



NEWS RELEASE

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SWIM-H2020 SM Regional On-Site Training on Monitoring and Managing Marine Litter in the Mediterranean

A Regional On-Site Training on how to monitor and sustainably manage Marine Litter was organized by the EU-funded SWIM-Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism, on 24 & 25 October 2018 in Athens, Greece.

The participants experienced the showcasing of the collective response of the Mediterranean to curb the problem of marine litter. From recent scientific advances with regards to marine litter and its impacts in the region, to best practices as identified under the Regional Plan for Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, and the compelling stories and hands-on experiences of key stakeholder groups active on the science-policy-society interface.

The training featured initiatives that address the whole management cycle of marine litter, from prevention, monitoring and surveillance to mitigation measures, carried out at European, Mediterranean, national and local level. Special emphasis was given to litter that is building up in what should be pristine coastal and marine protected areas, where marine biota and endangered species dwell.

The first day of the Training was actually the closing day of the Interreg Med Project ACT4Litter Conference (held in the premises of the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens). The European Commissioner for Environment, Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, Mr. Karmenu Vella, addressed the participants via video message referring to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and other EU policies to combat marine litter. The SWIM-H2020 SM trainees were given the opportunity to network with over 90 other marine litter practitioners working in one way or another on effective and targeted measures towards reaching MSFD and Barcelona Convention targets.

The results of the work of SWIM-H2020 SM Peers working on marine litter monitoring was shared by the Peers themselves at the regional level during day two of the training.

More than 35 key stakeholders of the Partner Countries' Ministries responsible for designing their national marine litter monitoring and management programmes, as well as representatives of Local Authorities, NGOs, Research Institutes and Academia were trained during these two intense days.

Throughout the Training, emphasis was given to the practical implementation of the three marine litter indicators adopted within the Barcelona Convention Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP – Decision IG.22/7).

In 2017-2018 the SWIM-H2020 SM Project has organized marine litter related Activities in Algeria, Egypt and Morocco as well as a Webinar.

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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.

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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