

Italy's Partnership Actions and International Commitments under the WHO/UNECE Protocol on Water and Health



Euro-Mediterranean Water Forum 2026 · 29 September – 2 October · La Nuvola, Rome

KEY INFORMATION

Date	01 October 2026
Time	16:30 – 18:00
Room	Circe
Format	Workshop
Language(s)	English

SUMMARY

Policy-oriented multistakeholder dialogue on how Italy can progress on implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health through coordinated national action, partnerships and international cooperation.

AGENDA & SPEAKERS

Time	Speaker Name & Title	Organization	Role / Topic
16:30	Luca Lucentini - Director Setting the scene from ratification to implementation, with a focus on Italy's institutional pathway and the integrated environment-climate-water-health approach.	National Center for Water Safety National Institute of Health (ISS) (Italy)	Speaker
16:40	Francesca Bernardini - Chief, Transboundary Cooperation Section Obligations, target-setting, reporting and international cooperation under the Protocol on Water and Health with a focus on equity and resilience	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) (Italy)	Speaker
16:50	Oliver Schmoll - Programme Manager WASH and Climate Adaptation Health protection, surveillance and the contribution of WHO guidance to implementation.	WHO Regional Office for Europe European Centre for Environment, Climate Change and Health (Italy)	Speaker
<i>Session 1: National policy dialogue</i>			
17:00	Valentina Fuscoletti – Researcher Roundtable on National policy dialogue: intersectoral coordination and alignment between health and environmental policies	National Center for Water Safety National Institute of Health (ISS) (Italy)	Chair
	Valeria Dusolina Di Giorgi Gerevini – Director	Office on Health protection in relation to the ecosystem Ministry of Health (Italy)	Panelist
	Angiolo Martinelli - Director	Division of Sustainable Use of Water Resources (under the Directorate General for Sustainable Soil and Water Use) (Italy)	Panelist
	Francesca Russo - Coordinator	Italian Interregional Coordination for Prevention (Italy)	Panelist
	Tania Tellini - Director	Water Sector Policies and Regulation, - Federation of environmental, energy and water utilities (UTILITALIA) (Italy)	Panelist
	Stefano Mannacio – Environment, Water and Energy resources expert	Consumers' Forum (Italy)	Panelist
<i>Session 2: International cooperation</i>			
17:30	Emilio Ciarlo - Director General Roundtable on the Protocol as a platform for international cooperation on water and health.	One Water (Italy)	Chair
	Hilda Hoti - Director	Sector for Policies and Strategies on Water Resources Management (Albania)	Panelist
	Ljupka Dimoska Zajkov - Deputy Head of Department for Water and Vice-chairperson of the Protocol's Bureau	Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, North Macedonia	Panelist
	Helena Costa - Senior technician David Alves - Senior Water and Waste Services Regulation Expert	The Water and Waste Services Regulation Authority (ERSAR) (Portugal)	Panelists
17:55	Luca Lucentini - Director Conclusions and key message.	National Center for Water Safety National Institute of Health (ISS) (Italy)	Speaker

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

The side event, co-organized by ISS CeNSiA with WHO/Europe and UNECE, will provide a focused multistakeholder dialogue on how Italy can advance from ratification to implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health through coordinated national action, partnerships and international cooperation. The session will connect governance, water safety, climate resilience, sanitation, wastewater and reuse, local and international actions and stakeholder engagement, in a single scientific dialogue with policy-oriented discussion.

OBJECTIVES

To initiate an interinstitutional dialogue on Italy's implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health, identifying opportunities for coordinated national action and partnerships.

To address key challenges in the Euro-Mediterranean region—including climate change, water scarcity and contaminants—and foster cooperation among health, water and environmental stakeholders under the Protocol.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Policymakers, public-health and environmental authorities, water utilities, regulators, researchers, technical experts, international organisations and civil-society representatives.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Identification of priority areas for coordinated national action and interinstitutional collaboration to support Italy's implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health.

Shared understanding of key regional challenges and of the contribution of the Protocol to health protection, water safety, equity and climate resilience.