



“Second Regional on-site training on Decentralized Water Management and related study tour

16th – 19th April 2018

Information note

1 INTRODUCTION: THE SWIM-H2020 SM

The SWIM and H2020 SM is a Regional Technical Support Program, funded by the European Commission, Directorate General (DG) NEAR (Neighbourhood 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 Neighbourhood 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 programme 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.

2 OBJECTIVES AND BACKGROUND

The **overall aim of the second regional on-site training (REG-5) and of the study tour ST-5** is to enhance the knowledge of the key stakeholders who are involved in different aspects of Decentralized Water Management (DcWM) in the partner countries to regulatory and organisation issues of decentralized water management.



REG-5 builds on the outcomes of the first regional on-site training on decentralised water management (REG-4), which took place in July 2017 in Brussels.

In REG-4, the sharing of experiences from the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) as an instrument for promoting decentralized water management was in the focus. An introduction to the concept and aspects of the WFD was given and the peer-to-peer process related to decentralised water management was launched.

At the end of the REG-4, a questionnaire was distributed to the participants to indicate topics of interest for further training activities. The topics were analysed and grouped by the training facilitators and determined the REG-5 content. Accordingly the specific objectives of this training are summarised below:

- Establish mutual understanding amongst the participants of terminology related to decentralised water management.
- Introduce the participants to the basic principles of public participation and crucial ingredients for success, including methods / mechanisms for participation in DcWM and key steps involved in planning effective public engagement processes and enhance experience sharing in this regards;
- Introduce the participants to the data requirements for River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) according to the EU WFD in addition to the governance structure necessary to ensure that reliable data is available and accessible for planning, monitoring and assessment.
- Introduce the concept of groundwater bodies as unit for decentralised water management and protection measures at the local level

3 APPROACH TO MEET WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

In order to achieve the workshop objectives, a highly dynamic, interactive, facilitated and participatory approach will be adopted, making use of professional learning tools such as:

1. Presentations by trainers
2. Break-out session in small groups for the exchange of experiences; each facilitated by a trainer
3. Plenary session to share the new perspectives and ideas obtained in the training

The timing of the training is programmed to have a balance between inputs from the trainers on new themes and methodology as well as space for experiences exchange between participants and their active participation in exercises.

The training will also take into account pressing interests that are identified during the sessions.

Copies of the training material will be prepared by the course trainer and provided to all participants on a flash memory. A certificate of attendance will be awarded to all participants at the end of the course

The language of the Workshop will be English and French.

4 RESOURCES FOR PARTICIPANTS

Resources that are intended to be provided to participants are:



1. PowerPoint presentations
2. Group discussions
3. Case studies and group exercises

5 TRAINERS OF THE TRAINING AND STUDY TOUR

Key Expert

Ms Suzan Taha, SWIM-H2020 SM Key Water Expert

Non-Key Experts

- Mr Arnulf Schönbauer, Senior Water and Institution Development Expert & coordinator of activity, Umweltbundesamt
- Mr Johannes Grath, Senior Groundwater Expert, Umweltbundesamt
- Melanie Muro, Senior Stakeholder Participation Expert, MILIEU
- Mr Eric Mino, Senior Water Data Management Expert, SEMIDE/EMWIS
- Mr Marwan M. Al-Raggad, Senior Peer-to-Peer Coordinator, ACWUA
- Ms Helen Avramidi, Junior GIS NKE, LDK
- Ms Peggy Macaigne, Senior Water Resource Expert NKE, Umweltbundesamt
- Mr Demetris Zarris, P2P-8B Focus Group Coach, LDK

6 TRAINING CONTENT

The **REG-5 on-site training** (17th and 18th April 2018) is built up in four blocks.

The **first training topic** will focus on the elaboration of a mutual **understanding of terminology**. Public administration reforms – of which decentralization might be an element - aims to adapt to the changes in time and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the administration.

The development of the administration of the water sector in the different countries is largely affected by the country's natural conditions, socio-cultural environment, economic potential and technological development. These can vary even between neighbouring countries. Therefore, when water experts come together on the subject of decentralisation they might come with different concepts, understandings and experiences. Before any discussion on technical matters is launched, participants will be provided the opportunity through break-out groups to learn about the administrative settings from the colleague's countries and share experiences. The block will start with a presentation which looks at the aspects of decentralisation.

There are many factors that influence successful decentralised water management. **Stakeholder involvement and public participation** (**the second training topic**) are important tools to achieve the goals and objective set out by decentralised approaches and arrangements for decentralised water management. By the same token, decentralisation is usually assumed to provide better opportunities for participation of the local communities in decision-making by opening up new channels for citizens' input and encouraging participation in the planning, implementation and management of water resources development projects or in the ownership of assets, resources and services. Participation is thought to both enhance the quality of



decisions (e.g. by contributing local knowledge), as well as their implementation by increasing environmental awareness, acceptance and conflict resolution as part of the planning and decision-making process. Yet, in practice participatory approaches often fail to reach their goals due to inadequate process design or preparation. Water managers committed to involving the public in the planning or management process face the challenge that there is no agreed 'best' format for participation; meaning that participation mechanisms need to be tailored to the specific needs and objectives of each context.

Through a mix of presentations, group discussion and exploration of case studies illustrating experiences with public and stakeholder information, education and involvement, this session aims to illustrate how effective participation can be implemented and promoted in the context of decentralized planning and management of water resources. It aims to highlight some of the basic principles of participation and crucial ingredients for success. We will also identify some of the general and locally specific difficulties, challenges, barriers and failures both through cases studies and the active exchange of experiences between stakeholders. This interactive, hands-on session gives participants the opportunity to explore different approaches to and methods for participation and to better understand key steps involved in planning effective public engagement processes.

In the [third training topic](#), the role of **Water Information Systems (WIS)**, in the broader sense, will be introduced focussing on how stakeholders in a decentralised set-up cooperate with each other and exchange information (in terms of data requirements and governance structure). Hence, data requirements for decentralised water resources management in addition to the governance structure necessary to ensure that reliable data is available and accessible for planning, monitoring and assessment will be the focus of this session. Typical data requirements for River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) according to the EU WFD will be presented during the first part of the session, together with adaptation to concrete situation in Morocco (Sebou) and Algeria (Algérois-Hodna–Soummam). During breakout sessions, participants will exchange on data availability, data sources or data proxy in their respective countries to match the requirements for RBMP.

The second part of the session will be dedicated to the necessary governance framework to ensure effective data collection, exchange and management. Water legislation and regulation should provide sound basis for water information management, e.g. objectives, sharing and access to data, role of institutions. The handling of data management in some national legal and regulatory frameworks (water laws) will be presented and some recommendations will be proposed. Short breakout sessions will invite participants to propose actions for more political commitment in water data management and revised legal frameworks

The [fourth training topic](#) will be the elaboration of the **groundwater body (GWB) as a management unit** for decentralized water resources management. During the corresponding sessions, the approach to delineation and characterisation of GWBs will be presented and participants will be introduced to the methodology of risk assessment and will get examples for groundwater protection.

In an exercise, participants will look at the risk assessment methodology and try to apply it in the context of water management set-up of their countries.

The on-site training will be concluded with a session on the peer-to-peer process currently running under the same theme in the project countries.

The **REG-5 Study tour** will accompany the on-site training with visits to public institutions which offer good examples on decentralized water management.



On the first study tour day (16th April 2018), participants will visit Betriebsgesellschaft Marchfeldkanal (<http://www.marchfeldkanal.at/home.htm>) which has the task to manage groundwater quantity and provide water for agricultures purpose. In the afternoon of the same day experts from Via Donau (<http://www.viadonau.org/unternehmen/projekt Datenbank/aktiv/life-renaturierung-untere-march-auen>) will present recently implemented surface water protections measures.

During the second study tour (19th April 2018), participants will visit the "Boden.Wasser.Schutz.Beratung", Advisory service of the Chamber for Agriculture for Upper Austria (<https://www.bwsb.at>) which supports the implementation of surface water and groundwater quality protection measures in agricultural areas. It will be followed by a visit to Dingdorf in Upper Austria, where participants will learn about the decentralized organisation of water supply (<http://www.ooewasser.at/dingdorf-wasser>) and a wastewater treatment (<http://www.ooewasser.at/dingdorf-abwasser>) in rural areas of Austria.

7 TARGET AUDIENCES

Two participants / representatives are targeted from each PC from one of the two groups mentioned below:

- Key stakeholders-decision makers, indicatively from leading Ministries or related institutions/agencies at the level of Managing Directors, Assistant Secretary Generals, Technical Directors, who are directly involved in the design, planning, and/or the decision-making and policy formulation on Integrated Water Resources Management
- Representatives from River Basin Organizations and from other regional/local authorities who are directly involved in the local water planning and management and/or implementation aspects at river basin or regional level (indicatively at the level of Technical Director or Project Manager)
- The representatives must be from the following sectors: the water sector, the agriculture/ irrigation sector, any other water-intensive sector (e.g. industry, energy), a main water utility

8 LEARNING OUTCOMES

Participants of the on-site training and the study tour will

- learn about the benefits of public participation and factors for successful stakeholder/public participation in decentralised water management.
- become familiar with the tool of mapping water data in River Basin Management
- get introduced to the concept of groundwater bodies as unit for decentralised water management and protection measures
- obtain an inside view on the tasks and work of a number of water resources managing institutions of one of the European Union Member States (Austria) in the context of DcWM.



9 AGENDA

Day 1: 16/04/2018

Item	Time	Description	Speaker
	09:00 – 09:15	Gathering for study tour at the Hotel Lobby	
#1	09:15 – 10:00	Bus travel from Hotel in Vienna to Betriebsgesellschaft Marchfeldkanal	
		Welcome remarks (on the bus)	Suzan Taha (SWIM-H2020 SM Key Water Expert)
		Introduction to the field trip	Mr Arnulf Schönbauer (Non-key Expert, Umweltbundesamt) Ms Peggy Macaigne (Non-key Expert, Umweltbundesamt)
# 2	10:00 – 12:00	Decentralized bulk water supply for agriculture and groundwater recharge Betriebsgesellschaft Marchfeldkanal http://www.marchfeldkanal.at/home.htm	Mr Wolfgang Neudorfer Betriebsgesellschaft Marchfeldkanal
	12:00 – 13.15	Lunch break (Tirolerstuben, Deutsch Wagram)	
#3	13:15 – 14:00	Travel Marchfeld to Angern Information on site visit	Mr Arnulf Schönbauer (Non-key Expert, Umweltbundesamt) Ms Peggy Macaigne (Non-key Expert, Umweltbundesamt)
#4	14:00 - 16:00	Decentralized restoration of surface water quality and flood protection, Angern, Austria http://www.viadonau.org/unternehmen/projekt-datenbank/aktiv/life-renaturierung-untere-march-auen/	Mr Franz Steiner, Via Donau
#5	16:00 – 17:00	Travel return to Vienna	

Day 2: 17/04/2018

Item	Time	Description	Speaker
	8:30 – 9:00	Registration on-site training	
# 6	9:00 – 09:30	Opening remarks Presentation of the “Sustainable Water Integrated Management and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism” project	Suzan Taha (SWIM-H2020 SM Key Water Expert)



		Presentation of the on-site training objectives and agenda	Mr Arnulf Schönbauer (Non-key Expert, Umweltbundesamt)
# 7	09:30 – 10:00	Decentralized water management – scale and scope (presentation)	Mr Arnulf Schönbauer (Non-key Expert, Umweltbundesamt)
#8	10:00 – 10:30	DcWM - terminology and experiences - <i>Breakout session: “Level of decentralization in the Partner Countries”. Participants brief, discuss and conclude in groups of 8 people</i>	All; facilitators: Arnulf Schönbauer; Eric Mino; Melanie Muro
	10:30 – 10:45	Coffee Break	
# 9	10:45 – 12:00	DcWM - terminology and experiences - <i>Breakout session (45 minutes): “Process of decentralization. Required conditions for and experiences in decentralizing the water sector in the Partner Countries”. Participants brief, discuss and conclude in groups of 8 people</i>	All
		- <i>plenary session (30 Minutes) Rapporteur of the groups brief on the conclusions made in the groups</i>	All
	12:00 – 13:00	Lunch Break	
#10	13:00 – 14:45	Public/stakeholder information, education and participation in decentralized water management – challenges, success factors and practical experiences – PART 1 - <i>Presentation (30 min): “Information, education and participation in decentralised water management: When, why and how?”</i> - <i>Breakout session (45 min): “Experiences with public/stakeholder information, education and participation in decentralised water management” Participants brief, discuss and conclude in two groups.</i> - <i>Plenary session (30 Minutes): Rapporteur of the groups brief on the conclusions made in the groups</i>	Melanie Muro (Non-key Expert, Milieu
	14:45 – 15:00	Coffee Break	
#11	16:00 – 17:15	Public/stakeholder information, education and participation in decentralised water management – challenges, success factors and practical experiences – PART 2 - <i>Breakout session (45 minutes): “Practical experiences with public/stakeholder information, education and participation - How to make it work?”. Participants brief, discuss and conclude in two groups.</i> - <i>Plenary session (30 Minutes): Rapporteur of the groups brief on the conclusions made in the groups</i>	Melanie Muro (Non-key Expert, Milieu

**Day 3: 18/04/2018**

Item	Time	Description	Speaker
#12	09:00 – 09:30	Case example: spatial data in the Water Information System for Europe (WISE) platform	Helen Avramidi (Non-key Expert, LDK)
#13	09:30 – 10:45	Mapping of Water Data in River Basin Management (RBM) Planning - Part 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data management for RBM planning: principles and examples from Algeria and Morocco (30 minutes) - <i>Breakout session (45 minutes): "Mapping data availability and source or proxy in each PC according to the types of data needed for RBMP". Review by country, discuss common issues and conclude in groups of 8 people</i> 	Eric Mino (SWIM-H2020 SM Non-key Expert, SEMIDE/EMWIS)
10:45 – 11:00		Coffee Break	
	11:00 – 11:30	Mapping of Water Data in River Basin Management (RBM) Planning - Part 2 <i>plenary session (30 Minutes) Rapporteur of the groups brief on the conclusions made in the groups</i>	Eric Mino (SWIM-H2020 SM Non-key Expert, SEMIDE/EMWIS)
#14	11:30 – 12:30	Fostering data exchanges for RBM planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Comparison and recommendations for legal and regulatory frameworks (15 minutes)</i> - <i>Breakout sessions (30 minutes): "how to convince politicians and decision makers to set-up and enforce water data exchange and management agreements". Participants brief, discuss and conclude in groups of 8 people</i> - <i>plenary session (15 minutes) Rapporteur of the groups brief on the conclusions made in the groups</i> 	Eric Mino (SWIM-H2020 SM Non-key Expert, SEMIDE/EMWIS)
12:30 – 13:30		Lunch Break	
# 15	13:30 – 14:00	Groundwater Management as management unit for DcWM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Presentation (30 minutes) groundwater body delineation and characterization; risk assessment and protection measures</i> 	Johannes Grath (SWIM-H2020)
#16	14:00 – 15:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Breakout sessions (30 minutes): "Groundwater bodies as management units in partner countries." Participants brief, discuss and conclude in groups of 8 people</i> - <i>plenary session (30 Minutes) Rapporteur of the groups brief on the conclusions made in the groups</i> 	All; Facilitator Johannes Grath (Non-Key Expert, Umweltbundesamt) Arnulf Schönbauer (Non-key- Expert, Umweltbundesamt)
15:00 – 15:15		Coffee Break	
#17	15:15 – 16:45	Plenary: the peer-to-peer process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - topic, experiences and outlook 	Marwan M. Al-Raggad Peers, (Non-key Expert, ACWUA)



#18	16:45 – 17:00	Closing of the on – site training including evaluation and photos and distribution of certificates	All
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Day 4: 19/04/2018

Item	Time	Description	Speaker
	8:00 – 8:15	Gathering in the Hotel lobby for the study tour	
#19	8:15 – 10:30	Travel Vienna to St. Florian in Upper Austria	Mr Arnulf Schönbauer (Non-key Expert and coordinator)
		Introduction to the field trip - morning part Decentralization of Advisory Service and implementation of measures for the protection of water resources	Mr Arnulf Schönbauer (Non-key Expert and coordinator) Ms Peggy Macaigne (Non-key Expert)
#20	10:30 – 12:00	Introduction to “Boden.Wasser.Schutz.Beratung”, Advisory service of the Chamber for Agriculture for Upper Austria https://www.bwsb.at/	Mr. Sebastian Friedl-Haubner; Boden.Wasser.Schutz.Beratung
# 21		Good agricultural practice for water protection measures; visit to a farm in Upper Austria	
# 22		Validation of measures for water protection in agriculture; visit to a test field in Upper Austria	
# 23	12:00 – 12:45	Travel Vienna to St. Florian - Dingdorf	
		Introduction to the field trip – afternoon part Decentralization of public water supply and wastewater collection and treatment service	Mr Arnulf Schönbauer (Non-key Expert and coordinator) Ms Peggy Macaigne (Non-key Expert)
	12:45 – 13:45	Lunch break (Dingdorfer Stube)	
# 24	13:45 – 15:30	Water supply cooperative Dingdorf, Upper Austria http://www.oewasser.at/dingdorf-wasser	Mr. Wolfgang Aichlseder, Federal State Administration Upper Austria
		Wastewater management cooperative Dingdorf, Upper Austria http://www.oewasser.at/dingdorf-abwasser	Ms Hermine Weselyater Cooperative Dingdorf Mr Laurent Richard; Kooperative Wasser
#25	15:30 – 18:00	Travel from Dingdorf to Vienna	Mr Arnulf Schönbauer (Non-key Expert and coordinator)
		End of study tour; evaluation and photos	All