

Building Climate Resilience in the Western Mediterranean:

The Water and Climate Change Adaptation Nexus

Palacio de las Artes Reina Sofia, Valencia (Spain)
9 March 2022



Almotaz Abadi

Water Managing Director, Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfMS)

Almotaz Abadi is currently holding a Position of Managing Director responsible for the Water Policies and Development within the Water and Environment Division at the UfM Secretariat. He was Acting Deputy Secretary General in the Water and Environment division from September 2015 to September 2016. Previously, he had been Director of the Aid Coordination and Management Unit at the Palestinian Water Authority and adviser to the Minister. During the last five years, he led the process to revitalize the water political process in the Mediterranean region, which led to the Water Ministerial Declaration in 2017 and the associated water agenda and its Financial Strategy. Before that, he was very active in the water sector in Palestine and the whole region through his engagement with the regional dialogue, the bilateral and trilateral relations aiming to enhance the regional cooperation, the governance of water resources, and to foster cooperation on water and renewable energy issues. Academically speaking, he has a master's degree in Water Resources Management and another one in Governance and Public Sector Services.



Charafat Afailal

Steering Committee Member, Global Water Partnership. Former Delegate Minister in charge of Water - Morocco

Charafat Afailal was the Minister in charge of Water in the Moroccan government between 2013 and 2018 and is currently an expert on water resources. Many achievements were concluded under her leadership, such as the elaboration of the Moroccan water policy 2015-2030, the development and implementation of the drought management plans, the establishment of a new mode of groundwater governance, the development of re-use plans and others. She also played an important role in the recognition of water as the sector most affected by climate change, which culminated in the organisation of the Water Action Day during COP 22 by CCNUCC. In this sense, she chaired the first International Conference on

Co-organised by



In collaboration with



Water and Climate in Rabat in 2016. She has published numerous articles in the field of water governance and sustainable development. She is the member of advisory board for the Middle East Water Forum and co-founder of regional initiative on strengthening the role of women in water diplomacy in the MENA region. She has a degree in Engineering.



Roger Albinyana

Managing Director, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) - Spain

Roger Albinyana has been working at the IEMed since 2016 and as an associate professor at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Barcelona, where he teaches international economic policy. He has published numerous papers and articles in his fields of expertise. Roger is also a board member at CIDOB and a member of the Advisory Council of EMEA. Prior to joining the IEMed, Roger served as Secretary for Foreign and EU Affairs of the Government of Catalonia (2013-2016) and was a member of the EU Committee of the Regions. From 2010 to 2013 he served as advisor on private sector development at the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean. He holds an MA in Economic History from the University of Barcelona, a BA in Economics from Pompeu Fabra University and a BA in Business Administration and Management from the Open University of Catalonia (UOC).



Malak Altaeb

Non-Resident Scholar, Middle East Institute - Libya

Malak Altaeb is an independent consultant, analyst, and researcher from Libya based in Paris, France. She is a non-resident scholar in the water & climate programme at the Middle East Institute (MEI). She is a graduate of the North African Policy Initiative's Young Policy Leaders Programme, during which she researched and wrote a policy paper on Local Agribusiness Development in Tripoli, Libya. She publishes policy analysis papers about water-related issues and policy implications, such as a report on Libya's water politics with the Arab Reform Initiative. She tackles the intersection of public policy and environmental issues with a lens on water and agriculture, focusing on Libya. She holds a master's degree in Environmental Policy Master's from Sciences Po in Paris, with a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Tripoli, Libya.



Safaa Bahije

Water Management Specialist, The World Bank Group

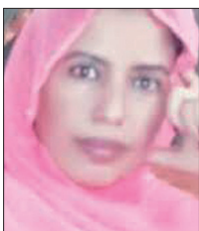
Safaa Bahije is a Water Resources Specialist at the World Bank with over 19 years of professional experience gained from both governmental and international development institutions. With her background in economics, law, and public policy, she contributes to economic water sector studies, policy and regulation design and assessment, technical assistance, lending project preparation and implementation, capacity building and institutional strengthening initiatives in Morocco and other countries of the MENA region. Sectors of support provided to national counterpart's cover water governance, climate change, water in agriculture, water and energy nexus and innovative financing. She holds a master's degree in Information Sciences and a Certificate in Water Diplomacy from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and University of Tufts.



Joan Calabuig

Regional Secretary for the European Union and External Relations, Government of Valencia - Spain

Joan Calabuig held several institutional positions before being appointed Regional Secretary for the European Union and External Relations of the Government of Valencia in 2019. In 2016, he was appointed Delegate of the Council for the European Union and External Relations in Brussels. Prior to that, First Deputy Mayor of the Valencia City Council (2015-2016) and spokesman of the Socialist group in the Valencia City Council (2011-2016). Previously, he had been Deputy for Valencia in the Spanish parliament (2008-2011) and Deputy in the European Parliament (2004-2008). He has long been very active politically within the Spanish Socialist Party, both at national and international level. He has a Law Degree from the University of Valencia and a Master's in Business Administration from the School of Industrial Organization of Madrid.



Sarah Souleymane Cheikh Sidia

Deputy Director, Centre National des Ressources en Eau (CNRE) - Mauritania

Sarah Souleymane Cheikh Sidia is Deputy Director of the Centre National des Ressources en Eau (CNRE) in Mauritania since 2005. Prior to that, she held an executive position at the Directorate of Environment and Rural Development in the Ministry of Rural Development and Environment of Mauritania and had been Professor of natural sciences at the Ministry of National Education. She has also been Head of the Standards and Regulations at the Department of

Hydraulics and Sanitation at the Ministry of Hydraulics and Energy. During her career, she has participated in several study trips, international meetings, seminars and workshops in the fields of water and environment. She has a master's degree in Science and Technology with a specialisation in Water Management from the Institut Supérieur Scientifique of Nouakchott and a Diploma from the Ecole Normale Supérieure (CAPES) Nouakchott with the specialisation in Natural Sciences.



Abdelkader Dodo

Coordinator of the Water Department, The Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS) - Tunisia

Abdelkader Dodo currently holds the position of Coordinator of the Water Department in the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS), where he has worked with a multidisciplinary and multilingual team since 2002. He is a Lecturer at the Faculty of Sciences of the University Abdou Moumouni from Niamey (Republic of Niger) since October 2004. Prior to that, he was National Director of Water Resources at the Niger Ministry of Water Resources concurrently with his academic duties. He conducts several studies and development projects, particularly in the areas of management and governance of transboundary water resources for the benefit of African countries. He is also an Officer in the Order of Merits of the Grand Chancellery of National Orders of the Republic of Niger. He holds a degree in Geology Engineering since 1985 and a PhD in Hydrogeology since 1992.



Vincent Ernoux

Coordinator of the Valencia Branch Office for the Western Mediterranean, ENI CBC Med

Since 2017, Vincent Ernoux is Coordinator of the Branch Office for the Western Mediterranean of the ENI CBC MED programme, the largest Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) initiative implemented by the EU under the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) and dedicated to the Mediterranean Sea Basin. He has previously been working in other EU programmes like INTERACT or the Spain-Portugal CBC. He has also been ENI-MED programmes Liaison Officer between 2010 and 2013. Between 2014 and 2017, he was EU Project Manager at the Valencia port Foundation. He holds a master's degree in Business Administration and a master in EU Affairs.



Federico Estrada

Director, Centre for Hydrographic Studies, Centre for Public Works Studies and Experimentation (CEDEX) - Spain

Federico Estrada has developed his professional career at the CEDEX Centre for Hydrographic Studies, of which he has been Director since 2011. He is a specialist in hydrological planning and analysis of water resource systems. He has been a professor of Hydraulics and Hydrology at the Polytechnic University of Madrid. He is a member of the National Water Council and the Advisory Council of the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation. Federico Estrada is Doctor of Civil Engineering from the Polytechnic University of Madrid, specialising in Hydraulics and Energy, and official of the State Civil Engineering Corps since 1985.



Bouabid El Mansouri

President of IAH Moroccan Chapter, International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) / Comité Marocain de l'Association Internationale des Hydrogéologues CM-IAH - Morocco

Bouabid El Mansouri is a Researcher at the Ibn Tofail University in Morocco. He has supervised and supported several thesis and master's works in the field of water resource management and adaptation to climate change, and has worked towards the establishment of several research and engineering master's courses. He is also a founding member and president – since 2015 – of the Moroccan committee of the International Association of Hydrogeologists, which organises, around the field of management and protection of water resources, several training courses, seminars and conferences of the IAH (Marrakech 2014). He has a degree from the University of Sciences and Technologies of Lille in Applied and Fundamental Geology and a DEA in Natural Resources and Risks (Hydrogeology Option). In 1999, He obtained a PhD on Groundwater Resources at the Berrechid Basin.



Teodoro Estrela

Director General for Water, Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, Government of Spain

Before being appointed Director General for Water in the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge of the Government of Spain in 2020, Teodoro Estrela had been Head of the Hydrological Planning Office of the Júcar Hydrographic Confederation of the Ministry for Ecological Transition since 2012. Previously, he had been designated Deputy Director of the Júcar Hydrographic Confederation of the Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs in

2009, after being acting General Director of Water at the same Ministry. He has worked in Water Administration in parallel with an academic career since 2005, as an Associate Professor at the Polytechnic University of Valencia, where he has directed 5 doctoral thesis and has published numerous articles in scientific journals. He has also been Permanent Technical Secretary of the Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations (MENBO) and has been recently appointed President of the Water Committee of the World Council of Civil Engineers. He holds a Civil Engineering of Canals and Ports Degree and a PhD from the Polytechnic University of Valencia.



Senén Florensa

Executive President, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) - Spain

A diplomat and ambassador, Senén Florensa is currently Executive President of the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed). He was previously Ambassador Permanent Representative of Spain to UN and the International Organisations in Vienna (2018-2020) and Consul General of Spain in Rome from 2017 to 2018. From 2006 to 2017, he was Director General and then Executive President of European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed). Author or director of a long list of books and articles on Euro-Mediterranean and international affairs, he has been President of the World Congress of Middle Eastern Studies WOCMES in 2009, Secretary for International and European Affairs of the Generalitat of Catalonia and Member of the Organising Committee of the Olympic Games Barcelona 1992. During his diplomatic career, he notably served as General Director of the Institute for Cooperation with the Arab World, the Mediterranean and Developing Countries (ICMAMPD) of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (1996-2000), and as Spanish Ambassador to Tunisia (2000-2004)



Marc Garcia Manzana

Water Commissioner, Jucar River Basin Authority - Spain. Secretary General, Institut méditerranéen de l'Eau (IME)

Marc García Manzana is currently the Water Commissioner of the Jucar River Basin Authority and the Secretary General of the Institut méditerranéen de l'Eau (IME). His first assignment as a career officer was the State Railway Safety Agency, dependent on the Ministry of Public Works. Later, he held different positions in the Júcar Hydrographic Confederation, related to water concessions and hydrological planning. He also directs the water police, which counts with 65 agents for a territory of 43,000 km² and more than 45,000 km of riverbeds. Marc García is a Civil Engineer from the Polytechnic University of Valencia. His professional career began

in a medium-sized construction company as a construction manager until he entered the Corps of Engineers for State Roads, Channels and Ports in the class of 2014. In addition, he has law studies from the UNED.



Fattoum Lakhdari

Member of the Scientific Council, Centre for Scientific and Technical Research on Arid Regions (C.R.S.T.R.A) - Algeria

Fattoum Lakhdari is a researcher involved in various Scientific Councils and Intersectoral Commissions at the national and international level in the fields of the environment, agriculture, regional planning and risk-management. She has participated in several Conventions and Agreements including the Conference of Parties on Biodiversity, Sustainable Development, and Major Hazards, as well as in the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement on Major Hazards and PRIMA. She was at the head of the Centre for Scientific and Technical Research on Arid Regions (CRSTRA) (2006-2018), where she worked on the implementation of a research strategy supporting sustainable development in Arid Regions Previous to that, she directed the post-graduation of Hydraulics and contributed to the creation of the Department of Agronomy at the University of Biskra, which she managed for the first years (2001-2006). She is a State Engineer in Agronomic Sciences from the School of Agronomy of Algiers and has a PhD in Agricultural Sciences from the University of Montpellier II.



Nicola Lamaddalena

Deputy Director, Head of the Land and Water Department, Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (CIHEAM Bari) - Italy

Nicola Lamaddalena is currently Deputy Director of CIHEAM Bari Institute, which he joined in 1986 as Head of the Engineering Unit. He served as University Professor at the Polytechnic of Bari (Italy) and provided consulting services to public and private sectors. Author of over 100 publications in scientific journals and books, reviewer for several scientific journals, he is the author, among others, of the FAO Irrigation and Drainage paper n. 59. Nicola Lamaddalena is also Vice-President of the International Section Board on Land and Water - CIGR (International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering), a Board Member of the Ital-ICID and the Global Water Partnership-Med. He was also Chairman of the Task Team for the preparation of the Policy workshop on "Water for Food Security and Nutrition" (FAO-CFS) and Special Rapporteur at Policy workshop on "Water for Food Security and Nutrition" - FAO-CFS 42. He holds a MSc in Hydraulic Engineer at Polytechnic of Bari and a PhD. in Irrigation Engineering at the Technical University of Lisbon.



Carmen Magariños

Director of Cooperation with Africa and Asia, Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) - Spain

Before joining AECID's Directorate for Cooperation with Africa and Asia in 2021, Carmen Magariños was Deputy Head of Delegation/Head of Political, Press and Information Section of the European Union Delegation in Dakar, and Temporary Agent in the West Africa Division of the European External Action Service (2014-2018). Previously, she had been Head of Area in the Sub-Directorate-General for the Maghreb of the Directorate-General for the Maghreb, Africa, the Mediterranean and the Middle East and Deputy Head of the Technical Cabinet of the Undersecretariat of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. Between 2010 and 2012 she had been Head of Consular and Administrative Affairs at the Embassy of Spain in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, after her first stint at AECID, where she held the positions of Technical Advisor in the Department of Coordination of Cultural and Scientific Relations (2008 -2009) and Head of the Support Unit of the Cooperation Directorate for Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe (2009-2010). She has also been assigned to the General Directorate of Foreign Policy for Ibero-America (2007-2008) and the Embassy of Spain in Chile (2007), as Head of the Internal Policy and Human Rights and Administrative Affairs Sections. She has a degree in Geography and History, a PhD in American Anthropology and a master's in International Relations.



Concepción Marcuello

Head of the Support Unit, Directorate General for Water, Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, Government of Spain

Concepción Marcuello is the Head of the Support Unit at the Directorate General of Water within the Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic challenge. Her professional career has been oriented from its beginnings in the world of water, and particularly linked to the Centre for Hydrographic Studies of CEDEX, where she has developed her professional career dedicated to different functions, such as the physical modelling of hydraulic infrastructures, the study of water resources, the modelling of hydrology and hydraulics of floods and the coordination of international activity. She has also been associate professor of hydraulics at the Polytechnic University of Madrid, as well as co-director of the International Course on General and Applied Hydrology at CEDEX. Prior to joining the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, she was Deputy Director of Planning and Sustainable Water Use at the Directorate General for Water within the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment

(MAGRAMA), as well as she represented the Permanent Technical Secretariat of the Conference of Ibero-American Water Directors. She is a Civil Engineer from the Polytechnic University of Madrid.



Ramiro Martínez Costa

General Coordinator, Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations (MENBO).
Coordinator of the 5+5 Water Strategy for the Western Mediterranean

Ramiro Martínez Costa has developed his professional career during more than 30 years as a consultant in the fields of Terrain Engineering, Hydrology, Glaciology, Nivology, Hydraulics, Hydrological Planning and River Environment. For 12 years, he was a Professor in the Polytechnic Universities of Valencia and Madrid. In the last 16 years, he has developed his main activity as a consultant on Hydrological Planning and River Engineering (EU-ERDF Programmes in the Júcar, Segura and Ebro River Basin Authorities), and in water-related international relations. He is the General Coordinator of the Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations (MENBO) and he has participated in international cooperation and exchange projects, especially in all the areas related to the Union for the Mediterranean, and the recently approved Water Strategy (2015) and Action Plan (2016) in the Western Mediterranean within the Western Mediterranean Forum (Dialogue 5+5). Ramiro Martínez is a Civil Engineer (1984) and Doctor Civil Engineer PhD (1988) by the Department of Civil Engineering in the Polytechnic University of Valencia.



Alain Meyssonier

President, Institut méditerranéen de l'Eau (IME) - France

Alain Meyssonier joined Marseille Water Company (SEM) as a deputy manager of the international department. He took the lead of the international affairs department between 1989 and 2003. In 2004, Mr. Meyssonier was appointed Operation Manager in charge of water and sanitation public service delegation contracts signed with the communities of Marseilles Provence Metropole. In 2014, he was appointed Deputy General Manager in charge of development, then in 2017, his Deputy General Manager portfolio covered international affairs and partnerships. At the level of the Holding, Mr. Meyssonier is the manager of SOMEI subsidiaries (business information systems), Eau de Marseille Environment in charge of waste management, as well as subsidiaries located overseas (Morocco and Tunisia). In July 2019, he was elected President of the Mediterranean Water Institute (IME) by members of its Board of Directors. He is an ESSEC graduate, and he holds a master's degree in Econometry from the Aix-Marseille-Provence University.



Blanca Moreno-Dodson

Director of the Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) - France

Blanca Moreno-Dodson is the Director of the Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI), the only regional partnership gathering international development institutions, national, regional, and local authorities, and civil society from around the Mediterranean, currently hosted by UNOPS and located in Marseille, France. She has over thirty years of experience as a World Bank development economist, including several positions as Lead Economist, mainly for the Global Tax Team, the West Africa Region, the Investment Climate Department, and the Office of the Vice-President for Poverty Reduction and Economic Management. As a Senior Economist, she previously worked at the World Bank Institute, the West Africa Region, and the Corporate Strategy Group of the World Bank. She started her career as a Robert Shuman scholar at the European Parliament and as junior economist at the European Commission, before joining the World Bank Group. Moreno-Dodson holds a Ph.D. as well as a Masters (Diplôme D'Etudes Approfondies) in International Economics and Finance from the University of Aix-Marseille, France, in addition to a Master's in Economics from the Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain.



Sondos Njoumi

Programme Officer, Tunis Office, Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean - Tunisia

Sondos Njoumi has extensive experience on project management, with more than six years of professional experience, with an interest in water resources, climate change, gender and sustainable development and their linkages from technical, organisational, and communicative perspectives. She seeks and facilitates multi-stakeholder engagement for an inspiring change. She is a young water professional focusing on youth and women empowerment to build skills and opportunities through green entrepreneurship. She is an engineer and a doctor in food sciences and nutrition.



Andrés Perelló

Director General, Casa Mediterráneo - Spain

Andrés Perelló is the Managing Director of Casa Mediterráneo. He is a full member of ENVI, Commission on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, Vice President of the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (EUROLAT), in charge of Relations with Civil Society: Associations and

Organizations for Culture, Education, Cooperation and Solidarity in Latin America and Europe. He is also a member of various Solidarity and International Cooperation NGOs and President of the European Foundation for Democracy, Culture and Solidarity. Prior to that, he was Permanent Ambassador Delegate of Spain to UNESCO and Vice President of the World Heritage Committee, from August 2018 to November 2021. Previously, he had been Mayor of Buñol (Valencia) from 1991 to 1995, Provincial Deputy from 1995 to 1999, Senator from 2007 to 2009 and MEP from 2009 to 2014. He graduated in Law from the University of Valencia, specializing in Public Law and Criminal Law. He is also a collegiate member of the Illustrious Bar Association of Valencia.



Miguel Ángel Pérez

Full Professor, Department of Hydraulic Engineering and Environment, Universitat Politècnica de València - Spain

Miguel Ángel Pérez is Professor at the Polytechnic University of Valencia (UPV). He researches and teaches planning and management of water resources, the hydrological modelling and quality water for large catchments, the climate change impact on water resources and the use of renewable energies combined with water management. He also teaches at the Civil Engineering School (UPV) since 2000 and is a researcher at the Institute of Water and Environmental Engineering (UPV) in the areas of hydrological modelling, water management in drought conditions, climate change effects on water resources systems, among others. He is also the deputy editor of JAWER (Journal of Applied Water Engineering and Research). He has a degree in Civil Engineering and a PhD in Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering from the Polytechnic University of Valencia (UPV).



Miguel Polo

President, Júcar River Basin Authority. Secretary General, Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations (MENBO) – Technical Secretary of the 5+5 Water Strategy for the Western Mediterranean

Miguel Polo belongs to the Corps of Engineers of Roads, Canals and State Ports. He works in the Júcar Hydrographic Confederation (CHJ) since 2004. He was appointed Water Commissioner of the CHJ in 2018. Since 2020, he is the Permanent Technical Secretary of the Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations (MENBO), a Mediterranean regional network that promotes an integrated water resources management at the river basin level, as an essential

tool for sustainable development. Since February 2021, he is the President of the Júcar Hydrographic Confederation. He is an Engineer of Roads, Canals and ports of the State by the Polytechnic University of Valencia (2002).



Rodrigo Proença de Oliveira

Assistant Professor, Instituto Superior Técnico, Universidade de Lisboa - Portugal

Rodrigo Proença de Oliveira teaches hydrology and water resources management at the Instituto Superior Técnico of the Universidade de Lisboa and is active in private consulting in many countries, namely in Africa, South America, and Europe. He was member of the board of the Portuguese Association of Water Resources and its president for two years. He is currently the Secretary General of the Tagus River Basin Council. He is also a member of the Portuguese Scientific Committee for the National Adaptation Strategy. Among other works, he has recently completed a study for the Portuguese Environment Agency on water availability and use in Portugal and in the Iberian transboundary river basins. He is a civil engineer from Instituto Superior Técnico (Universidade de Lisboa), with a MSc and PhD degrees in Water Resources Management and Planning from Cornell University, USA.



Désirée Quagliarotti

Researcher, Institute for studies on the Mediterranean (ISMed), National Research Council (CNR) - Italy

Désirée Quagliarotti is researcher at the Institute for Studies on the Mediterranean of the Italian National Research Council (CNR-ISMed) and adjunct professor at the University of Naples Federico II. She carries out research in food and water security and climate change impact in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries. She is managing editor and member of the Editorial Board of several academic journals and book series. Since 2022 she is member of the Advisory Council of the Anna Lindh Foundation. Graduated with honours in Economics, she has a master's degree in Agricultural Economics and Policy at the University of Naples Federico II and a PhD in Economics of Food and Environmental Resources at the University 'Parthenope' of Naples.



Octavi Quintana

Director of the Secretariat, PRIMA Foundation - Spain

Octavi Quintana is Director of the Secretariat of the PRIMA Foundation since 2017. Previously, he has been Director of the Malaga hospital, Deputy Director General of INSALUD, President of the Bioethics Steering Committee and member of the Public Health Committee of the Council of Europe. He has also served as President of the Spanish Society for Healthcare Quality, Coordinator of humanitarian aid in Rwanda, Burundi, Bosnia and Kosovo, Vice President of the European Ethics Group of the European Commission, Director of International Affairs at the Spanish Ministry of Health and Director of Scientific Research in the European Commission in Health, Energy, European Research. He has also been Director of TVE2 scientific dissemination programmes. Octavi Quintana is a Medical Doctor, specialised in intensive care and MPH by the University of Columbia.



Manuel Sapiano

Chief Executive Officer, The Energy & Water Agency - Malta

Manuel Sapiano is the Chief Executive Officer of the Energy and Water Agency (EWA) within Malta's Ministry for Energy, Enterprise and Sustainable Development. In this role, he coordinates a team of experts with responsibilities for the formulation, evaluation, monitoring and implementation of national policies concerning the use of energy and water in a sustainable manner and the formulation of plans to meet National and EU energy and water resources management targets. He has been involved in the implementation process of the EU Water Framework Directive since 2002, where within the Common Implementation Strategy of this Directive, he fulfils the role of Water Director for Malta. He is a hydrogeologist, with specific specialisation in island and coastal hydrology. He has previously led the Agency's Water Policy Unit, where in particular he had the responsibility of coordinating the implementation process of EU related water legislation in the Maltese islands.

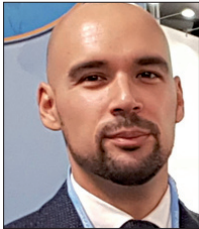


Khalid R. Tamsamani

Professor, Abdelmalek Essaâdi University of Tétouan - Morocco

Khalid R. Tamsamani is Professor of Analytical Chemistry at the University Abdelmalek Essaâdi, Morocco since 1989. In June 2005, he was appointed by the Moroccan Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research as National Coordinator in Materials Science and Representative of Morocco to the US National Science Foundation. In October 2010, he was appointed by the Moroccan Ministry of Environment as Director of the Regional Observatory for Environment and

Sustainable Development, and Climate Change Advisor to the same Ministry. In 2018 he was elected Secretary General of the Mediterranean Climate House Foundation. Member of FAO's TWG on Agriculture, Food security and Land Use, and member of the African Group of Negotiator's Expert Support (AGNES). He is a senior advisor in Water Adaptation to Climate Change with the UfM, and International Expert in the fields of Climate Change, Sustainable Development, and Biological Risk Management with several International Agencies. He is the Founding President of the Moroccan Biosafety Association (MOBSA) since October 2009. He received his Ph.D. in Chemistry from the Free University of Brussels (Belgium) in 1988.



Constantin Tsakas

Senior Programme Officer, Sustainable Development Policies, Centre for Mediterranean Integration (CMI), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) - France

Constantin Tsakas works at CMI-UNOPS as Sustainable Development Policies Senior Programme Officer. He leads the programmes of CMI's Climate Change Resilience pillar specifically the "Mediterranean Forum on Energy and Climate Change", the "Regional Knowledge programme on Water" and the "Territorial Resilience to Climate Change" programme. He also actively contributes to activities of CMI's Co-development and Integration pillar, and to the Dialogue of the Two Shores Technical Platform. He joined the CMI-UNOPS in 2020 as Senior Policy Analyst / Fundraising Consultant. Prior to that, he was the General Manager of Institut de la Mediterranee. As General Secretary of the FEMISE think-tank network (2014-2020) he also worked on the reinforcement of regional dialogue and research on major economic and social issues in the Euro-Mediterranean region. As Senior Lecturer at SciencesPo, Dr. Tsakas also taught at the SciencesPo University Collège of Menton. He holds a Ph.D. in International Economics from Aix-Marseille University (France).

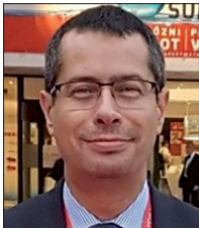


Elisa Valía,

Deputy Mayor and Councillor for the Integral Water Cycle, Valencia City Council - Spain

Elisa Valía is Deputy Mayor at the Valencia City Council. Prior to that, she was an Evaluator of R+D+i projects for the European Commission and international innovation consultant for European companies and entities. She had worked in the Development of public policies at a European level in more than 20 R&D projects financed by the European Commission at the University of Valencia. She was also

Secretary General of the Ruzafa-Pobles del Sud Association of the PSPV-PSOE group between 2012 and 2018, from which she was a Member of the Municipal Board between 2013 and 2015 and is currently Vice President. In addition, she is President of the Municipal Transit Board. She is an Architect from the Polytechnic University of Valencia and has Executive Master's degree from the School of Industrial Organisation and a master's degree in international and European Union Studies from the University of Valencia.



Nizar Zaied

Global Lead Water, Social Infrastructure Division, Economic & Social Infrastructure Department, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)

Nizar Zaied is the Islamic Development Bank's (IsDB's) Global Lead for Water, within the Economic and Social Infrastructure Department, responsible for overall policy direction, operational innovation, and quality control for the water portfolio. Prior to this, he served as Lead Urban Development Specialist in the Infrastructure Department and led business generation, portfolio management, policy dialogue, and donor coordination in the 57 member countries of IsDB. He has a professional experience of more than 25 years in water and infrastructure projects, covering a large spectrum of countries in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. He joined the Islamic Development Bank in 1997, as part of the Young Professionals Programme, and he received a PhD in Water Engineering, in Nantes, France.