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NEWS LETTER





MEDSAL PROJECT

Salinization of critical groundwater reserves in coastal Mediterranean areas: Identification, risk assessment and sustainable management with the use of integrated modelling and smart ICT tools.

THE PROJECT EVENTS

Kickoff meeting

The official launch of the MEDSAL Project was held in its Kickoff meeting in Thessaloniki, Greece on the 23-24 of September 2019. Eight (8) participants from seven (7) countries representing project partners attended the meeting, through physical participation or web-conferencing. In addition to discussing the first step in implementing the project, the consortium members discussed and deliberated in all 8 work packages and jointly decided upon critical aspects of the Project's implementation.



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BACKGROUND

MEDSAL aims at developing innovative methods to identify various sources and processes of salinization and at providing an integrated set of modelling tools that capture the dynamics and risks of salinization MEDSAL, and thereby aims to secure availability and quality of groundwater reserves in Mediterranean coastal areas, which are amongst the most vulnerable regions in the world to water scarcity and quality degradation



As part of this meeting, a visit and a brief presentation of the Soil and Water Resources Institute (SWRI) infrastructures and laboratories was made by the project coordinator Dr Evangelos Tziritis.



On February 2020, an awareness day and meeting with stakeholders of the Regional Commission of Agricultural Development (CRDA) in Sousse (Tunisia) took place. It was an excellent opportunity to discuss with the different stakeholders the situation of water resources in the region of Sousse and their expectations of the MEDSAL project.

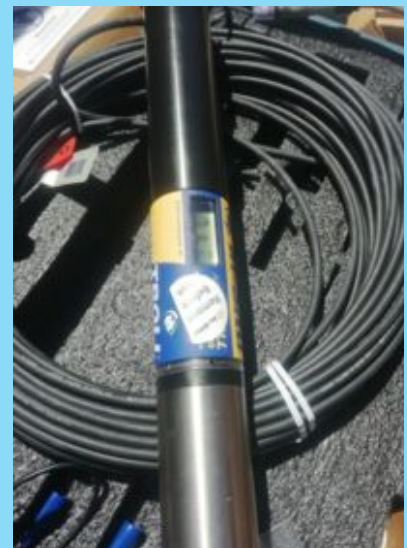


This meeting was combined with a field study for preliminary investigations and for the identification and selection of the appropriate wells for the installation of sensors in the region.

Multi-parameter sensors



The Tunisian MEDSAL team installed two multi-parameter sensors in the Bouficha (BFC) pilot site, situated in north east of Tunisia. This aquifer is characterized by its location near the sea and by the presence of a chain of Mountains. The sensors were installed in two wells named Belgacem Ben Rhouma and Ahmed.



The electrical conductivity of the first well is 2000 us/cm and of the second well is 6740 us/cm. The two chosen wells for the installation of a multiparameter sonde for the real-time monitoring of groundwater are used mainly for irrigation.

Multi-parameter sensors



Three (3) more sensors have also been installed at the Rhodope (RHO) pilot site in Eastern Greece. The installation required the modification of boreholes to accommodate the multi-parameter sensor in a separate and safe tube and includes full energy supply and remote data transmission.

