Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Activities
in the Framework of SWIM-H2020 SM

1. Background

Peer-to-peer is a relatively recently 'labeled', preexisted in some form, decentralized communication and learning model and practice, in which each party has the same or very similar equivalent capacities, rights and responsibilities and either party can initiate a communication/experience sharing session on a clearly predefined theme. Unlike the 'client/server' training model in which the one party (client) makes a service request ("recipient") and the other (server) fulfills the request ("provider"), the P2P model/network allows for each party to function as both a client and server (recipient and provider).

Many P2P programmes allow for some "coaching/mentoring" by a third party (e.g. consultant), while they include media sharing, and in the SWIM-H2020 SM case P2Ps are complemented by webinars and face-to-face meetings in dedicated sessions during the planned relevant regional training events.

2. What is a Peer-to-Peer (P2P) activity in the context of SWIM-H2020 SM?

It is a direct exchange of experiences on a specific issue, ideally between/among two to four Partner Countries (PCs) participating in the project, facilitated, when necessary, by a "P2P Coach" (Consultant), who is selected by the SWIM-H2020 SM from the partners of the implementing Consortium, according to competences and availability. The P2P activities are complemented by webinars. **PCs can participate directly in up to three (3) P2P exercises under SWIM and three (3) under H2020.**

The objectives of the P2P experience sharing are to:

a. Share expertise and **guidance** among Peers on a **specific issue/ topic**
b. Boost south-to-south (also north-to-south) **cooperation**
c. Build the cornerstones for **long-lasting relations and exchanges,** as opposed to one time *ad-hoc* exchange.

Although P2P processes will be initiated during the SWIM-h2020 SM project, they can go beyond the project lifetime. This however would entail formalizing the process at ministerial level between or among the interested PCs.

3. How is a P2P initiated?

It should be 100% "demand driven". PCs have already agreed to a number of such exercises. The final number will depend on the demands that will be listed by the PCs, the availability of champion peers from the PCs to meet the listed demands and the availability of resources. In any case, the provisions of the project foresee for a maximum number of ten (10) P2P exercises for both SWIM and H2020 components.

4. The P2P priority themes

The themes that have already been identified in the approved project workplan are listed below for each component of the Project:

H2020 Component

a. Municipal Solid Waste (focus on Construction and Demolition Waste)
b. Sludge Management
c. Marine Litter
d. Greening of Banks (focus on water investments)
e. Olive Oil Waste Disposal/valorization
f. Toxic Waste

SWIM Component

a. Decentralized water management
b. Drought Risk Management (DRM) (focus on drought characterization with suitable indices)
c. Mainstreaming DRM and methods/ approaches to involve the civil society in DRM
d. Treated Wastewater Reuse (emphasis on regulatory/legal aspects)

5. How to start a P2P activity

a. Each Focal Point (FP), together with the relevant department/agencies, selects among the priority themes (see part 4 above) based on pressing/emerging issues of the country.

b. Each FP will identify within **Table 1** the priority themes where the country needs expertise or where sufficient expertise is available to be shared with other countries (see also indication of preference). Specific focal areas within the priority themes should also be mentioned.

c. Each FP will nominate one “Peer” (preferably with an “alternate”) and eventually a small group of professionals to follow the issue (see section 6 on the role and competences of the peers).

d. SWIM & H2020 will compile and process, separately for each component (SWIM and H2020), the inputs of the countries in order to match the countries’ peers within each priority theme.

e. As mentioned above, the P2P experience sharing will be coached/facilitated by relevant experts from the consortium members (the P2P Coach).

Bilateral communication between FPs of two or more countries with interest/problems or excellence on a priority theme is encouraged.

Table 1

Project P2P No	**P2P Priority Theme**	**Country Priority Theme where expertise is needed** 1: high 10: low (please specify specific focal areas)	**Country Priority Theme where expertise is sufficient to share** (please specify specific focal areas)	**Preferred PC to partner with for the exchange**	**Name and contacts of designated Peer** *(can be sent later)*	*comments*
P2P-1	New tendencies in dealing with Municipal Solid Waste Management including regulatory aspects (focus on Construction and Demolition Waste)					
P2P-2	Sludge Management focusing on possibilities and conditions for utilization/different applications					
P2P-3	Management of Marine Litter with emphasis on related provisions/ regulatory frameworks on plastic waste					
P2P-4	Green economy approaches; green banking for support of water projects in the Middle East (sub-regional for Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine and Tunisia)					
P2P-5	Sustainable management of waste from olive oil mills					
P2P-6	Management of industrial waste to address the acute problem of hazardous substances disposal					

6. The role of the Peers

The Peers are designated by the country on specific, predefined priority themes (see list under 4 above).

Peers should be knowledgeable persons with a level of seniority and some level of "authority" that could contribute in the formulation of decisions on policies/strategies and the related technical issues of the specific P2P. They should have the ability and willingness to share their knowledge and experiences and benefit from the experiences of others. Their ability in mobilizing processes and mechanisms in their respective countries is a major asset. Equally important is their ability to communicate with equivalent level colleagues from other PCs and eventually (in selected cases/conditions) also from EU countries.

Main responsibilities of the Peers are to:

- Communicate frequently, among themselves, and on mutually agreed intervals with the P2P Coach, to whom they report progress and ask him/her for input, information, advice, etc.
- Inform the other relevant persons in their countries (eventually forming an *ad hoc* national committee on the issue) and try to apply and test, to the extent possible, proposals/solutions applied elsewhere.
- Provide to their colleagues from other countries every practical support, documents explanations, etc., for better sharing good practices on the issue of the P2P.
- Make provision for availability, presence and active participation in all the related to the P2P activities (including webinars and regional face-to-face meetings) in order to keep the continuity and coherence of the process.

7. The role of the P2P Coach/Webinar facilitator

The main role of the P2P Coach is to organize and facilitate the exchange between the Peers and the PCs.

In more detail his/her tasks include the following:

- Design the scope of the P2P activity and prepare a short information note (3 pages) on the expected outputs/ achievements from the P2P, to be circulated to the Peers, and on the planned interactions – steps for the procedure, including a time schedule for implementation: setting up frequency of interactions (up to 3 exchanges by email between the Peers and the PCs), setting up deadlines to Peers for their exchanges, schedule for milestones and outputs;
- Summarizing communications and exchanges of the P2P (with the assistance of a Junior NKE) – deducting conclusions from each exchange;
- P2P coaches are designated by the SWIM-H2020 SM among its implementing Consortium members. Additional input could be offered/requested by external experts and resource persons, eventually from non PCs and organisations. The coaches are to give their feedback on questions from Peers and even PCs on the specific issues, within the set timeframes;
- Facilitating decisions on the next steps after each exchange;
- Preparation of the webinar presentations (in cases where a P2P is combined with a webinar);

- Design specific points for interaction with the webinar participants (Peers, PCs) and prepare conclusions carefully, to reinforce the main message, so as to encourage participants to take action;
- Schedule a "rehearsal session" for the webinar with all participants to work out any unresolved telecommunication or technical issues and to introduce the webinar tool and its features;
- Webinar implementation – Exchange with Peers and PCs;
- Prepare the presentations for the P2P face-to-face session (where applicable);
- P2P Reporting – Problems encountered.
- Provide Peer review of outputs.

8. The role of PCs that are not directly involved in the P2P activities / Dissemination of experiences and results

The number of P2P exercises is limited and **each PC cannot participate directly in more than three (3) per Project Component.** However, there are provisions for all PCs to benefit:

- PCs may ask questions to the P2P Coach and/or the Peers. These will be examined and elaborated by them and replies will be provided.
- PCs are encouraged to participate in all webinars related to the P2Ps.
- PCs are invited to participate in all relevant regional meetings linked to the P2P themes.