is noted;
- SWIM Programme is an important player in the region but its visibility is low.



- Simplify Support Mechanism Logframe in order to have more intensive and less extensive activities;
- SWIM-SM and H2020 have common objectives, stakeholders and target; why not assimilate the two programmes and/or create more synergies ?;
- Identify and regularly update water governance gaps and create a list to be shared with other programmes/projects;
- Identify all regional/national programmes/projects concerned by IWRM in the region and/or in PCs (and update regularly) to create synergies and disseminate good practices and success stories, in association with EUDs and PCs;
- Allow activities at national level to reinforce know how transfer and support good practices replication through Demos and/or pilot projects;
- PCs and EUDs should be more involved in SWIM Programme design and SWIM-Demos selection;
- Partnership with international and/or regional organisations should be fostered to secure SWIM-SM outputs ownership and sustainability.

- Training centers network to be established in association with PCs and other programmes/projects;
- Provide all necessary tools (i.e. models) to participants and beneficiaries and provide a follow-up support and mentoring services to allow replications;
- Sensitization campaigns are important to support sustainable water management and promote necessary reforms;
- Mechanism to be provided by SWIM-SM to organize and support SWIM-Demos coordination meetings at national level, involving all SWIM-Demos water related institutions implementing partners;
- Organize study tours in the EU in relation with all practical aspects of EU water policy and EU acquis including river basins management;
- Reinforce visibility (brochures/posters in EUDs and national water related partners institutions);
- Make SWIM-SM website more user friendly;
- Develop tools to enhance and measure impact of capacity building events (follow-up, post-survey)
- Commitment by trainees to promote replication of good practices and inform SWIM-SM of any further need or support



Thank You