



Third e-Newsletter
November 2020

Towards Sustainable Treatment and Reuse of Wastewater in the Mediterranean Region

Sharing achievements and outcomes of First Series of Stakeholder Workshops organized on the theme “Changing the Paradigm on Wastewater Reuse

Reporting by Anna Spiteri and Dirk De Ketelaere from IRMCo, Malta

In our third e-Newsletter we take pride to share some the truly amazing outcomes of the First Series of Stakeholder events which took place in Lebanon, Spain and Tunisia. Each of these events adopted the above theme and also the same structure of 3 sets of presentations interspersed by roundtables and a brainstorming session to conclude. We deemed it appropriate to give awards to each of the organizing teams.

Award for widest media coverage

Our award for this first category goes to the team of the Lebanese University (UL). In the run up to the event, which took place on 25 July 2020, Dr. Ahmad ElMoll and Dr. Mohamad Kahlil took the initiative to meet up with Dr. Riad Yamak, Mayor of the municipality of Tripoli as well as with Dr. Khaled Obeid, Director of the North Lebanon Water Establishment (NLWE). Their kind acceptance to join the event surely contributed to the [wide coverage of the event by the Lebanese media](#). Eminent participants also included



representatives from the Union of Municipalities of Jerd Al-Qayta and mayors of other municipalities in the North Governorate of Lebanon. The voice of the local community was brought also through the representation of the Azm & Saade Association, which supports humanitarian, developmental, educational, and social initiatives that serve local communities. Soon after the event, the Lebanese University signed a cooperation agreement with the Real Estate Company for the Development of Tripoli North - SANABEL. This agreement paves the way for the construction of a pilot plant on 500 m² of land owned by SANABEL of the eco-innovative APOC system brought by AQUACYCLE. The teams of CERTE and CITET in Tunisia came in a close second in this first category for their interviews on the radio stations RTCI ([in French](#)) and RTC ([in Arabic](#)).

Partners



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Award for best video clip

The teams in Lebanon and Tunisia both produced a short clip bringing the greetings from the participants who joined the event. Our award in this category goes to the additional clip that was produced by the Tunisia teams. [The clip](#) features interviews in Arabic with Ms Khitem Mensi, AQUACYCLE's project manager at CITET (*pictured on right*) and teamleaders, Dr. Hamadi Kallali and Mr. Fadhel M'Hiri, at respectively CERTE and CITET. Also featured in the clip are the popular and expertly maintained thematic gardens of the Ecological Group for Sustainable Development ([Groupement de Développement Agricole](#)), GDA Sidi Amor, where the event took place on 22 September 2020.



Award for largest audience

The Lebanese University was first to reach the target set at 25 participants. The teams in Tunisia responded by attracting representatives from no less than 5 ministries and 6 entities involved with the use of non-conventional water resources, who joined a total of 28 participants.



Regrettably unable to organize the workshop as a physical event, the Spanish teams, PSA-CIEMAT and ESAMUR set about to organize the event in the form of a webinar. In just a couple of days following its announcement, registrations exceeded 100! The webinar on 8 October 2020 was joined by no less than 70 participants. Congratulations are due to Dr. Isabel Oller-Alberola (*pictured left*) and Pedro Simon Andreu, for this remarkable achievement.

The presentations by invited experts on each of the 3 components (anaerobic digester, constructed wetland and solar raceway pond reactor) undoubtedly accounted for the large number of wastewater treatment plant operators as well as of scientific researchers in Spain who joined the webinar.

Together we are stronger!

A special thanks is due to the representatives of the [NAWAMED](#) project for accepting to join the workshops in both Tunisia and Lebanon. Also the [MEDISS](#) and [MENAWARA](#) projects accepted to join the events in Tunisia and Spain, respectively.

We very much look forward to maintaining active synergies with **AQUACYCLE's** 'sister projects which are funded under the **"Water Efficiency"** Priority of the **ENI CBC Med Programme**.

Associate Partners



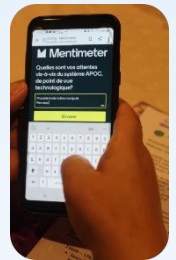
Outcomes of First Series of Stakeholder Events

By and large, the feedback from participants in each of the events reinforced the outcomes of a **Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats** - in short **SWOT** - analysis of the local governance framework on wastewater treatment and reuse conducted by the **AQUACYCLE** Partnership. In Lebanon, participants expressed their agreement that the poor sanitation situation calls for a **new vision**, while in Tunisia a **new strategy** should address the currently still limited reuse of treated wastewater in agriculture. As the Murcia Region in Spain is on target to achieve full compliance with the EU Water and Urban Wastewater Directives, this brings the opportunity to now **go beyond what has been achieved**.



Click here to watch our clips on the outcomes of the SWOT analysis (in English, French and Spanish) on **AQUACYCLE's YouTube channel**

Participants' expectations of the eco-innovative APOC wastewater treatment technology were the object of a second roundtable. The menti software (*pictured right*) came in most useful to capture the feedback in a very fast and online manner. Not surprisingly, the ease-of-operation and maintenance and the expected low cost of the treatment system came out as the most anticipated features of the novel treatment system. The APOC treatment system is expected to be showcased in the form of pilot demonstration units in Lebanon, Spain and Tunisia (*see planned locations below*). Each of these units are being designed to treat a minimum of 5 m³ of wastewater per day.



The final session of the events was devoted to presenting the initial design features of an online decision support tool. The tool will guide the drawing of optimum treated wastewater reuse action plans. Brainstorming encouraged participants to suggest additional design features and to inform about sources for the digital information layers, such as topography, land use and more, as will be required to build up a robust and reliable decision support tool.



Already planning for the Second Series of Stakeholder Workshops!

The AQUACYCLE Partnership wishes you all a healthy and productive year ahead. We very much look forward to keep you informed on our forthcoming events in 2021!

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