Natural Heritage Mission
Annual Institutional Dialogue
2026

Bridging Water Practice and Policy for Mediterranean Environmental Governance

24-25 November 2026

Venue: Palais des congrès, Parc Chanot – 13008 Marseille. Callelongue amphitheatre

Organisers:

- **Organising Partner:** Plan Bleu
- **Supporting Partners:** D4N and C4N project partners
- **Framework:** Under the Natural Heritage Mission, the Dialogue4Nature project acts as a platform to upscale best practices and knowledge to Mediterranean and EU policy levels, engaging with decision-makers and authorities at the science-policy interface. On the other hand, Community4Nature project is gathering the Natural Heritage Community of Practice to enhance synergies and foster the transfer of concrete projects' results to other contexts and territories.

Online participation link:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85810611372?pwd=bwEu83B1cxMsWgEEmAB1VxFv4u0teP.1

Introduction:

Water resilience has become a strategic priority for the Mediterranean region, as climate change, increasing water scarcity and ecosystem degradation place growing pressure on natural resources and societies. At the same time, new policy frameworks, including the European Water Resilience Strategy, the Nature Restoration Regulation, the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD 2026–2035) and the Union for the Mediterranean Water Agenda, offer renewed opportunities to strengthen cooperation and accelerate action across the basin. Against this backdrop, this Annual Institutional Dialogue will bring together policymakers, public authorities and Interreg Euro-MED community to discuss water governance challenges and innovative territorial solutions across Mediterranean, national and local governance levels. Building on the draft Natural Heritage Mission policy recommendations on water resilience, the discussions will provide an opportunity to validate, enrich and finalise these recommendations, ensuring they reflect both policy priorities and practical experience from the field.

AGENDA DAY 1 - November 24th

Building Water Resilience in the Mediterranean:
From Policy Frameworks to Territorial Action

09:00 - 09:30 | Welcoming and Registration

09:30 - 9:45 | Institutional Opening

- **Antoine Laffitte**, *UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention / Plan Bleu*
- **Christoph Maier**, *Interreg Euro-MED Joint Secretariat*
- **Capucine Edou** (TBC), *City of Marseille*

09:45 - 10:30 | Mediterranean Water Resilience: State of Play, policy frameworks and priorities

This opening session will set the scene for the day by presenting the state of water resources in the Mediterranean, the region's key policy frameworks, and the Natural Heritage Mission's policy recommendations on water resilience. These contributions will provide the common foundation for the discussions and roundtables that follow.

- **Insa Behrens,** *Plan Bleu* – The State of Water in the Mediterranean and SDG 6
- **Dario Quadri,** *UfM* **(**online) – Regional Policy Framework for Water Resilience
- **UNEP/MAP (TBC)** – Mediterranean Governance Framework and Water-Related Priorities
- **Pedro Fernández,** *MedCities* – Natural Heritage Mission Policy Recommendations on Water Resilience

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10:30 - 11:00 | Coffee Break

11:00 - 13:00 | Roundtable on Water infrastructure, quality and heritage

Moderator: Peter Mackelworth, *Marine Institute*
Panelists:

- **Samuel Gil**, *New Water Culture Foundation*
- **Evangelia Angelaki**, *Wineries Association of Crete*
- **Toni Tonchev,** *Energy and Water Agency in Malta*
- **Mona Fakih**, *Ministry of Energy and Water of Lebanon*
- **Michael Ronse,** *Tour du Valat*
- **Thematic projects:** WatHer, Wetland4Change and COASTRUST

Including interaction with the audience

13:00 - 14:00 | Lunch Break

14:00 - 16:00 | Roundtable - Strengthening Mediterranean Water Governance: Source-to-Sea Coordination, Data and Long-Term Implementation

Moderator: Carla Danelutti, *IUCN Med*
Panelists:

- **Insa Behrens**, *Plan Bleu / UNEP/MAP*
- **Francesco Camonita**, *CPRM*
- **Milo Radović**, *Water Administration of Montenegro*
- **Veronique Evers (TBC)**, *PAP/RAC*
- **Maria Koziraki**, *Secretary of Decentralized Administration of Crete*
- **Thematic Projects**: Locall4Flood, Germ of Life

Including the interaction with the audience

16:00 - 16:30 | Coffee Break

16:30 - 17:30 | Wrap up discussion

Moderators: Gina Apostolaki, *Region of Crete*, and **Emanuela Manca**, *Autonomous Region of Sardinia*

- Open discussion with interactive tool
- Next advocacy steps

20:00 | Cocktail dinner - Les grandes tables de la Criée, 30 Quai de Rive Neuve, 13007 Marseille

Participation at participants' own expense: €30 per person. Prior reservation is mandatory by 13 November at the latest. Please register here.

AGENDA DAY 2 - November 25th

Community of Practice Meeting

09:00 - 9:30 | Welcoming and Registration

09:30 - 10:15 | Planning next year's activities on clusters

- Presenting the results so far - finalised clusters: 'Tools for Environmental Governance' and 'Tools for Disaster Risk Reduction' clusters; Peer-review clusters + key objectives of the clusters within the NHM
- Clustering strategy for 2027. Community's feedback: ideas, and needs / barriers and opportunities / goals and policy aspects. What activities do we envision?

10:15 - 11:00 | Mentorship activities

- Overview of how the methodology works in practice - Q/A
- Interview / cluster for MPAs in Montenegro towards a mentorship process
- Interview / takers and givers on specific mentorship cases
- Identified opportunities and upcoming activities for mentorship opportunities

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11:00 - 11:30 | Coffee Break

11:30 - 13:00 | Amplification room (AR) interactive session

A more relaxed space where people can freely move around, network, ask questions, explore synergies and future opportunities.

- **AR activities and help desk**: A space to express interest and provide ideas between TPs and with APs regarding 1) upcoming clusters, 2) mentorship programme, 3) MOOCs creation / joint MOOCs proposals & interest. Q&A;
- **Mentorship programmes workshop**: specific B2B meetings to work on concrete roadmaps and joint calendar with participants to mentorship cases;
- **CERES engagement**: singing up and guidance on the tool functionalities for CoP;
- **Calendar of CoP events**: Co-creation of a joint calendar including TP's meetings open for inviting stakeholders, planned field visits to pilot sites, pilot interventions, trainings (on-site and on-line);

In parallel

11:30 - 13:00 | Inter-Mission - Governance Projects meeting

13:00 - 14:00 | Lunch Break

Join the Interreg Euro-MED Programme event - A Mediterranean Journey

A project labelled by the UfM

Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط