



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

Key Messages

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Opening

- Today's discussion focused on how private investment can contribute to a more resilient Water–Energy–Food–Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus across the Mediterranean.
- Water scarcity, food security, energy transition and ecosystem health are interconnected. Decisions in one area affect the others.
- A WEFE approach can support better planning and investment by identifying synergies, managing trade-offs and strengthening climate resilience from source to sea.
- The region has strategies, national priorities, pilots and capable public and private actors. The challenge is to move more initiatives from concept to prepared, financeable projects and implementation at scale.
- The draft messages below are proposed as an input to the Rome Initiative on Water, the Mediterranean WEFE Nexus Strategy's Action Framework and the UN 2026 Water Conference.

Key Messages 1 & 2

1. Treat integrated WEFEE investment as a practical route to sustainable development and climate resilience

- Apply a WEFEE lens to investment decisions across the source-to-sea continuum, building that on a set of criteria for assessing Nexus application for multi-sectorial benefits .
- Assess projects for their contribution to climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation co-benefits as well as social and economic co-benefits.

2. Mobilise private capabilities and finance in support of public objectives

- Engage private actors for their potential contributions in capital, technology, innovation, - construction, operations, maintenance- and risk management
- Ensure private participation complements—not replaces—public responsibilities for planning, regulation, safeguards, affordability and public-interest outcomes.
- Include affected communities and relevant local stakeholders in partnership processes.

Key Messages 3

3. Make projects investable by supporting preparation and bankability

- Recognise that a strategy or investment idea is not yet a bankable project.
- Support project promoters to complete feasibility studies, establish a credible borrower and repayment pathway, demonstrate cash flows and assess risks.
- Define safeguards and clear, measurable WEFE results as part of project preparation; consider applying a related methodology based on available standards and/or their evolution based on needs.
- Strengthen project-preparation and transaction-advisory support, including targeted technical assistance and practical bankability clinics.
- Provide preparation support for public-interest projects and early-stage initiatives that cannot meet the full cost of preparation themselves.
- Set clear, time-bound next steps and assign responsibility to identifiable project owners.

Key Messages 4

4. Use blended finance and guarantees to address specific risks

- Use public and concessional finance to help projects with strong development and resilience benefits attract private participation
- Match instruments to the project's actual constraints:
 - E.g Consider grants and technical assistance for preparation and early-stage work.
 - E.g Consider blended finance, guarantees, local-bank credit lines and other risk-sharing tools to address currency, payment, tenor, demand or technology risks.
- Demonstrate additionality: public support should enable investment or outcomes that would not otherwise occur on suitable terms.
- Make relevant EU, IFI and other development-finance instruments easier to understand and navigate, subject to their eligibility, programming and approval requirements.

Key Messages 5 & 6

5. Build a stronger and more accessible pipeline, including for SMEs

- Develop a rolling pipeline of identified WEFE opportunities, with consistent project information and clear preparation stages.
- Explore project aggregation, standardised documentation, appropriate credit products, guarantees and local-currency financing to improve access to finance.
- Focus on both SME-led solutions and large infrastructure investments as complementary parts of the pipeline.
- Consider opportunities such as wastewater treatment and reuse, renewable-energy-linked desalination with responsible brine management, irrigation modernisation, water-efficiency measures, agri-tech and ecosystem restoration.

6. Strengthen enabling conditions and coordination at country level

- Improve inter-ministerial coordination and strengthen institutional capacity for project preparation and procurement.
- Clarify institutional roles and responsibilities and address regulatory or institutional bottlenecks.
- Align projects with national plans and investment priorities.
- Capacitate public officials, including middle level managers, on e.g. private sector engagement and finance to become enablers of related action.

Key Messages 7 & 8

7. Make results measurable, transparent and inclusive

- Set **baselines and monitor project outcomes**, while using transparent reporting to support public accountability and help financiers assess performance.
- **Track relevant results**, such as: water saved, reused or treated; energy and resource efficiency; agriculture production boosted sustainably, and ecosystem protected and restored
- Include youth, women, workers, entrepreneurs and local communities in project design, implementation and monitoring.

8. Regional cooperation as support for project promoters & financiers

- Use **regional platforms to share experience**, improve access to financing information, standardise project information where useful and connect projects with potential partners.
- Establish and maintain a thematic **Community of Practice** on private-sector engagement in WEFE finance.
- Use the Community of Practice to support e.g bankability clinics, pipeline development, SME aggregation, market intelligence and matchmaking.

Key Messages 9

9. Move from dialogue to delivery, with follow-through beyond Cairo

- Identify **priority investment opportunities** and specify what each needs to advance by assigning project owners and realistic next milestones.
- Connect project **promoters** with appropriate preparation and **financing pathways** and obtain promoters' consent before sharing project information beyond the relevant process
- Use the **MED-RISE process** to link regional dialogue with project follow-up, including through the investment clinic, project pipeline register and future convenings, contributing to the WEFE Nexus Strategy's Action Framework, Rome Initiative, etc.

10. Proposed follow-up

For the Rome Initiative on Water

- Help countries move from water and resilience policy priorities to well-prepared, financeable project pipelines.
- Strengthen cooperation on project design, financing, and management.

For the WEF Nexus Strategy's Action Framework

- Foster projects pipeline development
- Strengthen project-preparation capacity.
- Improve connections between projects and suitable financing instruments.
- Support engagement of private sector partners, including SMEs.

For the UN 2026 Water Conference

- Share a Mediterranean regional perspective on mobilising investment for water resilience in a WEF Nexus approach.
- Highlight combined roles and interdependencies of public leadership, development finance and private-sector capabilities.
- Emphasise safeguards, affordability and accountability as essential conditions.

Closing

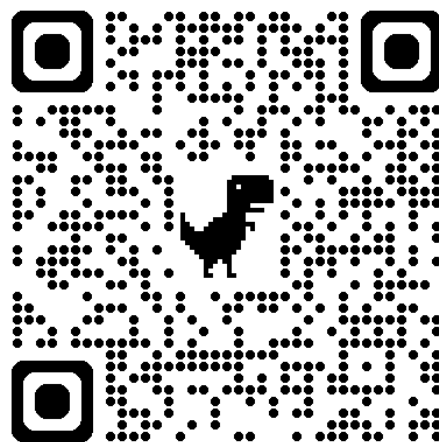
- Private capital alone cannot solve the region's water and resilience challenges alone, and should not replace public responsibility.
- The opportunity is to **make public priorities investable**, use public and concessional resources **strategically**, and **engage private partners** where they can deliver clear public value.
- The shift is
 - from isolated pilots to a structured pipeline,
 - from fragmented efforts to coordinated partnerships, and
 - from commitments to measurable implementation.
- The 1st MED-RISE events in Cairo and their follow ups can add value to this work, carried forward through the Rome Initiative on Water and the WEF E Nexus Strategy's Action Framework, and into Abu Dhabi and beyond.



WES-BCA

Water and Environment Support -
Biodiversity and Climate Action
in the Neighbourhood South region

Thank you for your attention!



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