



BULLETIN

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Edition



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Wefe4Med



Wefe4Med



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This edition brings together reflections, achievements, community perspectives and key developments from across the WEFE4MED project. Through expert insights, stakeholder experiences and project highlights, it showcases progress towards strengthening the Mediterranean WEFE Nexus Community of Practice and advancing the WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean.

Spotlight Article



Dr. Jauad El Kharraz, CEO and Founder of WECEN (water-energy-climate expert network)

As the CEO of WECEN (Water Energy Climate Experts Network), I have long advocated for integrated approaches to address the interconnected challenges of water, energy, food, and ecosystems (WEFE) in the Mediterranean region. The WEFE4MED project, funded by PRIMA and led by The Cyprus Institute, represents a pivotal step in this direction. Over the past two years, it has not only mapped existing WEFE initiatives but also built a robust Community of Practice (CoP) that bridges stakeholders from research, policy, industry, and civil society. Through its online portal, WEFE4MED already includes 50 WEFE nexus demonstrators and more than 500 members, fostering a dynamic network for collaboration. Drawing from my involvement in regional forums like the UfM Green Week, the XIX World Water Congress, and COP side events, I see WEFE4MED as a catalyst for transforming

siloefforts into collaborative, scalable solutions amid escalating climate pressures.

The project's impact so far is evident in its deliverables. By engaging diverse actors across the Mediterranean Basin, WEFE4MED has facilitated knowledge exchange through workshops, bootcamps, and showcasing key publications, such as the MedECC report on interlinking climate change with the WEFE nexus. These activities have highlighted synergies, like renewable energy-powered desalination for irrigation, which reduce water scarcity while enhancing food security and ecosystem resilience. For instance, projects integrating solar energy with wastewater treatment – echoing initiatives in my past work leading the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE) – demonstrate how WEFE approaches can cut energy costs, minimize environmental footprints, and support biodiversity conservation. This has already fostered a sense of shared purpose, with milestones like ethical guidelines, dissemination strategies, and innovative solutions inspired by demonstration sites amplifying outreach to a diverse range of audiences, from policymakers to farmers.

Looking ahead, WEFE4MED holds immense potential to boost the Mediterranean WEFE CoP by institutionalizing cross-sectoral dialogue, innovation hubs, and science-based policies drawn from demonstration sites. The highlight was the high-level flagship event: the Regional Conference on WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean Source to Sea Continuum: From Strategy to Action, that was held in Nicosia, Cyprus on 24–26 February 2026 under the auspices of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union, UfM, UNEP/MAP, and PRIMA. The conference provided a platform for translating regional strategies into actionable outcomes, further supporting PRIMA's efforts in scaling up nexus projects, particularly those combining renewables with advanced water technologies. Imagine widespread adoption of agrivoltaics or solar desalination systems that irrigate arid lands without depleting ecosystems; solutions I've explored in contexts like the MENA region's Green Nexus concept for GCF funding. By addressing risks such as policy silos and financial barriers, WEFE4MED can drive replicability, as seen in pilots from Jordan to Egypt. Its impact pathway, focusing on exploitable results like intellectual property and sustainable governance, positions it to influence long-term adaptation strategies, ensuring equitable resource management in a warming world.

In essence, WEFE4MED is more than a project; it's a blueprint for resilience. I am optimistic that by nurturing this CoP, we can accelerate PRIMA-backed innovations, turning challenges into opportunities for a sustainable Mediterranean future.

Key Achievements and Milestones

From Strategy to Action: Highlights from the Regional WEFE Nexus Conference

24–26 February 2026 | Nicosia, Cyprus



The Regional Conference on Water, Energy, Food Ecosystems Nexus in the Mediterranean, Source-to-Sea Continuum: from Strategy to Action was held on 24 to 26 February 2026 at the Cyprus Institute in Nicosia, Cyprus and online in a hybrid format. Held under the auspices of the 2026 Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the conference was organised by GWP-Mediterranean and The Cyprus Institute, in synergy with the EU WES-BCA project and within the frameworks of UNEP/MAP, the Union for the Mediterranean and PRIMA. The conference was supported by the GEF UNEP/MAP MedProgramme, PRIMA WEFE4MED through the Nexus Community of Practice, and GEF IW:LEARN projects. It brought together 219 stakeholders from 25 countries, participating both in person and online. The conference promoted multi-stakeholder efforts towards action for the integrated management of natural resources and for water, energy and food security, while advancing environmental sustainability. Through the implementation of the WEFE Nexus Strategy in the Mediterranean source-to-sea continuum. A key outcome of the conference was the Nicosia Accord, which set the direction for moving from strategy to implementation. The conference also launched a regional multi-stakeholder consultation process to shape the Strategy's Action Framework, with the aim of strengthening policy integration, enhancing stakeholder cooperation, mobilizing investment and supporting coordinated implementation across the region. Building on these outcomes, the next phase focuses on developing the Action Framework for implementation. This process will engage governments, regional and international organisations, financing institutions, academia, civil society and the private sector. Fully reflecting the Strategy's priorities and based on a why-what-how-who approach, it will define priorities, roles, monitoring mechanisms and indicators, while aligning with relevant UfM and UNEP/MAP processes. Once prepared by the partner institutions, the Action Framework is expected to be considered through the UfM Regional Platform on Water and the UNEP/MAP Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development, supporting coordinated implementation across the Mediterranean source-to-sea continuum.

The conference also celebrated innovation in practice through the announcement of the WEFE Nexus Award winner, recognizing outstanding efforts in advancing integrated solutions on the ground. The award was presented to **The Samla Nexus: A Community-Powered WEFE Project**



WEFE4MED Community Experiences

Twinning Activities, Learning from Each Other in a Simple, Practical Way.



Youssef Yammine, Cluster Manager ,Berytech

The WEFE4MED twinning initiative brings people from different countries together to see real solutions in water, energy, food, and ecosystems. Through short field visits, hosts share what they know, and visitors learn new ideas they can take back home. From our experience, the recent visit to Jordan showed how valuable these exchanges are. Seeing things on the ground, talking directly to experts, and understanding how they solve their challenges gave us clear and practical insights. It also helped hosts and visitors build genuine connections that can lead to future collaboration.

These twinning visits are simple, useful, and inspiring. They help spread good practices across the region, and I encourage more organizations to join, whether to host or to learn.

Jordan Field Visit

As part of the WEFE4MED Twinning Programme, three participants from Lebanon and Ramallah joined a three-day field visit to Jordan, hosted by NARC, exploring practical WEFE Nexus solutions in climate-smart agriculture, water efficiency, and innovative farming technologies.

A circular portrait of a woman with dark hair, wearing a pink shirt, smiling. The background of the portrait is a greenhouse filled with green plants.

Malvena Al Jamal

The field visits and technical discussions in Jordan provided invaluable insights into aquaponics, hydroponics, greywater reuse, and smart irrigation systems. This experience will help me adopt practical, scalable solutions to enhance resource efficiency and climate resilience in our municipal programs.

A circular portrait of a man with short dark hair, wearing a blue and white checkered shirt, smiling. The background of the portrait is a greenhouse filled with green plants.

Georges Youssef

The WEFE4MED twinning experience in Jordan offered exceptional exposure to real-world WEFE Nexus applications. From aquaponics to hydroponics and permaculture, each visit provided practical lessons that are directly relevant to our efforts at Agro Cedrus. It was an inspiring and transformative learning journey.

A circular portrait of a man with a grey beard and balding head, wearing a dark shirt, smiling. The background of the portrait is a greenhouse filled with green plants.

Georges Doumar

The experience was incredibly valuable. During the visit, I learned about new techniques for saving water and the use of treated water and salt water. Additionally, I acquired new technical skills in hydroponics and aquaponics, which I believe will be highly beneficial moving forward. Thank you Berytech and WEFE4MED once again for this opportunity.

Spain Field Visit

As part of the WEFE4MED Twinning Programme, participants joined a three-day field visit to southern Spain, organized by Berytech and hosted by BIOAZUL, exploring sustainable agriculture, water management, hydroponics, and innovative water-efficient farming solutions.



WEFE4MED Nexus Award

The WEFE4MED Nexus Award was launched to recognise and promote outstanding demonstrator projects that advance integrated Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus solutions across the Mediterranean. Open to initiatives from PRIMA Participating States, the award sought to showcase innovative, impactful, and scalable practices that support sustainable resource management and address interconnected WEFE challenges. Following the call for applications, all eligible submissions underwent a comprehensive evaluation by an independent panel of experts. Projects were assessed against three core criteria: socio-economic impact, environmental impact, and potential for scalability and replication, ensuring a transparent and merit-based selection process. Based on the evaluation results, six finalist projects were shortlisted and invited to present their initiatives during the Regional Conference. Conference participants then voted for their preferred project, and The final result combined the expert assessment, accounting for 70% of the overall score, with the public vote conducted during the Conference, accounting for the remaining 30%. The award highlighted the importance of innovation, cross-sectoral collaboration, and practical solutions that generate tangible environmental, social, and economic benefits while inspiring replication across the Mediterranean Source-to-Sea Continuum.



WEFE4MED Nexus Award Winner

The Samla Nexus: A Community-Powered WEFE Project

This project is part of the PRIMA programme supported by the European Union



Funded by
the European Union



The Samla Nexus: A Community-Powered WEFE Project



SCAN ME

Descriptive Summary

Samla village in Marsa Matrouh faced severe water scarcity caused by the harsh environmental conditions of the village and over-pumping of the existing well, leaving nearly twenty thousand residents without safe drinking water and harming local agriculture. With funding from Al Ahly Sabbour CSR unit and Schneider Electric as a technical partner, GEBAL for Sustainable Solutions introduced an integrated solution that connects water, energy, food, and ecosystem systems through a solar-powered desalination unit, a greenhouse using treated water for year-round crops, and an educational play area for community children promoting environmental awareness and resource conservation. The project now provides clean water, renewable energy, and fresh produce for the community while enhancing the quality of life and local resilience. It stands as a practical, community-led model for sustainable resource management in arid regions.



City Marsa Matrouh **Country** Egypt **Start year** 2024

Total funding 100 - 10k € **End year** 2025

Acknowledgement of funding source

The project was funded by **Al Ahly Sabbour CSR department with Schneider Electric as the technical partner.**

Nexus Dimensions



SDGs



Scores

Environmental: ●●●●● Social: ●●●●○ Technological: ●●●●● Financial: ●●○○○ Institutional: ●●○○○

<https://gebalegypt.com/green-solutions-for-salt-affected-lands/>

Focal Point



Hadeer Zayed

hadeer.zayed@gebalegypt.com
GEBAL for Sustainable Solutions

Policy Recommendations and Learning Resources

WEFE4MED Policy Briefs

As part of its advocacy efforts to promote the uptake of the WEFE Nexus approach across the Mediterranean, WEFE4MED developed a series of Policy Briefs to provide evidence-based recommendations for policymakers, supporting integrated, collaborative, and sustainable resource management practices. The Policy Briefs were officially launched during the Regional Conference on the WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean: From Strategy to Action, held in Nicosia, Cyprus, in February 2026."



Policy Brief No. 1 – Applying the WEFE Nexus for Water Resilience: explores the role of the WEFE Nexus in strengthening water resilience in the Mediterranean.



Policy Brief No.2 – Mainstreaming the WEFE Nexus into Water Management Planning under Scarcity Conditions: explores integrating the WEFE Nexus into water management planning.



Policy Brief No.3 – WEFE Nexus for Supporting the Achievement of the UN SDGs in the Mediterranean Basin: highlights the role of the WEFE Nexus in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Online Educational Modules on the WEFE Nexus



The WEFE4MED educational modules form part of the project's capacity-building efforts and provide accessible learning resources introducing participants to key principles, practical applications, and policy dimensions of the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus. The modules are intended for professionals, researchers, and students seeking to strengthen their understanding of the WEFE Nexus and its relevance to sustainable resource management in the Mediterranean. Completion of the modules is a mandatory prerequisite for participants joining the WEFE4MED Summer Schools, providing a shared introductory basis for the programme's interactive workshops and field activities. The modules are also available in French, broadening access to these learning resources across the Mediterranean region. A certificate is awarded upon successful completion of the modules.

Please check information and regular updates in our Monthly Highlights (MH):



For more information or to join the community, visit: www.wefe4med.eu

Partners



Funded by
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