



NEWS RELEASE

Athens, 29 November 2017

SWIM-H2020 SM Regional Trainings organised in Cyprus: “Strengthening Stakeholder Engagement in the Mediterranean Environment and Water Agendas” “Enhancing Education for Sustainable Development”

A Regional Training of the EU-funded SWIM-Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism on “Strengthening Stakeholder Engagement in the Mediterranean Environment & Water Agendas” was held on 20-22 November 2017, in Nicosia, Cyprus, back-to-back with the Regional Training on Education for Sustainable Development, held on 22-24 November 2017.

More than 100 key stakeholders from the Project’s Partner Countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia), Mauritania, the Western Balkans (Albania and Montenegro) along with the members of the United Nations Environment, UNESCO, UNECE, Union for Mediterranean (UfM) and League of Arab States (LAS) participated in the Trainings.

The highlight of both events was the joint session on the 22nd of November 2017 that took place at the House of Representatives of Cyprus in which participants were received with a warm welcome by the Chairman of the Environment Committee, Mr. Adamos Adamou.

The Session was dedicated to the role of Members of Mediterranean Parliaments in promoting Sustainable Development in the region and in promoting Education and Awareness for Sustainable Development at all levels of Education, both “typical” carried out within the schooling system and “non-typical” carried out by NGOs and other stakeholders in cooperation with schools, etc.

The Minister of Education and Culture of Cyprus Mr. Costas Kadis, referred to the progress made and emphasized the need for further systematic efforts at all levels, for the promotion of the MSED and its Action Plan, throughout the Mediterranean region.

The SWIM-H2020 SM Team Leader Professor Michael Scoullou highlighted that the programme has contributed a lot in training Educators on ESD at national and regional level and in supporting the countries in the efforts to adapt and update their institutional and operational frameworks, in accordance to the MSED and its Action Plan. He also emphasized that for the ESD to fulfill its role substantial increase in human and material resources is needed. He concluded that “this will be the best and safest investment for the future of the region”.

During the Regional Training on “Strengthening Stakeholder Engagement in the Mediterranean Environment and Water Agendas”, Members of Parliament, representatives of Civil Society, NGOs and Media working on Environment, Water and Sustainability Issues were informed on the state of play under the Horizon 2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean and on the recent developments under the Mediterranean Water Agenda, as well as on key regional initiatives, such as the Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP) North Africa and the UfM labelled BlueGreen MED-CS Project and Mechanism.

The speakers presented their views about the existing and emerging challenges and opportunities, priorities and appropriate strategies, as well as the progress made so far, while they discussed some practical solutions for overcoming strategic problems and difficulties. Their input is indeed valuable for the ongoing relevant work for various regional agendas (EU, UfM, UN Environment and other bodies).



Sustainable Water Integrated Management and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism

Working for a Sustainable Mediterranean, Caring for our Future.

This Project is funded by the European Union.

The civil society component of SWIM-H2020 SM is facilitated by the UfM labelled BlueGreen project and network.

The Regional Training on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) organized during 22-24 November 2017, followed a series of successful trainings at national level held within the second part of 2017, in Algeria, Jordan, Palestine and Tunisia.

Educators and administrators, representatives of Ministries of Education, Environment and members of Environmental Associations had the opportunity to exchange know-how and experiences on the latest developments on ESD and the application of the Action Plan.

During the Training a review was carried out on how the Action Plan of the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD) has been used, valued and integrated, within the existing related Educational Policies, Strategies and Programmes of the countries and the associated International and Regional organisations, one year after its adoption.

The Training was one more step for the Project's Partner Countries to achieve the relevant Sustainable Development Goals on ESD and to promote the related regional synergies.

In conclusion, nearly in all the countries represented in the meeting, impressive progress in formal and, particularly, in non-formal Education was noticed. However, at the same time, there was a strong consensus among the participants on the fact that the available human and financial resources are totally inadequate for the EAA to fulfil its fundamental role.

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SWIM and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism Project

The **SWIM-H2020 SM EU-funded Project** aims to contribute to the sustainable use of scarce water resources and properly manage municipal waste, industrial emissions and waste water, and therefore enhance, directly and indirectly, resilience to climate variability and change in the entire region with emphasis on the countries of North Africa and the Middle East (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, [Syria] and Tunisia).

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