



“WATER AND ENVIRONMENT SUPPORT”(WES) PROJECT INFONOTE FOR MEDIA, NOVEMBER 2023

WES Project in a Snapshot

- WES aims at protecting the environment and improving the management of scarce water resources in the Mediterranean.
- It strives to address the country needs for creating an enabling environment and enhancing the capacities of stakeholders in the Partner Countries (PCs) to tackle problems related to pollution prevention and water use efficiency.
- WES capitalises on previous successful EU funded regional projects (Horizon 2020 CB/MEP; SWIM SM; SWIM-Horizon 2020 SM).

8 Partner Countries: in North Africa and the Middle East

Duration: May 2019 - November 2024 (66 months)

Budget: 9.508.054 Euros

31 Regional activities:

- Trainings/Workshops
- Study Visits to European and Southern Mediterranean countries
- Webinars
- Peer-to-Peer Exchanges coached

9 Horizontal activities:

Trainings and coached Peer-to-Peer Exchanges

36 National activities: ~2 on water per Partner Country

plus **National WES Meetings** as platforms of collaboration, to assess progress, plan next steps etc.

Component Environment: Pollution prevention topics

Topic 1: Reduce plastic pollution and marine litter

Topic 2: Promotion of mechanisms, tools and conditions for the transition to a circular economy

Topic 3: Prevention and reduction of pollution from specific industrial sectors

Topic 4: Support for the implementation of integrated environmental management

Component Water: Efficient Water Use

Topic 1: Assessment and Estimation of water use (Per Sector)

Topic 2: Investigation and introduction of Water Efficiency Gains at the decentralized level

Topic 3: Water Resources Valuation, Cost-Recovery and Affordability of water services

Topic 4: Enhancing Water Efficiency and Productivity in agriculture

Horizontal Topic: Legal & regulatory aspects related to the integration of Efficient Water Use into national & regional frameworks



WES Project in Egypt

Stakeholders' Engagement in WES

From Sept. 2020 to July 2023, 123 Egyptian key stakeholders (55% men 45% women) participated in:

- 21 Regional Activities (10 Water & 11 Environment)
- 4 Horizontal Activities
- 2 National Water Activities

2 WES Water Activities were organised in Egypt:

1: Strengthen the water utilities capacities to manage/reduce NRW

The objective of the activity was to assist Egypt in developing a financing mechanism to support farmers in purchasing water-saving equipment and enable investments. The ultimate objective was to facilitate improved water network management and resource efficiency at the farm level.

Main Achievements

- ✓ Assessment of present infrastructure, network, customers in the pilot area and review of data availability and reliability.
- ✓ Based on data-gaps identified, 85% of the water network customers were geographically recorded.
- ✓ Improvements suggested to the existing Geographic Information System and Data Base applications to better manage Non-revenue water (NRW) in Asyut Water Company (AWWC).
- ✓ Support the development of a hydraulic model (HM), its implementation and refinement.
- ✓ Initial division of the pilot area into District Metered Areas (DMAs) in order to allow activities related to isolation of leaks and control of NRW.
- ✓ Proposals for equipment to be procured for establishing DMAs.
- ✓ Preliminary list of priority zones for addressing NRW-reduction measures.
- ✓ A manual with a set of procedures aiming at reducing NRW, tailored to the water network of AWWC.
- ✓ Two-day training discussing all steps undertaken, and results derived from the recalibration of the HM.

2: PPP for the banking system to improve irrigation network management and efficiency

The overall objective of this activity was to assist a selected water utility to target the reduction of Non-Revenue Water (NRW) and to continue its efforts to improve NRW management.

Main Achievements

- ✓ Selection of countries for inter-country comparison (benchmarking): Portugal, Morocco and Turkey share many similar "basic characteristics" to Egypt.
- ✓ Review of financial reforms applied in the above countries (partially implemented in the Egyptian context, yet on a smaller scale (e.g., arrangements for Private Partners' Participation, and solar-powered irrigation in agriculture).
- ✓ Insight gained on new financing instruments related to irrigation investments and equipment, including advantages and disadvantages and lessons learnt from their application.
- ✓ Comparison of such instruments/methods with those applied in Egypt.
- ✓ Assessment of Best practices that were identified in the analysed countries, and their applicability in Egypt.
- ✓ Recommendations for effectively implementing adaptive change (e.g., supporting farmers by improving their eligibility for credits, and focused capacity building fostering both, financial and technical viability).



WES Communication

Objectives:

- Increase awareness on water and environmental issues that are currently under pressure in the Mediterranean;
- Increase the commitment of decision-makers and other stakeholders;
- Mobilise the civil society;
- Ensure the visibility of WES and the EU support for water and environmental issues in the region.

Target Groups:

4.200 key stakeholders contacts in total (750 media contacts) from MENA countries

Media, Ministries, Government Authorities, Local Authorities, Private Sector, Universities/ Research Institutions, NGOs

WES Communication Tools:

Press Releases/Announcements Newsletters, Information Bulletins, Social Media Posts, Website Posts/Data, Photos, Videos

1.950 Press Clippings on WES Project (from Sept. 2019 till Oct. 2023)

Published in 14 countries (MENA and European countries)

WES Water Video

The WES video “Help us save a drop” was prepared as part of the activities for water demand management and non-revenue water.

The video offers simple tips for saving water and encourages the public to take small, meaningful, tangible steps to change their daily habits to contribute to this mission.

It presents the concepts of water demand management and non-revenue water which are fundamental to improving water efficiency in the southern Mediterranean.

The video is uploaded into the WES YouTube page and website.

[Video link](#)

For more information, please contact:

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Meanwhile, stay updated via:

WES Web site

WES Facebook page

WES Twitter page

WES LinkedIn page

WES YouTube page

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.

Disclaimer

This info note 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.