

Improving Water Governance and Financing in the Mediterranean region: project launching by UfM, GWP-Med and OECD

- The Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) will host the Regional Launching Conference of the *Governance & Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector* project on 28-29 May, 2013 at the Palace of Pedralbes, in Barcelona.
- The *Governance & Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector* project aims to deliver a set of country analysis and a regional action plan to improve the public governance and attract investments to the water sector in six Mediterranean countries.

The Regional Launching Conference will be opened by the Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean, Fathallah Sijilmassi, welcoming Ministers of Water from Egypt, Jordan, Mauritania and Palestine, as well as High-Level Officials from other UfM Member states and representatives from financial institutions, private sector, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions.

Endorsed by the 43 countries of the Union for the Mediterranean, 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). Given the well acknowledged scarcity of water resources in the Mediterranean (the region is currently lagging behind by 38% to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of bringing safe water to all), the impacts from population growth, climate change, and increasing urbanisation are expected to add substantially to an already challenging situation. While countries aim for wider provision of water services, covering larger segments of their populations, significant investments are needed as well as sound policies, capable institutions and good water management.

The project involves work at national and regional levels over three years (2013-2015) with the aim to deliver a set of country analysis, national recommendations and a regional action plan to improve governance, facilitate financing and attract investments towards the Mediterranean Water Sector, including through private public partnerships (PPPs).

In order to foster multi-stakeholder policy dialogues, share experiences and promote the diffusion and replication of international successful practices, the project will make use of numerous networks, committees and synergies facilitated by the promoters, and will benefit different levels of government and public authorities, private partners, and water users in **Albania, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia**.

Strategic partnerships with the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), the European Investment Bank (EIB), the GEF/ MAP UNEP Med Partnership programme and the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI) have been instrumental in setting the project in motion. [More information on the project is available here](#).

The opening session is open to the media and will be followed by press statements and a cocktail.

Day: 28 May 2013

Time: 16: 00h Opening Session

18:30h Press Statements + Cocktail

Place: Palace of Pedralbes, C/Pere Duran Farell - Side entrance to the park (grey door)

Accreditations

To confirm assistance and accreditation, kindly send an email to communication@ufmsecretariat.org with the following information: name, surname, media, ID and position, as well as the number plate of

the vehicle (vehicles entrance limited to mobile units). Please, confirm your accreditation not later than Monday 27 May at 16:00.

Media

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