



NEWS RELEASE

Cairo, October 16, 2018

SWIM-H2020 SM National Meeting in Egypt on Sustainable Water Resources and a Clean Environment in the Mediterranean A Side Event of the Cairo Water Week

Today, the EU-funded SWIM-H2020 SM project organized a National Meeting on sustainable water resources and a clean environment in the Mediterranean.

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 Egypt 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 Egypt, the representatives of the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation and Ministry of Environment, participants representatives of the League of Arab States, national agencies and international organizations active in Egypt, academics, environmental NGOs and the media attended the meeting.

SWIM-H2020 SM is conducting five (5) main capacity-building Activities in Egypt to respond directly to the challenges facing the country and the opportunities that have emerged. In collaboration with the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Ministry of Environment, SWIM-H2020 SM is running technical assistance activities related to: improving Watershed Management at a decentralized level; building the capacities of the relevant key actors in selected water intensive sectors (domestic, touristic, industrial) on methods of water conservation and efficiency; capacity building for the Waste Management Regulatory Agency staff and other public institutions in Egypt; assisting Egypt in the implementation of the Action Plan of the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD); assessment of marine litter along the Egyptian Mediterranean coastline and the identification of management options.

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

Thanks to the contribution of Egyptian stakeholders (institutions, NGOs, local authorities) and collaboration with other actors and regional projects active in Egypt, coordinated and satisfactory progress has been made so far. In addition, Egypt has taken full advantage of the opportunities offered by the regional component of the project, with more than 160 people participating in all training and on-site study visits.

"SWIM H2020 is a successful EU regional initiative that is complementing our bilateral efforts on water management in Egypt by creating synergies with other Mediterranean countries facing similar challenges in terms of water scarcity, capacity building or plastic pollution," said **Mr. Ivan Surkoš, Ambassador of the European Union to Egypt**. "Promoting and protecting access to water is fundamental in safeguarding the rights and the security not only of the present, but also of the future generations. Thus, we will continue to support sustainable water management in Egypt through policy dialogue and development cooperation, in close partnership with all stakeholders in the sector," he added.

"Egypt's involvement with the Horizon 2020 Initiative to De-Pollute the Mediterranean goes back to the 2006 Cairo Ministerial Declaration, which endorsed the timetable of the Initiative. Today, we can confirm that despite many difficulties and still existing significant needs, Egypt as well as the other MENA Countries, have progressed considerably in the Environment and Water Sectors, benefiting from the SWIM-H2020 Support Mechanism, including on policy and technical issues as well as on public awareness and education", said **Professor Michael Scoullou, SWIM-H2020 SM Team Leader**.

The National Meeting in Egypt 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 Egypt, 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.

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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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.

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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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