Governance: A key role for water resilient River basins

INBO

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

KEY INFORMATION

Date	01 10 2026
Time	14:30 – 16:00
Room	Itaca
Format	Panel discussion
Language(s)	English

SUMMARY

As climate change accelerates extreme weather events across Europe, conventional water management approaches are no longer enough to secure our water future. This session brings together three European initiatives (Water4All, InnWater, and GOVAQUA) to showcase how innovative water governance, policy integration, and collaborative decision-making can build resilient river basins. Join us to explore practical tools, real-world examples, and actionable governance pathways driving robust river basin management in a changing world.

AGENDA & SPEAKERS

Time	Speaker Name & Title	Organization	Role / Topic
14:30	Julie Magnier, Project manager	International Office for Water	Moderator
14:40	Andrea Rubini, Director of Operations	Water4All & Water Europe	Speaker
14:50	Clara Eugenia Estrela Segrelles, Head of Department in the Technical Division	Júcar River Basin Authority (CHJ)	Speaker & Panelist
15:00	Juan Diego Restrepo, Nature governance and programme development	Etifor	Speaker & Panelist
15:10	Julio BERBEL, Professor of Agricultural Economics	University of Cordoba	Speaker & Panelist
15:20	Chloé Déchelette, Project manager	International Office for Water	Moderator

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

As climate change accelerates extreme weather events across Europe, securing long-term water resilience requires a fundamental shift in how we manage our precious freshwater resources. Conventional, infrastructure-heavy approaches are no longer enough; instead, the focus must turn to the systemic, cross-sectoral coordination of entire river basins.

This session brings together three major European initiatives - InnWater, GOVAQUA, and the Water4All Partnership - to explore how innovative water governance can turn resilience strategies into reality. By bridging Water4All's partners view on challenges related to governance, together with InnWater's and GOVAQUA's tools and examples of innovative practices, this collaborative panel will examine practical governance pathways.

OBJECTIVES

Achieving water security in an era of climate volatility demands a fundamental shift in how we manage our shared water resources. To build truly water-resilient river basin management, we must explore practical governance pathways that leverage sound, innovative strategies capable of adapting to shifting environmental pressures. Addressing these complex challenges requires bridging the gap between high-level policy perspectives and practical execution, connecting governance obstacles directly with actionable tools, innovative practices, and real-world examples. Crucially, no single region or institution can address these systemic challenges alone. By promoting cross-project collaboration, European initiatives can unite to translate high-level resilience strategies into concrete, measurable action across Europe.

TARGET AUDIENCE

-River Basin authorities & Water managers: Practitioners and engineers responsible for day-to-day and long-term basin management.
-Policy & decision-makers: European, national, and regional public authorities focused on water policy, climate adaptation, and environmental governance.
-Research & Innovation stakeholders.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Participants gain a deeper understanding of pressing governance challenges and actionable pathways to overcome operational bottlenecks, while wider awareness and active uptake of innovative tools developed by EU initiatives ensure strategic frameworks are translated into everyday practice. Ultimately, this fosters clearer cross-sectoral alignment, ensuring that systemic decision-making directly supports and reinforces the broader EU Water Resilience Strategy.