



NEWS RELEASE

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The SWIM-H2020 SM National Meeting in Israel

Today, the EU-funded SWIM-H2020 Support Mechanism organized its National Meeting in Israel 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 the Middle East and North African countries.

The objective of the National Meeting in Israel was to present what has been achieved so far and what still needs to be completed until April 2019, when the present phase of the Project will end.

The meeting was attended by the European Union Delegation to the state of Israel, the representatives of the Government Authority for Water & Sewage and the Ministry of Environmental Protection, national agencies and international organizations active in Israel, and stakeholders from all sectors including academics, environmental NGOs and the media.

In collaboration with the Government Authority for Water & Sewage and the Ministry of Environmental Protection, SWIM-H2020 SM is running six (6) technical assistance activities related to support for: stream rehabilitation, river restoration; Green and Circular Public Procurement in central and local government through policy development and capacity building for manufacturers and procurers; sustainable management of olive oil mills waste through rregulation and innovative methods; plastic waste management and recycling; identification of best practices in glass waste sorting and recycling; management of Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste management.

Israel has also taken full advantage of the opportunities offered by the regional component of the Project with more than 180 people participating in trainings and on-site study visits.

The panel discussion organized during the National Meeting of Israel allowed other projects and key processes working on various aspects of sustainable management of water and the protection of the environment in the country 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.

EU Ambassador to Israel Emanuel Giaufret said: “Promoting transboundary and integrated water management is at the forefront of EU policy, including the need for effective water governance. Sustainable water resources are important for climate change as well as promoting peace and stability. Given the investment of the SWIM-H2020 SM Project in developing the necessary technologies to address this challenge, I see many more opportunities for cooperation with the EU in this field, where Israel has a innovative advantage. “

“The Government and stakeholders of Israel have benefited and utilized to the maximum the opportunities provided by the SWIM-Horizon 2020 SM for transferring experience and knowledge on key issues related to water management and environment, sharing through our important regional programme the results of their own efforts in the country”, **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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