SWIM and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism

Working for a Sustainable Mediterranean, Caring for our Future

The project's legacy to future projects based on lessons learnt

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SWIM-H2020 SM's distilled wisdom

Our lessons learned include:

- **the key elements and conditions that enabled the successful operation and completion of the project (assets)**
- **The elements that inhibited, delayed or reduced the impact of some activities (challenges)**

SWIM-H2020 SM lessons/assets

- the combination of the demand-driven Expert Facility's national needs with relevant regional frameworks and activities
- the strong political commitment from Partner Countries, as well as the trust developed between the political leadership, the EU, the Focal Points and the project Team.
- the continuity provided by the previous phases of SWIM SM and Horizon CB/MEP
- the use of results from other relevant projects and previous investments
- deep knowledge of the region and of the bilateral and national dynamics
- systematic and meaningful dialogues with the project counterparts, authorities and stakeholders, from planning and inception phases till now.
  - transparent consultations
  - Country meetings on project progress
  - frequent presence in the countries

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SWIM-H2020 SM lessons/assets

- flexibility to address emerging needs and themes (some funds should be reserved)
- success in addressing critical regional and cross-cutting issues required parallel systematic work and synergies at different levels, from local to regional and national to international, involving Partner Countries, stakeholders and the key regional organisations and institutions (UN Environment/MAP, UfM, etc).
- follow-up SWIM-H2020 SM activities need to be continued and go 'deeper' in the future, and, to the extent possible, future activities must keep the already involved parties connected.
- monitoring and post assessment of CB activities: increases engagement; provides insights; measures impact. Interviews with participants confirm results.

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SWIM-H2020 SM lessons/assets

- The assessment of the CB and TA activities indicated:
  - up-to-date, high-quality theoretical knowledge needs to be coupled with practical experience that is adapted to the absorption capacity of the target groups.
  - a balanced mix of traditional and innovative methods, including distance and e-learning, peer-to-peer, training of trainers and hands-on interventions is required.
  - optimum length of CB activities should be neither too short nor too long (two to three days) and, if possible, combined with study visits/hands-on activities
  - selection criteria should be faithfully applied in order to ensure appropriate participation, while requirements should be clearly outlined.
  - committed peers in Peer-to-Peer exercises played a key role, contributing to the success of the exercise, in contrast to cases where peers were not as committed.

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SWIM-H2020 SM lessons/challenges

- Law enforcement is a weak point in most Partner Countries. This has a negative impact on efforts to promote and apply some of the suggested technical assistance interventions.
- The frequent changes to the persons involved in the project – from political leadership to Focal Points and the administration – results in a loss of continuity and memory of the programme, reducing its impact and sustainability.
- There are difficulties in obtaining data, even when produced via the project.
- Although rigorous monitoring avoided deviation from the Work Programme, administrative burden should be alleviated.

For further information

Website

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Thank you for your attention.

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