

# 2024 World Water Day Mediterranean ECORISE-SDG Workshop Environmental Cooperation, Research & Innovation for Sustainable Ecosystems & Strategic ecoDevelopment Goals

Rimini, Italy, March 21 & 22, University Campus Via Domenico Angherà 22

Hosted by



on the 2024 World Water Day

Co-organized with the collaboration of



SAPIENZA  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



With the participation of



C.U.G.R.I.  
Consorzio Inter-Universitario  
per la Previsione e Prevenzione dei Grandi Rischii  
Università di Salerno - Università di Napoli "Federico II"



Autorità di Bacino Distrettuale  
dell'Appennino Meridionale

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**Purpose:** The main purpose of the Mediterranean "ECORISE-SDG" Workshop is to provide a regional forum for promoting experience sharing and an environmental cooperation framework among government experts, water operators, the academic, research and innovation communities, and other stakeholders on the regional water ecosystems management challenges and sustainable eco-development goals facing the ever-growing coastal ecosystems pollution, rapid urbanization and climate change impacts on water scarcity, food security, extreme climate events, societal survivability concerns and economic decay. Its main goal is to promote a Mediterranean water security framework for a sustainable water accessibility to all communities, as a fundamental human right, under extreme conditions of climate events or human disasters such as the current east-mediterranean conflict.

**Context:** Facing the ever-growing climate change impact on the water stress and on ecosystems sustainability in the Mediterranean coastal region, which has become, along with regional conflicts, one of the major global drivers for today's massive population displacement, world-wide, local governments and water operators of the Mediterranean region have been increasingly challenged with rising shortage of water resources, lack of marine pre-disposal wastewater treatment infrastructure, inadequate urban sewerage systems and insufficient sanitation. The COVID -19 Pandemic Crisis has demonstrated the severe risks and catastrophic public health consequences of the lack of sanitation infrastructure, societal education, insufficient governance capacity and critical lack of regional coordination to face such global extreme events. The critical water and sanitation infrastructure regional needs and the substantial lack and deficiencies of local governance capacity to face the rapid urbanization rate and climate change challenges result in a fast-growing pollution of the transboundary ecosystem(s), infiltration of raw wastewater to the coastal aquifer(s) and severe impacts on public health risks, marine bio-degradation, environmental hazards, societal survivability issues, and food security concerns.

Facing ever-rising water stress, ground water over-drawing in the coastal region generates increasing seepage of the polluted seawater and infiltration of untreated raw wastewater into the aquifer(s), raising severe public health hazards. Furthermore, climate change effects accelerate the increasing water stress.

Depleting rate of water resources in many coastal regions has been accelerated with deficient infrastructure management, yielding a water loss of up to 50% in municipal water distribution systems of MENA states. The current catastrophic east mediterranean conflict demonstrates the critical needs for ensuring transboundary water security and sustainable accessibility to all communities under such extreme conditions.

Within this context, it is mutually recognized by the regional water authorities and other stakeholders that the challenges of responding to extreme events faced by the local governments and water operators will have significant environmental, societal and economic impacts on the regional sustainability and development . These challenges have been the origin of international and regional resolutions including the UN General Assembly resolution declaring access to clean water and sanitation a human right (July 2010); the COP21 'Paris Declaration" (December 2015), calling for a Mediterranean Dialogue on climate change adaptation strategies facing severe climate impacts on water scarcity, fast depleting water resources, environmental hazards and growing public health risks; the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) strategy recommendations for implementing prioritized programs for establishing minimum quality requirements for wastewater treatment effluents, securing adequate treatment monitoring of wastewaters and promoting reuse for eco-agriculture; the provisions of the Barcelona Convention and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

Consistently with these resolutions, the main purpose of this experience sharing workshop is to assess the current state and best practices of climate adaptation, coastal ecosystems pollution monitoring and protection measures, resilience building and sustainable water ecosystems and wastewater manage-

ment for addressing the regional challenges and jointly exploring and piloting innovative solutions for its eco-development strategies.

The Workshop is also expected to contribute to raising the civil society's awareness of the critical needs for Mediterranean environmental cooperation for coastal ecosystems pollution control and climate adaptation capacity building. For this purpose, its outcome is expected to be valuable for exploring the relevance and feasibility of creating the "ECOMED" Academy Network of 'Environmental Coastal Cooperation for Metropolitan Eco-sustainable Development', which is proposed by the UNESCO IHP (Inter-governmental Hydrological Program) resolution to develop a conceptual framework for this academy and explore with the MENA member-states concerned its feasibility. The Academy goal is to promote and support, through a network of local capacity building centers in the member-states concerned, the development of climate adaptation and resilience building strategies, as well as the capabilities of transboundary ecosystems pollution monitoring and protection, public education, research and demonstration of innovative solutions, and professional education for upgrading their capacity of responding to extreme climate events, water security and eco-development challenges.



# Program

**March 21**  
**8:30 – 9:00**

## REGISTRATION

**9:00 – 9:45**

## WELCOME OPENING COMMENTS & WORKSHOP AGENDA

**Municipality of Rimini, Italy**

**Tonino BERNABÈ**, President Romagna Acque, Italy

**Alessia MARIOTTI**, President of the Rimini Campus Council -  
University of Bologna, Italy

**University of Bologna Delegate**, Italy

## OPENING COMMENTS

**Lucio UBERTINI**, UNESCO Chair Water Resources Management  
and Culture, H2CU Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

**Fadi G. COMAIR** (on-line), Cyprus Institute, Former Chair,  
UNESCO-IHP, Cyprus

**Ilan JURAN**, Former Head, Civil & Urban Eng., Polytechnic Institute,  
NYU & CEO, W-SMART Association, France

**Filippo CALABRESE**, President Umbra Acque, Italy

**Beatrice VALLONE**, Director H2CU - Sapienza University of  
Rome, Italy

## UNESCO VISION

**Lidia Arthur BRITO** (on-line), Assistant Director-General for  
Nature Science - UNESCO, Italy

**Magdalena LANDRY**, Director BRESCE – UNESCO, Italy

**Stefania GIANNINI** (on-line), Assistant Director-General for  
Education - UNESCO, Italy

**Abou AMANI**, Director Division of Water Sciences Secretary, IHP, Italy

**9:45 – 11:15**

## PANEL SESSION 1 CLIMATE IMPACTS ASSESSMENT & ADAPTATION PLANNING CHALLENGES for SUSTAINABLE ECO-DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Chair: **Armando BRATH**, University of Bologna, President Associazione Idrotecnica, Italy

Panel Experts:

H.E. **Charafat AFAILAL** (on-line), Former Minister of Energy, Water,  
Mines, Environment, Morocco

**H.E. Azzam TUBEILEH**, Faculty of Agriculture Al-Najah University,  
Former Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Palestine

**Denis PENOUEL** (on-line) Director General, SYCTOM, Paris

**Fabio FILIANOTI**, University of Reggio Calabria, Italy

**Anna MONTINI**, University of Bologna, Italy

**Marco ARCIERI** (on-line), President, International Commission on  
Irrigation & Drainage (ICID), Italy

**11:15 – 11:30 Coffee Break**

**11:30 – 13:00**

## PANEL SESSION 2 TRANSBOUNDARY IWRM CHALLENGES & CASE STUDIES – INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES PLANNING, NON-CONVENTIONAL, REUSE & RECLAMATION MANAGEMENT

Chair: **Emma TEDESCHINI**, University of Perugia, Italy

Panel experts:

**Adel YASIN**, Director General Strategic Planning, PWA, Palestine



**Rabeea AGBARIA**, Head Wastewater Treatment Plants Division, IWA, Israel

**Piergiorgio MANCIOLA\***, University of Perugia, Italy (\*joint intervention)

**Stefano CASADEI\***, University of Perugia, Italy

**Attilio TOSCANO**, University of Bologna, Italy

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## 13.00 – 14.00 Lunch Break

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**14:00 – 15:30**

### PANEL SESSION 3 CLIMATE ADAPTATION IMPACTS on ECOSYSTEMS MANAGEMENT & FOOD SECURITY CHALLENGES FACING EXTREME CLIMATE EVENTS

Chair: **Ignazio BECCHI** (on-line), University of Firenze, Italy

Panel experts:

**Fadi G. COMAIR** (on-line), Cyprus Institute, Former Chair, UNESCO-IHP, Cyprus

**Erich SHAW**, Senior Adviser IWA Programs, Israel

**Ghazi AL KILANI**, Senior Adviser PWA Programs, Palestine

**Vera CORBELLI**, Director General of Distretto Appennino Meridionale, Italy

**Benjamin GESTIN** (on-line), CEO, Eau de Paris

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## 15:30 – 15:45 Coffee Break

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**15:45 – 17:15**

### PANEL SESSION 4 WATER RESEARCH & INNOVATION EXPERIENCE SHARING, SOCIETAL AWARENESS & PROFESSIONAL EDU- CATION FOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Chair: **Giorgio FEDERICI**, University of Firenze, Italy

Panel experts:

**Chrysanthia LEONTIOU** (on-line), Director, Graduate School Cyprus Institute, Cyprus

**Michael SCOULLOS** (on-line), President Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean, University of Athens

**Vincenzo NAPOLI**, CNC Engineering, Italy

**Camillo MASTRACCHIO\***, Director Consorzio di Bonifica Volturno Inferiore, Italy (\*joint intervention)

**Francesco TODISCO\***, Commissioner Consorzi Bonifica Campania Nord, Italy

**Piercarlo MONTALDO**, CEO of Ai Engineering S.r.l., Italy

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**17:15 – 17:30**

## CLOSING COMMENTS

**Lucio UBERTINI & Ilan JURAN**

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**March 22**

**8:30 – 9:00**

## REGISTRATION

**9:00 – 9:15**

### UNESCO-IHP ECOMED ACADEMY NETWORK GOALS & STRATEGIC DEVE- LOPMENT FRAMEWORK

**Ilan JURAN & Fadi G. COMAIR** (on-line)

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**9:15 – 10:45**

**PANEL SESSION 5  
CAPACITY BUILDING NEEDS ASSES-  
SMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS &  
OPERATORS FACING EXTREME CLIMA-  
TE EVENTS & CRISIS MANAGEMENT –  
REGIONAL COOPERATION, R&D,  
PUBLIC EDUCATION & CORPORATE  
TRAINING NEEDS**

Chair: **Giorgio ROTH**, University of Genova, Italy

Panel experts:

**Gerard LUYET** – Operator's Perspectives, President, W-SMART Association, Director, Drinking Water, SIG, Geneva, Switzerland

**Benny VAKNIN** – Local Governance Perspectives, Former Mayor of Ashkelon, Israel

**Domenico GUIDA**, Director C.U.G.R.I., Italy

**Domenico PIANESE**, University of Napoli, Italy

**Q&A**



**10.45- 11.00 Coffe break**



**11:00 – 12:30**

**PANEL SESSION 6  
THE WAY FORWARD - ECOMED COO-  
PERATION FRAMEWORK FOR URBANI-  
ZATION PLANNING, SUSTAINABLE  
ECOSYSTEMS MANAGEMENT &  
ECO-DEVELOPMENT**

Chair: **Mauro FIORENTINO**, University of Basilicata, former rector University of Basilicata, Italy

Panel EXPERTS:

**Fadi G. COMAIR** (on-line), EEWRC, Cyprus Institute, Former Chair, UNESCO-IHP, Cyprus

**Ilan JURAN**, Director General, W-SMART Association, France

**Salvatore GRIMALDI** (on-line), Tuscia University, IAHS President, Italy

**Diego ZURLI**, Architect, former Director Regione Umbria and EAUT, Italy

**UNESCO Delegate** (on-line)

**Q&A**



**12:30 – 13:00**

**CLOSING REMARKS**

**Lucio UBERTINI** UNESCO Chair Water Resources Management and Culture, H2CU Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

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