



issue 6, January 2022

WES newsletter

The WES Team wishes you a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year!

Water and Environment Support (WES) project

The "Water and Environment Support (WES) in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood Region" is a regional project funded by the European Union. It 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 capitalises on the experience of previous successful EU funded projects (Horizon 2020 CB/MEP 2010-2014, SWIM SM, SWIM and Horizon 2020, 2015-2019) strives for creating the enabling environment and increasing the relevant capacities of all stakeholders in the partner countries.

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 and fosters dialogue on key environmental and sustainable development issues. It operates as a support mechanism to the Partner Countries, creating synergies and opportunities for collaboration and dissemination of information and good practices. WES also provides support to its institutional partners, namely the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) by facilitating specific regional strategies and dialogues and the UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan of the Barcelona Convention.

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.

WES, a useful catalyst of common regional Action in the Mediterranean

The review of the 2021 work carried out by WES allowed all Partner Countries, institutional and other stakeholders to assess a number of characteristics of this EU funded Project. Its relevance and good response to the demands of the PCs, the quality of its deliverables and, in many cases, its innovative approaches, have been repeatedly recognised.

What is becoming now, under the COVID-19 pandemic, even more evident, is its contribution to enhancing the feeling of "belonging" and ownership through cooperation and synergies among all key Mediterranean players, including the UfM, the Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP/MCSD, and Initiatives such as the Cairo Water Week, etc., and a large number of organisations involved in the design and implementation of projects such as the WES DEMOs.

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This synergy-catalyst character of WES is the result of close working relationships and mutual confidence with all parties involved and coherent approaches facilitating and assisting, discretely, in various ways all worthy initiatives throughout a series of successful projects/previous phases: Horizon 2020 CB/MEP; SWIM SM; SWIM-H2020 SM leading to WES.

The recently approved WES Workplan for 2022 allows for the continuation of this function and for further expanding the synergies and conditions for the constructive atmosphere and the much-needed cooperation in our region.

Professor Michael Scoullos

WES Team Leader

WES project workplan for year 3 was endorsed by the Steering Committee

The WES Workplan for 2022 was unanimously adopted by the Steering Committee Meeting (14/12/2021), chaired by Mr Frédéric Fourtune, Programme Manager and the WES TL Professor Michael Scoullos, who stressed the fact that despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the majority of WES activities were launched and are ongoing.

More than 80 participants (Focal Points from the Partner Countries, European Commission, EU Delegations, UfM, UNEP/MAP, the WES Team, etc.) from 16 countries, discussed the WES activities carried out during 2021 and provided valuable updates and contributions for the smooth implementation of the 2022 Workplan. Additional

emphasis was given on the great opportunities the European Green Deal presents for the Neighbourhood countries.

Mr Stefano Dotto, Head of Sector Connectivity, Climate and Environment, of DG NEAR, and Mr Patrick Wegerdt of DG ENV briefed the participants on recent developments and EU Policies and stressed that WES is instrumental in promoting regional cooperation for addressing environmental problems, and in enhancing a common culture for a sustainable and circular economy in the Mediterranean countries.

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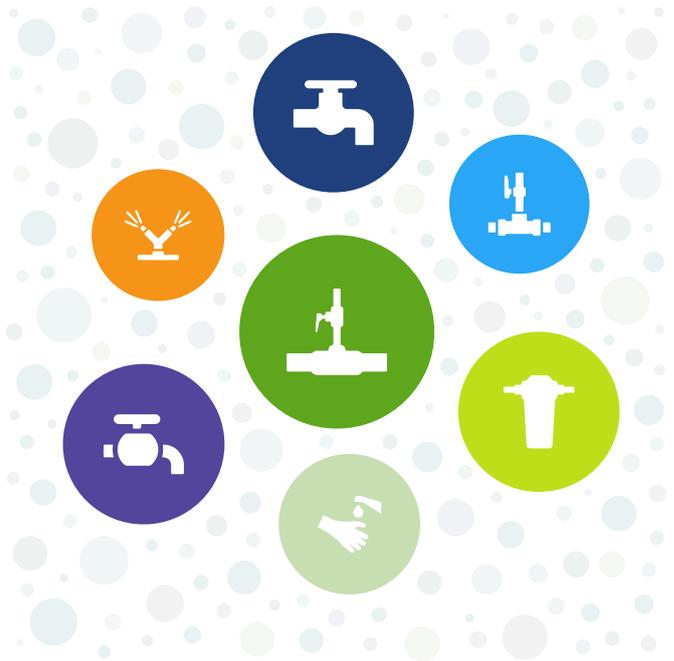


Water Harvesting and Natural Water Retention Measures in the MENA Countries

An online WES Regional Training on Water Harvesting, on the was organised 7, 11, 14, 18 and 21 of October 2021.

For a total of 15 hours, 35 participants from Ministries of Water, Irrigation Authorities, River Basin Authorities, Land Management, Geological Survey Agencies, Water Utilities, Municipalities and NGOs of 9 countries, were introduced to 'water harvesting including through retention & aquifer recharge with storm water'. The Training demonstrated the importance of awareness and education at all levels for supportive, enabling policies and extension/technical support in developing different rain/flood water harvesting systems for crop production.

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Water Demand Management in MENA countries

On December 13, 2021, the EU funded WES Project launched a Peer-to-Peer (P2P) exchange process, focusing on Water Demand Management (WDM) which will be combined with a Regional Training (online) on the same subject in 2022. The proposed scope of the P2P Exchange on WDM and its various approaches/measures in the domestic, touristic, and industrial water demands were discussed with the peers water experts.

The P2P exchange will span over almost a year, till 12 November 2022 and will be mostly facilitated by virtual meetings and regular communication among the designated peers from relevant institutions in the PC.

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Cairo Water Week 2021: 'Early Lessons for Ongoing WES DEMO Projects'

On October 27, 2021, during the Cairo Water Week 2021, WES had the opportunity to disseminate the early lessons learned in the field of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) by its DEMO projects in Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Morocco, Tunisia. WES and its DEMO project partners, presented innovative technologies, processes and methods used to addressing different aspects of water management challenges in both urban and rural areas.

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Improved access to fresh water at lower cost for Palestinians

The online kick-off meeting, organised on September 27, 2021, marked the start of the WES activity designed to improve water billing and collection practices as well as to reduce Non-Revenue Water (NRW). During the meeting, activities to be implemented over the next eight months through close cooperation between the WES team, the Palestinian Water Authority and other key stakeholder were discussed. These activities will support water utilities and service providers to work more sustainably, enabling them to expand and improve networks and equity of services provided; this in turn will be crucial to improving access to affordable fresh water for Palestinian communities but also to

secure allocation of financial resources from the international donor community to the water sector.

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ENVIRONMENT COMPONENT

Support for the promotion of Sustainable Consumption and Production and Circular Economy

As part of the national activity of the EU funded WES project in Algeria, the Regional Activity Centre of UNEP/MAP for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC) organised on November 18, 2021, the first of a series of trainings for training executives and university professors, on Green Entrepreneurship and Circular Economy.

This online training was organised with the support of the National Conservatory of Environmental Training (CNFE) and the University of Boumerdes and was hosted by the Algerian Centre of Circular Economy (CALEC).

A total of eight training sessions will be implemented over a period of two months. Their goal: to give more tools to university professors for developing their entrepreneurial and environmental approaches, and therefore to better support their students as future young green entrepreneurs.

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Best practices in achieving waste reduction in the Mediterranean

WES has developed an on-line 'repository' of selected practices (<https://bestpractices-waste-med.net/>) that promote circular economy and waste reduction across the municipal waste management chain in the Mediterranean. The aim was to identify (through a stakeholder consultation), document, and disseminate key best practices to improve the implementation of the 3Rs (reduction, recycling and reuse) for municipal waste in eight countries of the southern Mediterranean: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, and Tunisia. The cases included are of varying scale and type and are available in English and French.

This website contributes to the UfM's 2030GreenerMed Agenda and also to the launching of a Flagship Initiative of UNEP/MAP's Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD

2016-2025): Undertake regional assessments, as well as knowledge exchanges, of high- and low-tech solutions, that have been successfully implemented to achieve (solid) waste reduction.



Gender and Youth

Upholding WES' commitment to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and youth, the first WES Gender and Youth (G&Y) Committee Meeting was held on October 26, 2021. This meeting follows the development of a dedicated G&Y Action Plan and Road Map up to 2023 and relevant guidelines. The meeting, chaired by the WES Team Leader, Prof. Michael Scoullou, brought together G&Y, Environment, Water, Stakeholder Engagement, Impact Assessment, Communication and Networking

Experts who are tasked with assessing the overall progress of the WES G&Y Action Plan. During the meeting, approaches and specific data collection methods were agreed on to ensure that the maximum potential gender and youth mainstreaming is achieved throughout the implementation of all WES activities.

► [Read more](#)

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Meanwhile, stay updated via:

www.wes-med.eu [f](#) [@sustainablemediterranean](#) [t](#) [@WesMed19](#)



WES

The Water and Environment Support project in the Southern Mediterranean Neighbourhood aims at 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

This newsletter was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the WES Project and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.