



NEWS RELEASE

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SWIM and Horizon 2020 SM Showcases its Achievements and Lessons Learned

The Closing Conference of the EU funded SWIM and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism (SWIM-H2020 SM) was held on the 8th of April 2019, in Brussels, Belgium. During the meeting the SWIM-H2020 SM results, achievements and lessons learned from this outstanding regional 39-month Project (2016-2019), with the budget of 6,705,205 euros, were presented and discussed.

The Project's contribution to reduced marine pollution and a sustainable use of scarce water resources in the Partner Countries (PC) namely Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia, was largely acknowledged with more than 1.408 participants in the Project's Capacity Building Activities: 14 Regional and 51 National Trainings, 6 Study Tours, 20 National Consultations Workshops, 16 National Meetings, 10 Peer-to Peer Activities and 4 Webinars.

The Conference brought together 55 stakeholders from 15 countries: all 14 Focal Points SWIM-H2020 SM (PCs Ministries of Water and of Environment), Members of Parliaments: Mr. Mohamed Khalifa (Egypt), Mr. Mohamed Abu Setteh (Jordan) and Mr. Moh Rejdali (Morocco), Officials from the Directorates General for Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations and of the Environment of the European Commission (DG NEAR and DG Environment), Institutional Partners of the Project, namely the Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat (UfMS), the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP MAP), the European Environment Agency (EEA), as well representatives of International Institutions and NGOs of MENA countries.

Ms. Henrike Trautmann, Head of Unit-Regional Programmes Neighborhood South, DG NEAR, European Commission, along with Mr. Davor Percan, Head of Unit – Bilateral and Regional Environmental Cooperation, DG ENV, European Commission and Mr. Stavros Damianidis, Project Director SWIM-H2020 SM addressed the participants at the opening emphasizing the importance of enhancing knowledge and cooperation on a regional level for effectively addressing old and new -emerging problems in achieving Sustainable Development in the region.

Professor Michael Scoullou, Team Leader SWIM-H2020 SM, presented the highlights of the Project, its contribution to regional coherence and cooperation among countries and different socioeconomic groups and sectors and, above all, its legacy for the EU-funded Water & Environment Support (WES) mechanism which will follow, starting in May 2019.

A snapshot of the SWIM-H2020 SM Project activities is provided via a [booklet](#) which was published on the occasion of the Conference and the end of the project.

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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.

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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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