



CONCEPT NOTE

Regional activity ST- 3 Visit to a site where combined ICZM – IWRM (including groundwater) is applied Buna/Bojana, Montenegro

16-18 July 2018

SWIM and Horizon2020 Support Mechanism



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

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The selection of the Project themes and activities was made according to the Work Programme of Horizon2020 (2015-2020), developed during phase I of the project Horizon 2020 CB/MEP, the ToRs for SWIM-H2020 SM issued by the European Commission and the views expressed by the countries and stakeholders during the fact finding missions (inception phase). The Project Workplan was approved at a first step by the EUDs and the Commission and endorsed at a second step during the Steering Committee meeting held in Brussels (27-28 September 2016). Any adaptations in the meantime were approved/confirmed at the second Steering Committee meeting held at the Dead Sea (31 January 2018).



A total of 15 (fifteen) regional on-site training activities and 6 (six) study tours with participants from most/all PCs were incorporated in the Project Work Plan. In order to establish adequate linkage and synergy between all activities, the activity described herewith will take into consideration and connect to the extent possible, with any respective topics and activities to be carried out in some beneficiary countries at national level under WP1: Expert Facility.

This activity will be implemented under the H2020 Component under both the “Environmental Integration” and “ICZM” themes and clustered in the Project Work Plan under WP3: Training Activity, ST-3: Study Tour: Visit to a site where combined ICZM – IWRM (including groundwater) is applied.

In recent decades various management approaches have been developed for the terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments in the Mediterranean basin. These include Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), and more recently Coastal Aquifer and Groundwater Management. The focus of these approaches has been most acute in coastal areas and in the management of the key resource – water – with the potential for overlap and duplication of resources. This Study Tour is intended to introduce to the trainees the Integrative Methodological Framework (IMF) which converged these methodologies into a unified one and provides guidance for its replication and application across the Mediterranean through a transferable process. The trainees will visit one of the areas where the IMF has been piloted, the Buna/Bojana river (Montenegro-Albania).

2.2 REGIONAL CONTEXT – The IMF

An estimated 80% of the pollution load received by the Mediterranean Sea derives from land based sources through rivers, combined with that from coastal development and activity. This underpins the need for a multi-sectoral approach at the water basin-wide level, including groundwater bodies, and with particular attention to the coastal zone. Mediterranean countries are called to prepare specific strategies and plans at differing geographic scales to meet the requirements of international legal agreements, relating directly or indirectly to this issue, including for example the ICZM Protocol and the EU Water Framework Directive. The risk of duplication, conflicts of objectives and inefficiencies is therefore high. Integration is commonly advocated to avoid such duplication, to maximize the benefits of combining thematic and institutional approaches -with the common ultimate goal of achieving “sustainable development”. In practice however, real-world resources, differing time-scales along with institutional and sectoral rigidities have limited the achievement of the full integration of these approaches.

Many of the approaches and subsequent plans have been developed in the latter parts of the 20th century, and the first years of the 21st century, mostly in parallel by practitioners of different disciplinary backgrounds, and frequently different philosophical departure.

It was under the MedPartnership¹ that the effort was made to establish a new and practical framework to achieve real integration: the **Integrative Methodological Framework (IMF)** is a comprehensive

¹ Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (MedPartnership, 2009-2015), a collective effort of leading environmental institutions (UNEP/MAP and EU) and organizations together with countries



methodology for integrated and sustainable management of the Mediterranean ecosystems constituted by coastal zones, river basins and coastal aquifers. It was prepared by converging the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), and coastal aquifers and groundwater management approaches into a unified methodology. The IMF is a joint initiative by PAP/RAC, GWP-Med and UNESCO-IHP, prepared under the direction of an Integrative Working Group (IWG) composed of international experts and partners professionals, all with extensive experience in their respective fields across the Mediterranean region and globally.

It is built around two major sections: the Concept, which provides an insight into theoretical and methodological background, and the Operational Guidelines of practical nature, the latter setting out a 5-stage process to guide the preparation of coastal plans in the Mediterranean and beyond. The process provides a step-by-step guide to an integrated planning, and begins with the very start of the planning process - "Establishment", through to implementation and the facilitation of change – "Realising the Vision". The process describes objectives, activities and outputs of each stage, proposing methodologies, tools and examples.

This IMF was successfully tested in the development of the Integrated Resource Management Plan for the Buna/Bojana Area (Albania/Montenegro), and therefore SWIM-H2020 SM decided to organise ST-3 at Buna/Bojana, with emphasis on the Montenegrin experience, but with Albanian stakeholders crossing the border to meet, discuss and share their experience in implementing the IMF with the trainees as well.

2.3 TARGET GROUP

The main target group includes 24-27 representatives of competent authorities and implementers who are involved in different aspects of ICZM/IWRM planning in the partner countries. Three representatives are targeted to be invited from each partner country from the following types of affiliations:

- National/regional authority responsible for coastal zone management and/or water resources management (ICZM/IWRM);
- Local authority involved in ICZM/IWRM;
- Research institutions/academics working on ICZM/IWRM;
- Civil society organisations working on the subject matter or relevant projects;

The background level of the participants is expected to be intermediate to high.

sharing the Mediterranean Sea to address the main environmental challenges that Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystems face



3 OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS

3.1 OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of the visit is to bring together key stakeholders from the participating countries with Montenegrin and Albanian stakeholders and selected experts and provide a high-level study visit focusing on ICZM, IWRM and the IMF experience.

The specific objectives of the study visit are to:

- Introduce to the participants the “Integrative Methodological Framework (IMF) for coastal, river basin and aquifer management - towards converging management approaches for Mediterranean coastal zones”;
- Visit an area where the IMF has been applied;
- Enable, encourage, and facilitate dialogue and exchange of experiences between public authorities and other key stakeholders from the partner countries with those from Montenegro and Albania on ICZM/IWRM;
- Enable presentations by the participants of the situation in their countries and promote sharing of experiences and the development of eventual synergies and complementary activities within the Mediterranean.

3.2 APPROACH TO MEET OBJECTIVES

In order to achieve the study tour objectives, a highly dynamic, comprehensive, interactive, facilitated and participatory approach will be adopted, in delivering the following:

- Presentation of the IMF. It is available in:
 - EN: <https://pap-thecoastcentre.org/pdfs/IMF%20Guidelines.pdf>
 - FR : <https://pap-thecoastcentre.org/pdfs/IMF%20Guidelines%20FR.pdf>
- Presentation of the Montenegrin and Albanian experiences in formulating, finalising and implementing ICZM/IWRM and the IMF in the Buna/Bojana area and discussions.
- Field visits to specific sites of interest (mainly on the Montenegrin side) to discuss directly with the involved stakeholders.
- Interactive workshop sessions where the participants share their experiences in trying to integrate ICZM and IWRM in their countries.

A webinar (WEB-1) will take place at some point after ST-3 for consolidation of learning.



3.3 EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Key stakeholders of the partner countries are introduced to the IMF and its application in the Buna/Bojana area (which happens to be transboundary). This will be both at the theoretical level and the practical/applied level.
- Planners and practitioners are facilitated to acquire knowledge and skills for effective use of the typical human and logistical resources available in most Mediterranean countries for the design and implementation of ICZM/IWRM.
- Planners and practitioners are better acquainted on how to better coordinate, integrate and involve stakeholders, including the general public, in the planning process.
- Recent developments and innovative approaches on ICZM/IWRM are entrenched.
- Experience sharing at the regional level and knowledge transfer (north-to-south, south-to-south) on ICZM/IWRM and IMF.
- The on-going regional efforts for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol and the EU WFD are strengthened.

4 LOCATION, TIME AND LOGISTICS

4.1 LOCATION

The field visit is planned to be held in Buna/Bojana, on the Montenegrin side (air flight arrivals mainly at Podgorica airport). Albanian stakeholders will come to Montenegro to meet with the trainees.

The base of 'operations' will most likely be Ulcinj with short visits to speak with stakeholders *in situ* at Ada Bojana, Velika plaza, Sasko lake, Ulcinj Salina with Port Milena, swamps (kmeta), wetlands, etc.

4.2 IMPLEMENTATION DATES

The field visit will be organised over 2,5-3 consecutive days, with travels on the day before and after (5 days in total) **scheduled from 16-18 July 2018**.

4.3 LOGISTICS

The consultant will arrange all logistics for the field visit including travel, local transportation, accommodation and catering. Interpretation of English/French will be available (partially whisper translation).



AGENDA

Visit to a site where combined ICZM – IWRM (including groundwater) is applied:

Buna/Bojana, Montenegro

16-18 July 2018

DAY 1: Monday 16 July Venue: Hotel Mediterranean, Ulcinj			
Time	Session	Work programme	Trainers/Speakers
9.30-10.00	Registration of participants		
10.00-11.00	Welcome speech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming remarks • Brief overview of SWIM-H2020 Support Mechanism • Agenda overview • Tour de Table 	Prof. Michael Scoullos, Team Leader, SWIM-H2020 SM Ivana Stojanovic, H2020 Focal Point for Montenegro
11.00-11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>		
11.30-13.00	The IMF	The Integrative Methodological Framework (IMF): Integrating the Integrated	Prof. Michael Scoullos, Team Leader, SWIM-H2020 SM
13.00-14.00	<i>Lunch break</i>		
14.00-14.45	The Montenegrin Experience	The Integrated Resources Management Plan (IRMP) for the Buna/Bojana area	Ivana Stojanovic, H2020 Focal Point for Montenegro, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism
14.45-15.15	<i>Coffee break</i>		
15.15-16.00		The Albanian Experience (ICZM-IWRM-IMF)	(tbd)
16.00-17.00	Presentation	Introduction to the sites to be visited (Šasko Lake, Ulcinj Salina, Ada Bojana, Velika plaza).	Vasilije Bušković

DAY 2: Tuesday 17 July Site Visits		
Time	Session	Work programme - Trainers/Speakers
09.10-11.00	Travel and guided visit to Lake Šasko	Vasilije Bušković will provide information on the ecological value and potential of Šasko Lake and its hydrological connection to Bojana / Buna river / delta and the Adriatic Sea. At the view point, information will be provided on the ruins of the old town of Svač.
11.10-12.30	Travel and guided visit to Ulcinj Salina, Swamps (Knet)	Aleksandar Mijovic, representative of National Parks and Vasilije Bušković will present the current management of Ulcinj Salina (potential protected area and Ramsar site, managed by PE National Parks, at present) and its ecological values and threats.



12.30-13.30	Travel and visit to Bojana/Buna river/Bridge and to Ada Bojana	
13.30-14.30	Lunch in a nearby restaurant ("Ponte")	During the lunch Vasilije Bušković will provide information on Bojana / Buna river (5-10minutes)
14.30-15.15	Guided visit to Ada Bojana	Vasilije Bušković will present the ecological values of Ada Bojana and its potential for (tourism) development
15.15-16.15	Travel and visit to Velika Plaza and the white dunes	Vasilije Bušković will present the ecological value and threats to the dunes and halophyte vegetation at Velika plaža
16.15-17.15	Return to Hotel Mediterranean	
17.15-19.00	Free time for the rest of the afternoon	
19.30	Dinner (at the hotel)	

DAY 3: Wednesday 18 July Venue: Hotel Mediterranean, Ulcinj			
Time	Session	Work programme	Trainers/Speakers
9.30-11.00	Sharing experiences	The experiences of the participants	All countries
11.00-11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>		
11.30-13.00	Sharing experiences	The experiences of 'Local' Stakeholders	Local Stakeholders
13.00-14.00	<i>Lunch break</i>		
14.00-15.00	Closing	Wrap up Study Visit evaluation Certificates awarding End of Study Visit	