



NEWS RELEASE

Athens, 20 December 2018

A Regional Training and a Study Tour on Fostering a Switch to Green Economy in the Mediterranean were organized by the SWIM-H2020 Support Mechanism

A Regional Training on “Fostering a Switch to Green Economy in the Mediterranean-Designing circular economy strategies in the food and beverage packaging sector” was organized by SWIM-H2020 SM Consortium Member SCP/RAC (Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production-UN Environment /Mediterranean Action Plan) on 11-13 December 2018 in Barcelona, Spain.

On the occasion of this Regional Training, and at the request of Algeria, twenty (20) Algerian officials, Small and Medium Enterprises, Associations of producers, etc. participated in a Study Visit organized by SWIM-H2020 SM and built around the regional training sessions. Actually, this Study Visit supported the Algerian environmental plan of action in its "Zero Waste" strategic line adopted in April 2016.

The Algerian delegation, on their first day (Monday the 10th of December), visited Argentona, a municipality of 12.000 inhabitants with an 87% recycling rate - the highest in Spain. Other visits included food and beverage packaging and waste management plants; recycling companies which adopt a circular approach to waste management and the University of Barcelona, for their initiative for the reuse of beverage bottles.

Both Activities aimed to enhance the knowledge of key stakeholders who are involved in designing and developing strategies on Green Economy in the Project’s Partner Countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia) and stimulate inter sectoral dialogue and collaboration to come up with practical solutions and actions to reduce pollution and its effects of in the Mediterranean.

More than 60 stakeholders (in total), such as policy makers, representatives of small and medium Enterprises from the food and beverage packaging sector as well as representatives of competent authorities who are involved in different aspects of policy making, public procurement and green economy in the partner countries participated in the Training and Study Tour.

They were introduced to Green and Circular Economy (GE) and Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) principles, policy instruments, methods and tools, as well as specific methodologies on eco-design, via case studies. They became familiar with recent developments and innovative approaches on policy work and eco-design, on food and beverage packaging, to generate greener economies in the region.

Overall, these 2 Activities have strengthened the regional dialogue on GE and SCP issues and established the basis for the development of synergetic activities and regional cooperation.

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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.

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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