



MEDITERRANEAN WATER FORUM

Malta, 6-8 December 2021

www.medwater2021.mt

SIDE EVENT

“Small Mediterranean islands: drivers of sustainable development Integrated water resources management: strengths” by SMILO

6 December, 2021 – 16:00 -17:30

Background

Far from being experienced at a distance, environmental issues are concentrated and exacerbated on a daily basis on small islands: supply and quality of drinking water, sanitation, creation of an energy mix, waste management, protection of biodiversity and local agro-biodiversity, enhancement of heritage, natural and landscape know-how.

This is reflected in the links, imprints as tenuous as they are lasting, that island communities must weave between themselves and their environment, between the natural environment and the social environment: their futures, their futures, are intimately linked to this balance.

While the relatively small number of actors on a small island, and the intensity of the family and community ties they maintain, can allow better sharing of information on these themes and promote active solidarity, the density and petrification of ties can in some cases have negative effects: more or less passive resistance to the need for change, immobility, even exclusion. The challenge then is to overcome these potential conflicts of use around natural resources, to achieve a balanced sharing of productive and natural spaces. A strong and structuring stake therefore lies in the multi-stakeholder dialogue and the emergence of common, shared visions of the territory; in the recognition, dissemination, adaptation and permanent transformation of local practices, knowledge and know how related to small islands.

Issues at stake

Some small islands are often confronted with water shortages: their limited size, topography, low density plant cover, scarcity of springs, poor water infiltration into groundwater, inadequate geology, or even the lack of rain, are likely to cause serious shortages in water availability. Reserves are limited to a thin layer of water on flat islands, groundwater is vulnerable to tides and the rise of saltwater infiltration accentuated by climate change and sea level rise. Higher islands potentially have larger water resources, but their storage capacity remains limited due to the lack of dedicated space or infiltration. Access to drinking water on islands is therefore very uneven, as fresh water quality can be affected by the infiltration of seawater in the groundwater, or by pollution due to agricultural, domestic, or touristic activities.

Other islands that are less exposed to water shortages (with heavy rainfall or pipelines, etc.) may however be faced with misuse, over-use or storage problems.





In coastal areas of developing countries, up to 90% of wastewater is released directly into the oceans untreated, often polluted by pathogens, chemical pollutants, pesticides, chemical fertilizers and other hydrocarbons or waste oils generating negative impacts not only on the inhabitants' health but also on freshwater and marine environments.

Mediterranean bright spots

Guaranteeing the good ecological and environmental condition of an island, which is conducive to human development, even more than for other territories, therefore requires participatory governance levers which are called upon to be maintained over the long term. The island character can then become a strength, and the need to draw on one's own resources in a finite setting, a fertile ground for innovation, technical, technological and social.

Why attend

This session will highlight and share successful Mediterranean islands' solutions for a better water resource and wastewater management, to strengthen their resilience to climate change, inspiring other territories to replicate the innovative good practices implemented by islands.

Description

Islands are not the only territories dealing with water related issues, nor they are specifically vulnerable to climate change and its impacts, but they are also actively engaged in building their own resilience and contributing to the planet global conservation. This session will gather stakeholders involved in islands resilience and the implementation of solutions for sustainable water and wastewater sanitation management. The objective is to highlight and share successful islands' solutions to strengthen their resilience.

The session will address these issues thanks to a "Bright Spot Panel" during which participants will identify islands bright spots and share good practices. The session will specifically emphasize the role of islands communities in finding innovative solutions. By promoting sustainable initiatives implemented by islands during the Med Water Forum, this event will increase islands' visibility as active actors in leading the change towards more sustainable practices in water conservation and management. The session will also help identify islands' future challenges that should be included in the Post-2020 Global agenda.

Additionally, this focus on "islands carrying practical, innovative and integrated solutions" is also part of the broader perspective of the World Water Forum. The partners are committed to bring this message from the Mediterranean to international partners in Dakar in 2022.

The panel discuss will gather experts and stakeholders from different levels/backgrounds feeding from our networks: government (region and municipality), experts, field actors (NGOs), networks.

The discussions will shed light on the driving role of the islands, and address management issues, but also regulatory, technical (examples of concrete solutions in particular on wastewater treatment, re-ut) and financial.

Partners

The Small Islands Organisation (SMILO) assists small islands of less than 150 km² that wish to work towards managing their territory more sustainably. SMILO aims to curb impacts linked to human activities and development, whilst fostering innovations on islands that benefit the local population and their environment.





It focuses on sustainable solutions in the fields of water & sanitation, waste, energy, biodiversity, landscape and heritage.

SMILO supports island communities in the Mediterranean and around the world, in the implementation of concrete actions for the sustainable development of their territories.

AGENDA

16.00-17.30

Animation: SMILO, Sylvain Petit, Executive Secretary

Opening – 16:00

Mario BORG Gozo Regional Development Authority (GRDA), CEO	Water management at the Regional Development Agency for Gozo. <i>Focus on Agriculture use of treated water and the perspective of new reverse osmosis plants in Gozo</i>
Milagros COUCHOUD IME Honorary President Member of the Scientific and Technical Board of Prince Albert 2 Foundation	Water on island: Past and future

Presentation solutions – 16:20

Hydrousa H2020 Project description and examples of concrete actions implemented	Eric MINO Director of Semide
Small Islands Organisation Water, a strategic focus to build resilient island communities in the Mediterranean	Maxime PRODROMIDES President of SMILO
Kerkennah Water management on the island	Sylvain PETIT Executive Secretary of SMILO
Project MUSICA Multiple Use of Space for Island Clean Autonomy	University of Malta / AquaBioTech group To be confirmed
Prince Albert 2 Foundation Donour's Initiative for Mediterranean Freshwater Ecosystems	Philippe MONDIELLI Scientific Director of Prince Albert 2 Foundation

Exchange with the audience – 17:00

Conclusion – 17:20

Wrap-up	Alain MEYSSONIER, President of the IME
Closing word	Keynote speaker (to be defined)





4th Mediterranean Water Forum 2021



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