

WATER IS A SCARCE RESOURCE – and it requires appropriate management. Managing water data, especially understanding what is happening at the surface and much more at the ground water level is crucial for the adequate management of this resource. This topic is central to the proper implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

The challenges to further understand the water management are further compounded by the fact that water consumption by public, industry and agriculture use would increase by 16% by 2030; and about one third of Europe's available water is wasted due to leaks, no water saving technologies and too much unnecessary irrigation. Furthermore, climate change is affecting our planet in various ways from increased drought as experienced within the Mediterranean region during winter of 2015 and extreme flooding as experienced in central and other parts of Europe. In Malta we have experienced drought like conditions with serious implications on our agricultural produce and water availability. These factors highlight further the need for proper water management.

This National Workshop is being organised by Paragon Europe together with the Energy and Water Agency and the Malta Water Cluster to illustrate new and innovative technology developed through the FREEWAT project (www.freewat.eu) funded by the H2O2O programme and how this technology can indeed provide sustainable management of our ground water resources

The objectives of this workshop are:

To generate awareness about the FREEWAT project and the H2020 programme among Maltese stakeholders

To understand the role of open data and its application to the implementation of the Water Framework Directive

To appreciate better how advanced water management tools can optimise the protection of natural water resources

To discuss more closely the FREEWAT modelling platform and its application to support the management of ground water on the Island of Gozo

Programme

08.30	Registration and Welcome Coffee
09.00	Welcome Anton Theuma, CEO Paragon Europe, Daniel Azzopardi, The Energy and Water Agency
09.15	The H2020 Programme - Energy and Water Gonca Demir, Paragon Europe
09.30	The Development of Gozo's Water Resources John Mangion, Consultant
09.50	The Water Framework Directive – an integrated tool for optimising the management of water resources Manuel Sapiano, The Energy and Water Agency
10.05	The FREEWAT Tool - Open Software and its Application Michael Schembri, The Energy and Water Agency
10.25	FREEWAT Case Studies - Some Perspectives Nadia Theuma, Paragon Europe
10.45	Gozo Case Study - Use of numerical models to optimise the management of groundwater resources Henry Debatista, Manuel Sapiano, The Energy and Water Agency
11.30	Group Discussions
12.15	Conclusions and Future Applications
12.45	Light Refreshments