

Water and Environment Support

Towards a Sustainable
Mediterranean



**Water and
Environment Support**
in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood region



This project is funded
by the European Union



“Protecting the environment and improving the management of scarce water resources in the Mediterranean region”

Water and Environment Support (WES)

The EU funded “Water and Environment Support (WES) in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood Region” is a regional project that aims at protecting the environment and improving the management of scarce water resources in the Mediterranean region. Among the key objectives of WES is to tackle problems related to pollution prevention and water use efficiency. WES capitalizes on previous successful EU funded regional projects (Horizon 2020 CB/MEP; SWIM SM; SWIM-Horizon 2020 SM) and strives for creating the enabling environment and increasing the capacities of all stakeholders of the Partner Countries (PCs).

The WES Partner Countries are Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Libya, Palestine¹, and Tunisia.

¹ This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of Member States on this issue.

Towards a sustainable Mediterranean

The Mediterranean Region is not only the Southern frontier of the European Union. It is also an important cradle of human civilizations, an active North-South interface, a hot spot of biodiversity and one of the most important tourist destinations worldwide. It is also one of the most vulnerable areas to climate change, experiencing severe water scarcity conditions. Finally, it is a region of many unresolved and still tense disputes, some of which also have environmental implications.

WES is guided by the regional context established by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the Barcelona Convention. It is designed and operates as a support mechanism to the Partner Countries, creating synergies and opportunities for collaboration.

EU funded Demonstration Projects focusing on the efficient use of water in the region will be technically supported by WES. Their results will be promoted and good practices identified will be disseminated.

Being a regional project, WES comes with a considerable blend of regional activities, mostly technical assistance actions and capacity building workshops, study visits to European and other Southern Mediterranean countries, webinars and peer-to-peer activities. It is furthermore devoted to serve to a large extent the identified national technical assistance and capacity building needs. Around four national activities, two on water and two on environment per partner country are to be implemented by WES.

These activities are key in securing a balanced progress towards the regional common targets agreed by the UfM Ministerial declarations. Of particular significance are the national WES meetings which provide a useful platform for dialogue in each country to bring together related initiatives and projects supported by the EU, UfM, Barcelona Convention and various donors, enhancing, therefore, synergies. Important elements of the project's implementation are gender equality, communication and awareness raising amongst all stakeholders.

WES supports the shift to a more sustainable consumption and production model, promotes an integrated and efficient management of water, combats plastic pollution and marine litter, assists Partner Countries to improve and implement their regulatory frameworks and fosters dialogues on key environmental and sustainable development issues. In this way, WES activities also support mutual understanding, cooperation and peace in the region.

Special focus of WES is on combatting plastic pollution and marine litter by finding ways to reduce single use plastics and to avoid plastic pollution of the environment which ultimately will end up in the Mediterranean Sea.



A photograph showing a person's hand holding a clear plastic bottle under a public water tap. Water is flowing from the tap into the bottle. The background is a dark, textured wall, and the foreground shows a metal grate over a water collection area.

Water

Water is one of the two main pillars of the WES project. Most WES capacity building and technical assistance efforts are built around improving water resources management with emphasis on efficient use of water. Most of the water related activities will be clustered under the following topics: assessment and estimation of water use (per sector); investigation and introduction of water efficiency gains at the decentralized level; water resources valuation, cost-recovery and affordability of water services; enhancing water efficiency and productivity in agriculture.

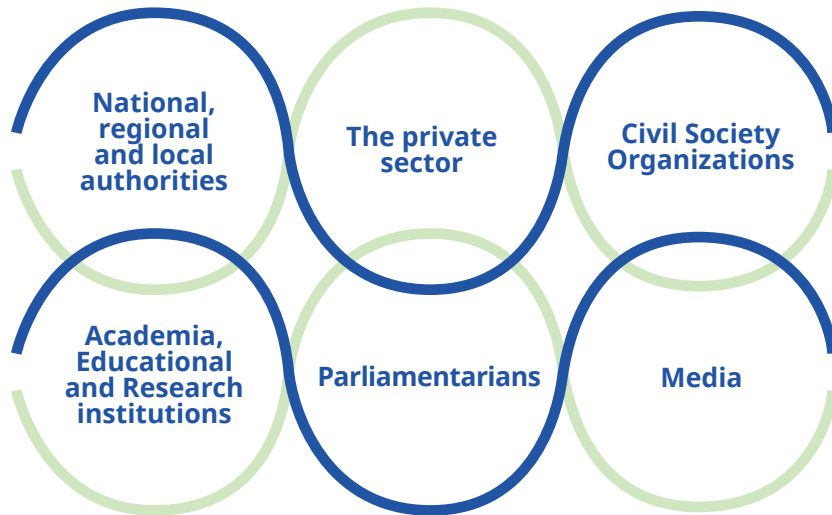


Environment

The second pillar of WES is the Environment. In this field WES will put particular emphasis on the prevention of pollution reaching the Mediterranean Sea by reducing marine litter and plastics, preventing industrial emissions and supporting the shift to sustainable consumption and production through mechanisms, tools and conditions for shifting to a circular economy. Mainstreaming and implementation of integrated environmental management in line with the Barcelona Convention, will also be part of WES.

Who are we working with?

WES primarily cooperates with the Water and Environment Focal Points in each Partner Country. Given the crosscutting nature of WES, a wide range of national and regional stakeholders are involved, including:



WES establishes strong linkages with its institutional partners and regional key players such as the European Environment Agency, the Union for the Mediterranean, the League of Arab States and cooperates closely with many EU funded programmes and projects.



Facts and figures

CONTRACTING AUTHORITY

Directorate-General Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR)

Project value: 7.917.200 Euros

Project period: May 2019 – May 2023 (48 months)

WES CONSORTIUM:

LDK Consultants Global EEIG (Leader), Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARC-SCP/RAC) of UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan, Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED), Association of Cities and Regions for Sustainable Resource Management (ACR+), CIHEAM – Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (CIHEAM Bari), Gopa Infra GmbH, Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), Ramboll Danmark A/S, Royal HaskoningDHV.



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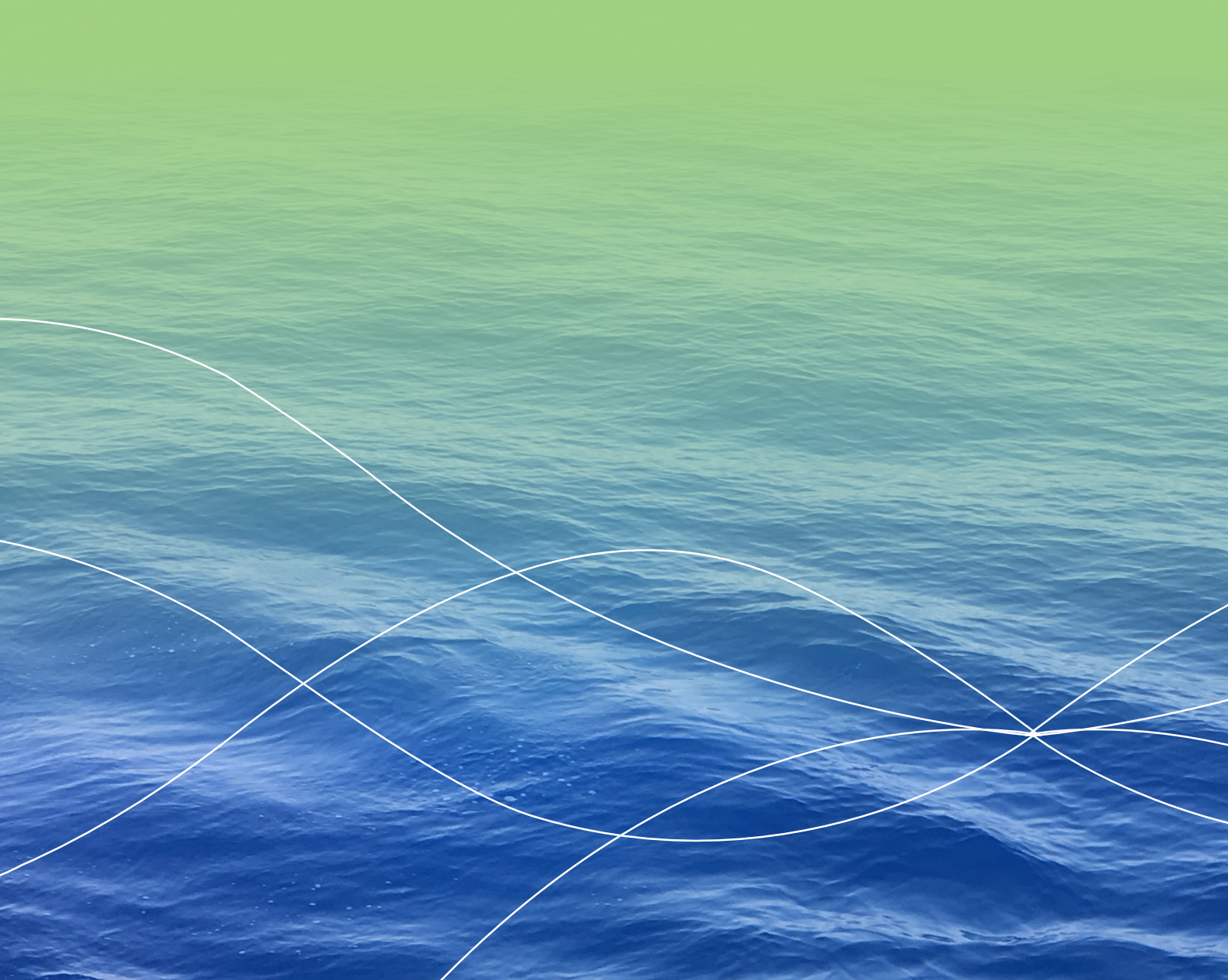
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