



## NEWS RELEASE

Athens, 11 February 2019

### **Strengthening decision-makers' skills on using the "Cost of Environmental Degradation" tool in Lebanon**

**A 2-day Training dedicated to the 'Cost of Environmental Degradation' (COED) tool was organized by the EU funded SWIM and Horizon 2020 SM Project, on 4-5 February 2019, in Beirut, Lebanon.**

**COED measures the lost welfare of a society due to environmental degradation which can be specified in categories such as Agricultural land, Forests, Water, Air quality, Waste and the Coastal zone.**

The objective of COED is to quantify the degradation of the environment and provide (to the extent possible) a monetary value on these damages. **These estimates of damage could be used by decision makers along with data on costs of remediation for priority setting and as an instrument for integrating environmental issues into economic and social development.**

At the request of Lebanon, SWIM-H2020 SM organised the Training with the specific objective of enhancing knowledge about the methodologies and the parameters to calculate the COED and to upgrade the skills required for the evaluation of studies and analyses that address COED. Case studies and example(s) from the region and hands-on exercises were the Training approach followed.

34 competent staff from the Public sector (Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Finance, other relevant Ministries and Council of Development and Reconstruction CDR), as well as consultants and Academics worked in pairs and individually.

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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).

**The civil society component of SWIM-H2020 SM is facilitated by the UfM labelled BlueGreen project and network.**

#### **Disclaimer**

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