



## Editorial



The present issue of the WES Newsletter, covering the period October 2023 to February 2024, includes highlights of important WES activities organized throughout the Mediterranean with great success and impact, including:

- The jointly organized by WES and UNEP/MAP regional meeting for developing the preliminary elements for the new National Action Plans (NAPs). The WES TL co-chaired the meeting, during which best practices were shared for application of the Guidelines for estimating pollutant loads from the agriculture and aquaculture sectors (Athens, 24-25 October 2023); [Read more](#)
- The successful online 5th WES Steering Committee Meeting (1 February 2024), that brought together all PCs, EUDs, institutional partners, demonstration projects and stakeholders who shared their experiences and expressed their genuine appreciation for the useful, concise and systematic work carried out by the WES Team under the guidance of Mr. Frederic Fournet, DG NEAR; [Read more](#)
- The most recent activity where WES had a very active role and prominent contribution: the 5th Mediterranean Water Forum (Tunis, 5-8 February 2024) that gathered 800 participants among whom many Ministers and representatives of international organisations. WES co-organised on the 5th of February, the 2nd Regional Roundtable

- A training and study visit to Cagliari, Sardinia/Italy (24-26 October 2023) on decentralized management of organic waste; [Read more](#)
- WES active representation in many sessions of the Cairo Water Week (30 October-2 November 2023), including a very interesting stakeholders' consultation on developing financial mechanisms for improvements of water use in agriculture at farm level, honored by the presence of H.E. Prof. Hani Atef Nabhan Sewilam, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation;
- The WES National Meeting of Egypt with the Egyptian WES Focal Points and related EUD officials (1 November 2023);
- A well-attended Press Conference organized by the EUD to Egypt in Cairo (2 November 2023); [Read more](#)
- In cooperation with the UNECE Aarhus Convention secretariat (Athens, 14-15 November 2023) organisation of a training on the Mediterranean Accession Agenda to the Aarhus Convention (MAAAC), attended by representatives from many different Ministries from 12 countries (7 WES PCs and another 5 EU and Non-EU Members of the Convention); [Read more](#)
- Representation of WES at the 7th UfM Environment Task Force Meeting (Brussels, 15 November 2023);
- The very well attended and interactive WES National Meeting of Tunisian Stakeholders (Tunis, 28 November 2023), honored by the presence of the Minister of Environment, H.E. Ms Leila Chikhaoui Mahdaoui; [Read more](#)
- WES representation at COP23 of the Barcelona Convention in Slovenia (Portoroz, 5-8 December 2023) entitled "Green Transition in the Mediterranean: from Decision to Action", where WES was particularly active, with its TL in the panel discussion of the Ministerial Session. It is noteworthy that the WES contribution to the work of UNEP/MAP and the MCSD was repeatedly acknowledged;

on the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus in the Mediterranean, where the first draft of the relevant Strategy was presented and discussed. The Strategy is developed jointly by the EU, UNEP/MAP and UfM and technically facilitated by WES, GWP-Med and the PRIMA Foundation. Its structure is based on three major goals and eight objectives. The Strategy also provides the framework for implementation, monitoring and synergies and elaborates on various types of necessary financial means and capacities to achieve the goals and objectives.

The three goals of the Strategy to promote the WEFE Nexus:

- 1. Appropriate institutional arrangements, policies, and cooperation frameworks are established at country and regional levels.
- 2. Efficient and effective planning, financing and implementation of management and technical solutions.
- 3. Informed decision making based on enhanced science-based knowledge, engagement of capacitated stakeholders, and increased public awareness.

The meeting was honored by H.E. the Minister of the Environment of Tunisia, Ms Leila Chikhaoui Mahdaoui and H.E. the Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation of Egypt, Prof. Hani Atef Nabhan Sewilam. Mr. Frederic Fourtune, DG NEAR, addressed the meeting and chaired the "Implementation Framework, Financial Means and Monitoring of the WEFE Nexus Strategy" session, while the WES TL, General Rapporteur of the meeting, presented the conclusions and the way forward. The latter was also the key-note speaker of the first plenary session on the 6th of February 2024, which was also devoted to the WEFE Nexus. [Read more](#)

**Prof. Michael Scoullas**  
**WES Team Leader**

## WES Consultation, WES National Meeting and EU Press Conference organized during the Cairo Water Week 2023 (CWW 2023)

WES presented the results of the project's activity aiming at "assisting Egypt in developing financial mechanisms for the management of water resources at on-farm level" and discussed them with stakeholders during a Consultation/Side event of the CWW 2023 which was carried out, in coordination with the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, and the EU Delegation to Egypt, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2023.

A National Meeting followed, during which the participants were introduced to what has been achieved so far in Egypt through the 2 WES water activities.

The results of the Consultation Workshop, but also useful information on the water activities in Egypt, were presented at the EU Press Conference which was organised by the EU Delegation to Egypt, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November 2023.

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## WES National Meeting in Tunisia

WES project, in cooperation with the Tunisian Government (Ministries of Environment and of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries), organised a National Meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November 2023 in Tunis, to present an overview of WES Activities developed in Tunisia and discuss the way forward.

More than 300 key Tunisian stakeholders have gained valuable knowledge and experience by actively participating in 5 National Activities (3 for the environment and 2 for the water sector) and 12 Regional and 3 Horizontal WES Activities.

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## WES Regional Study Visit on Organic Waste Management in Italy

WES joined forces with ENI CBCMED Med4Waste, and organised a regional workshop and study visit from 24 to 26 October 2023 in Cagliari, Sardinia on “Decentralized management of municipal organic waste in the Mediterranean”. More than 40 key stakeholders from most countries of the region, inclusive of policy makers, local authorities, the private sector and civil society organisations, participated in the workshop sessions and also visited the Arborea municipal solid waste sorting and treatment plant; a Municipal Collection Center in Cagliari that aims to increase separate waste collection; and the Esposito Group's Ecocenter that processes beach waste.

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## A new WES video on Circular Economy



The WES video “Circular Economy” was prepared as part of the activities for policy makers and other stakeholders in WES partner countries and released in November 2023.

The video gives a short overview of what the circular economy is and of the policies, strategies and incentives that can contribute to its realization in the Mediterranean region.

All versions of the video with subtitles in English, French, or Arabic are accessible via the WES YouTube page and website.

The video is available [here](#)

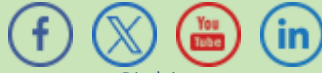
## Water and Environment Support (WES) Project

The “Water and Environment Support (WES) in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood Region” is a regional project, funded by the European Union, that 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 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) and 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) by facilitating specific regional strategies and dialogues and the UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan of the Barcelona Convention.



## Water and Environment Support (WES) Project

[www.wes-med.eu](http://www.wes-med.eu)



Disclaimer

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For more information please contact:

Ms Lisa Papadogeorgaki, Key Expert WES Communication and networking  
[lpa@ldk.gr](mailto:lpa@ldk.gr)

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