



NEWS RELEASE

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The SWIM-H2020 SM National Meeting in Jordan and The Consultation Workshop on the Drought Risk Management Plan for the Amman-Zarqa catchment

Today, the EU-funded SWIM-H2020 SM project organized its National Meeting in Jordan focusing 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 Jordan was to present what has been achieved so far and what still needs to be implemented until April 2019, when the present phase of the project will end.

In addition to the co-organizers, the EU Delegation in Jordan, the representatives of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and Ministry of Environment, national agencies and international organizations active in Jordan, and stakeholders from all sectors including academics, environmental NGOs and the media attended the meeting.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, SWIM-H2020 SM is running technical assistance activities related to: **Mainstreaming Drought Risk Management; Socio-Economic Impact Assessments of Groundwater Over-Abstractions in Azraq Basin.** Respectively, the Project is implementing activities in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment on **Strengthening of public awareness and Education for Sustainable Development in view of promoting the use of non-conventional water resources and a shift away from the use of plastic bags; Preventing pollution through shifting towards Green Economy and Sustainable Consumption & Production (legal and economic instruments and incentives to promote circular economy and SCP).** Jordan has taken full advantage of the opportunities offered by the regional component of the project, with more than 122 people participating in training and on-site study visits.

The National Meeting in Jordan allowed, through a panel discussion, to other projects and key processes working on various aspects of the sustainable management of water and the protection of the environment in Jordan, 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 EU is proud to support the water sector in Jordan in a holistic way that not only increases water supply and treatment but also reduces water losses by upgrading the existing infrastructure, using both renewable energy and energy efficiency applications, and contributing to the overall improvement of the governance of the sector. This approach will also contribute to promoting the green economy implementing the energy-water nexus", said **Mr. Andrea Matteo FONTANA, European Union Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.** He also added: "The sustainable use of scarce water resources is of vital importance in Jordan. The SWIM-H2020 SM project plays an important role by increasing public awareness and preserving this scarce resource. The EU also strongly supports cooperation among all participants to improve stability and foster partnerships in the region."

"Jordan has participated in the SWIM-H2020 SM with enthusiasm and commitment. It has contributed in the development of the programme through its important role as Co-Presidency of the Union for the Mediterranean and has utilised in a very effective way the various activities and opportunities provided by the programme at all levels, obtaining tangible results", said **Professor Michael SCULLOS, SWIM-H2020 SM Team Leader.**

Just yesterday (28/11/2018), a Consultation Workshop "Roadmap for developing a Drought Risk Management Plan in the Amman-Zarqa catchment" was also organised by the project as part of its on-going technical assistance activities.

Through a participatory approach, the Project Team, together with more than 20 key stakeholders involved in drought monitoring and management along with water managers and planners of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation were able to define the methodological steps and actions to be followed towards developing a Drought Risk Management Plan (DRMP) for the Amman-Zarqa catchment (Roadmap). The discussion also facilitated the definition of targets (based on the drought hazard and vulnerability outputs), proactive measures for drought risk management across different sectors, actions and roles, entry points for mainstreaming the DRMP, synergies with other sectors and policies.

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.



Sustainable Water Integrated Management and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism

Working for a Sustainable Mediterranean, Caring for our Future.

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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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