ONEWATER
EUROMEDITERRANEAN
WATER FORUM
ROME 29.09-02.10.2026

Advancing Zero Pollution through water-smart Mediterranean territories

A ZeroPollution4Water Cluster and Water4All Water-Oriented Living Labs Network joint session

Water Europe

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

KEY INFORMATION

Date	02.10.2026
Time	09.30 – 11.00
Room	Atlante Room
Format	Interactive session
Language(s)	English

SUMMARY

How can innovation help Mediterranean territories respond to water scarcity, pollution and climate pressures? Through the experiences of the EU-funded projects ToDrinQ and UNIVERSWATER, the Attica Water Lab and Axarquía Living Lab, both part of the Water4All Water-Oriented Living Labs Network, and alongside scientific and water utility perspectives, this session will explore how science, innovation and territorial collaboration can turn successful demonstrations into sustained implementation and replicable solutions across the Mediterranean.

AGENDA & SPEAKERS

Time	Speaker Name & Title	Organization	Role / Topic
09:30 – 09:40	Andrea Rubini, Director of Operations Anais Baladah, Clustering Officer	Water Europe	Speaker
09:40 – 09:50	Guido Rianna, Director of the Division "*Soil and Water Systems*"	CMCC	Speaker
09:50 – 10:10	Efthymios Lytras, Deputy Director of Corporate Strategy and Innovation (representing ToDrinQ project)	EYDAP	Speakers

Time	Speaker Name & Title	Organization	Role / Topic
	Vito Buono, Agronomic Consultant (representing UNIVERSWATER project)	Sysman Progetti & Servizi s.r.l	
10:10 – 10:20	Renato Giacon, Director, Head of Public Finance and EU Funding Programmes	ACEA	Speaker
10:20 – 10:35	Efthymios Lytras, Deputy Director of Corporate Strategy and Innovation (representing Attica Water Lab) Antonia Lorenzo, CEO and R&D Director (representing Axarquía Living Lab)	EYDAP, Bioazul	Speaker
10:35 – 10:50	Interactive discussion with all the speakers, moderated by Water Europe		Speaker
10:50 – 11:00	Andrea Rubini, Director of Operations Anais Baladah, Clustering Officer	Water Europe	Speaker

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

Mediterranean territories are facing interconnected pressures from climate change, water scarcity, pollution, salinity and competing demands on limited water resources, affecting ecosystems, public services, agriculture and economic activities. Addressing these challenges requires moving beyond isolated technological solutions towards integrated approaches that connect scientific knowledge, innovation, operational capacity and territorial collaboration.

This joint ZeroPollution4Water Cluster and Water4All Water-Oriented Living Labs Network session will explore this transition from research and demonstration to implementation. By connecting climate science, EU-funded demonstration projects, a major water utility and Water-Oriented Living Labs, the session will examine how innovative solutions can be adapted, deployed and sustained within Mediterranean territories.

OBJECTIVES

1. **Showcase** how EU-funded research and innovation are addressing interconnected water-quality, scarcity and climate-resilience challenges in Mediterranean territories;
2. **Explore** the conditions needed to move successful solutions from demonstration to operational and territorial implementation;
3. **Identify** opportunities for replication and future cooperation between ZeroPollution4Water projects, Water4All WOLLs, utilities and Mediterranean stakeholders.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Policymakers and public authorities; water utilities and operators; research and innovation organisations; technology providers; Water-Oriented Living Labs; EU-funded projects; territorial and regional actors; industry; and other stakeholders involved in water resilience, pollution prevention and sustainable water management.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Identify transferable lessons from Mediterranean demonstration cases and Water-Oriented Living Labs for addressing water scarcity, pollution and climate pressures;
- Highlight enabling conditions for moving innovative water solutions from research and demonstration towards operational uptake and sustained territorial implementation;
- Identify opportunities for replication and cooperation between ZeroPollution4Water projects, Water4All WOLLs, utilities and other Mediterranean territories;
- Surface remaining implementation gaps and priorities that can inform future European and Euro-Mediterranean research, innovation and collaboration.