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EUROMEDITERRANEAN
WATER FORUM
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Cooperating for the Mediterranean Water Security: Capitalizing on EU funds through the Interreg Next Med Programme.

Interreg NEXT MED Programme

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

KEY INFORMATION

Date	29 September 2026
Time	16:30-18:00
Room	Room Itaca
Format	Panel discussion
Language(s)	English

SUMMARY

This session will demonstrate how transnational cooperation effectively leverages EU funds to deploy scalable, real-world solutions on the ground for water management. It will present success cases of entities cooperating across the Mediterranean through the Interreg NEXT MED Programme.

AGENDA & SPEAKERS

Speaker Name & Title	Organization	Role / Topic
Mr. Alejandro Lafarga	Interreg NEXT MED Programme	Moderator
Souha Ferchichi	Mediterranean Renewable Energy Centre Tunisia	Panelist
Prof. Zohra Lili Chabaane	Agricultural Research and Higher Education Institute Tunisia	Panelist
Hind Eng. Monther	Palestinian Wastewater Engineers Group	Panelist
Mohammad Said Al Hmaidi	PAlestineWater Sector Regulatory Council	Panelist
Michael Schembri	Malta Energy and Water Agency	Panelist
Marica Merola	University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli"	Panelist
De Angelis Serena	Institute of University Cooperation	Panelist

Speaker Name & Title	Organization	Role / Topic
Fréderic de Dinenchin	Union for the Mediterranean	Panelist
Lourdes García	Valencia Region - Directorate of Water	Panelist

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

The Mediterranean is becoming a testing ground for new approaches to water resilience, where innovation, cooperation and practical experience can turn scarcity into an opportunity for smarter water management. This session brings together **five Interreg NEXT MED projects, involving 35 organisations across the Mediterranean**, to showcase solutions already being tested on the ground. From restoring small water cycles and smart irrigation to wastewater sludge reuse, non-conventional water resources and integrated water management, the projects offer a diverse picture of how cross-border cooperation can transform local solutions into shared Mediterranean knowledge and action.

OBJECTIVES

- **Showcase practical water solutions:** Present innovative, scalable approaches developed and tested by Mediterranean partners to address water management challenges in agriculture, cities and ecosystems.
- **Highlight the role of EU funding:** Demonstrate how Interreg NEXT MED funding enables cross-border cooperation, innovation and knowledge exchange to develop practical solutions for water resilience.
- **Exchange lessons from five projects:** Share experiences, results and lessons learned from five projects working across different Mediterranean territories and addressing water management from complementary perspectives.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Water authorities, municipalities and public administrations, research centres, water utilities, agricultural organisations, EU and Mediterranean institutions, and **organisations interested in accessing EU cooperation funding for water management**, particularly from EU Member States and Southern Mediterranean countries.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The session will help foster new partnerships, generate ideas for future cooperation projects, and identify opportunities to build and submit joint project proposals under future EU cooperation calls.