



Horizon Europe
Sol2H2O
GA no. 101079305



Università
degli Studi
di Palermo



Centro di
Sostenibilità e
Transizione
Ecologica



First National Symposium

“Desalination of Seawater and Related Technologies within the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE) Nexus”

University of Palermo

AIDARA, Italian Association for Desalination and Water Reuse

Order of Engineers of Palermo Province

LOCATION: Aula Capitò Building 7, Viale delle Scienze

Department of Engineering, University of Palermo

Tue. 1 July 2025, 2:00 PM–7:00 PM | Wed. 2 July 2025, 9:00 AM–1:30 PM

Introduction:

The issue of sustainability in water supply has gained particular importance and urgency in certain regions of Italy. In this context, the use of unconventional sources such as sustainable desalination of seawater can certainly help mitigate the issue of water scarcity while promoting an integrated and circular management approach to water resources that enhances the resilience of supply systems.

During the event, state-of-the-art desalination processes and technologies will be critically presented and discussed, including their potential application at regional and national levels, current implementations and future prospects, related technologies, and possible integrations within the circular economy. Environmental, social, and economic sustainability aspects within the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE) Nexus will also be explored.

The symposium serves as an opportunity for all stakeholders to meet and facilitates dialogue among experts from scientific and technological research fields, industry, institutions, and sector operators.

AGENDA

Tuesday 1 July 2025 | 14:00-19:00

14:00 Participants registration

14:30 Opening remarks and moderation: Mr. Silvio Oliva, AIDARA President; Prof. Giorgio Micale, University of Palermo

14:45-16:00 Institutional Remarks

Prof. Vincenzo di Dio, President of the Order of Engineers of Palermo Province

Prof. Livan Fratini, Director, Department of Engineering, University of Palermo

Prof. Maurizio Cellura, Director of CSTE - Center for Sustainability and Ecological Transition





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Mr. Nicola Dell'Acqua, Presidency of the Council of Ministers, National Commissioner for urgent interventions related to water scarcity

Prof. Salvatore Barbagallo, Regional Minister for Agriculture, Rural Development, and Mediterranean Fishing, Sicilian Region

Francesco Colianni, Regional Minister for Energy and Public Utilities, Sicilian Region

Ing. Salvo Cocina, General Manager, Civil Protection Department – Sicily

Ing. Leonardo Santoro, Secretary General, Basin Authority of the Sicilian Hydrographic District

Ing. Mario Cassarà, Department of Water and Waste, Sicilian Regional Energy and Public Utilities Ministry

16:00 - 16:20: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Global Prize for Innovation in Water

Eng. Theb Alkahtani, General Manager of Strategic Partnerships, Saudi Water Authority: "Empowering innovation for Water Sustainability: The Global Role of the Saudi Water Authority"

Ing. Alessandro Viviani, Associate Partner, TEHA Group, "Global Prize for Innovation in Water: Celebrating Breakthroughs Shaping the Future of Water"

16:20 - 19:00 Managing water resources: current situation and future prospects

Prof. Leonardo Noto, University of Palermo, "Drought in Sicily 2023-2025: Between water emergencies and climate adaptation strategies"

Ing. Giovanni Sciortino, Managing Director, AMAP, "The role of water desalination in integrated water service management: economic, social, and environmental aspects"

Ing. Gaetano Barbone, Engineering Directorate, Acquedotto Pugliese, "Acquedotto Pugliese's sustainable approach to desalination: a challenge for meeting water demand and safeguarding regional ecosystems"

Ing. Massimo Burruano, Operating Director, SICILIACQUE, "Water emergency and desalination in Sicily: Short- and long-term perspectives from the supra-regional manager's viewpoint"

Prof. Andrea Cipollina; Prof. Giorgio Micale, University of Palermo, "Circular and sustainable desalination processes: experiences from the University of Palermo's research projects"

Dr. Marta Nigrelli, University of Palermo, "Seawater desalination: Italian and European legislation"

19:00 Closing of the first day



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Wednesday 2 July 2025 | 9:00 - 13:30

09:00 Participants registration

09:15 – 10:00

Opening remarks: Mr. Silvio Oliva, AIDARA President

Ms. Benedetta Brioschi, The European House Ambrosetti, “The White Book ‘Water Value for Italy’ and the contribution of desalination to solving water scarcity in Italy”

Mr. Leonardo Manzari, WestMED Assistance Mechanism, National Hub Italy: The WestMED Initiative in Italy and the opportunity to create an Italian supply chain in the desalination sector –

10:00 – 13:00: Presentations by General Contractors and Technology Providers

Moderation: Ms. Benedetta Brioschi, The European House Ambrosetti, “The White Book ‘Water Value for Italy’ and the contribution of desalination to solving water scarcity in Italy”

Ing. Giorgio Pratofiorito, FISIA Italimpianti, “Wastewater from reverse osmosis desalination plants and current legislation in Italy”

Ing. Laura Cammilli, Suez Italia, “Integrating desalination into comprehensive water resource management: A 360° approach”

Ing. Giulio Ricciuto, O&M Director, Acciona Agua, “Modular containerized plants: Comparative experiences”

Mr. Stefano Frega, Danfoss, “Maximizing efficiency in reverse osmosis systems”

Donato Pasquale, Schneider Electric, “Advanced automation in next-generation desalination plants”

Ing. Fabrizio Vicari, Resourseas, “Towards a unified industry for the extraction of chemicals, minerals, and water from seawater”

13.00 Q & A

13:30 Closing of the symposium

For information please contact Prof. Giorgio Micale - email:

giorgiod.maria.micale@unipa.it

Note: Participation is free of charge, but pre-registration is required via the following link:

<https://forms.gle/37knJ5rNrhapBbM6>