





### IHP Lebanese National Delegation

#### **UNESCO-IHP ECOMED Academy Network**

Stakeholders Consultation Meeting on the Further Development of the ECOMED Academy Network Proposal Strategic Program Development, Implementation Planning & Feasibility Assessment

December 16 and 17, 2025, at UNESCO HQ, 7 Place de Fontenoy, Paris, 75007

#### **Proposed Meeting Agenda**

**Background** — The prime goal of the UNESCO-IHP ECOMED Academy Network is to promote *environmental* coastal cooperation for metropolitan eco-sustainable development among the MENA/Mediterranean member-states through regional knowledge-bases, experience sharing platforms, collaborative regional research and codevelopment of professional education and training programs in order to effectively support their capacity building for responding to their ever-growing eco-sustainability challenges. Their ever-growing critical needs of climate change adaptation, upgrading coastal ecosystems pollution monitoring and protection, improving WEFE (Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems) security and accelerating resilience building to extreme climate events, are exacerbated in the current context of rapid coastal urbanization, insufficient sanitation, fast deteriorating critical infrastructure with substantial water leaks in the distribution systems, ever-growing water scarcity, greater frequency of extreme climate events, and massive population displacements.

For this purpose, the UNESCO-IHP Council's resolution of the IHP 26th Session, June 2024 (ref. IHP resolution attached), recognizing the eco-sustainability challenges of the MENA/ Mediterranean member-states concerned invites the Lebanese IHP National Delegation to further develop, in consultation with the member-states, its proposal, initially presented at the 4th Extraordinary Council, 2021 (ref. IHP resolution XTR-IV-3 attached) to establish the UNESCO-IHP ECOMED Academy Network of capacity building centers in the MENA/Mediterranean member-states. The revised proposal is expected to be submitted to UNESCO, as the IHP Secretariat, by the end of January 2026. Inspired by global frameworks such as the UN resolution on water as a human right, the Paris Agreement, the Union for the Mediterranean strategies, the Barcelona Convention and the UN 2030 Agenda (SDG 6), the main purpose is to foster strategic regional partnerships and accelerate the capacity building of the member-states concerned in order to effectively address the challenges of WEFE security management, climate resilience building and sustainable coastal eco-development.

#### The proposed Academy's core objectives are focused on:

- Creating a Network of Capacity Building Centers hosted by Academic Research Institutions, NGOs or other Stakeholders in the member-states concerned in order to support their capacity building for eco-sustainable urbanization, ecosystems monitoring, climate adaptation and resilience building to extreme climate events;
- Engaging experience and knowledge sharing among the Co-Host institutes to effectively support and leverage their research programs, professional education and training, and eco-urbanization planning, and accelerate the development and deployment of innovative solutions
- 3. Promoting coastal ecosystems monitoring with regional knowledge-bases and industry—academia stakeholders' partnerships to effectively support sustainable coastal eco-urbanization planning policies;
- 4. **Improving WEFE Nexus Management** and promoting sustainable ecosystem security, coastal pollution prevention measures, nature-based solutions and hydrodiplomacy-based IWRM strategies;
- 5. **Raising Public Awareness** with the support of educational systems and media-assisted platforms to promote societal resilience, climate adaptation and public support to sustainable eco-urbanization policies;
- 6. **Upgrading Crisis Management Capabilities and Best Practice of Mitigation and Recovery** tailored to the operational conditions of the water and sanitation agencies for resilience building to extreme climate events;
- 7. **Promoting strategic partnerships**, which may include UN organizations, leading regional NGO, research institutions, funding agencies and other stakeholders with similar objectives.
- 8. **Engaging with the network of host and co-host institutions the planning of pilot programs** responding to the priority capacity building needs of the member-states concerned.

The Academy Concept Note, prepared for UNESCO by the W-SMART NGO, as the Academy Secretariat, and reviewed by the UNESCO ECOMED Academy Taskforce, chaired by Prof. Fadi G. COMAIR, is attached for your consideration. We would like to thank Dr Abou AMANI, Secretary of the UNESCO-IHP, Dr Sarantuyaa ZANDARYAA and Ms. Hong Huynh for their support and for kindly hosting this Stakeholders' Planning meeting.







Under the Auspices of UNESCO-IHP IHP Lebanese National Delegation



Purpose & Agenda of the Academy Network Stakeholders Consultation Meeting - The main purpose of the Academy Network Stakeholders Consultation meeting is to bring together the strategic partners of the Academy Network, including the host and co-host institutions of the capacity building centers, as well as delegates of IHP national delegations, NGOs, and other stakeholders for a discussion forum on the development of a consensus-based improved IHP ECOMED Academy Network proposal. The current proposal follows upon the IHP ECOMED Academy Concept Note attached as reference for your consideration, which was prepared by the W-SMART NGO, as the nominated Academy Secretariat, for UNESCO and reviewed by the UNESCO ECOMED Taskforce chaired by Prof. Fadi G. COMAIR, former IHP Chair. Based upon the concept of establishing a network of capacity building centers in the states concerned, it includes proposed terms of reference for the Academy goals, strategic program development, institutional governance, implementation planning and management, program financing strategies. feasibility and sustainability assessment, and the potential Academy impacts on the capacity building of the states concerned. The stakeholders' planning meeting goal is to review and improve the current proposal through consultations with the member-states concerned, taking into account review comments and recommendations of the UNESCO ECOMED taskforce, and provide stakeholders' recommendations for preparing the improved Academy proposal for submitting to UNESCO by February 2026.

For this purpose, the following meeting agenda and discussion issues are proposed for your consideration:

- 1. **Proposed Academy Constitutional Terms of Reference** including: mission goals, scope of programs, governance, role of the host and co-host institutes, financing strategies and program implementation;
- 2. **Strategic Network Development and Planning Challenges of Capacity Building Programs** for the network of states concerned to effectively support and leverage their experience, research programs, professional education and training, coastal eco-development, and resilience building to extreme climate events;
- 3. **Network Development Planning of a 3yrs Pilot Program** to address the priority capacity building needs of the states involved and demonstrate the multi-stakeholders' network benefit for education and training, sponsored research programs, coastal ecosystems pollution monitoring, and WEFE nexus management;
- 4. **Engaging Stakeholders' Partnerships** and exploring with potential sponsors program financing strategies for a feasible and sustainable program development, including scope of core programs, financing feasibility, and strategic partnerships for sponsored research, professional education and urbanization planning;
- 5. **Feasibility and Sustainability Assessment** of the proposed core programs, their strategic development framework, financing strategies and potential impacts on the capacity building programs of the states;
- 6. Stakeholders' recommendations for a consensus-based flagship initiative proposal for the IHP Council;
- 7. **Establishing the Way Forward** next implementation steps and timelines for addressing the Stakeholders recommendations for the proposed strategic program development and its implementation planning.

At this stage, we would like to acknowledge and thank the UNESCO Taskforce members for their relevant review and recommendations and the Cyprus Institute for its commitment to serve as the Host Institute for the IHP ECOMED Academy Network. We would also like to gratefully thank your excellencies, as the Academy strategic partners, for kindly confirming to UNESCO-IHP Secretary, Dr. Abou Amani, your interest and intent of joining the Academy Network as co-host institutes in your states and for your participation in this planning meeting.

**Logistics** - for virtual participation please register ASAP using the UNESCO link: https://unesco-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/FP -HvFnQtqag9WpEBXmCA

A list of attendees that have confirmed their participation, either Presentially or Virtually, is attached. Please review this list and kindly alert us at your earliest for any errors. For security reasons, please process your registration ASAP. For information at UNESCO please contact Ms. Elena SPALLART at <a href="mailto:e.spallart@unesco.org">e.spallart@unesco.org</a>. Please let us know for any further information you may need at this time.

On behalf of the ECOMED Academy Strategic Development Council, with Prof. Fadi G. COMAIR and Dr. Chrysanthia LEONTIOU, we would like to gratefully thank you for your consideration and effective support. Looking forward to meeting you soon in Paris Sincerely,

Prof. Ilan JURAN CEO, W-SMART Association Prof. Fadi G. COMAIR
Chair, UNESCO ECOMED Taskforce

Dr. Chrysanthia LEONTIOU Head, Graduate School, Cyl





Under the Auspices of UNESCO-IHP
IHP Lebanese National Delegation



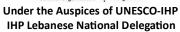
### **Proposed Meeting Agenda**

In order to address the Meeting objectives, the following agenda is proposed for your consideration. We would greatly appreciate any suggestions you may have for discussion issues to be included.

Schedule	oom IX Session	Issues & Participants			
9:30	Registration				
9:45 -	Welcome Session	Welcome – IHP Perspectives and Goals			
10:15	- Opening Comments	Dr. Abou AMANI, IHP Secretary, UNESCO Division of Water Science			
	- Meeting Agenda	Opening Comments - The ECOMED Academy Network Goals			
	- Professional	Prof. Fadi G. COMAIR, Former IHP Chair,			
	Education Challenges	Chair of the Lebanese IHP National Committee			
	•	The Planning Meeting Purpose, Agenda and Expected Outcome			
		Prof. Ilan JURAN, CEO, W-SMART NGO, Secretariat of the Academy			
		The Academy Professional Education and Training Challenges			
		Dr. Chrysanthia LEONTIOU, Head, Graduate School , Cyprus Institute			
10:15 -	Session 1 - proposed	Agenda:			
11:15	ECOMED Academy	Proposed ECOMED Academy Network Goals & Core Programs -			
	Network Goals, Core	Strategic Network Development & Program Implementation Planning			
	Programs & Strategic	Chair: Prof. Ilan JURAN			
	Development Planning				
		The Academy Vision and Capacity Building Goals in the Context of			
		Climate Adaptation and Resilience Building to Extreme Events			
		Prof. Fadi G. COMAIR			
		Proposed Core Programs & Strategic Implementation Planning			
		Prof. Ilan JURAN			
		The Cyl Experience of Regional Capacity Building Programs			
		Dr. Chrysanthia LEONTIOU			
		The IHP Perspectives, Guidance & Proposal Review Process			
		Dr. Sarantuyaa ZANDARYAA, UNESCO Division of Water Science			
11:15 -	Coffee-Break				
11:30					
11:30 -	Opening Key Note	Union for the Mediterranean – Mission, Goals and Experience in			
11:50		Capacity Building Programs facing Climate Adaptation Challenges			
44.50		Federic de DINECHIN, Sr. Policy Adviser, UfM, IGO, Spain			
11:50 -	Session 2	Agenda:			
13:00	The Academy Network	The Academy Network of Capacity Building Centers – The Role,			
	Capacity Building Center				
	in the Member-States –	Chair: Dr. Chrysanthia LEONTIOU, Cyl			
	Role, Network Program Development Challenge	Format: Panel of Experts of Host and Co-Host institutes sharing			
	Experience Sharing of	experience, assessment and perspectives on issues such as:			
	Host and Co-Host	Professional Education & Training Challenges facing critical needs			
	Institutes in Promoting	for climate adaptation, crisis management and resilience building;			
	Capacity Building Progra	•			
	capacity building riogia	professional education and training programs at different levels;			
		Stakeholders' roles and industry-academia cooperation models for			
		leveraging current and future capacity building programs;			
		4. Academic cooperation models for professional education and			
		training programs in the digital era to meet the Network goals			
		training programs in the digital era to meet the Network goals; 5. Your own Perspectives: how can the Academy best support you			





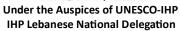




	Planning of Capacity Building Support	Support Programs and their Implementation Framework to leverage current programs with the network of host and co-host institutes for
16:00 - 17:30	Session 4 Engaging the Network	Agenda: Engaging The Academy Network Planning of Capacity Building
16:00		_
	Coffee Break	<ol> <li>Sustainable coastal urbanization planning challenges and climate adaptation policies for resilience building and eco-development;</li> <li>UNESCO-IHP perspectives in the context of Hydrodiplomacy-based coastal ecosystems protection policies, monitoring, data sharing platforms and sustainable coastal eco-development;</li> <li>Upgrading crisis management capabilities and practice of extreme events mitigation and recovery tailored to operational, cultural and economic conditions of water and sanitation agencies;</li> <li>Regulatory Compliance challenges of water and sanitation utilities, as drivers for investments in research and innovative solutions;</li> <li>Engaging government-industry-academia co-development of capacity building program with resources and investments in leveraging research, professional education and training programs, and sustainable coastal eco-development.</li> <li>Panel of Experts of Local Governments and Water Utilities</li> <li>Prof. Fadi G. COMAIR, Univ. of Balamand, Lebanon,</li> <li>Prof. Youssef DIAB, Research Director, EIVP, Gustave Eiffel Univ.</li> <li>MEd. Miguel COSTA, Lead Professional Training, Acaemia das Águas Livres, EPAL, Portugal</li> <li>Dr. Laurent MOULIN, Director, R&amp;D, Eau de Paris, France</li> <li>H.E. Charafat AFAILAL, Former Minister of Water, Morocco</li> <li>H.E. Tamar Zandberg, Former Minister of Env., Ben Gurion Univ. Israel</li> </ol>
13:00 – 14:30 14:30 – 15:45	Lunch  Session 3 Government – Industry - Academia Cooperation for Capacity building programs of Member States to effectively address sustainable urban eco-development and ecosystem pollution prevention challenges	Agenda: Government – Industry - Academia Cooperation for Capacity Building Needs Assessment and Programs Development of the Member States facing Metropolitan eco-sustainability challenges and critical needs for climate adaptation, WEFE security measures, ecosystem monitoring, eco-urbanization planning and resilience Building to extreme Events Chair: Prof. Fadi G. COMAIR  Format: Panel of Experts of local governments, national delegations, water and sanitation utilities, academics, NGOs and other stakeholders sharing experience, assessment and perspectives on issues such as:
		Panel of Experts (with brief 5min presentations)  Prof. David BLANCHON, UNESCO Chair, Univ. of Paris Nanterre  Prof. Elena RIDOLFI, Sapienza Univ. of Rome, Italy, and/or  Prof. Federica ROSSO, Sapienza Univ. of Rome, Italy,  Prof. Hosam El NAZER, National Research Center, Egypt,  Prof. Uri SHAVIT, Technion, Israel,  Prof. Anan JAYOUSI, UNESCO Chair, An-Najah National Un.  Palestine,









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	Programs and their	research, professional education and training, ecosystems monitoring,				
	Implementation practice	crisis management, urban eco-development and explore resources. <b>Chair:</b> <i>Gerard LUYET, President, W-SMART</i>				
		Format: Panel of Experts of Water Agencies, Host & Co-Host Institutes				
		and other Stakeholders sharing experience and perspectives on issues				
		1. Industry perspectives: professional development priority needs for				
		urban eco-development, WEFE security and resilience challenges;				
		<ul><li>2. Assessment measures of current educational and training models</li><li>– do we address current and emerging industry needs?</li></ul>				
		3. Experience sharing of R&D challenges and current programs for				
		<ul><li>accelerating capacity building deployment of innovative solutions,</li><li>Government–Industry–Academia partnership to support research</li></ul>				
		ecosystems monitoring, data sharing, and regional eco-planning;				
		<ol> <li>Potential sponsors and resources for regional research programs focused on MENA/ Mediterranean eco-sustainability challenges;</li> </ol>				
		6. Perspectives of the ECOMED Academy Network vision and experts'				
		recommendations for planning feasible capacity building programs				
		Panel of Experts of Industry and Academia (with brief presentations)				
		Prof. Leonor Amaral, Nova Univ. of Lisbon, FST., Portugal				
		Dr. Capt. Kazem AGAMY, Arab Academy of Science, Technology,     Maribina Transportation, Found.				
		Maritime Transportation, Egypt.  O Prof. Chiara BISCARINI, University of Perugia, Italy				
		H.E. Dr. Benny VAKNIN, Former Mayor of Ashkelon, Israel				
		<ul> <li>Dr Georges GHARIOUS, Associate National Program Officer,</li> </ul>				
		Natural Sciences, UNESCO				
		o <b>Prof. Munqez Jy. SHTAYA,</b> An-Najah National Univ., Palestine,				
47/42/25		o Dr. Marcello SERRAO, Research Associate, W-SMART Association,				
17/12/25 Room VI I						
9:30	Registration					
9:45 – 10:00	Introduction	Summary - The Way Forward - Planning the Academy Proposal Prof. Fadi G. COMAIR				
10:00 -	Session 5 – Review of	Agenda:				
11:15	the Concept Note ToR	Review of the proposed Academy Concept Note Terms of Reference				
	& Planning the	(ToR) and Planning a Consensus-based ECOMED Academy Proposal				
	improved Academy Flagship Proposal for	for the IHP Council, covering issues such as:				
	the IHP Council	1) Goals, Status & UNESCO-IHP Oversight & Collaboration 2) Proposed Scope of Core Programs				
	the nin council	3) Governance and Strategic Network Development				
		4) Financing Strategies & Resources,				
		6) Performance Measures & Impacts Assessment				
		7) Communication Policy and publications				
		8) Other issues				
		Chair: Prof. Ilan JURAN				
		Summary of The Concept Note Proposal Professor Ilan JURAN				
		Summary of the UNESCO Taskforce Review and Recommendations				
		Prof. Fadi G. COMAIR				
		The Role and Experience of Cyl as the Academy Host Institute				
		Dr. Chrysanthia LEONTIOU, Cyl				
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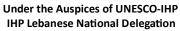




		<b>Format:</b> Plenary Discussion & Experts' Recommendations for the preparation of the Academy proposal for the IHP Council				
l1:15 –						
L1:30						
L1:30 –	Session 6	Agenda:				
L3:00	Roadmap for a 3yrs	Roadmap for a 3yrs Network Pilot Capacity Building Program Planning				
	Network Pilot	- Priority Needs Assessment, Goals and Scope for a Sustainable				
	Capacity Building	Program Co-Development with the host and co-host institutions				
	Program Planning –	engaging the stakeholders in the member-states with a program				
	Needs Assessment,	planning focusing on the three capacity building pillars of:  Government-Industry-Academia partnership for capacity building				
	Goals & Scope for a Sustainable Program	o Government-Industry-Academia partnership for capacity building programs of research, professional training and eco-development				
	Co-Development	Building a community of practice of operators, engineers, police				
	Co Bevelopment	decision-makers, academics and other professional stakeholder				
		for accelerating the development and use of innovative solutions;				
		<ul> <li>Enhancing capabilities to anticipate, monitor, and respond to</li> </ul>				
		extreme climate events - such as droughts, floods, pollution				
		incidents, and infrastructure shocks—within the water sector.				
		Chair: Dr. Chrysanthia LEONTIOU, Cyl				
		The Purpose of the 3years pilot program planning is to propose				
		roadmap for the Academy network strategic and sustainable program				
		co-development with assessment and demonstration of the planning				
		challenges and the potential benefit of the Academy Network of co				
		host institutes. Focusing on engaging the stakeholders in the state				
		concerned, it aims at promoting experience sharing on regional eco				
		sustainability challenges, their risks assessment and mitigation				
		measures, and accelerating the development and deployment of innovative solutions for climate adaptation, ecosystems monitoring and				
		resilience building to extreme climate events. The pilot planning wi				
		involve experience and knowledge sharing for integrating, adapting and				
		leveraging local practice and nature-based solutions with innovative				
		solutions, smart management systems and ICT applications across the				
		MENA/Mediterranean member-states, using a Living Lab approach				
		Professional training needs to embrace Artificial Intelligence (AI) with				
		increasing use of Big Data and smart ecosystems management system				
		for transboundary water quality control, assets management, reuse				
		integration in regional IWRM, early anomaly detection, risk assessmen				
		and optimal data-driven mitigation decision making to support climate				
		adaptation, resilience building and coastal eco-development.				
		Format: Plenary session with panel of experts of water agencies, co				
		host institutes, NGOs and other stakeholders sharing their experience				
		with case studies in the assessment of the priority capacity building				
		needs, with their insight and perspectives, along with key performance				
		measures for the feasibility assessment of the proposed programs.				
		Following the model presented by Cyl and other co-host institutes, the 3year pilot program planning is expected to demonstrate the feasibility				
		and potential benefit of the network program co-development.				
		Banal of Evnorts of Industry and Academia				
		Panel of Experts of Industry and Academia  The Stakeholders Network of Co-Host Institutes				
L3:00 –	Lunch	O THE StakeHolders Network of Co-Host Histitutes				
L4:30						



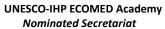




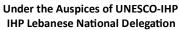


14.20	Seesien 7	Acondo			
14:30 – 16:00	Session 7 Feasibility and	Agenda: Feasibility & Sustainability Assessment of the proposed ECOME			
10.00	Sustainability	Academy Network Strategic Programs Development and of its			
	Assessment of the	proposed ToR for Goals, Governance, Scope of Core Programs,			
	proposed Academy	financing strategies, and Implementation Planning to meet the capacity			
	Network Strategic	building needs of the member-states concerned and accelerate the			
	Program Development	development and deployment of innovative adaptable solutions.			
	Trogram Development	Chair: H.E. Charafat AFAILAL, Former Minister of Water, Morocco			
		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,			
		Format: Panel of Experts of local governments, NGOs, water agencies			
		and academia sharing their feasibility and sustainability assessment,			
		review comments and recommendations with a plenary stakeholders'			
		discussion as essential input for a consensus-based preparation of the			
		Academy proposal for the IHP Council.			
		Panel of Experts			
		H.E. Tamar Zandberg, Former Minister of Env., Ben Gurion Univ.			
		Israel			
		<ul> <li>Annick GNANOU MAURY, Directeur Général - Fondation UPN, France</li> </ul>			
		o <b>Dr. Laurent MOULIN,</b> Director, R&D, Eau de Paris, France			
		H.E. Prof. Elias WARAK, President, Univ. of Balamand, Lebanon,			
		Prof. Hussein ELAFTY, Secretary General, Arab Water Council,			
		(TBC), Egypt			
		<ul> <li>Eng. Ahmed TOWFIK ABED, International Cooperation, Egypt</li> <li>H.E. Dr. Shaddad Al ATTILI, Former. Minister of Water and Head,</li> </ul>			
		H.E. Dr. Shaddad Al ATTILI, Former. Minister of Water and Head,     PWA, Palestine			
		Dr. Sarantuyaa ZANDARYAA, Specialist, Water Science Division			
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16:00 –	Coffee-Break				
16:15		I			
16:15 -	Session 8	The Way Forward – Summary of Experts Planning Recommendations			
17:15	The Way Forward	and next steps for the preparation of a consensus-based Academy Flagship Initiative Proposal for the IHP Council.			
		Chair: Prof. Fadi G. COMAIR			
		Chair. Froj. Faul G. Colvinin			
		<b>Format:</b> Panel of Experts - the Chairs of all the sessions will summarize			
		for each session:			
		<ul> <li>The agenda purpose and main points of discussion outcome</li> </ul>			
		Review comments on the proposed Network ToR for the Academy			
		strategic program development framework			
		Recommendations for the Academy proposal to the IHP Council			
		and the way forward			
		Panel of Experts - Chairs of the Meeting Sessions			
		o <b>Prof. Fadi G. COMAIR,</b> Univ. of Balamand, Lebanon			
		o Dr. Chrysanthia LEONTIOU, Cyl			
		o Prof. Ilan JURAN, W-SMART, Paris			
		Gerard LUYET, W-SMART, Paris			
		O H.E. Charafat AFAILAL			
1		o <b>Dr. Sarantuyaa ZANDARYAA,</b> Specialist, Water Science Division			
17:15 –	Concluding Remarks	<b>Dr. Abou AMANI</b> , IHP Secretary			







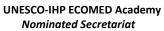




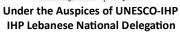
### Invited Excellencies, National Delegations, Strategic Partners, Experts and Colleagues

Name	Affiliation/ Organization	Member -State	Title/Position	Contact	Registratio n	
	_		Development Counc	·il	, II	
Dr. Helmut HABERSACK			Federic de DINECI	Strategic Partners and Experts		
President, UNESCO-IHP,			Sr. Policy Adviser,			
Helmut.habersack@bo	•	t Available	c.dedinechin@ufn	·	n Presential	
Dario Quadri ILKHANI	Na.ac.ac 110	e / Wallable	Benjamin GESTIN	- Secretariation 5		
Expert, UfM, IGO, Spair	า		_	CEO, Eau de Paris, Paris,		
dario.quadri@ufmsecre		Presential	1	benjamin.gestin@eaudeparis.fr (TBC)		
Dr. Laurent MOULIN			Prof. Federica ROSSO			
Director, R&D, Eau de I	Paris.		Sapienza Univ. of Rome, Italy,			
Laurent.Moulin@eaud	•	resential	·	federica.rosso@uniroma1.it On Line		
Prof. David BLANCHON	•			Annick GNANOU MAURY		
UNESCO Chair, Head, G		ning		Directeur Général - Fondation UPN		
Univ. of Paris Nanterre		6	Univ.of Paris Nant	erre,		
dblanchon@parisnante		resential	Direction@fondat	ionupn.fr In	Presential	
Prof. Nicolas CHAVENT			Prof. Youssef DIA	В		
Director, Projet Open S			Research Director			
Univ. of Paris Nanterre	•		Gustave Eiffel Uni	•		
nicolas.chavent@proto	nicolas.chavent@protonmail.com In Presential			v-eiffel.fr In	Presential	
Prof. Elena RIDOLFI			Prof. Fadi G. COM	Prof. Fadi G. COMAIR		
Sapienza Univ. of Rome, Italy,			Univ. of Balamand, Lebanon,			
Academic Coordinator	Env. Engineering		Former Chair, UN	Former Chair, UNESCO-IHP		
elena.ridolfi@uniroma	1.it In Pr	esential	f.comair@cyi.ac.c	У	On-Line	
H.E. Ms. Charafat AFAI	LAL		H.E. Prof. Elias WARAK			
Former Minister of Wa	ter, Morocco,		President, Univ. of Balamand, Lebanon,			
charafat@gmail.com	In pr	esential	president@balam	and.edu.lb	On-line	
Prof. Munqez Jy. SHTA	YA		Prof. Anan JAYOU	Prof. Anan JAYOUSI, UNESCO Chair		
An-Najah National Univ	ı., Palestine,		An-Najah National Univ., Palestine,			
Dean, Faculty of Science	e, Director, Resea	rch Centers	Director, Energy, water and food security Center			
mshtaya@najah.edu	On	-Line	anan@najah.edu			
Prof. Hosam El NAZER			Dr. Capt. Kazem A			
National Research Cent			Arab Academy of Science, Tech. Maritime Trans.			
Water Tech & Renewable Energy			Director, Internat	Director, Internat Maritime Transportation, Egypt		
dr_hosamnazer@yaho	o.com In Pr	esential	<u>kazem.agamy@aast.edu</u> In Presential			
Dr. Chrysanthia LEONT			H.E. Eng. Khaldon H. KHASHMAN,			
Head, Graduate School			Secretary General, ACWUA, Jordan			
Cyprus <u>head.school@cy</u>		esential	khaldon_khashma		t Available	
H.E. Ms. Tamar Zandbo	-		H.E. Dr. Benny VAKNIN			
Former Minister of Env			Former Mayor of Ashkelon, Member of the			
Climate & Env. Policy Inst., Ben Gurion Univ., Israel			Board of Governors, Ben Gurion Univ., Israel			
Tamarz@bgu.ac.il On-Line			bennyvaknin5@gmail.com On-Line			
Prof. Uri SHAVIT			Prof. Shlomo BEKHOR			
Head, Env., Water & Agric Eng., Technion, Israel aguri@cv.technion.ac.il On-Line			Former Head, Civil & Env. Eng., Technion, Israel sbekhor@technion.ac.il On-Line			
aguri@cv.technion.ac.i	<u>ı</u> Un-L	.irie	sbekhor@technio		iii-Liiie	
	<b>Dr. Nuno Campilho</b> Director, Acaemia das Águas Livres, EPAL,			Med. Miguel COSTA		
	_		Coordinator, Professional Training, EPAL, Portugal			
Prof Leonar Amaral	<u>owaup.pt</u> in Pre	esential	miguel.costa@adp.pt In Presential			
Prof. Leonor Amaral	CT Dortugal			Gerard LUYET		
Nova Univ. of Lisbon, F Lmma@fct.unl.pt	_	sential	President, W-SMART Association, France			
Lillina@ict.uill.pt	iii Pre	ociiudi	gluyet.vs@gmail.com In Presential			











Prof. Ilan JURAN	Dr. Marcello SERRAO			
CEO, W-SMART Association, France	Research Associate, W-SMART Association, France			
ijuran@nyu.edu In Presential	marcello.serrao@suez.com In Presential			
Bruno NGUYEN	Denis PENOUEL			
Honorary President, W-SMART Association, France	Honorary President, W-SMART Association, France			
bnguyen@w-smart.fr Not Available	Denissiaap@gmail.com In Presential			
Alain MEYSSONNIER	Prof. Michael SCOULLOS			
President, Mediterranean Water Inst. (IME),	CEO, GWP-MED, Greece			
Franceameyssonnier@ime-eau.org Not Available	Scoullos@chem.uoa.gr Not Available			
Prof. Hussein ELAFTY	Prof. Amira Mostafa Helm SENBEL			
Secretary General, Arab Water Council, Egypt	Dean, College of Pharmacy, AASTMT, Egypt			
<u>Hielafty@arabwatercouncil.org</u> (TBC)	amira.senbel@aast.edu In Presential			
Prof. Chiara BISCARINI	H.E. Dr. Shaddad Al ATTILI			
University of Perugia, Italy	Former. Minister of Water, Head, PWA, Palestine			
<u>chiara.biscarini@unistrapg.it</u> On-Line	Shadattili@gmail.com On-Line			
Dr. Nejib BOUTHELJA	Eng. Ahmed Yassin TOWFIK ABED			
Director, Academic Affairs & Scientific Partnership.	Senior Eng., International Cooperation, Egypt			
Univ. of SFAX, Tunisia	National focal Point of the IHP			
<u>nejib.bouthelja@usf.tn</u> Not Available	For Dr. Aref GHARIB In Presential			
National D	elegations			
The UNESCO ECOMED Aca	demy Taskforce Members			
UNE	SCO			
Dr. Abou AMANI	Dr. Sarantuyaa ZANDARYAA			
IHP Secretary, Director, Water Science Division	Specialist, Water Science Division			
Dr Georges GHARIOUS	Dr. Bisher IMAM			
Associate National Program Officer, Natural Sciences	Sr. Program Sp., Hydrolog Arab States			
Ms. Hong HUYNH - UNESCO Contact for the. Meeting	Elena SPALLART – UNESCO Contact for the Meeting			
h.huynh@unesco.org	e.spallart@unesco.org.			