

Acqúa - Summer School on Environmental Conflict Mediation

Acqua (*water*) - The etymology of the Italian word (from Latin *aqua*) is linked to the Indo-European root *ak-* = to fold. So: water as a substance that bends and infiltrates, taking the shape of what contains it.

Cùa, Acùa - In the Sardinian language: what is hidden, secret.

WHAT?

The Desertification Research Center of the University of Sassari (NRD-UNISS) is organizing a **Summer School on Environmental Conflict Mediation**, within the framework of WP4 “Innovative Governance” of the [Sustain-COAST](#) project.

Acqúa School aims to:

1. explore and promote environmental conflict mediation technique
2. inform participants about the effectiveness and validity of mediation in environmental disputes
3. train participants on the specificity of the environmental conflict and on the particular modalities that distinguish this type of conciliation path from those usually used in the civil and commercial field.

Acqúa School will be focused on **water-related conflicts**, with case studies from the **Mediterranean** Region.

WHY?

Environmental conflicts present particular characteristics that distinguish them from other types of social conflicts, such as their high level of **complexity** and the **plurality of actors** involved (citizens, economic actors, institutions). These aspects require **adequate modes of resolution** that differ from those generally adopted for other conflicts. However, the use of environmental conflict mediation in Europe and in the Mediterranean Region is still limited.

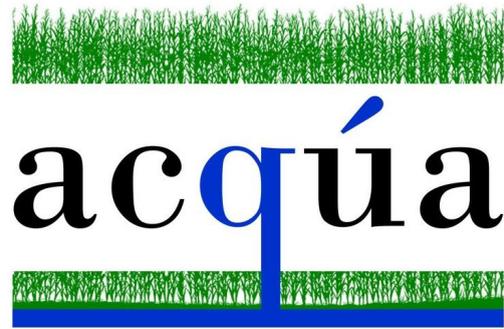
Within Sustain-COAST the use of environmental conflict **mediation** will be promoted, with a view to promoting **innovative governance** processes based on transparency, dialogue and participation. Indeed, environmental mediation procedures require widespread and constant information on the technical and legal aspects of the conflict; this is ensured through seminars, social meetings and debates that promote transparency and foster social awareness paths. In particular, the application of environmental mediation can have the following **benefits**:

- reducing time compared to judicial and administrative procedures;
- reducing costs compared to judicial and administrative procedures;
- improving the effectiveness and duration of the agreements;
- increasing the flexibility and adaptability of the agreements, as they can be reviewed and adapted to new environmental conditions, needs and changed social conditions;
- promoting social cohesion and learning experiences, as well as enhancing community values by implementing new forms of sharing and discussions among actors in relation to the management of common resources like water.

WHO?

Participants from the 6 European and Mediterranean Partner countries (Greece, Italy, Tunisia, Turkey, France and Germany) will be involved. Moreover, Acqúa School is open to practitioners and researchers from different backgrounds who are interested in exploring their role in the prevention and management of environmental conflicts.





HOW?

The school is designed as a facilitated multicultural social learning space, with a high level of interaction between teachers, facilitators and participants. Participants will make concrete experiences of interaction with stakeholders and learn about the nature of the complex issues related to the governance of coastal aquifers under Med conditions. The learning sessions are aimed to appreciate the complexity, interdependencies, uncertainties and controversies of water governance across a wide range of situations in the Med. Teachers and participants include experts in environmental conflict mediation, scientists in the domains of hydrology, agronomy, social sciences.

WHEN?

The school will take place from **27-30 June 2022**.

WHERE?

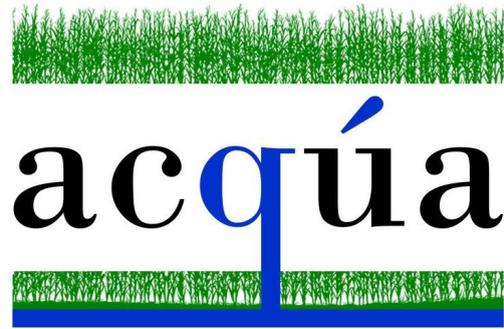
Acqúa School will be organized in **Oristano**, Sardinia, which is 20km from Arborea, one of the four case studies of the Sustain-COAST project. This is the first time that a school on conflict mediation, with a specific focus on environmental conflicts, is organized in the Region.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE:

If you are interested in participating, send your CV to carlo.aymerich@consorziouno.it and sustaincoast@uniss.it **by Sunday 19th of June 2022**. Participants will receive further information upon acceptance.

The **registration fee** is **€250,00** (euro 250//00).





AGENDA:

27 June Monday
OPENING SPEECH AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS
STUDY TOUR IN ARBOREA
28 June Tuesday
<p>INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICT MEDIATION Non-judicial resolution of environmental conflicts. The system of mediation from a national and international perspective: a focus on Greece, Turkey, Italy and Tunisia. The system of mediation applied to environmental conflicts: procedures, tools and strategies. Communication of environmental conflicts.</p>
<p>SIMULATION OF CONFLICT MEDIATION [1] Nitrate vulnerable zones: interdependencies and controversies An overview of the case study: Arborea (Italy). Simulation of a mediation procedure. Assessment of the simulation and final considerations.</p>
29 June Wednesday
<p>SIMULATION OF CONFLICT MEDIATION [2] Competing for water: overconsumption and the environment An overview of the case study: Malia (Greece). Simulation of a mediation procedure. Assessment of the simulation and final considerations.</p>
<p>SIMULATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICT MEDIATION [3] Water for the lemons of Erdemli: a case of water governance among smallholders An overview of the case study: Erdemli (Turkey). Simulation of a mediation procedure. Assessment of the simulation and final considerations.</p>
30 June Thursday
<p>SIMULATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICT MEDIATION [4] Wastewater treatment and discharge in Tunisia An overview of the case study: Wadi El Bey (Tunisia). Simulation of a mediation procedure. Assessment of the simulation and final considerations.</p>

