

# HYDRO- DIPLOMACY:

A TOOL FOR CLIMATE &  
ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE,  
PEACE & SECURITY

*19 - 23 October 2026 - Nicosia, Cyprus*





Water, climate and environmental pressures are increasingly intertwined with security, stability and peace. This five day Executive Course brings together an international community of diplomats, policymakers, experts, academics and practitioners to explore how hydrodiplomacy and cooperative water governance can strengthen resilience, prevent conflict, support peacebuilding and advance regional cooperation.

Through expert led sessions, dialogue, case studies, negotiation and practical engagement, participants will examine the connections between water, climate diplomacy and security and explore cooperative responses to shared environmental challenges.

# COURSE OBJECTIVES

Develop a strategic understanding of hydrodiplomacy and shared water and environmental challenges.

Bridge science, diplomacy and policy to support evidence-based decision-making and effective governance.

Explore water cooperation as an instrument for dialogue, conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

Connect water, climate, security and peace through integrated approaches to regional resilience.



# COURSE AT A GLANCE

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

This advanced and specialized course is designed for professionals, decision-makers, researchers, and emerging leaders whose current or future responsibilities relate to water governance, climate security, environmental diplomacy, peacebuilding, conflict prevention, sustainable development, natural resource management, and related policy areas.



# PRIORITY PARTICIPANTS

- **Students & Academia**

MSc and PhD students - Executive MSc participants - University professors - Researchers

- **Leaders & Professionals**

Managers - High-potential executives - Future transformation leaders - Civil and environmental engineers - Operational and functional directors of urban water and sanitation services

- **Government & Diplomacy**

Diplomats - Ambassadors - Embassy officials - Representatives from Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Interior Security, Water Resources, Environment, and Agriculture - Public administration personnel - Regulatory authorities

- **Water, Environment & WEFE Specialists**

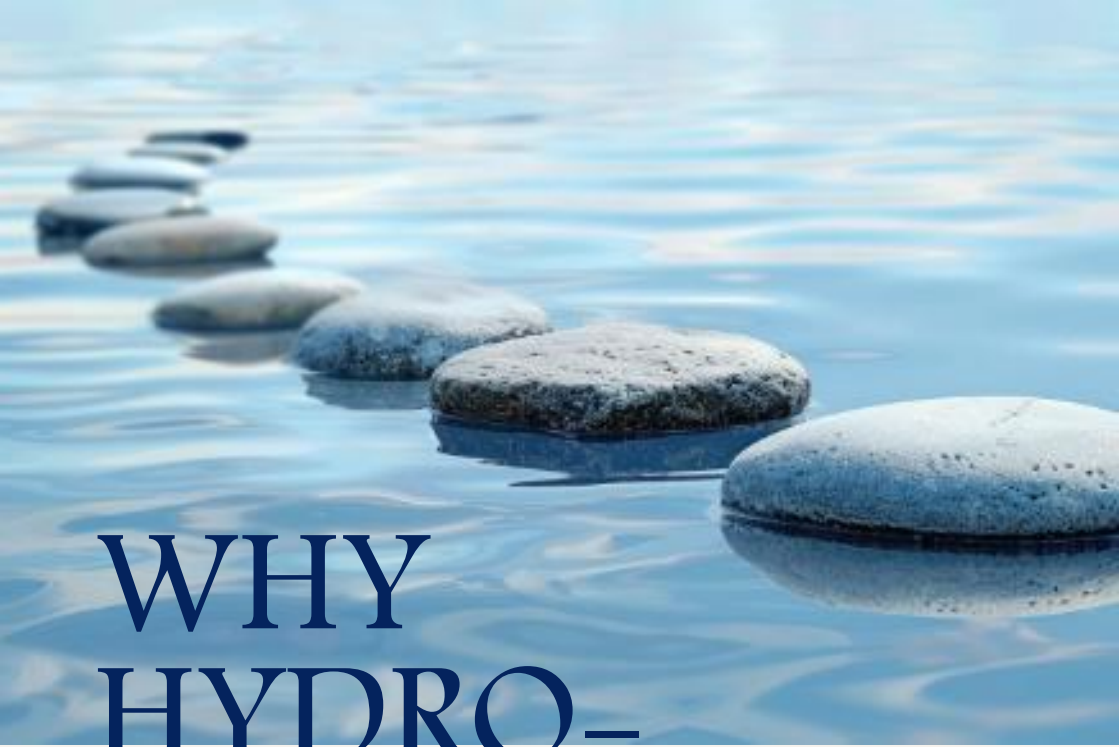
Water professionals and users - Specialists working across the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE) Nexus - Professionals from public, private, and Public-Private Partnership (PPP) sectors

- **International & Civil Society**

International organizations - NGOs and civil society organizations - Financing institutions - Regional donors - Media representatives - Policymakers and political decision-makers

## **Open to Participants From**

EU Member States - EU Candidate Countries - EU institutions, agencies, and bodies - Third Countries - International Organisations - Non-governmental Organisations - Academic and research institutions



# WHY HYDRO- DIPLOMACY?

**Water insecurity, climate change, environmental degradation and growing competition over natural resources** are increasingly recognized as drivers of instability, conflict, displacement and humanitarian crises.

As pressures on shared water resources intensify, hydrodiplomacy has emerged as an important instrument for **conflict prevention, environmental peacebuilding and regional cooperation**.

The course examines how the **cooperative management of transboundary water resources** can contribute to **resilience, sustainable development, peacebuilding, conflict prevention, regional cooperation and water security**.

# WHY JOIN?



## **EXPLORE**

Hydrodiplomacy as a tool for cooperation, resilience and peace.



## **UNDERSTAND**

The links between water security, climate change and regional stability



## **ENGAGE**

With leading experts and international practitioners



## **CONNECT**

With professionals and institutions across diplomacy, water, climate and environmental governance



## **CONTRIBUTE**

To innovative and cooperative approaches towards a more resilient and sustainable future

# WHAT WILL PARTICIPANTS GAIN?



## **KNOWLEDGE**

Explore water security, hydrodiplomacy, international water law, climate and environmental pressures, multilateral cooperation, basin governance, the WEF E Nexus and environmental peacebuilding.

## **SKILLS**

Develop the ability to assess water-related security risks, identify stakeholders, apply hydrodiplomatic and WEF E Nexus approaches, use negotiation and mediation techniques, and formulate policy recommendations.

## **COMPETENCES**

Strengthen the ability to integrate water security into climate, environmental and security policy; support transboundary water governance; contribute to conflict prevention and peacebuilding; and engage effectively with governmental, regional and international stakeholders.



# A HIGH-LEVEL EURO-MEDITERRANEAN DIALOGUE

The course brings together perspectives from Europe, the Mediterranean, the Middle East and beyond, creating a space where diplomatic, scientific, academic and policy communities can meet around a shared challenge.

With contributions from senior government officials, diplomats, international organizations, researchers, technical experts and civil society, the programme encourages dialogue across professional and institutional boundaries.

The goal is not simply to understand water challenges, but to explore how cooperation around water can contribute to a more resilient, secure and peaceful future.



# Organizers & Partners



**President  
Stavros Malas**

The Cyprus Institute (Cyl)



**Colonel Symeon Zambas**

ESDC-Cyprus Security  
& Defence Academy



**Prof. Costas N. Papanicolas**

The Cyprus Institute (Cyl) | Cyprus Academy  
of Sciences, Letters & Arts - Founding  
Member | Director, Climate Crisis &  
Sustainable Development Research Unit -  
Founding & President Emeritus



**President  
Elias L. Warrak**

University of Balamand



**Dr. Chrysanthia Leontiou**

Manager of the Graduate School,  
Head of the Office of Graduate  
Studies at The Cyprus Institute



**Prof. Fadi Comair**

Course Director | The Cyprus Institute |  
University of Balamand | The Climate  
Diplomacy & Sustainable Peace Hub |  
Vice-President IME

# Speakers & Participants



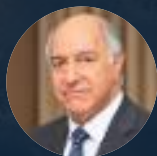
**Senator Olivier Cadic**

Vice-President of the Foreign Affairs,  
Defense & Armed Forces Committee,  
French Senate



**H.E Shaddad Attili**

Former Minister of Water  
Resources, Palestine



**H.E Hassan Janabi**

Former Minister of Water  
Resources, Republic of Iraq



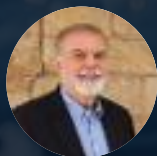
**Prof. Isam Shahrour**

Emeritus Professor at Lille University;  
President of the Smart Council - France



**H.E Mohamed Abdul Ati**

Former Minister of Water  
Resources, Arab Republic of Egypt



**Prof. Michael J. Scoulllos**

Chair, GWP-Med

# Speakers & Participants



**Gerard Payen**

Member of the Academy at  
French Academy of Technology  
Greater Paris Metropolitan Region Online



**Prof. Philippe Guettier**

President, SDG Champions  
France - Online



**President Alain Meyssonier**

President of L'Institut  
Méditerranéen de L'Eau (IME)



**Ms. Monika Psenner**

Head of Capacity Development,  
Senior Project Manager  
Austrian Centre for Peace (ACP)



**Dr. Georges Fadi Comair**

World Bank - Online



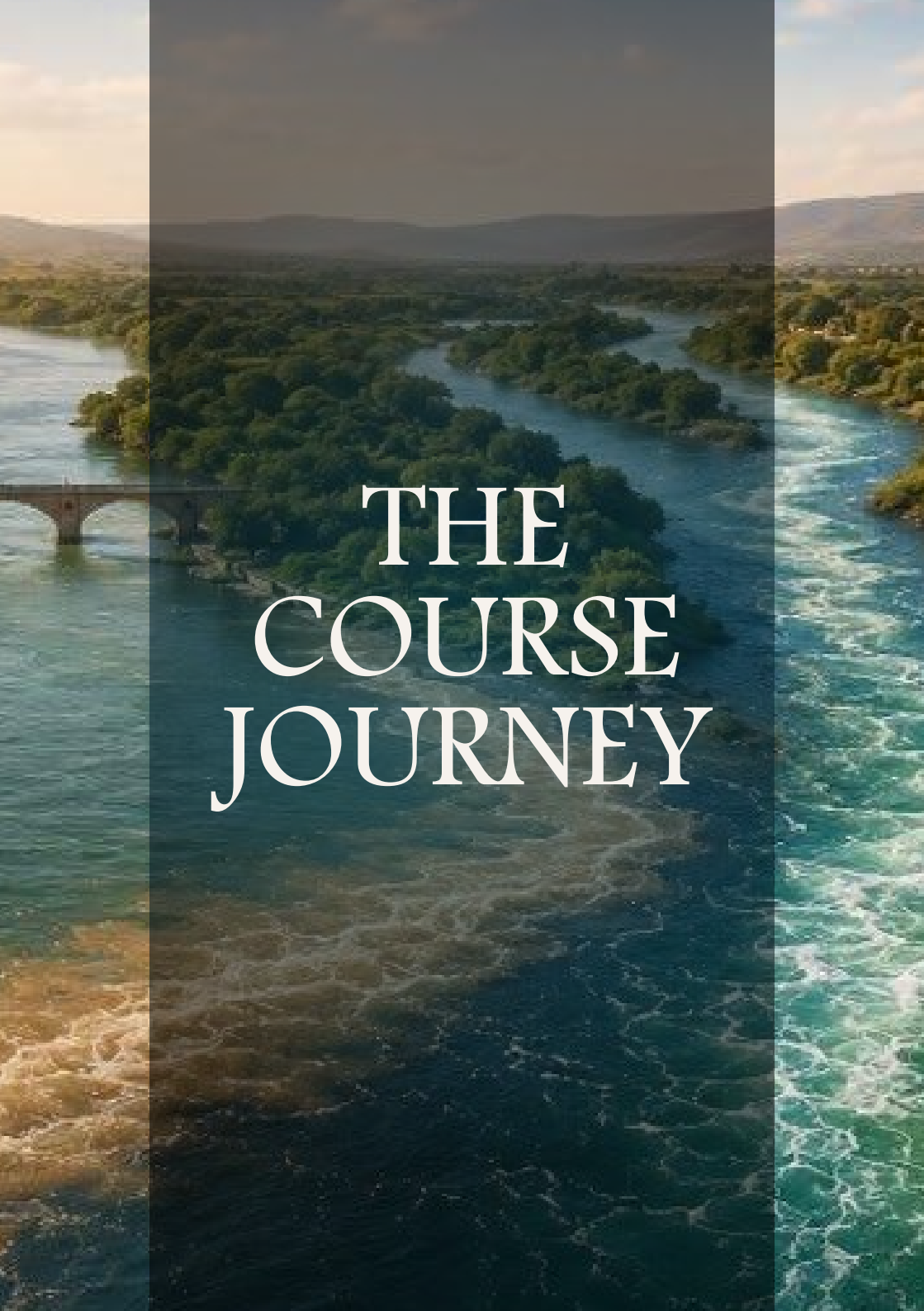
**Ms. Florence Daumas**

Déléguée générale (Executive Director)  
of the Cercle Français de l'Eau



**Gonzalo E. Espinoza-Dávalos**

Director, Environmental Systems  
Research Institute (ESRI) - Online

An aerial photograph of a river system. The river flows from the top left towards the bottom right. In the upper left, a stone bridge with multiple arches spans the river. The river is surrounded by dense green forest. In the lower right, the river narrows and becomes turbulent, forming rapids with white water. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.

# THE COURSE JOURNEY

# DAY 1

## **Foundations of Water Diplomacy & International Water Governance From Water Conflicts to Sustainable Peace**

Explore the conceptual, legal, scientific and geopolitical foundations of hydrodiplomacy, including international water law, science diplomacy, water security, climate change and transboundary governance. Examine international case studies including the Orontes, Jordan, Nile, Tigris–Euphrates, Aral Sea and Dead Sea, and discover how innovation, the New Water Mass concept and the WEF Nexus can support cooperation.

Key themes: Hydrodiplomacy · International Water Law · Science Diplomacy · Water Security · Climate Change · Transboundary Governance · WEF Nexus · Benefit-Sharing · Regional Cooperation



# DAY 2

## **The Nile, GERD & Tigris - Euphrates Diplomacy Negotiating Shared Futures**

Examine the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) and the Blue Nile through their technical, legal and geopolitical dimensions, with a focus on downstream water security and regional cooperation. Explore transboundary negotiations and lessons from the GERD discussions, before turning to the Tigris–Euphrates Basin and the role of dialogue, trust-building and cooperative governance.

Key themes: GERD & Blue Nile · Negotiation · Political Processes · Transboundary Governance · Tigris–Euphrates Basin · Water Security · Climate Resilience · Trust-Building · Regional Peace





## DAY 3

### **Basin Governance, the Jordan River & the WEFE Nexus Institutions, Cooperation & Regional Resilience**

Focus on the institutions and governance mechanisms that support transboundary cooperation, including regional basin agencies and river basin organizations. Explore the Upper and Lower Jordan Basin and examine how hydrodiplomacy can contribute to climate resilience, environmental sustainability, trust-building and regional peace. The day concludes with the WEFE Nexus and its role in understanding sustainable resource governance.

Key themes: Basin Governance · Regional Institutions · Jordan River Basin · Climate Resilience · Water Security · Environmental Sustainability · WEFE Nexus · Integrated Governance



## DAY 4

### **Environmental Peace, Technology & Negotiation From Knowledge to Action**

Explore sustainable development, environmental peacebuilding and the role of technology in hydrodiplomacy. Sessions address SDGs, Artificial Intelligence, GIS, remote sensing, data-sharing and digital tools. A Negotiation Simulation Workshop and Policy Lab will allow participants to apply hydrodiplomatic approaches to negotiation, cooperation and policy development, followed by group presentations, a cultural visit and an official hosted dinner.

Key themes: Environmental Peace · SDGs · Technology · AI · GIS · Data Diplomacy · Negotiation · Mediation · Policy Design · Basin Governance

# DAY 5

## **Strategic Dialogue & The Way Forward Building a Shared Future**

Bring together the perspectives and insights developed throughout the course through a keynote address and expert panel. Reflect on water security, climate resilience, diplomacy, regional cooperation, environmental peace and sustainable governance, and translate the discussions into strategic conclusions and policy recommendations. The course concludes with an official Certificate Ceremony and Closing.

Key themes: Strategic Dialogue · Policy Recommendations · Climate Security · Water Diplomacy · Regional Cooperation · Peacebuilding · Future Partnerships



# Contact & Registration

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