



WEFE Nexus Community of Practice in the Mediterranean Co-Creation Workshop and WEFE Nexus Award ceremony

22 November 2023

Background information

The Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus concept has gained significant attention in the research community, particularly in the natural and physical sciences. While substantial progress has been made in advancing theoretical understanding, it is crucial that we move from theory to practical implementation. This transition necessitates active engagement with social, political, and economic stakeholders. While the scientific community continues to conduct research and innovate to bridge knowledge gaps, there is an urgent need to put into practice what we have already learned. Establishing an institutional framework for investments and practical implementation in the WEFE Nexus is of paramount importance.

The translation of the WEFE Nexus concept from theory to practice was a focal point at the [WEFE Nexus Science Advances Conference in September 2021](#).

During the conference, panelists and ministerial representatives from Mediterranean countries recognized the urgency of bringing together scientists and stakeholders to form a Mediterranean [WEFE Nexus Community of Practice \(NCoP\)](#).

This initiative will be overseen by a Core Group, composed of institutions such as the EC, DG Research and Innovation and Joint Research Centre, and the UfM Secretariat, with PRIMA leading the effort. The NCoP Core Group will provide guidance and facilitate the overall activities of the Community of Practice. This includes defining the network's vision, fostering its development, and charting its future directions through continuous monitoring and evaluation of the initiative's impact.

The daily operations of the NCoP will be managed by the [WEFE4MED project](#), a Coordinated Support Action funded by PRIMA. This project is responsible for building the community network, engaging with individuals, organizations, and demonstration projects, and promoting dialogue, capacity building, and collaborative action.

Within the Mediterranean region, the NCoP will serve as a unifying platform for diverse stakeholders who are committed to addressing the interconnected challenges found in the water, energy, food, and ecosystem sectors. It will achieve this by promoting active engagement among its members, cultivating an atmosphere conducive to collaborative problem-solving and knowledge exchange, and facilitating meaningful discussions and networking opportunities, especially within among demonstration sites, creating a space for the exchange of insights and experiences.

The day will feature two significant events, starting with the WEF Nexus Award ceremony for two prizes handed over by PRIMA to the winners of outstanding contributions and innovations within the field of water, energy, food, and ecosystem nexus.

Following the award ceremony, we will transition into the co-creation workshop of the WEF Nexus Community of Practice (NCoP), expertly facilitated by [Etienne and Beverly Wenger-Trayner](#). This interactive workshop will provide a unique opportunity for participants to actively shape the future of the NCoP, fostering collaboration, problem-solving, and knowledge-sharing among diverse stakeholders in the Mediterranean region.

Objectives of the co-creation workshop of the WEF Nexus Community of Practice (NCoP)

- Frame the Nexus community of practice (NCoP)
- Gain a shared sense of the range of existing demo sites around the Mediterranean
- Start engaging as learning partners in the Nexus CoP project
- Engage in initial discussions about NCoP design
- Prepare for next steps

DRAFT AGENDA

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 19:30 p.m. CET
 Social Dinner 19:30
 Venue: Callipolis Hotel, Sitges (Barcelona)

WEFE Nexus Award ceremony

Time	Activity
8h30 – 9h00	Registration
9h00 -9h30	WEFE Nexus AWARD ceremony

Co-creation workshop of the WEF Nexus Community of Practice (NCoP),

9h30 – 10h	Welcome and opening words high level fragment EC RTD, EC JRC, UfM
10h00 - 10h30	Opening Welcome and framing of the WEF4MED project
10h30 – 11h00	Break coffee
11h – 12h	Open panel discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demo sites invited to join a panel discussion to illustrate the WEF nexus in practice • 30-second pitch by sites that did not join the panel to introduce their projects and invite visitors
12h00 – 12h15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demo sites go to their location and prepare a simple visual
	Visiting demo sites

12h15 – 13h30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals choose which demo site to visit (five visits in total)
13h30 -14h30	Lunch
14h30 -15h30	Communities of practice: an introduction
15h30 – 15h45	Concrete example and experience of a WEFE Nexus CoP
15h45 – 16h00	Break
16h00 -16h45	Assembling the issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At tables: reflect on demo visits to articulate common and/or urgent issues • Forming discussion groups: self-select around identified issues
16h45 – 17h45	Discussion groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell stories of how this issue manifests in your context • What difference would it make if you could make progress on this? • How could participating in NCoP help?
17h45 – 18h45	Community pre-design reflections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table discussions and report out of answers to community design questions, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Who else needs to be involved in your issue? In what capacity? ○ What would encourage your organization to support your participation? ○ What are some bold hopes?
18h45 -19h00	Closing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion groups nominate 1-2 people from their group to join the design group for the community launch in February • Next steps and closing remarks
19h00-19h15	Adjourn meeting
19h30	Cocktail & Buffet