

Strengthening Stakeholder Engagement in the Mediterranean Environment and Water agendas

Regional Training Workshop 20-22 November 2017 Nicosia, Cyprus

1 BACKGROUND OF THE ACTIVITY

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

The Horizon 2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean, in its first phase 2009-2014, recognizing the importance of reaching out to stakeholders such as Members of Parliament, the Media and Non-Governmental Organizations working on related issues and engaging them in the regional process, organized through the Capacity Building/Mediterranean Environment Programme two major regional workshops:

- “Effective Involvement of Civil Society in the de-pollution of the Mediterranean Sea”, that took place in Cairo, Egypt, on 16-17 December 2010 and brought together 92 stakeholders from the region (see more at <https://www.h2020.net/component/jdownloads/category/12-training?Itemid=411>)

- “How Members of Parliament can better contribute to the de-pollution of the Mediterranean” that took place in Athens, Greece, on 22-23 October 2012. The latter was organized in synergy with the Mediterranean Circle of Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD) that is technically facilitated by MIO-ECSDE and GWP-Med, and the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (MedPartnership) and succeeded in bringing together more than 120 stakeholders that pledged to accelerate their efforts towards a depolluted Mediterranean by the year 2020 (read more at

<https://www.h2020.net/news-and-events/news/108-parliamentarians-journalists-and-ngos-agree-to-work-hand-in-hand-towards-the-depollution-of-the-mediterranean>).

This SWIM-H2020 SM regional activity is the follow-up of these milestone capacity building actions and is dedicated to the continued engagement of Members of Parliament, NGOs and Media from the Partner Countries in the H2020 Initiative but also in the new Water Agenda of the Mediterranean.

Since 2012, a lot has happened under the **H2020 Initiative**, and significant developments are underway. In brief:

- UfM Ministerial meeting on Environment and Climate Change held in Athens on 13 May 2014 (output: Declaration. The UfM Ministerial Declaration reaffirmed the continued relevance of the four components of the Horizon 2020 Initiative (capacity building, pollution reduction and prevention investments, monitoring and review, and research) working on municipal waste, urban wastewater and industrial pollution)
- Horizon 2020 meeting held in Barcelona on 17 December 2014 as a direct follow-up of the recommendations outlined in the Athens Ministerial Declaration to draft and adopt a Work Programme for the H2020 Initiative's second phase (2015-2020). (output: the Work Programme, see <http://www.h2020.net/resources/meeting-documents/viewcategory/380.html>)
- The 1st UfM Working Group on Environment and Climate Change (WG on ENV and CC) takes place in Barcelona on 15 March 2017 with agreed conclusions on the way forward (output: <http://www.swim-h2020.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Conclusions-UfM1st-WG-on-ENV-and-CC-Barcelona-2.pdf>).

Meanwhile, under the regional **Water Agenda**, in March this year, a Ministerial Declaration on the UfM Water Agenda was adopted at the Ministerial Meeting held in Malta on 27 April 2017 whereby Ministers agreed to develop a Union for the Mediterranean Water Agenda to help UfM Member States implement sustainable and integrated water management policies and contribute to a sustainable livelihood for the region's citizens, recalling the importance of the Paris agreement and reaffirming their commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development. The UfM Water Experts Group is currently working on the development of the Work Programme for implementing the Mediterranean Water Agenda. Furthermore, works advanced within the European Union responding to the Water Framework Directive, League of Arab States responding to the Arab Water Strategy, the Regional Cooperation Council responding to the SEE2020 Strategy, 5+5 Water Strategy in the Western Mediterranean and Action Plan etc. Coordination amongst these regional processes remains limited, and there is common understanding that alignment, synergies and practical matchmaking on specific action lines should increase. Such actions respond to themes, like water supply and sanitation, integrated water resources management (IWRM) including at river basin level, ICZM/IWRM through 'source-to-sea' approaches, transboundary cooperation, climate change adaptation, etc. as well as more recent or emerging themes like the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus, Water-Employment-Migration, etc. Gender, Youth and Education considerations are increasingly becoming key in most of these agendas.

At the level of global commitments, the region's countries and other non-state actors are increasingly trying to align to the SDGs, implement climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, promote a circular economy approach, etc., and all within difficult socio-economic developments and insistent uncertainty.

The workshop is organized back-to-back with another regional training of SWIM-H2020 SM, REG-10 (23-24 November 2017), which is dedicated to supporting the PCs in the implementation of the Action Plan of the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD). To maximise impact, the two regional activities will converge in a joint session that will take place at the Parliament of Cyprus where also international organizations have been invited to participate (EC, UN Environment, UNESCO, UfMS, League of Arab States, etc.).

To strengthen the impact of the workshop, SWIM-H2020 SM is partnering with COMPSUD (the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development), the Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus, the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute and the Parliament of Cyprus, the GWP Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP) in the Mediterranean, which includes a portfolio of programmes and projects aiming to build climate resilience through better water management, the GWP-Med 'Med Water Matchmaker' Project supported by Sida, and the UfM labelled BlueGreen MED-CS Project and Mechanism. It will be organized in close coordination with DG ENV, DG NEAR and the UfM Secretariat so that the results of the workshop feed into and inform the ongoing work of the H2020 Initiative and both the UfM Working Group on Environment and Climate Change (and its eventual Task Force on Environment) and the UfM Water Expert Group's post Malta Ministerial Work Programme.

1.2 TARGET GROUP

The following stakeholder groups are targeted by SWIM-H2020 SM from each Partner Country (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia), Mauritania, the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro) and Turkey:

- Members of Parliament working on environment, water and sustainability issues. At a first step, it will be explored if MPs that attended the CB/MEP regional workshop of 2012 are still active, and for the rest, COMPSUD and the SWIM-H2020 SM Focal Points will be advised.
- Civil society organisations working on SWIM-H2020 SM issues. These organisations will be selected in synergy with the UfM labelled BlueGreen Project and Mechanism.
- Representatives from the national media that regularly cover SWIM-H2020 SM related issues.

Key (sub)regional NGOs based in the PCs will also be invited. Other stakeholders (e.g. International organisations or stakeholders based in EU countries) will also be invited.

2 OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS

2.1 OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of the activity is to strengthen the participation and engagement of non-state Mediterranean stakeholders in the evolution of the Horizon 2020 Initiative and the Mediterranean Water Agenda. It also aims to channel back to these processes the inputs and recommendations of the stakeholders.

The specific objectives of the activity are to:

- Introduce to the participants the latest developments under the Horizon 2020 Initiative and the Mediterranean Water Agenda, including cross-cutting issues, in a comprehensive manner and facilitate their involvement in these processes as contributors;
- Provide the enabling environment so that the invited stakeholders can contribute their informed inputs to the regional processes and develop a meaningful dialogue resulting in as tangible as possible proposed next steps both at regional level and in their respective countries;
- Enable the exchange and transfer of best practices at national level among the participants;
- Offer the opportunity for the stakeholders to define their role in supporting these regional processes;
- Support the continuation of this unique platform of regional dialogue that dates back to 2010 with an identity linked to the Horizon 2020 Initiative.

The training workshop will also help the SWIM-H2020 SM integrate the meeting's recommendations in its own Workplan and stakeholder engagement approach.

2.2 APPROACH TO MEET OBJECTIVES

In order to achieve the regional workshop objectives, a dynamic, interactive, facilitated and participatory approach will be adopted, in delivering the following:

- Comprehensive presentation of progress under the H2020 Initiative and the agreed next steps, including the preparatory actions aiming at moving towards the definition of the priorities, operational modalities and the work programme post-2020.
- Comprehensive presentation of progress under the wider Mediterranean Water Agenda, including developments on the follow-up of the UfM Ministerial Meeting on Water (April 2017, Malta).
- Interactive/parallel workshops/world cafe sessions to deduce stakeholder contributions on what they deem should be included in the priorities of the above processes reflecting on challenges, engaging

issues, cross-cutting (like gender, youth, education) agendas, etc. Also, contributions to what could be the basis of a possible future Ministerial Meeting in 2019 or 2020.

- Interactive/parallel workshop/world cafe session to deduce stakeholder contributions on what they have done so far (they will be asked to come prepared) and what they can further do in support of these regional processes.
- A formal session at the Cypriot Parliament with the participation also of International Organisations.

2.3 EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The long-term expected result is that national strategies are coordinated with the regional (Mediterranean) agreed priorities on environment and water issues. MPs, NGOs and media are pivotal in encouraging/pressuring governments, each in their own way, to this end. In the short term, the regional training workshop's expected outcomes are:

A. Key stakeholders of the Partner Countries have a good understanding of:

- The state of play under the Horizon 2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean and more specifically of the Working Group on Environment and Climate Change;
- Recent developments under the Mediterranean Water Agenda and more specifically of the UfM Water Experts Group, including on cross-cutting issues.

B. Stakeholders feel engaged in the processes and provide their 'review' of the progress made as well as and their on-the-ground practical solutions and recommendations

C. Useful inputs and recommendations result from the discussions and group work that can feed into the on-going relevant work at regional level (EU, UfM, UN Environment, and other bodies).

D. The regional stakeholder dialogue that has been initiated during the EU-funded CB/MEP project is continued, enhancing the basis for the development of synergetic activities, regional cooperation, etc.

3 LOCATION, TIME AND LOGISTICS

3.1 LOCATION

The regional training workshop is planned to be held in Nicosia, Cyprus. A joint session with REG-10 will be hosted at the premises of the Cypriot Parliament in Nicosia.

3.2 IMPLEMENTATION DATES

It will be organised over 3 consecutive days and is **confirmed to take place from 20 (mid day)-22 (all day) of November 2017**. Most arrivals will be on the day before (19th) and early on day 1, while departures will be on the 23rd

3.3 LOGISTICS

SWIM-H2020 SM will arrange all logistics for the training including travel, accommodation and catering. Interpretation of English/French will be available.