ONEWATER
EUROMEDITERRANEAN
WATER FORUM
ROME 29.09-02.10.2026

From Water Ethics to Governance: Action-research Models and Local Experiences

Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies in collaboration with ACEA spa, Acqua Novara.VCO, Gruppo CAP

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

KEY INFORMATION

Date	30 September 2026
Time	16:30 – 18:00pm
Room	Room GIORDANO
Format	Presentations followed by a panel discussion & interactive session
Language(s)	English

SUMMARY

The workshop explores how ethical reflection on water can be translated into concrete practices of governance linking university research (Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna – Pisa) and the experience of leading Italian water utilities (ACEA s.p.a., Acqua Novara.VCO, Gruppo CAP). Starting from the idea that decisions about water are never purely technical, the event examines the values embedded in choices concerning allocation priorities, infrastructure, scarcity, water quality, sustainability, responsibility, and justice. Its aim is to show how making these values explicit can strengthen the transparency, legitimacy, and public justification of water-related decision-making.

AGENDA & SPEAKERS

Time	Speaker Name & Title	Organization	Role / Topic
16:30	Prof. Alberto Pirni | Coordinator Research Area in Ethics and Global Challenges	Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies | Pisa | Italy	Moderator and Speaker | Talk title: *Making ethics explicit in water governance: sustainability, responsibility, and justice as operational criteria*
16:50	Dott. Michele Falcone | General Director	Gruppo CAP | Milano | Italy	Workshop Panelist – The Action-Research experience in Gruppo CAP
16:50	Ing. Barbara Dell'Edera | General Director	Acqua Novara.VCO | Novara | Italy	Workshop Panelist – The Action-Research experience in Acqua Novara.VCO

Time	Speaker Name & Title	Organization	Role / Topic
16:50	Ing. Caterina Dentoni Litta | Head of Sustainability	ACEA s.p.a. | Rome | Italy	Workshop Panelist – The Action-Research experience in ACEA s.p.a.
17:30	Open Debate		

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

The workshop combines a theoretical framework with the discussion of action-research experiences developed through running collaborations between research institutions and water utilities. The first part addresses water as a finite common good and a prerequisite for justice, distinguishing between physical, moral, and institutional scarcity and considering how ethical criteria can be incorporated into climate adaptation strategies and public communication.
The second part focuses on concrete local experiences of co-produced research and governance. These include projects aimed at promoting more conscious domestic water consumption through behavioural public policies, as well as initiatives addressing resilience, scarcity, and the explicit integration of values into territorial water management. The concluding discussion will connect these experiences and consider their broader implications for more ethical, transparent, and sustainable forms of water governance.

OBJECTIVES

a) Promote interaction between technical and ethical perspectives within the water services sector;

b) Highlight existing scientific cooperation initiatives between the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies in Pisa and leading Italian water utility companies (ACEA S.p.A., Acqua Novara.VCO, Gruppo CAP);

c) Strengthen existing cooperation networks and foster new, innovative ones.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Policymakers, utilities, financing institutions, civil society, youth, technical experts

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Sharing innovative Experiences; Enforcing and promoting partnerships; Follow-up actions