

## Press Release

### FP7 Launches Research Projects on Climate Change and Water Security

The European Union launched in Cairo three research projects focusing on Climate Change Impacts on Water and Security. These projects are funded by the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7), the European Union's main financial instrument supporting research. A press release distributed by the Delegation of the EU to Egypt stated that Forty-four institutions from all over the world are involved in the projects, receiving an overall contribution from FP7 of over € 9 million. The research consortiums include three Egyptian researchers from the Suez Canal University, Zagazig University and Environment & Climate Change Institute of the National Water Research Centre. The three projects form a cluster that focuses on investigating the climate induced changes on water resources and their impact on security in southern Europe and neighbouring countries. Because of its specific geographical and political situation, the Mediterranean area is particularly vulnerable to climate change and water scarcity. Saltwater intrusion into coastal aquifers due to rising sea level is likely to become an ever increasing challenge, as well precipitation and the frequency and severity of droughts. Integrated research represents a key component of decision-making regarding adaptation and mitigation of climate change impacts at local and regional levels. The research cluster is composed of two projects in natural science and one in social sciences. It includes studies on the Nile River basin, thus it can make significant progress on understanding of climate change impacts in this region, resulting in possible recommendations on adaptation or mitigation action plans. The three research teams will establish synergies among related scientific developments and work together to disseminate their findings to policy makers and other relevant stakeholders. The first meeting of the three research teams was held in Cairo on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2010, back-to-back the Euro-Mediterranean Innovation Marketplace event, in coordination with the EU Delegation to Cairo. It involved about 50 participants from the projects, as well as representatives from Egyptian research institutes, universities and water management boards. It is expected that the projects will deliver scientific information that will be of direct use by policy-makers and stakeholders at EU, national and local levels in all areas studied by the projects, including Egypt. *(MENA issue dated 11 February, Al-Ahram issue dated 12 February, p.6, Al-Gomhouriya issue dated 12 February, p.4)*