

CONCEPT NOTE AND PROGRAMME

Bridging Water Capacity Gaps in the Mediterranean

Monday 5 February 2024

Background

Water scarcity and quality, increasing droughts and floods, agricultural production and food security, access to clean and affordable energy are just some of the challenges facing the Mediterranean region. Moreover, these issues are expected to become even more challenging in the coming years due to the impacts of climate change and other factors, such as population growth and urbanisation among others. In this sense, assessing water capacity constraints and enhancing capacity building on water resources management are key and need greater attention in the Mediterranean region.

Capacity development has been identified as one of the key five accelerators by the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework, a unifying initiative that aims to deliver fast results, at an increased scale, towards the goal of ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030.

Water resources management is marked by complexities that lie in broad spheres such as governance, policymaking, and financing. Therefore, a capacity development strategy in the water sector needs to integrate many different concerns in order to be successful.

This side event will introduce various existing and/or planned water-related capacity development efforts in the Mediterranean in order to develop a common framework for action. The event will also showcase global initiatives by international organisations implementing capacity development processes to improve water governance with a potential for regional implementation.

Some priority areas for action that have already been identified include drought management, digitalisation, and the use of non-conventional sources.

Objectives

This side event is aimed at:

- Enhancing awareness on the importance of capacity building in countries for timely achievement of SDG 6.
- Introducing various existing and/or planned capacity-development initiatives and opportunities for water management in the Mediterranean region.
- Sharing and discussing experiences, challenges, and lessons learned on building national capacity for water management.
- Initiating a preliminary assessment of water-related capacity needs in the Mediterranean region
- Contributing to enhance the capacity of water institutions, such as regulators, ministries, and service providers in the Mediterranean region.

Organisers

This side event is co-organised by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) from the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the General Directorate for Water from the Spanish Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenges.

Participants

The side event is expected to have the presence and engagement of country representatives from the Mediterranean region, government officials, policy-makers, experts and other stakeholders concerned with the implementation of SDG 6 in the region.

Programme

This side event will begin with a series of introductory talks about various existing or planned regional and global water-related capacity development initiatives and actions followed by a moderated panel discussion and an open discussion stemming from panellists' contributions.

- **Inmaculada Paniagua.** Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). The Masar Programme
- **María Concepción Marcuello.** Spanish General Directorate for Water. Capacity development in the 5+5 Dialogue.
- A representative from the **Government of Tunisia.**
- A representative from the **Union for the Mediterranean.**
- A representative from **UNESCO.** The UN-Water Capacity Development Initiative: status and regional approach.
- A representative from the **International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies Zaragoza (CIHEAM Zaragoza).** The Water governance scholarship programme.

Contact

Inmaculada Paniagua
Technical Advisor for Middle East and Asia
Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)
Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
inmaculada.paniagua@aecid.es

Pilar González
mgonz206@tragsa.es