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WATER FORUM
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Advancing the Operationalisation of the WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean:

Lessons Learned from PRIMA Funded Projects for Innovation, Governance and Finance

PRIMA, the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean

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

KEY INFORMATION

Date	29 September 2026
Time	14h30 – 16h00
Room	ITACA
Format	Panel discussion
Language(s)	English

SUMMARY

This session aims to focus on the **operationalization practical application** of the WEFE Nexus approach, acknowledging its criticisms while striving to move beyond theory. The goal is to build solid evidence and provide policymakers and stakeholders with actionable tools to harness the recognized benefits of the Nexus, while avoiding the pitfalls of misinterpretation or oversimplification.

AGENDA & SPEAKERS

Time	Speaker Name & Title	Organization	Role / Topic
14h30-14h40	Dr. Antonella Autino	PRIMA Programme Coordinator	Welcome + Facilitator
14h40-14h50	Mr. Frédéric de Dinechin, Senior Policy Advisor	Union for the Mediterranean	Opening Remarks
14h50-14h55	Mr. Nikolaos P. Nikolaidis	ECOFUTURE PRIMA project	Speaker
14h55-15h00	Mr. José Gonzalez Piqueras	NexusLab PRIMA project	Speaker

Time	Speaker Name & Title	Organization	Role / Topic
15h00-15h05	Ms. Laure Hossard	MORfeuS PRIMA project	Speaker
15h05-15h10	Mr. Georgios Kleftodimos	DIONYSUS PRIMA project	Speaker
15h10-15h15	Ms. Maneja Zaragoza Roser	RES-MAB PRIMA project	Speaker
15h15-15h20	Ms. Gertrud Buchenrieder	FrontAg Nexus PRIMA project	Speaker
15h20-15h25	Mr. Spyridon Ntougias	CIRQUA PRIMA project	Speaker
15h25-15h30	Mr. Marios Georgiou	WEFE4MED PRIMA project	Speaker
15h30-16h00	Dr. Antonella Autino & Mr. Juan Ojeda, Member of the Scientific & Technical Committee of IME	PRIMA Director of the Water Engineering Department at Técnica y Proyectos, S.A. (TYPSA)	Moderated discussion, audience exchange & synthesis

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

The Mediterranean region faces interconnected challenges related to water scarcity, climate change, food and energy security, ecosystem degradation and fragmented governance. The WEFE Nexus provides a framework to address these interdependencies, but its practical application remains challenging. This session will explore how to move from conceptual approaches to concrete, cost-effective and actionable solutions, building on the Mediterranean region's growing experience and institutional momentum. The session will focus on evidence from implementation: what PRIMA projects have delivered in practice, where an integrated WEFE approach made a difference, what difficulties were encountered, and what conditions are needed for results to be taken up, replicated or adapted in other Mediterranean contexts.

OBJECTIVES

- **Strengthen the practical application** of the WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean region.
- **Identify key barriers and enabling conditions** related to governance, policy coherence, financing and implementation.
- **Share good practices, tools and evidence** to support decision-makers and inform future investments and policies.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Policymakers and public authorities, international and regional organisations, research and innovation institutions, financing institutions, practitioners and technical experts, civil society and representatives of the water, energy, food and environmental sectors.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The session will produce key messages and practical recommendations for advancing the operationalisation of the WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean, including priority actions on governance, policy coherence, financing and implementation. The outcomes will contribute to a Euro-Mediterranean

contribution to the UN Water Conference in December 2026, through the Spanish Government (MITECO), and support further collaboration and follow-up actions in the region.

PRIMA facilitator	Dr. Antonella Autino, Programme Coordinator, PRIMA
Opening remarks	Mr. Frédéric de Dinechin, Senior Policy Advisor, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)
Discussion moderator	Mr. Juan Ojeda, Member of the Scientific & Technical Committee of IME / Director, Water Engineering Department, TYPSA
Rapporteur	Prof. Ali Rhouma, Project Officer, PRIMA