

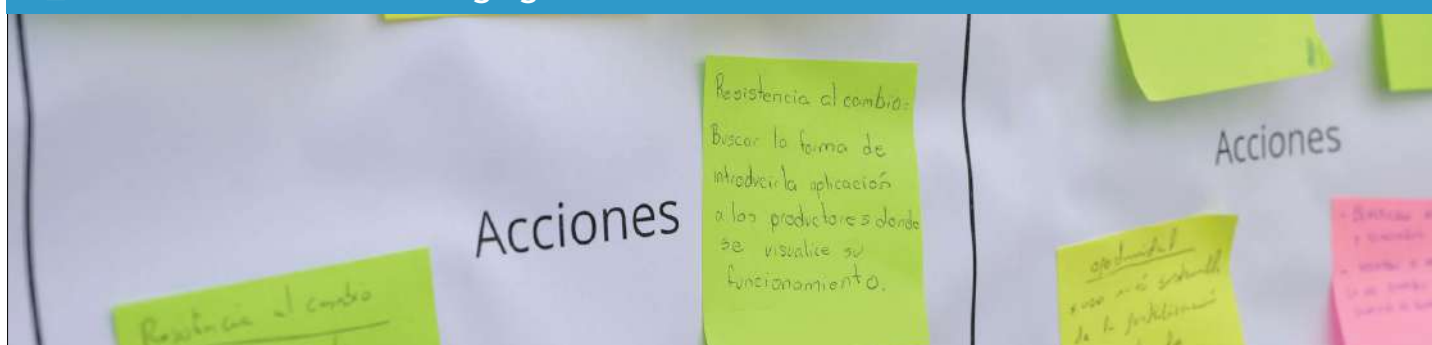


**Boosting Nexus Framework  
Implementation in the Mediterranean**



This project is part of the  
PRIMA programme supported  
by the European Union.

## FACTSHEET | WEF Bridging Framework



### Purpose

The WEFE Nexus Bridging Framework (WEFEF) is a comprehensive set of methods and tools designed to overcome fragmentation in policy and practice across the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) sectors. It addresses the limitations of siloed decision-making, which often leads to inefficient resource use and missed opportunities for synergies. By promoting cross-sectoral integration, the framework supports the co-development of Nexus Bridging Plans (NBPs) that align systemic interdependencies with local priorities and needs.

### How NBPs Support Natural Resources Management

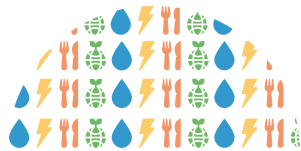
**Nexus Bridging Plans (NBPs)** are practical, context-sensitive planning instruments that help territories manage natural resources more effectively. They enable:

- **Holistic diagnosis of WEFE challenges:** Identify interdependencies, trade-offs, synergies, and mismatches across water, energy, food, and ecosystems.
- **Inclusive stakeholder engagement:** Facilitate multi-actor dialogue to reflect diverse perspectives and co-create legitimate, locally grounded solutions.
- **Identification and assessment of interventions:** Explore technical, organizational, and governance options while evaluating their potential impacts from a WEFE Nexus perspective.
- **Evidence-based decision-making:** Provide structured, comparative insights to prioritize actions, understand risks, and determine enabling conditions.
- **Design of implementation pathways:** Translate analysis into actionable roadmaps—defining concrete steps, roles, resources, and alliances for effective execution.
- **Bridging strategy and action:** Connect high-level sustainability goals with real-world interventions, fostering operational coherence across sectors.



### Overview of the Methodology

Developed under the BONEX project, the WEFE Bridging Framework 2.0 is rooted in co-creation, participatory processes, and systems thinking. It guides stakeholders through a step-by-step, iterative process to develop integrated solutions adapted to each territorial context.



# BONEX

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The framework is organized into five key phases:



## Initiation

Define the system boundaries and focal area, identify relevant stakeholders, and (optionally) assess ecosystem-related non-monetary values.



## Diagnosis

Map the socio-economic, ecological, and governance context. Use participatory system mapping to uncover feedback loops, trade-offs, and mismatches in the WEFE system.



## Intervention Identification

Co-develop potential solutions with stakeholders—technical, organizational, or governance-related—using local knowledge and expert input.



## Intervention Assessment

Evaluate the expected impacts, risks, and enabling conditions of proposed interventions, including effects on ecosystem services and cross-sector synergies.



## Implementation Pathway

Design a Nexus Bridging Plan (NBP): a clear roadmap detailing actions, responsibilities, resources, and alliances, aligned with existing strategies where possible.

## Application in BONEX

In the BONEX project, the WEFE Bridging Framework 2.0 was applied to co-develop seven Nexus Bridging Plans across diverse Mediterranean territories. Its implementation enabled:

- **Comprehensive analysis of all WEFE dimensions:** Structured methods guided stakeholders to consider synergies and trade-offs, ensuring ecosystems—often neglected—were fully integrated into planning.
- **Engagement of over 250 stakeholders:** A multi-actor approach brought together farmers, public authorities, NGOs, civil society, citizens, and researchers to co-create context-relevant solutions.
- **Participatory diagnosis and systems mapping:** Localised analyses provided a shared understanding of Nexus challenges and informed the identification of suitable interventions.

- **Assessment of BONEX technologies:** Solutions such as water reuse, agrivoltaics, solar irrigation, Nature Based Solutions and digital tools were evaluated through the framework to determine feasibility, risks, and implementation strategies.

- **Capacity building for integrated governance:** The process enhanced skills in systems thinking, transdisciplinary planning, and collaborative decision-making, reinforcing local capacities for long-term resource management.

## Added Value and Transferability

**Nexus Bridging Plans (NBPs)** offer a practical means to implement integrated resource management, turning the often abstract Nexus concept into actionable strategies. They help shift from fragmented planning toward coordinated, cross-sector governance by:

- **Revealing interdependencies and trade-offs** across water, energy, food, and ecosystems—making visible the synergies and conflicts often overlooked in siloed policies.
- **Supporting structured, inclusive decision-making** through a clear set of tools that guide stakeholders from system diagnosis to implementation planning.
- **Ensuring broad stakeholder representation**, including farmers, utilities, regulators, civil society, and others whose perspectives are essential yet often disconnected in conventional planning.
- **Informing the selection and deployment of technologies** (e.g. water reuse, agrivoltaics, solar irrigation) by assessing their relevance and impact in a systemic, cross-sector context.

The **transferability** of the WEFE Bridging Framework lies in its adaptability. Rather than imposing a fixed model, it provides a flexible methodology that can be tailored to diverse institutional settings, socio-environmental conditions, and governance capacities.

With appropriate **capacity-building efforts**, the framework can be applied to other regions facing Nexus-related pressures—serving as a tool for **policy design, investment planning**, and the development of **cross-sector partnerships** to support integrated, sustainable resource management.

## CONTACT

**Coordinator: Rafael Casielles**  
BIOAZUL S.L. (Málaga, Spain)  
+34 951 047 290  
rcasielles@bioazul.com  
www.bioazul.com