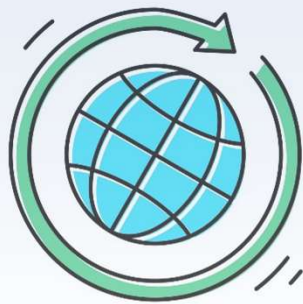




Wastewater  
treatment



Circular  
Economy



Environment



Water

**Program and practical information**

**Erasmus Mundus Design Measures  
Project “Sustainable Water  
Engineering and Management”**

**Kick off meeting**

**Feb 5-6, 2026  
Palermo, Italy**



**Università  
degli Studi  
di Palermo**



European  
Commission

Erasmus+

**WATER4FUTURE**

# Welcome to Palermo

Dear Participant,

Welcome to the Kick-Off Meeting of the Water4Future project, to be held in Palermo, Italy, on 5–6 February 2026. This event marks the official start of the Erasmus Mundus Design Measure (EMDM) initiative aimed at creating an innovative Joint Master in Sustainable Water Engineering and Management, jointly delivered by leading European universities.

The Kick-Off Meeting will provide an opportunity to:

- Share the vision and mission of the Water4Future project.
- Consolidate the academic architecture and mobility scheme for the Joint Master.
- Engage with stakeholders to ensure alignment with labour market needs and advanced research priorities.
- Launch the Water Universities Alliance, a strategic platform for long-term collaboration in water education and innovation.

The Kick-Off Meeting will serve as a platform for an open and constructive dialogue among project partners and stakeholders. We will explore the skills and competence gaps currently observed in the water sector, aiming to identify which capabilities are most in demand today and which will become critical in the near future. This analysis will help shape a curriculum that responds effectively to labour market needs and emerging research priorities. Another important theme will be the practical opportunities that can be offered to students and how they can be integrated into the academic structure to maximize learning outcomes.

One of the primary goals is to achieve a consolidated design of the study programme, including a clear academic architecture, mobility pathways and a robust quality assurance model. This will form the foundation for the subsequent implementation phase of the Joint Master. Equally important is the collection of concrete inputs from stakeholders, which will help define the collaboration frameworks with industry and public institutions. Beyond academic design, the meeting will also strengthen strategic partnerships through the Water Universities Alliance, a collaborative platform that will extend well beyond the project's lifetime. This alliance aims to integrate education, research, and innovation across European universities, creating a sustainable network that supports long-term cooperation.

Welcome to Palermo!

Giorgio Mannina



# Program – Thursday 05 Feb 2026

Day 1 - Consortium Welcome, Icebreaker and Stakeholder's engagement

Venue: Sala Magna del Complesso Monumentale dello Steri, Piazza Marina, 60, Palermo

Social dinner venue: Citysea restaurant, Via Filippo Patti, 30, Palermo

14:00 - 14:30	Registration and welcome
14:30 – 14:45	<p><b>Opening remarks and Institutional greetings</b></p> <p>prof. Massimo Midiri - Rector of the University of Palermo</p> <p>prof. Livan Fratini - Engineering Department Head, University of Palermo</p> <p>prof. Vincenzo Naddeo - Coordinator of Water4Future</p> <p>prof. Giorgio Mannina - UNIPA's PI Water4Future, University of Palermo</p>
14:45 – 15:00	<p style="text-align: right;">Moderator: Prof. Giorgio Mannina</p> <p><b>Presentation of the Project mission, vision and scope</b></p> <p>prof. Vincenzo Naddeo - Coordinator of Water4Future</p>
15:00 – 16:00	<p style="text-align: right;">Moderator: Prof. Giorgio Mannina</p> <p><b>International cooperation actions by Institutional Chairs</b></p> <p>prof. Javier Lafuente – Rector of the Autonomous University of Barcelona - TBC</p> <p>prof. Petra De Sutter – Rector of Ghent University – TBC</p> <p>prof. Krzysztof Wilde – Rector of Gdansk University of Technology – TBC</p> <p>prof. Virgilio D'Antonio – Rector of the University of Salerno - TBC</p> <p>prof. Massimo Midiri – Rector of the University of Palermo</p> <p>prof. Angel Medina Vaya – Vice Chancellor of Cranfield University - TBC</p>
16:30 – 16:30	Signature Ceremony of MoU for the establishment of the Water Universities Alliance
16:30 – 17:00	Coffee break
17:00 – 18:00	<p style="text-align: right;">Moderator: Vincenzo Naddeo</p> <p><b>Education and research in water science and technology   Institutional cooperation policies roundtable</b></p>
18:00 – 18:30	<b>Closing and Remarks</b>
20:00 - 23:00	<b>Social dinner</b>

# Program – Friday 06 Feb 2026

## Day 2 - Programme, institutional roles and operational set-up

Morning venue: Engineering Department, Building 7, University of Palermo, Viale delle Scienze, Palermo

Afternoon venue: Meeting room, Building 8, University of Palermo, Viale delle Scienze, Palermo

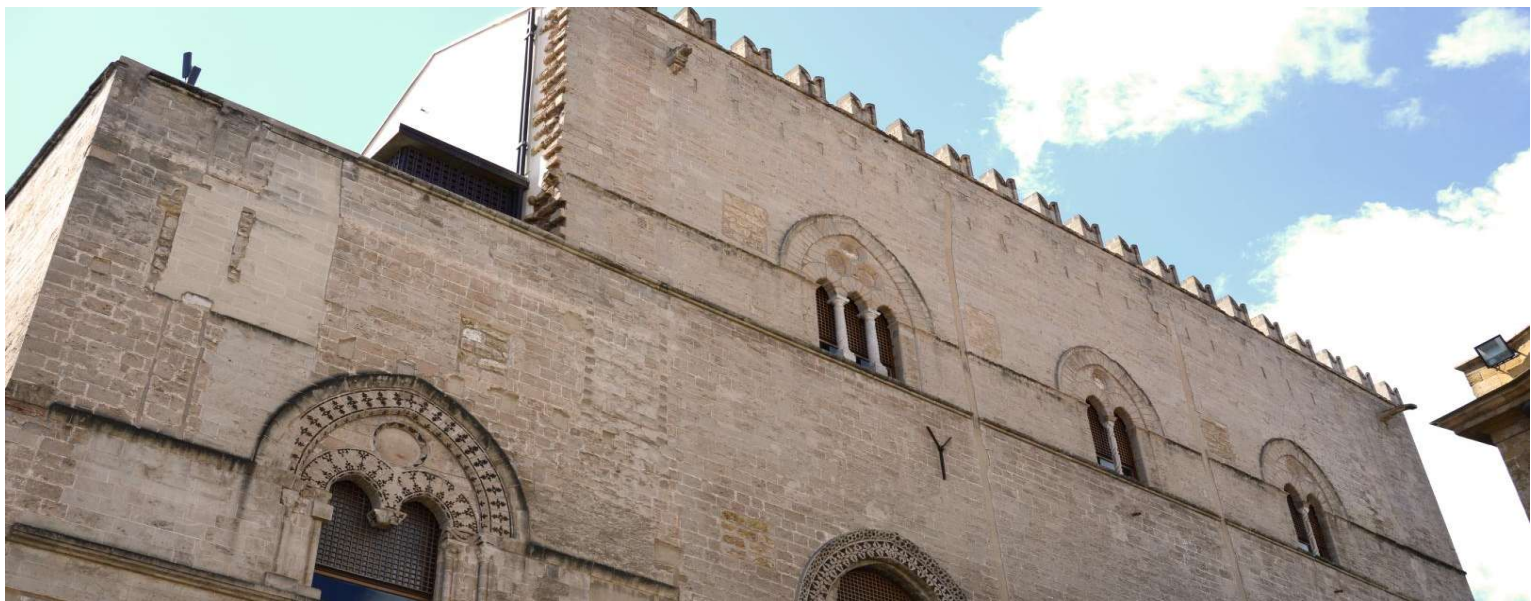
09:00 – 09:30	<b>Institutional welcome and presentation of the Engineering Department</b> prof. Livan Fratini - Engineering Department Head, University of Palermo prof. Rosanna Di Lorenzo – Delegate of Department Head for didactic prof. Clelia Dispenza - Delegate of Department Head for research
09:30 – 10:30	<b>Visit to the department laboratories</b>
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 13:00	<b>Workshop   Design of plan of study and syllabus</b> prof. Maria Eugenia Suarez Ojeda - UAB's PI Water4Future prof. Eveline Volcke - Ghent University's PI Water4Future prof. Jacek Makinia - Gdansk University's PI Water4Future prof. Vincenzo Naddeo - UNISA's PI Water4Future prof. Giorgio Mannina - UNIPA's PI Water4Future prof. Imma Bortone - Cranfield University's PI Water4Future
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:30	<b>W4F   Working Group sessions focused on:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Student services and mobility support</li><li>• Joint academic pathways, mobility tracks and quality assurance model</li><li>• Teaching and training activities</li><li>• Financial framework and internal allocation principles</li><li>• Stakeholder liaison strategy</li></ul>
16:30 – 17:00	<b>Next meetings planning and closing remarks</b>

# Venue

5 February 2026

The meeting will be held at:  
Sala Magna  
Complesso Monumentale dello Steri  
Piazza Marina, 61 - Palermo

<https://goo.gl/maps/ycfcH3Rb43LuSiCX8>

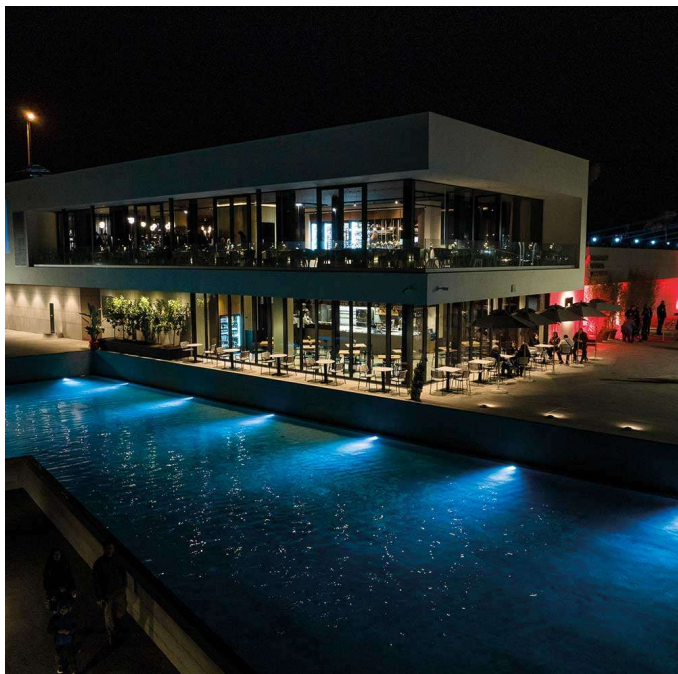
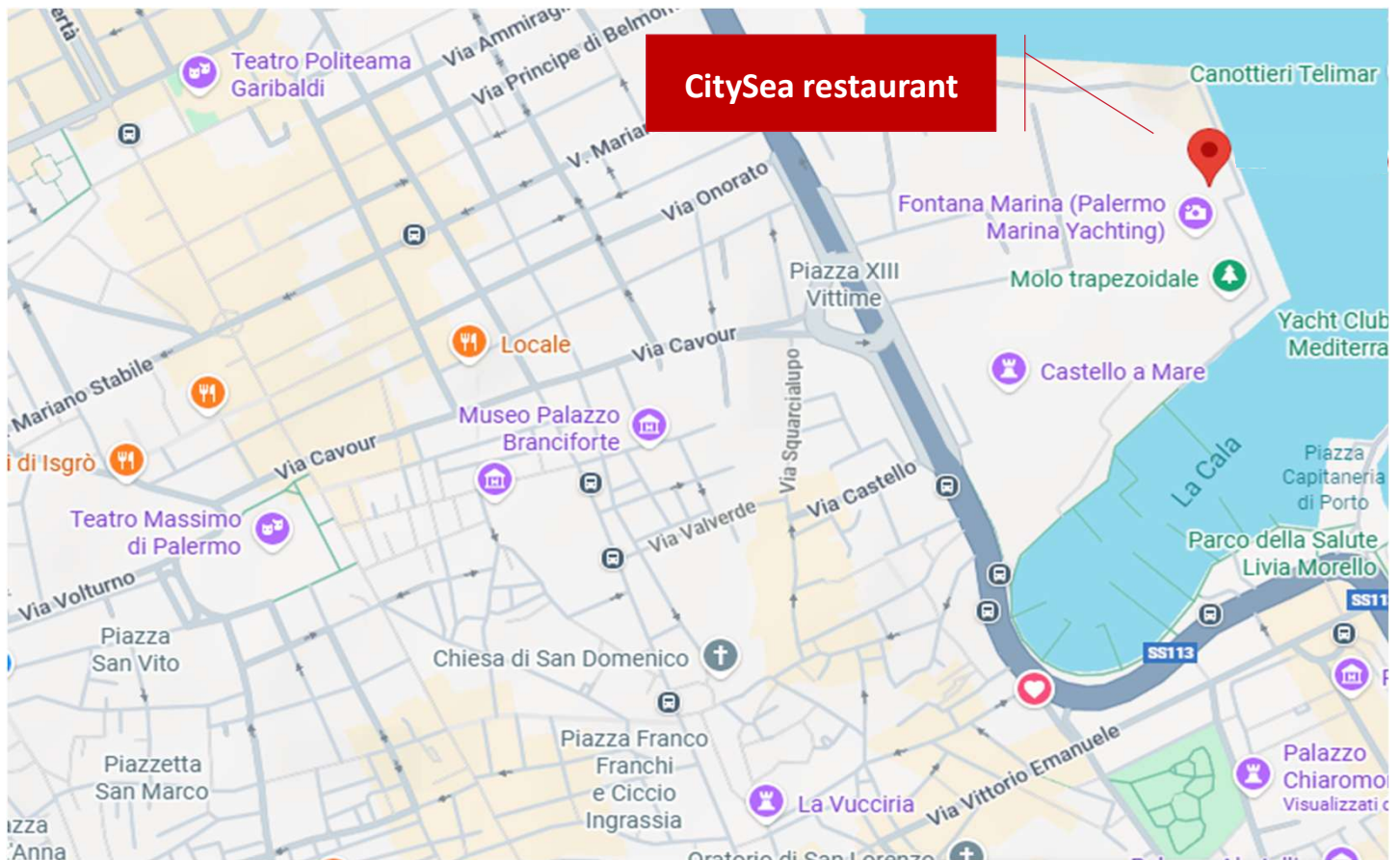


# Venue – social dinner

5 February 2026

The social dinner will be held at:  
CitySea restaurant  
Via Filippo Patti, 30  
Palermo

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/vEEw3L5t5Cn8yMSx5>



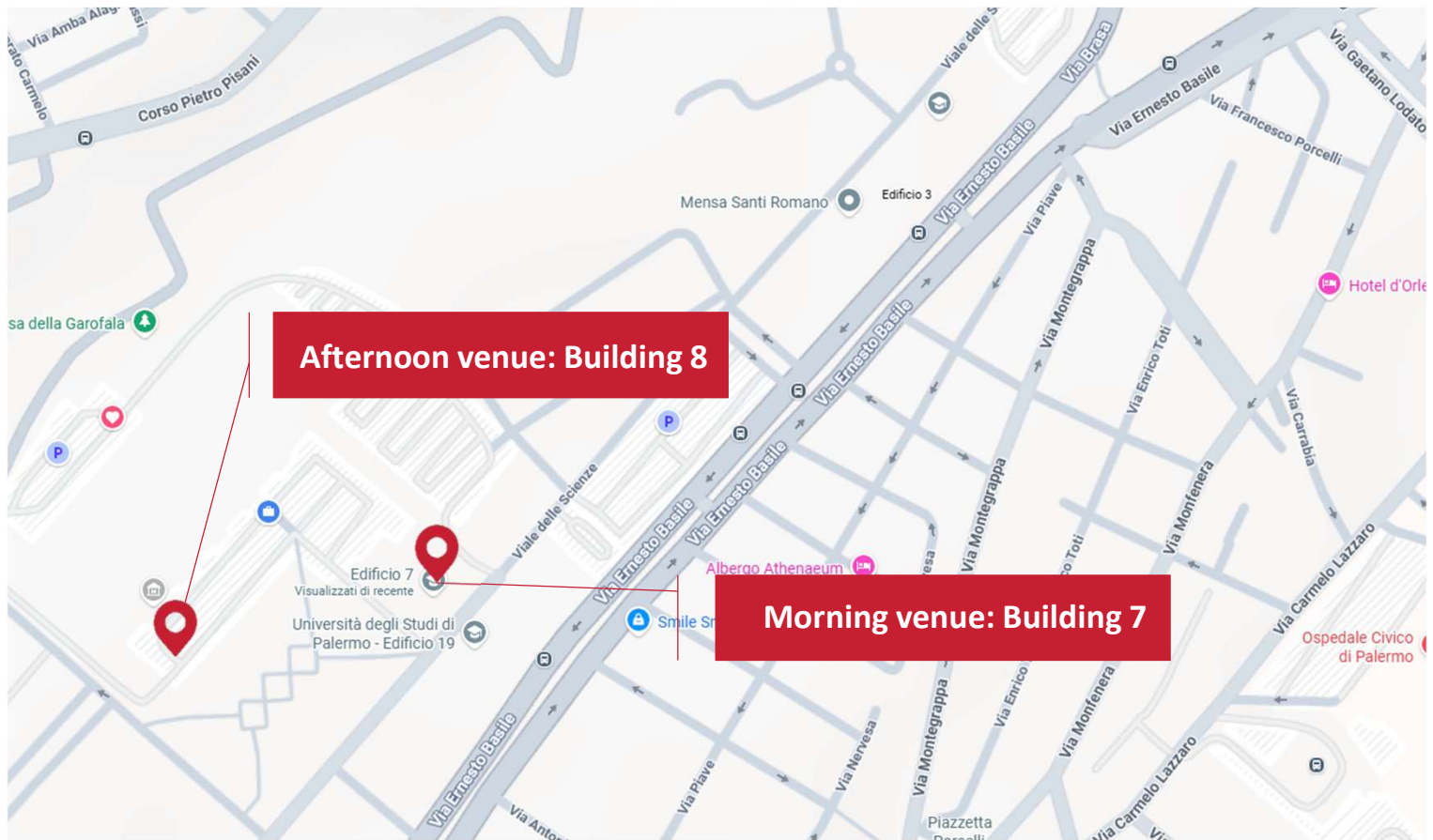
# Venue

6 February 2026

The meeting will be held at:  
Buildings 7 and 8  
Viale delle Scienze  
Palermo

Building 7: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/GYR4Gs2GFzZnz6We8>

Building 8: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/gYQDf5QWb9h7ArgD8>



# How to get to Palermo's city center

## By car:

Palermo airport is connected to the city center by the A29 highway (about 35 km, i.e. 40–45 min driving).

## By train:

Take the train from the Airport station, direction «Palermo Centrale». The stop «Palermo Centrale» is the train central station and is close to «Complesso Monumentale dello Steri» (15 minutes by walking). The stop «Palazzo Reale-Orleans» is connected to the Campus through «Viale delle Scienze» (8 minutes by walking).

**Time required: 40-50 minutes (Palermo Airport – Palazzo Reale Orleans), 50-60 minutes (Palermo Airport – Palermo Centrale).**

**Ticket cost: 6.80 €**

**Buy Ticket at the shop within the Central Station or in the Trenitalia app**

**iOS: <https://apps.apple.com/it/app/trenitalia/id331050847>**

**Android:**

**[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.lynxspa.prontotreno&pcampaignid=web\\_share](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.lynxspa.prontotreno&pcampaignid=web_share)**

## By bus:

From Palermo train central station to the airport and viceversa:

Company: Autolinee Prestia e Comandè.

Ticket costs € 6.00 (you can purchase also on board or via website)

Website: <http://www.prestiaecomande.it/?idPlugin=20959&tp://www.prestiaecomande.it/>

Buses every 30 min.

TimeTable:

<https://www.prestiaecomande.it/orari-e-linee/>

Trip duration 45–60 min.



## By taxi:

Several companies offer the taxi service:

✓ <http://www.autoradiotaxi.it/>

✓ <http://www.radiotaxitrinacria.it/>

# Hotel

## Eurostars Centrale Palace

**Address:** Via Vittorio Emanuele, 327, Palermo

### Contact

phone: +39 091 336666

Website: [www.eurostarshotels.it/eurostars-centrale-palace.html](http://www.eurostarshotels.it/eurostars-centrale-palace.html)

E-mail: [sales@eurostarscentralepalace.com](mailto:sales@eurostarscentralepalace.com)



# How to enjoy Palermo

## MUSEUM

### Gallery of Modern Art Sant'Anna or GAM

Address: Via Sant'Anna, 21b - Palermo

Opening Hours: from Tuesday to Sunday, 9.30 - 18.30

Closed on Monday, even in case of legal holiday. The ticket office closes one hour before closing time.

Ticket Price € 7

[www.gampalermo.it](http://www.gampalermo.it)



### Palazzo Abatellis, or Palazzo Patella

Address: Via Alloro, 4 - Palermo

Opening hours: from Tuesday to Friday, 9.00 -18.30 -

Saturday and Sunday 09.00-13.00 Closed on Monday

Ticket Price 8 €

<http://www.regione.sicilia.it/beniculturali/palazzoabatellis/home.htm>



### Palazzo RISO Museum of Contemporary Art in Sicily

Address: Corso Vittorio Emanuele, 365 - Palermo

Opening hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Sunday 10.00 - 20.00, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 10.00 - 24.00, Closed on Monday

The ticket office closes half an hour before closing time of the Museum

Ticket Price 6 €

[www.palazzoriso.it](http://www.palazzoriso.it)



### Palazzo Mirto

Address: Via Merlo, 2 - Palermo

Opening hours: from Tuesday to Saturday

9.00 - 18.00, Sunday 9.00-13.00, Closed on Monday

Ticket Price: € 4

<http://www.regione.sicilia.it/beniculturali/palazzomirto>



### Cathedral Treasury

Address: Corso Vittorio Emanuele, piano della Cattedrale – Palermo

Opening hours: from Monday to Saturday: 9.00 - 17.30

Ticket price for: Treasure, Crypt, Royal tombs: € 2,50;

Inclusive ticket (Treasure, Crypt, Royal tombs and diocesan museum): € 5

[www.cattedrale.palermo.it](http://www.cattedrale.palermo.it)



# How to enjoy Palermo

## NIGHTLIFE IN PALERMO

Thanks to the development of the historical centre, the areas where you can enjoy nightlife in Palermo are going more and more to increase. Nowadays downtown is the focal point for nightlife for people from Palermo. The city area offers a huge list of places, able to fulfil any kind of needs and satisfy different tastes. Between the most popular areas, we would suggest: Via Bara all'Olivella and Via dell'Orologio: close to the "Teatro Massimo", you can find a large half pedestrian area. People of all ages and from all social categories visit this popular area. Walking along the two streets you will run into many nightspots like pubs, lounge bars, disco-pubs, coffee shops, restaurants and pizzeria and you will join to Piazza Olivella, another place full of typical bars.

## Recommended places where to have dinner downtown Palermo

### Tribeca

Address: Via Mariano Stabile, 134, 90139 Palermo – Tel 091 332963 (Japanese cuisine but not only – great place for happy hours) Openings: from Monday to Saturday: 07.00 pm – 02.00 am, Closed on Sunday

### Al Viale

Address: Via Archimede 189 – 90139 Palermo - Tel 091 6090133 (Italian food) Openings: from Monday to Sunday: 07.00 pm – 11.30 pm

### Mericano Burger

Address: Via Simone Corleo, 2 – 90139 Palermo – Tel 091 7434710 (Hamburger) Openings: from Tuesday to Sunday: 07.00 pm – 12.00 pm, Closed on Monday

### Trattoria Biondo

Address: Via Giosuè Carducci, 15 – 90141 Palermo – Tel 091 583662 (Typical Sicilian food) Openings: from Tuesday to Sunday: 07.00 pm– 11.30 pm, Closed on Monday

### Le Volte

Address: Via Agrigento, 12 - 90141 Palermo – Tel 091 6259999 (Pizza – typical local food – fish) Openings: from Tuesday to Sunday 07.00 pm– 11.30 pm, Closed on Monday

### I Comparucci

Address: Via Messina, 36 – 90141 Palermo – Tel 091 609 0467 (Pizzeria) Openings from Monday to Sunday: 07.30 pm – 11.00 pm



# Other information

## Weather

Weather in May is usually warm and sunny (24°C). Check personally the [weather situation and forecast](#).

## AC Voltage and Plugs

AC power is 220 Volts, 50Hz. Plugs have three round pins in-line (the central is ground and may be missing sometimes). Schuko (German-style) plugs are also used but somewhat less popular.

Most of the power sockets at the conference will be able to accommodate Italian and Schuko plugs. Adapters for UK and US power plugs are available in several electrical supply stores.

## Currency, Language

The local currency is the Euro (the symbol is € 1 Euro ≈ 1.12 US Dollars, but the rate fluctuates between 1.0 and 1.3). It comes in coins (1-2-5-10-20-50 cents, 1-2 Euros) and notes (5-10-20-50 and, less common, 100-200-500). More info on the notes at the European Central Bank.

The local language is of course Italian.

## Emergency numbers

**112:** general emergency number

**113:** Polizia (police, general emergency)

**118:** Pronto soccorso (Emergency medical service)

**115:** Vigili del fuoco (fire brigade)

## Banks, Credit Cards and ATM

Banks are typically open 8.30-13.00 and 15-16.30. Most of them also have ATM machines ("bancomat"), which are open 24/7 and take most credit cards.

## Tipping

Being a major deviation from the custom in the US, we would like to point out that tipping is not required nor expected in Italy: the bill ("conto") always includes service. So, in particular in bars, restaurants, taxis, etc., it is perfectly fine to pay exactly the amount on the bill.

## Shopping

Shops are generally open Monday to Saturday, 9.00-13.00 and 16.00-20.00. Some stores are closed on Monday morning. Others (usually electricity, hardware etc.) are closed on Saturday afternoon. Supermarkets and department stores usually are open 8.00-20.00 (excluding Sunday).



# WATER4FUTURE

**UAB**  
Universitat Autònoma  
de Barcelona

  
**UNIVERSITEIT  
GENT**

  
**GDAŃSK UNIVERSITY  
OF TECHNOLOGY**



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