

'Improving water governance for achieving financial sustainability in the Mediterranean'

Tuesday, 25 August 2015 - 11:00-12:30 | Venue: Music Hall at City Conference Centre, Stockholm

Background

Efforts to implement the human right to water and access to sanitation in line with the Post-2015 Development Agenda are underway in the Mediterranean. Nevertheless, the massive financial gap for the sector to meet the SDG-related needs of developing countries puts the water governance in the spotlight, as good governance is interlinked to sustainable financing, creating the enabling environment for much-needed investments.

The event-closely related to this year's thematic scope 'Water for Development' - focuses on the needed pro-poor, inclusive and gender-sensitive action to be taken for better governance and on the impact that this will have on the financial sustainability of the water sector leading to sustainable development. Examples of good governance and best practices will be shared together with lessons learnt from the Region and beyond. The UfM labelled project 'Governance & Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector' will present the core findings from its technical work conducted in Jordan, Tunisia and Palestine on the governance & financing nexus as well as at Mediterranean level.

The seminar is organised within the framework of the 'Governance & Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector' project, which is implemented by GWP-Med and the OECD, and is financially supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

Aim & objectives of the workshop

The event focuses on the needed pro-poor, inclusive and gender-sensitive action to be taken for better governance and on the positive impact that this will have on the financial sustainability of the water sector leading to access to water and sanitation for all and sustainable development. The workshop will provide an opportunity to discuss challenges, opportunities and good practices in promoting good governance and sustainable financing of the water sector, across the Mediterranean, with emphasis in the MENA. Its main objectives include:

- Present best practices and lessons learnt, good examples as well as failures;
- Share experience on recent developments on the governance and financing nexus (national/regional level);
- Recommend approaches for strengthening policies/good governance practices;
- Discuss the role of CS in water governance;
- Highlight the governance enabling environment needed for private sector's involvement and inclusive, pro-poor sustainable development;
- Explore synergies, strengthen cooperation and enhance partnerships among countries/stakeholders to address common challenges;
- Discuss policy messages and ways forward.

Expected outcomes

- Common understanding on the ways governance and financing are linked and the impact that has one to the other;
- Enhanced knowledge of the decision-makers to promote improved water governance including integrity, transparency and accountability in the sector;
- Identified opportunities for policy responses and implementation of best practices
- Identified instruments for improved governance at local/national/regional level;
- Informed policy/decision makers on the actions needed and practical tools for successful implementation.

Methodology

The methodology comprises a mix of short interventions, mainly from countries representatives sharing their country's experience, followed by inclusive panel discussions.

Target audience

The event will be interactive, consisting of panel discussions across a wide range of stakeholders from the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. The target audience includes representatives from governments and relevant authorities; donors and IFIs; public and private service providers; NGOs and international organisations; Academia and research institutions; independent experts.

DRAFT Agenda

Introducing the Mediterranean water sector: Framing the challenges & opportunities

(11:00-11:15)

- Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean (GWP-Med)
- Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

Good governance and sustainable financing: Detached or... entwined?

(11:15-11:45)

'Governance & Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector': The first regional project to address the governance and financing nexus

GWP-Med & OECD

Achieving better water governance for sustainable financing through pro-poor, inclusive and gender-sensitive action

Case studies from selected Southern Mediterranean countries

Q&A

Facilitated Panel Discussion on the governance and financing nexus

(11:45-12:30)

Issues for reflection

Good governance practices: Strengthening policies for water governance; putting in place principles & tools for successful implementation

Water integrity as key element of good governance: Ensuring the sustainability of the water sector

Decoding good governance into financial terms: How good governance contributes to financial sustainability? Bridging the financial gap of the sector to meet the SDG-related needs

Sharing responsibilities: Role of key stakeholders (donors, countries, private sector, Civil Society); accountability and responsiveness and the role of Civil Society groups, financial sustainability and the role of private sector

Key messages & Wrap up (5 minutes)