

SMART4ENV

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WELCOMING

PROF. SELDA MURAT HOCAOGLU



Dear Readers,

The EU Green Deal Strategy defined tackling climate and environmental-related challenges as “this generation’s” defining task. One of the key areas the European Council encourages the Commission to act in are digital solutions for climate mitigation. In fact, digital solutions have the power to deliver substantial environmental gains through increased efficiencies and have increasingly been deployed in improving environmental sustainability. However, it is a challenge to identify and understand the types and needs of Smart Environmental Solutions (SES) and how to properly implement them according to each country’s situation to face climate change. SMART4ENV project aims to improve TUBITAK MAM R&I capacities to strengthen its scientific reputation, attractiveness and networking channels while stimulating scientific excellence in key applications of SES for the mitigation and adaptation to climate change of Turkish economy.

SMART4ENV specific objectives are:

- Increasing scientific and technical capacity of TUBITAK MAM related to SES through collaboration with internationally leading institutions.
- To support TUBITAK MAM’s institutional networking and international reputation by strengthening collaboration with internationally leading institutions in SES
- Developing a knowledge transference framework of TUBITAK MAM and linked stakeholders to jointly develop excellent R&I in SES
- Increasing the knowledge of national stakeholders on available SES, promoting their use

Furthermore, SMART4ENV includes comprehensive set of implementation activities by 6 specific case studies around 4 research avenues; water/wastewater, smart agriculture, air quality and marine science. In this first newsletter, I would like to introduce you to the SMART4ENV project on behalf of the SMART4ENV team. SMART4ENV website will also keep you updated in real time on what we are doing and all related activities and events. We aim to keep you updated on our activities and achievements in the coming months. We hope that you find the materials in this newsletter enjoyable and informative.

Let’s stay in touch!

Selda Murat Hocaoglu
Project Coordinator



SMART4ENV has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon Europe – Horizon-widera-2021-Access-03 under grant agreement No 101079251.



SMART4ENV NEWS

During this period, SMART4ENV partners have been developing a series of activities through the project work packages including:

WP1

Kick-Off Meeting of the SMART4ENV was held in hybrid mode on November 8th-9th, 2022, in TUBITAK MAM, Gebze Kocaeli, Turkiye. The hybrid event consisted of a panel discussion that allowed all partners and team members to learn about the operational, structural, and technical aspects of the SMART4ENV project, and a closed session where the project advisory board and board of trustees were elected.

WP2

A technical analysis identifying possible knowledge gaps that might exist in the research center in the areas of wastewater management, smart irrigation, coastal management and air quality and technical suggestions for research topics, has been conducted. Besides, a bibliographic research in SES related to the themes mentioned above, has been completed.

WP3

The training guidelines through online and on-site courses and trainings was developed, addressing wastewater management, smart irrigation, coastal management and air quality. A specific calendar and teaching organization was identified for each hosting institution (UNIVPM, UVIC, NBU, SITES).

WP4

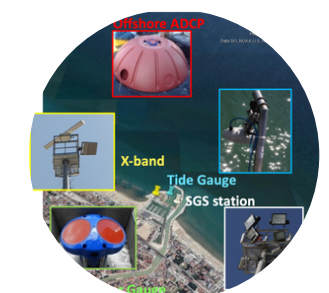
A work plan defining the mission, objectives, organizational chart, human resources capital, training and mobility offer, decision making processes and internal communication related to research derived from the gap analysis, and definition of the strategic plan for the current and future research management capabilities was prepared and studies were initiated with a comprehensive SWOT and SOR workshop and interviews with key staff members at TUBITAK MAM, aiming to identify existing gaps, challenges, and coaching requirements.

WP5

As part of sustainability activities, synergies with relevant projects was developed, e.g., DIGIWATER to continue the exchange of ideas, best practices and research about digitization and SES.

WP6

Continuous outreach of project outputs to different stakeholders, is being executed as part of our communication measures by reaching out to students in Ümraniye Istanbul Chamber of Commerce Primary School, and by attending the following events; Planning and Coordination Board of the Navigation, Hydrography and Oceanography Services; TUBITAK Horizon 2020/Horizon Europe Programs Multi-Partner Project Coordinators Consultation Meeting; IFAT Eurasia; and 5th Efficiency and Technology Fair of Turkey.



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FUTURE SMART4ENV ACTIVITIES

September 2023: European Researchers' Night: SMART4ENV will take part in the European Researchers' Night that takes place in Erzurum, Turkiye. First Mobility of WP3: The first mobilities of WP3 will be achieved by UNIVPM's trainings in Ancona, Italy on 11-30th of September. The program will include training establishment of bilateral short-term visits for both early stage and experienced researchers.

October 2023: First Innovation Week in Gebze, Kocaeli Turkiye. The Innovation Week will include a 3-day summer school; 2 days workshop and an open day. The summer school will adopt a hands-on approach and stimulate further cooperation among researchers also in the aftermaths and will cover low-cost SES to monitor city air quality. The workshop will be organized by TUBITAK MAM and SITES and will be on research training in science, RRI, IPR, open access, entrepreneurship, project formulation

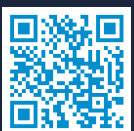
January 2024: BETA Tech Center (UVIC-UCC) will organise the 2nd SMART4ENV SUMMER SCHOOL in January 2024. With a duration of 3 days, participants will have an opportunity to deepen their understanding on SES opportunities to adapt irrigation to climate change, nutrient recovery, water reuse, organic farming and ferti-irrigation and digitalisation tools for sustainable agriculture practices. Following the Summer School, BETA Tech Center (UVIC-UCC) will also host a 2-day workshop for the research community.



FUTURE SMART4ENV ATTENDANCE

ECOMONDO 2023. 7-10/11/2023, Rimini. Italy.
<https://www.ecomondo.com/>

Water Knowledge Europe. 18-19/10/2023. Brussels. Belgium.
<https://watereurope.eu/events/water-innovation-europe/>



ENHANCING THE SCIENTIFIC CAPACITY OF TUBITAK MRC IN THE FIELD OF SMART ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGES