



WES INFO BULLETIN REGIONAL ACTIVITY ON EDUCATING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WITH FOCUS ON WASTE WATER TREATMENT FOR REUSE AND NON-CONVENTIONAL WATER RESOURCES

MARCH 2023

Overview

The Mediterranean is one of the most arid regions in the world, holding only 3% of global water resources. Despite this, it hosts over 50% of the world's water-poor populations, with around 180 million people, according to FAO, living in this region. Human-made pressures, such as population growth, urbanization, water-intensive agriculture, tourism, and other industries, as well as misuse, are increasing water demand. Technical solutions alone are insufficient to address this issue. A “new water culture” of sensitized citizens is needed, who respond positively by conserving water, keeping it clean, and adopting practical, green and cost-effective solutions.

Under the Water and Environment Support (WES) in the Southern Neighborhood region project, a Regional Activity on “Educating for Sustainable Development (ESD) with focus on Waste Water Treatment (WWT) for reuse and Non-Conventional Water Resources (NCWRs)” (HE-3-REG) was designed and delivered in two sessions from February to March 2022. Some 50 trainees participated from the WES Partner Countries (PCs), namely Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, and Tunisia.

The Training aimed to provide technical assistance and strengthen the capacities of the WES Partner Countries in effectively implementing Water-related Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). The emphasis was on water reuse after appropriate waste water treatment (WWT) and other NCWRs such as aquifer recharge, use of collected rainwater in buildings, stadiums, and airports for urban uses in parks, gardens or cleaning roads, and greywater reuse in toilets, etc.

Objectives

The objectives of this online training were to:

- » Facilitate the education and water administrators of the WES PCs in applying the Whole Institution Approach (WIA) and ESD in the formal, non-formal and informal educational systems.
- » Demonstrate how WWT and NCWRs applications in schools and other institutions, combined with appropriate ESD, can transform the educational institution into a learning lab for sustainability.
- » Enhance the competences of teachers, trainers and youth leaders in implementing ESD didactic and awareness raising approaches relating to water in their own educational contexts.

Methodology and Implementation

The Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD), a flagship of the Union for Mediterranean (UfM), the Barcelona Convention, the UNECE, the League of Arab States and of UNESCO, was adopted by Ministers of Environment in 2014, while its Action Plan was endorsed by Mediterranean Ministers of Education in 2016. The MSESD has the potential to transform educational

institutions into learning and sustainability labs that apply in practice the “new water culture” and inspire for a broader transformation towards the SDGs.

Within this framework, this WES regional activity aimed to assist the Partner Countries to address the challenges of water scarcity and to raise awareness on how treated wastewater and non-conventional water resources can contribute through Education for Sustainable Development.

The WES Experts on Education for Sustainable Development organised a **2-day online Regional Training in February and March 2022**. The training included focused and easy to follow presentations delivered in an interactive way using e-tools, as well as a wealth of case studies and background material. Trainees actively participated in discussions generating valuable information was shared among all participants.

Main topics

The online training was structured in two modules:

- **Module 1: “Implementing WWT and NCWRs, in the framework of the WIA and ESD.”**
The first webinar provided the theory and practices of the WIA and of ESD, as they have developed over the past years. Examples of water education combined with WWT for reuse and NCWR installations in educational institutions and other public buildings (e.g. in Malta, Greece and Cyprus) were presented and discussed. Related online teaching and learning resources were also shared with the participants.
- **Module 2: “ESD Methodologies: Proposed didactic approaches to educate about water and NCWRs.”**
The second webinar focused on the design and application of learner centered and hands-on ESD approaches, using water and, more specifically, NCWRs as a vehicle. For this reason, several didactic approaches were discussed and tried out by the participants during the webinar and/or as part of the pre- and post- exercises.

Results

The online Regional Training was carried out in two sessions of three hours each, on the 23rd of February and 9th of March 2022. A total of 51 administrators from the Ministries of Education, Environment and Water, along with education and training professionals, practitioners dealing with education and communication, environmental Non-Government and Civil Society Organisations, academia, and researchers, participated in this training. By participating in the training, participants had the opportunity to:

- ✓ Increase their knowledge and competences in designing and implementing water related ESD with emphasis on WWT for reuse and NCWRs.
- ✓ Enhance their capacities to implement learner centered and participatory ESD didactic approaches relating to water in their own educational contexts.
- ✓ Learn how WWT and NCWRs applications in schools and other institutions, combined with appropriate ESD, can transform the institution into a learning lab for sustainability.

Useful Link

https://www.wes-med.eu/activities_type/he-3-reg-educating-for-sustainable-development-focus-on-waste-water-treatment-for-reuse-and-non-conventional-water-resources/

WES Project

The EU funded Water and Environment Support (WES) is a regional project designed to contribute to the implementation of an integrated approach to pollution reduction and prevention, in line with the Union for the Mediterranean agendas and the Barcelona Convention. WES is also meant to contribute to a more efficient management of scarce water resources in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood region.

The project aims to do so by increasing the capacity of stakeholders that are involved in pollution reduction and water management and support them in formulating and implementing the environmental and water policies.

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. In this way, WES also supports mutual understanding, cooperation, and peace in the region.

The WES Partner Countries are Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, and Tunisia. However, to ensure the coherence and effectiveness of EU funding or to promote regional cooperation, the eligibility of specific actions can be extended to neighboring countries in the Southern Neighbourhood region.

For any further information on WES project, please visit: www.wes-med.eu

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