

Blue Knowledge for the Mediterranean.

Research, Higher Education, Research Infrastructures and Scientific Diplomacy for Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation and Shared Prosperity.

Italian Ministry of University and Research

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

KEY INFORMATION

Date	1 ottobre 2026
Time	9:30-11:00
Room	Sala Atlante
Format	Workshop
Language(s)	English/Italian

SUMMARY

The session will explore how research, higher education, research infrastructures and scientific diplomacy can strengthen Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and contribute to water security and climate resilience.

AGENDA & SPEAKERS

Time	Speaker Name & Title	Organization	Role / Topic
09:30–09:40	Gianluigi Consoli, Director General for Internationalization	Italian Ministry of University and Research (MUR)	Institutional Opening – Setting the scene and framing the session within the Euro-Mediterranean Water Forum and the

Time	Speaker Name & Title	Organization	Role / Topic
			priorities of the Mattei Plan for Africa
09:40–09:55	Angelo Riccaboni, President	PRIMA Foundation	Keynote Address – Research, Scientific Diplomacy and Shared Knowledge for the Mediterranean
09:55–10:05	Cosimo Solidoro	OGS	High-Level Roundtable Panelist – Roundtable title: “From Knowledge to Action: Research Infrastructures, Education and Innovation for a Water-Resilient Mediterranean”
10:05-10:15	Francesco Petracchini	CNR	High-Level Roundtable Panelist
10:15-10:25	Umberto Fratino	Politecnico di Bari	High-Level Roundtable Panelist
10:25-10:35	Alberto Pirni	Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna	High-Level Roundtable Panelist
10:35–10:50	Elena Bresci	Università di Firenze	Blue Innovation Pitch Session
10:50–11:00	Fabio Fava, Advisor to the Minister for Research and Innovation in the European context	Italian Ministry of University and Research (MUR)	Conclusions and Key Messages

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

The Mediterranean is increasingly confronted with interconnected challenges related to water security, climate change, biodiversity and the sustainable management of natural resources. Addressing these challenges requires stronger links between scientific knowledge, higher education, research infrastructures, innovation and public policy. Against this background, the session will highlight the contribution of research and higher education to building a shared Euro-Mediterranean space for knowledge, innovation and capacity building. Particular attention will be devoted to research infrastructures and marine, coastal and environmental observation systems; sustainable water management and reuse; integrated water-sea-climate-biodiversity approaches; and the potential of digitalisation, artificial intelligence and digital twins for monitoring and managing natural resources. By bringing together institutions, universities and research organisations, the session will also explore the role of international scientific cooperation and science diplomacy in strengthening long-term partnerships across Europe, the Mediterranean, Africa and the Middle East, including in the framework of the Mattei Plan for Africa.

OBJECTIVES

The session aims to:

- **highlight the contribution of research, higher education and research infrastructures** to water security, climate resilience and sustainable development in the Mediterranean;

- **promote stronger Euro-Mediterranean cooperation** through scientific diplomacy, capacity building and the exchange of knowledge, expertise and good practices;
 - **identify opportunities to translate scientific knowledge and innovation into concrete solutions**, partnerships and policy actions, strengthening connections between research communities and public decision-makers.
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TARGET AUDIENCE

Policymakers and public authorities; universities and higher education institutions; research organisations and research infrastructures; researchers and technical experts; international and Euro-Mediterranean organisations; innovation actors; and stakeholders working on water, climate, biodiversity and sustainable development.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The session is expected to:

- identify key messages and priorities for strengthening Euro-Mediterranean scientific and academic cooperation on water-related challenges;
 - showcase research, innovation and capacity-building approaches with potential for replication and broader cooperation across the Mediterranean;
 - foster new connections and opportunities for collaboration among institutions, universities, research organisations and research infrastructures;
 - highlight possible follow-up actions to strengthen the interface between scientific knowledge, innovation, higher education and public policy.
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