

Governance & Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector



Labelled in 2012 by the **Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)**, this regional Project is a joint undertaking of the **Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med)** and the **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**.

This three-year project on Governance & Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector (mid-2013 to mid-2016) aims to diagnose key governance bottlenecks to mobilising financing for the water sector and to support the development of consensual action plans based on international good practices. Country reviews are carried out to identify main governance challenges to financing via in-depth technical work and

informed multi-stakeholder national dialogues. Regional dialogue enables the sharing of policy experiences among Mediterranean countries and the promotion of best practices. The project is executed through an interplay of national and regional activities, where the outcome of national work feeds the regional dialogue, and findings and experiences from the regional dialogue bolster the national work.

Strategic partnerships with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the FEMIP Trust Fund (FTF) of the European Investment Bank (EIB), the GEF – UNEP/MAP MedPartnership programme and the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI) have been instrumental in setting the project in motion and under effective implementation.



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط



With the support of:



High level Regional Conference marks official project launch at UfM headquarters in Barcelona

The official project launch took place on 28-29 May 2013 at a High-level Regional Conference organised by GWP-Med and the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). More than 100 participants from 22 countries across the Mediterranean were in attendance, including ministers, high-level government officials, representatives from intergovernmental organisations (IGOs) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) as well as stakeholder from water utilities, the private sector, the donor community and academic institutions.

UfM Secretary General Fathallah Sijilmassi opened the conference, followed by a keynote speech on the issue of water governance by Jordan's Minister of Water and Irrigation, H.E. Hazim El-Naser, also representing Jordan in its capacity as the UfM Southern Co-Presidency. The project's relevance, added value and timeliness in the region was highlighted in the opening session by Egypt's Minister of Utilities, Drinking Water and Sewage, H.E. Abdel Qawi Khalifa; the Minister and Head of the Palestinian Water Authority, H.E. Shaddad Attili; and Bosnia and Herzegovina's Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade



and Economic Relations, H.E. Ermina Salkičević-Dizdarević.

During the conference the project's two components — national and regional — were further elaborated, and the planned line of work, methodology and tools were presented. Additionally, the project's roots, firmly placed within successfully completed work jointly undertaken by GWP-Med and OECD in previous years, were also presented.

More than 80 attendees actively

intervened in the conference, providing valuable input and engaging in constructive policy dialogue on governance and financial mobilisation obstacles for water services. Participants left with a heightened understanding of the project's context, objectives and activities. The conference succeeded in identifying synergies and complementarity with other initiatives so as to avoid duplication of work and explore the eventual set up and role of a regional discussion interface between public and private actors on the governance-financing nexus.

NATIONAL NEWS

Tunisia and Jordan: first two countries to benefit from project activities

In the project's first year (2013-2014), national assessments were successfully completed in Jordan and Tunisia. These assessments have improved understanding of the structures and processes of policy-making in the water sector and how these challenge sustainable financing, including through private sector participation. A diagnostic analysis of the water sector was carried out by an OECD multi-disciplinary team of experts and incorporated a set of policy recommendations based on international best practices and country-specific action plans. The technical work developed in parallel with national multi-stakeholder policy dialogues was facilitated by GWP-Med and involved representatives from the water supply and sanitation sector and beyond (authorities, utilities, donors, civil society, the private sector, water users, etc.). The Dialogues were crucial for solidifying stakeholders' understanding and building ownership and consensus on the findings of the analytical work. The process evolved through a series of fact-finding missions and workshops, interviews and bilateral meetings, and was built on active input from the stakeholders via surveys and written feedback on draft technical documents.

Successful completion of water policy dialogue in Jordan, June 2014

The Jordanian Policy Dialogue commenced soon after the project launch at the High-level Regional Conference in May 2013, during which Jordan's Minister of Water and Irrigation (MWI) H.E. Hazim El-Naser complimented the project's timeliness with regards to his country's on-going reform process. He also restated the Ministry's commitment to work together with the project team for its successful implementation in Jordan.





The dialogue was carried out in close collaboration with Jordan's Ministry of Water and Irrigation. From 2013-2014 it engaged more than 150 stakeholders — over 30% of whom were women — and culminated with the report *Water Governance in Jordan: Overcoming the Challenges to Private Sector Participation*. As part of the dialogue, three national consultation workshops were held in Amman on 23 October 2013, 5 February 2014 and 4 June 2014 respectively. On the occasion of the workshops, separate back-to-back meetings were conducted with the donor community active in Jordan's water sector so as to ensure complementarity and seek sustainability.

The report was presented during the third workshop in the presence of the Secretary General of the Jordanian Ministry of Water and Irrigation H.E. Basem Telfah, as well as a wide range of stakeholders including representatives from authorities, utilities, donors, civil society and the private sector. The workshop participants agreed with the report's conclusions and recommendations and praised the multi-stakeholder policy dialogue process as a

useful coordination tool on water governance initiatives in Jordan.

In line with existing and planned policies and programmes, and in addition to a diagnostic analysis of the water sector, the report includes policy recommendations and an action plan. Moreover it feeds into a number of current high-level efforts, including the on-going national study on the success of public-private partnerships (PPPs) and the elaboration of the 10 Year National Framework, both of which are under the leadership of H.M. the King of Jordan.

The fragmented and in flux water sector has been identified as Jordan's main challenge due to the scattered responsibilities for water and private sector involvement across a number of institutions. Policy recommendations focus on reducing regulatory risk by developing a high-quality water regulatory framework and by managing private sector participation (PSP) in a fiscally constrained environment. Enhancing stakeholders' capacity is strongly recommended in order to secure political and social acceptability of PSP.

FULL ASSESMENT REPORT ON WATER GOVERNANCE IN JORDAN



Successful completion of water policy dialogue in Tunisia, June 2014

As a response to the official letter of support by the Tunisian Minister of Agriculture H.E. Mohamed Ben Salem, requesting Tunisia to be included in the project's focus countries, the Tunisian Policy Dialogue commenced soon after the project launch at the High-level Regional Conference in May 2013, and ran in parallel with the Jordanian Policy Dialogue.

From 2013–2014, the national Water Policy Dialogue engaged more than 160 Tunisian stakeholders — over 40% of whom were women — and concluded with the launch of the national report “*La gouvernance des services de l'eau en Tunisie: Surmonter les défis de la participation du secteur privé*”. As part of the dialogue, three multi-stakeholder national consultation workshops were held in Tunis on 1 October 2013, 5 March 2014 and 9 June 2014 respectively. On the occasion of the workshops, separate back-to-back meetings were conducted with the technical and financial partners active in Tunisia's water sector so as to ensure complementarity, avoid duplications and seek sustainability of findings.

The report is the outcome of the multi-stakeholder Policy Dialogue that was launched during the third policy workshop in the presence of multiple stakeholders such as Ministries of Agriculture, Equipment, Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development, Economy and Finance, as well as representatives from water companies, civil society, donors, universities and experts.



The report was developed through the project's technical work with results from the Policy Dialogue. It includes a diagnostic analysis of the key governance bottlenecks to private sector participation (PSP) in water supply and sanitation services, as well as concrete policy recommendations to overcome them. The participants welcomed the report's conclusions and recommendations and considered the findings representative of a broad consensus on the governance challenges faced in the Tunisian water sector and on the steps needed to deepen and sustain the current reform process.

FULL ASSESMENT REPORT ON WATER GOVERNANCE IN TUNISIA



In Tunisia the implementation of public-private partnerships (PPPs) requires a change in administrative culture as well as water supply and sanitation service modalities. The recommendations to overcome governance challenges include the identification of appropriate forms of private sector participation (PSP) and ways to improve financial sustainability in the water sector, while simultaneously improving transparency mechanisms by strengthening stakeholder engagement. The recommendations were considered timely as they can directly feed into on-going water reforms and initiatives led by national authorities and donors.

NEXT STEPS

During 2014-2015, the project's national component foresees the undertaking of National Policy Dialogues in another set of countries, with Palestine being among the immediate focus countries. As in the previous cases, the work will utilise the tested methodology of solid analytical work and informed multi-stakeholder dialogue processes.

At the regional level, the project's 1st Regional Conference will be held on 28-30 October 2014 in Athens, Greece, in close collaboration with the EU funded Sustainable Water Integrated Management - Support Mechanism (SWIM-SM) project.

The conference aims to reinforce the regional dialogue initiated at the UfM project launch in May 2013, as well as to share experiences on water governance and sustainable financing. In that respect, the conference will bring together targeted stakeholders from the Mediterranean region, both within and outside the water sector, including public authorities, civil society and the private sector.

The conference will build on the outcome of the Water Policy Dialogues conducted in Jordan and Tunisia during the project's first year (2013-2014) and will discuss the way forward for the second year. Moreover,

the conference will benefit from the relevant work conducted by SWIM-SM, and will also review synergies with other regional actors aiming to enhance sustainable financing of water infrastructure, including through private sector participation.

Ongoing work on this regional platform as a space for dialogue/reflection among policy-makers, private sector actors and civil society will continue aiming to concretise ways to progress towards governance reforms that will help achieve financial sustainability of the water sector, including mechanisms for mobilising financing outside the government apparatus.

Timeline

The project was formally launched during a Regional Conference that took place on 28-29 May 2013 in Barcelona, Spain, under the auspices of the Union for the Mediterranean. During its 3 years of implementation (mid 2013 - mid 2016) it will develop through an interplay of technical work at national level and annual regional conferences.



MORE INFORMATION:

GWP-Med: secretariat@gwpmmed.org
 OECD: water.governance@oecd.org
 UfM: water@ufmsecretariat.org