



4th Mediterranean Water Forum Malta 2020



Background

Initiated in Marrakech in 2011, then held in Murcia in 2014 and Cairo in 2018, the Mediterranean Water Forum is intended to be a regional event that brings together the main stakeholders in the Mediterranean water community.

Given its specificity as an inter-continental crossroads, a target region for water scarcity and a hot spot of the effects of climate change, the Mediterranean region is as well is a dynamic platform to a large number of solutions and experiences on water issues that can to be highlighted during World Water Forum.

Main objective

The Forum aims to present the Mediterranean as a hub of innovative water management solutions which have been locally developed or adapted to address the prevailing challenges of the region including those related to climate change impacts. It will also outline how the Mediterranean region is developing an integrated implementation framework through the Union for the Mediterranean's Water Agenda, while also servicing other important political and technical regional and sub-regional frameworks, which ensures that different water management actions reinforce each other thereby providing a comprehensive solution for evolving needs. In so doing, the forum will present the value of the Mediterranean region in the development, adaptation and implementation of effective and integrated water resources management (IWRM) solutions including through water-energy-food-ecosystem nexus (WEFE Nexus) and Source-to-Sea approaches. It will also showcase the replication potential of these solutions to address emerging problems at a global scale, including as a contributor to jobs, prosperity, stability and peace.

The 4th Mediterranean Water Forum will be held in Malta from November 11 to 13, 2020

Malta, host country

Located in the centre of the Mediterranean region, Malta has always been a meeting point which facilitated the integration of different cultures and hence contributed to the development of the Mediterranean's distinctive characteristics. Within this context, Malta is also synonymous with the Mediterranean's water culture. Malta's water history dates back to the Neolithic Period, with rainwater harvesting cisterns located next to the Megalithic Temples. Water management techniques continued to be enriched throughout the centuries, fusing new practices and technologies into a distinctive Mediterranean heritage. Rainwater cisterns, rubble walls, aqueducts, sea-water desalination, water reuse are all practices and technologies which define water management in our Mediterranean region.

Furthermore, from a political perspective, Malta has always actively worked for facilitating regional integration. In the water sector, Malta believes in the importance of the development of a Mediterranean Water Agenda, and together with the Union for the Mediterranean, the European Union and all Mediterranean Countries is fully involved in the regional process which was launched by the UfM following the endorsement of the Valletta Ministerial declaration in 2017.

Mediterranean process for the World Water Forum.

Held every three years and in alignment with the themes defined for the World Water Forum, the Mediterranean Water Forum will target specific themes for the Mediterranean region coordinated by the main regional stakeholders.

The main theme of the 9th World Water Forum (22-27 March 2021, Dakar, Senegal) is “Water Security for Peace and Development”, and discussions in the Forum are expected to be centred on the identification of effective solutions which can guarantee water security. This theme is of interest for the Mediterranean where changing demographics, socio-economic challenges and the onset of climate change are increasingly threatening the water security of the region. But, the Mediterranean has throughout its history managed to transform the challenges of water scarcity into opportunities for its sustainable development. The Mediterranean process will therefore seek to identify best practices and technologies which have been developed in the region, and present these as solutions for addressing water security in the region and beyond.

During the activities of the 4th Mediterranean Water Forum, other major subjects and initiatives will be discussed and debated. The outputs of the working groups’ activities, the panels and other events will serve to significantly enhance the Mediterranean participation to the 9th World Water Forum.

Furthermore, this 4th Mediterranean Water Forum should contribute to making water on the highest political agenda at Global, regional and a national level.