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WES newsletter

Water and Environment Support (WES) project

The “Water and Environment Support (WES) in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood Region” is a regional project funded by the European Union. It aims at protecting the environment and improving the management of scarce water resources in the Mediterranean region. Among the key objectives of WES is to tackle problems related to pollution prevention and water use efficiency. WES capitalises on the experience of previous successful EU funded projects (Horizon 2020 CB/MEP 2010-2014, SWIM SM, SWIM and Horizon 2020, 2015-2019) strives for creating the enabling environment and increasing the relevant capacities of all stakeholders in the partner countries.

WES supports the shift to a more sustainable consumption and production model, promotes an integrated and efficient management of water, combats plastic pollution and marine litter and fosters dialogue on key environmental and sustainable development issues. It operates as a support mechanism to the Partner Countries, creating synergies and opportunities for collaboration and dissemination of information and good practices. WES also provides support to its institutional partners, namely the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan of the Barcelona Convention by facilitating specific regional strategies and dialogues as well as by undertaking joint activities.

1st Regional WEF E Nexus Roundtable in the Mediterranean on “Promoting innovation, investments and upscaling solutions”

On the 6th and 7th of June 2023, WES co-organised the 1st Regional Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus Roundtable in the Mediterranean on “Promoting innovation, investments and upscaling of solutions” (RW-1-REG), hosted by Morocco in close collaboration with the UfM, UNEP/MAP and GWP-Med.*

More than 140 key stakeholders from 15 countries participated in this Roundtable in Rabat, Morocco and online.

There is a growing recognition that the colossal challenges related to water scarcity, biodiversity loss, food and energy security and social welfare cannot be addressed effectively through sectoral approaches. Security of supply of related resources and services require interconnections, proper understanding and meaningful trade-offs among water, energy, food and ecosystems. As more scientific evidence on cross-sectorial interdependencies is becoming available, the WEFE Nexus approach can decisively set the Mediterranean on a climate resilient path through an integrated vision and practice for natural resources security.

The WEFE Nexus Roundtable signaled the beginning of a structured dialogue process in the Mediterranean, engaging national and local authorities, regional institutions and organisations, academia, civil society, technology partners, financing institutions, gender and youth organisations and many more stakeholders, coming together to promote WEFE Nexus understanding, stimulate cross-fertilization among institutions, enhance coordinated actions, open a new chapter in the governance of natural resources in the region, relating also to the coastal and marine environment in a Source-to-Sea approach.





6-7 June 2023

Farah Rabat Hotel, Rabat

1st Regional Roundtable on Water Energy Food Ecosystems



in the Mediterranean

Promoting innovations, investments and upscaling of solutions

In the framework of:



Organised by:



'Nexus thinking' leading to 'Nexus doing and upscaling' can avoid fragmented solutions and optimize resources efficiency and circular economy, while reducing vulnerability in a region, which repeatedly suffers from extreme climatic phenomena.

The meeting unanimously agreed that the drafting of a framework document for WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean source to sea continuum is necessary. It should:

Such a strategic document should be anchored to appropriate regional frameworks, namely the UfM and the Barcelona Convention and it should be aligned with the EU acquis as this is the overarching institutional and legal framework for integrated management of resources in the Northern part of the Mediterranean, while providing a blueprint for such action in the rest of the Basin. WES, in its current and next phase, will contribute to this direction.



take stock and link with existing regional policies/strategies/action plans, adding value and avoiding duplication;



assist countries and stakeholders enhancing integration of policy and management frameworks and instruments across sectors to address WEFE security related risks;



promote leveraging of necessary funding.

'Nexus thinking' leading to 'Nexus doing and upscaling' can avoid fragmented solutions and optimize resources efficiency and circular economy, while reducing vulnerability in a region, which repeatedly suffers from extreme climatic phenomena.

Professor Michael Scoullas

WES Team Leader

**With contributions by and in the framework of the GEF UNEP/MAP MedProgramme Child Project 2.2. on Nexus, the EU-funded WES project, the Sida/UfM MENA Water Matchmaker 2 Project and the PRIMA WEFE4MED Project.*

► [Read more](#)

Twenty-nine key stakeholders participated in the WES Regional Training and Study Tour focusing on optimal irrigation management and practices

WES has organised a Regional Training and Study Tour focusing on optimal irrigation management and practices, for five days, from the 12th till the 16th of June 2023, in Bari, Italy.

The purpose of this Training was to build the capacity of the WES Partner countries on using appropriate irrigation methods for improved irrigation efficiency and water productivity.



► [Read more](#)

WES proposed an Action Plan on Water Demand Management to the Ministry of Equipment and Water of Morocco

On the 13th of July 2023, a second WES Consultation Workshop on Water Demand Management was organized in a hybrid format, during which a reference framework for water use in Morocco and the water audit guide were presented, in addition to the recommendations and the proposed action plan aimed at anticipating WDM in the country in the short, medium and long term.

Mr Abdelaziz ZEROUALI, WES Water Focal Point in Morocco and Director of Research and Planning of Water, of the Ministry of Equipment and Water, underlined the importance of this activity to support the management of water demand in Morocco and its rational use, through the discussions between the partners related to the recommendations and the work plan proposed by the experts for its implementation.

► [Read more](#)

Another WES Training Workshop on marine litter in Algeria



On 30th and 31st of May 2023, in the scenic coastal wilaya of Ain Temouchent in Algeria, thirty key stakeholders participated in a national training workshop focused on marine litter.

The workshop, was organised by the WES project in collaboration with "Conservatoire National des Formations à l'Environnement," (CNFE), aimed to empower participants with cutting-edge techniques to monitor marine litter and implement effective mitigation measures. ► [Read more](#)



WES Info Bulletins on the concluded Activities

Would you like to refresh your memory and obtain useful information on WES Water and Environment Activities?

Since the beginning of the WES Project, 14 Info Bulletins (in English and French) were published on the WES National, Regional and Horizontal Activities that have been concluded. These short but to the point docs can be found [here](#).

Environment Component National Activities



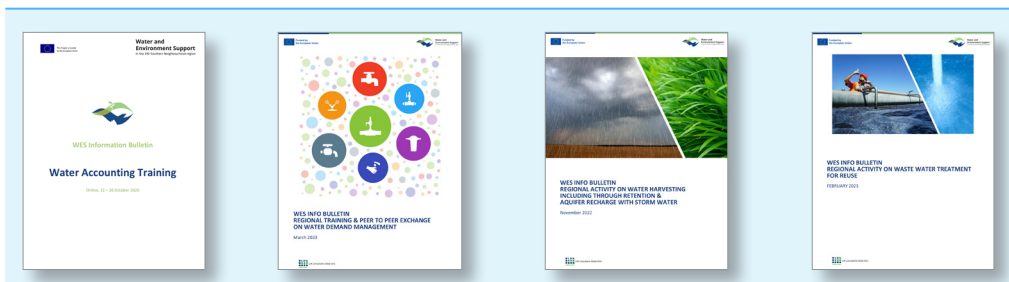
Environment Component Regional Activities



Horizontal Activities



Water Component Regional Activities



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Meanwhile, stay updated via: www.wes-med.eu

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WES

The Water and Environment Support project in the Southern Mediterranean Neighbourhood aims to protecting the environment and improving the management of scarce water resources in the Mediterranean region. It will tackle problems related to pollution prevention and water use efficiency. WES is a regional project with emphasis on the countries of North Africa and the Middle East Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, and Tunisia.

Disclaimer

This newsletter was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the WES Project and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.