

Press Release

December 1st, 2025 - Marseille, France



Plan Bleu publishes an innovative report: Sustainable Desalination in the Mediterranean

[Plan Bleu](#) is pleased to announce the publication of its latest edited volume:

“Towards Sustainable Desalination in the Mediterranean: Integrating Environmental, Economic and Social Perspectives.”

In the face of major challenges related to **water scarcity in the Mediterranean basin**, Plan Bleu presents a groundbreaking report bringing together **ten scientific studies** conducted by **fifteen Mediterranean researchers**. This publication offers an in-depth analysis and concrete recommendations for **the sustainable development of the desalination sector in the region**.

A crucial issue for the Mediterranean

With a **44% increase** in its **population since 1990** and a **projected 15–35% decrease** in **renewable water resources by the end of the century**, the Mediterranean basin faces a worrying hydrological paradox: **a significant rise in water demand while the resource itself is under threat** (both in quantity and quality). For many countries in the region, desalination (though controversial), has become an **essential adaptation solution** to address this imbalance.



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An innovative and multidisciplinary approach

This fourth Plan Bleu report on desalination stands out for its positive and constructive vision. Organized into four thematic sections, it addresses:

- **Global challenges** and the contribution of desalination to the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 6;
- **Economic aspects**, including financial viability and potential synergies with agriculture;
- **Regulatory frameworks**, with a specific focus on Algeria and the integration of desalination into territorial planning;
- **Integrated approaches**, notably applying the innovative "One Health" concept to the desalination sector.

Beyond the scientific methodologies developed in the studies, the report proposes concrete solutions: energy coupling, integration into territorial development plans, circular economy models, and the development of composite indicators supporting social equity, tailored to the sector.

This report constitutes a strategic and operational tool to support decision-making processes in favor of a more sustainable future for desalination, the authors emphasize. It fully aligns with the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) and the Barcelona Convention.

Click [here](#) to access the press release visual.

About Plan Bleu

[Plan Bleu](#) for the Protection of the Environment and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean is the only Regional Activity Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) based in France, in Marseille. Since 1977, we have contributed to the implementation of the Barcelona Convention for the protection of the marine and coastal environment of the Mediterranean

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