



NEWS RELEASE

Athens, 22 December 2017

SWIM-H2020 SM: A major contribution in Supporting Water Governance and Financing in the Middle East

A Conference and Training on "Water Governance in MENA countries and wider Mediterranean region: "Strengthening integrity and financing for water security and sustainable development" was held on 12-14 December, in Barcelona, Spain, under the auspices of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), during which the EU funded SWIM-H2020 SM Project enhanced Partner Countries' capacities on sustainable investment opportunities in the water sector.

The 3-day Event was a joint effort of the EU-funded SWIM-H2020 SM, the SIDA supported "Governance & Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector" Project, led by the Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean (GWP-Med) and the "Water Integrity capacity-building programme for the MENA" Project, led by the UNDP Water Governance Facility of the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI). In fact the event marked the successful conclusion of the two latter projects.

At the opening of the meeting the representative of the European Commission, Ms. Marta Moren Abat, emphasized the importance of the event not only for the countries and the stakeholders involved but also as a major input to the ongoing work of the Water Experts Group of the UfM on the "Water Agenda for the Mediterranean" and also for the follow-up of the current phase of the SWIM-H2020 SM Project.

The SWIM-H2020 SM's Team leader, Professor Michael Scoullas had the opportunity to stress the urgent need for public and private investment in the water sector in order to address existing and emerging challenges. He briefly presented the results of the Water Policy Dialogues recently completed in Lebanon in 2017 and launched a peer-to-peer exchange among banks on the involvement of the banking sector in financing water projects. Several important experiences were shared among the participants for the design and implementation of water financing schemes, better water governance and integrity and many other related issues.

Dr. Emad Adly, the SWIM-H2020 SM Stakeholders Engagement Expert presented SWIM-H2020 SM with emphasis on its provisions and practices in dealing with issues of balanced participation of sectors, gender, countries and backgrounds. He also underlined the role of enhanced 'participation' in governance and in enhancing integrity in water investments.

This major, high caliber event brought together more than 115 stakeholders: representatives of government authorities, banks and the financing sector in general, water supply and wastewater utilities, water resources management organisations, the private sector, international and regional institutions and organizations, civil society organisations and academia from the MENA and other Mediterranean countries.

The participants endorsed a statement addressed to the Union for the Mediterranean, recognizing the need to continue and further strengthen the relevant work carried out under SWIM-H2020 SM in encouraging Private Sector investment in Water related projects as well as in improving frameworks, processes and projects that could strengthen good governance and integrity in water management in the MENA region.



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.

Meanwhile, stay updated via:

[SWIM-H2020 SM Website](#)

[SWIM-H2020 SM LinkedIn](#)

[SWIM-H2020 SM Facebook](#)

For more information, please contact:

Ms. Lisa PAPADOGEORGAKI

Communication Officer SWIM-H2020 SM

Email: lpa@ldk.gr

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).

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