



# SWIM and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism

## Closing Conference

8<sup>th</sup> April 2019

### MINUTES OF MEETING

The meeting was Co-Chaired over the course of the day by:

- Ms Henrike Trautmann, Head of Unit – Regional Programmes Neighbourhood South (DG NEAR)
- Mr Davor Percan, Head of Unit – Bilateral and Regional Environmental Cooperation (DG ENV)
- Mr Stefano Dotto, Head of Sector - Climate Change, Energy, Environment, Transport (DG NEAR)
- Ms Sylvie Fontaine, Task Manager - Environment, Water and Agriculture (DG NEAR)
- Mr Stavros Damianidis - Project Director SWIM-H2020 SM
- Professor Michael Scoullos - Team Leader SWIM-H2020 SM
- Miguel García Herraiz - Deputy Secretary General Water and Environment, Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)
- Ms Alessandra Sensi - Senior Programme Manager, Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)
- Mr Patrick Wegerdt – Desk Coordinator, DG ENV

Facilitation was done by:

- Mr Stefano Dotto – Head of Sector, Climate Change, Energy, Environment, Transport (DG NEAR)
- Mr Stavros Damianidis - Project Director SWIM-H2020 SM
- Professor Michael Scoullos - Team Leader SWIM-H2020 SM

Presentations (by order of their sessions) – please refer to the agenda of the meeting (Annex 1):

- Mr Stavros Damianidis - Project Director SWIM-H2020 SM (2 presentations)
- Professor Michael Scoullos - Team Leader SWIM-H2020 SM (2 presentations)
- Ms Suzan Taha – Key Water Expert (2 presentations)
- Mr Anis Ismail – Key Environment Expert
- Dr Emad Adly – Non-Key Expert (Stakeholder Engagement),
- Mr Waseem Mushtaha – SWIM DEMO Project representative (Phase II)
- Ms Salam Assi – SWIM DEMO Project representative (Phase II)

All presentations are available on the project's website ([Closing Conference Presentations](#)).

For participating and contributing countries, Intergovernmental/International Organisations, European Commission, Consortium partners and Project staff please refer to the List of Participants in Annex 2.

Rapporteurs: SWIM-H2020 SM Team



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## WELCOMING REMARKS

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The **Project Director, Mr Stavros Damianidis**, welcomed the participants to the meeting and invited them to contribute actively to the discussions. Then he made a presentation providing an overview of the project's history, gave some general economic facts for the SWIM-H2020 SM project and its predecessor ones, presented the main project's achievements, addressing special thanks to all implicated actors. ([01.Opening](#))

**Ms Henrike Trautman** (DG NEAR), then expressed her content for being part of the Closing Conference of a project that the Commission is very proud of and which contributed greatly to the advancement of environmental and water agendas of the South Mediterranean Neighborhood. She focused on the need to learn from the current project and implement lessons learnt in the new phase of the project. She mentioned that the new phase of the project is the Water and Environment Support project (WES), which is scheduled to commence next month. She mentioned that regional cooperation projects are used for complementing bilateral projects and their advantage is that new approaches can be tested, the networks and connections between countries can be set up and then scaled up. Ms Trautman underlined the good cooperation with the UfM Secretariat and its contribution to this project. She then highlighted the importance of the post H2020 agenda and the upcoming Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change planned for 2020. She then invited the participants of the meeting to give their feedback and possible comments openly.

**Mr Davor Percan (DG ENV)**, expressed the EU Commission's satisfaction for the SWIM-H2020 SM project results, and highlighted its important contribution to progressing on the environmental issues and water agendas in the region.

Achieving sustainable water management in the Mediterranean region is very important, especially since the pressures on the existing limited water resources will become even more severe in the future. The urgency of this challenge is well reflected in SDGs, namely SDG6 to ensure availability and sustainable water management and sanitation. The work on sustainable water management in the region is also important in achieving the goal of transition to low carbon efficient economy. The goal of achieving circular economy, integrating the principle of resource efficiency, is a key priority for the EU (e.g. improve products design, reuse of plastics, etc.)

In the wastewater treatment sector, in addition to the EU legislation on Waste Water Treatment Plan (WWTP) there is also legislation on minimum standards for water reuse. Water reuse has a very big potential to help address water scarcity, and the EU aims to facilitate unlocking this potential. The recently adopted legislation on reducing and banning single use plastic items was highlighted at this point.

Today's event is important as it is the end of one phase and the beginning of the next one. SWIM-H2020 SM clearly played an important role in enhancing regional cooperation which complements actions at the national level. Looking ahead, the UfM has already identified priority areas beyond 2020. As we look into the future, we will benefit from the progresses made from the project, the networks developed, and lessons learned from SWIM-H2020 SM.



*Note: The order of the Opening remarks and presentations within Session I is according to the proposed agenda and not the one actually followed during the meeting, due to some small changes in the timing of the Chairing Speakers' remarks.*

## SESSION I: THE PROJECT'S CONTRIBUTION TO REDUCED MARINE POLLUTION AND A SUSTAINABLE USE OF WATER RESOURCES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

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**Professor Michael Scoullos**, Team Leader of the project, made a presentation on the project's main elements, such as its structure, the themes around which the activities were developed, the methodology followed for its implementation, some statistics for its results, concluding with few project's highlights on impact achieved at regional and at national level. ([02.The Project's highlights](#))

The project's Key Water Expert, **Ms Suzan Taha** took the floor and presented an overview of the project's results', achievements and impact, under the Water Component of the project (SWIM Component) ([03.Overview SWIM](#))

The project's **Team Leader** made an intervention in order to clarify that the design of activities in the Water Component at National level is linked with the UfM Water Agenda (at Regional Level) where there are a number of issues that are important for each one of the countries. The regional element of the project comes from a common agenda with the UfM and the coordinated action with the countries. The Environment Component themes are directly linked to the UN Environment agenda and the Mediterranean Action Plan guidelines.

Following that, the feedback/examples were provided by the Partner Countries' representatives:

### **Algeria (Ms Hassina Hamouche):**

The themes that were addressed in activities carried out in Algeria are topics that can have a regional impact. The expert facility activity on the non-revenue water had a great impact. A choice has been made to select a region, namely Bouroumi in the Province of Blida, and identify through modeling the non-revenue water and link it to the Geographical information system (GIS). The identified water losses accounted for 65%. The impact of this small activity on the total Algeria was extraordinary.

Regarding the expert facility activity on wastewater reuse, SWIM supported us on the aspects on communication and sensibilization. The regulatory framework existed, but the sensibilization was low. We developed new communication tools, which we tested with the farmers, and we are now going to generalize this communication plan for the whole of Algeria. We are looking forward to more activities through the WES project.

### **Jordan (Mr Moh'd Alatrash):**

The activities implemented in Jordan supported drought risk management which is an important issue and priority in Jordan. The project has developed hazard and vulnerability indicators harmonized with



the UNDP methodology. A study on groundwater vulnerability to drought has been also implemented in the Amman-Zarqa basin, using the WEAP (Water Evaluation And Planning) model and focusing on the balance between groundwater abstraction and groundwater safe yield, which shed light in the problem of the basin. A Roadmap has been developed towards the drafting of Drought Risk Management Plan for the Amman-Zarqa basin. Finally, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation staff were trained on using the WEAP model as a tool for drought risk management. An additional activity has been undertaken in Jordan, looking at analyzing the socio-economic impacts of groundwater over-abstraction, while Jordanian colleagues participated in regional capacity building activities which responded well to the Jordanian needs.

**Jordan – Member of Parliament (Mr Mohamad Abu Setteh):**

The usefulness of the project is linked to the fact that the water scarcity in Jordan is a serious issue, aggravated by the Syrian refugees. More than 50% of energy sources in Jordan is consumed by the water sector, so this is also a challenge that we need to tackle.

**Morocco (Ms Siham Laraichi):**

The project's impact on Morocco has been very important and tangible. With the SWIM component support we developed three application texts (on desalination, on drought and water scarcity, on groundwater protection zones) for the implementation of the Water Law, and conducted workshops for each Decree, transferring thus technical assistance into measurable policy outputs. Another very impactful activity was the mobilization for the reuse of treated waste water. Capacity building activities, such as the site visits and, trainings were also very important to us and we would like to replicate them.

**Palestine (Ms Majeda Alawnah):**

The SWIM support has been very beneficial for Palestine. The most valuable outcomes include:

- the very fruitful "*Palestine International Water Forum 2018 on Integrated Water Resources Management*". This forum was held for the first time in Palestine with great success with the collaboration of the project, the water issues in Palestine were highlighted and the Forum was attended by international speakers;
- the work undertaken in the area of drought mainstreaming which was a very good and useful exercise for us, which boosted the collaboration among the Palestinian Water Authority, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Meteorological Department. We would like to build and continue on that, and replicate the work in other areas, using the developed tools and calculators.
- the work on groundwater protection zones: we have now formed a team following this issue and we would like to implement the approach in other pilot projects.
- the capacity building activities: we had numerous people participating from Palestine and who really appreciated the trainings, they are now applying their principles in their work and have shared the knowledge gained with other colleagues.

Finally, the DEMO projects we have in Palestine have already a positive impact on the environment of the areas that they are applied in.



### **Tunisia (Mr Abderrahman Ouasli):**

Tunisia benefited significantly from the capacity building activities. The two technical assistance activities implemented under the Expert Facility (rural sanitation and the overexploitation of the groundwater aquifers) were fitted well to our Ministry's activities and priorities. The final document approved during the consultation on the Rural Sanitation Strategy will be the basic document which will be presented to the National Council.

### **Israel (Ms Tahel Yashfe)**

The activities implemented focused on the following:

- adoption of a stream: it enabled the people from different sectors, levels, groups to start talking about how important this is; although it was not in Ministry of Environments priorities, we recognized the added value of supporting this concept together with the regional authorities;
- monitoring of non-point sources of pollution: the meeting we had really accelerated the work and enabled collaboration among stakeholders that do not often meet; we would like to replicate this to other areas.

### **Closing remark on the SWIM component (Team Leader):**

The Countries confirmed the success of the SWIM component of the programme and unanimously accepted its results. With all participants' permission and acceptance, the smooth conclusion of the SWIM component has been agreed and confirmed.

### **UfM Secretariat (Miguel Garcia Herraiz):**

**Mr Garcia Herraiz** congratulated the SWIM-H2020 SM project for its achievements and noted on their successful collaboration. He emphasized the value and importance of the lessons learned and raised a constructive question: "How far can we transform technical assistance and capacity building activities/outputs into policy influence?". The project activities positively show a growing trend in this direction in the Mediterranean, and it is thus important to take advantage of all existing and new partnerships and carry the work forward in the same collaborative way.

The project's **Key Environment Expert, Mr Anis Ismail** gave a presentation on the project's results', achievements and impact, under the Environment Component of the project (H2020 Component). ([04.Overview H2020](#)).

### **Remark by the project's Team Leader**

The presentation responded to the question of Mr Garcia Herraiz about technical improvements leading to policy formulation. We do not neglect these medium- and long-term plans and this has been the trademark of our project. Apart from the close collaboration with the UfM, the links with the Barcelona Convention and the UN Environment-MAP are also very strong.



**UNEP-MAP (Ms Tatiana Hema):**

Both the SWIM and H2020 components are in line and contributed a lot to our activities and the Barcelona Convention. From the UN Environment MAP's side we would like to congratulate the project team for their work. We are extremely pleased with the results and had a very good coordination and exchange with the project. We had a direct involvement to the project because as SCP-RAC, one of our regional activity centers on Sustainable Consumption and Production has been a project partner and implemented a number of activities on pollution prevention and green economy.

We believe that the countries, thanks to the support of the project, will be in a position now to show more progress in the implementation of the National Action Plans to reduce pollution, because several project activities moved the process one step forward. I appreciate that the project took into account the approved guidelines in the context of UN Environment-MAP and implemented activities to support the adaptation of policy or regulatory acts at national level. UN Environment-MAP is much in favor of this project, as it brings together and gives access not only to the Focal Points from the Ministries of Environment, but also to SWIM Focal Points, stakeholders from different sectors, civil society, academic community which is very important. It is worthy to continue in this direction, because combating pollution requires a multi-sectoral approach.

**Morocco (Mr El Hassane Doumi):**

Successful results have been realized not only in quantity, but in quality as well. The actions came on the right time, when technical assistance was much needed. Referring to the activities on Construction and demolition waste, thanks to the project, we managed to put in place an Action Plan for their management. A second important impact relates to the activities on integrated coastal zone management, where we put in place a regional plan for coastal zone management. Thanks to the project in the areas Tangiers-Tetouan-Rabat-Kenitra we had a mapping exercise and a first approach to an Action Plan.

We have capitalized on the project results and have gained significant time in the implementation of related actions, and we thus hope to continue in this spirit, building on and reinforcing the capacities developed so far. We would like to personally thank Mr Scoullos for continuous support to the project which is highly appreciated. The country would like to focus on activities on green entrepreneurship and circular economy in the post 2020 phase.

**Palestine (Mr Ahmed Abu Thaher):**

The project's timing was just right, as since in 2017 we are developing our Strategy for the Environment, trying to integrate environmental aspects in other sectorial strategies as well. Regarding the hazardous waste, we developed a national plan in 2010, and thanks to the H2020 component we have been implementing the plan, we identified deficiencies, needs for improvement, etc. and held a relevant workshop. Together with other Ministries we agreed to focus on olive oil mills. We had a vision to set up green police, and through the project we were able to regroup all the stakeholders to implement the relevant environmental legislation and to have a close relationship with the operators on the field. Regarding the hazardous waste management, we had a critical review of all the aspects we need to



tackle in order to fulfill the Basel Convention. Additionally, we organized a workshop about media coverage on environmental matters and we managed to set up a media campaign on environmental matters. Finally, we have to point out that since 2015 we have been able to access several ecological and green Conventions, and the project has definitely helped us in this.

**Tunisia (Mr Karim Sahnoun):**

The representative of Tunisia congratulated the project team and thanked them for helping Tunisia. He highlighted that the project activities allowed them to develop a better framework for different topics, with visible outputs. Colleagues benefited from these activities, and beneficiaries took ownership of the outcomes, and they are hoping in the further capitalization in the next phase of the project.

**Jordan (Mr Abdallah Alzyod):**

The representative thanked the team. Jordan already benefited from the activities, which go in fact hand-in-hand with the national strategy. Jordan has set up a strategy for green growth to encourage both the private and the public sector to invest in green growth in transportation, tourism, energy, waste management and other sectors. Thanks to the project, Jordan benefited from the capacity building activities to better understand the different elements of green growth and set up proposals for funding. Teachers were also successfully trained on the specificities of the education for sustainable development.

**Algeria (Ms Fatma Zohra Hati):**

Ms Hati thanked the whole team and Professor Scoullos in particular, for their continuous presence and highlighted that the project has a substantial impact in Algeria, gaining lot of trust from the stakeholders, and allowing the country to move forward and advance their relevant marine litter planning. The impact of setting up a local network in each of the 14 wilayas of the country for moving forward with wastewater management was very impactful. Ms Hati also thank Mr Anis Ismail personally for having helped in catching up with the activities, after the delay of the country in their selection. The country will now put in place and integrated national waste management strategy, as well as a relevant strategy on green economy.

**Israel (Ms Tahel Yashfe):**

In all of the five main activities implemented in Israel we had the opportunity to gain experience from experts but also exchange ideas with them; it was a two-way dialogue and exchange and a mutual transfer of knowledge and experiences, which is very constructive. In relation to the topic of olive oil mills, a study visit was held in Israel, while the cooperation with Cyprus and Greece in this field has been reinforced and strengthened. The project also provided the platform to talk to each other within the Ministry and with other agencies and stakeholders.





**Closing remark on the Horizon 2020 component (Team Leader):**

The Countries confirmed the success of the Horizon 2020 component of the programme and unanimously accepted its results. With all participants' permission and acceptance, the smooth conclusion of the Horizon 2020 component has been agreed and confirmed.

**Remark by Mr Stefano Dotto (DG NEAR):**

In the European Commission we systematically include provision of technical inputs to the working groups of the UfM, get the feedback to the consultants, while experts attending the meetings translate this process in their countries. The UfM is a place where agendas and policy convergence are agreed. Also, it is good to see that green economy and circular economy are part of the countries' agendas, as these topics are already high in the European Commission's agendas too. The follow-up WES project is also going to put an accent on Water efficiency and the plastics' pollution.

Mr Dotto announced that the WES project has been provisionally awarded to the Consortium led by LDK Consultants and congratulated the Expert team, which is the same. The award will become official in the coming days.

## **SESSION II: THE SWIM-H2020 SM'S CONTRIBUTION TO REGIONAL COHERENCE AND COOPERATION**

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**Mr Emad Adly, the project's Stakeholder Engagement** expert gave a presentation on the project's contribution to regional coherence and cooperation. He briefly presented the regional activities of the project and their impact and provided some general statistics on the stakeholders' involvement in the project. [\(05. Regional Cooperation\)](#)

➤ **Panel discussion**

**Ms Alessandra Sensi, (UfM Secretariat):**

Ms Sensi commented on the excellent cooperation with the project. Looking back into the history, an important step was made in 2014 with the approval of the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change. A step forward was made with the change of name into "H2020 for a Cleaner Mediterranean" addressing the whole region in a more integrated manner. The Mediterranean is a pioneering region and provides feedback for other regions. The UfM tried to bring together SWIM-H2020 SM and SWITCH-MED particularly on the part about industrial waste and recommended that for the Phase II, it will be very important to link with and capitalize on issues on Climate Change. In 2014 it was decided to use the H2020 Focal Points as the Reference Group, instead of creating another group, as they were familiar with the context.

Ms Sensi continued with a presentation on the work of the UfM. [\(06.UfM Secretariat ppt\)](#)



**Ms Tatiana Hema (UNEP):** Ms Hema mentioned that UN Environment\_MAP is looking forward to the next phase of the project. She then continued with a presentation on the existing national monitoring and assessment programmes which are in line with IMAP (Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme) and the UN Environment\_MAP's future plans. She made particular reference to regional guidelines that were prepared and are very much in line with the work of the SWIM-H2020 SM project and the effort made for PRTR (Pollution Release and Transfer Register) reporting by the industries of the partner countries. (07. UNEP-MAP ppt)

**Ms Cecile Rodier Quefelec (EEA):** Ms Quefelec presented the latest developments in the ENI SEIS II South and the H2020 RMR (Review Monitoring and Research) group, provided a brief overview of each country's progress under the project back in November 2018 and explained the development principles of the SEIS project. (08. EEA ppt)

**Remark by the project's Team Leader:** The National / Country meetings of SWIM-H2020 were designed and implemented in a way to allow the stakeholders and the different departments of different Ministries, and the civil society to come together, coordinate among them and consolidate efforts. This is a key enabling condition for moving things forward, adopted and highly pursued by the project.

**Ms Ghada Ahmadein (BlueGreen Med):** Ms Ahmadein thanked the project team and congratulated them for their work and the project's results. She also thanked the UfM for their support. She gave a presentation on the BlueGreen Med CS Networking Mechanism mentioning that it has served as a networking mechanism to facilitate NGOs' involvement in regional processes through a more structured approach and continued with mentioning some of the project's achievements. (09. BlueGreen Med ppt)

**Mr Moh Rejdali (Representative from the Moroccan Parliament and Chairman of the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD)):** Thank you for the efforts. On behalf on the COMPSUD network, we are recognizing the good results and the success of the SWIM-H2020 project. In the EU Parliament we had a very important meeting on marine litter, and how to keep litter out of the sea or in land, were we exchanged experiences among the EU Parliamentarians and the MED Parliamentarians supported by the project. I will also like to raise the importance on maintaining the Mediterranean biodiversity.

## SESSION III: THE SWIM DEMO PROJECTS (PHASE II)

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**Mr Waseem Mushtaha** gave a presentation on the SWIM DEMO Project "Re-use of treated wastewater for agricultural irrigation in Southern Gaza Strip" implemented by OXFAM in Rafah and Khan Younis Governorates, at the Gaza Strip/ Palestine and explained its objectives, expected results, challenges encountered (some opposition leading to a change of the intervention site), progress made and lessons learned so far. (10. OXFAM ppt)



**Ms Salam Assi**, gave a presentation on the SWIM DEMO Project “Innovative Demonstrations on Sustainable Integrated Management of Wastewater and Reclaimed Water Use in North West Bank”, implemented by the Agricultural Development Association in Jenin Governorate, in the North West Bank/ Palestine.(11. [PARC ppt](#))

**Mr Stavros Damianidis** continued with the presentation of the results of the external monitoring that the SWIM-H2020 SM carried out for the three Phase II DEMO Projects. (12. [External Monitoring DEMOs](#))

**Remark by Mr Stefano Dotto:** Given that the DEMO projects are carried out in a peculiar environment, why was there opposition to the first project which was not anticipated and how possible is it to replicate the lessons learnt from the projects in Palestine into other countries?

**Reply by Mr Mushtaha:** The context in the Gaza Strip is perhaps not known, but it is a fact that the views of a small number of influential people can affect the decision of vulnerable groups in the area. During the design of the project and the needs analysis, farmers were in favour of the project, but afterwards they were influenced and opposed to it.

**Remark by Ms Majeda Alawnah (Palestine):** There projects are coordinated and supported by the PWA (Palestinian Water Authority). The PWA takes into consideration any needs for improvement identified and keep them for the next projects.

**Remark by Michael Scoullios:** One of the reasons there has been opposition to the DEMO project was because of the “taboo” of using Treated Wastewater for agriculture, which, unfortunately, cannot be changed rapidly.

**Remark by Ms Salam Assi:** The irrigation with the treated wastewater is restricted, it is not used as potable. It is for irrigating almond trees, stonetrees etc and we clarify this in our awareness campaigns, in order for people to understand the use of treated wastewater.

**Remark by Mr Mohamed Khalifa:** In Egypt the use of treated wastewater is limited; its use does not depend on awareness campaigns, but on technical data.

## SESSION IV: WATER SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION IN THE SOUTH MEDITERRANEAN REGION

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A presentation on the SWIM H2020 SM study on Water Supply and Distribution in the South Mediterranean Region was carried out by the project’s Key Water Expert **Ms Suzan Taha**. The expert who prepared the study, **Mr Fadi Doumani**, joined the Questions and Answers session by remote



internet connection ([Water Supply and Distribution ppt](#)). Mr Doumani clarified that it was a desktop review which did not go into the verification of issues covered. He invited the participants to go through the report and the tables with the comparative analysis. Mr Doumani also commented the fact that water distribution is a difficult part to analyse, as legislation often does not specify the amount of water to be distributed while the command and control system is often driven by politics.

**Comment from Palestine:** In certain areas of the country water is not available for 24h/d; we need water tanks in order to face water supply issues. In remote villages, we may experience periods of 10 days without water. The water price is high. So maybe we should try to focus on this aspect in the future.

**Reply by Mr Doumani (SWIM-H2020 SM):** In the study, the price used was the highest one found for the bigger cities-of course there are differences by area. In areas where water supply is not regular, the price can go even higher than the one used in the study.

**Comment from Morocco:** In Morocco there are several projects that are carried out by PPP (Public Private Partnership). In the Agadir area in Morocco, there is a major innovative project for drinking and irrigation water supply which is good for replication in other countries. We have a national plan and this defines the water allocation.

**Reply by Mr Doumani (SWIM-H2020 SM):** It would be nice to have some more information on the PPP projects running in order to adjust the report accordingly. For the water distribution there is a need to have a benchmarking of current practices.

**Comment from Mr Stefano Dotto (DG NEAR):** This study was requested to test an hypothesis: Where there is investments in the water sector, is it accompanied by governance models that could respond better and reduce the funds needed. I understand that there are not enough data to make sophisticated econometric studies or similar. But it would be nice to further investigate the level of investment, the funding gap and the governance model, as well as the correlation with the level of losses and non-revenue water.

**Comment from Algeria:** It is a very interesting study, yet it is difficult to compare different countries where access in water and population differ, and where the local context, which is an important factor, is so variable. In Algeria we apply a supply policy based on offer.

**Reply by Mr Doumani:** We cannot forget that the price of water in Algeria has not changed since 2005. The price can cover transfer costs but it is not certain that it is enough, to cover the needed current investments. The level of Non-Revenue Water is very high and is should be reduced. Concerted efforts are needed to prioritise investments in the water sector.

**Comment from Tunisia:** Request to disseminate the report.



**Comment by Ms Sylvie Fontaine (DG NEAR):** The report is already with the EU Delegations for review and comments. Once ready, it will be disseminated. Further work could be done on this topic within the WES project.

## SESSION V: KEY LESSONS LEARNT FROM SWIM-H2020 SM

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The **Team Leader** gave a summary of the lessons learnt from this project. ([Lessons Learnt](#))

**Comment from Mr Ahmed Abu Thaher (Palestine):** Talking about lessons learned, we had more activities in phase 1 than in phase 2. We have to consider less activities, but with a better focus and go deeper.

**Reply by Professor Scoullos (Team Leader):** In order to go deeper in some issues, we need to ensure that the whole training audience is at the same level, which requires time, but most importantly, it means that the same person should attend the follow up trainings on the same topic. We need to keep a balance. However, we might consider going deeper in some topics, by organizing longer trainings.

**Comment from Ms Majeda Alawnah (Palestine):** The DEMO projects were very good examples, so it is good to continue having demonstration projects, and also use them as a training bed for stakeholders within or outside the pilot country. We also need to concentrate more on the experience gained in the current phase and build on what has been already done (in our case on drought mainstreaming). Also we should try to focus on activities which contribute to the SDG6 (Availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all) which is a requirement for the countries.

**Comment by Mr Stefano Dotto (DG NEAR):** A new call for Demonstration projects on Water efficiency has been published on the 12/04/2019.

**Comment from Mr Abderrahman Ouasli (Tunisia):** It would be nice to develop a network for the colleagues who benefited from the trainings, i.e. create a database, so that they can further exchange and we can also know where to seek relevant expertise. For the upcoming WES project, we would recommend to integrate new approaches covering also the study of climate change and nexus.

**Comment from Ms Sylvie Fontaine (DG NEAR):** The WES project tackles the Nexus approach and the adaptation to Climate Change by focusing, among other things, on water efficiency in the urban and agricultural sector.

**Comment from Tunisia:** A suggestion, regarding the selection of experts, is to have a larger possibility of choices of experts. It is also suggested to define the relationship or link between the WES and other



projects that have the same objectives, such as the MED programme. In this context, it is important to define what could be the links between the different programs and share them with the beneficiaries.

**Comment from Ms Hassina Hamouche (Algeria):** The SWIM (phase 1) activities have been a kind of “a seed we planted in the ground” and in SWIM-H2020 SM (phase 2) we had to irrigate and grow it. In WES we may have the “crop, we need to have something sustainable and we need tools for that. We have thus to plan from the beginning, and since the beginning allocate people/candidates to trainings and have continuation in the people getting trained so that they can further develop and go deeper in the thematic.

**Ms Sylvie Fontaine (DG NEAR) closed the meeting by a summary of lessons learnt from the side of DG NEAR:**

- The WES is a regional project, and we have to accommodate both regional priorities but also national needs. A workshop with the Focal Points can be planned from the beginning, to draw the priorities and help to address needs.
- The close collaboration with the UfM is really important and needs to continue.
- Feedback on webinars: It is a new methodology which can offer a lot. It is thus important to have the feedback of the trainee on their feeling towards the webinar and their ideas for improvement.
- The project trained many people in specialized sectors. The second phase should be the transmission and the dissemination of this knowledge within the countries. The elaboration of dissemination plan and the use of a coach to facilitate the dissemination could help the process of knowledge propagation.
- During the SWIM-H2020 SM project, we had cases of re-direction or modification of the planned national activities due to change of national needs and/or priorities. This flexibility is important but in the same time can be difficult to manage. Those changes could be facilitated by avoiding a full allocation of the funds right from the beginning. An internal midterm review in each country could then allow the adaptation of the initial work plan based on the available funds.
- Some activities, such as Circular economy, are concerning several institutions. In those cases, it is beneficial to set a coordination mechanism coordinated by the Focal points.
- Regarding the demonstration projects, it is important to include them fully in the WES project. By inviting them to the regional trainings, they will then feel part of the project and will naturally contact the project team if they need advice. In parallel, the results of the demonstration projects should be used in the regional trainings or in the peer-to-peer exchange to create a dynamic for sharing.

Feedback from the EU Delegations: they felt that more priority was put in the wastewater treatment and not as much in the solid waste sector. It was suggested to address some specific types of waste, such as pharmaceutical, industrial manufacturing and chemical waste in the future.

The project team takes the occasion of these minutes to thank the participants for their open and constructive recommendations. Those recommendations will be analysed and taken into account whenever is possible for the implementation of the new Water and Environment Support.



## ANNEX 1

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### AGENDA

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#### SWIM and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism

#### Closing Conference

8 April 2019

Crowne Plaza Brussels - Le Palace

Brussels, Belgium

#### AGENDA

*Facilitation will be provided by the European Commission and the Project's Team Leader.*

*Rapporteurs: SWIM-H2020 SM Team*

**08:30 Registration**

**09:00 – 09:30 Welcome remarks**

*DG NEAR, European Commission (Ms Henrike Trautmann, Head of Unit – Regional Programmes Neighbourhood South)*

*DG ENV, European Commission (Mr Davor Percan, Head of Unit – Bilateral and Regional Environmental Cooperation)*

*SWIM - H2020 SM (Mr Stavros Damianidis, Project Director)*

#### **The SWIM-H2020 Support Mechanism's contribution to reduced marine pollution and a sustainable use of scarce water resources in the Mediterranean Region**

09:30 – 09:40 The Project's highlights (SWIM-H2020 SM)

*Presentation: Professor Michael Scoullas, Team Leader, SWIM-H2020 SM*

09:40 – 09:50 Overview of the project's results, achievements and impact - SWIM Component

*Presentation: Ms Suzan Taha, Key Water Expert, SWIM-H2020 SM*

09:50 – 10:40 Examples presented by Partner Countries

*10:40 – 11:00 Coffee Break*

11:00 – 11:10 Overview of the project's results, achievements and impact - H2020 Component

*Presentation: Mr Anis Ismail, Key Environment Expert, SWIM-H2020 SM*



11:10 – 12:00 Examples presented by Partner Countries

**The SWIM-H2020 Support Mechanism's contribution to regional coherence and cooperation**

12:30 – 12:40 The project's regional activities - their contribution to experience sharing and regional cooperation

*Presentation: Dr Emad Adly, Stakeholder Engagement NKE, SWIM-H2020 SM*

12:40 – 13:10 Project concrete contribution to the consolidation of the on-going regional processes - Panel discussion

*Panelists: Union for the Mediterranean, the UN Environment/MAP, the European Environment Agency, the Blue-Green Med CS*

13:10 – 13:30 Questions and Answers

*13:30 – 14:30 Lunch Break*

**The SWIM DEMO projects (Phase II)**

14:30 – 15:00 SWIM DEMO projects

*Presentation: DEMO Projects' Representatives*

15:00 – 15:10 Lessons learned from the External Monitoring of SWIM DEMO projects

*Presentation: Mr Stavros Damianidis, Project Director, SWIM-H2020 SM*

**Water supply and distribution in the South Mediterranean Region**

15:10 – 15:20 Water supply and distribution mapping in the South Mediterranean Region

*Presentation: Ms Suzan Taha, Key Water Expert, SWIM-H2020 SM*

15:20 – 15:30 Questions and Answers

*15:30 – 15:45 Coffee Break*

**Key lessons learned from SWIM- H2020 SM**

15:45 – 16:00 The project's legacy to future projects based on lessons learnt, SWIM-H2020 SM

*Presentation: Professor Michael Scoullas, Team Leader, SWIM-H2020 SM*

16:00 – 16:15 The EU's side on the lessons learnt from this regional programme - Presentation of the WES project

*Presentation: DG NEAR*

16:15 – 16:45 Discussion (30 min)

**16:45 – 17:00 Conclusions and closing remarks**



## ANNEX 2

### LIST OF PARTICIPATING AND CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL/INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS, EUROPEAN COMMISSION, PROJECT TEAM

	Name	Surname	Position	Organisation/Department	Country	Email	
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