

MED-RISE

Mediterranean Resilience through Investment and Sustainable Ecosystems

Events organised within the Cairo Water Week 2026

26 & 27 October 2026

Triumph Luxury Hotel, New Cairo, Egypt

Imperia Hall (26/10/2026) | Louvre Hall (27/10/2026)

Convener

European Union

Co-conveners

Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med), supported by the GEF UNEP/MAP MedProgramme
EU Water and Environment Support - Biodiversity and Climate Action Project (WES-BCA)

DRAFT – Some settings and speakers to be confirmed

A. Purpose and Policy Anchors

In Rome, on 28 September 2026, UfM Member States committed to water management and investment plans that are financially realistic and fully funded, working with public and private partners. They also committed to continue deepening the application of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) at all levels, by focusing renewed efforts on ensuring that the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus is properly addressed, guided by the new Strategy for WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean Source to Sea Continuum.

The Mediterranean Resilience through Investment and Sustainable Ecosystems (MED-RISE) process takes up the private capital part of that task, aiming at fostering efforts for increasing blended financing and investments for water and natural resources management through integrated approaches.

MED-RISE is anchored in:

- the Pact for the Mediterranean¹, its water resilience dimension and the Blue Mediterranean Partnership², and the rolling Action Plan³, with the next edition expected in autumn 2026;
- the European Water Resilience Strategy⁴ (June 2025) and its external dimension, delivered with partners through Global Gateway;
- the Declaration of the 2nd UfM Ministerial Meeting on Water⁵ (28 September 2026, Rome) under the co-presidency of the European Commission and Jordan, and the Rome Initiative on Water noted in it;
- the Strategy for the WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean Source-to-Sea Continuum⁶, endorsed by the 15th Meeting of the UfM Regional Platform on Water (5-6 Nov 2025, Barcelona) and referenced at the Declaration of the 2nd UfM Ministerial Conference on Water as well as adopted in the framework of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD, 2026-2035) flagship initiative by the 24th Conference of the Parties (COP24) of the Barcelona Convention (2-5 December 2025, Cairo).
- the EU-Egypt Water Partnership (COP28 Joint Declaration)⁷ and the Team Europe Initiative on water and food security in Egypt, as the host-country reference.

MED-RISE builds on the EU-UfM water finance track held at Cairo Water Week since 2019: the EU-UfM Water Governance and Business Forum (2019-2020) and the Annual Conference on Water Finance and Investment (2021-2025). The Rome

¹ https://north-africa-middle-east-gulf.ec.europa.eu/what-we-do/pact-mediterranean_en

² <https://ufmsecretariat.org/blue-mediterranean-partnership/>

³ https://north-africa-middle-east-gulf.ec.europa.eu/what-we-do/pact-mediterranean_en#the-action-plan

⁴ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/environment/water-resilience-strategy_en

⁵ https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Ministerial-Declaration-on-Water_2026.pdf

⁶ <https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Med-WEFE-Strategy-validated-by-COP24-and-15RPW.pdf>

⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/STATEMENT_24_1513

UfM Ministerial Declaration refers to the 2022 UfM Cairo Action Agenda on Water, Climate and Finance, from the year the Cairo conferences focused on water, climate and finance.

It offers an early contribution to the Rome Initiative on Water, in particular its objective of facilitating the design, financing and management of sustainable projects.

It integrates with and contributes to the on-going regional consultation on advancing private sector engagement for climate resilience through WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean Source to Sea Continuum, coordinated by the co-conveners.

MED-RISE will carry its results to the UN 2026 Water Conference (Abu Dhabi, 8-10 December 2026)⁸, whose sixth interactive dialogue is dedicated to investments for water, while its second one addresses water prosperity including WEF Nexus. MED-RISE would unfold further on based on needs and capacities.

B. How the events connect

Date	Event	Content
25 Oct 13:00-16:00	<i>EU-Egypt Water Investment Platform, with the Federation of Egyptian Banks</i> <i>[by invitation – Imperia Hall]</i>	<i>National: the role of local banks, PPP and MSME finance in water</i> NOT PART OF THIS MATERIAL
26 Oct 09:30-17:30	1st MED-RISE High-Level Conference: Mobilising Private Investment across the WEFE Nexus, from Source to Sea - Advancing the Pact for the Mediterranean on the Road to the UN Water Conference [open – Imperia Hall]	Regional: the investment case and the conditions for private capital
27 Oct 09:30-11:00	Meeting of the UfM Task Force on Water Finance and Investment [by invitation – Louvre 6]	Institutional follow-up under the UfM Recommendations on Water Finance
27 Oct 11:30-17:30	1st MED-RISE Experts Roundtable and Investment Clinic: From Dialogue to Investment Partnerships [by invitation – Louvre 6]	Pipeline: projects reviewed against lender questions, next steps agreed

C. Expected outputs

- Cairo Messages on Blended Finance and Private Investment in the WEFE Nexus: a short outcome note by the co-conveners, as input to the upcoming Action Framework of the WEFE Nexus Strategy and the development of the Rome Initiative on Water, including as contributions to the multi-year work programme of the UfM Regional Platform on Water, and to the UN 2026 Water Conference.
- A summary on reviewed projects: recording key elements, like the WEFE instrument fit, possible missing elements, owners of the next step, etc. as contributions to the Action Framework of the WEFE Nexus Strategy and, as relevant, to the Rome Initiative on Water, subject to the promoters' consent.
- A MED-RISE project pipeline register: held by the co-conveners as a basis for, among other activities, a 2nd edition of events at Cairo Water Week 2027 and contributions to related regional processes (as in point 2).

⁸ <https://www.unwater.org/news/2026-un-water-conference-inputs-interactive-dialogues-and-special-accreditation-final-call>



Co-convened with:



Union pour la Méditerranée
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WES-BCA
Water and Environment Support -
Biodiversity and Climate Action
in the Neighbourhood South region



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1st MED-RISE Conference

Mobilising Private Investment across the WEFE Nexus, from Source to Sea

Advancing the Pact for the Mediterranean on the Road to the UN Water Conference

Monday 26 October 2026

**Triumph Luxury Hotel, New Cairo, Egypt
Imperia Hall**

Format: open conference | in person with live streaming | interpretation EN/AR/FR

DRAFT – Some settings and speakers to be confirmed

1. Background

WEFE Nexus in the S2S Continuum for climate resilience

The Mediterranean is a climate and water stress hotspot where water scarcity, food security, energy transition and ecosystem degradation are increasingly linked: water allocation decisions affect food production and energy demand; energy choices affect the cost and carbon footprint of desalination, pumping and treatment; agricultural practices affect aquifers, rivers and ecosystems; and ecosystem degradation increases exposure to floods, drought and coastal risks. Therefore, a Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus in a Source to Sea Continuum approach is no longer an optional technical lens, but a governance necessity and can act as investments' enabler for meeting climate resilience objectives through adaptation and mitigation co-benefits.

The Strategy on WEFE Nexus in the S2S Continuum

Responding to these, the '**Strategy for WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean Source to Sea Continuum**' (*aka* Strategy) presents a comprehensive strategic framework to support countries in strengthening policy and action integration across WEFE sectors and to promote leveraging of financial resources towards sustainability and climate-resilience objectives across borders.

The Strategy was built on a dual and inter-connected (formal amongst governments and informal amongst stakeholders) regional participatory consultation process. The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the Barcelona Convention/UNEP MAP and the European Union provided the institutional framework, with the technical support of the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med) within the GEF UNEP/MAP MedProgramme, the EU Water & Environment Support (WES) and Water, Environment Support Biodiversity Climate Action (WES BCA) Projects, the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA). Technical contributions were provided by a range of partners, including through the WEFE Nexus Community of Practice facilitated by the PRIMA WEFE4Med project.

The Strategy received formal endorsement by the 15th Meeting of the UfM Regional Platform on Water (5-6 Nov 2025, Barcelona) and is referenced at the Declaration of the 2nd UfM Ministerial Conference on Water (28 September 2026, Rome) as well as it was adopted in the framework of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD, 2026-2035) flagship initiative by the 24th Conference of the Parties (COP24) of the Barcelona Convention (2-5 Dec 2025, Cairo).

Aiming to catalyze the shift from 'Nexus thinking' to 'Nexus doing' in the Mediterranean, and in full alignment with the Strategy's 3 Goals, 8 Objectives and 40 Directions for Action, a regional framework for actions (*aka* **Action Framework**) would assist the Strategy's implementation, including by strengthening institutional capacities to improve project preparation and accelerate access to climate financing, by promoting synergies and identifying ways of leveraging necessary funding and by supporting meaningful participation in regional WEFE initiatives.

Reflecting countries' priorities for integrated natural resources management, the Action Framework should be aligned with and support the implementation of the relevant Barcelona Convention Protocols, and their legally binding Regional Plans as well as the MSSD Strategy 2026-2035; the UfM strategic documents, including the UfM Vision Statement 2025, and initiatives; the Pact for the Mediterranean, that 'will strengthen water governance and promote efficient, sustainable use of water through the WEF Nexus'; the EU Water Resilience Strategy; etc. Furthermore, it should be linked, as pertinent, with funding instruments, like EFSD+/NDICI, Blue Med Partnership, Green Climate Fund, Islamic Financing, Global Environment

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Facility, Interreg, PRIMA, etc. Securing further engagement of the Energy and Agriculture communities and agendas, including by utilising appropriate regional fora, is recommended, so as to create opportunities for the mobilisation of resources and enhance resilience across the Mediterranean.

Key elements for the Action Framework's elaboration have been discussed at the '[Regional Conference on WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean Source to Sea Continuum: From Strategy to Action, 24-26 February 2026, Nicosia](#)', that concluded with the [Nicosia Accord](#).

WEFE Nexus Financing is one of the four key thematic lines (along with Governance, Digitalisation and Non-Conventional Resources) for the elaboration of the Action Framework, and private sector engagement is among focus areas within that.

Role of the private sector in WEFE Nexus for climate resilience

The **role of the private sector** in meeting climate resilience objectives is key by mobilising investments as well as capabilities at the required volume and speed, like related to technology, operations and maintenance, digital services, construction and engineering, off-take markets, risk analytics, insurance, innovation and entrepreneurship, etc. While public authorities remain responsible for regulation, safeguards, affordability and public-interest outcomes, private engagement is most effective when it is transparent, well-regulated and linked to measurable water, climate, social and ecosystem results.

In WEFE projects, private actors may undertake different roles, like: investors and co-investors; operators of utilities, concessions or performance-based contracts; technology suppliers for irrigation, reuse, desalination, leakage control, sensors and AI; industrial and agri-food off-takers that reduce water and energy intensity; local banks and funds that lend to SMEs and farmers; project companies and PPP vehicles; insurers and risk-capital providers; and impact investors or corporates that monetise ecosystem services, carbon sinks, payment-for-ecosystem-services schemes and circular-economy revenues; etc.

Overall, the private sector should be invited in tackling specific WEFE bottlenecks, and not to replace public roles. Each transaction should specify the public objective, the private role, the risk-sharing mechanism, the affordability arrangement, the environmental safeguards and the data that will prove impact. The following table attempts to provide an overview of roles that may be undertaken by key of private and public actors in a WEFE partnership.

Actors	What they bring to WEFE resilience	What public partners should ask for
Utilities and operators	Operational know-how, performance contracts, leakage reduction, energy management and service continuity.	Transparent contracts, affordability measures, open performance data and resilience targets
Technology firms and SMEs	Sensors, AI, remote sensing, irrigation advisory, reuse and desalination technologies, circular solutions.	Interoperability, open standards, life-cycle costing, local maintenance capacity and user adoption
Agri-food and industry	Water stewardship, reuse demand, energy efficiency, off-take markets and supply-chain transformation.	Water productivity targets, disclosure, reuse compliance and benefits for farmers/workers
Banks, funds and insurers	Credit lines, guarantees, equity, local-currency finance, risk analytics and aggregation of small projects.	Longer tenors, SME access, transparent eligibility criteria and climate/WEFE impact reporting
IFIs/DFIs and public authorities	Project preparation, concessionality, guarantees, safeguards, policy steer and convening power.	Additionality, co-financing discipline, measurable outcomes and handover to national processes

A range of funding instruments are available for advancing WEFE Nexus projects. The following table attempts to overall and tentatively match these while demonstrating the possible role of the private sector.

Funding instrument	Where it fits in the WEFE pipeline	What may be the private-sector role
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Grants and technical assistance	Project preparation, feasibility, social safeguards, data systems, utility transformation, early-stage pilots and low-return public goods	Capacity, design, pilots, organisational change, safeguards, innovation readiness
Blending with IFI loans	Infrastructure and programmes with development additionality: wastewater, reuse, irrigation modernisation, municipal water/waste, nature-based solutions	Construction, O&M, performance contracts, PPP participation, supply chains
Guarantees	Risk sharing for project finance, non-sovereign loans, local-bank credit lines, co-financing, currency/payment risks and new technologies	Corporates, Special Purpose Vehicles, local banks, utilities, co-financiers and SME borrowers
Equity, quasi-equity and funds	Regenerative agribusiness, water-tech, circular economy, carbon sinks, ecosystem restoration and innovation companies	Scale business models, absorb early-stage risk, crowd in impact investors
Green bonds and sustainability-linked loans	Utilities, municipalities, national banks or corporates with measurable WEFE targets and reporting capacity	Market discipline, performance targets, local-currency mobilisation, investor visibility

The European Union supports private-sector engagement for water and climate resilience in the Mediterranean Sea through its external action instruments and partnerships. Relevant instruments and frameworks include the Global Gateway strategy and Team Europe Initiatives; the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI – Global Europe); the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+), including its guarantee architecture for de-risking and blending; and the Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF) for blending EU grants with IFI and DFI financing. Deployment of any instrument is subject to the applicable programming, eligibility and approval procedures, and to available financing.

Mediterranean countries are advancing WEFE Nexus approaches. Among them, Egypt, the host of the Cairo events, has placed integrated water, food and energy management at the centre of its national agenda, notably through the Nexus of Water, Food and Energy (NWFE) programme under its Country Platform for the green transition, which structures investment around water, food and energy and mobilises public and private finance. Egypt hosts the Cairo Water Week, a recognised regional platform for water and climate dialogue, and engages a growing range of private actors and financing partners across the water and wastewater sector. These experiences position Egypt to contribute to regional exchange, replication and upscaling under the WEFE Nexus.

Contributing to these at regional level, [a UfM/EU Training Workshop on Financing for WEFE Nexus Projects in the Mediterranean](#), with particular focus on EFSD+ and NDICI, was organised by GWP-Med with Sida support, on 8-10 December 2025, in Athens, aiming primarily at MENA government representatives.

Furthermore, the EU WES-BCA Project, supported by EU DG MENA, is implementing in synergy with GWP-Med and contributions by Plan Blue, the activity titled “Climate Change adaptation in the Mediterranean Source to Sea Continuum: the role of the private sector in a Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus approach” (Activity C1_HOR-2) aiming to assist in advancing regional cooperation and institutional coordination on climate change adaptation financing in the Mediterranean with emphasis on mobilising private sector investments in a WEFE Nexus approach. Outputs include the preparation of up to three targeted Action Plans and formation of private/public partnerships for their implementation. These are based on the findings and 24 recommendations of the [Regional Assessment on Private Sector Engagement for Climate Change Adaptation](#) (second half 2024) that were validated at the [Regional Roundtable on Catalysis Financing for Climate Change in the Mediterranean Coastal Area: The Role of the Private Sector](#) (Dec 2024, Athens) as well as the establishment of a regional community of practice to be thereon facilitated by the WEFE Nexus Community of practiced serviced by PRIMA WEFE4Med. Based on these, a multi-stakeholder consultation in the Mediterranean is ongoing advancing knowledge gathering and technically assisting action planning on the subject.

Furthermore, the Mediterranean Resilience through Investment and Sustainable Ecosystems (MED-RISE) process aims at fostering efforts for increasing blended financing and investments for water and natural resources management through integrated approaches, contributing to a range of policy processes in the region including the Pact for the Mediterranean, the European Water Resilience Strategy, the Declaration of the 2nd UfM Ministerial Meeting on Water, the WEFE Nexus

Strategy and its upcoming Action Framework, the EU-Egypt Water Partnership (COP28 Joint Declaration) and the Team Europe Initiative on water and food security in Egypt, etc.

The target audience of these consultation processes includes representatives from: governments from WEFE sectors, Finance and Development Cooperation authorities; private sector partners from water and wastewater companies/utilities, desalination and reuse operators, renewable-energy developers, agri-food companies, major industrial/production water users, digital including agritech companies, insurers, etc.; SMEs, including youth entrepreneurs and women-led companies; national chambers of commerce and their regional networks; finance partners, including EU, IFIs, DFIs, national banks, investment funds, bilateral and multilateral donors, philanthropic foundations, etc.; and, regional institutions and stakeholder organisations.

The 1st MED-RISE Conference on 'Mobilising Private Investment across the WEFE Nexus, from Source to Sea: Advancing the Pact for the Mediterranean on the Road to the UN Water Conference' is convened contributing to these regional processes.

2. Objectives

The 1st MED-RISE Conference aims at fostering private sector engagement for water and climate resilience through WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean Source to Sea continuum, by deepening understanding of related challenges and opportunities, identifying priorities for action, promoting operational partnerships and sharing experiences.

Contributing to the related regional consultation, the 1st MED-RISE Conference will assist:

- shaping contents of the WEFE Nexus Financing thematic of the Strategy's Action Framework.
- promoting the UfM agenda on strengthening capacities for finance mobilisation through the Rome Initiative on Water as a practical expression of UfM Member States' collective commitment to work together towards achieving their shared water goals.
- advancing the Barcelona Convention MSSD 2026-2036.
- on-going action in Mediterranean countries for advancing implementation of integrated concepts towards experience sharing, replication and upscaling for impact.

Agenda [TENTATIVE - some speakers to be confirmed]

Time	Session	Setting (some speakers to be confirmed)
08:30-09:30	<i>Registration</i>	
09:30-09:45	Welcome and purpose of the day Why a regional platform on private investment across the WEFE Nexus, and what the Conference will produce.	Moderators of the day: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ayman Ayad, Water & Social Infrastructure Programme Manager, EU Delegation-Egypt • Frédéric de Dinechin, Senior Policy Advisor - Water, Stability and Resilience Division, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) • Atila Uras, Senior Programme Officer & Scientific and Technical, UNEP MAP • Michael Scoullas, Team Leader, EU WES-BCA • Antonella Autino, Programme Coordinator, PRIMA Foundation • Vangelis Constantianos, Executive Secretary, GWP-Med
09:45-11:00	Session 1. Setting the Stage: Advancing policy and action for blended finance through WEFE Nexus approach for climate resilience in the Mediterranean Objective: outline key elements of regional policy and financing processes and present a snapshot of progress	Moderator: Michael Scoullas, Team Leader, EU WES-BCA Project Snapshot on regional policy setting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pact for the Mediterranean and its next Action Plan, and the external dimension of the European Water Resilience Strategy: Sara Nelen, Head of Unit, Planetary Common Goods, Universal Values & Environmental Security, DG ENV, EU [15 min]

Time	Session	Setting (some speakers to be confirmed)
	<i>towards mobilising private sector investments in a WEFE Nexus approach</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The WEFE Nexus Strategy in the Mediterranean Source-to-Sea Continuum – towards an Action Framework: Vangelis Constantianos, Executive Secretary, GWP-Med [6 min] <p>Q/A</p> <p>Snapshot on blended finance through WEFE Nexus approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accelerating Private-Sector Engagement and Investment in the Water Sector through a WEFE Nexus Approach for Climate Resilience: Ger Bergkamp, Expert, EU WES-BCA [15 min] Commentary by Jordan [6 min] Commentary by Morocco [6 min] Advancing EU blended financing for major infrastructure investments in a WEFE Nexus approach: Youssef Tadros, Programme Manager, DG MENA, European Commission [10 min] Engaging SMEs in WEFE Nexus blended finance: Nicolas Farhat, Deputy General Manager, Berytech [10 min] <p>Q/A</p>
11:00-11:30	<i>Coffee break and media point</i>	
11:30-13:00	<p>Session 2. Discussion Panel: what it takes to move private capital into the WEFE Nexus</p> <p>Objective: <i>hear from lenders, investors and stakeholders what private capital can add to make national water and climate resilience plans fully funded in an integrated WEFE Nexus approach, and what public and EU instruments should take on.</i></p> <p>Guiding questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where in the water, energy, food and ecosystems chain is private capital already investing, and at what ticket size? Which risk stops a transaction today: revenue, currency, tenor, counterparty or pipeline? What should public and international instruments carry so that private lenders say yes? How a Community of Practice on blended finance in a WEFE Nexus approach could assist action? 	<p><i>Moderator: Vangelis Constantianos, Executive Secretary, GWP-Med</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concalo Correia, Regional Head for Infrastructure in the SEMED region and Deputy Head of Egypt for Infrastructure, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) David Michaud, Practice Manager, Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan and Pakistan – Water, World Bank European Investment Bank, Southern Neighbourhood [NAME-TBC] Federation of Egyptian Banks: readout of the 25 October Investment Platform [NAME-TBC] Hasan Abu Libdeh, Chairman, Federation of Renewable Energy Industries, Palestine Heba Al-Hariry, Land and Water Officer, Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa, FAO Mohamed Alaa Ibrahim, Energy Expert, Stability & Resilience Division, UfM Stavros Malas, President, Cyprus Institute, Cyprus Hussein El Atfy, Secretary General, Arab Water Council Alain Meyssonier, President, Institut Méditerranéen de l'Eau (IME) and Euro-Med Water Forum Co-Organiser <p>Q/A</p>
13:00-13:30	<p>Session 3. High-Level Opening Segment</p> <p>Objective: <i>Official opening with views by high level representatives of</i></p>	<p><i>Moderator, Mr Frédéric de Dinechin, Senior Water Advisor, UfM Secretariat</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Hani Sewilam, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, Arab Republic of Egypt

Time	Session	Setting (some speakers to be confirmed)
	<p><i>national and regional authorities and institutions on the Conference subject.</i></p> <p><i>MED-RISE launch as a regional platform of the convener and co-conveners.</i></p> <p>Remarks of 6 minutes each, followed by the family photo.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Raed Abu Soud, Minister of Water and Irrigation, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan H.E. Angelina Eichhorst, Ambassador, Head of the EU Delegation to Egypt Joan Borell Mayeur, Deputy Secretary General, Division for Stability & Resilience, UfM
13:30-14:30	Lunch break	
14:30-16:00	<p>Session 4. From source to sea: investable WEFE cases across the Mediterranean</p> <p>Objective: <i>show what bankable looks like at each point of the continuum, and what can be replicated.</i></p> <p>Four case pitches (15 minutes each), then discussion.</p> <p>Guiding question What made the case bankable, what nearly stopped it, and what would another country need to replicate it?</p>	<p><i>Moderator: Ayman Ayad, Water & Social Infrastructure Programme Manager, EU Delegation in Egypt</i></p> <p>Case promoters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Egypt project case: Samaa El Baroudy, Director of Needs Planning, Strategic Management Sector, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation Q/A The East Alexandria Wastewater Treatment and Sludge Management Plant: [NAME] AFD Q/A Jordan project case Q/A Morocco project case Q/A
16:00-16:15	Coffee break	
16:15-17:15	<p>Session 5. Advancing national WEFE Nexus finance frameworks, de-risking and digital tools</p> <p>Objective: <i>identify the regulatory, PPP, financial and digital measures that should be taken within the next 1 year to promote private sector engagement within a WEFE Nexus approach</i></p> <p>Guiding questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What should regulators, PPP units and national development banks change first? How can guarantees and blended grants reach the private operator and not stop at the bank? 	<p><i>Moderator: To be announced</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atter Hannoura, Head, PPP Central Unit, Ministry of Finance, Egypt Ylber Mirta, Head of Department for Waters, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, North Macedonia Jordan Lebanon Morocco Palestine <p>Q/A</p>
17:15-17:30	<p>Session 6. Cairo Messages on the road to Abu Dhabi, and closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rapporteur synthesis: draft Cairo Messages on Private Investment in the WEFE Nexus, as input to the Rome Initiative on Water and the 	<p><i>Moderator: Ayman Ayad, Water & Social Infrastructure Programme Manager, EU Delegation in Egypt</i></p> <p>Rapporteur synthesis: Ger Bergkamp, Senior Expert, EU WES-BCA</p> <p>Brief closing remarks</p>



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Time	Session	Setting (some speakers to be confirmed)
	UN 2026 Water Conference (10 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief closing remarks by the convener, the co-conveners and the host ministry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Egypt Joan Borell Mayeur, Deputy Secretary General, Division for Stability & Resilience, UfM Michael Scullos, Team Leader, EU WES-BCA Vangelis Constantianos, Executive Secretary, GWP-Med Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt [NAME-TBC]
19:00-22:00	<i>Cairo Water Week High-Level Gala Dinner (by invitation)</i>	

Supported by



1st MED-RISE Expert Roundtable and Investment Clinic

From Dialogue to Investment Partnerships

Tuesday 27 October 2026
Triumph Luxury Hotel, New Cairo, Egypt
Louvre Hall

Format: by invitation only, Chatham House Rule | in person only | interpretation EN/AR/FR

DRAFT – Some settings and speakers to be confirmed

Purpose

The purpose of the '1st MED-RISE Expert Roundtable and Investment Clinic: From Dialogue to Investment Partnerships' is to assist advancing climate-resilient investment opportunities, including through private sector engagement, through a WEFE Nexus approach across the Mediterranean.

It will bring together the UfM Task Force on Water Finance and Investment (WG-WATFIN), WES-BCA national focal points, funding partners, project promoters, and facilitators of WEFE Nexus Community of Practice

Setting

The 1st MED-RISE Expert Roundtable and Investment Clinic includes two distinctive Parts:

- Part 1: the Meeting of the UfM Task Force on Water Finance and Investment (TF-WATFIN)
- Part 2: the Investment Clinic

Both parts are open to all invitees.

Part 1 will focus on the regular work agenda of the UfM Task Force, including following the 2nd UfM Ministerial Meeting on Water (28 September 2026, Rome) and in view of advancing agenda like the Rome Initiative, the Action Framework of the WEFE Nexus Strategy, etc. as well as based on results of major regional events (like the Euro-Med Water Forum in Rome, the Cairo Water Week 2026, etc.) and upcoming international conferences (like COP31 in Antalya, UN Water Conference in Abu Dhabi, etc).

Part 2 will offer an investment clinic for investment projects in the Mediterranean. Such projects should:

- be located in a UfM partner country of the Southern or Eastern Mediterranean;
- have a clear link to, ideally, all four dimension of water, energy, food and ecosystems, or as relevant to the project;
- have an identified promoter
- have advanced preparations at pre-feasibility stage or beyond;
- have private participation in place, or a credible route to it;

It is noted that participation in the clinic creates no expectation of financing from any participant.

Agenda [TENTATIVE - some speakers to be confirmed]

Time	Session	Speakers and format (some to be confirmed)
09:00-09:30	Arrival	
09:30-11:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 1. Meeting of the UfM Task Force on Water Finance and Investment (TF-WATFIN) • <i>By invitation. Separate agenda issued by the UfM Secretariat.</i> <p>Key Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening & welcome remarks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair: Huriye Incecik Ceylan, Section Manager, Department of Water Law & Policy- Policy Development and International Relations, Directorate General for Water Management, Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry, Türkiye and Chair, UfM Working Group on Water Finance and Investment • Joan Borrell, Deputy Secretary General, Stability and Resilience, UfM

Time	Session	Speakers and format (some to be confirmed)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflection on the 2nd Ministerial declaration and the Rome Initiative on Water (article 21) Implementation at country level of the UfM Recommendations on Water: progress and next steps Reflection on Med Rise – Financing the WEFE Nexus Discussion on WASH services – country case Preparation of UN Water Conference Conclusions and closing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frédéric de Dinechin, Senior Policy Advisor - Water, Stability and Resilience Division, UfM Key results of the 1st MED-RISE Conference: Ayman Ayad, Water & Social Infrastructure Programme Manager, EU Delegation in Egypt EU initiatives on water financing: Youssef Tadros, Programme Manager, DG MENA, European Commission UfM WATFIN Members
11:00-11:30	Coffee break	
11:30-11:45	Part 2: Opening and ground rules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purpose of the Expert Workshop and expected outputs Chatham House Rule; the clinic reviews projects and does not commit or endorse financing 	Moderators of the day: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ayman Ayad, Water & Social Infrastructure Programme Manager, EU Delegation-Egypt Frédéric de Dinechin, Senior Policy Advisor - Water, Stability and Resilience Division, UfM Michael Scoullos, Team Leader, EU WES-BCA Vangelis Constantianos, Executive Secretary, GWP-Med
11:45-13:00	Session 1. Roundtable: what the region is ready to finance on WEFE Nexus and how the private sector is engaged <p>Round 1 (30 minutes): national focal points EU WES-BCA national focal points present the priority WEFE investments in national plans, their stage of preparation and the main blockage (possible source: EU WES-BCA questionnaire)</p> <p>Round 2 (20 minutes): financiers respond What the pipeline lacks, and what each financier can offer at each stage: preparation support, technical assistance, guarantees, lending.</p> <p>Round 3 (20 minutes): from nexus assessment to project How a Community of Practice on blended finance in a WEFE Nexus approach could assist action, who should be in that, how it should be set to add value.</p>	Moderator: Michael Scoullos, Team Leader, EU WES-BCA <p>Round 1: WES-BCA national focal points</p> <p>Round 2: Funding partners</p> <p>Round 3: All participants</p>
13:30-14:30	Lunch break	

Time	Session	Speakers and format (some to be confirmed)
14:30-17:00 <i>Coffee will be served in between</i>	Session 2. Investment Clinic Presentation and discussion on max 4 project cases Per project: 15-minute pitch on a standard teaser, up to 20 minutes of structured review by the clinic panel, and an agreed next step. Seven key questions every project answers <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maturity: stage of preparation and the next preparation step 2. Counterparty: who borrows, who repays, and on what track record 3. Cash flow: tariff, offtake, savings or availability payment 4. Public exposure: whether a sovereign guarantee or public-debt approval is needed 5. Binding risk: currency, tenor, demand, construction or regulation 6. WEF result: water saved, reused or treated, with a baseline set before financing, aligned to SDG 6.3.1 and 6.4.1 7. Gender and youth: how the project reaches women and young people as users, employees or entrepreneurs 	Facilitator: Filipa Newton, Senior Finance Expert Case promoters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egypt project case: Samaa El Baroudy, Director of Needs Planning, Strategic Management Sector, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation Q/A • The East Alexandria Wastewater Treatment and Sludge Management Plant: [NAME] AFD Q/A • Jordan project case Q/A • Morocco project case Q/A Clinic panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFI credit or operations officers (e.g EIB, EBRD, AFD, KfW) • EU blending, DG MENA or EU Delegation (information on instruments, no commitments) • Peer country representatives • Regional stakeholders • Technical reviewer & rapporteur, Ger Bergkamp, Senior Expert, EU WES-BCA Output <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One clinic sheet per project: instrument fit, missing element, owner and date of the next step
17:00-17:30	Session 3. From clinic to partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief reporting of the day • Follow-up routes: the MED-RISE pipeline register; preparation support through the co-conveners' programmes and EU facilities, for information • Contribution to the Cairo Messages, the Action Framework of the WEF Nexus Strategy, the Rome Initiative on Water, and the UN 2026 Water Conference • Closing by the co-chairs, with a hand-over to EU-WAVE (Waterpreneurs and Women of Water), the EU youth day running at Cairo Water Week the same day 	Brief report: Ger Bergkamp, Senior Expert, EU WES-BCA Moderators of the day: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ayman Ayad, Water & Social Infrastructure Programme Manager, EU Delegation-Egypt • Frédéric de Dinechin, Senior Policy Advisor - Water, Stability and Resilience Division, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) • Michael Scoullas, Team Leader, EU WES-BCA • Vangelis Constantianos, Executive Secretary, GWP-Med