



Regional Training on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

1 INTRODUCTION: THE SWIM-H2020 SM

The SWIM and H2020 SM is a Regional Technical Support Program, funded by the European Commission, Directorate General (DG) NEAR (Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations), that includes the following Partner Countries (PCs): Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, [Syria] and Tunisia. However, in order to ensure the coherence and effectiveness of Union financing or to foster regional co-operation, eligibility of specific actions will be extended to the Western Balkan countries (Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina and Montenegro), Turkey and Mauritania. The Program is funded by the European Neighborhood Instrument (ENI) South/Environment. It ensures the continuation of EU's regional support to ENP South countries in the fields of water management, marine pollution prevention and adds value to other important EU-funded regional programs in related fields, in particular the SWITCH-Med program, and the Clima South program, as well as to projects under the EU bilateral programming, where environment and water are identified as priority sectors for the EU co-operation. It complements and provides operational partnerships and links with the projects labelled by the Union for the Mediterranean, project preparation facilities in particular MESHIP phase II and with the next phase of the ENPI-SEIS project on environmental information systems, whereas its work plan will be coherent with, and supportive of, the Barcelona Convention and its Mediterranean Action Plan.

The overall objective of the Program is to contribute to reduced marine pollution and a more sustainable use of scarce water resources. The Technical Assistance services are grouped in 6 work packages: WP1. Expert facility, WP2. Peer-to-peer experience sharing and dialogue, WP3. Training activities, WP4. Communication and visibility, WP5. Capitalizing the lessons learnt, good practices and success stories and WP6. Support activities.

2 BACKGROUND

The early and correct understanding of old and new environmental challenges, socio-economic issues and cultural contexts on the one hand, and of the emerging opportunities on how to address these challenges is a fundamental prerequisite if policy formulation and implementation in the Mediterranean region is to be able to tackle the problems and move towards sustainable development. Formal and non-



formal education, as well as informal education/ public awareness are the most safe tools to create the necessary enabling environment to involve and mobilize people of all ages in an effective way. It is in this framework that the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD) which was endorsed by the Union for the Mediterranean Ministers responsible for Environment and Climate Change in Athens (May 2014), provided a fundamental reference for the development of ESD in the Mediterranean countries. The Strategy was developed through a long participatory process involving regional and national experts from universities, etc., government officials and NGOs from the North and the South of the region in several consultations, most of which took place under the EU funded Horizon 2020 CB/ MEP Programme coordinated by the University of Athens (NKUA). MSESD is a direct contribution to the Barcelona Convention objectives. During the COP 19 of the Barcelona Convention (February 2016) the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD 2016-2025) was adopted and within it the MSESD is accepted as an integral part. In addition, in the COP's Ministerial segment, the "Athens Declaration" recognised the MSESD as vital for the achievement of the SDGs in the region.

However, despite the general recognition of the role of ESD, its introduction to school and University Curricula, **the implementation of the Strategy is quite uneven in the region**. In many countries, the institutional or operational framework/provisions for its application are weak or incomplete. At global level, significant developments have also taken place which amplify the role and expectations from ESD, *inter alia*, the adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (2015) include SDG 4 on Education with special reference to the promotion of ESD, while the UNESCO Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD (2015-2019) asks for coordinated action at national and regional level, in addition to the global one. The above mentioned are reflected in the Action Plan of the MSESD adopted in the Ministerial Conference on ESD hosted by the Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus on 8-9 December 2016. The Action Plan is to guide the Strategy's implementation and to promote regional and sub-regional activities on ESD, and the proposed activity is intended as a 'demonstration' on how this can be done. Furthermore, the training is expected to serve in part as a capacity building activity through the exchange of know-how and expertise among the countries in the process of adapting their ESD agendas and applying the Action Plan. The training is the direct support of the EU and specifically of the SWIM-H2020 SM for the Action Plan's implementation at regional level.

3 OBJECTIVES, METHODOLOGY & EXPECTED RESULTS

3.1 OBJECTIVES

The regional training is taking place as a follow-up on the outcomes of the Ministerial Conference in Cyprus (December 2016) having as objectives the following:



- to review how the Action Plan of the Mediterranean Strategy on ESD has been used, integrated, valued within the existing Programmes, Projects, Initiatives of the countries and the associated International and Regional organisations, one year after its adoption.
- to provide the opportunity to exchange know-how and experiences on the latest developments on ESD and the application of the Action Plan.
- to stimulate/facilitate the Partner Countries to achieve the relevant SDG on ESD.
- to facilitate the Partner Countries to better mainstream the Action Plan within their educational systems and agendas.
- to promote regional and sub-regional activities and synergies on ESD.

3.2 APPROACH TO MEET WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The two-day course will combine presentations and experience sharing/'critical discussion' sessions. At the end of the training the participants will be provided with ESD resources and references so as to enhance the competences on how to apply the Action Plan of MSED.

To enhance facilitation and support the trainees, prior to the training the participants will receive (i) a template/guidelines for their better preparation and participation (on ESD within their formal or non-formal educational frameworks) (ii) a draft set of guidelines for facilitating the implementation of the Action Plan in the countries. The latter, based on the training's outcomes, will be further elaborated and shared again with the countries.

Furthermore, another SWIM-H2020 SM regional activity, a Workshop of Members of Mediterranean Parliamentarians, Media and NGOs, will be closing at the House of the Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus on 22 November (15.30-17.30); the ESD trainees will participate and have the opportunity to discuss possible synergies in the field of Education and Sustainable Development with Parliamentarians, Ministries' Officials, Civil Society and Media.

3.3 EXPECTED OUTCOME

The following expected results are to be achieved by the training:

- Approx. 40 staff of Ministries and NGOs have a solid understanding of the MSED and its Action Plan
- Approx. 40 staff of Ministries and NGOs have increased knowledge on how the Action Plan can be better 'used' and applied at national level.
- The Mediterranean ESD community is strengthened (civil servants, NGOs, international organizations).



3.4 TARGET GROUP

The target group for this activity is:

- Administration staff of the Mediterranean Ministries of Education (also appointed as focal points of the Action Plan /MSESD process)
- Administration staff of other relevant Ministries (e.g. Environment) following up the ESD agenda in the Mediterranean countries
- ESD experts working in the non-formal education sector (NGOs, Institutions, facilitators, etc.)

Participants from Algeria, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia and Turkey may be supported by SWIM-H2020 SM (as well as up to three regional organizations based in the ENI South partner countries).

3.5 LOCATION AND DATES

The training is taking place at the Hilton Park Hotel, Nicosia, Cyprus on 22-24 November 2017.

3.6 WORKING FACILITIES

- A meeting room with round tables for ~ 45 participants permitting for group work as well
- Laptop
- Projector and screen
- Flipcharts (with A1 papers and markers)
- Interpretation (English-French)