



1st MED-RISE - Mediterranean Resilience through Investment and Sustainable Ecosystems

Mobilising Private Investment across the WEF E Nexus, from Source to Sea

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Why the WEFE Nexus?

Context: The Mediterranean is a climate change hotspot (rising temps, water scarcity).

Why WEFE?: Interconnected challenges require integrated, not siloed, solutions.

The Goal: Moving from isolated pilots to systemic, resilient infrastructure that addresses water, energy, food, and ecosystems simultaneously.

The Gap: A persistent bottleneck in translating pilot initiatives into bankable investments at scale.



Regional Context & EU Initiatives



Policy Landscape: The Pact for the Mediterranean and the EU's Global Gateway strategy.

Strategic Initiatives:

- **Rome Initiative on Water (2026):**
Transforming national goals into bankable projects.
- **EU Resilience Strategy: Resilience 2.0 - Peace and Security, Democratic Values, Citizen Well-Being**
- **European Water Resilience Strategy:**
Addresses water demand and targets consumption reduction

Catalytic Financing: e.g. The role of the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+) in de-risking projects.

Reflecting on Progress – WES BCA & Regional Action



WES-BCA Phase 1: Established the foundation for private sector engagement in climate adaptation across the Mediterranean.

Action Frameworks: Implementing WEF E approaches at the national level (e.g., Jordan, Morocco) and regional level.

WEFE Med Community of Practice (CoP): The evolution into a thematic CoP focused on *Private Sector Engagement in WEF E Nexus Financing* (WES-BCA Activity HOR-2).

Objective: Accelerating finance by bridging the gap between project proponents and financiers.



Towards bankable WEFE project pipelines



Aim: align ministries and EU/IFIs around time-bound actions to support preparing bankable WEFE pilots across Morocco and Jordan, guided by regional learning.

Emphasis:

- applying a **WEFE Nexus approach** to such investments to generate multiple benefits for climate resilience, including as outlined in the 'WEFE Nexus screening tool' in the EU's Assessment on WEFE Nexus Financing.
- Engaging **SMEs** in service provision, technology and innovation and **partners for large scale infrastructure** (indicatively wastewater treatment and reuse, desalination, irrigation, agritech)
- Promoting the mobilisatation of EFSD+/NDICI financing and investment instruments, including as co-financing options.

Priority: Identifying existing / pipeline / potential projects and steps needed to advance project opportunities: focus is on government-led steps to unlock blended finance

Focus: Morocco and Jordan as pilot countries. The country-level work will feed into a brief Regional Action Framework for potential replication and scaling across other WES-BCA Partner Countries.

Community of Practice (CoP) on Private Sector Engagement in WEF Nexus Financing



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Aim: accelerate private sector mobilisation for WEF projects across the Mediterranean.

Convene cross-sector actors: SMEs, corporates, IFIs, national institutions, investors, public agencies.

Deliverable focus: private sector mobilisation tools (e.g. project readiness, capacity building on blended finance, pipeline, bankability).

Function: facilitative space for entrepreneurs meet entrepreneurs and potential (gov.) support and financiers

Outcome: increased capacity among SMEs to prepare investable WEF projects for consideration by financiers.



Challenges & Opportunities – SME Engagement



Challenges:

Limited demand for and access to affordable commercial credit, high transaction costs, lack of standard "bankable" business models.

Opportunities :

- **Agri-Tech Innovation:** PV-powered groundwater pumping and precision irrigation improving yields.
- **Cold Chains:** Sustainable, energy-efficient storage reducing post-harvest losses.
- **Aggregation Models:** Developing programs (e.g., Green Financing Programs) to bundle SME projects into portfolios, increasing attractiveness for private investors.

Challenges & Opportunities – Large-Scale Infrastructure

Challenges:

High upfront costs, long-term risk perception, fragmented stakeholder landscape.

Opportunities:

- **Solar-Powered Desalination:** Moving toward renewable energy-driven solutions with brine management.
- **Renewable Energy-Driven Wastewater Treatment & Reuse:** Utilising bi-products and improving energy efficiency.
- **Blended Finance & PPPs:** Using public guarantees to attract private institutional capital for climate-resilient assets.



Key Messages (1/2) – Shifting the Paradigm

Investment is Climate Action: Private capital must shift from "CSR/Philanthropy" to profit-generating, resilient investment opportunities in WEFE solutions.

Bankability is a Skill: Technical assistance (e.g., "bankability clinics") is required to move projects from "concepts" to "investable briefs" and bundle projects into investable portfolios.

De-Risking is Key: Catalytic public finance and grant finance is essential to make projects appealing; EFSD+ and similar tools are the bridge to mobilising private institutional investment.



Key Messages (2/2) – The Path Forward



Collaboration: Integrated projects and bundling require inter-ministerial coordination and active public-private-people-partnerships (PPPPs).

Community of Practice as Accelerator: Use the WEFE Med CoP (on WEFE private sector mobilisation) to standardise project information, share lessons, and facilitate matchmaking between public agencies, SMEs, large corporates, and financiers.

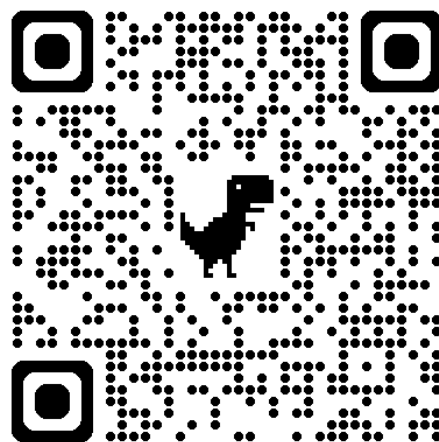
Urgency: The time to build robust project pipelines is now—the framework exists; moving to implementation requires concentrated from concepts to financial close and sustained efforts to mobilise private capital.



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Thank you for your attention!



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