



The Interreg MED Programme – The Energy & Water Agency's experience

National information seminar for project proposals under the Interreg Euro-MED programme

5th July 2022



EWA's Interreg MED Projects



- CONSUME-LESS
 - Priority axis 3
 - EWA Lead Partner
 - Interreg MED 2014-2020



- ConsumeLessPlus
 - Priority axis 3
 - EWA Lead Partner
 - Interreg MED 2014-2020

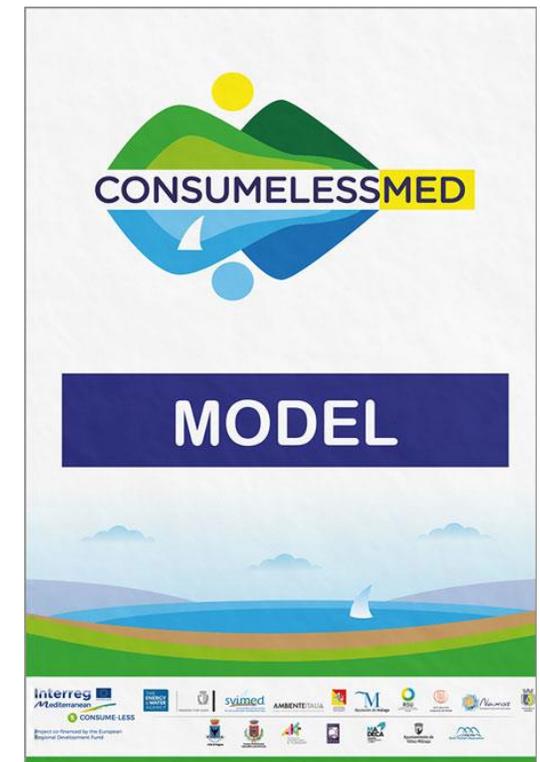


- INCIRCLE
 - Priority axis 3
 - EWA Project partner
 - Interreg MED 2014-2020

CONSUME-LESS



- Title: Consume Less in Mediterranean Touristic Communities
- Aim: To minimize the use of resources (water and energy) and waste production in the Mediterranean tourist coastal cities
- Project partners - 5
 - Malta
 - Spain
 - Greece
 - Italy
 - Albania
- Website: <https://consume-less.interreg-med.eu/>
- Duration of project: November 2016 till January 2020
- Budget
 - Total for project – €2,635,000
 - EWA - €356,000



ConsumeLess Plus

- Title: A model 4 resilient destinations toward tourism recovery: Less is more
- Aim: To strengthen the tourism sector in contributing to the Green Deal, while minimizing waste, water and energy use, while boosting joint effort toward a more competitive, innovative and inclusive tourism.
- Project partners - 6
 - Malta
 - Italy
 - Cyprus
 - Croatia
 - Montenegro
 - France
- Website: <https://consume-less.interreg-med.eu/>
- Duration of project: June 2021 till June 2022
- Budget
 - Total for project – €399,975
 - EWA - €82,400



INCIRCLE



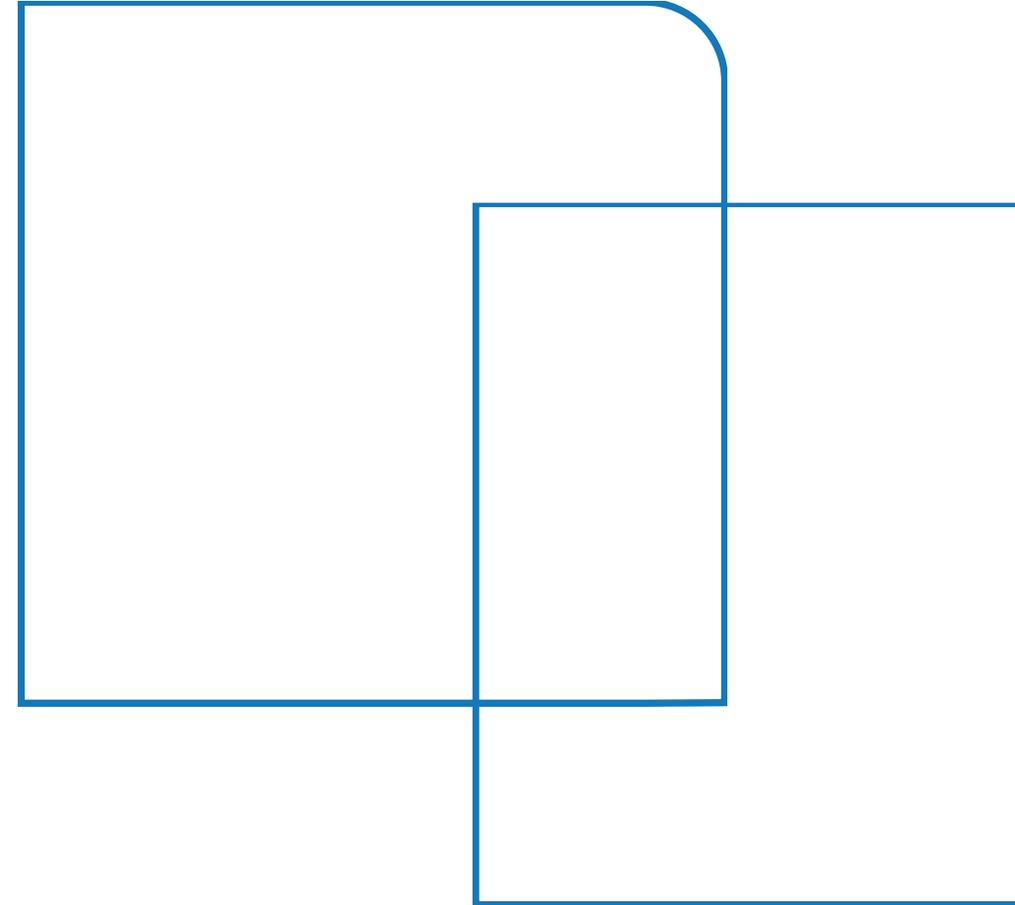
- Title: Support INSular and low density areas in the transition towards a more CIRCuLar tourism Economy
- Aim: To create a methodological framework to policy making, to seize the sustainability challenge, especially in terms of an improved and integrated sustainable tourism planning to preserve and valorise non-renewable resources.
- Project partners - 6
 - Malta
 - Italy
 - Spain
 - Greece
 - Cyprus
 - Albania
- Website: <https://incircle.interreg-med.eu/>
- Duration of project: November 2019 till June 2022
- Budget
 - Total for project – €3,378,770
 - EWA - €232,414



Projects Outline

Addressing challenges in the tourism sector from a different perspective:

- Consumeless – focuses on the enterprises (support to optimise the operations of small enterprises)
- ConsumelessPlus - aims at capitalizing the results of Consumeless
- InCircle – focuses on the destination (optimising comprehensive tourism policies – linking with other sectoral policies to enhance circularity)



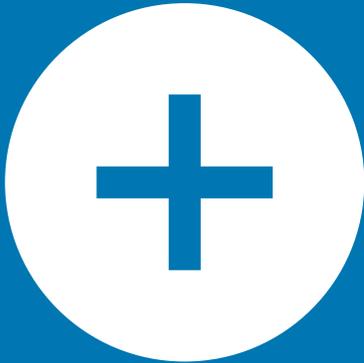
Relevance to EWA Core Functions

Projects focus on Energy and Water's role in Tourism (in addition to Waste – Consumeless, and Waste and Mobility – InCircle)

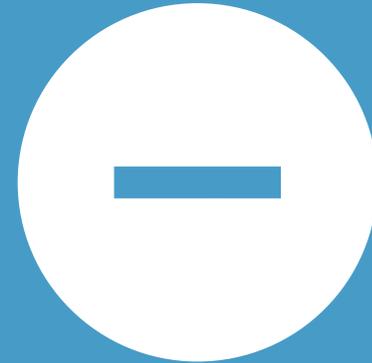


- Tourism is an important economic activity for Malta – and one to which EWA looks as having a potential for demand management optimisation
- EWA is mandated to promote water and energy policies (and initiatives) across Ministries (LN LN 340/2016)
- Projects support this function of promoting energy and water efficiency across Ministries/Sectors – in this case Tourism

Positive and Negative Experiences



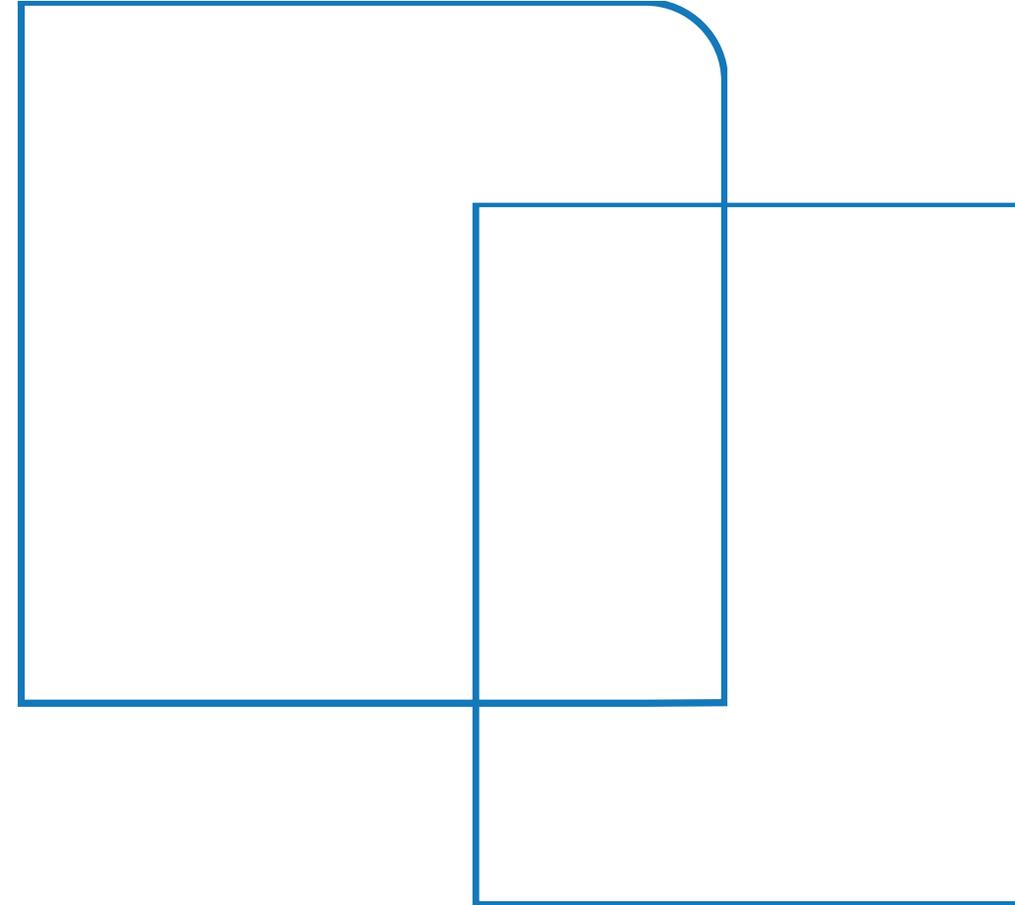
- Significant simplification through adoption of % staff assignment rule
- Managing Authority had a good response rate and also pragmatic approaches to solve emerging issues
- Also good support by FPD



- Managing a project (particularly as lead partner) requires a full time equivalent employment – when staff resources are short
- Employment under the project is slow due to approval process – only achievable following 6 to 8 months since project start (during this period management work has to be undertaken by existing staff)
- Public Procurement procedures (particularly with existing thresholds) are too long for short project timeframes (and therefore stress project implementation)

Broader Consideration - Local

- Opportunity to extend contacts with stakeholders from the tourism sector – both at Public and Private level
 - MTA, MBB, WSC, Wasteserve, TM, MTIP, MECP, MESD etc.
- Stakeholder consultation meetings enabled the identification of gaps/challenges in the tourism sector
- Beyond the project this has resulted in the launch of a national project (GUEST Project) which is loosely based (or an adaptation of) the Consumeless Project



Broader Consideration - Regional

Increased appreciation of similar challenges in the tourism sector faced by other Mediterranean islands and coastal regions – and hence identification of opportunities for future collaboration

Additional Aspects

- Projects enabled EWA to build up technical capacity on the tourism sector - helping to generate an increased appreciation of the needs and challenges of the sector in terms of energy and water use and management
- More staff – enabled the undertaking of these investigations and supporting senior staff in undertaking sector assessments
- Development of policy frameworks and identification of measures – which will be included in national planning documents for both sectors
- Supported technical capacity development in policy assessment

Conclusion

- Positive experience as projects provided opportunities for broadening EWA's understanding of a specific economic sector
- Pilot initiatives undertaken under projects have guided the development of support programmes for the sector – such as the GUEST project – and hence enabling the continued capitalisation beyond the end of the project

