



SUSTAINABILITY AND REPLICATION CONCEPT NOTE

We consider that the dissemination of information of project results and the present recommended sustainability and replication concept note will be essential for enhancing the approach to future similar projects. A dedicated “sustainability and replication concept note” has been drafted that will be circulated to all stakeholders and posted on the project’s website.

During the project’s lifespan, the consortium guaranteed top-quality knowledge-transfer, capacity building and Technical Assistance, but it is up to the Partner Countries themselves to take ownership of the provided activities in order to continue on a sustainable development path once the project has been wrapped up.

Sustainability aspects were carefully planned and considered throughout the project’s duration. Elements for the project’s sustainability, follow-up and the replication of the project’s results were built in the Terms of Reference of all Technical Assistance activities (actions that could be replicated in other areas or countries with similar problems, tools that are easy to be used, guidance documents to fall back on, etc.) and given extra attention. Successful cases from other countries with similar conditions and difficulties were analysed, good practices, lessons learnt from actual application of solutions, etc. were discussed in the project’s national meetings, and in training sessions and encouragement was given to the FPs, trainees and all those involved (several thousands of people in total), to take the messages and experiences further and keep close to the follow-up phase(s) of SWIM-H2020 SM.

During the whole project duration, the project team took stock of the achievement of its results, not only in the light of progress achieved, but also in the light of the project’s sustainability. All capacity building activities were accompanied by evaluation questionnaires, distributed to all events’ participants, aiming to identify, among other things, elements for how lessons learnt could be transferred from the participants to other people not attending but also to the institutions/organisations they work with. In addition, impact assessment interviews were carried out throughout the project’s duration in order to assess short, medium and most probably long-term impact, and among other things, the impact of the project to the participants’ career and any sustainability elements that may have been taken further.

These stock taking efforts became more intensive during the last six months of the project, during which, the Team developed some more tools to harvest and identify the information related to the project results and their perspectives with regards to sustainability and replication. These tools were in the form of:

- Results capitalisation questionnaires, sent to all project Focal Points, in order to get their feedback on if and how the activities helped the countries to achieve their goals, their intentions to replicate the activities and plans for taking the activities further, on their own, after the project’s end.



- Dedicated panel discussions during the National Meetings, carried out in all partner countries in order to identify what are the follow up actions in connection to our project as well as emerging country needs for future programming and planning for the follow-up phase of SWIM-H2020 SM.
- On the occasion of the National Meetings and other missions that were carried out during the final six months of the project, the project's Key Experts and other Team members held telephone or face-to face interviews with the project's Focal Points for discussing the results capitalisation questionnaire and the project's contribution to the country's work in general, focusing on sustainability aspects and replication/upscaling plans.

After 39 months of providing coordination, knowledge, experience, practical advice and examples, assessments, reviews, guidelines and open space for dialogue to various stakeholders through SWIM-H2020 SM, several key sustainability results stand out and invite further development.

- **Synergies with institutional partners:** It is essential and will prove extremely valuable if future efforts are based on the already close and coordinated synergies with this project's institutional partners, strengthen and re-enforce the operations and further build on new emerging topics.
- **Trainees' selection criteria:** The project has developed a "Methodology for Enhancing and Assessing the Impact of its Capacity Building Activities" which encompasses a set of selection criteria, in order to ensure the identification/selection of the most appropriate participants for the different activities at national, sub-regional and regional levels is achieved in a systematic way, to have a homogenous and suitable audience and in order to achieve a higher level of impact of these activities for them. This set of criteria has been applied and tested in all project training activities and has proved very useful. It would be good to have it used by future projects or actions of the Ministries or other stakeholders organizing training activities, as it would add value to the organisation and results of the trainings.
- **Database of stakeholders and media for networking:** A database including more than 4000 stakeholders has been compiled and is used by the project for its communication and capacity building activities. The list is being continuously enriched and updated with new contact details and would be a valuable basis for future communication or networking activities, being so tailored and close to the needs of projects in this area and of this nature.
- **Dialogue and information exchange:** Throughout its lifetime, the SWIM-H2020 SM has provided trainings on latest technological topics and opportunities for dialogue between the teams and specialists on emerging issues. These events not only ensured a shared understanding among the parties from across the region of the key topics but allowed for an exploration of each country's priorities and share the challenges encountered and for the possibility of coordinating approaches at common regional issues at future.
- **A regional networking among experts and institutions on a peer to peer basis:** On the basis of 10 Peer to Peer activities and 13 Focus Groups working within them, a network of peers is



already in place, people of high caliber or good understanding in each of the Partner Countries that have exchanged views and experiences with other peers and coaches on different issues related to our project. Although P2P processes were initiated during the SWIM-H2020 SM project, it can go beyond its project lifetime, and this network could be kept alive and enhanced with more exchanges in the future follow-up phase of SWIM-H2020 SM, going deeper into specific knowledge on the same issues.

- **Enabling conditions for replication:** The project results have been presented in such a way as to present the reasons why the approaches taken / tools used were effective and what pitfalls have been identified that can be avoided when they are transferred elsewhere. In addition, certain activities of the SWIM-H2020 had the intention to identify success and failure cases as these cases can provide added value and lessons learnt for the PCs' in the future.
- **Training of trainers:** Through the training sessions solid knowledge and skills were provided to the participants to continue their work, and help their colleagues, institutions and their countries.
- **Openness to and enhancement of/contribution by Civil Society:** A range of opportunities for representatives of civil society and NGOs to take active part in developing and elaborating regional and national topics was provided through several project activities, which give an input or a 'voice' to developing Mediterranean water and environment agendas.
- **Website operational for one more year:** The SWIM-H2020 SM project has produced numerous studies and best practices for the implementation of integrated approaches to pollution reduction and sustainable water management policies for the PCs. It is important to ensure that the lessons learnt from the management experiences and practices will be shared and be accessible to everybody and have value for the future (i.e. European Commission, Member States, PCs and networks) also after the contract period when the contract expires. The web site will play this role, as all project deliverables, presentations, concept notes of capacity building activities and other material will be kept in place for one more year after the end of the project, making it possible for users to extract as much information as needed, use it and build on the project's results.