



Union for the Mediterranean
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الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط



Mediterranean
Action Plan
Barcelona
Convention



2nd Regional Roundtable on Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus in the Mediterranean

*“Towards a Strategy for the WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean
Source to Sea continuum”*

5 February 2024 (14:00-17:30)

To be held during the 5th Mediterranean Water Forum in Tunis, Tunisia

Concept Note and Agenda

Organised by:



In the framework of:



2.2
Mediterranean Coastal Zones:
Managing the Water-Food-Energy
and Ecosystem NEXUS

“Mediterranean Coastal Zones: Managing the Water-Energy-Food and Ecosystems Nexus”, led by GWP-Med and financed by GEF UNEP/MAP

With the support of:



Water and Environment Support mechanism (WES)
led by LDK and financed by the European Neighborhood Instrument



PRIMA Partnership for Research & Innovation in the Mediterranean area



Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

Scope of the Roundtable

There is a growing recognition of the interconnectedness between Water, Energy, Food and Ecosystems (WEFE), and the need for them to be addressed as a system, based on a WEFE Nexus approach. The international community also recognizes that implementation of the Nexus approach has a potential to provide multiple benefits to society, by supporting the achievement of:

- a) water, energy, food, and ecosystems security through an integrated management of natural resources,
- b) global policy goals, such as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and other goals related to water, energy transition, biodiversity, circular economy, as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation,
- c) enhanced in scope and impact regional cooperation, social cohesion, conflict prevention and peace building, and
- d) economic development, job creation, attracting investments, enhancing innovation and fostering regional economic integration.

At the same time, the Mediterranean region is facing significant challenges related to the availability and quality of natural resources, which generate pressures and related security risks. Moreover, these challenges are growing steadily due to environmental, social, economic, and political drivers (climate change, population growth, lifestyle changes, urbanization, industrialization, migration, and war).

Some significant opportunities are also emerging particularly in the areas of renewable energies, waste water treatment processes and space-related technologies and digitalization.

Such aspects and dimensions were discussed in the 1st Regional Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus Roundtable in the Mediterranean on 'Promoting Innovation, Investments and Upscaling of Solutions' that was held on 6-7 June 2023, in Rabat, Morocco) and was attended (physically and online) by more than 160 participants from 15 countries. The main points presented and discussed during the 1st Regional Roundtable, including the presentation files, and a brief Report of the Roundtable, are available [here](#). A detailed Concept Note on the WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean context is available as an Annex to the [Report](#) of the Roundtable.

Representatives of national authorities, stakeholders and regional institutions that participated in the Roundtable agreed on the need for a Strategy for the WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean's source to sea continuum, to guide integration of policy and management instruments and action lines across sectors to address risks related to water, energy, food and environmental security, capitalize on wise use of emerging opportunities and promote leveraging of necessary funding.

The principal aim of this 2nd Regional Roundtable on the WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean is to present and discuss the draft Strategy for the WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean Source to Sea continuum in view of its eventual finalisation and adoption.

Draft Agenda

5 February 2024 (14:00-17:30)	
14:00-14:30	<p>Welcoming High-level session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ H.E. Ms Leila Chikhaoui Mahdaoui, Minister of Environment of Tunisia○ H.E. Mr. Hani Atef Nabhan Sewilam, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation of Egypt○ H.E. Mr. Walid Fayad, Minister of Energy and Water of Lebanon (written intervention)○ Mohamad Kayyal, MedProgramme Coordinator, UNEP/MAP○ Almotaz Abadi, UfM Deputy Secretary General in charge of Water, Environment and Blue Economy○ Frederic Fournet, Program officer, European Commission DG NEAR B2○ Octavi Quintana, PRIMA○ Michael Scoullou, Team Leader, EU Water and Environment Support (WES) in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood region <p>Purpose and overview of the Roundtable: <i>Dimitris Faloutsos, Deputy Regional Coordinator, GWP-Med</i></p>
14:30-15:00	<p>Session 1: Appropriate institutional arrangements, policies, and cooperation frameworks established at country and regional levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Brief introduction and presentation of suggested scope Tassos Krommydas, GWP-Med○ Facilitator: Frédéric de Dinechin, Senior Policy Advisor, UfM <p>Plenary Discussion</p>
15:00-15:30	<p>Session 2: Efficient and effective planning, financing and implementation of management and technical solutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Brief introduction and presentation of suggested scope Tassos Krommydas, GWP-Med○ Facilitators: Ali Rhouma, Omar Amawi, PRIMA <p>Plenary Discussion</p>
15:30-16:00	<p>Coffee break</p>
16:00-16:30	<p>Session 3: Informed decision making based on enhanced science-based knowledge, engagement of capacitated stakeholders, and increased public awareness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Brief introduction and presentation of suggested scope Tassos Krommydas, GWP-Med○ Facilitator: Mohamad Kayyal, MedProgramme Coordinator, UNEP/MAP <p>Plenary Discussion</p>

16:30-17:00	<p>Session 4: Implementation framework, financial means and monitoring of the WEF Nexus Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Brief introduction and presentation of suggested scope Tassos Krommydas, GWP-Med○ Facilitator: Frederic Fourtune, Program officer, EC DG NEAR <p>Plenary Discussion</p>
17:00-17:30	<p>Session 5: Conclusions and next steps</p> <p>Rapporteur: <i>Michael Scoullas, Team Leader, EU WES Project</i></p> <p>Plenary Discussion</p>