ONEWATER
EUROMEDITERRANEAN
WATER FORUM
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Water Heritage and Innovation, an Italian Perspective

UNESCO WWAP

Euro-Mediterranean Water Forum 2026 · 29 September – 2 October · La Nuvola, Rome

KEY INFORMATION

Date	30 September 2026
Time	17:00 - 18:00
Room	Itaca
Format	Presentation
Language(s)	English

SUMMARY

Ensuring water and sanitation for all requires a combination of the knowledge and experience of traditional water management with new approaches driven by science, technology, and innovation. Italy offers a distinctive perspective in this transition, where water traditions and local knowledge coexist with a dynamic ecosystem of scientific research, technological development, and innovation in water uses, management and governance practices. This side event will explore how Italy's experience can contribute to a broader transformation of the water sector, highlighting the value of combining traditional knowledge, modern hydrological research, and cutting-edge technologies. The event will showcase experiences, successful case studies, and innovative approaches that demonstrate how science, technology, and innovation can support water security and strengthen water governance. It will also examine how emerging technologies can contribute to evidence-based policies, improve decision-making, and accelerate progress towards SDG 6 in the Mediterranean.

AGENDA & SPEAKERS

Time	Speaker Name & Title	Organization	Role / Topic
17:00	Lamberto Moruzzi, Director for Science, Space and Sports Diplomacy	Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation	Speaker / Welcome remarks
17:00	Laura d'Aprile, Head of Department for Ecological Transition and Green Investments	Ministry of Environment of Italy	Speaker / Welcome remarks
17:00	Miguel Doria, Coordinator	UNESCO WWAP	Speaker / Welcome remarks
17:10	Alessandro Leto, President	UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) National Committee Italy	Speaker / Traditional and innovative approaches to support water security and strengthen water governance

Time	Speaker Name & Title	Organization	Role / Topic
17:10	Chiara Biscarini, Chairholder	UNESCO Chair on Water Resources Management and Culture	Speaker / Traditional and innovative approaches to support water security and strengthen water governance
17:10	Paolo Sertoli, Technical Officer	Italian Agency for Development Cooperation	Speaker / Traditional and innovative approaches to support water security and strengthen water governance
17:10	Raffaella Pergamo, First Researcher	CREA	Speaker / Traditional and innovative approaches to support water security and strengthen water governance
17:10	Salvatore Grimaldi, President	International Association of Hydrological Sciences	Speaker / Traditional and innovative approaches to support water security and strengthen water governance
17:10	Alfonso Pecoraro Scanio, President	Fondazione UniVerde	Speaker / Traditional and innovative approaches to support water security and strengthen water governance
17:10	Eriberto Eulisse, President	Water Museum Network	Speaker / Traditional and innovative approaches to support water security and strengthen water governance
	Simona Gallese	UNESCO WWAP	Moderator / Traditional and innovative approaches to support water security and strengthen water governance
17:55	Federico Properzi, Chief Technical Adviser	UN WATER	Speaker / Conclusions

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Achieving universal access to water and sanitation calls for an integrated approach that connects traditional knowledge and local experience with advances in science, technology, and innovation. Italy provides a relevant example of this approach, combining its rich heritage of water management with strong scientific research, technological development, and innovative governance practices.

The side event will present Italian experiences and practical examples illustrating how these different forms of knowledge can work together to enhance water security, strengthen decision-making, and improve water governance. It will also highlight the potential of emerging technologies to support sustainable water management and accelerate progress towards SDG 6 across the Mediterranean.

OBJECTIVES

Objective 1 — Highlight the Italian perspective on water management, showcasing how traditional knowledge, cultural heritage, and long-standing water management practices can complement modern science, technology, and innovation.

Objective 2 — Demonstrate the contribution of Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) to water security, with a focus on emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, biotechnology, nanotechnology, advanced materials, and hydro informatics.

Objective 3 — Showcase successful experiences and innovative solutions that address challenges related to water availability, quality, efficiency, resilience, and sanitation, with potential for replication and scaling in other contexts.

Objective 4 — Strengthening the link between innovation, water governance, and policymaking, highlighting how data, digital technologies, and scientific evidence can support more effective and inclusive decision-making.

Objective 5 — Foster a transformative and equitable vision for the water sector, aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the Forum's emphasis on coordinated science, technology, and innovation for a sustainable future for all.

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Policymakers, water experts, researchers, academics, technology and innovation actors, local authorities, international organizations, and other stakeholders working on water management, governance, and sustainable development, with a particular focus on the Mediterranean region.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Increased awareness of how traditional knowledge, science, technology, and innovation can contribute to water security and sustainable water management.
- Exchange of experiences and good practices from Italy and the Mediterranean region.
- Identification of innovative solutions and opportunities for collaboration to strengthen water governance and decision-making.
- Greater understanding of how emerging technologies can support progress towards SDG 6.