The Mediterranean WEFE Nexus Community of Practice: A catalyst for integrated natural resources management and climate resilience

WEFE4MED Project

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

KEY INFORMATION

Date	30 September 2026
Time	09:30 – 11:00
Room	Circe
Format	Workshop
Language(s)	English, with French interpretation

SUMMARY

The session will bring together the Mediterranean WEFE Nexus Community of Practice (NCoP) and the wider WEFE community to share experiences and discuss lessons from implementation and opportunities for wider uptake. It will explore how policy, financing and regional cooperation can support the replication and upscaling of successful solutions.

AGENDA & SPEAKERS

The Workshop will begin with a welcome and opening session where distinguished speakers will provide insights on the prospects of the WEFE Nexus framework at country and Mediterranean levels, including the contribution to the ongoing development of the Action Framework for the Strategy for the WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean Source-to-Sea Continuum.

A short introductory presentation will follow, providing an overview of the WEFE4MED project's achievements over the past four years and the establishment of the Mediterranean WEFE NCoP, including specific contributions on conducted activities by project consortium partners.

The Workshop will continue with a moderated panel, bringing together different perspectives from across and beyond the Mediterranean WEFE Nexus community. The exchanges will include practical experiences of WEFE Nexus implementation from selected WEFE demonstrators and other members of the NCoP, will explore lessons learned, implementation challenges and opportunities for replication and upscaling. Building on these experiences, the speakers will offer insights into the bigger picture and the conditions needed to support the wider uptake of WEFE approaches, with emphasis on policy, financing and regional cooperation. The panel will also consider how lessons from implementation can tangibly contribute to the ongoing development of

the Action Framework for the Strategy for the WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean Source-to-Sea Continuum, as well as the future of the Mediterranean WEFE NCoP beyond WEFE4MED.

Selected interventions from additional stakeholders will provide inspiration for the open discussion that will follow and conclude the Workshop.

09:30-09:55	**Welcome and Opening** • Prof. Ali Rhouma, Project Officer, PRIMA Foundation • Prof. Stavros Malas, President of the Cyprus Institute • Mr. Frédéric de Dinechin, Senior Policy Advisor, Water Stability and Resilience Division, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) • Eng. Mona Fakih, Director of Water, General Directorate of Hydraulic and Electric Resources, Ministry of Energy and Water, Lebanon Facilitator: Dr. Anthi Brouma, Deputy Regional Coordinator, GWP-Med
09:55-10:10	**WEFE4MED and the Mediterranean WEFE Nexus Community of Practice** Overview of the project's key achievements and the development and sustainability of the NCoP • Dr. Marios Georgiou, Head of PROTEAS Facility, Energy Department, EEWRC, The Cyprus Institute With speed interventions from WEFE4MED consortium partners • Mr. Alexander Omar Borg, Officer (Policy & International), Water & Pollution Control Unit, The Energy and Water Agency, Malta • Mr. Youssef Yammine, Cluster Manager, Berytech
10:10-10:55	**Panel Discussion – From WEFE Nexus Experience to Wider Uptake: Lessons, Enabling Conditions and Future Action** Moderators • Dr. Ioanna Antoniades, Senior Research Coordination Officer, The Cyprus Institute • Dr. Anthi Brouma, Deputy Regional Coordinator, GWP-Med **Panellists:** • Dr. Hassan Husseiny, GEBAL Egypt Co-Founder, Samla-Nexus technical engineer, WEFE4MED Award-winning Demo • Ms. Antonia Maria Lorenzo López, BIOAZUL, Spain (CEO and R&D Director), Universidad de Córdoba, WEARE Research Group Spain (PhD Student) • Eng. Charafat Afailal, Water and Climate Expert, former Minister of Water in Morocco

	• Ms. Yosra Albakkar, Regional Climate Finance and Programming Advisor, Middle East Region, Green Climate Fund (GCF) **Brief reflections from the floor** to inspire the discussion • Ms. Carolina Pérez Valverde, Head of Policy & Knowledge Sharing, MedCities • Mr. Arnauld Rostan, Deputy Director General, Eau D'Azur Utility, Nice • Mr. Ahmad Sandid, WEFE Nexus Advisor, Water Sector Governance Program (WGS), GIZ Water and Energy Cluster - Jordan Open discussion
10:55-11:00	**Key Takeaway Messages & Next Steps** • Mr. Vangelis Constantianos, Executive Secretary & Regional Coordinator, GWP-Med • Dr. Marios Georgiou, Head of PROTEAS Facility, Energy Department, EEWRC, The Cyprus Institute

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

The Mediterranean region has been facing increasing pressures on water, energy, food systems and ecosystems, making integrated resource management more important than ever. The Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus recognises the interdependencies between these sectors and promotes approaches that bring different stakeholders together to address shared challenges in a more coordinated way and support more sustainable and resilient resource management.

Over the past decade, the region has witnessed the emergence of an increasing number of WEFE-related initiatives, demonstrators, research projects and policy processes seeking to advance integrated natural resources management. These initiatives have generated valuable knowledge, practical experience and lessons that can support the wider implementation of the WEFE Nexus across the region. At the same time, they have highlighted the need for stronger collaboration, knowledge exchange and coordination across countries, sectors and stakeholder groups.

To support this, the PRIMA-funded WEFE4MED project (2022–2026) established the Mediterranean WEFE Nexus Community of Practice (NCoP). The NCoP was created as a regional platform that brings together policymakers, practitioners, researchers, demonstrator leaders, regional organisations, funding institutions and other stakeholders working on the WEFE Nexus. Over the past four years, it has promoted networking, knowledge exchange, synergies and collaboration, while increasing the visibility of WEFE initiatives and creating opportunities for peer learning across the Mediterranean. At present, the NCoP has more than 700 active members from 68 countries and includes 56 demonstrators.

As WEFE4MED project reaches its conclusion, this session will serve as the project's final milestone event. Organised within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Water Forum, it provides an opportunity to reflect on what has been achieved and discuss how this collective experience can continue to support the implementation of the WEFE Nexus across the region.

While many WEFE Nexus initiatives and demonstrators across the Mediterranean have shown promising results, significant challenges remain in translating successful experiences into wider uptake, replication and long-term impact.

Demonstrators provide valuable evidence of what works in practice. However, replication and upscaling often depend on several factors beyond the technical solution itself, including supportive policy frameworks, access to financing, institutional cooperation, stakeholder engagement and effective knowledge exchange.

At the same time, ongoing regional processes, including the Strategy for the WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean Source-to-Sea Continuum and the elaboration of an Action Framework for its implementation, as well as initiatives of other relevant sub-regional political frameworks, including those under the League of Arab States (LAS), the African Union (AU), and the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) in Southeastern Europe, provide an important opportunity to ensure that lessons from practical implementation inform future policy, cooperation and investment priorities.

This session aims to bring these two dimensions together by creating a platform for dialogue and exchange among key WEFE Nexus stakeholders. It will connect lessons from implementation with wider discussions on governance, financing, regional cooperation and the role of the Mediterranean WEFE NCoP. In doing so, it will also contribute to the ongoing consultation process for the Action Framework by bringing practical implementation experience into the regional policy-making process. Ultimately, the session will explore how the growing body of WEFE Nexus experience in the Mediterranean can support more integrated, resilient and scalable solutions across the region.

OBJECTIVES

- Share the outputs and achievements of the Mediterranean NCoP established through WEFE4MED and bring together members of the NCoP and other stakeholders to exchange experiences and reflect on WEFE Nexus implementation across the Mediterranean.
- Showcase practical implementation experiences and lessons learned from WEFE demonstrators and other NCoP members and explore opportunities and challenges for replicating and upscaling successful WEFE Nexus solutions.
- Reflect on opportunities to sustain the legacy and reinforce the sustainability of the Mediterranean NCoP beyond the WEFE4MED's timeframe, focusing on ways to strengthen regional collaboration and influence policy, with emphasis on the WEFE Nexus Strategy and the Action Framework for its implementation.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Increased visibility and dissemination of successful WEFE Nexus solutions and demonstrators from across the Mediterranean, with stronger connections among members of the Mediterranean WEFE NCoP and the wider WEFE community.
- A shared understanding of the main opportunities and challenges for replication and upscaling of WEFE approaches within and beyond the Mediterranean, with emphasis on policy, governance and financing.
- Practical input to the ongoing consultation process for the elaboration of the Action Framework for the implementation of the Strategy for the WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean.
- Identification of opportunities for the Mediterranean WEFE NCoP to support and potentially service regional collaboration and policy making across different political frameworks in the wider Mediterranean region.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The session is intended for: policymakers, practitioners, researchers, demonstrator leaders, representatives of regional and international organisations, funding institutions, civil society organisations, the private sector and other stakeholders working on or interested in the implementation of the WEFE Nexus.

Among the participants will be members of the Mediterranean WEFE NCoP, providing an opportunity to exchange experiences, strengthen existing collaborations and identify new opportunities for cooperation beyond WEFE4MED.