

## Main findings from the discussion at the workshop "Water in Tourism" held on 24 June 2024 in Malaga, Spain

### **What to consider when talking about water consumption in tourism?**

#### General

- Addressing water scarcity requires not only effective water management but also a reduction in water consumption

#### Education and Awareness

- Increase education and awareness about water use for both residents and tourists.
- Conduct continuous awareness campaigns, not just seasonal campaigns.

#### Control of Consumption and Planning for Sustainability

- Pricing to control consumption; Consider that basic needs need to be affordable
- Use technologies (e.g., Artificial Intelligence) for prediction of water consumption
- Implement consumption control measures in vacation rental properties.
- Sustainability implies setting limits on consumption. There is a need for long-term strategic planning.karsten

#### Infrastructure and Loss Control

- Improve and build adequate infrastructure for controlling water losses and transfers.
- Implement more precise and sufficient measurements of water consumption.

#### Regional Differences and Specific Consumers

- Consider variations in consumption between different regions at destination level, e.g., the Western and Eastern Costa del Sol and the inland areas.
- Consider specific water consumers at destination level., e.g., water consumption of cruise ships when in the harbour

#### Reuse and Adaptation Measures

- Encourage reuse of water; Greywater is a guaranteed resource that is always available.
- Promote the choice of crops and plant species that require little water for drought-tolerant gardening and agriculture.

### **How and why are we measuring water consumption? What can we improve?**

#### General

- Measuring water consumption on accommodation-level is rather straight forward (e.g., by using water meters) whereas at destination level this can be more challenging
- Water demand is increasing while resources are decreasing; this may generate future conflicts between tourists and residents due to potential restrictions.

#### Technologies and Transparency

- Apply advanced technologies including smart meters and alert systems for leak detection.
- Improve access to and transparency of data and information related to water consumption.

#### Measurement and Control Measures

- Implement continuous control of consumption and leaks without interrupting the tourism sector.

- Bonuses: Offer bonuses for good water consumption practices.

#### Reuse of Water and Circular Economy

- Encourage the reuse of water in tourist facilities.
- Encourage the reuse of treated greywater and wastewater for toilet flushing and other uses that do not require drinking water quality.
- Decentralize sources and apply circular economy principles to the management of greywater.

#### Policies and Regulations

- Building Regulations: Modify building regulations to require grey water recycling.
- Water Footprint Calculation: Make water footprint calculation mandatory and implement responsible water pricing and planning policies.
- Penalties and Incentives: Provide bonuses for sustainability and efficiency in water consumption.

### **What are the effective ways to reduce and/or optimize water consumption?**

#### Private Sector

- Increase awareness that water is a scarce resource.
- Implement water certification for tourist establishments.
- Improve water measurement in hotels and tourist establishments.
- Promote the reuse of treated greywater for non-potable use.
- Control water use in cleaning mega yachts in harbours.
- Incentives:
  - Certifications for hotels that implement water saving measures
  - Incentives for guests, e.g., basic room rate + rest depending on use (water and energy)
  - Gamify (compare usage with what's needed for activities like growing a tree)

#### Public Sector

- Improve communication and awareness raising with citizens and tourists about water-saving measures.
- Improve water network infrastructure and use smart metering & leakage detection.
- Develop and implement a regional water emergency plan.
- Improve control and management of aquifers.

#### For both, i.e., Public and Private Sector

- Control consumption and leaks, with immediate monitoring and response.
- Ensure transparency of data and information to raise citizen awareness about the importance of economizing water.
- Fund studies and research on water consumption and its value.
- Pursue and penalize illegal water extractions and promote the reuse of reclaimed water for various non-potable uses.