



WES INFO BULLETIN REGIONAL TRAINING & PEER TO PEER EXCHANGE ON WATER DEMAND MANAGEMENT

March 2023

Overview

As part of the Water and Environment Support (WES) project in the Southern Neighborhood region, a **Regional Activity focusing on 'Water Demand Management'** (RW-3-REG/P2P) was organised involving designated participants representing different stakeholders from the WES Partner Countries (PCs), namely Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, and Tunisia.

With the participation of more than 70 stakeholders from 11 countries via an online Regional Training and an online Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Exchange, the Water Demand Management (WDM), as a mean to influence water demand and usage of water to meet any of the following objectives and/or combination of them: economic efficiency, social development, environmental protection and sustainability of water supply and services, was addressed within the context of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) to fully appreciate the contribution WDM can make towards sustainable water resources management.

Both the Training (5 plenary virtual sessions in January and February 2022) and the Peer-to-Peer Exchange (3 sessions in March and October 2022) were focused on the customers' water demand management targeting the non-agricultural sector, namely in the domestic/residential, touristic, and industrial uses in the PCs.

Objectives

The objectives of this Activity were to:

- » Introduce the participants to WDM and its various approaches/measures (technical, legal, financial/economic, education and awareness-raising) and best practices focusing on reducing municipal demand (residential and commercial buildings, large consumers (hotels, schools, hospitals, landscape, etc.)
- » Learn about the costs, benefits and risks of WDM and Explore the range of water saving/efficiency measures that can be considered for the industrial sector accounting for the specific processes common to the PCs
- » Review data needs and requirements and get introduced to water demand forecasting, monitoring, and reporting.
- » Learn about the process of developing (indoor and outdoor) Water Conservation Efficiency (WCE) and its tools and calculators (water metering and auditing, cost-benefit analysis of options, economic policy instruments).
- » Share knowledge and expertise, and boost cooperation on WDM among the South Mediterranean countries.

Methodology and Implementation

The scope of WDM includes the entire water supply chain from the point of groundwater abstraction or surface water intake to the point of usage (customers' tap).

The WES team of water experts prepared this activity on WDM with emphasis on the customers' demand management targeting mainly the management of water demands in the non-agricultural sector, namely in the domestic/residential, touristic, and industrial uses.

The experts designed and delivered this activity via an online Regional Training and an online P2P Exchange to contribute to the promotion and dissemination of sustainable WDM policies and practices.

The following summarises the implementation methodology for this regional activity in both its components the Regional Training and P2P Exchange:

A Kick-off Meeting for the peers was organised in December 2021, during which the P2P exchange, together with the road map for implementing this process, were presented to the peers.

Furthermore, during that meeting, the questionnaire which was prepared in order to help the experts to identify, amongst other things, the priorities in terms of significant issues in WDM/WCE requiring immediate action, capacity gaps, aspects where support is mostly needed, etc., was also introduced.

The Regional Training followed, comprising 5 plenary sessions in January and February 2022, during which a number of focused and easy-to-follow presentations, as well as background material and exercises were used. All the peers that were designated by the project countries participated in this Regional Training.

A P2P Exchange meeting was organised in March 2022, to present the results of the questionnaire and the best candidate topics for the P2P Exchange that will be the subject of further support by the process. The selection criteria of the topics/subjects included urgency, popularity, added value at the regional level, expected impact at the regional level, and constraints. During that working session:

- ✓ The process and tools for sharing and exchange of information and experiences were defined.
- ✓ The next steps were detailed, and the milestones and deadlines were agreed upon.

Three ad-hoc P2P Exchange sessions were held after the Training in June, August, and October 2022, during which, coaching and expert advice were provided and discussions on the water demand forecasting as a technique to manage water demands and on WCE measures were made.

Results

Regional Training

The online Regional Training was carried out in five sessions of a total of 15 hours, between January and February 2022 and with focus on the WDM targeting the non-agricultural consumers. In total 70 representatives of Ministries of Water, Water Authorities, Water experts and NGOs, from 11 countries (the project countries including W. Balkans and Turkey) participated in this Training.

Regional Training main topics:

Session 1: Understanding water demand

Session 2: Water demand forecasting

Session 3: Best practice in water conservation and efficiency (WCE) measures

Session 4: Implementing water demand management interventions and measures involving two parts:

- Part A: Focusing on WDM and WCE programme development, legislation and regulations development; economic policy and/or tariff structure development; Institutional and organisational development; data collection; analysis; impact monitoring and quality assurance; water audits; benchmarking and understanding the role and value of education and awareness-raising programmes.
- Part B: Focusing on the design and implementation of WDM awareness-raising programmes/campaigns to achieve behavioural change.
Tailoring best practice sectoral approaches on WDM and WCE to specific approaches for South Mediterranean countries; understanding, recognising, and respecting cultural differences and particular national circumstances.

Throughout the Training, the participants were introduced to WDM interventions and measures in household, schools, hospitals, tourism/commercial and industrial use. The Training included best technical and operational management practices and tools, data-driven water demand forecasting, tools for water conservation and efficiency (water metering and auditing, cost-benefit analysis of options, economic policy instruments).

Case studies from the South Mediterranean countries were also presented and discussed including a presentation of WDM-related WES activities at the national level in Algeria.

Peer to Peer Exchange

Three online P2P sessions were organised during June, August, and October 2022 with the participation of planners, managers, business developers, decision makers, academics/experts and stakeholders involved in the selection, development, and implementation of WDM and WCE measures as part of plans and programmes aiming to safeguard groundwater and surface water sources in the WES PCs.

Peer to Peer Exchange sessions main topics:

Review of the WDM Regional Training including drawing the key takeaways from each of the five training modules; Understanding water use; Efficiency measures (Labelling); Forecasting; The water situation, water demand forecasting approaches and a case study in Jordan; Case study in Israel; Planning methodologies and water demand predictions; Water demand forecasting in the UK; etc.

The peers received coaching and expert advice on WDM. They also had the opportunity to interact, research certain topics in their countries, present findings and share experiences, and build a regional peer support network in relation to the topic.



Useful Links

https://www.wes-med.eu/activities_type/rw-3-reg-capacity-building-on-1-water-demand-management-2-policy-instruments-for-water-use-reduction-including-tariff-models-for-water-wastewater-and-agriculture/

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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 neighbouring countries in the Southern Neighborhood region.

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

And follow us for all the latest updates via:



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