

# 5<sup>th</sup> WES Steering Committee Meeting

1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 - Background Material

**Water and  
Environment Support**  
in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood region

EuropeAid/139671/DH/SER/Multi



LDK Consultants Global EEIG

This Project is funded  
by the European Union



*This document has been produced as the background material for the 5th WES Steering Committee Meeting, to be organized virtually on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2024. It presents the Project's progress during the last 12 months of implementation (February 2023 – January 2024) as well as the Project's Workplan for the upcoming months (February 2024 – November 2024).*



## ABBREVIATIONS

ABHOER	Oum Er Rbia Water Basin Agency (Morocco)
ADE	Algérienne des Eaux (Algeria)
BATs	Best Available Technologies
BRs	Biosphere Reserves
BREFs	Best Available Technique (BAT) Reference Documents
CB	Capacity Building
CIHEAM	International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies
CITET	International Center for Environmental Technologies
CNFE	National Conservatory of Training in the Environment (Algeria)
CNL	Commissariat National du Littoral (CNL)
COP	Conference of the Parties
COFIL	Steering Committee Meeting
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease
CRDA	Commissariat Régional de Développement Agricole (Tunisia)
CWW	Cairo Water Week
C & DW	Construction & Demolition Waste
DGGREE	Direction générale du génie rural et exploitation des eaux (Tunisia)
DMAs	District Metered Areas
DZ	Algeria
DG NEAR	Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations
EC	European Commission
EfE9	Environment for Europe Conference
EG	Egypt
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ELVs	Emission Limit Values
EN	English
ENI	European Neighbourhood Instrument
EPR	Extended Producer Responsibility
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development
EU	European Union
EUD	Delegation of the European Union
EYΔΑΠ	Athens Water and Sewage Company (Greece)

# Water and Environment Support

in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood region

FDD	Foundation Discussion Document
FP	Focal Point
FR	French
GDAs	Groupements de Développement Agricoles/Agriculture Development Groups (Tunisia)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GG-NAP	Green Growth National Action Plan (Jordan)
GIS	Geographic information system
HE	Horizontal Environment
HCWW	Holding Company for water and wastewater (Egypt)
HW	Horizontal Water
IL	Israel
IMAP	Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources management
JO	Jordan
KOM	Kick off Meeting
LB	Lebanon
LoE	Level of Effort
MCSD	Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development
MEDIES	Mediterranean Educational Initiative for Environment and Sustainability
MEE	Ministry of Equipment and Water (Morocco)
METLE	Ministry of Equipment, Transport, Logistics and Water (Morocco)
ML	Marine Litter
MO	Morocco
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MoENV	Ministry of Environment
MoEP	Ministry of Environmental Protection
MoLG	Ministry of Local Governance (Palestine)
MPAs	Marine Protected Areas
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
NAP	National Action Plan
NbS	Nature-based solutions
NCWR	Non-Conventional Water Resources
NbS	Nature-based solutions

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5<sup>th</sup> WES Steering Committee Meeting  
Background Material

NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NKE	Non-Key Expert
NRW	Non-Revenue Water
NWRM	Natural Water Retention Measures
NWRP	National Water Resources Plan (Egypt)
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PANAPD	Plan d'Action National des Achats Publics Durables
PET	Polyethylene terephthalate
PC	Partner Country
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PS	Palestine
PSP	Private Sector Participation
P2P	Peer to Peer
QSR	Quality Status Reports
REG	Regional Training workshop
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
ST	Study Tour
SUP	Single Use Plastics
SWIM-H2020 SM	Sustainable Water Integrated Management and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism
TDA	Transboundary diagnostic analysis
TGML	Task Group for Marine Litter
TL	Team Leader
ToR	Terms of Reference
TN	Tunisia
UfM	Union for the Mediterranean
UfMS	Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP/MAP	United Nations Environment Programme
WDM	Water Demand Management
WEB	Webinar
WEFE	Water, Energy, Food and Ecosystem



# Water and Environment Support

in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood region

WES	Water and Environment Support in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood Region
WH	Water Harvesting
WUA	Water Users Association
WWT	Wastewater Treatment




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**COMPONENT 1: POLLUTION PREVENTION**

**TABLE 1: PROGRESS IN NATIONAL LEVEL ACTIVITIES (POLLUTION PREVENTION)**



Dimension / Topic / Sub-Topic	Activity title/Description	Progress made / Challenges encountered	Future Planning
<b>ALGERIA</b>			
<p><b>Technical Assistance &amp; Capacity Building</b></p> <p><b>Topic 1:</b> Curbing Plastic Pollution &amp; Marine Litter</p> <p><b>Sub-Topic 1.1:</b> Marine Litter Monitoring and Management</p>	<p><b>N-E-DZ-1: Support for the monitoring and management of marine litter in Algeria:</b> The main objective of this activity is to concretely support the implementation of the relevant obligations and measures of the Regional Plan for the Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean and the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Program of the Barcelona Convention for Algeria. Specific objectives: Generate data adapted to needs on the quantities, types, composition and sources of marine litter on the sea surface and on the seabed; Identify management measures to combat the identified sources and types of marine litter; Contribute to the implementation of measures relating to marine litter covering the entire management cycle, from monitoring and evaluation to prevention and mitigation.</p>	<p><b>On-going activity</b></p> <p>A two-day Training on marine litter monitoring &amp; mitigation was carried out in Ain Temouchent on 30 – 31 May 2023, aiming to enhance the capacities of the invited stakeholders on deploying methods to monitor macrolitter and microlitter in the marine environment, with special emphasis on monitoring macrolitter on the sea surface and on the seafloor. Participants were also trained on how to transform marine litter related observations to fit-for-purpose data and on how to operationalize selected marine litter prevention and mitigation measures. The training included field surveys and hands-on activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalise the evaluation of the marine litter quantities, types, composition and sources (Task 3).</li> <li>Proposal of management options to be integrated into a Marine Litter Action Plan (Task 3).</li> <li>Begin the preparations for Task 4 (workshop).</li> <li>Workshop report, including shortlist of marine litter priority measures and the follow-up actions agreed by the stakeholders.</li> <li>Synthesis Report.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Technical Assistance</b></p> <p><b>Topic 2:</b> Promotion of Circular Economy</p> <p><b>Horizontal:</b> PPP &amp; Access to sustainable Investment</p> <p><b>Sub-Topic 2.1:</b> Support the Shift to Sustainable Consumption and Production</p>	<p><b>N-E-DZ-2: Support for university training on green entrepreneurship and circular economy in Algeria</b></p> <p>This activity aims to strengthen and promote green entrepreneurship at university level, through the integration of a dedicated training addressing university professors and Algerian university students. It was meant to contribute to a green and circular economy in Algeria. It was carried out with the support of the National Conservatory of Training on the Environment (CNFE) and a pilot university (Department of Process Engineering, Environmental Engineering section at the Faculty of Technology of the University of Boumerdès). Through this activity a national university training network was developed on green and circular economy, which is closely interlinked with sustainable consumption and production.</p>	<p> <b>Activity completed</b></p> <p>In February 2023, the reports on the training missions (D.3.1 and D.4.1) were submitted to the Focal Point. In April 2023 the deliverables D.2 on the minutes of the meetings and the roadmap for the consolidation of the network on green entrepreneurship and circular economy in academia, the replication of the demonstration operation, as well as D.5 on the results of the restitution and consolidation workshop of the university training on green entrepreneurship and circular economy, were also submitted.</p> <p>The synthesis note was prepared and uploaded on the website and the information bulletin was disseminated to the project’s stakeholders.</p> <p>All deliverables have been approved and along with the training material they can be found on the project’s website (<a href="#">here</a>).</p>	
<b>EGYPT</b>			
<p><b>Technical Assistance</b></p> <p><b>Topic 2:</b> Promotion of Circular Economy</p> <p><b>Horizontal:</b> PPP &amp; Access to Sustainable Investment</p> <p><b>Sub-Topic 2.2:</b> Waste Management Schemes and Streams</p>	<p><b>N-E-EG-1: Support for sustainable Construction and Demolition Waste management</b></p>	<p><b>Activity deleted</b> (the requested support was provided through enhanced Egyptian experts’ participation in the regional activity “RE-4-REG” that covers the same topic).</p>	N/A
<p><b>Technical Assistance</b></p> <p><b>Topic 2:</b> Promotion of Circular Economy</p>	<p><b>N-E-EG-2: Support for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes</b></p>	<p><b>Activity deleted</b></p> <p>Following a series of communications with the MoE, GIZ and WMRA for potential collaboration in the activity, the draft TOR of the</p>	Resources have been transferred to other activities.








Dimension / Topic / Sub-Topic	Activity title/Description	Progress made / Challenges encountered	Future Planning
<p><b>Horizontal:</b> PPP &amp; Access to Sustainable Investment</p>	<p>Its objective is to enhance the banking and other sectors' capacity to promote sustainable investment opportunities that foster the shift towards a green economy and facilitate access to green investments with emphasis on the waste sector. The specific objective is to enhance the understanding of the concept of Green Banking as well as of both the inhibiting and enabling conditions for the Central and the Commercial Banks of Jordan and the private sector to better invest in green projects. Emphasis is given on solid waste and plastics sector activities, capitalizing also on all previous initiatives on green banking from the entire environmental sector.</p> <p><b>The activity is operationally linked also to the WES regional activities on SUPs (RE-1-REG and RE-1-P2P on SUPs) and RE-7-REG on the Best practices in achieving waste reduction in the Mediterranean.</b></p>	<p>completing their tasks was approved by the EC on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February 2023. The Workshop was held jointly with the one on the twin N-E-JO-1, in Amman, on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023.</p> <p>The final version of the 'Recommendations for stakeholders on green banking and green investment opportunities to curb plastic waste' reflecting also the discussions during the consultation was submitted and approved by the MoENV, while the report on the joint Consultation Workshop itself was shared with and approved by the Focal Point.</p> <p>The synopsis of the activity and its outcomes are reflected in the Synthesis Report of the activity, shared with the project stakeholders.</p> <p>All deliverables have been approved and along with the training/consultation material they can be found on the project's website (<a href="#">here</a>).</p>	
<b>LEBANON</b>			
<p><b>Technical Assistance</b> <b>Topic 3:</b> Prevention &amp; Reduction of Industrial Pollution <b>Horizontal:</b> PPP &amp; Access to Sustainable Investment</p>	<p><b>N-E-LB-1: Revision of sectoral guidelines and ELVs for industrial activities in Lebanon</b></p> <p>Through this activity, the project is providing assistance to the Ministry of Environment in Lebanon for the prevention/abatement of industrial pollution through the improvement and updating of the Emission Limit Values (ELVs) for industrial emissions and the revision of guidelines for selected industrial activities in the food and beverages sector (dairy, slaughterhouses, cow farms, meat processing, beverages), and the construction sector (C&amp;DW, cutting stone, asphalt, concrete, paints)</p>	<p> <b>Activity completed (in 2022)</b></p> <p>The MoE had drafted a set of environmental guidelines for the establishment and operation of industrial sectors within the food sector (dairy, slaughterhouses, cow farms, meat processing, beverages), and within the construction sector (C&amp;DW, cutting stone, asphalt, concrete, paints). The WES team was asked to revise and comment on the abovementioned technical guidelines. Taking into account BATs and BREFs and after agreement with the FP on the layout and structure for the sector guidelines, WES proposed revisions and comments to the abovementioned guidelines for the establishment and operation of these types of industries.</p> <p>Following a request from the MoE to adapt the activity's scope, the WES project commented and proposed revisions as needed to the emission standards applied for wastewater, which was successfully accomplished.</p> <p>The Synthesis Report has been finalized and is uploaded on the project's website.</p> <p>All deliverables have been approved and along with other material they can be found on the project's website <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	
<p><b>Technical Assistance</b> <b>Topic 1:</b> Curbing Plastic Pollution &amp; Marine Litter <b>Sub-Topic 1.1:</b> Marine Litter Monitoring and Management <b>Sub-Topic 1.2:</b> Addressing Single-Use Plastic</p>	<p><b>N-E-LB-2: Technical assistance to the MoE in tackling the pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by combatting pollution from plastics.</b></p> <p><b>N-E-LB-2a: Marine Litter Monitoring</b></p> <p>Support to the implementation of the national monitoring programme of Lebanon with regards to marine litter (technical assistance to monitor IMAP Common Indicators 22 and 23);</p> <p>This activity was to be carried out in close collaboration/ coordination with UNEP - MAP and in synergy with the ECAP III,</p>	<p><b>Activity cancelled</b></p> <p>WES work was meant to focus on a training on harmonised ML monitoring in Lebanon targeting officials, NGOs and other stakeholders implementing relevant actions. Initially, it was agreed to wait for the opportune timing of a physical training in combination with other relevant actions funded by other donors in the country.</p> <p>However, based on communications with the Focal Point, the issue has been adequately addressed by other projects. Moreover, as new WES activities on plastics have been added in the meantime for</p>	

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	<p>Marine Litter MED II, Plastic Busters CAP, and the IMAP - MPA. The latter monitors only the Marine Protected Areas and their vicinity.</p> <p><b>N-E-LB-2b: Policy support to address single-use plastic items in Lebanon</b></p> <p>The activity provides support to the Ministry of Environment of Lebanon to address Single-Use Plastics (excluding plastic bags). The core of the activity is to gather baseline information on SUPs in the country, analyse the effects of potential measures, raise awareness and capacity to address SUPs.</p> <p><b>These activities are operationally linked to other WES regional activities on SUPs (RE-1-REG and RE-1-P2P on SUPs) mainly by the Lebanese Peers and trainees.</b></p>	<p>Lebanon, it was decided jointly with the MoE not to go ahead with the activity. Resources from this activity would be shifted to the Plastic Champions activity (RE-8-REG) in which candidate champions from Lebanon are participating.</p> <p> <b>Activity completed</b></p> <p>A consultation meeting with representatives of business syndicates, supermarket owners, the Association of Lebanese Industrialists, UNDP representatives, the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Environment was successfully carried out in June 2023 on the roadmap and the path forward on the voluntary agreements. Additional smaller meetings were held with the Head of the Association of Lebanese Industrialists, the Head of the Syndicate of Hotels, and the Board Representative for the Syndicate of Restaurants, Pubs, Cafes, and Pastries to validate the Voluntary Agreement mechanism.</p> <p>A Change Note to extend the activity’s duration until the end of 2023 and address the need to add some NKEs days was approved by the EC on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 2023.</p> <p>The "Voluntary Agreement" between the Ministry of Environment and the Syndicate of Restaurants signing ceremony was held in August 2023. The Deliverables of Task 4 and task 5 were submitted to the Focal Point and EUD and were approved by the former on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August 2023. The activity’s Synthesis Note was prepared and submitted as well.</p> <p>The information bulletin of the activity was shared with all the stakeholders involved in the project.</p> <p>All deliverables have been approved and along with the training material they can be found on the project’s website (<a href="#">here</a>).</p>	
<b>MOROCCO</b>			
<p><b>Technical Assistance &amp; Capacity Building</b></p> <p><b>Horizontal:</b> PPP &amp; Access to sustainable investment</p> <p><b>Topic 2:</b> Promotion of Circular Economy</p>	<p><b>N-E-MO-1: Joint initiative for the establishment of the management chain for PET bottle packaging within the framework of EPR in Morocco</b></p> <p>This circular economy activity aims to improve the sorting, collection and recovery system for PET beverage packaging waste in Morocco through the establishment of Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) in the PET sector. This joint initiative, supported and led by all stakeholders involved in the management and recovery of PET bottle packaging as part of a sustainable EPR model, has the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take stock of relevant, already existing initiatives on packaging waste management</li> <li>• Facilitate effective dialogue among all stakeholders involved in the sector</li> <li>• Set up a monitoring group for the implementation of EPR in</li> </ul>	<p> <b>Activity completed</b></p> <p>The 4th and last COPIL (Comité de Pilotage) meeting was held on the 10th of January 2023, to present the roadmap and framework agreement to the COPIL members. The task 4 deliverables were approved by the FP on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February 2023.</p> <p>The activity’s synthesis note was approved by the FP in March 2023 and the information bulletin was disseminated to the project’s stakeholders.</p> <p>All deliverables have been approved and along with other material they can be found on the project’s website, <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	

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	<p>the PET bottles sector (COFIL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide technical assistance to prepare a roadmap and a work plan, for the establishment of an operational model for the management of PET beverage packaging based on the principle of EPR.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Technical Assistance &amp; Capacity Building</b> <b>Topic 1:</b> Curbing Plastic Pollution &amp; Marine Litter <b>Sub-Topic 1.1:</b> Marine Litter Monitoring and Management</p>	<p><b>N-E-MO-2: Consolidation actions for the ongoing marine litter activities in Morocco: expanding marine litter monitoring</b> (e.g. in other coastal sites, other marine compartments - sea surface, sea floor); finalise the national Action Plan based on the consolidated findings of the assessment results; support in implementation of selected priority measures. This activity is meant to support Morocco's efforts to meet its commitments under the Barcelona Convention.</p>	<p><b>On-going activity</b></p> <p>After the successful learning-by-doing set of pilot marine litter surveys held in October 2022, the second set of surveys was successfully organized from 25 to 28 April 2023 which included macrolitter and microlitter surveys on the sea surface at Mdiq, with 21 participants from all targeted stakeholder groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalise the processing of the marine litter quantities, types, composition and sources evaluation based on the datasets (Task 3).</li> <li>Proposal of management options to be integrated into a Marine Litter Action Plan (Task 3).</li> <li>Begin the preparations for Task 4 (workshop).</li> </ul>
<b>PALESTINE</b>			
<p><b>Technical Assistance</b> <b>Topic 3:</b> Prevention &amp; Reduction of Industrial Pollution <b>Sub-topic 3.2:</b> Depollution Projects (including PPP schemes)</p>	<p><b>N-E-PS-1: Technical assistance on sustainable Medical Waste Management</b></p> <p>The aim of the activity is to provide technical assistance to promote sustainable medical waste management solutions.</p> <p>The specific objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>support Palestine in the update of the Master Plan with its Roadmap for healthcare waste and to reinforce capacities of different actors to improve management practices;</li> <li>define a set of measures and actions to develop a contingency/emergency plan to be executed in crisis situations (outbreaks, conflicts, earthquakes, pandemic, etc.).</li> </ul>	<p> <b>Activity completed</b></p> <p>The final version of the Health Care Waste Management (HCWM) Master Plan was prepared in order to be cleared by the FP and shared with the Palestinian stakeholders and trainees prior to the final Consultation Meeting.</p> <p>The National Consultation Meeting to present and discuss the updated Master Plan and Contingency Plan was organised on 16-18 May 2023 in Ramallah combined with the Training on the Master Plan implementation. Following that, the team was engaged in finalizing the Master Plan and the Contingency Plan. The project has responded positively to an additional request for the provision of an adapted inspection checklist to be used by field inspectors in the country, and the translation and final editing of the Master Plan. A Change Note for the addition of some NKE expert days in order to finalize the Updated Master Plan and the Contingency Plan was approved on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2023.</p> <p>The updated Master Plan was finalized and translated into Arabic.</p> <p>The information bulletin of the activity was shared with all the stakeholders involved in the project.</p> <p>All material and deliverables related to the activity have been approved and can be found on the project's website, <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	
<p><b>Technical Assistance &amp; Capacity Building</b> <b>Topic 3:</b> Prevention &amp; Reduction of Industrial Pollution <b>Sub-Topic 3.1:</b> Environmental Mainstreaming in Sector Policies</p>	<p><b>N-E-PS-2: Development of a draft strategy for plastic waste management with focus on single-use plastics (SUPs) in Palestine</b></p>	<p><b>Activity under preparation</b></p> <p>In reaction to a suggestion of the Focal Point for developing a strategic action plan/ on plastic waste management for Palestine, as part of another activity (N-E-LB-PS-P3), the WES team proposed to redirect the second national activity (hazardous waste) and focus more on pollution from plastics and SUPs. This is considered to give better focus and impact on plastic waste within a national WES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess the situation and explore with the Focal Point the way forward.</li> <li>Finetune the design of the activity in the best way possible for its impactful implementation.</li> </ul>



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		<p>activity rather than via a sub-regional WES activity. The Focal Point agreed and the draft TOR for an activity entitled “Development of a draft strategy for plastic waste management with focus on single-use plastics (SUPs) in Palestine” was prepared and is under consideration.</p> <p>The draft TOR was shared with the Focal Point and comments were received from the Environment Quality Authority (EQA) and Ministry of Local Governance (MoLG) by October 7<sup>th</sup> 2023. It was suggested for this activity to build on the work carried out by PROBLUE and other projects.</p> <p>Given the conflict in Gaza, the validation process has been delayed. The project is monitoring and assessing the situation regularly. Communication with EQA is ongoing to try to move the process forward, that looks likely to happen.</p>	
<b>TUNISIA</b>			
<p><b>Technical Assistance</b> <b>Topic 2:</b> Promotion of Circular Economy <b>Sub-Topic 2.1:</b> Support the Shift to Sustainable Consumption and Production</p>	<p><b>N-E-TN-1: Support for the implementation of Sustainable Public Procurement operations</b></p> <p>The main objective of this activity is the implementation and a concrete application of Sustainable Public Purchasing in the construction sector as part of the implementation of PANAPD. This involves working on a methodology to be followed for Sustainable Public Purchasing in the Construction sector in a "learning by doing" approach which can be replicated in other sectors.</p>	<p> <b>Activity completed</b></p> <p>The activity was practically completed in 2022.</p> <p>The final version of the deliverable of task 4 «Guidelines for the implementation of sustainable public procurement (SPP) in the construction sector in Tunisia» was approved by the national designated partner CITET (International Center for Environmental Technologies) on the 12th of December 2022 and by the EUD on the 19th of December 2022.</p> <p>The EU Delegation then communicated the SPP guidelines to the COPIL and the Project Management Unit of the ECOPACT program with the aim of applying it and integrating sustainability clauses into the SPP of this EU-funded program.</p> <p>The report on the Dissemination workshop (D.5) was prepared and submitted to the Focal Point.</p> <p>The synthesis note of the activity was approved and uploaded on the WES website, while the related information bulletin was disseminated to the project’s stakeholders.</p> <p>All material and deliverables related to the activity have been approved and can be found on the project’s website, <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	
<p><b>Technical Assistance</b> <b>Topic 3:</b> Prevention &amp; Reduction of Industrial Pollution <b>Horizontal:</b> PPP &amp; Access to Sustainable Investment</p>	<p><b>N-E-TN-2: Technical assistance for Industrial pollution prevention and monitoring from the tomatoes transformation industry in the coastal area of Korba.</b></p> <p>Provision of technical assistance for the reduction of environmental impacts linked to the agro-food processing industry of tomatoes in the coastal region that is rich in biodiversity and highly threatened, from Korba to Cab Bon, in Tunisia. The activity is particularly aimed at: i) the introduction of measures to optimize the consumption of resources and reduce environmental pollution linked to the industrial processing of tomatoes and the treatment of their effluents; ii) setting up an</p>	<p> <b>Activity completed</b></p> <p>The activity was practically completed in 2022.</p> <p>The activity was launched in April 2020. The national designated partner was ANPE (National Environmental Protection Agency). The third and last COPIL meeting to present the final results of this activity (project proposal and draft charter) was organised on May 31<sup>st</sup> 2022. Task 3 Report was approved during that meeting and was then approved by the FP in June and sent to the EUD for validation.</p>	

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	<p>environmental monitoring system for the tomato processing industries; and iii) the launch of a process for a sectoral framework agreement for the sustainable management of resources and environmental protection of the tomato processing activity in the target region.</p>	<p>On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 2022, the deliverables of tasks 4 and 5 were also shared with the FP and approved.</p> <p>The Synthesis Note of the activity was also prepared and disseminated.</p> <p>All material and deliverables related to the activity have been approved and can be reached on the project's website, <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	
<b>PLASTIC POLLUTION REDUCTION</b>			
<p><b>Technical Assistance</b></p> <p><b>Topic 1:</b> Curbing Plastic Pollution &amp; Marine Litter</p> <p><b>Topic 2:</b> Promotion of Circular Economy</p>	<p><b>N-E-IL-P1: Contribution to the development of a joint public-private road map to effectively recycle plastic polymers in Israel</b></p> <p>The objective of this activity is to enhance the management of plastic products in the country by taking measures specific to plastic polymers that are disruptive to sorting and recycling process. The activity comprises the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluating the current practices and future trends in the plastics market regarding polymers (oxo-degradable plastics, biodegradable, compostable plastics, multilayer packaging, additives, etc.), both in packaging and non-packaging uses, and the difficulties created by these polymers to the sorting and recycling processes;</li> <li>Preparing policy recommendations and a road map based on a comparative study of redesign, sorting and recycling techniques, BATs and BREFs, international and EU policies;</li> <li>Sharing the recommendations and road map with stakeholders to achieve consensus.</li> </ul>	<p><b>On-going activity</b></p> <p>The Inception Report was submitted to the country on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2023 and after incorporation of the MoEP comments it was approved on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May 2023.</p> <p>Task 2 Deliverable on the "Review of international and EU best practices, comparison with Israel and recommendations on materials proposed for restriction, bans or other measures" was submitted on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2023 and was approved on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023.</p> <p>Given the ongoing conflict in Gaza, the next steps involving a wide consultation phase, online and public forums as well as bilateral meetings with industry representatives on the recommendations of the activity was not possible.</p> <p>The preparation of a public-private roadmap to transition towards reducing the use and harmful impacts of the focus polymers and a final consultation meeting will follow, when the consultation phase will be carried out.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess the situation in the country and proceed accordingly, only when safe and possible.</li> <li>Sharing recommendations (Task 3).</li> <li>Prepare a Roadmap on reducing the use and impacts of the focus polymers (Task 4).</li> <li>Conduct a consultation meeting to discuss the draft roadmap towards curbing the use of polymers (Task 5).</li> <li>Compile a synthesis report (Task 6).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Technical Assistance</b></p> <p><b>Topic 1:</b> Curbing Plastic Pollution &amp; Marine Litter</p> <p><b>Topic 2:</b> Promotion of Circular Economy</p>	<p><b>N-E-LB-PS-P2: Investigating and developing a compendium with successful approaches of an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system for plastics in Lebanon and Palestine</b></p> <p>The activity aims to develop a compendium detailing successful approaches in the wider Mediterranean and beyond with all generic recommendations for the needed steps to be communicated to Lebanon and Palestine with a view to encouraging more ambitious EPR schemes to bring about a more sustainable use of plastics.</p> <p>The assignment is to explore the existing landscape of EPR related to plastics in both countries with a focus on plastic packaging. It is to identify some strengths and weaknesses of existing EPR approaches, and opportunities and needs for more ambitious EPR to be developed in both countries.</p>	<p><b>On-going activity</b></p> <p>The activity's Inception Report was submitted to the countries and was approved on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2023 by the Lebanese Focal Point. Comments from Palestine were received on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July 2023. A version addressing the country's comments was again shared with the Focal Points and was approved in September 2023.</p> <p>Following that, the team worked on compiling a compendium of EPR cases, lessons and success factors considering cases from both countries (Task 3). At the same time the team was also studying the legal and institutional frameworks on EPR in each country including roles and responsibilities of the main actors (Tasks 2 and 4 consolidated in one deliverable). The deliverables for the tasks 2, 3 and 4 were submitted to both countries in December 2023. They were approved by the Lebanese Focal Point in January 2024. Feedback from Palestine is pending.</p> <p>Given the conflict in Gaza, the team's work in both countries has been slowed down significantly, while discussions with the experts and the WES management team to work around the situation are carried out as well.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess the environmental, technical, economic and social aspects (benefits, constraints and challenges) for applying EPR in both countries and define the main steps for EPR implementation (Task 5).</li> </ul>





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<p><b>Technical Assistance</b> <b>Topic 1:</b> Curbing Plastic Pollution &amp; Marine Litter <b>Topic 2:</b> Promotion of Circular Economy</p>	<p><b>N-E-LB-PS-P3: Identify small scale “model” approaches of separate collection and recycling for further replication, Lebanon &amp; Palestine</b> Under this sub-regional activity, good practices for separate collection and recycling developed by non-State actors and local / regional authorities in Lebanon and Palestine will be identified and evaluated. One – two case studies per country are to be selected and technical advice is to be provided to improve them so as to be promoted as “champions” and/or case studies to be replicated; Key measures are to be outlined to improve enabling, legal/institutional/operational frameworks and/or conditions to promote separate collection and plastic waste recycling. There is a provision for replication of the results of the selected cases, through a dedicated communication plan. A parallel awareness campaign involving public, local authorities, schools and NGOs on plastic waste separation and recycling, is to be developed, in order to obtain public support for the case studies.</p>	<p>The team is currently working on assessing the environmental, technical, economic and social aspects (benefits, constraints and challenges) for applying EPR and defining the main steps for EPR implementation, carrying some consultation meetings to the level possible, given the situation in both countries (Task 5).</p> <p><b>On-going activity</b></p> <p>The Kick-off Meeting of the activity was successfully held online on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2023 and attended by both Ministries and the EUD of Lebanon.</p> <p>The team compiled the activity’s Inception Report in mid-2023 that included a long list of best practices for further evaluation under Task 2. The report covering Lebanon and Palestine, was developed in consultation with the WES Focal Points. However, due to unforeseen delays and the impact of regional conflicts, its formal issuance was delayed and then submitted to both countries in January 2024.</p> <p>In parallel, since the beginning, the team was involved in consultations and desk work to identify case studies in Palestine and Lebanon on separate collection and recycling for further replication (Task 2). Case studies were compiled and listed out in similar format to allow for their comparison. Selection criteria were developed as well. However, given the ongoing conflict, it was eventually decided to issue separate reports for Lebanon and Palestine and reflect each country’s circumstances separately. Task 2 deliverables were submitted to both countries in January 2024.</p> <p>Actions on Tasks 3 (Recommendations to improve separate collection) as well as on Task 4 (Development of a communication plan) are currently underway. The respective separate reports highlighting the distinct aspects and situation in each country will be consolidated into one report to be submitted in January/February 2024.</p> <p>The intention remains to draw common lessons where applicable to promote broader learning in the region and this will be reflected in the reports to be developed.</p> <p>The WES experts have been in frequent exchanges with NIRAS implementing the project "SIEA-2018-4313 Waste Governance: Technical Assistance to the EUD" on behalf of the European Union Delegation to Lebanon (EUD) to discuss possible assistance provision in their effort on developing policy briefs on selected priority topics on solid waste management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare and submit a report for each country, consolidating Task 3 (key messages and recommendations) and Task 4 (Communication Plan).</li> <li>• Plan an awareness campaign on plastic waste separation and recycling (Task 5).</li> <li>• Prepare the Synthesis Report (Task 6).</li> <li>• Acquire approval by both countries for all deliverables submitted.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Technical Assistance</b> <b>Topic 1:</b> Curbing Plastic Pollution &amp; Marine Litter <b>Topic 2:</b> Promotion of Circular Economy</p>	<p><b>N-E-TN-P4: Enforcement of political and legal measures undertaken by Tunisia for the reduction and prohibition of certain types of single-use plastic packaging</b> The main objective of this activity is to identify bottlenecks (technical, legislative, financial, etc.) in the implementation of the plastic bag ban regulation (Decree n° 32 of January 16, 2020.) and to propose actions to lift and overcome these constraints. This activity includes also a</p>	<p><b>On-going activity</b></p> <p>A first amendment to the ToR was approved by the EC on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2023 based on a request of the MoE, to carry out site visits to some plastic bag production factories in order to provide additional information to policy makers to reinforce any government decision related to restricting the production and distribution of plastic bags.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update the diagnostic on the production and producers of plastic packaging bags (Task 5).</li> <li>• Synthesis Note (Task 7).</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Technical Assistance</b>  <b>Topic 1:</b> Curbing Plastic Pollution &amp; Marine Litter  <b>Topic 2:</b> Promotion of Circular Economy  <b>Sub-Topic 1.2:</b> Addressing Single-Use Plastics  <b>Sub-Topic 2.2:</b> Waste Management Schemes and Streams</p>	<p>proposed roadmap for an extension of the measures aiming at the reduction (and the banning when appropriate) to other single-use plastic materials in Tunisia.</p>	<p>Four visits of the NKEs in the regions of Hammam Sousse were organized on 14 and 16 June 2023 and a COPIL Meeting was organised on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2023.</p> <p>A COPIL meeting was organised on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 for the activity's coordination purposes. The national consultation workshop to discuss the roadmap for the extension of restriction measures to other single-use plastic packaging (Task 4) was successfully held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2023 in the presence of the Minister of Environment. Task 4 report was submitted in January 2024.</p> <p>A second request for the activity's extension has also been formulated by the MoE for updating the baseline information available on the production and producers of plastic packaging bags, as well as for developing proposals and adaptations of legal texts to reduce and ban certain types of plastic bags. To this end, an updated version of the ToR was prepared, which was approved by DG NEAR in November 2023.</p> <p>The deliverable of task 2, the action plan towards addressing technical, legislative, financial, communication constraints and barriers related to the ban on plastic bags, has been submitted to the Focal Point at the end of July 2023 and after addressing the comments received, it was approved on 11 September 2023.</p> <p>The Deliverables of Task 3 and Task 4 as well as the report on the proposed adaptations and amendments to the text of Decree No. 2020-32 (D6.1) have been submitted to the Ministry of Environment in November 2023. A two-page note on the survey's outline (objectives, target, partners involved, data to be processed) was submitted in January 2024 for approval prior to the survey.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design the activity in the best way possible for its impactful implementation.</li> <li>• Prepare the TOR.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>N-E-DZ-P5: Capitalizing on previous experience and developing selective collection and recycling of plastics in Algeria</b></p>	<p><b>Activity cancelled</b></p> <p>The activity was designed in close collaboration with the Focal Point. The ToR were prepared and submitted to the FP on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February 2023. Due to the change of Minister, feedback was pending for a few months, but in September 2023, the Focal Point informed the WES team that the TOR do not meet their expectations anymore. The activity is therefore cancelled and resources will be shifted to other WES activities.</p>	
	<p><b>N-E- P6 (optional additional activity)</b></p>	<p><b>Activity cancelled</b></p> <p>Following the cancellation of the activity N-E-DZ-P5 on the recycling of plastics in was decided to transfer these resources to consolidate other WES activities under the same "Plastic Pollution Reduction" topic.</p>	
	<p><b>N-E-P7: Activity on the preparation of public awareness campaigns material (on plastic pollution management)</b></p>	<p><b>Activity under conceptualisation</b></p>	



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquiring the approval of the TOR by the FPs, EUD and DG NEAR.</li> </ul>

TABLE 2: PROGRESS IN REGIONAL LEVEL ACTIVITIES (POLLUTION PREVENTION)

Dimension / Topic / Sub-Topic	Activity title/Description	Progress made / Challenges encountered	Future planning
<b>Technical Assistance &amp; Capacity Building</b> <b>Topic 1:</b> Curbing Plastic Pollution & Marine Litter <b>Sub-Topic 1.1:</b> Marine Litter Monitoring and Management <b>Sub-Topic 1.2:</b> Addressing Single-Use Plastics	<b>RE-2-REG: Understanding better microplastics and identifying how to address the issue.</b> The overall aim of this regional training was to provide technical assistance and strengthen the capacities of the WES Partner Countries to effectively address the issue of microplastics in the Mediterranean marine environment.	 <b>Activity completed</b> The TOR of the activity were approved on February 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2022. The training was structured in three modules and it was delivered on-line on May 12 <sup>th</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> , and June 14 <sup>th</sup> 2022. The training report was finalised and uploaded on the project website along with the training material (to be reached <a href="#">here</a> ).	
<b>Technical Assistance &amp; Capacity Building</b> <b>Topic 2:</b> Promotion of Circular Economy <b>Sub-Topic 2.1:</b> Support the Shift to Sustainable Consumption and Production <b>Sub-Topic 1.2:</b> Addressing Single-Use Plastics	<b>RE-3-REG / R E-3-P2P: Innovative Circular Economy Business Models in the Mediterranean region</b> The overall aim of this activity is to provide technical assistance and strengthen the capacities of the non-EU Mediterranean countries to implement in their respective countries, effective measures to support the development of green and circular businesses as agreed at regional level (Barcelona Convention system, UfM). The specific objectives of this regional activity are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support WES PCs in the appropriation and implementation of selected regional measures to boost the development of green and circular businesses in their respective countries.</li> <li>Capacitate and support WES PCs to identify applicable cases, through applying an Open Innovation approach and the mapping of initiatives and/or opportunity nests.</li> <li>The activity ensures non-duplication, complementarity and synergy with other regional projects such as SwitchMed, RESET, and STAND UP. It is to target mainly Business Support Organisations and policy makers to inspire them to effectively support circular economy businesses.</li> </ul>	<b>On-going activity/ Regional Training is completed</b> This activity combines a P2P process and regional training. The Peer-to-Peer process is meant to support experience exchange and knowledge transfer among WES PCs on tools, initiatives, policy instruments to support green and circular businesses. The TOR of the activity were approved on the 11 <sup>th</sup> of January 2023. The First P2P meeting was organized on the 26 <sup>th</sup> of April 2023 in order to introduce all the participants (Peers/Trainees, Experts, etc.), consolidate the workplan, roles and expectations. The regional training was successfully held in Barcelona on 15-17 May 2023, during which the 2 <sup>nd</sup> P2P meeting was organised, dedicated to the next steps of the P2P process. A Study tour for acquiring hands-on experience was also included. The Training report was prepared and the whole training material can be reached <a href="#">here</a> . A change note to add some NKEs days was submitted to the EC on the 7 <sup>th</sup> of August 2023 and was approved on the 8 <sup>th</sup> of August 2023. Another change note was submitted in January 2024 for specific additional expertise on the thematic focus of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> and final P2P meeting that will take place on the 7 <sup>th</sup> of February. Consultation with the Peers in the fall of 2023 defined the priority focus of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> P2P meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organise and hold the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Final P2P meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2024 (online).</li> </ul>
<b>Technical Assistance &amp; Capacity Building</b> <b>Topic 2:</b> Promotion of Circular Economy <b>Topic 3:</b> Prevention and Reduction of Pollution Reaching the Mediterranean from Specific Industrial Sectors	<b>RE-4-REG / RE-4- ST/ RE-4-P2P activity on the Management of Construction &amp; Demolition Waste (CDW)</b> This regional activity takes up from the groundwork achieved by SWIM-H2020 SM. The overall aim of the activity was to bring together the key stakeholders from the PCs with selected experts and provide a high-level field visit focusing on CDW which included a training/workshop, exercises, and discussions. The specific objectives of the activity are to:	 <b>Activity completed</b> The activity's TOR were approved on the 29 <sup>th</sup> of November 2021. Invitations for the appointment of Peers were sent in March 2022. The P2P process was launched with the 1 <sup>st</sup> P2P meeting, held online on the 7 <sup>th</sup> of April 2022, during which the place for holding the Workshop and Study Visit was discussed and agreed.	


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<p><b>Sub-Topic 2.2:</b> Waste Management Schemes and Streams</p> <p><b>Horizontal:</b> Promoting PPP &amp; Access to Sustainable Investment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and analyze the recurrent problematics encountered in the CDW management sector in Southern Mediterranean;</li> <li>Identify and analyze relevant existing projects/technologies/initiatives that may answer those problematics to implement them in the concerned territories, stressing environmental and social benefits;</li> <li>Introduce to the participants an integrated approach to sustainable management of CDW at local level based on EU standards and applicable best practices;</li> <li>Visit CDW management facility(ies) using technology which is effective, relevant and implementable in the WES PCs;</li> <li>Enable, encourage, and facilitate dialogue and exchange of experiences between public authorities and other key stakeholders from the PCs with those from the EU;</li> <li>Promote sharing of experiences among the PCs on CDW management practices; facilitate exchanges and the development of synergies and complementary activities within the Mediterranean;</li> <li>Launch a P2P process for experience sharing at regional level and knowledge transfer (south-to-south, north-to-south) around CDW management;</li> <li>Analyze possibilities for creation of a market for materials recovered from CDW.</li> </ul>	<p>A 2nd P2P meeting was organised on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022.</p> <p>The Regional Workshop and Study Visit took place physically in Marseilles from 20 - 22 September 2022. Synergy and coordination were ensured with the EU-supported project on CDW (RE-MED).</p> <p>A video crew accompanied the tour, visited the sites and interviewed some participants, in order to use the footage for the WES video on CDW management to be produced.</p> <p>The Regional training report was finalised and uploaded on the project website along with the training material (to be reached <a href="#">here</a>).</p> <p>A change note summarizing some changes already approved by the EC (NKE3), updating the planning of the implementation of the P2P activity (time extension) and increasing the LoE by a small number of expert days (5) to NKE1 to strengthen the P2P component of the activity was approved on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2023.</p> <p>The Final Meeting of the P2P process was organized online on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2023 and the related P2P report has been finalized. It can be reached <a href="#">here</a> along with all the P2P material.</p>	
<p><b>Capacity Building</b></p> <p><b>Topic 3:</b> Prevention and Reduction of Industrial Pollution</p> <p><b>Topic 4:</b> Mainstreaming Integrated Environmental Management</p> <p>Horizontal: PPP &amp; Access to Sustainable Investment</p> <p><b>Sub-Topic 4.1:</b> Support NAPs Implementation</p>	<p><b>RE-5-REG: Supporting countries to implement NAPs (2025-2035)</b></p> <p>WES is to provide its support to MED POL to develop a Concept Note to be shared with the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention with the aim to undertake a common analysis of the implementation of the current NAPs and to present some elements for updating the NAP guidelines considering QSR and TDA findings, recent development on regulatory aspects of MAP and at global and EU level, as well as a better inclusion of circular economy and SCP including a better interaction with other sectors.</p> <p>WES is also to provide support to MED POL to critically review existing criteria for selection of hotspots used in 2015 with the aim of developing new criteria for updating the list of hotspots in 2025.</p> <p>WES will provide organisational support (logistics and travel) to MED POL for the preparation and successful delivery of the UNEP/MAP Meeting of “Best Practices for application of the Guidelines for estimating pollutant loads from Agriculture and Aquaculture” and for developing preliminary elements for the new NAPs.</p>	<p><b>On-going activity</b></p> <p>The training’s concept note was approved on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2023 while the related ToR were approved on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July 2023. UNEP/MAP with the support from and in close collaboration with the WES project organized the “Meeting for developing the preliminary elements for new National Action Plans (NAPs) and sharing Best Practices for application of the Guidelines for estimating pollutants loads from agriculture and aquaculture sectors”. The Meeting was held in Athens, Greece from the 24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023.</p> <p>WES contributed to the meeting financially by offering accommodation on a full board basis to sponsored participants, as well as the logistical and audiovisual arrangements of the meeting. Technical support involved the work of a Non-Key Expert for developing a Report to be shared with the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention with the aim of undertaking a common analysis of the implementation of the current NAPs and to present the main elements for updating the current NAP guidelines considering QSR and TDA findings, recent developments on regulatory aspects of MAP and at global and EU level, as well as a better inclusion of circular economy and SCP, including a better interaction with other sectors. The support also included the critical review of existing criteria for selection of hotspots used in 2015 with</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proceed to the testing/validation of the new threshold for hotspot/ sensitive areas based on NAP Indicators.</li> <li>Prepare the Final report presenting the testing outcomes of the proposed pressure thresholds and proposing adjustments to scoring threshold with justification.</li> </ul>

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		<p>the aim of developing new criteria for updating the list of hotspots in 2025.</p> <p>During the meeting, the NKE presented the initial findings of the questionnaire shared with the Contracting Parties before the meeting. She detailed the rationale behind creating the questionnaire, highlighting its aim to gather information crucial for the development of the new NAPs. Additionally, she shared preliminary results from 9 Contracting Parties, confirming the inclusion of the specific measures outlined in the regional plan on wastewater and sludge, as well as in the regional plan on marine litter.</p> <p>Deliverables were submitted in December 2023 to UNEP-MAP. Following the request of UNEP-MAP the technical assistance is extended for WES to further develop/validate the pressures related scoring system of hotspots with available data (from one CP) and fine tune the threshold values, if necessary.</p>	
<p><b>Technical Assistance &amp; Capacity Building</b> <b>Topic 2:</b> Promotion of Circular Economy <b>Sub-Topic 2.2:</b> Waste Management Schemes and Streams</p>	<p><b>RE-6 -REG / ST / P2P: Decentralized management of organic waste</b></p>	<p><b>On-going activity</b></p> <p>The ToR of the activity were approved on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2023 while the revised budget was submitted on the 11<sup>th</sup> of July 2023. The 1<sup>st</sup> P2P meeting was organised online on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2023. The P2P process is still ongoing.</p> <p>The Regional Training and Study Tour were successfully organised on 24-26 October 2023, in Cagliari, Sardinia combined with the final capitalisation event of the Med4Waste project. During the study visit, the Arborea municipal waste treatment plant was visited, a treatment plant for organic waste extracted from street and beach sweeping was visited, as well as the EcoCentro di Viale Sant'Elia in Cagliari.</p> <p>The Training report was finalised and can be reached along with the training material <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organise the next phase of the P2P process which will be concluded with the last P2P webinar tentatively scheduled for March/April 2024.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Technical Assistance &amp; Capacity Building</b> <b>Topic 1:</b> Curbing Plastic Pollution &amp; Marine Litter <b>Topic 2:</b> Promotion of Circular Economy</p>	<p><b>RE-8-REG-P: Mediterranean “Champions” of plastic pollution prevention</b></p> <p>The aim of the activity is by setting up and implementing a Call for Expressions of Intent for applied new/innovative on-going solutions to prevent pollution from plastics to identify “Champions” in the WES PCs, aspiring to ultimately motivate further commitment and advancement of successful cases on plastics pollution prevention.</p> <p>The project called on Mediterranean actors to propose new/innovative actions and solutions that prevent pollution from plastics and deliver on their commitments by the summer of 2024.</p>	<p><b>On-going activity</b></p> <p>The ToR were submitted to the EC and approved on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January 2023.</p> <p>The team launched a Call for Expression of Intent for “Champions of Plastic Pollution Prevention in the Mediterranean” that aimed to encourage voluntary actions and motivate advancement and commitment to combating pollution by plastics and particularly by Single-Use-Plastics (SUPs).</p> <p>The Call and on-line submission form were prepared in English, French and Arabic, so it can be easily accessible and useable, while the necessary modifications and elements were added to the WES website to host the relevant information package.</p> <p>109 applications were submitted and then evaluated by WES, and 87 cases were assessed as potential candidate Champions. A report on the results was prepared and shared with the FPs, EU, EUDs, UfM, UNEP/MAP, consortium members in case they had any</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft and sign all cooperation agreements.</li> <li>Monitor implementation.</li> </ul>

Dimension / Topic / Sub-Topic	Activity title/Description	Progress made / Challenges encountered	Future planning
		<p>objection for any of the candidates. No objections were received by the designated date and cooperation agreements are currently being signed with the candidates.</p> <p>A change note to increase the allocated expert days was submitted to the EC on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August and approved on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August 2023. Because the task is much more demanding than anticipated, another Change Note will be submitted to increase the LoE.</p>	
<p><b>Technical Assistance &amp;Capacity Building</b></p> <p><b>Topic 1:</b> Curbing Plastic Pollution &amp; Marine Litter</p> <p><b>Sub-Topic 1.1:</b> Marine Litter Monitoring and Management</p> <p><b>Sub-Topic 1.2:</b> Addressing Single-Use Plastics</p> <p><b>Technical Assistance &amp;Capacity Building</b></p> <p><b>Topic 1:</b> Curbing Plastic Pollution &amp; Marine Litter</p> <p><b>Sub-Topic 1.1:</b> Marine Litter Monitoring and Management</p> <p><b>Sub-Topic 1.2:</b> Addressing Single-Use Plastics</p>	<p><b>RE-9-REG: SUPs-free coastal and marine protected areas</b></p> <p>Marine plastic pollution has been acknowledged as a major threat in coastal and marine protected areas (MPAs) of the Mediterranean, hampering the achievement of their conservation goals. MPA managers stand at the forefront of this issue lacking the tools, specific knowledge, and often the resources to effectively tackle it. WES will seek to capitalize upon the experiences and knowledge produced by the Plastic Busters MPAs project and support replication actions related to tackling SUPs in coastal and marine protected areas of the WES PCs. More specifically, in collaboration with the management bodies of Mediterranean MPAs and Biosphere Reserves (BRs) the following priority measures may be replicated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting up a reusable cup delivery system for beach bars and festivals.</li> <li>• Establishing a network of SUPs-free food and beverage outlets within or in the vicinity of MPAs.</li> <li>• Adopt a beach.</li> </ul> <p>The aforementioned replication actions will be guided by dedicated guidelines on how to operationalize best practice solutions to tackle marine litter in Mediterranean MPAs, published by Plastic Busters MPAs project in 2022.</p> <p><b>RE-10-REG-P: Enhancing the Number of Responsible Tourism and Recreation Related Businesses in Coastal Areas</b></p> <p>Capitalising on the pilot experience of the MEdIES (Mediterranean Educational Initiative for Environment and Sustainability) network on designing and implementing a cooperative scheme with local Authorities from coastal Municipalities and tourism enterprises from the island of Crete, Greece, for the drastic reduction of plastic pollution, WES plans to improve and upscale the activity.</p> <p>It is based on the acceptance by the enterprise of a Charter of Principles for a Responsible Tourism Business and the signing, by the enterprise and other partners (local municipality and NGOs), of a very simple “Voluntary Commitment/ Agreement”, where the Enterprise specifies which SUPs are going to be removed or replaced and by when, as well as any other relevant initiatives where the enterprise could contribute for the reduction of plastic pollution, including e.g. regular clean-ups of a specific beach, etc.</p> <p>Suitable coasts will be selected, the tripartite (city, enterprises, NGOs) collaboration will be agreed and formalized, through cooperation/commitment agreements.</p>	<p><b>On-going activity</b></p> <p>Three regional WES activities (RE-9-REG, RE-10-REG ad HE-5-REG) are combined into one "Regional Mediterranean Activity" in order for the project to provide technical assistance and strengthen the capacities of stakeholders in the WES PCs to effectively manage Single-Use Plastics (SUPs) in and around coastal and marine protected areas, with emphasis on the role of the tourism and recreation sector, and by enhancing measures and actions to address SUPs by implementing citizen and participatory science interventions.</p> <p>The overall objectives of the combined activity are to capacitate the WES PCs in eventually achieving SUPs-free coastal and marine protected areas; enhancing responsible tourism and recreation related businesses in coastal areas and strengthening the science/policy interface in the region through community-based research.</p> <p>This regional activity that, in summary, combines the development of a regional Background/Guidance document, a regional 4-day training in July 2024, a webinar in September and a dissemination component, is very timely and well aligned with regional and global dynamics and at the same time brings in new elements in support of the WES PCs.</p> <p>The regional training is planned to take place from 9-12 July 2024 in Thessaloniki, Greece.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare the first draft of the regional Background/Guidance document.</li> <li>• Organise and hold the combined event from 9-12 July 2024.</li> </ul>

Dimension / Topic / Sub-Topic	Activity title/Description	Progress made / Challenges encountered	Future planning
<b>Enhancement of the Enabling Conditions</b>	<p><b>HE-5-REG: Knowledge Management; Science/Policy interface; citizen science</b></p> <p>The activity is to help countries and stakeholders to understand better the issues related with the use of data and knowledge management to the use of science for the citizens' benefit, propose and/or enhance and implement strategies and measures to address them in three ways by creating the appropriate institutional framework. 1) By designing the systematic collection and treatment of data showing how data information systems can be used for information purposes, knowledge sharing and decision-making, eventually through specified institutions and synergies. Synergies and complementarities with IMAP will be very close. 2) By designing best ways to capitalize benefits from worthy scientific research useful for decision making. 3) By systematizing the citizen science opportunities with emphasis on known applications on waste disposal, nature (e.g. fauna, flora), noise, pH, etc.).</p> <p>Best practices (mostly from EU countries but also from PCs) and experiences from demo and other projects (several H2020 research projects exist) are to be presented.</p> <p>WES Youth, gender equality and networking efforts will be linked with this regional activity as well.</p>		

TABLE 3: PROGRESS IN HORIZONTAL LEVEL ACTIVITIES



Dimension / Topic	Activity title/Description	Progress made / Challenges encountered	Planned Resources and Work for next reporting period
<p><b>Technical Assistance &amp; Capacity Building</b></p> <p><b>Topic:</b> Awareness Raising &amp; Dissemination of Information</p> <p><b>Sub-Topic 1.1:</b> Capacity Building &amp; Enhancement of the Enabling Conditions</p>	<b>HE-2b-REG on awareness raising and ESD (new, follow up activity)</b>	<p><b>On-going activity</b></p> <p>The TOR were submitted to the EC and approved on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2023.</p> <p>The Concept Note was prepared and shared with the FPs. Preparations for the online mentoring sessions are ongoing. A joint plenary meeting for HE-2b-REG and HE-3b-REG took place on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 online.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organise and hold the online mentoring sessions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Technical Assistance &amp; Capacity Building</b></p> <p><b>Topic:</b> Awareness Raising &amp; Dissemination of Information</p> <p><b>Sub-Topic 1.1:</b> Capacity Building &amp; Enhancement of the Enabling Conditions</p>	<p><b>HE-3-REG: Educating for Sustainable Development (ESD) with focus on WasteWater Treatment (WWT) for reuse and Non-Conventional Water Resources (NCWRs)</b></p> <p>The overall aim of this regional activity was to provide technical assistance and strengthen the capacities of the WES Partner Countries to effectively implement Water related Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) with emphasis on water reuse after appropriate WasteWater Treatment (WWT) and other Non-Conventional Water Resources (NCWRs) (rainwater, food water, etc.).</p>	<p> <b>Activity completed</b></p> <p>The training report has been finalised and can be found on the WES website (<a href="#">here</a>).</p>	
<p><b>Technical Assistance &amp; Capacity Building</b></p>	<b>HE-3b-REG on ESD focusing on WWT and NCWRs (new, follow up activity)</b>	<p><b>On-going activity</b></p> <p>The TOR were submitted to the EC and approved on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2023.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organise and hold the online mentoring sessions.</li> </ul>








**COMPONENT 2: EFFICIENT USE OF WATER**

**TABLE 4: PROGRESS IN NATIONAL LEVEL ACTIVITIES (EFFICIENT USE OF WATER)**

Dimension / Topic / Sub-Topic	Activity title/Description	Progress made / Challenges encountered	Future planning
<b>ALGERIA</b>			
<p><b>Technical Assistance &amp; Capacity Building</b></p> <p><b>Topic 1:</b> Water Use Assessment, estimation</p> <p><b>Topic 2:</b> Water Efficiency Gains at Decentralised Level</p> <p><b>Topic 3:</b> Water Resources Valuation, Cost Recovery, Affordability of Water Services</p> <p><b>Subtopic 2.2:</b> Non-Revenue Water (NRW) Management</p>	<p><b>N-W-DZ-1: Conduct a diagnosis for the performance of Non-Revenue Water (NRW) in a pilot utility and develop a plan for NRW improvements focusing on minimum cost of interventions with fast investment paybacks (ALGERIA)</b></p> <p>The activity builds on the achievements of its predecessor project from the SWIM-H2020 SM, (implemented at ADE Blida (2017-2018)). It aims to quantify the different components of losses individually, including business losses and contribute by developing recommendations to the adoption of best practices such as application of GIS to enable the 'analysis of the geographical distribution of leaks, and facilitate the establishment of the link between the customer database and the GIS.</p> <p>The Action Plan developed for the reduction of NRW planned under the activity is to also help the utility to implement tangible and immediate actions to reduce the NRW and therefore improve performance of the public water service.</p> <p><b>The activity is operationally linked with N-W-EG-1, N-W-JO-1, N-W-PS-1 and RW-6-REG.</b></p>	<p> <b>Activity completed</b></p> <p>Following the completion of the on-the-job trainings for NRW and GIS referents in November 2022 and the technical workshop to discuss the results of tasks 2, 3 and 4 in December 2022, the project team moved on to the preparation of the action plan to reduce NRW in the pilot area, and the organisation of the national consultation workshop.</p> <p>The workshop was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2023 in Algiers, in close collaboration with the local partners for its organization and delivery. The team's recommendations and the proposed action plan were presented, while stakeholders expressed their interest in the findings of the study and their willingness to continue the work in the pilot area and replicate the experience in other areas.</p> <p>The event was successful with 63 people attending and with the active participation of the beneficiary organisations ADE Boumerdes, ADE Bejaia, ADE Tizi Ouzou.</p> <p>Due to the large number of participants, the final action plan and table of suggested actions were further discussed during a smaller follow up meeting on July 6<sup>th</sup> 2023 and were later finalised.</p> <p>All deliverables have been submitted to the Focal Point and local partners at the end of the activity. The deliverables and training material can be found on the project's website (<a href="#">here</a>).</p>	
<p><b>Technical Assistance &amp; Capacity Building</b></p> <p><b>Topic 1:</b> Water Use Assessment, estimation</p> <p><b>Topic 2:</b> Water Efficiency Gains at Decentralised Level</p> <p><b>Subtopic 2.3:</b> Water Demand Management (WDM)</p>	<p><b>N-W-DZ-2: Potential of Water use efficiency and water saving in domestic water</b></p> <p>The main objective of this activity is the introduction of a proactive approach to Water Demand Management (WDM) in a selected residential area in order to support the development of effective intervention strategies aimed at reducing domestic water consumption. To this end, WES developed a methodology for the implementation of surveys on the efficiency of residential water use and to assess the behaviour of water users in a selected residential area with the aim to guide the future development of WDM strategies.</p> <p>The activity is to serve to improve knowledge of water use patterns inside and outside residential buildings in a pilot neighbourhood, including users' behaviours and attitudes towards water conservation. This includes the design of targeted WDM interventions in the target area and a water use efficiency program presenting good WDM practices.</p> <p><b>The activity is operationally linked with N-W-MO-1 and RW-3-REG.</b></p>	<p> <b>Activity completed</b></p> <p>The survey results were analysed through new analysis programs for the generation of reliable results. Consequently, the need arose for the training of Algérienne des Eau (ADE) staff on the new approach followed and the interpretation of analysis results generated. A 2-day training was organized on 2-3 May 2023, in Bejaia.</p> <p>The final Consultation meeting was organized on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2023, in collaboration with the Ministère des Ressources en Eau, ADE, Zone Tizi Ouzou ADE and the Unité Bejaïa/ADE. The meeting was held in Algiers instead of Bejaia to facilitate the organization/logistic arrangements. The meeting was successful, attended by 44 stakeholders amongst which, government officials, ADE representatives, NGOs and media.</p> <p>The activity's results were presented, as well as the roadmap for upscaling activity findings and the opportunities for implementing water use efficiency measures/programs and their benefits, were</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliverables to be submitted to the Focal Point and local partners.</li> </ul>


Dimension / Topic / Sub-Topic	Activity title/Description	Progress made / Challenges encountered	Future planning
<p>discussed. A set of possible actions to be implemented by the country, beyond the duration of the project, were put forward. The Report on the survey results analysis that was prepared before the Consultation meeting is currently being updated to reflect the outcomes of the meeting and the comments of the KE. The Synthesis note and the final workshop report have also been finalised. The remaining deliverables will be sent to the FP for approval. All thus far approved deliverables and training material can be found on the project's website (<a href="#">here</a>).</p>			
<p><b>EGYPT</b></p>			
<p><b>Technical Assistance &amp; Capacity Building</b> <b>Topic 1:</b> Water Use Assessment, Estimation <b>Topic 2:</b> Water Efficiency Gains at Decentralised Level <b>Topic 3:</b> Water Resources Valuation, Cost Recovery, Affordability of Water Services <b>Subtopic 2.2:</b> Non-Revenue Water (NRW) Management</p>	<p><b>N-W-EG-1: Strengthen the water utilities capacities to manage/reduce non-revenue water (NRW) and detect leakage</b> The overall objective of this activity is "to assist a selected water utility to target the reduction of Non-Revenue Water (NRW) and to continue its efforts to improve NRW management". The specific objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the situation of NRW management in a pilot city served by Asyut Drinking Water and Sewerage Company and prepare its network, as part of a rational planning aimed for NRW reduction, for the next stage of implementation of distribution zones/sectors and their subsequent division into District Metered Areas (DMAs).</li> <li>Implement and calibrate a hydraulic model for the network of the pilot city as a tool to provide valid support to move into the design stage and establishment of DMAs.</li> <li>Introduce internationally recognised best practices for improving NRW management.</li> <li>Build the capacity of the utility staff involved in the pilot area through on-the-job training.</li> <li>Develop a manual documenting the proposed procedures for reducing NRW in the Asyut city water network.</li> </ul> <p><b>The activity is operationally linked with N-W-DZ-1, N-W-JO-1, N-W-PS-1 and RW-6-REG.</b></p>	<p> <b>Activity completed</b></p> <p>Work on this activity was completed in 2023. The draft final report on the Hydraulic Model and Zone Design Report (Tasks 3 and 4) was shared with the beneficiary (HCWW) on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 while the deliverable on the Procedures towards reducing NRW (Task 5) was shared on June 26<sup>th</sup> 2023. Comments were received on the deliverables, so clarifications on the expectations of the outputs were provided by the Key Expert and project team. In October 2023, all reports were approved by HCWW.</p>	
<p><b>Technical Assistance</b> <b>Topic 2:</b> Water Efficiency Gains at Decentralised Level <b>Topic 5:</b> Enhancing Water Efficiency and Productivity in Agriculture <b>Horizontal:</b> PPP &amp; Access to Investment <b>Subtopic 4.1:</b> Agriculture Water Use Efficiency</p>	<p><b>N-W-EG-2: Assist Egypt in the development of financing mechanisms allowing the private sector to be involved and improve "water network management and resources efficiency at the on-farm level"</b> The activity contributes "to increase agricultural water productivity" corresponding to the first outcome proposed in the National Water Resources Plan (NWRP 2017-2037) under the second pillar: "Rationalise Water Use". It will also contribute to the achievement of the following NWRP-related components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective 4:"Improve enabling environment for IWRM"</li> <li>Measure 4-3-1:"Developing resources to finance water resources projects" for which one indicator is "total</li> </ul>	<p> <b>Activity completed</b></p> <p>The activity was temporarily put on hold in December 2022, waiting for the issue of a security permit for holding the National Consultation Workshop and Media Briefing, with physical presence, in Cairo. Further to discussions with the Water Focal Point, it was decided to organize the National Consultation Workshop and Media Briefing as a side event to the Cairo Water Week (CWW), an International Event taking place annually in Cairo.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit National Consultation Workshop report.</li> <li>Finalise overall report and submit it for approval.</li> </ul>



Dimension / Topic / Sub-Topic	Activity title/Description	Progress made / Challenges encountered	Future planning
	<p>investments in water resources financed by the private sector...outside the government budget".</p> <p><b>The activity is operationally linked with N-W-IL-2 and HW-1- REG</b></p>	<p>The National Consultation workshop was successfully organized in the morning of the 1<sup>st</sup> of November, with a good turnaround of people and fruitful discussions on the recommendations put forward by the team. The Workshop was coupled with the WES National meeting for Egypt, in the afternoon of the same day. The related Media briefing was hosted by the EUD Press Conference on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November 2023.</p> <p>The team was in coordination with the CWW organisers and the Focal Point for technical and logistical arrangements. The Deliverable of Task 2 on the analysis and evaluation of the applicability of the case studies investigated in Egypt's context which included the team's recommendations, to be presented during the workshop, was finalized reflecting the partners' comments and was shared with them before the meeting.</p> <p>Task 2 document was revised and finalised based on the review of the national consultation workshop results and the team's reflections on its outcomes and the recommendations for future actions made therein by the local partners.</p> <p>The consultation report was finalized and submitted on 6 December to the Focal Point and to the Head of the irrigation improvement sector at the Egyptian Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI) for its review and approval. Once approved it will be integrated as an Annex to task 2 report and uploaded to the WES website.</p>	
<b>ISRAEL</b>			
<p><b>Technical Assistance</b></p> <p><b>Topic 3:</b> Water Resources Valuation, Cost Recovery, Affordability of water services</p> <p><b>Subtopic 3.1:</b> Tariffs</p>	<p><b>N-W-IL-1: Evaluation of new methods to reduce the cross subsidies in the agricultural water tariff in Israel.</b></p> <p>The general objective of the activity is to assist Israel in the implementation of its water reform emanating from the 2017 "Amendment 27" to the Water Law, with regards to the planned reduction of cross-subsidies in the water tariff of the agricultural sector.</p> <p>The specific objectives of the activity are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broad review of agricultural water tariffs and subsidies methods and practices in leading OECD countries – successes and failures analysis.</li> <li>• Profound 2-3 case studies of countries with major efficient reforms in the agricultural sector related to subsidies through water tariffs or alternative mechanisms.</li> <li>• Recommend new methods for supporting the agricultural sector (such as government budget, and other methods of direct subsidies) and sustaining farming based on the review and the case studies.</li> </ul> <p><b>The activity is operationally linked with N-W-EG-2 and HW-1- REG</b></p>	<p> <b>Activity completed</b></p> <p>Since 2022, the last task of the activity related to the organisation of a national consultation workshop had been frozen as per the request of the Israeli counterparts, given the ongoing reform in the country's water sector at the time.</p> <p>In April 2023, the Focal Point informed the WES Team that the activity can be resumed. Subsequently, the stakeholders' consultation meeting was held on the 26<sup>th</sup> of July 2023. The meeting was aiming to introduce the methods and practices investigated in the case studies for selected countries, to discuss and to agree upon the proposed recommendations.</p> <p>The stakeholders' consultation meeting which was successfully held, involved representatives from the EU Delegation to Israel, ministries and authorities in charge of Water, Agriculture, and Finance, in addition to representatives of stakeholders (the agricultural sector, water utilities and municipalities).</p> <p>The final report on the water tariff and subsidies methods, including case studies from OECD countries and their applicability to the Israeli context, was finalised before the consultation meeting. The workshop report presenting the reflections from the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrate the meeting's outcomes in the final report and acquire its approval.</li> </ul>

Dimension / Topic / Sub-Topic	Activity title/Description	Progress made / Challenges encountered	Future planning
<p><b>Technical Assistance</b> <b>Topic 2:</b> Water Efficiency Gains at Decentralised Level <b>Subtopic 2.1:</b> Non-Conventional Water Resources</p>	<p><b>N-W-IL-2: Storm water management and Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRM)</b> The activity is meant to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enrich knowledge and know-how of NWRM including storm water management in urban areas</li> <li>• Review of best management practices for NWRM</li> <li>• Learn from the experience achieved from designing NWRM in two pilot cases in Israel at the feasibility level.</li> <li>• Review of economic incentives and regulation to support and amplify storm water management</li> <li>• Better understand the relationship between rural and urban storm water in the context of storm water management</li> </ul> <p><b>The activity is operationally linked with N-W-JO-2, N-W-TN-2 and RW-4-REG.</b></p>	<p>meeting was shared with the Focal Point on August 15<sup>th</sup> for review and was approved in January 2024.</p> <p><b>On-going activity</b></p> <p>The team has been working on the hydraulic design of the raingarden and swales solutions to be applied selectively to the pilot areas. They were in communication with the local expert of landscape architecture for the provision of information in the local context, reviewing and proposing possible modifications and improvements in order to finalise the design.</p> <p>A combined report for tasks 2,3,4 was prepared and submitted to the Focal Point. Comments were received at the beginning of April 2023.</p> <p>The team is working on addressing the comments received and revising the report accordingly.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit replies to comments and the revised report for Tasks 2,3,4.</li> <li>• Conduct at an appropriate time and format, a workshop involving relevant national and local stakeholders in order to present, discuss and further promote the sustainability of NWRMs in Israel.</li> </ul>
<b>JORDAN</b>			
<p><b>Technical Assistance</b> <b>Horizontal:</b> Legal and Regulatory aspects <b>Subtopic 2.2:</b> Non-Revenue Water (NRW) Management</p>	<p><b>N-W-JO-1: Elaboration of Non-Revenue Water (NRW) policy for Jordan</b> The overall objective of this activity is to support Jordan’s water sector in its on-going efforts to reduce NRW, thus contributing to improved network efficiency, improved service provision and increased cost recovery. The specific objectives are to assist the Jordanian Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI) in the elaboration of a NRW policy that builds on the real situation and lessons learnt from pilot projects and other works in Jordan, and sets clearly defined rules for the development and implementation of NRW reduction and control in the country in order to achieve the national goals for reduced and sustained NRW - consistent with the proposition of Jordan’s national strategy for water.</p>	<p><b>On-going activity</b></p> <p>The National consultation workshop (Task 2) was successfully organised in Amman, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2023 and was very well attended by local authorities and donors. The related workshop report has been prepared.</p> <p>The originally planned small interactive online consultation meetings and discussions, with the main partners and project beneficiaries in each prefecture, were replaced by a two-day workshop retreat, originally planned for July 2023, at the Dead Sea. The aim of this retreat was to discuss the draft proposal of the policy when drafted.</p> <p>A technical taskforce was formulated by the MWI that supported the activity’s NKEs in the preparation of the NRW policy document for Jordan and attended the above-mentioned workshop together with the main donors acting on NRW in the Jordanian water sector. The workshop was finally held on 12-13 September 2023.</p> <p>After the workshop, the draft policy document was shared with the participants for their comments, while further consultations (small interviews) with the main stakeholders to ensure their inclusion in the policy elaboration were scheduled.</p> <p>These interviews started in November 2023 with the manager of the Southern Governorates water management contract, and resumed in January 2024 with the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), Miyahuna Water Company, Yarmouk Water Company (YWC), Mafraq Remote Operating Unit Managing Director, Irbid Customers Service Director. The policy document reflecting the workshop/retreat outcomes and the interviews is currently being</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organise 1-day national consultation and validation workshop (late February 2024).</li> </ul>

Dimension / Topic / Sub-Topic	Activity title/Description	Progress made / Challenges encountered	Future planning
<p><b>Technical Assistance</b> <b>Topic 2:</b> Water Efficiency Gains at Decentralised Level <b>Subtopic 2.1:</b> Non-Conventional Water Resources - Water Retention</p>	<p><b>N-W-JO-2: Explore the potential of Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRM) at the catchment scale</b> The activity is meant to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enrich knowledge and know-how of NWRM including storm water management in peri-urban areas as well as in rural/natural areas of Jordan according to water usage.</li> <li>• Review of best management practices for NWRM.</li> <li>• Learn from the experience achieved from designing NWRM in two pilot cases in Jordan at the feasibility level.</li> <li>• Review of economic incentives and regulation to support and amplify storm water management.</li> <li>• Better understand the relationship between rural/natural and peri-urban storm water in the context of storm water management.</li> </ul> <p><b>The activity is operationally linked with N-W-IL-2, N-W-TN-2 and RW-4-REG.</b></p>	<p>updated accordingly. The final National Consultation workshop is tentatively planned to take place in February 2024.</p> <p><b>On-going activity</b></p> <p>In order to select the new urban pilot area to be studied, the WES team has been collecting information for the proposed area in Ajloun. The challenges encountered were connected to the quantity and quality of the data available.</p> <p>The missing data for the rural area (Azraq) as well as for Ajloun were finally provided at the beginning of March 2023, and the team is currently working on the design of the right NWRMs for both areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design the most suitable NWRMs for Ajloun and Azraq areas.</li> <li>• Prepare and submit deliverables D3 and D4.</li> <li>• Hold the concluding workshop to present the NWRMs selected and work carried out to the relevant stakeholders, tentatively in March 2024.</li> </ul>
<b>MOROCCO</b>			
<p><b>Technical Assistance</b> <b>Horizontal:</b> Legal and Regulatory aspects (of mainstreaming WUE) <b>Subtopic 2.3:</b> Water Demand Management (WDM)</p>	<p><b>N-W-MO-1: Support Water Demand Management (WDM) in relation to water scarcity</b> The general objective of the proposed activity is to provide support to the “Ministry of Equipment and Water (MEE)” to advance / improve WDM in Morocco in specific uses, namely; domestic, public and tourist uses.</p> <p><b>The activity is operationally linked with N-W-DZ-2 and RW-3-REG.</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Activity completed</b></p> <p>The final one-day national consultation workshop was successfully organized in Rabat on July 13<sup>th</sup> 2023.</p> <p>Task 4 report on benchmarking Water Use Efficiency (WUE) techniques and the guide for water audit was resubmitted to the Focal Point at the beginning of June 2023 to reflect the comments received from the KE and the Focal Point. The proposed draft action plan on WDM (Task 5) was submitted prior to the national consultation workshop as well. Comments were received and addressed.</p> <p>The final versions of the deliverables of Task 4 and 5 were finalised by the experts’ team and were edited. Task 1, 2 and 3 report was also revised in light of the consultation workshop outcomes and the comments received. The Synthesis Note summarising the work carried out in the activity has been completed.</p> <p>The final versions of all deliverables based on the partner’s comments and the country’s comments during the final consultation workshop have been submitted to the Focal Point for approval.</p> <p>All available deliverables and training material can be found on the project’s website <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquire the approval of the final deliverables.</li> </ul>

Dimension / Topic / Sub-Topic	Activity title/Description	Progress made / Challenges encountered	Future planning
<p><b>Technical Assistance &amp; Capacity Building</b> <b>Topic 3:</b> Water Resources Valuation, Cost Recovery, Affordability of Water Services <b>Subtopic 3.3:</b> Water Services Cost Recovery</p>	<p><b>N-W-MO-2: Elaboration of strategies for cost recovery and development of tools for the evaluations of costs related to water</b></p> <p>The general objective of the proposed activity is to support the Ministry of Equipment and Water (MEE) with tools for controlling water-related costs and developing strategies capable of ensuring proper recovery of these costs through fair prices. The implementation of the activity is in the action area of the Oum Er Rbia Hydraulic Basin Agency.</p> <p>The specific objectives of this activity are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critically analyse the existing pricing and collection systems in the water and sanitation sector in the pilot area of Oum Er Rbia Water Basin Agency (ABHOER);</li> <li>• Develop monitoring and evaluation procedures for water-related pricing;</li> <li>• Develop a strategy for the recovery of water-related costs and a road map for its implementation</li> </ul> <p><b>New activity N-W-MO-3: Study tour on Water Saving in Jordan</b></p> <p>The activity is to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• meetings with the Department of Demand Management of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation in Jordan, in order to present Jordan’s experience in water management;</li> <li>• presentations on pilot projects carried out and other technical and legislative measures in favor of water saving in Jordan;</li> <li>• Study visits to the Miyahuna company in Amman and to the Aqaba Water Company in Aqaba, to discuss the devices and measures adopted to save water (telemetry and remote billing, water saving stands for raising users’ awareness, improved yields, water-saving installations and equipment, etc.);</li> <li>• Presentation of the Jordanian experience in the mobilization of non-conventional water resources;</li> <li>• Visits to flagship projects on Water Saving.</li> </ul>	<p> <b>Activity completed</b></p> <p>A meeting was planned to be organised, in order to present the activity and the report prepared summarising the work carried out up to that point to the FP and agree on the way forward. However, all the attempts to organise the meeting were unsuccessful.</p> <p>In early January 2023, the acting Focal Point informed the team that the report did not meet the requirements as set out in the terms of reference, with regards to the evaluation of the real costs of water, but as no more data was expected to be made available to the WES team from their side, it was suggested by the FP to end the activity and organise some new activities (see below).</p> <p>The activity’s Terms of Reference are under preparation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The activity is planned to start in March 2024.</li> </ul>
<b>PALESTINE</b>			
<p><b>Technical Assistance &amp; Enhancement of the Enabling Conditions</b></p>	<p><b>N-W-PS-1: Design actions/modalities for improved water billing and fees' collection rates also with a view to support outsourcing and PPP and engagement through Micro PSP (Private Sector Participation)</b></p>	<p><b>On-going activity</b></p> <p>The activity is ready to start. The activity’s TOR have been prepared and cleared by the WES Water Focal Point in Morocco, along with the related NKE to be involved. The ToR were also approved by DG NEAR on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2024. Contractual arrangements with the NKE are being settled before launching the activity.</p> <p>Work has advanced on Task 4 and more specifically on a survey on</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organise the activity’s Kick-Off Meeting (KOM).</li> <li>• Seek approval of the Change Note and subsequent way forward.</li> <li>• Task 5: Finalise the first draft of the</li> </ul>





Dimension / Topic / Sub-Topic	Activity title/Description	Progress made / Challenges encountered	Future planning
<p><b>Topic 2:</b> Water Efficiency Gains at Decentralised Level</p> <p><b>Topic 3:</b> Water Resources Valuation, Cost Recovery, Affordability of Water Services</p> <p><b>Horizontal:</b> PPP &amp; Access to Investment</p> <p><b>Subtopic 2.2:</b> Non-Revenue Water (NRW) Management</p>	<p>The general objective of the activity is to improve water billing and fees' collection rate through improved procedures and processes - including through out-sourcing to the private sector. It includes recommendations for a pilot Micro-PSP Project and the next steps.</p> <p><b>The activity is linked with N-W-DZ-1, NW-EG-1, N-W-JO-1 and RW-6-REG</b></p>	<p>the role of the Private Sector in some aspects of water service provision and the main challenges facing their engagement in the implementation of water services. The survey report is to be finalised.</p> <p>The consultation workshop held on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023 in Tulkarem municipality was meant to present and validate the findings of the work carried out to date to the stakeholders, including the recommended improvements to processes/ procedures of billing and collection fees in the pilot area, as well as the conclusions of the assessment made of the feasibility of Micro PSP approach and the main requirements for its possible implementation. The survey results were also presented during the said workshop, including the main difficulties hindering the participation of the local private companies in the provision of water services.</p> <p>The Workshop report was finalised and uploaded on the WES website.</p> <p>The final updated version of Task 2 deliverable reflecting the outcomes of the workshop was submitted to the FP on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2023 and still awaits approval.</p> <p>Meanwhile a draft version of the guiding document and road map for the future implementation of recommendations for PSP in relevant service provision was submitted under task 5 and is currently being reviewed by the KE.</p> <p>The country requested for an additional task under this activity, and the Team prepared a first draft of a Change Note that was shared with the Focal Point on 4 October 2023. The Change Note comprised two options for the way forward in the activity, so feedback from the FP is crucial.</p> <p>Given the recent developments in Gaza, no feedback has been received yet.</p>	<p>guiding document and road map for the future implementation of recommendations for the private sector participation in relevant service provision including the outline of needed capacity building program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Task 6: Conduct 1-day final workshop with the relevant national and local actors and agree on the road map.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Technical Assistance &amp; Capacity Building</b></p> <p><b>Topic 2:</b> Water Efficiency Gains at Decentralised Level</p> <p><b>Topic 4:</b> Enhancing Water Efficiency and Productivity in Agriculture</p> <p><b>Subtopic 4.1:</b> Agriculture Water Use Efficiency</p>	<p><b>N-W-PS-2: Capacity building/trainings with pilot farmers' associations and relevant communities on optimal irrigation management and practices</b></p> <p>The general objective of the activity is to improve the productivity and the efficiency of the irrigation water at the plot level (on-farm) and at the scheme level (off-farm) in two pilot Water Users' Associations (WUAs); one using fresh water and another using treated wastewater. The ultimate objective is to support reduction of the total abstractions of fresh water used in irrigation including through expansion of the safe use of Treated Waste Water (TWW) in irrigation.</p> <p><b>The activity is operationally linked with N-W-TN-2 and RW-7-REG</b></p>	<p><b>On-going activity</b></p> <p>The Training on the management and analysis of the performance of collective irrigation networks and the Training of Trainers on field irrigation management, and field irrigation systems, were carried out in September and October 2022.</p> <p>Each training was combined with a Study Tour in the Jordan Valley (Deir Alla Control Centre during the first training and to three farms in the Jordan Valley North of the Dead Sea during the second training). The related training reports were prepared.</p> <p>The Inception report has been prepared and is to be reviewed by the Water Expert.</p> <p>The following deliverables were sent to the Focal Point and local partners at the beginning of June 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliverable 3.2.a: Leaflets on water saving addressing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquire approval for deliverables submitted.</li> </ul>





Dimension / Topic / Sub-Topic	Activity title/Description	Progress made / Challenges encountered	Future planning
		<p>farmers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliverable 3.2.b: A simplified manual for monitoring WUA management performance</li> <li>• Deliverable 3.2.c: A technical guide on the management including operation and maintenance of collective irrigation networks using fresh or treated wastewater and the pumping station</li> </ul> <p>An additional technical guide on the management of on-farm irrigation (not included in the TOR) was also shared with the FP as it was developed anyway for a similar activity in Tunisia.</p> <p>No feedback on the deliverables has been received yet, most probably because of the recent developments in the area.</p>	
<b>TUNISIA</b>			
<p><b>Technical Assistance &amp; Capacity Building</b></p> <p><b>Topic 2:</b> Water Efficiency Gains at Decentralised Level</p> <p><b>Topic 4:</b> Enhancing Water Efficiency and Productivity in Agriculture</p> <p><b>Subtopic 4.1:</b> Agriculture Water Use Efficiency</p> <p><b>Subtopic 2.1:</b> Non-Conventional Water Resources</p>	<p><b>N-W-TN-1: Improving the efficiency of water use in agriculture</b></p> <p>The general objective of the activity is to improve irrigation water use efficiency in agriculture by the Agriculture Development Groups (GDAs) and farmers. The specific objectives targeted are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise the level of knowledge of the technicians of the Regional Commissariat for Agricultural Development (CRDA), and the Agriculture Development Groups (GDA) related to the following aspects, in order to be able to train farmers and other GDAs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the application of irrigation water at the plot level in order to increase the efficiency of water use;</li> <li>b. measures to increase the efficiency of water use in collective irrigation networks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness raising and dissemination of information throughout the country: Awareness materials on water saving and modern irrigation technologies</li> <li>• Development of a new guide and review of existing technical documents (guides) at the DGGREE (General Directorate of Rural Engineering and Water Exploitation) based on new technologies such as smart irrigation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>The activity is operationally linked with N-W-PS-2 and RW-7-REG.</b></p>	<p><b>On-going activity</b></p> <p>The two Trainings of Trainers were successfully organised in the summer of 2022.</p> <p>A combined report (under review by the KE) implicating two deliverables [D1-2 for the inception report, and Deliverable 1-3 on the reference evaluation of the irrigation management situation in the pilot area (irrigated perimeter of Zaouiet Jedidi / CRDA Nabeul) including training recommendations] was prepared by the team and shared with the partners during October 2023.</p> <p>The following deliverables have been sent to the country for comments/approval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliverable 3.2.1: Leaflet (Farmer's guide to saving water)</li> <li>• Deliverable 3.2.2: Simplified manual for monitoring WUA management performance</li> <li>• Deliverable 3.2.3: Technical guide on irrigation management at farm level</li> <li>• Deliverable 3.2.4: Technical guide on the upkeep and maintenance of collective irrigation networks</li> <li>• Deliverable 3.3.1: recommendations for improvements of existing guides related to localized irrigation</li> <li>• Deliverable 3.3.2: technical guide on sprinkler irrigation</li> </ul> <p>The country requested the organisation of a series of online meetings for the presentation of the submitted deliverables. Two meetings were organised (9 and 16 October 2023) addressing the first two deliverables, which are currently under revision by WES experts to reflect the comments made by the partners during these two meetings and later in writing. Another set of comments was received on the remaining deliverables. But these comments represent the feedback from one department only. The team of experts and the Water Key Expert are in close exchanges and negotiations with the stakeholders for clarifications and reactions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organise meetings for discussing the comments on the deliverables submitted.</li> <li>• Finalise the deliverables and seek their approval.</li> <li>• Prepare a synthesis report.</li> </ul>



Dimension / Topic / Sub-Topic	Activity title/Description	Progress made / Challenges encountered	Future planning
<p><b>Technical Assistance &amp; Capacity Building</b></p> <p><b>Topic 2:</b> Water Efficiency Gains at Decentralised Level</p> <p><b>Subtopic 2.1:</b> Non-Conventional Water Resources - Water Retention</p>	<p><b>N-W-TN-2: Reservoir Sedimentation Hazard and Mitigation Measures towards Sustainability in Tunisia</b>, Study of the siltation of two Tunisian dams: Siliana and Lebna dams</p> <p>The main objectives of the activity are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide a better understanding of the causes of reservoir sedimentation and the origin of the eroded sediments within the watersheds assessed (footprint survey to show where the deposited sediments come from);</li> <li>Assessment of the actual rate of sedimentation and loss of useful storage in the dams assessed and their correspondence with the rates of erosion and sedimentation yield;</li> <li>Assessment and evaluation of current practices in controlling sedimentation and erosion processes in Tunisia by studying two (2) dams / reservoirs as pilot case studies;</li> <li>examining the applicability of measures that could be implemented to combat the accumulation of sediment in reservoirs, with priority given to green infrastructure;</li> <li>study of economic incentives and regulatory framework to support and optimize protective measures, with priority given to green infrastructure/Nature-based solutions (NbS);</li> <li>disseminating the results to the scientific community and writing a book containing the guiding principles for the implementation of sustainable mitigation measures.</li> </ul> <p><b>The activity is operationally linked with N-W-IL-2, N-W-JO-2 and RW-4-REG.</b></p>	<p>to the comments. The revision of the remaining deliverables will take place once the dates for further meetings with the partners are agreed upon and the meetings take place.</p> <p><b>On-going activity</b></p> <p>In order to address some changes in the activity’s course, such as the change in the International NKE’s availability due to unforeseen reasons, the need for a more enhanced participation of the local expert in the activity (Tasks 3,4, 5.1) and the switch to a more specialised model for calculating the sedimentation at the dams under study, a Change Note was prepared. The Change Note was shared with the local partners, presenting the resources used so far, the proposed new allocation of days among the experts, the suggested duration of the trainings and the updated time-schedule. A new Task for on-site training on the model to be used was added, upon the request of the local partners.</p> <p>Following discussions and the submission of a technical progress note as per the country’s request, the proposed modifications were accepted, and the Change Note was approved by the European Commission on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2023.</p> <p>After further exchanges with the Ministry, the project organised the following events in Tunis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final consultation (task 5.1.a) on 18<sup>th</sup> of September 2023</li> <li>Follow up meeting (task 5.1.b) on 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2023</li> <li>Training on sedimentation formulation within dams (Task 5.3.1) on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of September 2023</li> <li>Training on natural water retention measures (Task 5.3.2) on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2023</li> </ul> <p>For the best preparation of stakeholders, all project deliverables were submitted prior to the consultation meeting (August 2023). After the consultation meeting and the feedback from the stakeholders involved, additional data was provided to the experts’ team. The reports shared prior to the meetings, are under revision addressing the comments raised and new data provided.</p> <p>A presentation of the activity results to donors was held by videoconference on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2023.</p> <p>The two-day on-site training was held in Kifissia, Greece (30/11-1/12/2023) on the model used for two selected representatives of the local partners and the local NKE. The subject of the training was the mathematical model that is crucially useful for the modelling of erosion and sediment transport for the particular case of Tunisia. By the end of the training, the trainees were able to formulate, apply and process the results of the model.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit the revised deliverables under Tasks 1, 2, 3, and 4 and acquire their approval.</li> </ul>


TABLE 5: PROGRESS IN REGIONAL LEVEL ACTIVITIES (EFFICIENT USE OF WATER)

Dimension / Topic / Sub-Topic	Activity title/Description	Progress made / Challenges encountered	Future Planning
<p><b>Capacity Building</b> <b>Topic 4:</b> Enhancing Water Efficiency and Productivity in Agriculture <b>Subtopic 4.2:</b> WEFE Nexus</p>	<p><b>RW-1-REG: Renamed: 1st Regional Roundtable on WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean “Promoting innovations, investments and upscaling of solutions”</b></p> <p>The 1st Regional WEFE Nexus Roundtable in the Mediterranean on ‘Promoting innovation, investments and upscaling of solutions’ aims to facilitate a multi-stakeholder dialogue among Mediterranean countries and stakeholders to further advance Nexus understanding, facilitate cross fertilization among institutions, organizations and practitioners, and lay the path towards coordinated actions to tackle Nexus challenges in the region, that also affect the coastal and marine environment in the Source-to-Sea continuum.</p> <p>The overall objectives of the Roundtable are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To identify ways to excel the Nexus approach implementation at national, basin, local, coastal and transboundary levels supported by regional action, taking note of outputs of recent, ongoing and upcoming Nexus-related initiatives and processes, including towards a possible regional strategy/action plan on Nexus in the Mediterranean.</li> <li>To identify ways to upscale and mainstream Nexus solutions and innovation, at all levels in the Mediterranean, through identification, prioritisation and mobilisation of funding and investments.</li> </ul>	<p> <b>Activity completed</b></p> <p>The meeting took place on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> (half day) June 2023, in Rabat, with the provision of online connection (hybrid format). It was organized back-to-back with the UfM 13<sup>th</sup> Water Expert Group Meeting (7 &amp; 8 June), as well as with the Steering Committee Meetings of three Child Projects of GEF UNEP/MAP MedProgramme (7 &amp; 8 June).</p> <p>The project Team was in close coordination with DG NEAR, the UfM, UNEP/MAP and GWP-Med for the organisation of the Roundtable.</p> <p>As agreed, the WES Project offered its technical support through the Team Leader’s participation as panelist, speaker, moderator during the meeting’s sessions, while the project financially/organisationally covered the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flights and accommodation of the WES Water Focal Points and the WES Team Leader</li> <li>Dinner on 5 June, all meals on 6 June, Lunch &amp; 1 Coffee break on 7 June.</li> <li>Interpretation EN/FR/AR</li> <li>Hybrid format set up.</li> </ul> <p>A new task was added to the activity for the extensive reporting on the meeting’s discussions and developing the Annotated Structure of the Nexus Strategic Framework Document to be produced.</p> <p>The 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Roundtable on Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus in the Mediterranean is being organized with the support of WES on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2024, at Laico Hotel, in Tunis, Tunisia, within the framework of the 5<sup>th</sup> Mediterranean Water Forum (MWF). The WES TL will be attending on behalf of the WES project and contributing as the general Rapporteur of the Roundtable. The TL will present an overview of the progress achieved so far during the first plenary session of the 5<sup>th</sup> MWF on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February.</p>	
<p><b>Capacity Building</b> <b>Topic 3:</b> Water Resources Valuation, Cost-Recovery and Affordability of Water Services <b>Subtopic 3.2:</b> Water Accounting &amp; Valuation</p>	<p><b>RW-2-REG: Training on water accounting</b></p> <p>The activity was in line with the Water Financing Strategy of the UfM and closely connected with the UfM Mediterranean Water Knowledge Platform. It refers to International Standards – the UN System of Environmental Economic Accounting Central Framework (SEEA-CF), and the UN System of Environmental Economic Accounting for water (SEEA-water) and ensures complementarity with the ENI Shared Environmental Information System in the ENP South region (SEIS II South Support Mechanism).</p>	<p> <b>Activity completed</b></p> <p>The 5 sessions of the training were successfully organised from 12/10/2020 to 26/10/2020.</p> <p>There were 3 trainers from the side of the WES Team, and 7 more trainers contributing with case studies and country examples to the overall programme. 48 participants joined the training in total.</p> <p>The training report can be found in the project website along</p>	



Dimension / Topic / Sub-Topic	Activity title/Description	Progress made / Challenges encountered	Future Planning
<p><b>Capacity Building</b> <b>Topic 2:</b> Water Efficiency Gains at Decentralised Level <b>Horizontal:</b> Legal and Regulatory Aspects <b>Subtopic 2.3:</b> Water Demand Management (WDM)</p>	<p><b>RW-3-REG/ P2P: Regional Training on Water Demand Management (WDM)</b> The objective of this regional activity was to build the capacity of the Partner Countries (PCs) on Water Demand Management (WDM) as a mean to influence the water demand and usage of water to meet any of the following objectives and/or combination of them: economic efficiency, social development, social equity, environmental protection, sustainability of water supply and services, and political acceptability. The activity focused on the customers’ demand management targeting mainly management of water demands in the non-agricultural sector, namely in the domestic, touristic and industrial uses. The objective of the P2P activity is fully aligned with the related UfM water program and Action on Water and Climate Change in addition to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.</p>	<p>with the related material, as follows: - <a href="#">here</a> for the Regional Training</p> <p> <b>Activity completed</b></p> <p>The five sessions of the regional training were successfully held in January and February 2022. The Peer-to-Peer process was facilitated by virtual meetings and regular e-mail communication among and between the WES designated experts and the Peers from relevant institutions in the beneficiary countries. The process spanned over almost a year starting with the Kick-Off Meeting (13.12.2021), one informal meeting during the WDM Regional training, two working sessions on 29<sup>th</sup> of March and 13<sup>th</sup> of October 2022, in addition to two ad-hoc meetings during June and August of the same year. The training reports for both the training and P2P have been finalised and they can be found in the project website along with the related material, as follows: - <a href="#">here</a> for the Regional Training - <a href="#">here</a> for the P2P Exchange.</p>	
<p><b>Capacity Building</b> <b>Topic 2:</b> Investigation and Introduction of Water Efficiency Gains at the Decentralized Level <b>Subtopic 2.1:</b> Non-Conventional Water Resources (NCWR)</p>	<p><b>RW-4-REG/ P2P: CB on NCWR focusing on Water Harvesting including through retention &amp; aquifer recharge with storm water</b> The <b>purpose of this regional activity</b> is to introduce the concept of Water Harvesting (WH) and Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRMs) as an alternative and efficient tool to minimize flood risk and increase the potential for water storage whether on the surface or in the aquifer.</p>	<p> <b>Activity completed</b></p> <p>The regional training included 5 sessions (total of 15 hours) held online, in October 2021. A total 67 persons participated in the training. There were 3 invited speakers and 4 speakers from the PCs for exchanging practices and experiences. The P2P exchange was facilitated by virtual meetings and continuous e-mail communication among and the Peers and the NKEs. According to their preference/experience, the Peers have formed two focus groups: one on Urban environment and one on Rural &amp; Natural environment. A total of seven meetings were conducted including the kick-off, two (2) meetings addressing NWRM in Urban environments., two (2) meetings addressing NWRM in Rural/Natural environments and one (1) final meeting on Rural and Natural areas where both groups participated. The last P2P session which was held on 16 June 2022 combined meetings on two themes “Design Methods and Computational Tools for the Appropriate Use of WH and NWRMs”, and “Environmental impacts of WH and NWRMs” in rural/natural areas. The training reports for both the training and P2P have been finalised and they can be found in the project website along with the related material, as follows: - <a href="#">here</a> for the Regional Training - <a href="#">here</a> for the P2P Exchange.</p>	

Dimension / Topic / Sub-Topic	Activity title/Description	Progress made / Challenges encountered	Future Planning
<p><b>Capacity Building</b> <b>Topic 2:</b> Investigation and Introduction of Water Efficiency Gains at the Decentralized Level <b>Topic 3:</b> Water Resources Valuation, Cost-Recovery and Affordability of Water Services <b>Subtopic 2.5:</b> Wastewater Treatment for Reuse</p>	<p><b>RW-5-REG/ ST: Capacity building on Waste Water Treatment (WWT) for reuse</b></p>	<p> <b>Activity completed</b></p> <p>Four training sessions were held on 17 May 2022, 19 May 2022, 7 June 2022, and 9 June 2022.</p> <p>Each training session corresponded to a specific topic assessed as being important for the development of the sanitation sector in the WES Partner Countries; with particular reference to decentralised WWT and its reuse in agriculture, for municipal purposes (as applicable) and for nature through recipient water bodies (groundwater and surface water).</p> <p>During the training both plenary and break-out sessions took place. The plenary sessions were used for the presentations and the overall discussions. During the break-out sessions, the participants were engaged in group discussions and group work with the NKE, with the aim to apply what they have learnt during the training.</p> <p>The training report and a “Practical Implementation Guideline (manual) on Decentralised Waste Water Treatment for Reuse” have been prepared and uploaded along with the rest of the training material in the WES website (<a href="#">here</a>). The manual was translated and is also available in French.</p>	
<p><b>Capacity Building</b> <b>Topic 1:</b> Assessment and Estimation of Water Use (per sector) <b>Topic 2:</b> Investigation and Introduction of Water Efficiency Gains at the Decentralized Level <b>Topic 3:</b> Water Resources Valuation, Cost-Recovery and Affordability of Water Services <b>Subtopic 2.2:</b> Non-Revenue Water (NRW) Management</p>	<p><b>RW-6-REG / P2P/ST: Training on Non-Revenue Water (NRW)</b></p> <p>The purpose of the activity was to build the capacity of the project countries on NRW (including the role of GIS in facilitating NRW management) in addition to a study tour (ST) and a peer to peer (P2P) process for exchange of experience. The training was combined with a study tour (ST) in a Mediterranean country advanced in this field with the aim to train the project countries on measures to reduce physical and commercial losses. The activity benefited water utilities and regulators (decision makers and administrators involved in different aspects of NRW management) in the PCs, local authorities and municipalities delegated with service provision, and private sector involved in the supply and distribution of water and provision of water services.</p>	<p> <b>Activity completed</b></p> <p>The Kick-Off Meeting of the P2P exchange was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2022. The Regional Training and the Study Tour took place in Greece from 16 to 20 January 2023.</p> <p>The premises of Athens Water and Sewage Company (ΕΥΔΑΠ) were visited during the Study Tour.</p> <p>Topics covered during the training are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NRW Definitions and tools</li> <li>• NRW reduction interventions</li> <li>• NRW Data Management</li> <li>• NRW Asset management</li> </ul> <p>The related report was finalized and uploaded along with the training material on the WES website. It can be accessed <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>The 1<sup>st</sup> P2P meeting was organized online on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June 2023 while the 2<sup>nd</sup> and final meeting took place on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2023 in addition to ad-hoc and working groups meetings.</p> <p>The SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) on “Selecting relevant KPIs and Target Setting” and on “Calculating a Water Balance” have been distributed to the targeted people of this activity in the framework of disseminating its results and best practices.</p>	

Dimension / Topic / Sub-Topic	Activity title/Description	Progress made / Challenges encountered	Future Planning
<b>Capacity Building</b> <b>Topic 2:</b> Water Efficiency Gains at Decentralised Level <b>Topic 4:</b> Enhancing Water Efficiency and Productivity in Agriculture <b>Subtopic 4.1:</b> Water Use Efficiency in Agriculture		<p>The P2P report is uploaded on the project’s website.</p> <p>All deliverables and training material can be found on the project’s website <a href="#">here</a>, while the material for the P2P activity can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	
	<b>RW-7- REG/ ST: Study tour and Training(s) of Water Users Associations (WUAs) on optimal irrigation management and practices</b> <p>The purpose of the specific regional training activity RW-7-REG was to build the capacity of the project countries (PCs) on optimal irrigation management and practices using appropriate irrigation methods for improved irrigation efficiency and water productivity and highlighting the benefits of using treated waste water and rainwater harvesting. The training was combined with a Study Tour (RW-7-ST) in a Mediterranean country advanced in this field providing examples of hands-on practices followed.</p>	<p> <b>Activity completed</b></p> <p>The activity’s ToR were approved by the EC on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2023 and the regional training was organised between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2023, at the premises of CIHEAM in Bari, Italy.</p> <p>The training covered the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water management at the scheme level</li> <li>• On-farm irrigation management</li> <li>• Safe reuse of non-conventional water resources in agriculture</li> </ul> <p>The participants were exposed to presentations, group discussions, presentations of case studies and group exercises. The training also involved field visits to a local Water Users Association “Capitanata Consortium”, to the “Gallipoli tertiary treatment plant”, a technical tour at CIHEAM Bari premises demonstrating their digital agriculture lab, the research for development experimental site (smart irrigation, solar energy/agrivoltaic).</p> <p>Three WES Demonstration projects also participated in the training through their representatives and presented their projects.</p> <p>The Training report is currently under review by the KE.</p> <p>All deliverables and training material can be found on the project’s website <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalise and upload the training report on the WES website.</li> </ul>

**TABLE 6: PROGRESS IN REGIONAL LEVEL ACTIVITIES (EFFICIENT USE OF WATER)**

<b>Capacity Building</b> <b>Topic:</b> Horizontal: PPP & Access to sustainable Investment	<b>HW-1- REG: Capacity building on PPP, green/blue economy entrepreneurship and banking for the water/wastewater sector</b>	<b>Activity under conceptualisation</b>	Regional Training to be organised in spring 2024.
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**TABLE 7: PROGRESS IN ACTIVITIES UNDER OTHER COMPONENTS**

Activity title/Description	Progress made / Challenges encountered	Future Planning
<b>COMPONENT 3 – Support to the Demonstration projects</b>		
<p><b>Activity 3.2: Support to the demonstration project implementation</b></p>	<p>The 2nd Monitoring Report was submitted to the WES Programme Manager in May 2023. The Report covered the period between June 2022 and March 2023 and was based on the reports submitted during the second year by each Demonstration Project, questionnaires that were filled out by the lead partners within the period December 2022 to March 2023, and interviews (remote and on-site) with the leading partners and stakeholders. The Report was shared with officers in the EU Delegations that are following the WES Demo projects and the corresponding WES Water Focal Points for their information.</p> <p>Some of the Demonstration Projects received an extension to their duration in this period. The last ones will be ending in July 2024 (ValEUR Gabes). The project WISPER implemented in Jordan and Tunisia is completed already. One of the two projects based in Gaza (Enhance the resilience of vulnerable communities- Khan Younis) was planned to end in October 2023, but unfortunately, due to the conflict in Gaza, communication with the project could not be established in October 2023.</p> <p>In order for the WES monitoring team to continue its support to the Demonstration Projects, the activity was extended for one more year, increasing the team’s LoE and its duration. The TORs were approved on September 9th 2023.</p> <p>The PROGIRE project (Promotion of integrated water resource management in an oasis environment: Oasis of Ferkla and Aguinane) organized an International Summer University on “Water and climate crisis: implementation of sustainable solutions for local management of scarcity and limitation of the effects of pollution”. WES offered its support through the online participation of Ms Taha presenting the WES project and the support provided to the Demonstration Projects. A representative of the Tunisian Demo project “ValEUR Gabes: Valorisation of urban water through innovative actions and instruments” intervened online as well.</p> <p>In order to bring up the highlights of the Demonstration projects, each project’s results/achievements are to be collected by the WES project and disseminated through a mini-diary to be produced for each project.</p> <p>The WES Demo projects: “Saving Water, Growing Crops” (Lebanon), “Enhance the resilience of vulnerable communities - Khan Younis” (Gaza) and “WISPER”(Jordan/Tunisia) attended the Regional WES training RW-7-REG/ST on optimal irrigation management organised in Bari, Italy in June 2023 and presented their experiences and lessons learnt.</p> <p>WES, represented by its Team Leader, participated in a regional conference on the captialisation of the ValEUR Gabes project, on ‘Urban efficient water: mainstreaming integrated planning and management approaches’ that took place in Sfax from 7-8 November 2023, and presented updates on the demo projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect final reports from ongoing Demo projects, carry out interviews with project managers, organise missions at the projects’ sites.</li> <li>• Prepare the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monitoring Report.</li> <li>• Identify, present and disseminate each project’s achievements and lessons learnt through a mini-diary for each one.</li> </ul>
<b>COMPONENT 4 - Support to the UfM Water and Environment Agendas</b>		
<p><b>Activity 4.3: General support to the UfM Water and Environment work</b></p>	<p>The 2021 Ministerial Declaration and the 2030GreenerMed Agenda with its three priority axes of work guided the collaboration between the WES project and UfM Secretariat for the year 2023, in combination with the related TOR that was approved in December 2022.</p> <p>WES continued providing support to the UfM in identifying complementarities and establishing operational partnerships with relevant projects labelled by the Union for the Mediterranean (as well as other projects) in the field of green economy, prevention of marine pollution and blue economy as well as in advancing the WEF nexus as a management framework in the Mediterranean source to sea continuum. WES networking, youth, gender equity efforts are horizontal to this activity.</p> <p>On the 7th of March 2023 WES supported the UfM in the organization of the Webinar on COP15 Biodiversity-Outcomes, follow up and way forward (both logistically and in terms of content).</p> <p>In May, WES provided information on its progress over the year 2022 (specific UfM indicators), that feeds into the UfM 2030GreenerMed monitoring of supporting programmes and projects.</p> <p>During this period, WES supported (both logistically and content-wise) the 4<sup>th</sup> UfM Working Group on Environment and Climate Action, that took place on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2023, in Sitges, close to Barcelona. It was the first in-person UfM meeting on environment after many years, with a very rich agenda and very good representation of all stakeholder groups. WES covered the participation costs of 10 people (flights, per diem, accommodation), as well as the costs of the meeting room rental.</p> <p>WES experts advanced the policy paper about the UfM and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) based on the approved outline by the UfM Secretariat (27<sup>th</sup> of April 2023). It was briefly presented to the 7<sup>th</sup> UfM Environment Task Force meeting in November 2023. It will</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalise: the video guidelines on how to monitor macrolitter on the seafloor; the ESD policy document and the UfM Circular Economy paper.</li> <li>• Continue on-going support actions for upcoming UfM meetings planned to take place in 2024.</li> <li>• On-going coordination with UfM labelled projects relevant to WES</li> </ul>

Activity title/Description	Progress made / Challenges encountered	Future Planning
	<p>be sent to the UfM in January 2024.</p> <p>The video guidelines on how to monitor macrolitter on the seafloor with visual census via scuba/snorkeling, also advanced. The specifications for procuring an appropriate filming crew were prepared and disseminated and the selected team has coordinated with the WES NKEs on the next steps. The filming in the field will take place in early 2024. The video guidelines will depict in a user-friendly/appealing way the state-of-the-art protocol for monitoring macrolitter on the seafloor with visual census, in line with the related EU MSFD TGML guidelines, as well as those of the Barcelona Convention IMAP.</p> <p>WES support (peer review) to the UfM in the development of the policy document on Green Circular Economy in the Mediterranean, continued during 2023 and January 2024.</p> <p>WES presented at the 7<sup>th</sup> UfM Environment Task Force Meeting that took place in Brussels on 15-16 November 2023 its contributions to the implementation of the 2030 GreenerMed Agenda: Med Plastic Prevention Champions; promoting the Aarhus Convention in the whole of the Med; Education for Sustainable Development as the vehicle to transition; the WEF Nexus Strategic Document in the Med S2S continuum; (to name a few).</p>	

**COMPONENT 5 - Capitalisation, sharing knowledge and visibility**

<p><b>Activity 5.3: Organise a networking system between the various stakeholders</b></p>	<p>WES collaboration and synergies with other projects, networks and processes continued strongly in 2023 as in previous years, while some new networking initiatives were also launched. Some highlights are summarized herewith. WES collaboration with Med4Waste has produced tangible results with the two projects joining forces and resources and co-organising the very successful RE-6-ST on Decentralised Organic Waste Management in Sardinia on 24-26 October 2023. About 200 people followed the workshop sessions of the two first days with about 140 people from all over the region following on-line. WES deliverables have been included on the project website and in the final version of the Med4Waste Policy Toolkit as well.</p> <p>The WES Environment KE was an invited panelist at a Med4Waste event organized during the EU Green Week in June 2023 on the enabling factors to strengthen the capacity of key agents in the waste management chain to deliver the green transition. Such a chain may include the creation of an ‘enabling environment’, development of the institutional setting and its enforcement and thus ultimately lead to reduction in waste volumes in the Mediterranean.</p> <p>Under the marine litter actions in the region, WES has continued to exchange with and has been engaged in many key regional events, particularly with the UfM labelled Plastic Busters Initiative and its implementing projects and the TouMaLi project. WES presentations were made in major relevant meetings, while the WES project supported and/or coorganised a series of Plastic Busters CAP events in 2023. 256 participants came together online for an e-course on marine litter monitoring and mitigation, held on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of January 2023. The e-course, was organized by the ENI CBC Plastic Busters CAP project together with WES and it sought to create the enabling conditions for a societal shift towards the wise use and sustainable disposal of plastics. The e-course received unprecedented attention from all over the world.</p> <p>WES is following the early steps of the Interreg Euro-MED Governance project entitled “Mediterranean Innovation Sustainable Economy Community (Community4Innovation)” which aims to create a cross-border cooperation network all over the Mediterranean to promote an innovative sustainable economy for a climate-neutral and resilient society.</p> <p>At the national level, significant efforts to network and synergise with key relevant projects (e.g. Marine Litter Med II, COMMON, TouMaLi, CLIMA, Plastic Busters CAP) are on-going, with very good results. The WES Environment KE took part in the Second International Conferences of the UfM Labeled TouMaLi project, held in Marrakech from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> of November, 2023 as well as the in the Final conference of the COMMON Project held in Tunis on 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2023. These conferences provided an opportunity to share WES results and to promote synergy with other regional projects and programs particularly on the topics of plastic pollution abatement and marine litter.</p> <p>Coordinated actions to tackle Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus challenges in the Mediterranean are required at both national and regional levels. In order to further advance Nexus understanding in that regard and facilitate cross-fertilization among institutions, organizations and practitioners, a multi-stakeholder dialogue among Mediterranean countries and stakeholders has been launched with WES playing a key role in making it happen. Indeed, WES co-organised the 1<sup>st</sup> Regional WEF Nexus Roundtable in the Mediterranean on ‘Promoting innovation, investments and upscaling of solutions’ that took place on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> (half day) June 2023, in Rabat, Morocco and online. For the development of a Strategy for the WEF Nexus in the Mediterranean source to sea continuum, a core group has been mandated (in Rabat) consisting of the EU (DG NEAR), the UfM and the Barcelona Convention, with technical support from WES (convening</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustain the networking system created so far.</li> <li>• New opportunities for networking.</li> </ul>
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Activity title/Description	Progress made / Challenges encountered	Future Planning
	<p>party/authority), GWP-Med, and PRIMA. Preparations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional WEF Nexus Roundtable in the Mediterranean are on-going for the 5<sup>th</sup> of February within the framework of the Mediterranean Water Forum (5-7 February, Tunis), while in parallel, WES is supporting the development of the SFD itself.</p> <p>Through the horizontal regional activity HE-4-REG/P2P on the promotion of the Aarhus Convention in the whole of the Mediterranean, WES has succeeded to bring into its network a valuable new set of stakeholders: Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Ambassadors and Legal departments, as well as Ministries of Justice. The regional training that took place in November 2023 in Athens and the P2P post-training phase in 2024 will further strengthen this very important community of peers working towards a fundamental prerequisite for the green/blue transition and sustainable development of the Mediterranean region.</p> <p>Eighty-seven Candidate Champions on Plastic Pollution Prevention from all stakeholder groups from the MENA countries and also from Albania, France, Greece, Germany and Spain, are now networked under WES with a common goal to achieve their commitments by August 2024 and be recognised by the EU, UfM and UNEP/MAP. The number may end up being lower as the Cooperation Agreements have yet to be finalised, but still, the number is expected to remain high. Perhaps most noteworthy is that this network is very rich with private sector actors that are voluntarily taking initiatives for a SUPs-free Mediterranean region.</p>	
<p><b>Activity 5.4 Production and dissemination of material on pollution prevention and the efficient use of water</b></p>	<p>The production of five (5) WES videos is planned as per the project’s Communication Strategy. The following videos have been produced thus far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Help Save a drop” on Water demand management (WDM) and Non-revenue water (NRW)</li> <li>• Construction and Demolition Waste Management (CDWM)</li> <li>• “Circular Economy and waste reduction”</li> </ul> <p>while the following ones are expected to be produced in the months to follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Plastic Pollution and Single Use Plastics”</li> <li>• Natural Water Retention Measures “Water harvesting”</li> <li>• “Overall video” for the WES Project</li> </ul> <p>In the past year, the video on “Construction and Demolition Waste Management (CDWM)” was produced in two parts: a first generic short version of the video (4’25”) and the full video (9’45”) with the incorporation of footage (including interviews/testimonials/ description of experiences) from the RE-4-REG/ST/ P2P Study visit. All versions of the video were subtitled in English, French and Arabic.</p> <p>The video primarily targets audiences in PCs with relevant technical knowledge of the subject, particularly policy and decision-makers. It aims to introduce the key components of sustainable CDWM and in complementarity with other national and regional CDW activities implemented by WES, to emphasize that there are regulatory, economic and technical measures that, if driven by innovation and adapted to local contexts, can encourage a more effective, circular and eventually, sustainable management of this waste.</p> <p>Relevant communication and visibility rules were adhered to. The video was disseminated online (WES website / social media) and through a relevant press release; it was included in the Regional Cooperation Neighbourhood South Newsletter and was projected during relevant trainings.</p> <p>Similar work has been done for the video on “Circular Economy &amp; Waste Reduction” targeting policymakers. In order to capitalise on the findings and messages that have emerged from the WES project activities on Circular Economy, key messages and facts presented in the video were co-developed with WES experts and Focal Points (FPs). The video aims to improve the understanding of policymakers and WES trainees/ event participants on the needed transition from a linear economy to a circular one; raise awareness of what should be done to make the transition to a circular economy happen in the Mediterranean; motivate the specific audience to adopt proposed practices/measures and enhance the visibility of interventions by the EU/WES in this field. Material from the live-action shooting in France, Morocco and Algeria was used. The video is subtitled in English, French and Arabic.</p> <p>Preparatory work is underway for the production of a video on “Plastic Pollution &amp; SUPs”.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In accordance with the tailored communication plans for each activity, specific visibility and promotional material to be produced in order to raise awareness of stakeholders, according to the target groups identified.</li> <li>• Disseminate the produced videos in line with the Communication action plan.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Activity 5.5 Development of a high-quality WES website</b></p>	<p>The website provides easy access to all information and deliverables related to the implementation of the activities to all stakeholders and the general public. It also shares news of the WES institutional partners and international environmental projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The website’s contents in English, French and Arabic are be regularly updated following the activities’ progress.</li> </ul>

Activity title/Description	Progress made / Challenges encountered	Future Planning
<p><b>Activity 5.6 Organisation of national meetings</b></p>	<p>In order to inform and discuss about progress achieved and next steps and provide a platform for cross-fertilisation with other relevant projects and processes funded by the EU and other sources, where sharing of information and knowledge exchange can be facilitated, National Meetings in eight partner countries are part of the project's planning.</p> <p>Given the COVID-19 crisis in the region and the difficulties in travelling, the National Meetings were not realised for the years 2020 to 2023.</p> <p>In the framework of the Cairo Water Week 2023 and back-to-back with the National Consultation for Activity N-W-EG-2, the National WES Meeting for Egypt was organised on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2023, under the title "Overview and the way forward at national level for the period 2024-2028". In addition to that, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November 2023, during the EU Press Conference, WES presented its 2 water activities delivered in Egypt. The WES team was in close collaboration and exchanged with the WES Focal Points in Egypt, the EU Delegation Officers in Cairo, as well as the organisers and Ministry officers involved in the organisation of the CWW2023.</p> <p>On the 28<sup>th</sup> of November the National Meeting for Tunisia was also organised, under the title: "Feedback on the WES project activities and the way forward for the period 2024-2028" during which 3 environment and 2 water WES activities carried out in Tunisia were presented.</p> <p>Both meetings were dedicated to what has been achieved so far in the countries through the project's activities (at national but also at regional level) and exchange on these but also on possible future actions with all beneficiaries, stakeholders and key actors (national authorities, EU Delegation, donors). Other projects supported by EU funds or by other donors were invited to take the opportunity to present their work, in a framework of cooperation and future synergies with the WES Project and its successor project for 2024-2028.</p> <p>Both national events were very well attended by the local stakeholders and were honoured by the presence of Ministers. The Egypt meeting was honored by the presence of H.E. Hani Sewilam, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, while the meeting in Tunisia was honoured by the extended presence of the Minister of the Environment, H.E. Ms Leila Chikhaoui Mahdaoui.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation of National meetings in other Partner Countries in 2024, if conditions allow for that.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Activity 5.7 Ad hoc participation in international, regional or national events, meetings, fora</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Environment Expert, Mr Anis Ismail, participated in the COMMON Final conference on 7-8 February 2023 in Tunis and made a presentation entitled "WES activities for the prevention and reduction of plastic waste in the Mediterranean".</li> <li>• The Team Leader, Prof. Scoullos, participated in the UfM Water Task Forces: Biannual Workplans Review meeting, held in Barcelona on 16-17 February 2023</li> <li>• The 2<sup>nd</sup> Trilateral Meeting EU-IL-MO was organized by the WES project from 27 February to 2 March 2023 in Morocco with the participation of the Team Leader, Prof Scoullos and the EU Programme Manager, Mr Frederic Fourtune.</li> <li>• The Team Leader, Prof. Scoullos, participated in the UN Water conference held in New York, USA, on 22-24 March 2023 and contributed to a series of side events related either to the Mediterranean or the EU.</li> <li>• The Team Leader, Prof. Scoullos, represented WES during the INTPA-NEAR Environment &amp; Climate Week, on 27-31 March 2023, in Brussels. His presentation was on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March, during the Session Block on "Water &amp; Oceans".</li> <li>• The Environment Expert, Mr Anis Ismail, participated in a thematic meeting with the experts involved in EU funded environment, water and energy programs in Tunisia, on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The meeting was organised at EU delegation in Tunis and shared by the EU Tunisia ambassador.</li> <li>• The Team Leader, Prof. Scoullos, participated in the UfM WG on ENV and CC in Barcelona, Spain on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2023.</li> <li>• The Team Leader, Prof. Scoullos, participated in the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the UfM Water Expert Group that was held on 7-8 July 2023 (organised back-to-back with the RW-1-REG)</li> <li>• During his presence in the CWW 2023 for the WES events, the Team Leader, Prof. Scoullos, participated in the Annual Conference on Water Finance and Investment "Applying a Water-Energy-Food-Environment (WEFE) Nexus Approach to Water Finance and Investments", on the 30th and 31st of October, and made a presentation during the session on "How investment and finance issues are currently included in WEFE nexus approaches".</li> <li>• The Environment Expert, Mr Anis Ismail, participated in the Second International Conferences of UfM Labeled projects "TouMaLi", held in Marrakech on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of November, 2023.</li> <li>• The Stakeholder Engagement and Impact Assessment NKE, Dr. Emad Adly, participated in the Arab Ministerial Water Council, its technical committee, and the Arab Water Forum taking place from 19-23 November in Riyadh- Saudi Arabia where he presented WES updates and once again WES is mentioned in a positive light in the AMWC decisions.</li> <li>• The Team Leader, Prof. Scoullos, represented WES at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planned work involves the ad-hoc participation of members of the WES Team in international, regional or national events, meetings, fora.</li> </ul>

Activity title/Description	Progress made / Challenges encountered	Future Planning
	<p>promoting various WES priority issues. WES also participated in/contributed to/co-organised official side events of COP23 on the WEFE nexus, marine litter, Lake Bizerte, promotion of the Aarhus Convention, Education for Sustainable Development, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Stakeholder Engagement and Impact Assessment NKE, Dr. Emad Adly, represented WES at COP28 of the UNFCCC that took place in November-December in Dubai.</li> </ul>	
<b>COMPONENT 0 (Complementary activities)</b>		
<p><b>0.9. Communication and visibility Action Plan</b></p>	<p>The WES Communication and Visibility actions, regarding 35 WES activities, 2 WES videos and ad-hoc participations in events, have been prepared and delivered according to the Communication Strategy. Via WES social media platforms: Website, Facebook, LinkedIn and X, several posts were published and reposted.</p> <p>In detail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>26 Press Releases (in English, French and Arabic) and 27 Announcements published via website and send out to the media (700 contacts from 10 countries)</li> <li>15 Information Bulletins were prepared, in English and French, for: RE-2-REG, RW-3-REG/P2P, RW-5-REG, HE-2-REG, HE-3-REG, N-E-DZ-2, N-E-JO-1, N-E-JO-2, N-E-LB-1, N-E-LB-2b, N-E-PS-1, N-E-TN-1, N-E-TN-2, N-E-MO-1, N-W-DZ-1, were sent out to stakeholders (3.420 contacts from 43 countries) and media.</li> <li>Informational material was prepared regarding the 2 National Events in Egypt and Tunisia (Nov. &amp; Dec. 2023), various comms occasions and were sent to stakeholders.</li> <li>132 Facebook, 132 LinkedIn, 128 Twitter posts in English, French and Arabic were published via the WES social media platforms. Several posts were published and reposts shared from partners.</li> <li>5 Communications Presentations for the 2 National Meetings, 1 Workshop and 1 Meeting</li> <li>5 Communication Plans for ToRs of activities</li> <li>3 Newsletters were prepared and published with a reference of 11 activities</li> <li>1 Promo was prepared for the WES LinkedIn page</li> <li>1.312 Articles, based on WES Press Releases and information sent, were published via news platforms, newspapers, newsletters, social media and sites, in 10 countries namely Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Belgium, Greece, Italy and Spain.</li> <li>1 TV extensive coverage of the National Meeting in Tunisia (interviews etc) was made by the National TV and was broadcasted in the Evening News (28/11/2023).</li> </ul> <p>The communications database of media and stakeholders was regularly updated (4.120 contacts from 43 countries).</p>	<p>Any latest development on the project's activities to be communicated to the stakeholders via email and WES social pages. The database of the project's stakeholders is being regularly updated. If needed, special informational material, or campaigns, will be prepared for WES activities, the DEMO projects supported by WES and other events to ensure the dissemination of information and the visibility of WES and EU.</p>
<p><b>0.15 Gender and Youth Action Plans</b></p>	<p>The WES Gender &amp; Youth Component aims to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and youth in its structure and management, as well as in its activities during the whole project period, contributing, hopefully to the process of the needed relevant cultural and institutional transformations.</p> <p>The WES efforts for gender-balanced participation in its experts, activities, consultations and meetings are on-going and with satisfactory results. Youth was represented in the majority of its activities. In the majority of the activities, gender balance of participants is within its target value of 50% +/- 15% with both men and women well represented. As presented in a slide prepared for the WES Programme Manager, in terms of the WES trainees' gender balance (based on total number of trainees/participants so far) we are at a high level or performance, whereas for the WES experts at the "average level". It should be emphasized, however, that the water sector, in particular, has been traditionally a male dominated one, but over the years this feature is changing and there are more and more female experts entering the pool of experts).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring and implementation of the Action Plans.</li> <li>Continuous work on incorporating the gender and youth aspects in the WES activities, without compromising the high standards followed.</li> </ul>



TABLE 8: 5<sup>th</sup> YEAR WORKPLAN

5 <sup>th</sup> YEAR WORKPLAN (February 2024 - November 2024)										
	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
<b>Component 1: Pollution prevention</b>										
<b>Regional activities on key topics related to pollution prevention</b>										
RE-3-P2P: Innovative Circular Economy Business Models in the Mediterranean region										
RE-6 -P2P : Decentralized management of organic waste										
RE-8-REG-P: Mediterranean “Champions” of plastic pollution prevention										
RE-9-REG: SUPs-free coastal and marine protected areas										
RE-10-REG: Enhancing the Number of Responsible Tourism and Recreation Related Businesses in Coastal Areas										
HE-5-REG: Knowledge Management; Science/Policy interface; citizen science										
<b>Activities at national level on key topics related to pollution prevention</b>										
N-E-DZ-1: Support for the monitoring and management of marine litter in Algeria (ALGERIA)										
N-E-MO-2: Consolidation actions for the ongoing marine litter activities in Morocco: expanding marine litter monitoring (MOROCCO)										
N-E-PS-2: Development of an action plan for the plastic waste management and to transition away from the use of SUPs in Palestine (PALESTINE) (TBC)										
N-E-IL-P1: Contribution to the development of a joint public-private road map to effectively recycle plastic polymers in Israel (ISRAEL)										
N-E-LB-PL-P2: Investigating and developing a compendium with successful approaches of an EPR system for plastics (LEBANON & PALESTINE)										
N-E-LB-PS-P3: Identify small scale “model” approaches of separate collection and recycling for further replication (LEBANON & PALESTINE)										
N-E-TN-P4: Enforcement of political and legal measures undertaken by Tunisia for the reduction and prohibition of certain types of single-use plastic packaging (TUNISIA)										
N-E-P7: Activity on the preparation of public awareness campaigns material (on plastic pollution management)										
IA 1.0 Stakeholder Engagement and Impact Assessment										
<b>Component 2: Efficient use of water</b>										
<b>Regional activities on key topics related to the efficient use of water</b>										
RW-1-REG: 1st Regional Roundtable on WEF Nexus in the Mediterranean “Promoting innovations, investments and upscaling of solutions”										
<b>Activities at national level on key topics related to the efficient use of water</b>										
N-W-IL-2: Storm water management and Natural Water Retention Measures (ISRAEL)										
N-W-JO-1: Elaboration of non-revenue water policy for Jordan (JORDAN)										
N-W-JO-2: Explore the potential of Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRM) at the catchment scale (JORDAN)										

## 5<sup>th</sup> YEAR WORKPLAN (February 2024 - November 2024)

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
N-W-MO-3: Study tour in Jordan on Water Saving										
N-W-MO-4: Water efficient buildings										
N-W-PS-1: Design actions/modalities for improved water billing and fees' collection rates also with a view to support outsourcing and PPP and engagement through Micro PSP (PALESTINE)										
N-W-PS-2: Capacity building/trainings with pilot farmers' associations and relevant communities on optimal irrigation management and practices (PALESTINE)										
N-W-TN-1: Improving water use efficiency in agriculture (TUNISIA)										
N-W-TN-2: Reservoirs sedimentation risk and mitigation measures in favor of sustainability in Tunisia										
IA 2.0 Stakeholder Engagement and Impact Assessment										
<b>Horizontal Regional Activities</b>										
HE-2b-REG: Awareness raising and Education for Sustainable Development: (FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY)										
HE-3b-REG: Educating for Sustainable Development: focus on WWT for reuse and NCWRs (FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY)										
HE-4-P2P: Overall environmental governance - promotion of the Aarhus Convention in the whole of the Mediterranean										
HW-1- REG: Capacity building on PPP, green/blue economy entrepreneurship and banking for the water/wastewater sector										
<b>Component 3: Monitoring and supporting Demonstration projects</b>										
Activity 3.2 Support to the demonstration project implementation										
<b>Component 4: Support to the UfM Water and Environment agendas</b>										
Activity 4.3: General support to the UfM Water and Environment work										
<b>Component 5 - Capitalising the lessons learnt, good practices and success stories</b>										
Activity 5.1: Screening of the best practices and the best reference documents										
Activity 5.3: Organise a networking system between the various stakeholders										
Activity 5.4: Production and dissemination of material on pollution prevention and the efficient use of water										
Activity 5.5: Development of a high-quality WES website										
Activity 5.6: Organisation of national meetings										
Activity 5.7: Ad-hoc participation in international, regional or national events, meetings, fora										
<b>Other</b>										
0.9 Communication and Visibility Action Plan										
0.10 Steering Committee Meetings Preparations and Implementation										
0.15 Gender and Youth Action Plan										

5 <sup>th</sup> YEAR WORKPLAN (February 2024 - November 2024)										
	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Closing Conference										
End of project										
<b>Project Management and Backstopping</b>										
Managing the Project and the experts										
Managing the Project Office										
Backstopping										
Reporting (Inception, 6-monthly progress reports, monthly updates, draft final, final report)										
<b>Key and Non-Key Experts Involvement</b>										
KE1-Team Leader										
KE2- Environment Expert										
KE3- Water Expert										
KE4- Communication and Networking Expert										
<b>Legend:</b>										
non-continuous involvement/ activity										
continuous involvement/ activity										