

WEFE Nexus: Analysis of WES-BCA WEFE Nexus findings and recommendations towards the Action Plan Jan. 2026

Mediterranean WEFE Nexus Strategy			WES-BCA recommendations	WES-BCA findings
Goal 1: Appropriate institutional arrangements, policies, and cooperation frameworks are established at country and			Governance and Policies	Governance and Policies
Objective 1.1: Develop and/or accordingly adapt appropriate governance structures at all levels to implement the WEFE Nexus	1.1.1. Encouraging regional as well as transboundary cooperation governance settings in implementing the WEFE Nexus			Limited understanding and, thus, lack of impulse as well as limited know-how to develop and implement governance
	1.1.2. Establishing and/or enhancing country-level cross-sectoral and inter-spatial coordination mechanisms or structures.		1. Strengthen WEFE Coordination Mechanisms: Reinforce and formalize cross-sectoral coordination platforms by defining	Existing multi-sector coordination mechanisms (e.g., sustainable development, climate change) are often overlooked when
	1.1.3. Enhancing the capacities of relevant bodies, for implementing the WEFE Nexus approach in the S2S continuum.			
	1.1.4. Ensuring effective decentralization in decision-making and that sub-regional and/or cultural distinctive features are taken into			Insufficient knowledge on decentralization processes and how to empower local authorities within a WEFE
	1.1.5. Creating the necessary institutional and legal framework and processes for planning, financing and implementing WEFE		4. Promote Integrated Governance Frameworks Training: Provide training to policymakers, planners, and sector regulators	Gaps in adapting sector-specific policies and regulatory frameworks that incorporate WEFE Nexus principles in a Source-to-Sea
	1.1.6. Facilitate regional dialogue processes and forums for exchange of knowledge and experience.			
Objective 1.2: Mainstreaming WEFE Nexus approach in the S2S continuum into policies and strategies.	1.2.1. Developing new, or updating existing, regional strategic documents and action plans for implementing the WEFE Nexus			
	1.2.2. Screening major regional sectoral initiatives from a WEFE Nexus perspective and ensuring that they do not affect in a negative			
	1.2.3. Ensuring harmonization across sectoral and spatial "chapters" of national strategies and plans to avoid inconsistencies		3. Align Sub-National Strategies: Review mandates, composition, policies, and strategies on natural resources of sub-national	
	1.2.4. Developing or adjusting existing instruments, processes, requirements, guidelines for increasing horizontal and vertical		2. Review and Update WEFE Sector Policies: Systematically review and update existing sector policies and strategies to	
	1.2.5. Benefiting from the use of integrated management approaches (IWRM, Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), Ecosystem		6. Incorporate WEFE Priorities into natural resources and development Plans at appropriate level: Explicitly incorporate WEFE	
Goal 2: Efficient and effective planning, financing and implementation of management and technical solutions.			Planning and financing	Effective and efficient planning and financing

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Objective 2.1: Upscaling demonstration WEFE Nexus applications to mainstreamed implementation, through appropriate	2.1.1. Mapping and brokering opportunities for multipurpose, integrated, and innovative WEFE Nexus interventions and		5. Undertake WEFE Multi-Sector Integrated Assessments: Conduct integrated assessments at national and sub-national	
	2.1.2. Developing standardized methods to assess the feasibility, cost-efficiency and effectiveness of WEFE Nexus solutions,			Inadequate tools for assessing the economic and financial impacts of WEFE Nexus plans and projects, inhibiting investment and
	2.1.3. Piloting and mainstreaming no-regret and cost-efficient solutions and innovative technologies, including Nature-			Limited documented experiences or case studies demonstrating successful cross-sector collaboration, hindering the development and
	2.1.4. Replicating and upscaling of cost-efficient and effective solutions, including by developing an appropriate incentives and		7. Define Specific Scaling Mechanisms: Define scaling mechanisms for targeted WEFE Nexus solutions that address	
	2.1.5. Improving cross-sectoral investment planning to progressively move to cross-sectoral portfolios of large investment		8. Develop a Project Pipeline of Investment-Grade Initiatives: Create a project pipeline of WEFE Nexus interventions in a	Challenges in executing multi-sectoral projects that effectively balance water, energy, food, and ecosystems needs considering also
Objective 2.2: Attracting and coordinating increased financing for implementation of WEFE Nexus interventions.	2.2.1. Developing a strategic finance framework for WEFE Nexus implementation – including targets for public and private		9. Engage Private Partners and Domestic Financial Institutions: Explore opportunities for innovative private investment in WEFE	Knowledge gaps regarding the development and deployment of innovative financial instruments and incentives that can
	2.2.2. Prioritizing public spending and mobilizing national sources of finance for WEFE Nexus interventions; reforming harmful			
	2.2.3. Mainstreaming the funding for WEFE Nexus projects through existing cross-sectoral international funding sources, such as climate		10. Mobilize International Support: Seek additional financial support from international development partners, including the EU, for	
	2.2.4. Using blended finance (including guarantees) to help de-risk WEFE projects in order to attract private sector investment.			
	2.2.5. Strengthen Public-Private Partnerships by integrating financial mechanisms specifically dedicated to			
	2.2.6. Supporting national, local and regional capacities to prepare schemes and proposals to effectively access and manage			Lack of practical guidance and successful models of WEFE Nexus implementation and monitoring that truly work across sectors and
Goal 3: Informed decision making based on enhanced science-based knowledge, engagement of capacitated stakeholders, and			Data, Knowledge, and Stakeholder Engagement	Data, Knowledge, and Stakeholder Engagement
Objective 3.1: Promoting Science and Education on WEFE Nexus and S2S aspects.	3.1.1. Incorporating WEFE related topics in University curricula			

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	3.1.2. Encouraging related cooperation across academic institutes, and linking them with market economy to increase		13. Support WEFE Nexus Community of Practice (NCoP) : Develop and facilitate, at appropriate levels, WEFE Nexus NCoP to share	
	3.1.3. Supporting R&D on emerging and innovative technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and space monitoring. Encourage			
	3.1.4. Promote cross-sectoral research collaborations on climate-related challenges in the Mediterranean region.			A scarcity of interdisciplinary research initiatives and educational programs that address WEFE issues and solutions, particularly
Objective 3.2: Ensuring data availability, harmonisation and sharing across sectors and borders.	3.2.1 Modernizing, standardizing and harmonizing monitoring systems and databases across the WEFE Nexus sectors		15. Support Cross-Sectoral Data Standardization: Train data collectors and managers operating in different sectors on	Persistent challenges in accessing or obtaining reliable, consistent and comprehensive data across WEFE sectors and
	3.2.2 Promoting synergies for the application of new technologies for cost-efficient, advanced monitoring systems.			Insufficient emphasis on the interlinkages among WEFE challenges and solutions, leading to a lack of accelerating the development,
	3.2.3 Increasing the engagement and responsibilities of stakeholders in gathering reliable data.			
Objective 3.3: Developing capacities of stakeholders and related tools to implement WEFE Nexus at the S2S continuum.	3.3.1 Identifying capacity building needs for government officials and other national and local authorities, agencies and other		11. Analyse Training Needs: Conduct a thorough training needs assessment to identify gaps in WEFE Nexus in a Source-to-Sea	
	3.3.2 Organizing capacity building and training programs including e-learning and massive open online courses, mentoring and		14. Build Capacity to Use Digital Tools: Building capacity in the use of digital tools (e.g., GIS, remote sensing, modeling	
	3.3.3 Promoting sharing of WEFE Nexus-related knowledge, experience, skill development and expertise among		18. Train Mediators: Offer training in conflict resolution, negotiations, and consensus-building with a specific focus on WEFE Nexus	Limited stakeholder involvement and insufficient capacity-building initiatives undermining the understanding and
	3.3.4 Supporting authorities and other stakeholders by development of competencies, building capacities to identify WEFE Nexus		17. Adequately Inform Policy and Decision makers: Improve skills in data analysis and visualization to support cross-sectoral evidence	
	3.3.5 Developing localized WEFE Nexus Assessments and related tools that identify interlinkages and quantify the benefits of joint			
Objective 3.4: Raising awareness and improving understanding concerning the WEFE Nexus at the S2S continuum,	3.4.1. Developing and conducting awareness campaigns for targeted groups and on tailored made priority elements of the		19. Promote Public Awareness: Increase public awareness of WEFE Nexus issues, approaches and solutions to encourage	Limited dissemination, thus awareness, of related best practices and mechanisms, including their achieved benefits as well as the
	3.4.2. Supporting engagement, empowerment and decision-making roles of women and youth in WEFE Nexus			

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	3.4.3. Ensuring that gender considerations and the needs of vulnerable communities are fully taken into account in policy-making and			
	3.4.4. Identifying, developing and communicating successful cases of practice into regional, national and local planning		16. Enhance Cross-Sectoral Communication Skills: Developing communication and facilitation skills amongst government officials	
	3.4.5. Establishing regional Communities of Practice on the WEFE Nexus at the S2S continuum.		20. Disseminate the WEFE Nexus Strategy and engage in shaping and implementing its Action Plan towards shifting from WEFE Nexus	
	3.4.6. Support behavioral change in consumption patterns, including also in terms of shifting to healthier diets and reducing food			