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LIFE Platform meeting FOCUS ON WATER RESILIENCE STRATEGY

LIFE Strategic Integrated Projects implementing River
Basin Management Plans practices

Day 1.

Workshop B

QUANTITATIVE WATER MANAGEMENT

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Brussels

This meeting is
organised by



Project title: LIFE 16 IPE MT008 – Optimising the implementation of the River Basin Management Plan

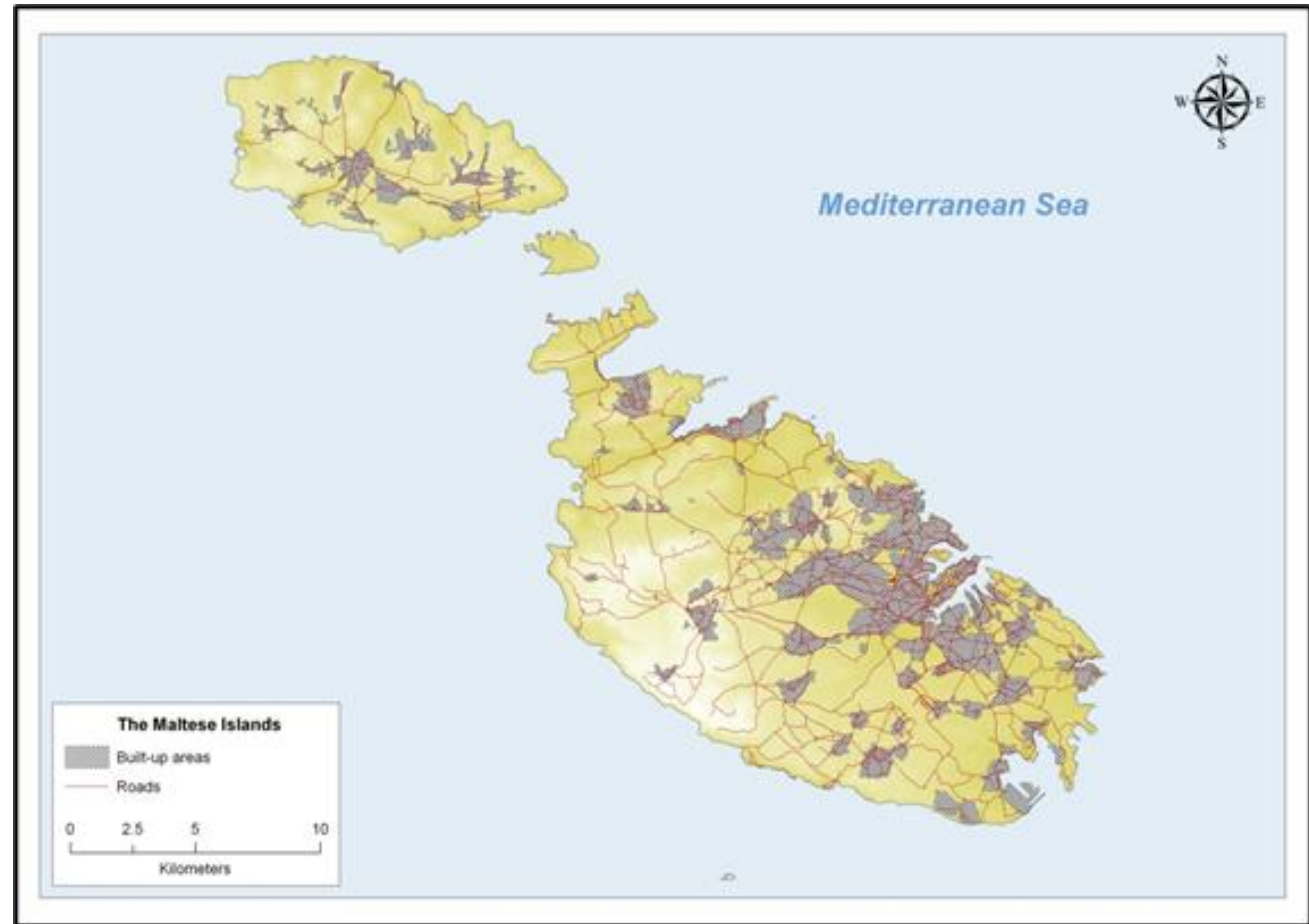


RBMP targeted: 2nd and 3rd RBMPs

Beneficiary/ies: EWA is the coordinating beneficiary supported by 7 other associated beneficiaries.

Total Budget: €17,000,000

Start and end dates: 2018 till 2026





General Project Overview

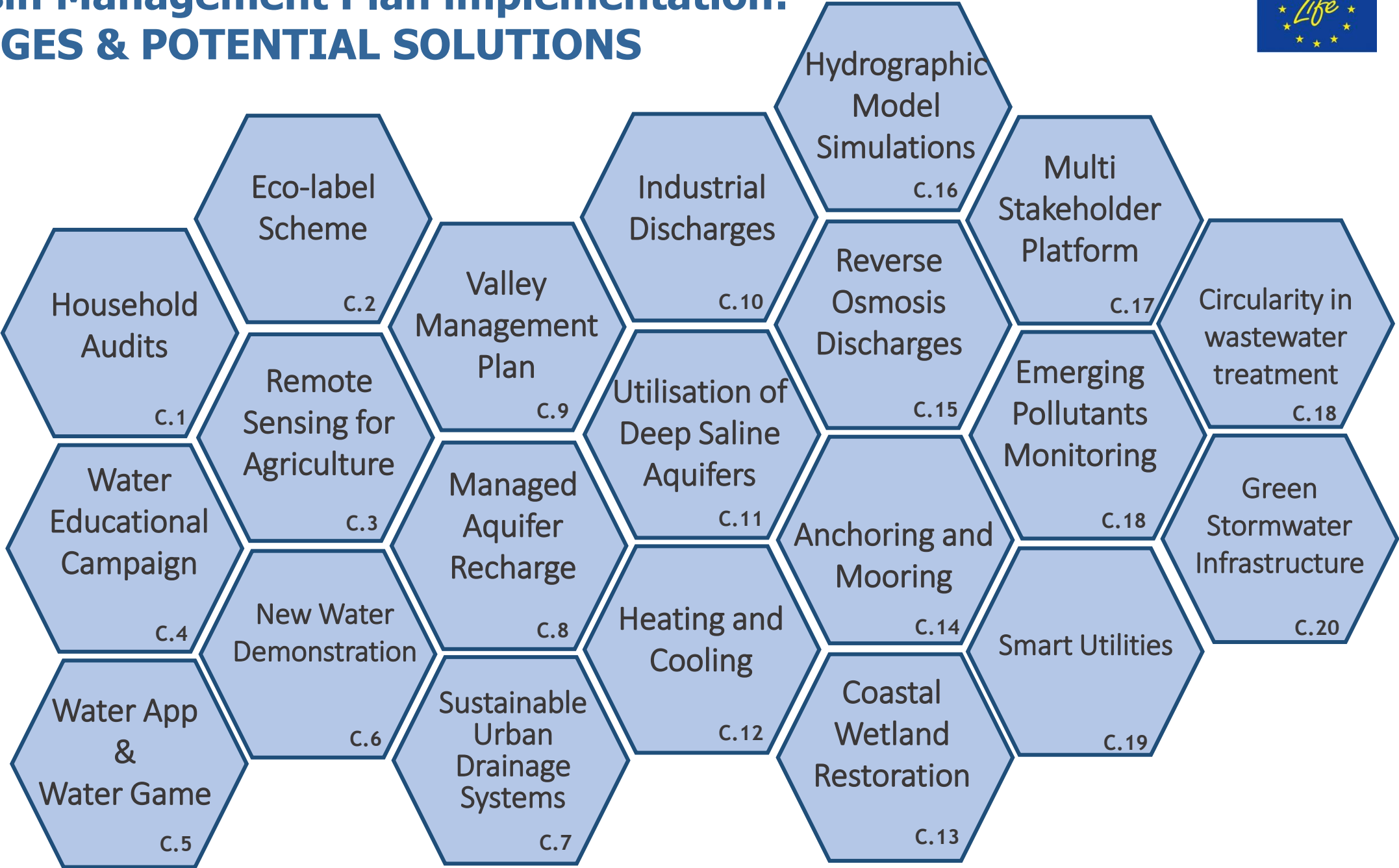
- The objectives of the project is to support the implementation of the 2nd RBMP and the formulation and implementation of the 3rd RBMP.
- The main expected impact/result of the project is to **facilitate the uptake** and implementation of measures in these cycles of implementation of the RBMP's by providing **funding, information** (to reduce uncertainty) improve the **governance** of our water resources and **increase awareness** on the water situation in Malta with the general public.



River Basin Management Plan implementation: CHALLENGES & POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

- EWA, together with Environment and Resources Authority (ERA), is the competent authority for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive in Malta.
- Both EWA (coordinating beneficiary) and ERA (associated beneficiary) are beneficiaries responsible for a number of actions within this LIFE Integrated Project.
- Addressing specific social, environmental and economic issues associated with a highly populated Mediterranean small island state:
 - Water scarcity and extreme events (including both drought and flood events)
 - High population density and the associated water demand
 - Saline intrusion in our groundwater
 - Contamination of inland and surface waters
 - Pressures on our Coastal Waters

River Basin Management Plan implementation: CHALLENGES & POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS





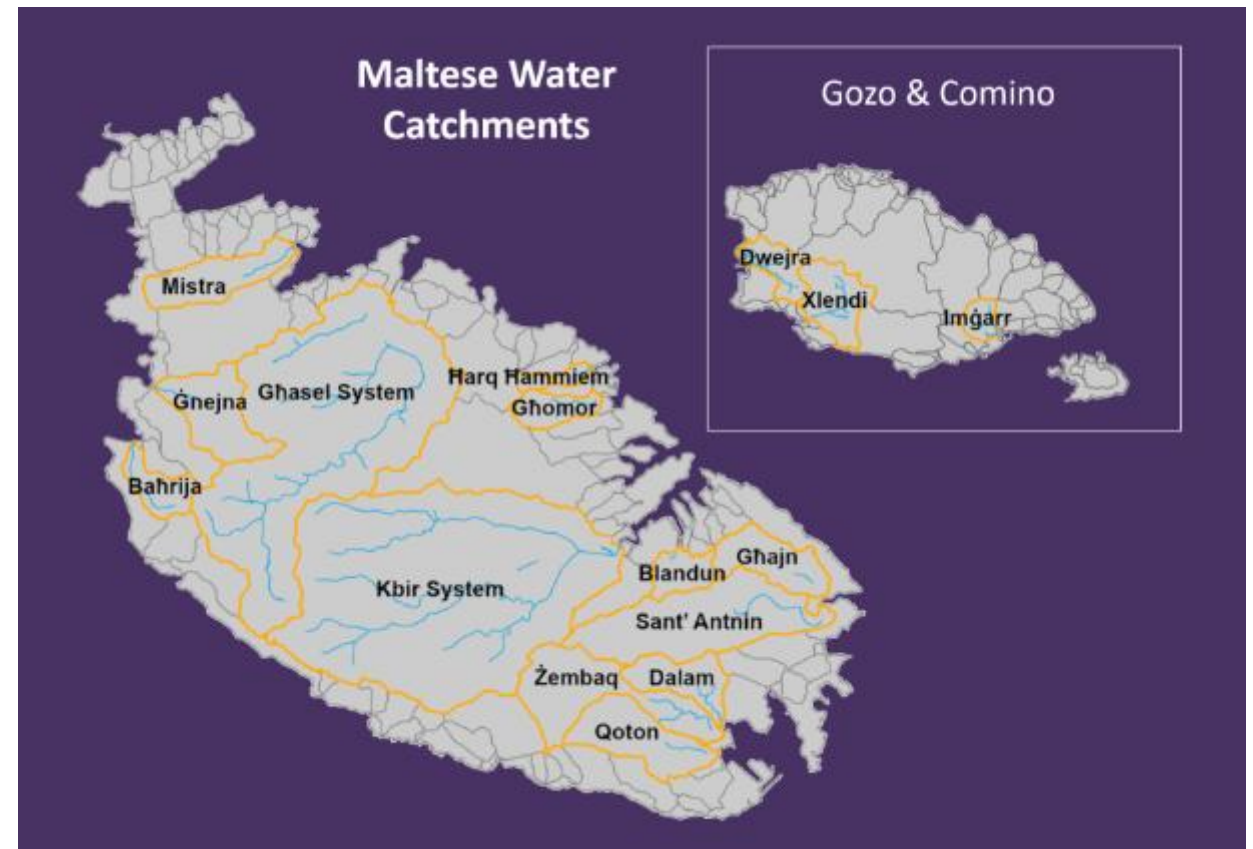
Examples of the project's contribution to the RBMP - Actions focusing on Managing User Demand -

- Objective of Action C.4 is to instil sensitivity towards Malta's water challenges in tomorrow's citizens.
- Through the educational activities carried out at Għajn (The National Water Conservation Awareness Centre) and through the funding of water management projects in schools, student are being involved in water management challenges being faced by their school and therefore become more sensitive to using our waters more efficiently.
- Public, church and independent schools have participated in this initiative.
- Key results of this action include:
 - Total no. of educational school projects: **60**
 - Total no. of Students during educational visits (till June 2025): **8899**
 - Total no. of students including SkolaSajf and Open Weekend (till September 2025): **14149**

Examples of the project's contribution to the RBMP

- Actions focusing on Water Retention and Storage -

- One of the preparatory measures of this project focused on the development of a long-term vision for the protection, conservation and rehabilitation of Malta's valleys (also included as a measure in the 2nd RBMP).



Examples of the project's contribution to the RBMP - Actions focusing on Water Retention and Storage -

- These masterplans guided the subsequent valley rehabilitation works, carried out as part of Concrete Actions, including the works done at Wied il-Ghajj
- Activities at this site are being led Project Green.
- Valley rehabilitation works at this site increase water retention and also alleviate urban flooding problems further downstream.



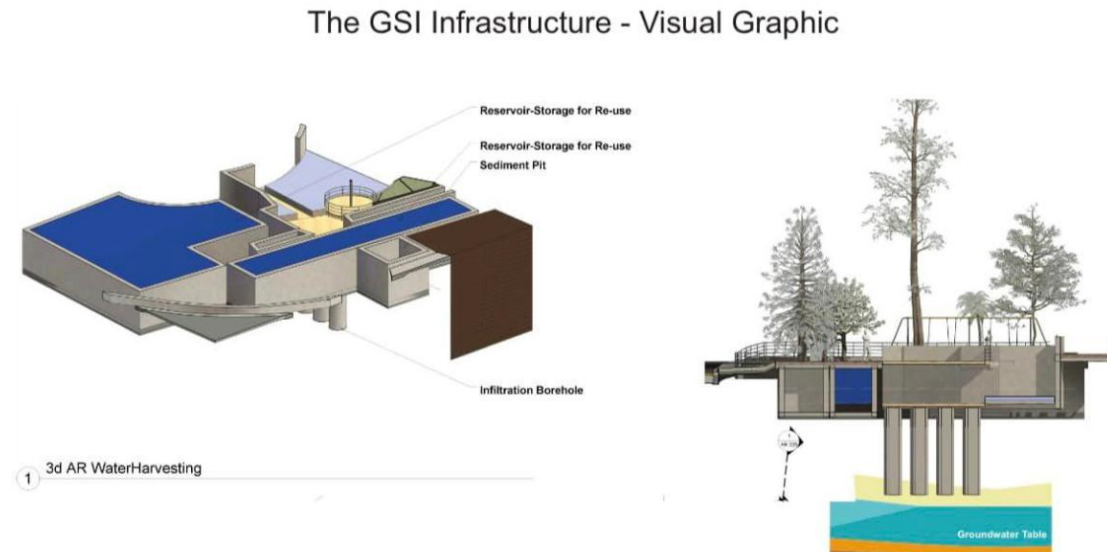


Examples of the project's contribution to the RBMP

- Actions focusing Sustainable Urban Draining Systems -

- One of the project's preparatory actions focused on the development of a strategic framework for green stormwater infrastructure across the Maltese islands.
- Subsequently 3 pilot projects were commenced by the Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital project in collaboration with other government entities (both national and local entities).

Examples of the project's contribution to the RBMP - Actions focusing Sustainable Urban Draining Systems -



- Project interventions being carried out at the Ghajnsielem local council in Gozo.



Examples of the project's contribution to the RBMP

- Actions focusing on the improved management of rainwater and sewage systems -

- One of the project's actions focuses on the better management of our sewage, with particular focus on industrial discharges.
- Through this action the national water (Water Services Corporation) carried out sampling along the sewer network to identify and characterise hot spots.
- The water utility subsequently carried out a campaign to inform users on the need for compliance with the Discharge Control Regulations.

Examples of the project's contribution to the RBMP

- Actions focusing on the improved management of rainwater and sewage systems -

- The water utility also campaigned with developers and civil engineers on the importance of correctly managing rainwater within the premises, particularly for new buildings.





Examples of the project's contribution to the RBMP

- Actions focusing on drought and flood mitigation

- One of the project's concrete actions focuses on the demonstration of new water (recycled water) as a valuable alternative water resource
- A demonstration centre has been setup in the experimental farm in Gozo to assess the different crop performance cultivated with different water typologies (groundwater, harvested rainwater and new water).
- This action is being implemented by the Ministry for Gozo in collaboration with the Division for Rural Sciences and Food Systems at the University of Malta with the objective of engaging with the agricultural community on the viability of alternative water resources.



Impact of the LIFE IP on the RBMP and beyond

- The implementation of the project's preparatory and concrete actions led to the development of deliverables which will be utilised as reference material or guidelines for future work in Malta's water sector beyond the lifetime of the project.
- Whilst a direct contribution to the improvement of the status of groundwater, surface and coastal water bodies is not expected within the project's lifetime, also as a result of the slow response times of the natural systems, the project is providing valuable information to steer future work towards the achievement of the environmental objectives of the WFD.



Impact of the LIFE IP on the RBMP and beyond

- The additional funding which was made available as part of the LIFE IP allowed for innovative approaches to be piloted to guide future policy development and management decisions.
- The LIFE IP and its varied actions has also managed to converge and get the various entities involved in Malta's water sector to work together and better streamline their different operations.



Thank you for your attention

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