



SWIM-H2020 SM Webinar (WEB-1) on:

Combined integrated management (ICZM-IWRM) with emphasis on Participatory Processes (linked to ST-3)

REPORT

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| 1 | SWIM-H2020 SM Webinar (WEB-1) on: Combined integrated management (ICZM-IWRM) with emphasis on Participatory Processes (linked to ST-3) - REPORT | Michael Scoullos | Anis Ismail |



THE SWIM AND H2020 SUPPORT MECHANISM PROJECT (2016-2019)

The SWIM and H2020 SM is a Regional Technical Support Program, funded by the European Commission, Directorate General (DG) NEAR (Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations), that includes the following Partner Countries (PCs): Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, [Syria] and Tunisia. However, in order to ensure the coherence and effectiveness of Union financing or to foster regional co-operation, eligibility of specific actions will be extended to the Western Balkan countries (Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina and Montenegro), Turkey and Mauritania. The Program is funded by the European Neighborhood Instrument (ENI) South/Environment. It ensures the continuation of EU's regional support to ENP South countries in the fields of water management, marine pollution prevention and adds value to other important EU-funded regional programs in related fields, in particular the SWITCH-Med program, and the Clima South program, as well as to projects under the EU bilateral programming, where environment and water are identified as priority sectors for the EU co-operation. It complements and provides operational partnerships and links with the projects labelled by the Union for the Mediterranean, project preparation facilities in particular MESHIP phase II and with the next phase of the ENPI-SEIS project on environmental information systems, whereas its work plan will be coherent with, and supportive of, the Barcelona Convention and its Mediterranean Action Plan.

The overall objective of the Program is to contribute to reduced marine pollution and a more sustainable use of scarce water resources. The Technical Assistance services are grouped in 6 work packages: WP1. Expert facility, WP2. Peer-to-peer experience sharing and dialogue, WP3. Training activities, WP4. Communication and visibility, WP5. Capitalizing the lessons learnt, good practices and success stories and WP6. Support activities.

Disclaimer:

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1 BACKGROUND

A 3-day Study Tour on Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Integrated Water Resources Management (ICZM –IWRM) was organized by the EU-funded SWIM and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism, on 16-18 July 2018 at the Buna/Bojana delta on the Montenegro/Albania coast.

The Study Tour's base of 'operations' was Ulcinj on the Montenegrin side and its programme included: Interactive Sessions and Field Visits in the Buna/Bojana area such as to Ada Bojana, Velika plaza, Sasko lake, Ulcinj Salina, Port Milena, swamps (kmeta), wetlands and more. The main intention was to introduce to the trainees the Integrative Methodological Framework (IMF) which converged the IWRM and ICZM methodologies in conjunction with Ground Water management and the application of the Ecosystem Based Approach (EBA) into a unified one and provides guidance for replication and application across the Mediterranean through a transferable process.

The Buna/Bojana river is one of the areas where the IMF has been piloted. The 23 participants, planners, practitioners, academics and NGOs from Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia acquired knowledge and skills for effective use of the typical human and logistical resources available in most Mediterranean countries for the design and implementation of ICZM/IWRM. They interacted with several local stakeholders and shared their experiences in trying to design and implement integrated management based on ICZM and IWRM in their own countries. They also were reminded on how to better coordinate, mobilize and involve stakeholders, including the general public, in the planning process

The training report is available herewith: <https://www.swim-h2020.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/SWIM-H2020-SM-Training-Report-ST-3.pdf>

2 THE FOCUS OF THIS WEBINAR

Participatory processes constitute a fundamental characteristic of all integrated management approaches and in particular of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)/ EU Water Framework Directive (EU-WFD), Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), Ecosystem Approach (EcAP).

Participatory processes include a whole spectrum of activities for enhancing the involvement and ownership of stakeholders and the public at large, in all phases of design and implementation of Integrated Management and/or Action Plans.

The nature of these activities, according to the Aarhus Convention, vary from passive to active information, provided by the authorities or those in charge of the Planning, to consultations and



“consensus building” to active participation for co-creation and distribution of responsibilities extending, on extreme cases, to even access to justice. The latter, obviously, is not part of an integrated management plan, but a “defence” option for stakeholders if the drafting and implementation includes major mistakes, not considering well documented objections or ignoring serious evidence that may result in detrimental environmental consequences.

3 DELIVERY

The webinar was held in English via skype.

It lasted 1 hour and 20 minutes with discussion time.

It took place on 12 March at 14:00 (Athens time).

The agenda of the webinar was:

- *Welcome and Introduction (5 min)*
- *Presentation on Participatory Processes in the 5 IMF steps (20-25 min)*
- *A Dutch case of integrated coastal management and Stakeholder involvement (15 min)*
- *Discussion with the attendees (between 15 min - 45 min)*
- *Closing*

Indeed, during the webinar, the participatory processes that could take place during each one of the five steps of the Integrative Methodological Framework (IMF) were presented by the Team Leader of SWIM-H2020 SM Prof. Michael Scoullou, i.e. during:

- Establishment
- Analysis and Futures
- Setting the Vision
- Designing the Future/the Plan
- Realizing the Vision and its follow up (monitoring, feedback).

An interesting Dutch case study, where a stakeholder organization was set up in the course of the design phase of a coastal management plan, which after the completion of the project remains operational, was also presented by NKE Jasper Fiselier, ICZM and IWRM expert (dhv).

The presentations of the webinar are attached separately.



4 THE PARTICIPANTS

The invitees were:

- the participants of ST-3
- the Focal Points of the project were invited to pass on the invitation to any other appropriate participant.

A skype link was shared and whoever clicked on the link would be able to join the webinar at the designated time. The invitees were requested to confirm their participation and since there were several confirmations the webinar proceeded as planned. In the end, a total of 5 participated in the webinar: 2 from Israel, 1 from Lebanon, 1 from Morocco and 1 from Tunisia. The participants were NGO representatives (3), ministry representative (1) and from the local authorities (1).

On the day, and close to the time of the webinar, we were informed by four ST-3 trainees that internet connection was not available or poor. Some tried to connect via their smart phones. Indeed, during the webinar, there were various skype names appearing for a few seconds and disappearing.

The power point presentations of the webinar were shared with all of the invitees.

In the Annex is a summary of the course of the webinar.

5 SOME REMARKS

Despite the few participants in the webinar, the discussions during and after the call were very essential as all are involved in implementation aspects of ICZM/IWRM in their countries (both government officials and non-governmental action). Especially two participants expressed appreciation for the opportunity to directly ask questions and receive clarifications on very specific issues from top experts in the field (Israel and Tunisia).

Had a few more people been able/willing to connect and participate, then the discussion and interaction (which included experience sharing) would have been even more productive and would have evoked discussion on a wider range of challenges/obstacles and therefore more advice and offered options and solutions from the experts.

Internet access and quality are an issue in most Partner Countries and it is not clear how this factor can be addressed by projects. Nevertheless, to encourage participation, they can be better communicated by the Focal Points (e.g. pitched as obligatory) or a prerequisite for the next step (e.g. an upcoming regional training, etc.). In the case of WEB-1 it was a 'follow-up' webinar, after a study visit and perhaps this was perceived as an option or opportunity rather than a more serious commitment.



ANNEX: SUMMARY OF THE FLOW OF WEB-1

- Prof. Scoullos started the webinar by presenting the importance and the benefits of public participation in the Integrated Planning followed by the five stages of preparation of Integrated Management Plan with an emphasis on how to integrate the different stakeholders in the different stages. The presentation concluded with an example of the public participation and consultation process in Lake Bizerte which led to the signature-ratification of the charter by various ministries and stakeholders, the labeling of the Lake Bizerte Project by UfM and its financing by the Tunisian government, the European Investment Bank and other donors. A series of assessment of the progress by the stakeholders provided comments on the weaknesses of the implementation and some feedback on how to make the project run in compliance with the expectations of the Integrated Management Plan.
- Mr. Arafet BEN MARZOU asked about the average time to apply and implement an ICZM-IWRM. Prof. Scoullos explained that it depends on the complexity of the river basin, on whether the information is available (average time to collect the needed information is 6 months to 1 year), on the status of the stakeholders (if they are many with conflicting interests), on the political landscape of the region, etc. A year is the usual time for the implementation.
- Mr. Arafet BEN MARZOU also asked if it can be applied on rivers and artificial wetlands. Prof. Scoullos explained that this system can be applied in every system (ecosystems, systems of productions, etc.) and whenever there are different stakeholders and interests. It is harder to be implemented in areas of coastal zones and integrated river basins. However the participatory principles and the implementation methodologies remain the same.
- Ms. Noga LEVENBERG asked if the number and type of stakeholders should be defined in the participatory process. Prof. Scoullos said that it is and in fact is a crucial part of the process. Nobody should be left out.
- Ms. Noga LEVENBERG also asked about measuring the success, to which Prof. Scoullos said that the success should be evaluated by setting objective criteria related to the results and the outcomes. He illustrated this by giving examples related to marine litter.
- After the discussion, Mr. Jasper FISELIER presented the Dutch approach and examples of stakeholder involvement. This presentation was followed by an interaction with the webinar participants. Arafet was interested to know which was the biggest challenge faced in the implementation of the project on the Dutch coast to which the answer was the research about the swimming safety. Prof. Scoullos commented that the ownership issue in the Netherlands is different from the Mediterranean countries and also, they have a long-term planning. It is interesting to transfer their knowledge and practices on the management of the coastal zones and river basins in the Mediterranean.
- Before concluding the webinar, Prof. Scoullos explained that the first phase of the SWIM-H2020 will finish in April 2019. He asked whether the participants found this webinar useful in order to continue with webinars in the future. Noga said that she found it interesting especially since after the training in Montenegro in 2018, she suggested to apply the ICZM-IWRM not only in her local authority but in the entire coast of Israel and she said that it is something that is happening now.
- Prof. Scoullos concluded the webinar by thanking Mr. Jasper for sharing the Dutch experience.