



NEWS RELEASE

Rabat, September 18, 2018

The SWIM-H2020 Support Mechanism organized a National Meeting in Morocco on Sustainable Water Resources and a Clean Environment in the Mediterranean

The EU-funded SWIM-H2020 SM Project organized a National Meeting around sustainable water resources and a clean environment in the Mediterranean, today in Rabat.

SWIM-H2020 SM (2016-2019) is a key Regional Project aiming to contribute to reduced marine pollution and sustainable use of scarce water resources in the Mediterranean Region with emphasis on the countries of North Africa and the Middle East.

The aim of the National Meeting in Morocco was to present what was achieved so far and what is yet to be implemented till April 2019 when the Project will end.

Apart from the co-organizers, the EU Delegation to Morocco, the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Equipment, Transport, Logistics and Water, the National Meeting was attended by 50 participants from National Agencies and International Organizations active in Morocco, Members of Parliament, Academia, Environmental NGOs and the Media.

SWIM-H2020 SM is running 6 activities in Morocco on Decentralized Water Management; Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), Marine Litter; Climate Change and Green Economy. The Project's capacity building activities have so far contributed to the implementation of the National Wastewater Reuse Plan of Morocco particularly with regard to its institutional, regulatory and financial components. Effective guidelines were provided regarding projects of wastewater in its various possible reuses (agriculture, watering green spaces, recharge groundwater). A Diagnostic Analysis for the coastal areas of Rabat-Sale-Kentira was prepared to support the development of a common Vision and Action Plan for the Integrated Coastal management of this Moroccan coastline. Yet, more support has been provided for monitoring, managing and raising awareness about the problem of Marine Litter in the country and the implementation of Circular Economy principles.

These Activities were implemented with the valuable contribution of the relevant Ministries and other Moroccan stakeholders (local authorities, NGOs, etc.) and in collaboration with other regional actors and projects active in Morocco. Furthermore, the country has fully benefitted from the opportunities offered by the regional component of the Project. In fact, **more than 260 Moroccan professionals have already participated in 19 Regional Events, Consultations, Trainings, Study Tours and Webinars carried out in Morocco and abroad.**

"The European Union is pleased to support today's meeting which is fully consistent with the EU support already under way for the National Strategy for Sustainable Development and for the convergence of environmental regulation, especially for the protection of the coastal zone, towards European standards. The European supports to Morocco in its transition towards a greener economy, is a shared objective: the expected benefits will go beyond the borders of Morocco", said **Ms Sandrine BEAUCHAMP, representing the European Union Delegation to Morocco.**

"The National Meeting of Morocco allows us to be optimistic because there is considerable progress in several water and environmental issues and also a continuous effort to the right direction by national, EU supported and other Initiatives and projects. All these activities enhance Morocco to effectively address challenges and further pursue its sustainability agenda", said **Professor Michael SCULLOS, SWIM-H2020 SM Team Leader.**

The National Meeting in Morocco offered, through a panel discussion, the opportunity to other key projects, and processes working on various aspects of sustainable water management and environmental protection in Morocco with positive impact on the Mediterranean as a whole, to also present their status and progress, promoting in this way complementarity and synergies.

The SWIM- H2020 SM Project covers 8 Partner Countries and has a budget of Euros 6,705,000. It organizes over 100 activities out of which 50 are national and 35 are regional, and tackles 21 themes.



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.

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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).

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Disclaimer

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