



NEWS RELEASE

Athens, 19 December 2016

1st SWIM-H2020 SM Regional Training on Drought Risk Management Introduction to Proactive Drought Risk Management Mainstreaming

The “Drought Risk Management (DRM) Mainstreaming” Regional On-site Training was organized by the EU-funded SWIM and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism Project, on 14-15 December 2016, in Athens, Greece.

The **Training** introduced the Project’s Partner Countries (**Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, [Libya], Morocco, Palestine, [Syria] and Tunisia**) to the concepts of proactive Drought Risk Management (DRM) and DRM Mainstreaming (DRMM).

The risk of drought and water scarcity in the Middle East and North Africa is growing and expected to deteriorate in view of climatic and socio-economic changes. A new study of NASA (2016) found that the Levant region (Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria) had recently suffered from the worst drought in 900 years as a result of climate change.

In his welcome remark, Mr. Stavros Damianidis-Project Director SWIM-H2020 SM pointed out that the need for a proactive drought management is imperative; therefore the Project will develop a series of individual steps (technical, institutional, legislative, etc.) and a holistic strategy as an integral part of environmental and development policy in these countries.

A large number of key stakeholders, who are involved in different aspects of Drought Risk Management (DRM) in the Project’s Partner Countries, participated in this workshop.

Nominees from the sectors of water, agriculture, irrigation and other water-intensive sectors of the Partner Countries along with representatives of Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) were introduced and trained by the SWIM-H2020 SM Water Experts on issues related to preventive management of drought risk, based on the principle of “integration-mainstreaming” as proposed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other agencies.

The Training initiated an open dialogue for the identification of specific priorities, challenges and opportunities around DRM. Following this Training session, **the SWIM-H2020 SM Project will take into account the valuable participants’ feedback and organize a second On-site Training, a Study Tour and relevant Peer-to-Peer Sessions for experience sharing and dialogue for the partner countries.**

The Project is to develop 100 activities in the next 2,5 years.

Meanwhile, stay updated via:

Website: www.swim-h2020.eu

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/swim-h2020-sm-project?trk=top_nav_home

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Details on the SWIM-H2020 SM Project:

<http://www.swim-h2020.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/SWIM-H2020-SM-Leaflet-en.pdf>

<http://www.swim-h2020.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/SWIM-H2020-SM-Leaflet-ar.pdf>

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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

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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Participants' Commemorative photo

