

**SESSION 5 : INSTITUTIONAL CONSOLIDATION AND SUSTAINABILITY OF SWEEP-NET**

**Working paper**

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**Background:**

- The increasing quantities of waste and its negative impact on the environment, water quality and health are a growing problem in the Mashreq and Maghreb countries. Due to the complexity of the issue, different actors from the public and private sector in the Maghreb and Mashreq are looking for technical, financial and organisational solutions, particularly for the solid waste management in cities, but also in industry, agriculture or medical facilities.
- By founding a regional network (SWEEP-Net) for relevant actors, the principles of a sustainable and integrated solid waste management shall be institutionally anchored in Maghreb and Mashreq countries and in all member countries of the network. The existing informal contacts of experts and decision makers with regard to solid waste management should be further developed into a functioning cooperation and network structure.

**The starting point:**

- In June 2008 representatives from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Territory, Syria, Mauritania, Yemen and Tunisia have signed a declaration expressing their interest in establishing a regional network for exchange of experience and expertise in the sector of solid waste management.
- In June 2009 the constituting meeting has been conducted together with representatives of the ten signing countries.
- In September 2009 the SWEEP-Net secretariat has been established and the network has commenced operation.
- However, the existing institutional set-up is still preliminary and the appropriate legal status needs to be identified in order to formally consolidate the network.
- For its starting phase the SWEEP-Net secretariat is technically and financially supported by the Federal Government of Germany through GTZ and the Tunisian Government through ANGED.

**Objective of the session:**

- A concept for the institutional and legal consolidation of SWEEP-Net has been presented, discussed and agreed-upon.
- Expected outputs:
- Options for the legal status have been discussed and preferences identified
- A roadmap for the development of a by-law has been developed
- A founding committee and its members has been identified

**Key questions on the way forward:**

- Experiences from international, regional and national environmental organizations such as ISWA, EWA, GWP, ACWUA and DWA may serve as basis for the discussion of the following key questions:
- Objectives of the network: How can SWEEP-Net facilitate the further development of the major regional challenges with regard to solid waste management and how can this be done?
- Membership for benefits: Which are the benefits and obligations of being a member of Sweep-net?
- Culture of sharing, giving and receiving: What kind of interaction, cooperation and service should be established between the National Network Nodes and the secretariat?
- Tremendous technical competence is within the National Network Nodes. How to promote the spirit of sharing knowledge and contributing to the objectives of the network and the regional benefits?
- A network links people and organizations: Who are the actors of the network, which are their roles and what communication flows and channels are viable for Sweep-Net?
- A network needs mandates: Which mandates can Sweep-Net bodies fulfill for the national Waste sectors and their National Network nodes?
- The stand alone criteria for Sweep-Net in the region: Is SWEEP-Net occupying a niche or are there any overlappings of roles and functions with other existing institutions?
- Networks autonomy requires financial sustainability: What income and contributions can be taken in account on mid term for Sweep-Net Services?
- A network is a living organism: How to maintain Sweep-Net's flexibility towards the changing requirements and demands?
- Focus on existing networks: Which lessons can be learned from other existing networks in the region?

**The Founding Process:**

- Whereas the specific national and regional needs, expected benefits are discussed in the plenary, the participants will install a Sweep-Net Founding Committee with the task to follow-up the above mentioned key questions and to develop a sustainable and fitting organizational and communication model for Sweep-Net. This includes an organizational chart, a constitution paper, recommendations for a legal status and the start-up business planning.
- Therefore even the Founding Committees composition should reflect national as well as operational criteria. The committee will have support for its work coming from the Sweep-Net Secretariat and an Advisors Team (organization / communication / legal aspects).
- The Founding Committee is mandated to prepare a Sweep-Net Founding Conference scheduled within one year. Sweep-Net Secretariat can start its services formally recognized by a founding decision of its partner institutions.