



# WES newsletter



## 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, Palestine<sup>1</sup> and Tunisia.

<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.

## Editorial

WES is a Regional EU supported project helping non-EU Countries of the Mediterranean East and South in their efforts to address major environmental problems such as water and other natural resources scarcity and reduce waste at all levels of production and consumption, promoting sustainable development. While key “addressees” are government and local administrations of the Partner Countries. It has become clear that the absolutely necessary enabling conditions for the proper implementation of policies, strategies and regulations require an in depth understanding and participation of the wider public, starting with the involvement of youth.

The present newsletter reflects the WES strategy and methods to achieve the above. Water Demand Management and drastic reduction of Non-Revenue Water are fundamental water conservation management policies. A regional training was dedicated to these, while, in addition, the proper use of safe, Non-Conventional Water Resources, was at the core of another Regional Training on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) for educators and other stakeholders.

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A video for proper management and saving of water, addressing not only experts but the entire society in promoting a new Mediterranean water culture, was developed by WES to complement and consolidate the trainings, workshops and sessions, but also to convey key messages to a wider audience.

An Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme for plastic bottles in Morocco, the bulk of which are for potable water, covers another aspect of the water (and beverage) consumption issue that WES is trying to support with. In turn, there is an unavoidable

link to the use of Single-Use plastics, another issue that WES launched during this period in Lebanon together with the Ministry for Environment. Meanwhile, more videos are in the pipeline, all of which complement the various WES interventions, enhancing the enabling conditions for successful implementation of policies.

Professor Michael Scoullas  
*WES Team Leader*

## WES 1<sup>st</sup> Water Video 'Help Save a Drop'

The "Help save a drop" video was recently released by the WES project. It is the first of a series of videos on water and environmental protection issues that will be produced under the WES project in close cooperation with leading technical experts in the field.

Through this first video, viewers are introduced to the concepts of Water Demand Management and Non-Revenue Water, which are key to improving water efficiency in the region and are among the key issues tackled through the WES project activities. The video also provides tips on simple things we can all do to save water, encouraging everybody to make small, meaningful changes in his/her everyday habits in order to contribute to this task.



▶ [Watch Video](#)



# Regional Training on Water Demand Management

During January and February 2022, WES has organised an online Regional Training on Water Demand Management (WDM) to build the capacity of the Partner Countries (PC) on WDM, as a mean to reduce water demand and usage of water and balance demand with water availability and supply. To be successful, such balance should meet economic efficiency, contribute to social justice, maintain environmental integrity and ensure good quality services.

More than 70 stakeholders (Ministries' representatives, water authorities, water experts, NGOs) from 11 countries participated in the five sessions of a total of 15 hours.

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## Regional Training on how to reach a much needed "new water culture" in the Mediterranean

The Mediterranean holds only 3% of global water resources and it hosts over 50% of the world's water poor populations, around 180 million people, according to Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). Population growth, water intensive agriculture and tourism keep increasing water demand but behind all trends and sectors, individual choices are important driving forces.

WES has organised a regional activity to provide technical assistance on Water related Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), for promoting a "new water culture" of sensitized citizens who respond positively by saving water, keeping it clean, and adopting practical, 'green' and cost-effective solutions related to irrigation, the use of collected rainwater in buildings, stadiums, airports and for urban uses in parks, cleaning roads etc.

In February and March 2022, more than 50 administrators from Ministries of Education and of Water/Environment/ Climate, as well as trainers, teachers, and NGOs followed two 3-hour webinars on this issue.

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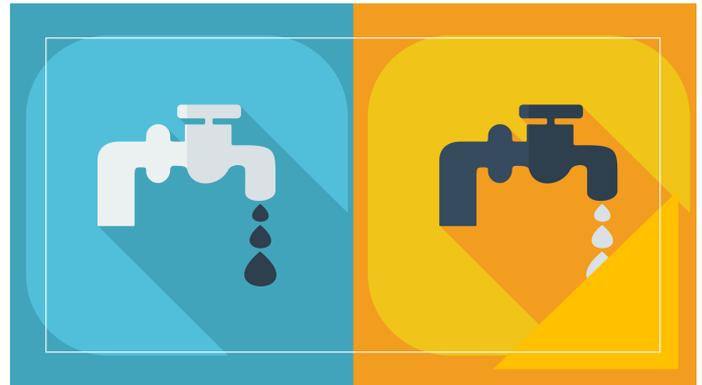
*The Mediterranean holds only 3% of global water resources and it hosts over 50% of the world's water poor populations, around 180 million people, according to Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).*

## WES tackles non-revenue water issues through a new activity to allow better use of scarce water resources in Jordan

A kick-off meeting for the presentation of the WES activity “Elaboration of non-revenue water policy for Jordan” was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2022,

The implementation of this activity is expected to pave the way to a significant reduction of water losses, a more resilient and efficient supply of water, an enhanced capacity to collect fees and increased availability of water for Jordanians; In fact, it will showcase how efficient management of NRW allows water utilities to deliver better services to consumers, enhance their financial performance and be more sustainable in the long term.

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## WES launched a new activity to curb the use of single-use plastics in Lebanon

Substantial amounts of plastic waste, much of which are Single-Use Plastics (SUPs), leak into the marine and coastal environment, with severe implications for marine ecosystems, biodiversity, human health and livelihoods, making SUPs a worrying global issue. In response to the request of the Lebanese Ministry of the Environment (MoE) and the Ministry of Industry (Mol), the WES project developed an activity to contribute to the gradual phasing out of SUPs in Lebanon entitled “Policy support to address single-use plastic items in Lebanon”. At the kick-off of this

WES activity on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March 2022, recent data and trends on plastic packaging waste generation and the main challenges of the plastic value chain in Lebanon were presented in order to agree on the steps to be taken. On-going relevant programs in the Mediterranean and in Lebanon were discussed and the contribution and added value expected of the WES project for supporting Lebanon to respond to the challenges posed by plastic waste pollution, and in particular SUPs.

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# Workshop on the Structuring of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme for plastic bottle waste in Morocco

In Casablanca, on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2022, WES, as part of its national activity in Morocco and its joint initiative with the Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, has organised a Brainstorming Workshop on an EPR scheme for discarded plastic bottles, a major waste stream.

The Workshop aimed at supporting the improvement of the sorting, collection and recovery of packaging waste and in particular plastic bottles in the country. It brought together different points of view and the available data to define a suitable EPR model to be applied to plastic water and beverage bottles leading to the establishment of a framework agreement and a roadmap.

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# Workshop on the implementation of Sustainable Public Procurement in the construction sector in Tunisia

WES is supporting Tunisia to make its public procurement processes more environmentally sustainable. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2022 the second coaching session, in the form of a workshop, was organised with the participation of 20 key stakeholders during which the advantages of inserting sustainability clauses for sustainable public procurement in the construction sector were analysed.

Issues such as the role of life cycle analysis in the context of sustainable public purchases for construction, the "cradle to cradle" approach with life cycle cost analysis of building materials and the related carbon footprint, were explained. Examples of an environmental product for a Tunisian pilot material (compressed plasterboard) and of sustainable management of construction waste were also presented.



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WES Key Expert Communication and networking

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## 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.