



Transformative Water Resources Management

Smart and resilient solutions for climate challenge across the Mediterranean

Side event of the 5th Mediterranean Water Forum
Working together for shared water sobriety
Tunis, February 5-7, 2024

Introduction: The Mediterranean region is characterised by long-standing vulnerability to climate variability and change, marked by rising temperatures, erratic rainfall patterns, and frequent instances of droughts and water scarcity. Traditional water management practices have proved insufficient in meeting the rising demand for freshwater resources and addressing emerging challenges. **Hence, there is a growing imperative for transformative approaches that acknowledge the necessity of adaptive strategies capable of withstanding the uncertainty and variability linked to climate change.**

Such transformational strategies prioritise the development of resilience against forthcoming climate-related challenges. This includes the development of early warning systems, digitalization, improvements in infrastructure, and the enhancement of capacities among water professionals. Recognizing that agriculture plays a

substantial role in water consumption within the Mediterranean, adapting to water scarcity becomes paramount for safeguarding food security. Fostering engagement among local communities, stakeholders, and policymakers in the formulation and implementation of transformative water management strategies emerges as a vital component. The principles of inclusivity and transparency are instrumental in ensuring that the proposed solutions align with the needs and aspirations of the region's citizens. Given the interdependence of Mediterranean countries, cooperation among neighbouring nations assumes a central role. Transformational water management approaches actively promote international collaboration on transboundary water resources, ultimately striving for equitable distribution and the sustainable utilisation of these critical water sources.



Scope: Multi-perspective discussion on existing trade-offs in the design and implementation of water smart solutions under environmental and socioeconomic change. Discussion will involve experts on data science, modelling, real time monitoring and remote sensing, as well as stakeholders from the projects, who will interact with the audience.

Participants: The event's target audience will be experts in water management from private and public sectors, environmental managers and NGOs, and policy makers, as well as academics interested in understanding the possible solutions and bottlenecks for digitalization and sustainable water management.

This side event is a joint activity of several EU projects:

ACQUAOUNT project improves water resource allocation, IWRM, and sustainable irrigation using innovative tools like IoT monitoring, interoperability, and smart visualization. It includes pilot demonstrations in Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, and Tunisia, addressing climate-induced water scarcity. ([ACQUAOUNT](#)).

TALANOA WATER project addresses the global water crisis through robust, transformative adaptation strategies for climate-induced water scarcity. It emphasizes economic efficiency, environmental sustainability, and consists of three pillars: Talanoa Water Dialogue, socio-hydrology science, and Water laboratories. This innovative approach targets a critical global challenge. ([TALANOA](#)).

TRANSCEND project catalyzes the adoption of Transformational Adaptation Policies (TAPs) to combat water scarcity. It involves 50+ researchers from 15 institutions globally, focusing on efficient water management policies with seven pilot case studies on three continents. Over four years, it fosters knowledge and tools for sustainable growth under uncertainty and climate change. ([TRANSCEND](#)).

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AGENDA

Welcome and introduction

Marta Debolini, Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change and Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change (MedECC), Italy

PRIMA - Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean region

Marco Orlando, PRIMA Foundation, Spain

Keynote talk

Fatima Driouech, University Mohammed VI Polytechnic, Morocco

Be the Waters of Change - actionable and smart solutions for resilient adaptation to climate change.

Dionisio Perez Blanco, University of Salamanca, Spain

Simone Mereu, Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change, Italy

Vangelis Constantianos, Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean (GWP-Med), Greece

Policy panel discussion

