

SESSION 4 : THE THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS IN THE FIELD OF WASTE SECTOR

WORKING PAPER

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Background:

It is clear that one of the objectives of the SWEEP-NET is to develop a regional platform for the exchange of experiences and good practices in the MENA region. Many instruments could be implemented with this regard particularly, thematic studies, organization of seminars, training workshops and field visits.

These tools are very important for the exchange of experiences, but all these actions are not sufficient when proactive participation is not fully acquired and as actors are often receiving information and not sharing it.

The implementation and support to setup thematic working groups for the exchange of experiences and expertise could contribute effectively to the development of a platform for the exchange of experiences and expertise while involving all relevant actors together and thus contribute to attaining the objectives planned by the SWEEP-NET.

Implementation process:

- Working groups are intended, on one hand, to ensure suitable conditions for the exchange of information and expertise between participating countries and on the other hand support the debate on the principles of the practice of technology in order to attenuate and preferably inhibit, harmful effects of solid waste which continues to grow as the population increases and the level of life style and consumption is improving along with the deployment of the industry.
- In addition, the regional working groups have an essential role in achieving the target goals of the regional exchange of information and expertise network in the solid waste sector. In fact, they are considered adequate to discuss and evaluate the expertise acquired in some countries and thus implement an operational exchange plan with other countries and follow up of the results.
- In order to achieve its objectives, the working groups shall be constituted by scientific basis and the most skilled and experienced members must be selected.
- Similarly, the duration and working plan as well as topics developed in the working groups might be treated and discussed in close consultation with the Steering Committee of the SWEEP-NET network as required by the network Secretariat.

Role of the working groups:

- In each country, working groups are implemented to expose and submit thematic work and experiences of good practices that could be shared across the region. Each theme would be studied and shared before with the Steering Committee of the network following the recommendations of its secretariat. It should respond to regional needs to solve issues related to waste management and the capacity of the countries to be able to submit appropriate solutions.
- The success of the working groups is directly related to the execution of decisions taken in the steering committee, the support and the assistance provided by the secretariat at their meetings, the response to their needs, but also assess and implement the recommendations and suggestions made at their meetings that the Steering Committee will take into consideration for its operational decisions.
- In addition to the establishment of regional working groups, it is strongly recommended to have national working groups which will have the task to expose the real problem to the regional working groups.
- These national working groups could evaluate projects implemented in the field of technologies practices at the national level, as well as supervising achieved results and of the regional working groups. Thus these national groups are an effective and consistent tool with the regional network.
- Several factors are the outcome of the expected results of the working groups, such as: good selection of candidate group members, selected themes and their assessment as well as the ability of other countries to take advantage of best practices.
- These working groups will actually provide an effective and efficient expertise among countries of the region as well as a permanent and global evaluation of success recorded in some countries. Thus, they will contribute to make more valuable their activities at national level.
- All these points are important in achieving the objectives of the regional Exchange of information and expertise network in the countries of the region and helps to reduce the harmful effect of waste.

Objectives of the session:

- Discuss the concept of development of thematic working groups in the waste management sector ;
- Identify and validate priority themes of the working groups;
- Propose an operational process for the development of working groups.