



NEWS RELEASE

Algiers, December 12, 2018

The SWIM-H2020 SM National Meeting in Algeria

Today, the EU-funded SWIM-H2020 Support Mechanism organized its National Meeting in Algeria focusing on sustainable water resources and a clean environment in the Mediterranean.

SWIM-H2020 SM (2016-2019) is a key regional Process 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 Algeria 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 organizers, the European Union Delegation in Algeria, the representatives of the Ministry of Environment & Renewable Energies and the Ministry of Water Resources, national agencies and international organizations active in Algeria, and stakeholders from all sectors including academics, environmental NGOs and the media attended the meeting.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Environment & Renewable Energies and the Ministry of Water Resources, SWIM-H2020 SM is running six (6) technical assistance activities related to: the reuse of treated wastewater in agriculture, through awareness and sharing of good practices; Identification of unbilled water and intervention towards the reduction of losses due to leaks; Protection of water resources against pollution; Awareness and education for sustainable development with emphasis on non-conventional water resources; Characterization of marine and coastal litter in several coastal wilayas; development of a national plan for coastal and marine litter management. Algeria has taken full advantage of the opportunities offered by the regional component of the Project with more than 470 people participating in trainings and on-site study visits.

A Study Visit of competent Algerian public officials and Small and Medium Enterprises and Green Associations is underway in Barcelona over this week dedicated to "Fostering a Switch to Green Economy in the Mediterranean - Designing circular economy strategies in the food and beverage packaging sector".

The panel discussion organized during the National Meeting in Algeria allowed other projects and key processes working on various aspects of sustainable management of water and the protection of the environment in Algeria, with positive impact on the whole of the Mediterranean, to present their status and their progress, thus enhancing complementarity and synergies among projects and initiatives.

"We are very pleased that Algeria has benefited from the SWIM-Horizon 2020 SM in a variety of issues of importance for the country and the different stakeholders involved. It is crucial to make sure that with the support of the relevant Ministries and governmental agencies there will be a follow-up of the activities carried out, that may be further assisted in the near future by appropriate interventions to be included in the next phase of the Project, already announced by the European Commission", said **Professor Michael SCULLOS, SWIM-H2020 SM Team Leader**.

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.

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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