



NEWS RELEASE

Tunis, October 8, 2018

The SWIM-H2020 Support Mechanism Holds a National Meeting in Tunisia on sustainable water resources and a clean environment in the Mediterranean

The EU-funded SWIM-H2020 SM project organized a national meeting on sustainable water resources and a clean environment in the Mediterranean, today in Tunis.

SWIM-H2020 SM (2016-2019) is a key regional project aimed at contributing to the reduction of marine pollution and the sustainable use of scarce water resources in the Mediterranean region, particularly in North African countries and the Middle East.

The objective of the national meeting in Tunisia is to present what has been achieved so far and what still needs to be implemented until April 2019, when the project will end.

In addition to the co-organizers, the EU Delegation in Tunisia, the representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries and the Ministry of Equipment, Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development, participants representatives of national agencies and international organizations active in Tunisia, MPs, academics, environmental NGOs and the media attended the meeting.

SWIM-H2020 SM is conducting seven (7) main capacity-building activities in Tunisia to respond directly to the challenges facing the country and the opportunities that have emerged. In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries and the Ministry of Equipment, Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development, SWIM-H2020 SM is running technical assistance activities: decentralized water management; development of a rural sanitation strategy; groundwater management to reduce overexploitation and pollution of groundwater resources; management of used multilayer packaging and plastic bags; establishment of education for sustainable development focused on particular themes; implementation of the National Action Plan for Sustainable Public Procurement; development of a national manual for the evaluation of dredged material; sustainability and replication of the Bizerte Lake governance process.

These activities have been implemented with the valuable contribution of relevant ministries and other Tunisian stakeholders (local authorities, NGOs, etc.) and in collaboration with other regional actors and projects active in Tunisia.

Thanks to the contribution of Tunisian stakeholders (institutions, NGOs, local authorities) and collaboration with other actors and regional projects active in Tunisia, coordinated and satisfactory progress has been made so far. In addition, Tunisia has taken full advantage of the opportunities offered by the regional component of the project, with more than 405 people participating in all training and on-site study visits.

"The SWIM-H2020 SM project provides concrete and targeted responses to threats to the environment and to the water resources of Tunisia and the entire Mediterranean", **commented Mr Patrice Bergamini, the EU Ambassador in Tunisia.**

"Tunisia has demonstrated its commitment and ability to benefit from the support mechanism SWIM-H2020 and other EU support to promote environmental policies and improve environmental conditions at critical sites such as Bizerte Lake and such as solid and liquid waste management", **said Professor Michael Scoullou, SWIM-H2020 SM Team Leader.**

The national meeting in Tunisia allowed, through a round table, to expose to other projects and key processes working on various aspects of the sustainable management of water and the protection of the environment in Tunisia, with a positive impact on the whole of the Mediterranean, to present also their status and their progress, thus showing complementarity and synergies between projects.



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 SWIM-H2020 SM project covers 8 partner countries and has a budget of € 6,705,000. It organizes more than 100 activities, including 50 national and 35 regional, and addresses 21 themes.

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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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Disclaimer

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