



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
MINISTRY OF FOOD AGRICULTURE
AND LIVESTOCK



Republic of Turkey
The Ministry of
Forestry and Water
Affairs

Workshop

Can implementation of the Water Nexus support economic growth in the Mediterranean region?

12-13 February 2015, Ankara, Turkey

RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVES

Water use is indispensably related to food production, energy generation and the functioning of ecosystems. Such complex interactions define the “Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystem Nexus”, which is more and more central to water policy analysis and design. Managing the Nexus requires each water use in a catchment to be compatible with other uses and with the catchment water balance by allocating water in a sustainable way to all economic sectors, including ecosystems. During the last few years we have assisted to an increasing number of conferences and literature papers on the need to address water allocation by using a Nexus approach. Although its benefits might appear obvious to advocates of the Water Nexus, there are no signs yet of its appropriation beyond the academic domain. Indeed, most of the events and papers have limited themselves to the declaration of importance of the concept, while there is a lack of concrete examples of the benefits of adopting such an approach. To move from concepts to implementation there is a need to prove that all economic sectors in the Nexus can profit from a change in the planning process.

The objective of this Workshop is to gather evidence on the potential for economic growth deriving from the adoption of a Water Nexus approach in the Mediterranean region. Water resources are particularly limited and vulnerable to pollution and weather extremes in the Mediterranean countries. Yet, environmental protection is still considered partly in conflict with economic growth. The integrated perspective provided by the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystem Nexus may help meeting the needs of ecosystem protection and water use, by stimulating appropriate investments in the Mediterranean region, on the basis of consistent and effective water policy and governance.

The Workshop is organised by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock and the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs from Turkey. It will involve participants from different disciplines and viewpoints: water economists, ecologists and agronomists, governmental and regional policy makers, business and water users from the across Mediterranean countries. The Workshop will:

- Bring in experience on competition, synergies and priorities among sectoral water usages and stakeholders in the Mediterranean region and address trade-off solutions on how we are going to allocate water in the future
- Share best practices bridging the gaps between governments, communities and business concerning collaboration among water users that result into water cost reduction
- Discuss how policies in the Mediterranean region can be improved by a Water Nexus perspective in order to create opportunities for green economic growth.

The format of the Workshop will be that of introductory plenary lectures followed by focused working group discussions under the direction of engaged leaders from across the Nexus sectors in the Mediterranean region. The following questions will guide the discussions:

- 1- What are the **economic benefits** for stakeholders and companies to adopt a cross-sectoral perspective for water management in the Mediterranean region? Discussions will cover benefits provided by aquatic ecosystems and also those derived from saving water, using it efficiently and reducing polluting loads.
- 2- What are the **barriers** hampering the adoption of a cross-sectoral perspective for water management? Discussions could focus on administrative, legislative and market-related barriers (transaction costs, role of interest groups, constraint due to limited water property rights, etc.).
- 3- Which **public policies** (incentives, mechanisms such as taxes or subsidies and, administrative tools such as river basin management plans) could, and should be promoted in order to remove such barriers? Discussions could also question the optimal level for implementing these policies and the cost of implementation.
- 4- Which issues should be addressed in order to **improve water governance** and **collaboration** among stakeholders and between stakeholders and governments, in order to fully tap into the economic growth potentials of the Mediterranean region?

The Workshop is expected to produce material for a joint background paper with a synthesis of the issues corresponding to the four Workshop questions and recommendations for the promotion of Water Nexus thinking for economic growth in the Mediterranean region. All participants will have the opportunity to contribute to the paper.

Workshop

Can implementation of the Water Nexus support economic growth in the Mediterranean region?

12-13 February 2015, Ankara, Turkey

Final Agenda

DAY 1	
09:00-09:30	Accreditation
09:30-10:30	<p>Launching the Workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masum Burak (General Director, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, Turkey) • Giovanni Bidoglio (Joint Research Centre, European Commission) • Mesut Keser (ICARDA-International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas, Turkey's Office) • Cumali Kınacı (General Director, Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, Turkey) • Gürsel Küsek (General Director, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, Turkey)
10:30	Coffee break
11:00-12:30	<p>Economic costs and benefits of the Water Nexus Chair: Masum Burak (Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, Turkey)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luca Marmo, Water <i>policy</i> in the context of the EU's Neighbourhood Policy (DG Environment, European Commission) • Atif Kubursi, The economic <i>science</i> perspective of the Water Nexus (Université McMaster, Department of Economics, Canada) • Remco van Ek, Getting the Water Nexus into markets: The <i>business</i> dimension (WSSTP, Water Sanitation and Supply Technology Platform, The Netherland)
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00-16:30	<p>Plenary session: Exploring the link between Mediterranean economies and the Water Nexus Chair: Arnaud Reynaud (Joint Research Centre, European Commission)</p> <p>This session provides the scientific background of the Workshop by exploring the link between economic growth, use of water resources and services provided to the population and to economic activities, while highlighting experiences from the Mediterranean countries in addressing the Water Nexus. Plenary presentations will be given by selected experts from countries and transboundary river basins:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olcay Ünver, Nexus approaches incorporating water into broader development frameworks (FAO-Food and Agricultural Organisation) • Barbara Willaarts, The water-food-energy nexus in Spain: a useful framework to promote greater policy coherence (Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain) • Kostas Bithas, Critical conditions for efficient water nexus. The role of water markets and prices (Panteion University, Institute of Urban Environment and Human Resources, Greece) • Maamar Sebri, The water-energy nexus: enhancing the role of virtual water and renewable energy (Faculté des Sciences Économiques et de Gestion de Sousse, Tunisia) • Iddo Kan, Economic analysis of long-run water management (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel) • Alban Thomas, Environment and the water nexus (University Toulouse 1 Capitole, France) • Silvia Donato, Water research within the EU framework programmes: experience and opportunities (DG Research & Innovation, European Commission)
16:30-17:00	Coffee break
17:00-18:00	Panel discussion

	<p>Moderator: Doğan Altınbilek (Middle East Technical University, Turkey) Rapporteur: Alberto Pistocchi (Joint Research Centre, European Commission)</p> <p>A panel of country representatives and plenary speakers will interact with participants in order to highlight the main economic challenges related to implementing the Water Nexus in the Mediterranean. These highlights will provide the basis for the synthesis discussion of the second day.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mohamed Salah Matoussi (University of Tunis El Manar, Tunisia) • Eyüp Selim Köksal (Ondokuzmayıs University of Samsun, Turkey) • Adrianna Brugemann (The Cyprus Institute, Cyprus) • Henrique Montero (Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal) • Ibrahim M. Awad (Al-Quds University, Palestine) • Rana El Hajj (Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs, Lebanon)
19:30	Bus to place for networking dinner
20:00-23:30	Networking dinner

Day 2

09:00-09:15	Summary of the first day and introduction to the second day		
09:15-12:30	<p>Parallel session: Developing a guidance to maximize economic benefits from the Water Nexus</p> <p>The purpose of this session is to address the four questions outlined in the rationale of the workshop, in an open discussion among experts synthesizing different points of view. Participants are expected to identify the “good” and “bad” practices in order to link water/energy/food security and ecosystem protection to investments, jobs creation, innovation and competitiveness in the Mediterranean region, taking into account feasibility, potential for growth, implementation and transaction costs, actors involved, and financial risks.</p> <p>While the first day of the workshop is devoted to identifying relevant issues and challenges, this second day is dedicated to identifying practical solutions and policy recommendations.</p>		
	Working group 1	Working group 2	Working group 3
	<p>Moderator: Alban Thomas (University Toulouse, France) Rapporteur: Vasileios Markantonis (Joint Research Centre, European Commission)</p>	<p>Moderator: İzzet Öztürk (Istanbul Technical University, Turkey) Rapporteur: Mysiak Jaroslav (Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, Italy)</p>	<p>Moderator: Vangelis Constantianos (Global Water Partnership Mediterranean, Greece) Rapporteur: İsmail Kaan Tunçok (SOLARIS consultancy, Turkey)</p>
	Coffee break during the session		
12:30-14:00	Lunch		
14:00-14:30	Summary of discussions by the rapporteurs of the working groups		
14:30-15:30	<p>Panel discussion: Synthesis outcome</p> <p>Moderator: Giovanni Bidoglio (Joint Research Centre, European Commission) Rapporteur: Armagan Karabulut Aloe (Joint Research Centre, European Commission)</p> <p>An expert panel will interact with participants and synthesize the outcome of the workshop. It is expected to set a consensus science-policy platform, providing specific recommendations and the way forward to the implementation of the Water Nexus in the Mediterranean.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taylan Kıymaz (Ministry of Development, Turkey) • Luca Marmo (DG Environment, European Commission) • Atif Kubursi (Université McMaster, Canada) • Olcay Unver (Food and Agricultural Organisation) • Theib Oweiss (ICARDA) • Naser Tahboub (Union for the Mediterranean) 		
15:30-16:00	<p>Concluding remarks Chair: Giovanni Bidoglio Co-Chair: Bülent Sönmez</p>		
16:30	End of workshop and bus departure		