ONEWATER
EUROMEDITERRANEAN
WATER FORUM
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Coastal wetlands: stories of natural balance between rivers, seas and people. Vulnerabilities and gentle mitigation strategies for today and tomorrow

Association of Mediterranean Deltas (Delta-Med) ETS

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

KEY INFORMATION

Date	29th September 2026
Time	11:30am – 1:00pm
Room	Rodano
Format	Workshop
Language(s)	Italian, English

SUMMARY

Coastal wetlands face erosion, salinization and flooding. The workshop seeks shared methods and sustainable actions to restore balance between human and natural processes.

AGENDA & SPEAKERS

Time	Speaker Name & Title	Organization	Role / Topic
11:30	Giorgio Piazza, President	DeltaMed	Speaker
11:40	Marco Mancini, Professor	Politecnico di Milano	Speaker
11:54	Elisabetta Novello, Professor	Università degli Studi di Padova	Speaker
12:08	Rafael Sanchez Navarro, Dr.	CGR de la Derecha del Ebro	Speaker
12:22	Badawi A. Tantawi, Dr.	Agricultural Research Center of Cairo University	Speaker
12:36	Alessandro Delpiano, Dr. Ing.	Autorità di bacino distrettuale del fiume PO	Speaker
12:50	Graziano Paulon, Dr. Agr.	Consorzio di Bonifica Veneto Orientale	Speaker

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

The dynamic evolution of Mediterranean coastal wetlands - including deltas, estuaries, and lagoons - is governed by complex interactions between fluvial and marine forces, strongly shaped by historical human settlements and land- and water-regulation works. Today, these high-value ecosystems are increasingly fragile due to a growing imbalance between natural processes, anthropogenic pressures, and accelerating climate change. This systemic disruption drives coastal erosion, accelerates saltwater intrusion into aquifers and freshwater systems, and increases vulnerability to flooding, a threat further exacerbated by land subsidence and sea-level rise.

To address these critical challenges, this session establishes a collaborative Mediterranean dialogue to foster a shared understanding of the vulnerabilities affecting these deltaic and wetland systems. It defines a common methodological framework aimed at restoring a balance between environmental processes and human activities by assessing a synergistic suite of “gentle mitigation strategies” and sustainable interventions. Particular emphasis is placed on optimized river-water management and long-term adaptation pathways to address sea-level rise under both present and future scenarios

OBJECTIVES

Examine the evolution and dynamics of Mediterranean coastal territories, with particular attention to the delicate balance between riverine and marine processes; **Identify approaches to preserve and strengthen this balance** in the face of climate change, sea-level rise, and increasing anthropogenic pressures; **Explore and exchange knowledge on mitigation and adaptation strategies**, with a particular focus on sustainable river water management and long-term responses to sea-level rise.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Policymakers, water utilities and authorities, scientific and technical experts, financing institutions, civil society

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Shared Vulnerability Assessment: Unified diagnostic overview of Mediterranean deltaic vulnerabilities; **Policy Recommendations on "Gentle Mitigation"**: A set of sustainable, non-invasive action proposals focusing on river water management and coastal adaptation; **Strategic Partnerships**: Strengthening of the cross-border network among Mediterranean delta entities, research centers, and local water management boards; **Follow-up Action Plan**: A roadmap for joint future projects targeting the mitigation of saltwater intrusion, land subsidence, and sea-level rise impacts.