ONEWATER
EUROMEDITERRANEAN
WATER FORUM
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Telling the Story of Water through Ethics, Art and Theatre

Aqua Foundation, One Water Committee Italy, Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change (CMCC)

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

KEY INFORMATION

Date	30 settembre 2026
Time	2.30–4.00 pm
Format	Panel discussion
Language(s)	italian

SUMMARY

Water is not only a natural resource: it is a cultural, ethical and symbolic element that shapes societies, identities and shared futures. This session explores how art, theatre, storytelling and public dialogue can help raise awareness of water-related challenges and inspire collective responsibility.

Bringing together representatives from institutions, science, faith, culture and the arts, the panel will reflect on new ways of communicating water issues beyond technical and policy frameworks. The discussion will be complemented by the presentation of *IN HERE / OUT THERE*, a video work by artist **Federica Belli**, inviting audiences to reconsider the relationship between land, sea and human perception.

AGENDA & SPEAKERS

Time	Speaker Name & Title	Organization	Role / Topic
2:30	Gabriele Bonfiglioli, President	Acqua Foundation	Moderator Moderator and opening remarks
2:42	David Corbell, Philantropist	Acqua Foundation Ambassador	Speaker · Philanthropy, social responsibility and collective action for water stewardship
2:56	Cardinal Fabio Baggio	Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, Vatican City	Speaker · Water, human dignity and environmental ethics
3:09	Giulio Boccaletti, Expert in water, climate change and natural resource governance	Honorary Research Associate, Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, University of Oxford	Panelist · Water governance in a changing climate
3:22	Simonetta Giordani, Secretary General	Civita Association	Panelist · Culture, heritage and public engagement around

Time	Speaker Name & Title	Organization	Role / Topic
			water
3:35	Maria Siclari, Director General	President of the Council of Advanced Studies of the Pontifical Academy of Theology	Panelist · Science communication and environmental awareness
3:45	Antonio Preziosi, Director	TG2	tbc
4:00	Federica Belli, Visual Artist and Photographer	Independent Artist	Presentation of *IN HERE / OUT THERE* · Art, perception and new narratives of water

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

Water challenges are increasingly discussed through scientific, technical and policy perspectives. While these approaches are essential, they are often unable on their own to engage citizens emotionally and culturally. As climate change, water scarcity, pollution and ecosystem degradation become more visible across the Mediterranean region, there is a growing need for new narratives capable of connecting knowledge with public awareness and action.

Artistic practices, cultural institutions, theatres and faith communities have historically played a crucial role in shaping collective imaginaries and encouraging dialogue around shared challenges. By bringing together voices from science, ethics, culture and the arts, this session seeks to explore how storytelling can contribute to a more inclusive and human-centred understanding of water.

OBJECTIVES

1. To explore the role of art, culture and storytelling in communicating water-related challenges.
2. To foster dialogue between scientific, institutional, ethical and cultural perspectives on water.
3. To identify innovative approaches to public engagement and awareness raising.
4. To encourage cross-sector collaboration among organizations working on environmental sustainability, education and culture.
5. To highlight the importance of water as both a vital resource and a shared cultural heritage.

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Policymakers and public institutions
- Water sector stakeholders and utilities
- Environmental organizations and NGOs
- Cultural institutions and museums
- Artists, curators and creative professionals
- Researchers and academics
- Youth organizations and students
- Journalists and communication professionals
- Citizens interested in sustainability and environmental issues

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Greater awareness of the contribution that culture and the arts can make to water advocacy and education.
- New connections between environmental institutions, cultural organizations and civil society actors.
- Identification of good practices for communicating water issues through creative and participatory formats.
- Recommendations for integrating cultural and artistic approaches into future water-related initiatives and events.
- Strengthened dialogue between scientific expertise and public engagement strategies in the Mediterranean region.

Artistic contribution

During the session, Italian visual artist and photographer **Federica Belli** will present *IN HERE / OUT THERE*, a video project. The work proposes a reversal of perspective, observing the land from the sea rather than the sea from the land, and invites audiences to reflect on interconnectedness, fragility and the changing relationship between humans and aquatic environments.