



## Water and Environment Support

in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood region

### WES NEWS RELEASE

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#### Water and Environment Support (WES) project launched

Athens, 30 September 2019

A new four-year EU funded regional support project has just been launched. The **Water and Environment Support project in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood region** aims at protecting the environment and improving the management of scarce water resources in the Mediterranean. It will tackle problems related to pollution prevention and water use efficiency. This new project capitalizes on previous successful EU funded programmes like SWIM-Horizon 2020. The WES Partner Countries, where most activities will be implemented, are Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Libya, Palestine<sup>1</sup> and Tunisia. Regional activities of the project are also open for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mauritania, Montenegro and Turkey.

The Mediterranean region is not only the Southern border of the European Union. It is an important cradle of human civilizations, an active North-South interface, a hot spot of biodiversity and an important tourist destination. It is also one of the most vulnerable areas to climate change, experiencing severe water scarcity conditions, while at the same time receiving considerable loads of plastic and other types of pollution.

WES has been designed and will operate as a regional support mechanism to the Partner Countries, creating an enabling environment, synergies and opportunities for collaboration in the fields of water and environment. A number of EU funded Demonstration Projects, which are focusing on the efficient use of water in the region, will also receive technical support under WES. Their results will be promoted, and WES will disseminate good practices identified. The project will furthermore support the shift to a more sustainable consumption and production model and promote an integrated and efficient management of water resources. It will focus on combatting plastic pollution and marine litter by finding ways to reduce single use plastics.

WES will be implemented via a blend of regional and national activities, mostly technical assistance actions and capacity building workshops, study visits to European and other Southern Mediterranean countries, webinars and peer-to-peer activities.

#### WES stakeholders

A wide range of national and regional stakeholders will be involved in WES. They include: the ministries in charge of water and environment, other national agencies, local authorities, educational and research institutes, the private sector, parliamentarians, Civil Society Organizations and the Media. WES has established strong synergies with the key regional bodies working on water and environment in the region such as the Union for the Mediterranean, the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations

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<sup>1</sup> 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.





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Environment Programme, the European Environment Agency, and the League of Arab States. It also cooperates closely with other EU funded programmes and projects.

WES will be implemented by a consortium that consists of a number of leading European and regional entities with complementary skills, backgrounds and experience. The consortium comprises 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 Denmark A/S and Royal HaskoningDHV.

### WES Steering Committee meeting

The first WES Steering Committee was organised on Wednesday 26 September 2019 at the Wyndham Grand Hotel in Athens. The Steering Committee consists of representatives of the relevant Ministries of the Partner Countries, WES institutional partners, representatives of the consortium members, the project's Key experts and observers. The meeting was co-chaired by the Contracting Authority - the European Commission, Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR). During the meeting the activities and workplan of WES were discussed and endorsed.

### Facts and figures

Contracting Authority: European Commission, Directorate-General Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR)

Project value: 7.917.200 Euros

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#### WES

The Water and Environment Support project in the Southern Mediterranean Neighbourhood aims to protecting the environment and improving the management of scarce water resources in the Mediterranean region. It will tackle problems related to pollution prevention and water use efficiency. WES is a regional project with emphasis on the countries of North Africa and the Middle East (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, and Tunisia).

#### Disclaimer

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