Mediterranean Cooperation in Research and Educations:

Institutional Perspectives on Water Resilience: the role of Training, Research and Cooperation Projects

Polytechnic University of Bari – MediCoRe Coordinator

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

KEY INFORMATION

Date	02 October 2026
Time	09:30 – 11:00
Room	TIRRENO
Format	Roundtable - Interactive session
Language(s)	English, with Arabic/French interpretation

SUMMARY

This side event will introduce MediCoRe, a collaborative network that brings together research institutions, key stakeholders, and representatives from 17 Mediterranean countries. The network addresses the pressing challenges facing the Mediterranean basin, with a particular focus on water resources, climate resilience, and sustainable development. The Side Event aims to foster a broad discussion on the role of joint research, innovation, and capacity-building initiatives in addressing Mediterranean climate challenges, while strengthening institutional engagement and promoting cross-border cooperation. It will provide a platform for discussing shared priorities, identifying opportunities for collaboration, and advancing coordinated solutions to enhance the resilience and sustainability of the Mediterranean region.

AGENDA & SPEAKERS

Time	Speaker Name & Title	Organization	Role / Topic
09.30	Welcoming Greetings Prof. Ing. Umberto Fratino – Rector	[Politecnico di Bari]	Speaker (online)
09.35	MediCoRe Presentation – Leonardo Damiani – Coordinator MediCoRe	[Politecnico di Bari]	Speaker
Round table: MediCoRe: Mediterranean Cooperation in Research and Education - **Institutional Perspectives on Water Resilience: the role of Training, Research and Cooperation Projects**			
09.40	Dr. Andrea Conte Team Coordinator	European Commission, Joint Research Centre (JRC)]	Moderator

Time	Speaker Name & Title	Organization	Role / Topic
09.45-11.00	Dr. Jean Ruhiza Boroto and Dr. Robina Wahaj	FAO-WASAG Network	Speaker
	Michele Mazzola	Head of the Office for the Internationalization of Research General Directorate, Ministry of Environment and Research (MUR)	Speaker
	Dr. Veysel Selimoğlu	Head of Technology and Green Transformation Department, Directorate of Climate Change, Turkish Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change - Turkiye	Speaker
	Dr. George Theofilopoulos	Directorate for Planning and Management of Water Services – Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy - Greece	Speaker
	Dr. Andrea Vigevani	Secretary General of ICU - Institute for University Cooperation	Speaker
	Mr. Manuel Sapiano	President of Rizorsi Agrikoli Agency - Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Supply, Malta	Speaker
	Mr. Sidi Mokhtar El Kanti	Director of Sakia El Hamra and Oued Eddahab Hydraulic Basin Agency (ABHSHOD), Kingdom of Morocco	Speaker
	Prof. Francesco Gentile	Rector's delegate of the University of Bari "Aldo Moro" Italy	Speaker
	Prof. Piero Paolo Miglietta	Vice-Rector of Sustainability – University of Salento, Italy	Speaker
	Mr. Gianfredi Mazzolani	Director of Department of Research, Development and International Activities - Acquedotto Pugliese (AQP) - Bari (Italy)	Speaker
	Prof. Maria Perraki	Full Professor - National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) School of Mining and Metallurgical Engineering	Speaker
	Dr. Eleni Vasileiou	Research & Teaching Associate in Hydrogeology - National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) School of Mining and Metallurgical Engineering	Speaker
	Prof. Ali Gul	Full Professor at Dokuz Eylül University – Izmir, Türkiye	Speaker
	Dr. Phani Miskaki Ph.D.	Dep. Director Division of Planning & Support for Water Sector Athens Water & Sewerage Company (EYDAP SA)	Speaker
	Prof. Dahbia DJOUDAR HALLAL	Director - Information Systems, Communication and External Relations, National Higher School of Hydraulics (ENSH), Blida University, Algeria	Speaker (online)

Time	Speaker Name & Title	Organization	Role / Topic
	Dr. Maurizio Casarci	Coordinator - Istituto per la Cooperazione Universitaria (ICU), Rome, Italy	Speaker
	Dr. Biagio Di Terlizzi	Director of CIHEAM Bari, Italy	Speaker
	Prof. Jamal Orman	Full Professor - Latakia University – Syria	Speaker (online)

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

The Mediterranean Basin is one of the regions most exposed to environmental hazards, such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, floods, fires and droughts. These hazards affect most sectors and ecosystems, including water, food, health and security. Climate change is a threat to us all, amplifying the frequency and intensity of these hazards and putting additional pressure on vulnerable ecosystems, communities and economies. Currently, the basin is in a state of constant change due to human activities such as uncontrolled land and sea use, urbanisation and rapid industrial development, as well as being home to one of the world's busiest shipping routes. All these factors point to significant and increasing risks in the coming decades. To meet these challenges, our interconnected world needs to build bridges today more than ever to help us find workable solutions together that leave no one behind. Higher education and its links to research and innovation play a crucial role in individual and societal progress and in providing the highly skilled workforce that Europe and neighboring countries need to create jobs, improve quality of life and move towards sustainable development.

OBJECTIVES

The general objective of the MediCoRe initiative is to consolidate the MediCoRe Partnership by bringing Mediterranean institutions together under the Mediterranean Community Resilience framework, which is coordinated by **POLIBA-DICATECh**. The initiative aims to strengthen cooperation in joint research, encourage the development of innovative educational services and promote technology transfer activities across the Mediterranean region. By taking these steps, MediCoRe seeks to empower current and future generations of Mediterranean students, researchers and professionals, enabling them to play a leading role in the ongoing process of socio-economic and environmental development. The initiative also aims to raise awareness among Mediterranean decision-makers and enhance their capacity, encouraging them to make strategic choices that support intelligent, inclusive and sustainable growth. This vision is grounded in ecological principles and inspired by the paradigm of the circular and responsible management of Mediterranean resources. The main objective of the MediCoRe Side Event is to open a dialogue on perspectives, opportunities and future directions for Mediterranean cooperation in addressing critical challenges relating to water resource management, supply and security, as well as other interconnected environmental, social and economic issues affecting the region. Attention will be devoted to identifying collaborative approaches, sharing best practice and exploring innovative solutions that can strengthen resilience, sustainability and regional integration across the Mediterranean basin.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The initiative targets public decision-makers and policymakers at local, regional, national and Mediterranean levels, as well as water authorities and utility managers responsible for water resource planning and management, environmental agencies and regulatory bodies, and development practitioners and technical experts working on climate adaptation and resilience initiatives.

The key targets of the initiative are also students (undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD) from Mediterranean universities and research institutions; early-career researchers and scientists working on environmental sustainability, water resources, climate change, the circular economy and resilience; academic staff and educators; and young professionals and innovators interested in sustainable development and technological solutions to challenges facing the Mediterranean region.

The final beneficiaries of the initiative are Mediterranean communities exposed to water scarcity, drought, floods, pollution and climate-related risks; future generations who will benefit from improved

environmental governance and sustainable resource management; and economic sectors that depend on natural resources, such as agriculture, tourism, energy and fisheries.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The session is expected to:

- Strengthen dialogue and cooperation among Mediterranean institutions and stakeholders on water resources management and supply.
- Identify shared challenges, priorities, and opportunities related to water scarcity, climate change, environmental risks, and sustainable and resilient resource management.
- Facilitate the exchange of good practices, research findings, and new technological and governance solutions.
- Foster stronger links between higher education, research and innovation, policymakers, public authorities, and the private sector.
- Promote opportunities for joint research, education, capacity building, technology transfer, and future collaborative initiatives within the MediCoRe Partnership.
- Enhance the capacity and engagement of students, young researchers, and professionals in addressing the Mediterranean's environmental and socio-economic challenges.
- Contribute to a shared vision for a more resilient, sustainable, inclusive, and integrated Mediterranean region.