

Governance & Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector

Project labelled under the Union for the Mediterranean

Overview & Current Status of the project

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1st Regional Conference

organised in cooperation with the EU-funded SWIM-SM project

28-30 October 2014

Athens, Greece

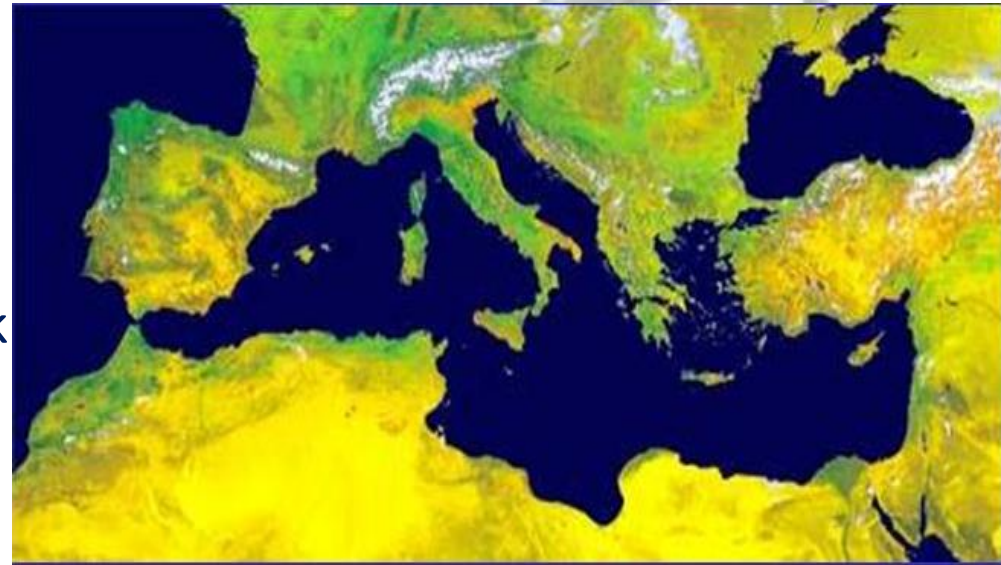


Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط



Snapshot of the project

- Regional geographical scope
- Timeline: mid 2013 - mid 2016
- Labelled under the UfM framework
- Designed & implemented by GWP-Med & OECD
- 2 components: national & regional
- Pilot Countries: Albania, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Morocco & Tunisia, with additional countries to be included
- Budget: approx. 2.5 million Euros
- Financially supported by Sida, EIB and GEF MedPartnership



Overall objective

Identify and provide realistic and implementable solutions (in the form of a set of operational guidance and a compendium of good/bad cases and best practices) to the governance challenges for the mobilisation of financing for the Mediterranean water sector

Specific objectives

The work will focus on two interlinked areas:

- ❑ Assess the opportunities and institutional and regulatory challenges arising from public-private partnerships in water infrastructure, *as a tool* in the hand of policy makers to advance the government objectives of managing water resources and financing services in an effective, sustainable and affordable manner.
- ❑ Stemming from the assessment, provide a diagnosis of the key governance and capacity building bottlenecks that impede the efficient use and mobilisation of much needed financing and of the mechanisms to overcome them. The work will seek to identify the main policy responses for managing cooperation across different governance levels, catalysing in-house government expertise and strengthening the institutional set-up that can underpin increased investment flows.

Components & outputs

A set of country reviews, developed through national consultations

- At country level, a questionnaire will be developed and used to identify the institutional and regulatory factors inhibiting the flows of financial resources and PPPs. The in-depth research based on the questionnaire will be complemented by multi-stakeholder policy dialogues and will pave the way for recommendations and an action plan for reforms, based on international best practices.

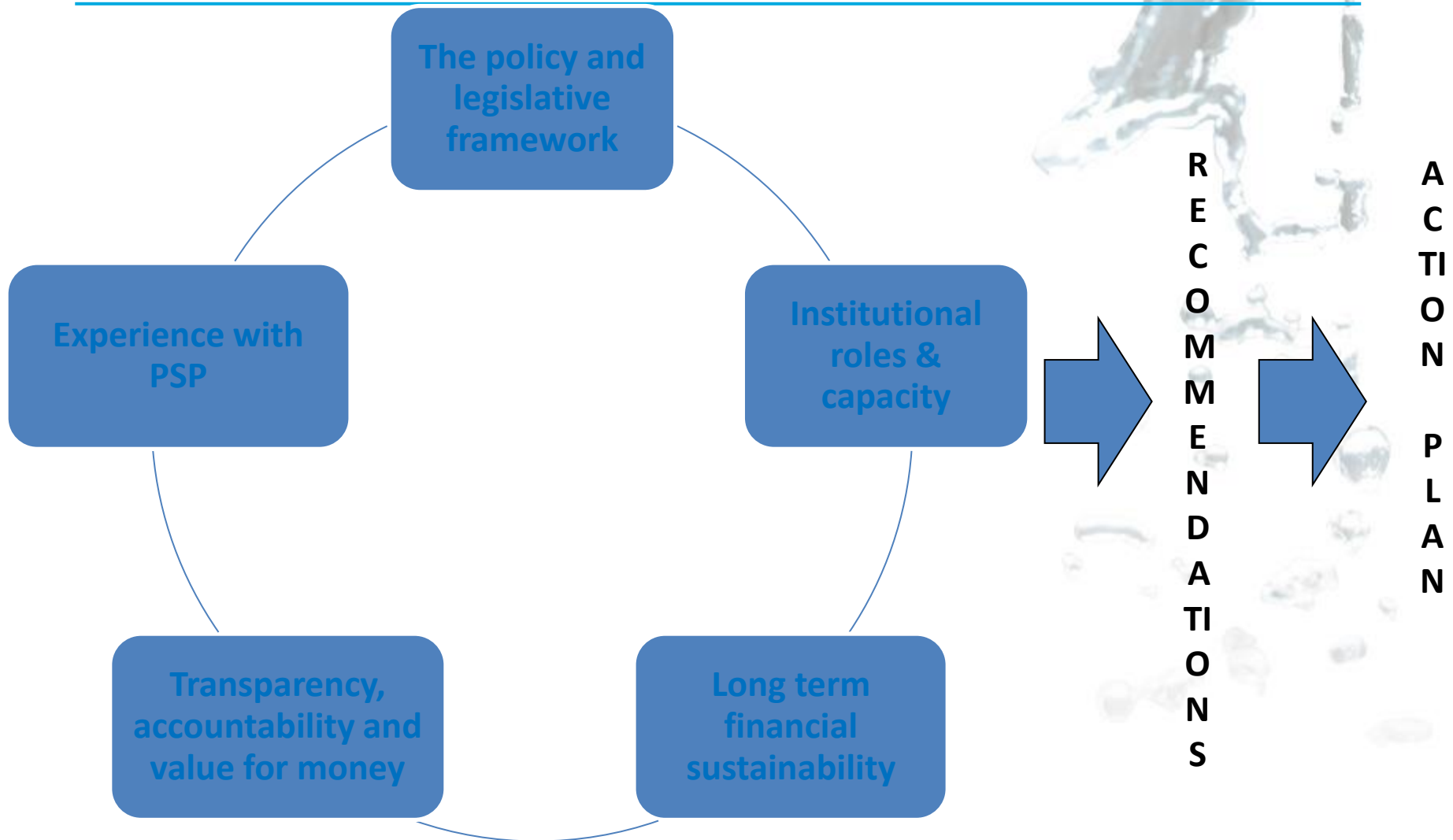
Regional dialogues to share experiences and promote the diffusion and replication of successful practices

- At regional level, the Project will support the exchange of policy experiences through regular meetings among Mediterranean and OECD countries and facilitate the interface between policy-makers and private sector actors on governance reforms that will help achieve financial sustainability in the water sector. The potential for setting up a regional platform for such interface will be explored.

National Component

- ❑ **In-Country Policy Dialogues** (of about 9-12 months) - specific focus defined in each country
- ❑ **Country-specific Reports** informing and be guided by the Policy Dialogues using tested methodologies and tools:
 - Diagnosis of the framework underpinning affordability and long term financial sustainability of PSP projects in the water sector
 - Customised guidance on how to overcome the bottlenecks & discussion of the various options for reform
 - Action plan on key areas of improvement, building on the experience in other sectors/countries, comparison with international best practices
- Questionnaire and interviews** with key players to support the collect information, inform the diagnosis and mobilise key stakeholders in the policy dialogue
- Series of policy workshops** organised by GWP-Med and the OECD in the countries to discuss the analytical reports
- Involvement of peer reviewers** to share experience on how similar bottlenecks have been or can be addressed
- Annual regional meetings** to share experiences

Pillars of the water policy dialogues



Regional Component

- ❑ **Annual Regional Meetings to:**
 - **exchange good practices and the sharing of experiences** in the region and with other countries (EU, overseas, OECD)
 - **identity common denominators, as well as replicable experiences and practices** using the compiled report of country case studies
 - **develop of a set of guidelines tailored to the region** based on the experiences detailed in country case studies
- ❑ **Facilitate a broad network of experts dedicated to water governance dialogue**, in line with OECD's Global Water Governance Initiative and the Med Process of the World Water Fora
- ❑ **Facilitate a regional interface/dialogue among public, private and other actors**

How to do it - Methodology

- Builds on **well received earlier work** by GWP-Med/OECD in Egypt and Lebanon
- Long tradition of **providing neutral platforms for building consensus & sharing good practices** among wide range of stakeholders through evidence-based policy dialogues
- Based on **tested methodologies and tools** to help countries **strengthen institutional capacity to attract financial resources & manage water resources and service delivery more efficiently**
- Allows direct interface between citizens, users, governments and the private sector, thus **enhancing ownership and securing active participation**

How to do it - Synergies

Based on ongoing work and linkages that the project partners have established in the Mediterranean region, operational linkages with EU and UN initiatives, processes and programmes have and can be secured, including, but not limited to, the:

- European Investment Bank (EIB)
- EU Water Initiative (EUWI) and particularly the Mediterranean Component (MED EUWI) and the Joint Process MED EUWI/WFD
- GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean
- EC-funded Sustainable Water Integrated Management (SWIM) Support Mechanism and Demo projects
- Horizon 2020 Initiative to de-pollute the Mediterranean
- UN Barcelona Convention & Protocols, MSSD, UNEP MAP, UNDP WGP-AS, UN ESCWA, etc
- UNECE International PPPs Centre on Water and Sanitation
- Marseille Centre for Mediterranean Integration (SustainableMed)

Progress & activities during the first year of implementation (2013-2014)

Official Launching of the Project

High level Regional Conference

Palau de Pedralbes
Barcelona, Spain
28-29 May 2013



Launching Conference

- More than 100 stakeholders
- From 22 countries
- Representing governments, public authorities, civil society, donor community, private sector, regional and international organisations



Endorsed by the 43 countries of the Union for the Mediterranean in July 2012, the *Governance & Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector* project is a joint undertaking of the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). It aims to diagnose key governance bottlenecks to mobilising financing through public private partnerships (PPP) for the Mediterranean water sector and to support the development of consensual action plans based on international good practices. It involves work at national and regional level over three years (mid 2013-mid 2016). Thus far, the work involves seven Mediterranean countries, namely Albania, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia with more countries to be engaged during the project's life. Important for launching the project's implementation has been the strategic partnership with the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) and the European Investment Bank (EIB), as well as the steady support already since 2009- of the GEF/ MAP UNEP MedPartnership and the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI).

The official launching of the *Governance & Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector* project took place on 23-29 May 2013 at the Palais de Pedralbes, Barcelona, Spain, under the auspices of the Union for the Mediterranean (UM) Secretariat.

The Regional Conference that marked this occasion brought together more than 100 participants from 22 countries across the Mediterranean, representing high-level officials from UfM member states, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as well as stakeholders from water utilities, water users, civil society, private sector, donor community, financial and academic institutions.

The Conference was opened by H.E. the Secretary General of the UfM, Fathallah Sijmasi, while a keynote speech on the issue of water governance in the context of the Arab Spring was delivered by the Minister of Water and Irrigation of Jordan, H.E. Hazim El-Naser, representing also the UfM Co-Presidency.

The relevance, added value and timeliness of the project for the region was highlighted in the opening session by the Minister of Water and Wastewater Utilities of Egypt, H.E. Abdelkawi Khalifa, the Minister and Head of the Palestinian Water Authority, H.E. Shaddad Attia and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, H.E. Ermina Salkicovic-Dizdarevic. These were complemented by short interventions delivered by the project's core partners and the two implementers. The ceremonial opening of the Conference was marked by the official delivery by H.E. Abdelkawi Khalifa of a support letter from Egypt to the project.

"The UfM-labelled project that we are launching today, aims to effectively address a clear demand for more efficient water service provision, wider participation of stakeholders, more decentralized planning and implementation processes and more transparent and accountable decision making"
Secretary General Sijmasi

Water Policy Dialogue in Jordan



- At the request of by **H.E. Hazim El-Naser**, Minister of Water and Irrigation
- Developed through an interplay of technical work and consultation workshops
- Involved 157 individuals (31% women) representing 57 different institutions/organisations



First Consultation – 23 Oct 2013
Second Consultation – 5 Feb 2014
Third Consultation – 4 June 2014

Water Policy Dialogue in Tunisia



First Consultation – 1 Oct 2013
Second Consultation – 5 Mar 2014
Third Consultation – 9 June 2014



- Requested by **H.E. Mohamed Ben Salem**,
- Minister of Agriculture
- Developed through an interplay of technical work and consultation workshops
- Involved 162 individuals (41% women) representing 65 different institutions/organisations

Communication & Visibility

- ❑ Involvement in a series of regional meeting
- ❑ Dedicated website – kindly hosted by GWPO
- ❑ Communication Strategy
- ❑ Production of communication material
 - ❑ Project Brief in 3 languages
 - ❑ Newsletter



Next steps 2014-2015

1st Regional Conference

In collaboration with the EU-funded SWIM-SM project

Athens, Greece

28-30 October 2014

Water Policy Dialogue in Palestine

At the request of the former Minister of Water/Head of PWA, HE Shaddad Attili

Mission and First Consultation Workshop in second week of November 2014

Work to be completed by end of June 2015

Water Policy Dialogue in one or two more countries

2nd Regional Conference, planned for October 2015

مع خالص شكري
وامتناني

*Merci pour
votre attention*

*Thank you
for your kind attention*

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