



The Ashkelon Foundation, Israel



The W-SMART Association, Paris

Waste as Assets for susTainable Eco-Resources & Metropolitan Economic Development
The "WATER-MED" Partnership
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), November 22, 2019

The Ashkelon Foundation was established in 1989 as a non-profit organization to provide an equitable solution for the urban development needs of the City of Ashkelon in the areas of community and social services, education, culture and healthcare. It is registered in Israel (ILL – 580158533) as a non-profit organization and is located at Herzl Street 1254/123, Ashkelon, Israel.

The **W-SMART Association** was created at the aftermath of 9/11 under the leadership of the Commissioner of New York City Department of Environmental Protection. Since 2005 it is registered in France as a non-profit Association (legislation 1901) and involves private and public metropolitan water and wastewater utilities. Its goal is to create an international experience-sharing forum and promote collaboration among the member-utilities for upgrading their capabilities to ensure sustainable water safety and security with regard to terrorism, industrial and natural disasters.

Facing the challenges of climate change impact on the regional eco-resources and the growing water stress the two parties have mutually agreed on leveraging their expertise and resources to jointly establish a climate impact response partnership on **Waste as Assets for susTainable Eco-Resources & Metropolitan Economic Development (WATER-MED)** hereby named The WATER-MED Partnership. This MOU outlines the mission, terms of reference and scope of partnership as agreed between the two parties.

Mission - The WATER-MED Partnership is jointly established by the parties in order to leverage the local governance experience of the Ashkelon Foundation in sustainable urban economic development and the international experience of water and wastewater management utilities, which are members of the W-SMART Association, in order to promote global and local stakeholders' partnerships for:

1. Public and Private investments in innovative solutions and new technologies for turning waste into resources for sustainable ecosystems and metropolitan economic development;
2. Research, development, demonstration and early deployment support for integration of smart monitoring and control systems in wastewater treatment facilities to upgrade their energy use, performance and quality control for water reuse applications and energy recovery;
3. Creating a worldwide Educational Center for local governments, urban utilities the financial sector, consumers and other stakeholders with an Intelligence based Waste Water Treatment Process (I-WWTP) demonstration site and learning center, for turning WWTP into a self-sustained profit making venture, offering sustainable water resources for agriculture and industry, and renewable energy resources;
4. Promoting the development and demonstration of innovative solutions and smart control systems for minimizing GHG emission of the treatment process, facilitating and accelerating energy efficient treatment for compliance with industrial waste disposal regulations and turning organic waste into competitive products for industry and agricultural market demand;
5. Engaging government-operator-consumer dialogue on global and local scales on the critical issues and emerging regulations on safe and secure water reuse for agricultural applications;
6. Supporting consumers awareness initiatives and public education in all levels, including schools, universities and community at large, for safely turning waste into assets for sustainable ecosystems and urban economic development in water stress regions.

Governance – The WATER-MED Partnership is a non-profit organization, administratively operated in Israel by the Ashkelon Foundation, which is registered in Israel (ILL – 580158533) as a non-profit organization and is located at Herzl Street 1254/123, Ashkelon, Israel.

The two parties share the intent of registering the WATER-MED partnership as a non-profit organization in Israel in accordance with the principles and terms of reference of this MOU.



The Ashkelon Foundation, Israel



The W-SMART Association, Paris

The Board of Governors of The WATER-MED Partnership, nominated for a renewable 5 year period, is chaired by the President, who is appointed by the Chair of the Ashkelon Foundation, and consists of three additional officers, including: an officer appointed by the Chair of the Foundation to serve as a Treasurer and two officers representing the W-SMART Association, who are appointed by the President of the W-SMART Association to serve as Vice President and Secretary General. The CEO of the W-SMART Association serves as the CEO of the WATER-MED Partnership and assumes the overall responsibility for program development and management.

For the first 5-year period of the WATER-MED Partnership, the Chair of the Ashkelon Foundation hereby appoints Dr. Benny Vaknin, Former Mayor of the City of Ashkelon, to serve as the President of the WATER-MED Partnership. Prof. Ilan Juran, CEO of the W-SMART Association, hereby accepts to serve as the CEO of the WATER-MED partnership.

Duration of the Agreement - This agreement is established for a renewable 5-year period, which is renewable upon the mutual agreement of the two parties.

Programs, Scope & Resources - The programs of The WATER-MED Partnership will be jointly developed with the leadership of the President and the CEO to accomplish the mission of the organization. These programs will include and specify objectives, scope, budget and resources required for their accomplishment. The programs development will efficiently leverage the expertise of the two parties and it is mutually agreed that projects and/or programs financing will be entirely supported by external sponsorships without encumbering the existing resources of the two parties. The CEO will present the Yearly Progress Status of Programs, Plan of Activities and Financial Status of The WATER-MED Partnership to the Board of Governors at its yearly BoG meeting.

Indirect Costs (OH) authorized by sponsors or mutually agreed between the parties, which are charged to external sources for such projects, will be entirely dedicated to cover administrative and technical management costs as well as for exploring opportunities and program development for potential projects that will expand the scope of activities to meet the common goals of the WATER-MED partnership. These Indirect Costs will be equally shared between the parties.

The objectives, scope and terms of reference for each project will be jointly agreed upon by the two parties and will be documented in a separate appendix for this MOU.

At this stage, the two parties hereby jointly agree to mandate The WATER-MED Partnership with the delegated responsibility for development and management of the Israeli R&D Team for the SMART WATER Project, which was submitted to the joint US-DOE – BIRD Foundation on September 23, 2019, with the collaboration of MEKOROT, Hof HaCarmel and MEI-Ashkelon Corporations, in accordance with the project proposal attached as Appendix 1. For the purpose of this project The WATER-MED Partnership will be administratively operated by the Ashkelon Foundation,

Conflict Resolution and Dissolution – in the case of a disagreement between the parties, the parties agree to make all efforts, in good faith, to reach an appropriate conflict resolution. However, if no resolution is reached any of the parties can request dissolution, by initiating a third party arbitration. In a case of an unresolved conflict and/or arbitration the parties are jointly committed to fulfill any and all existing contractual obligations to on-going projects undertaken by The WATER-MED partnership. In the case of an unresolved conflict between the parties the Israeli law will govern arbitration.

Mutually agreed on November 22, 2019,

For:

The Ashkelon Foundation

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רח' הרצל 123 / תל אביב
1254/123
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08-6751066:פקס 08-6751022/33:טל

For the W-SMART Association

Prof. Ilan Juran, CEO

22/11/2019