

3rd Regional Roundtable on Digital Transformation for Advancing WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean Source to Sea Continuum

And Final Event of the PRIMA ACQUAOUNT Project

23-24 March 2026

**A.Roma Hotel, Giorgio Zoega 59, Rome
& Online (Hybrid)**

CONCEPT NOTE [DRAFT]

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ORGANISING PARTNERS



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1. Digital Transformation for WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean Source to Sea Continuum

Digitalization for natural resources management refers to the strategic adoption and integration of conventional and innovative digital policies and technologies in sectoral and cross-sectoral domains that contribute to sustainable development objectives. Digital solutions can provide substantial benefits to the management of interconnected systems of Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) in a Nexus approach in the Source to Sea (S2S) Continuum. Digital transformation for introducing such solutions at all levels involves, among others, leveraging advanced digital tools, data analytics, innovative technologies and related governance and managerial approaches to optimize the efficiency, sustainability, and resilience of related resources.

Digital transformation is not just a technological upgrade. It is a strategic imperative for creating more sustainable, resilient, and interconnected responses to sectorial challenges in a holistic WEFE Nexus approach applied in the spatial components of the Mediterranean S2S continuum. Embracing integrated digital solutions is essential for overcoming current challenges and preparing for the evolving socio-economic demands of the future, particularly as these are shaped by climate change impacts.

Key components of digital transformation include, but are not limited to, data integration, real time monitoring, analytics and decision support, smart infrastructure, inter-connected platforms, automatization and optimisation, innovative tech ecosystems, etc. Digitalization in a WEFE Nexus in a S2S approach can contribute to integrated and data-driven management for informed decision-making, optimising resource allocation, increasing efficiency in operations, promoting innovation, etc., thus enhancing climate resilience.

2. The Regional Consultation Process

2.1. Purpose of the regional process

A regional consultation process is ongoing since 2024, aiming to promote **digital transformation for advancing WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean Source to Sea Continuum**, particularly under evolving climate change impacts.

The objectives of the regional consultation process are to:

- identify related Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT);
- highlight advancements made;
- craft recommendations for promoting digital transformation contributing to the '[WEFE Nexus Strategy in the Mediterranean Source to Sea Continuum](#)' (aka Strategy) and its Action Framework within the Union for the Mediterranean and the Barcelona Convention (UNEP MAP).

Further, these aim to assist synergizing PRIMA projects to adapt their research agenda towards actionable science on digital transformation aspects towards building resilience to water scarcity and other natural resources management challenges under climate change impacts.

2.2. Policy anchors and key steps of the regional technical process

After conceiving contents of the regional consultation and establishing the core cooperation team ([5 February 2024/Tunis](#), held in the margins of the 5th Mediterranean Water Forum), the process included so far two Regional Roundtables ([5-6 June 2024/Lisbon](#) back to back with the 14th Meeting of the UfM Regional Platform on Water; and, [5-6 February 2025/Malta](#) back to back with the UfM Drafting Group on the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Water) as well as two Webinars organised in synergy with the UfM Water Digitalisation process ([30 June 2025](#) and [11 March 2026](#)), while more events have contributed to further shaping its contents.

The Strategy was adopted by the 15th Meeting of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Regional Platform on Water ([5-6 November 2025, Barcelona](#)) in view of the 2nd UfM Ministerial Conference on Water. The Strategy is part of the MSSD (2026-2035) flagship initiative which was adopted at the 24th Conference of the Parties (COP24) of the Barcelona Convention ([2-5 December 2025, Cairo](#)).

An Action Framework for the Strategy would be prepared for consideration within UfM and Barcelona Convention UNEP MAP. The multi-stakeholder regional conference on 'WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean Source to Sea Continuum: From Strategy to Action' ([22-24 February 2026, Nicosia](#)) shared related experiences and technically elaborated on how to advance with the Action Framework. Four thematic areas have been already identified, and technical processes contribute inputs to the Action Framework through regional consultations. These thematic areas address WEFE Nexus in the Source to Sea Continuum & Governance; Financing, Desalination; and, Digitalisation (through the current process). Related references on the upcoming Action Framework are made in the [Nicosia Accord](#) that was a key outcome of the Nicosia Conference.

2.3. Partnership mobilised

The science-driven WEFE Nexus Digitalisation consultation has engaged regional and national decision makers, stakeholders and practitioners in a Living Lab approach. Mobilising a wide synergy, it contributes to key regional policy processes and anchors on major regional events. In service of and supported by [PRIMA](#) and [UfM](#), the regional process is facilitated by the [PRIMA ACQUAOUNT](#), [TALANOA-WATER](#) and [H2020 TRANSCEND](#) projects, coordinated by the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean ([GWP-Med](#)), Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change ([CMCC](#)) and [IMDEA Water Institute](#).

Contributors to the process are the [Malta Energy & Water Agency](#), [One Water Committee Italy](#), and [Institute Méditerranéen de l'Eau \(IME\)](#). The regional consultation process is also supported by the WEF Nexus Community of Practice in the Mediterranean that is facilitated by the [PRIMA WEFE4Med project](#).

On contents, the process closely synergizes with and benefits by the UfM Strategic Framework Report on 'Digital Transformation of Water Sector: Strategic Planning and Capacity Development', supported by [Sida](#). The process contributes to the WEF Nexus thematic of the [Euro-Mediterranean Water Forum \(29 September – 2 October 2026, Rome\)](#), organised by OneWater-Committee Italy, IME and UfM.



Partnership of the regional consultation process on
Digital Transformation for WEF Nexus in the Mediterranean Source to Sea Continuum

Among the partners' contributions, the synergizing PRIMA and H2020 projects are at the forefront of digitalization research and innovation for Water and its interlinkages with other sectors for integrated management, including in a WEF Nexus approach, creating impact on several demo sites across the region via the development of actionable data, models and technologies, and their adoption through policy co-creation and co-implementation of novel digitalization tools.

Examples of digitalization efforts for advancing integrated approaches in these projects include the incorporation of remote sensing water and land use data into Decision Support Tools; co-creation processes and spaces (including serious games) towards the design of transformational adaptation strategies that mainstream digitalization methods and tools into the Mediterranean and EU policy, including in line with the EU Water Resilience Strategy; implementation of real-time monitoring systems; integrating modelling platforms with IoT technologies to optimize irrigation and water management systems at farm and river basin scale; etc. These innovations are aimed to transcend the demo sites in which they are being implemented, and to be widely replicated across the region.

3. The 3rd Regional Roundtable in Rome

The **3rd Regional Roundtable of the regional consultation on Digital Transformation for Advancing WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean** will take place on **23-24 March 2026, in Rome** (A.Roma Hotel, Giorgio Zoega 59) **and online (Hybrid)**, co-organised by the synergizing PRIMA and H2020 projects, UfM and OneWater-Committee Italy.

The Roundtable will serve as the **Final Event of the PRIMA ACQUAOUNT Project**, providing the opportunity to present and discuss its final results, as well as progress and results of TALANOA Water, Transcend and other projects.

3.1. Objectives and expected outcomes

Making a key step in the consultation, the 3rd Regional Roundtable will:

- inform on the process of WEFE Nexus Strategy in the Med Source to Sea Continuum and the upcoming Action Framework, increasing participants understanding and mobilising them for further contributions.
- present and receive feedback on key finding of the SWOT analysis and suggested policy recommendations on Digital Transformation for Advancing WEFE Nexus in the Source to Sea Continuum, and further suggest lines of action and partnerships, providing solid contributions to the Action Framework.
- present results of PRIMA/H2020 projects and elaborate on how to amplify impact of their results in the emerging regional policy and funding landscape, suggesting ways towards sustainability of achieved results.
- brainstorm on next steps of the regional consultation, defining contributions and suggesting further synergies.

3.2. Target participants

Aimed participants include representatives of governments, science institutes, regional and national stakeholders, practitioners, and regional institutions.

3.3. Agenda [Some speakers to be confirmed]

Following Opening remarks, the first day of the Roundtable (**23 March**) will be mostly devoted to presentation of and discussion on results of the PRIMA ACQUAOUNT (concluding at the end of March 2026) as well as of PRIMA TALANOA (concluded at the end of 2025) and H2020 Transcend, as inputs for further action. A facilitated discussion will elaborate on how regional PRIMA/H2020 projects on digitalisation for water and natural resources management would amplify impact of their results in the emerging regional policy and funding landscape.

The second day of the Roundtable (**24 March**) will advance contents of the regional consultation on WEFE Nexus Digital Transformation. Following setting-the-stage presentations and related discussions, a panel with government representatives and a panel with regional stakeholders and institutions will provide insights on WEFE Nexus Digitalisation based on experiences and suggest lines of actions for the related thematic of the Strategy's Action Framework and partners that should be mobilised for these. The day will conclude with a facilitated discussion on next steps of the regional consultation, including by defining needed inputs and possible partnerships.

Time indicated in the agenda is in Rome/Central European Time

Monday, 23 March 2026

10.30-11.00	<i>Registrations and Welcome Coffee</i>
11.00-11.30	<p>Opening Remarks & Purpose of the Regional Roundtable <i>Facilitator: Vangelis Constantianos, Regional Coordinator, Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med)</i></p> <p>Opening Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marta Debolini, Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change (CMCC) & Coordinator of PRIMA ACQUAOUNT Project • Gaia Checcucci, Secretary General, Northern Apennine River Basin District Authority, Italy (online) • Raffaella Biondo, One Water Euro-Mediterranean Water Forum Organization Committee - CIHEAM Bari • Frederic de Dinechin, Senior Policy Advisor, UfM (online) • Marco Orlando, Project Officer, PRIMA Foundation (online)
11.30-13.30	<p>Presentation of the PRIMA ACQUAOUNT results, including Q/A <i>Facilitator: Marta Debolini, CMCC & Coordinator of PRIMA ACQUAOUNT Project</i></p> <p><i>Presentations and Q/A</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11.30-11.45: General presentation of the project Simone Mereu, CMCC & Coordinator of PRIMA ACQUAOUNT Project • 11.45-12.00: The real-time platform at farm scale for irrigation scheduling Francesco Martini, Project Manager, Abinsula • 12.00-12.15: The real-time platform at basin scale Xavier Celades & Joel Aumedes, Eurecat • 12.15-12.30: The cost-benefit analysis and its results in the 4 pilots Lluís Vine, Eurecat • 12.30-13.30: The local implementation of the project in the four pilot areas (15 minutes each – IRA, LARI, NARC, UNISS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tunisia: Kameleddine Nagaz, Institut des régions Arides (IRA) - Lebanon: Ihab Jomaa, Lebanese Agriculture Research Institute (LARI) - Jordan: Luna Al Hadidi - Sardinia: Serena Marras, University of Sarrari (UNISS)
13.30-14.30	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14.30-16.15	<p>Presentation of the PRIMA ACQUAOUNT results, including Q/A (cont.) <i>Facilitator: Simone Mereu, CMCC & Coordinator of PRIMA ACQUAOUNT Project</i></p> <p><i>Presentations and Q/A</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14.30-14.50: The decision support system: general framework and methodology Lisa Napolitano, Scientist, CMCC • 14.50-15.15: The DST - Main results from the 4 project Pilots Andrea Borgo, Researcher, CMCC • 15.15-16.00: Interventions by ACQUAOUNT invited stakeholders
16.00-16.20	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16.20-17.00	<p>Presentations from synergizing regional projects, including Q/A <i>Facilitator: TBA</i></p> <p><i>Presentations and Q/A</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PRIMA TALANOA Project and H2020 Transcend Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jaroslav Mysiak, Director of the Research Division 'Risk assessment and adaptation strategies', CMCC (online) - Camilla Luzzolino, Technical Officer, Regione Emilia-Romagna

17.00-18.00	<p>Amplifying impact of projects' results in the emerging policy and funding landscape in the Mediterranean <i>Facilitator: Manuel Sapiano, Senior Advisor, GWP-Med</i></p> <p>Driving question: How regional PRIMA/H2020 projects on <i>digitalisation for water and natural resources management</i> can <i>amplify impact</i> of their results in the emerging regional policy and funding landscape?</p> <p>Discussion Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simone Mereu, CMCC, PRIMA ACQUAOUNT Project • Majid Niazkar, Ca'Foscari University of Venice, H2020 Transcend Project • Frederic de Dinechin, Senior Policy Advisor, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) (online) • PRIMA [tbc] <p>Facilitated discussion</p>
20.00	<i>Get together Dinner (at hotel)</i>

Tuesday, 24 March 2026

09.00-09.45	<p>Regional processes on Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus in the Source to Sea (S2S) Continuum <i>Facilitator: Vangelis Constantianos, Regional Coordinator, GWP-Med</i></p> <p><i>Presentations and Q/A</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Strategy for WEFE Nexus in the S2S Continuum and its upcoming Action Framework Frederic de Dinechin, Senior Policy Advisor, UfM (online) • The Euro-Med Water Forum and its thematic of WEFE Nexus Alain Meyssonier, President, Institute Méditerranéen de l'Eau (IME) • The WEFE Nexus Community of Practice Marios Georgiou, Cyprus Institute, PRIMA WEFE4Med Project Coordinator (online)
09.45-10.45	<p>Digitalisation for natural resources management <i>Facilitator: TBA</i></p> <p><i>Presentations and Q/A</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UfM Water Digitalisation Strategic Framework: technical contents, regional consultation process, and suggestions for the upcoming Action Framework Georg Petersen, UfM TA Consultant on Artificial Intelligence & Digitalization • Best Practices on Policies for advancing WEFE Nexus Digital Transformation Ghazi Abu Rumman, Senior Advisor, GWP-Med, ACQUAOUNT Project • Experiences from Northern Apennine River Basin Gaia Checcucci, Secretary General, Northern Apennine River Basin District Authority, Italy
10.45-11.15	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11.15-12.00	<p>Digital Transformation for Advancing WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean <i>Facilitator: Monia Santini, ICR Director, CMCC</i></p> <p><i>Presentations and Q/A</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Regional Consultation Process Marta Debolini, CMCC & Coordinator of PRIMA ACQUAOUNT Project • SWOT Analysis & Policy Recommendations on Digital Transformation for Advancing WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean Vangelis Constantianos, Regional Coordinator, GWP-Med, ACQUAOUNT Project

12.00-13.30	<p>Suggested actions on Digital Transformation for Advancing WEF Nexus in the Mediterranean as inputs to the Action Framework of the WEF Nexus Strategy in the Source to Sea Continuum <i>Facilitator: Manuel Sapiano, Senior Advisor, GWP-Med</i></p> <p>Driving question: <i>Based on your institution's/organization's experience (WHY), which max 2 action lines on Digital Transformation for Advancing WEF Nexus in the Mediterranean (WHAT/HOW) you recommend to include in the Action Framework of the WEF Nexus Strategy in the Source to Sea Continuum, which key partners should be engaged in that (WHO), and what do you suggest to be the role of your entity on these?</i></p> <p>Discussion Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mohamed Al Dwari, Secretary General Assistant for Strategic Planning, Ministry of Water & Irrigation, Jordan (online) • Mona Fakhri, Water Director, Ministry of Energy & Water, Lebanon (online) • Iman Hassan Mabrouk Abdelhamid, Central Administration for External Cooperation, Nile Water Sector, Ministry of Water Resources & Irrigation, Egypt • Siham Laraichi, Directorate for Research & Planning, Ministry of Equipment & Water, Morocco (online) • Feryal Kaya, Directorate General for Water Management, Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry, Türkiye • Hilda Hoti, IWRM Policies and Strategies Specialist, Water Resources Management Agency (AMBU), Albania <p>Facilitated discussion</p>
13.30-14.30	Lunch Break
14.30-16.00	<p>Suggested actions on Digital Transformation for Advancing WEF Nexus in the Mediterranean as inputs to the Action Framework of the WEF Nexus Strategy in the Source to Sea Continuum <i>Facilitator: Alain Meyssonier, President, IME</i></p> <p>Driving question: <i>Based on your institution's/organization's experience (WHY), which max 2 action lines on Digital Transformation for Advancing WEF Nexus in the Mediterranean (WHAT/HOW) you recommend to include in the Action Framework of the WEF Nexus Strategy in the Source to Sea Continuum, which key partners should be engaged in that (WHO), and what do you suggest to be the role of your entity on these?</i></p> <p>Discussion Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camilla Luzzolino, Technical Officer, Region of Emilia-Romagna, Italy • Cinzia Alessandrini, Head of Climate Observatory, Arpa Emilia Romagna, Italy • Marinos Kritsotakis, General Director, Region of Crete, Greece • Jordi Castellana, Vice-President for International Cooperation and Digital Metropolis of Barcelona Metropolitan Area, Interim Secretary General of MedCities (online) • TBA, Regional Water Scarcity Initiative, Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa, FAO (online) • Samson Bellières, Green & Blue Transition Project Manager, Plan Blue UNEP MAP (online) • Khaled Abu Zeid, Regional Director of Technical Projects, Arab Water Council • Nicolas Farhat, Deputy General Manager, Berytech (online) <p>Facilitated discussion</p>
16.00-16.15	Coffee Break
16.15-17.15	<p>Brainstorming on Next Steps on Digital Transformation for Advancing WEF Nexus in the Mediterranean <i>Facilitators: TBA</i></p>

	Facilitated discussion
17.15-17.30	Conclusions Panel of organisers
17.30	<i>Reception (at hotel)</i>

3.4. Organisation and support

The 3rd Regional Roundtable is co-organised by the synergizing PRIMA and H2020 projects, UfM and OneWater-Committee Italy. The WEFE Nexus Community of Practice in the Mediterranean is mobilised through the PRIMA WEFE4Med Project. The event contributes to the WEFE Nexus thematic of the Euro-Mediterranean Water Forum.



[REGISTER HERE](#)

For **more information**, please contact:

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- Matteo Funaro, CMCC, Project Manager, Prima ACQUAOUNT Project (matteo.funaro@cmcc.it)
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