

Concept Note & Agenda

World Water Week 2019 | Water for society – Including all

MENA FOCUS - Mediterranean Youth Unites Around Water (Code: 8409)

Tuesday, 27 August 2019, 14:00-15:30 Room: tbc

Convenors: Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI), Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med)

Introduction & Objectives

Young women and men in the MENA are calling for meaningful and better civic, economic, social, and political participation. Supporting a systematic approach for youth engagement across the development spectrum is crucial for both meeting their demands and achieving the Agenda 2030, especially with reference to water.

Instead of designing specific youth policies, the focus should be on enabling a conducive and inclusive environment for youth organisations to function effectively within the water governance framework.

Through enhanced understanding and awareness of innovation, education, job creation and networking opportunities, this joint effort aims to empower youth in the policy making processes at national and regional levels, contribute towards having young people as a priority.

The MENA Focus are the Water Week's Regional Days dedicated to the Middle East and North Africa that were introduced in 2016 and coordinated ever since by GWP-Med. Being part of the MENA Focus, this showcase will discuss the context, objectives and activities of the joint initiative of the Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI) and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) on Youth and Water, including the possibility of mobilising CMI's Mediterranean Youth for Water Network (MedYWat) for the creation of a wider flagship youth Network for the Mediterranean and MENA, aligning also with the context and objectives of the UfM's Water Agenda and Financial Strategy.

Besides briefly sharing information on ongoing work, the showcase will also include three panel exchanges targeting current and emerging issues, namely: the water-employment-migration; water and climate change; and water entrepreneurship. The session will conclude with Q&As on plausible next steps.

Specific Objectives of the showcase are to:

- to highlight the joint endeavour of CMI and UfM on Mediterranean Youth and Water and familiarise the participants with its rationale, context and objectives;
- to exchange experiences and lessons learnt from ongoing work of youth organisations and other organisations working on youth in the region, identifying at the same time synergies and potential areas of collaboration;
- different stakeholders, including regional organisations and development partners and financiers identify their respective role and added value in the process.

Agenda

14:00 Opening Session - Welcoming remarks, context and outline of the session (15mins)

Jointly moderated by UfM and CMI

- **Almotaz Abadi**, Managing Director, Water and Environment Division, *Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat (UfMS)*
- **Blanca Moreno-Dodson**, Manager, *Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI)*
- **Ms. Yosra Albakkar**, Regional Program Manager, MENA Unit, *Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) (tbc)*
- **Prof. Michael Scoullou**, Chairperson, *Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean GWP-Med*

14:10 Keynote presentations (15mins)

- *The Mediterranean Youth for Water Network (MedYWat)*,
Francisco Pedrero Salcedo, MedYWat Coordinator
- *The key findings of a mapping and scoping exercise on youth water networks in the Mediterranean*
Lindsey Marie Aldaco-Manner, UfM/GWP-Med Advisor on Youth

Q&As (5mins)

14:30 Interactive Panel Discussions (2-3 speakers in each, names tbc):

Facilitators: **Janette Uhlmann**, Senior Operations Officer, CMI & **Anthi Brouma**, Deputy Regional Coordinator, GWP-Med

- **Water-Employment-Migration** (10mins)
- **Water and Climate Change** (10mins)
- **Water Entrepreneurship** (10mins)

Open Q&A section (10mins)

15:25 Wrap up and Conclusions by Co-Convenors (5mins)

For more info on the co-convenors of the showcase:

- *The Union for the Mediterranean* - <https://ufmsecretariat.org/>
- *The Center for Mediterranean Integration* - <https://www.cmimarseille.org>
- *The Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med)* - <https://www.gwp.org/en/gwp-mediterranean/>