



## NEWS RELEASE

Athens, 12 February 2018

### **The progress to date of the SWIM and Horizon 2020 SM Project was discussed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee Meeting**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee Meeting of the EU funded SWIM and Horizon 2020 - Support Mechanism (SWIM-H2020 SM) was held on January the 31<sup>st</sup> 2018, at the Dead Sea, Jordan. SWIM-Horizon 2020 SM is a 39 month Project (2016-2019), with a budget of 6,705,205 euros.

During the Meeting, an overview of the Project's progress to date was provided; in fact, the bulk of the nearly 100 activities of the Project are in progress. A constructive dialogue and consultation on them was also held. The feedback from Focal Points of the Project's Partner Countries namely Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia was very useful. The key message from all Focal Points was the importance of the Project at national and regional level and the necessity for uninterrupted continuation of the Project with further in-depth involvement and presence of the Project's experts in the countries and more study visits and Peer-to-Peer interventions.

**More than 40 stakeholders from 14 countries participated in the Meeting:**

The Ministries of Water and Irrigation and of the Environment of Jordan, the Focal Points of SWIM and Horizon 2020 (Ministries of Water and of Environment of the PCs), the Deputy Coordinator, Officials from the Directorates General for Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations and of the Environment of the European Commission (DG NEAR and DG Environment), Institutional Partners of the Project, namely the Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat (UfMS), the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP MAP), the Horizon 2020 Initiative Components SEIS, European Environment Agency (EEA), the Horizon 2020 Focal Points from Montenegro and Bosnia & Herzegovina, as well representatives of International Institutions and NGOs of MENA countries.

**H.E. Ali Subah, Secretary General of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation addressed the participants at the opening and closing, emphasizing the importance of sharing knowledge on a regional level for the promotion of sustainability and in particular of SDGs in the region.**

**The Meeting was facilitated by Mr. Stavros Damianidis – Project Director of the SWIM-H2020 SM and Professor Michael Scoullou - Team Leader of the Project.**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee Meeting took place back-to-back with the meetings of the Horizon 2020 Steering Group (29/1/2018), the UfM Task Force on Environment (30/1/2018), and the UfM Water Expert Group (1/2/2018).

**Meanwhile, stay updated via:**

[SWIM-H2020 SM Website](#)

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## **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.

### **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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