



NEWS RELEASE

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Technical, Regulatory and Cultural Aspects of Treated Wastewater Reuse

A Regional On-Site Training on Technical, Regulatory and Cultural Aspects of Treated Wastewater Reuse (TWWR) was organized by the EU-funded SWIM-Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism, on 23 & 24 July 2018 in Athens, Greece.

This 2-day Regional On-Site Training was organized to enhance the knowledge of the key stakeholders who are involved in different aspects of the design and implementation of wastewater reuse schemes at regional and local level in the Project's Partner Countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia). Participants were introduced to state-of the art knowledge and the new developments in wastewater reuse guidelines and their implications on regulatory and institutional aspects.

Through this Training, the stakeholders gained valuable knowledge on wastewater valorization in their countries, the safe reuse of wastewater based on appropriate standards, guidelines and best practices, the integration of wastewater reuse into water and sanitation planning as well as the financing and management of reuse projects. Setting up an institutional governance framework was also covered in this training which was a valuable asset for the participants.

The Training was also a platform of cross-fertilization between the SWIM DEMO projects and the SWIM H2020 SM project on TWWR, by facilitating two-way exchanges on the large scale and small scale application of treated wastewater reuse in these countries.

The four topics, introduced by the experts, and which received particular attention from the participants during the 2-day Training, were: i) the debate around the guidelines and standards for safe wastewater reuse, ii) the need of harmonization between the conventional wastewater treatment and WHO- multi-barriers approach securing wastewater reuse (WWR) in terms of health and environment, iii) the comparative advantages of indirect reuse of treated wastewater where this option is technically feasible, and iv) the need for adopting an integrated approach to WWR planning at the watershed scale.

During the exchange, the governance of the reuse emerged as one of the priority themes which deserves to be improved in the Partner Countries through the establishment of an adequate institutional and managerial system, the regulation and the standardization of the reuse inspired by the European guidelines but adapted to the contexts of the beneficiary countries, the setting up of financing mechanisms and incentives, in addition to the reinforcement of the technical capacities of the managers of wastewater treatment and reuse schemes to ensure good performance and viability of the installations.

More than 30 stakeholders participated in the 2-day sessions, such as representatives from the Ministries of Water and Irrigation of the Partner Countries, Governments Agency, NGOs and representatives from SWIM Demonstration Projects (Phase II).

The SWIM-H2020 SM Project has already organized two (2) national Trainings on the Reuse of Treated Wastewater in Agriculture in Algeria (12/2017, 03/2018).

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For more information, please contact:

Ms. Lisa PAPADOGEORGAKI Communication Officer SWIM-H2020 SM Email: lpa@ldk.gr





Sustainable Water Integrated Management and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism

Working for a Sustainable Mediterranean, Caring for our Future.

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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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