

Increasing climate resilience of water and sanitation sector in the Mediterranean Region: workshop under the Protocol on Water and Health

Lisbon, Portugal
4-5 June 2024

#WaterWiseEU

Scope and expected outcomes:

The Mediterranean region is warming 20% faster than the global average, according to UN Environment Programme, with already visible impacts on the water and sanitation sectors and on the health and well-being of its population. According to the World Economic Forum, the situation of water scarcity in the Mediterranean is alarming and is expected to worsen with the constantly shifting precipitation patterns and increasing demand due to population growth and industrial use. At the same time, the Mediterranean region hosts 60% of the world's water-poor population (with less than 1,000m³ per inhabitant, per year). That is 20 million people, especially in the region's southern and eastern countries, who lack access to drinking water and the entire population increasingly exposed to extreme heat, water shortages and reduced water quantity and quality resulting in rise of water-related diseases.

UN Environment Programme further projects that water demand will double or even triple by 2050. By 2080, in the Mediterranean there will be 30% less rainfall in spring summer and an additional 10% or 20% heavy rainfall events outside of summer. Water temperature is expected to rise by between 1.8°C and 3.5°C by 2100.

Against this alarming backdrop, the objective of the present workshop, hosted by Portugal, in cooperation with UNECE and WHO/Europe, and organized as a partner event under the [EU Green Week](#), is to discuss common approaches to increase climate resilience of water and sanitation sector in the Mediterranean region by taking stock of main challenges and priorities of the countries of the region but also highlighting and exchanging on the existing good practices and solutions from both institutional/policy and technical perspectives.

The workshop will build on the institutional framework of the UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health, its activities on increasing climate resilience, and its practical tools, such as the mechanism of setting intersectoral targets on water, sanitation, hygiene and health and its mandatory reporting framework. Under the Protocol 5th reporting cycle, Mediterranean countries have increasingly referred to climate change impacts such as water scarcity, particularly in connection with safe reuse of wastewater, increased water temperature, extreme weather events such as droughts and floods, and stormwater overflows from wastewater collection systems and on coastal areas. Countries have also been integrating climate change perspective when setting their national targets under the Protocol in order to ensure coordinated approach in responding to climate change. The programme of work of the Protocol includes dedicated programme area on increasing resilience to climate change, co-led by Italy and the Netherlands.

The workshop has the following specific objectives:

- Take stock of challenges and priorities and identify good practices in increasing resilience of water and sanitation sectors among Mediterranean countries;
- Respond to key challenges in the Mediterranean region by promoting setting of climate-sensitive targets and by building on other tools and activities implemented in the framework of the Protocol on Water and Health;
- Formulate future needs for the work under the Protocol on Water and Health to further support work on climate resilience and raise awareness of the Protocol among Mediterranean countries, including both Parties and other States.

Target countries and audience

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Portugal, San Marino, Slovenia, Spain and Türkiye.

In addition, in order to allow synergies and maximize opportunities also for participation of the Mediterranean countries from outside the pan-European region, the workshop will be held back-to-back with the [14th meeting of the Regional Platform on Water under the Union for Mediterranean](#), also hosted by Portugal, on 5-6 June 2024.

Participation in the workshop meeting will be by invitation only. The meeting aims to gather about 30 participants. Participants will include primarily country representatives from the Mediterranean region whose work is related to the implementation of climate resilient targets on water, sanitation and health, including under the Protocol on Water and Health, as well as government representatives involved in climate change policies and development of National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions. It will also include representatives from development partners, international organizations, civil society organization and stakeholders engaged in the provision of water and sanitation services under climate stressing conditions.

Format

The event will include roundtable discussions and expert presentations from the Mediterranean countries. Technical topics to be covered include water scarcity, wastewater reuse, desalination, floods, stormwater overflows, droughts, water shortages, water losses, heatwaves and health, water-related diseases, reducing carbon emissions of water and wastewater plants, institutional frameworks to address climate change, etc. A practical session aimed at translating identified priorities into concrete climate-sensitive targets will be organized in the afternoon of the first day.

On the second day, there will be a technical visit to the Alcantara Water Factory, Lisbon's main wastewater treatment plant with water reuse which collects and treats, including for reuse, waste water from 800,000 households. The facility is one of Europe's largest green roofs, a feat of engineering and architecture.

The meeting will be in-person only in order to allow for productive discussions and group work as well as attending the technical visit.

The event will be held in English only, without interpretation.

Venue

Room "O Século", Ministry of the Environment and Energy, 63 Rua de "O Século", Lisbon.

Date

Tuesday 4 June 2024 (9.30-17.30): workshop including plenary sessions, moderated discussions and group work

Wednesday 5 June 2024 (9.30-12.30): technical visit to the "Alcantara Water Factory".

Registration and programme of the event

The draft programme and more information about the event will be available at <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/increasing-climate-resilience-water-and-sanitation-sector-mediterranean>.

To attend the meeting, please register **as soon as possible, but no later than 24 May 2024**, using the following link: <https://indico.un.org/event/1011408/> (please create or use an existing Indico profile first to register for this specific meeting). In case of difficulties, please contact the secretariat by email (protocol.water_health@un.org).

Financial support and visa

Eligible participants from countries with economies in transition may apply for financial support to facilitate their participation in the meeting. Requests for financial support should be submitted to the UNECE secretariat (protocol.water_health@un.org) as soon as possible, but **no later than 10 May 2024**.

Participants requiring entry visas should inform the secretariat as soon as possible. If you need a personal invitation letter for visa purpose, please register as soon as possible and indicate it clearly when registering. Please start the visa application procedure at least one month in advance.








Hospitality





Lunch and coffee breaks will be provided on 4 June 2024. A self-paid group dinner will be also arranged in the evening of 4 June. Transport for the technical visit will also be provided by Portugal as the host country.

Practical information about Lisbon: Accommodation

There is a wide range of hotels in Lisbon, from more economic to more expensive, but in general all of them have a very good quality and amenities. It is advisable to book the hotel as soon as possible because in June and onwards the city tends to be quite busy in terms of events and tourism.

There are several accommodation options around the venue (which is located in the city centre) that you may check on booking platforms or directly on hotel websites. Below you may find some suggestions (sorted by distance):

<p>MY SUITE LISBON SERVICED APARTMENTS Distance from venue – 220 m (3 min walking) Rua São Boaventura 23 ,1200-407 – Lisboa https://www.phchotels.pt/pt/my-suite-lisbon-serviced-apartments/ Contacts: +351 917 238 643 mslreservations@phchotels.pt</p>	
<p>Memmo Príncipe real 5***** Distance from venue - 450 m (7 min walking) Rua D. Pedro V, 56 J, 1250-094 Lisboa https://www.memmohotels.com/principereal/ Contacts: +351 219 016 800 preal@memmohotels.com</p>	
<p>9Hotel Mercy 4**** Distance from venue – 650 m (10 min walking) Rua da Misericórdia 76, 1200-273 Lisboa https://www.9-hotel-mercy-lisbon.pt/en/ Contacts: +351 21 248 1480 info@le9hotel-mercy.com</p>	
<p>LISBOA CARMO HOTEL boutique hotel Distance to the venue – 0,8 km (13 min walking) Rua da Oliveira ao Carmo, 1 a 3, 1200-307 Lisboa https://www.lisboacarmohotel.pt/pt/index.html Contacts +351 21 346 47 10</p>	
<p>Rossio Garden Hotel 3*** Distance to the venue – 1 km (18 min walking) Rua Jardim do Regedor, 24, Santa Maria Maior, 1150-194 Lisboa Rossio Garden Hotel - Hotel in Lisbon Historical Center - Official Website Contacts +351 21 340 42 40 info@rossiogardenhotel.com</p>	

<p>Hotel Da Baixa 4**** Distance from venue - 1,2 km (20 min walking) Rua da Prata, 231, 1100-417 Lisboa</p> <p>https://www.hoteldabaixa.com/en/</p> <p>Contacts: +351 21 012 7450</p> <p>book@hoteldabaixa.com</p>	
<p>Inspira Liberdade Boutique Hotel 4**** Distance from venue – 1,6 km (23 min walking) R. de Santa Marta 48, 1150-297 Lisboa</p> <p>https://www.inspirahotels.com/en/</p> <p>Contacts: +351 21 044 0910</p> <p>reservas.ismh@inspirahotels.com</p>	
<p>Hotel H10 Duque de Loulé 4**** Distance from venue – 1,9 km (28 min Walking/ 24 min by metro)</p> <p>Av. Duque de Loulé, 81-83 1050-088 Lisboa</p> <p>https://www.h10hotels.com/en/lisbon-hotels/h10-duque-de-loule</p> <p>Contacts: +351 213182000 h10.duque.deloule@h10hotels.com</p>	
<p>Jupiter Lisboa Hotel 4**** Distance from venue – 4 km (25 min by metro) Avenida da República 46, 1050-195 Lisboa</p> <p>https://www.jupiterlisboahotel.com/en/</p> <p>Contacts: +351 21 073 0100 reservas.lisboa@jupiterhotelgroup.com</p>	

How to reach the venue from Lisbon Airport (8,9 km)

1. Taxi (25 minutes) – cars with a “TAXI” sign on top

Taxis are located at the T1 Arrivals Exit, just in front of the main doors. No reservation required; just wait for your turn (usually takes around 5 minutes). Most taxis accept card payments, but it is advisable to carry some cash in case that specific car does not accept cards.

2. Online platforms – Uber/Bolt/FreeNow (30 minutes) – cars with a “TVDE” sticker on the window

You must walk 500 meters from the T1 Arrivals Exit to the Car parking no. 8 where there is a specific area for pick up by the cars managed by the online platforms. Note that the cars registered at the online platforms are the ones with the license plate identified in the online platform and should have a sticker with the words “TVDE”.

3. Metro (45-50 minutes)

The Metro entrance is 50 meters from the T1 Arrivals Exit. You should take the Metro direction “São Sebastião” and exit at “São Sebastião” stop, where you should change to the blue line and take the Metro direction “Santa Apolónia”. You should leave in “Restauradores”. Afterwards it’s a 15 min walk to the venue. To use the metro you must have a valid ticket that you can buy either from the automatic vending machines or from the Ticket office, as explained below.

Public transport system

Taxis, online platforms (TVDE) and public transport are all safe and convenient options in Lisbon.

If you are planning to use public transports in Lisbon it is advisable that you buy a non-refundable Navegante Card and use it on metro, buses, trams, ferries and trains. It will cost 0,50 Euro but will allow you to recharge with tickets and electronically validate your entry in the Metro system or Buses in the machines at the entrance and exit. You can buy and load your Navegante Card in any metro station from a ticket machine in cash (coins and notes) as well as debit and credit cards issued by major companies (e.g. Visa, MasterCard, Maestro). The Navegante Card is also available at selling points around the city and at commuter train stations from ticket machines.

You can now also pay for an individual metro ride at the contactless validator gates using a bank card (paying a slightly higher fare). On bus, tram and funicular, you can either use your navegante card or, if you don't have one, buy a ticket from the driver in cash only (on-board fares are more expensive).

Note that the Navegante Card can only hold one kind of ticket at any one time. So, depending on the length of your stay, how much you are planning to use public transport, and whether you're going to other places such as Sintra, Cascais, or the statue of Christ, you'll need to choose between:

- **Single tickets:** good for one metro or bus ride within Lisbon, for example from the airport to your hotel, provided you do not plan to use any other public transport on that same day.
- **24-hour tickets** which come in three options (for use within the city only or including commuter train / ferry): the best option if you're planning to travel extensively, for example riding several trams and funiculars, and don't want to worry about tracking tickets or Zapping money.
- **Zapping:** pay as you go money that you load into your card and can use to ride the metro, tram, funicular, bus, commuter train, and ferry.

Once you've chosen an option, you cannot change to another type of fare while the previous one has not been used. For example, if you have chosen the Zapping option, you must first use all the credit on your card before you are allowed to buy a one-day ticket.

Further information is available at the website: <https://www.lisbonguru.com/how-to-use-public-transport-in-lisbon/> and also at the websites below:

- Metro – <https://www.metrolisboa.pt/en/>
- Bus/Trams – <https://www.carris.pt/en/>
- Train - <https://www.cp.pt/passageiros/en>

Other general information about Lisbon

- **Tourism information:** <https://www.visitlisboa.com/en>
- **Time zone:** GMT
- **Weather conditions:** The weather in June is usually warm, on average, from 17° C to 26° C. There is low likelihood of rainfall at this time of the year.
- **Smoking is prohibited** in indoor public areas, bars and restaurants (although there are some exceptions) as well as in public transports such as the metro, buses, trams or trains.