

# CASTWATER

## Coastal areas sustainable tourism water management in the Mediterranean

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Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Lead Partner, Municipality of Rethymno, I would like to welcome you to the 1st edition of the Newsletter of our 'flagship' project CASTWATER!

CASTWATER is the first Interreg MED project supporting sustainable tourism policies & practices on water efficiency in coastal areas. The transnational challenge is to reduce the impact of tourism activities on environmental heritage and to improve management of water resources. The project's overall objective is to support sustainable tourism water management in Med coastal areas, by improving the monitoring and assessment of the water sustainability performance of the tourism sector.

In this project a consortium of 11 partners representing 10 EU Regions will share knowledge in order to address the need for improving knowledge and practices regarding measurement & assessment methods, about ways to promote awareness on sustainable tourism water management and ideas to support the adoption of water efficiency solutions in the partnership areas.

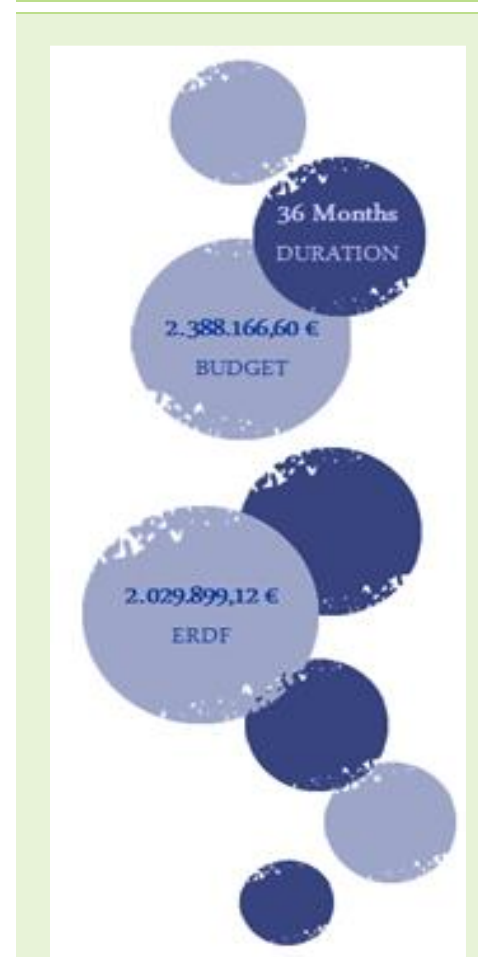
2017 is the 'International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development', as declared by UN to be organized by UNWTO and 2018 will be the 'European Year of Cultural Heritage'. As CASTWATER project partnership we have excellent opportunities to contribute to these highly relevant events for Sustainable Cultural Tourism during the project duration.

I invite you to follow the latest developments of the project, activities, results, achievements and look forward to meeting you all again soon!

With Best Wishes,

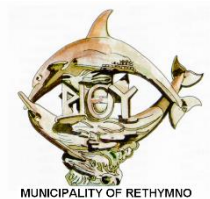
The CASTWATER staff

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## Partnership

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### **MUNICIPALITY OF RETHYMNO (GR) - LEAD PARTNER**

Ranked 10<sup>th</sup> destination in all the Mediterranean, Rethymno has years of experience on the project topic, and organizational structures dedicated to the tourism activities in its area.



### **EMILIA ROMAGNA REGION (IT):**

Emilia Romagna is one of Europe's most popular tourist destination, with more than 36 million overnight stays a year, 613.000 beds about 6.000 restaurants, and more than 1.400 bathing establishments.



### **REGIONE DEL VENETO**

### **VENETO**

**REGION (IT)** –Venice, the capital of the Veneto Region, is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world, attracting more than 50.000 tourists per day.



### **WATER BOARD OF LEMESOS (CY)**

Water Board of Lemesos's aim is to provide sufficient & good quality water, to meet the domestic, industrial and touristic water demand in the area.



ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ  
ΠΑΤΡΩΝ  
UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

### **UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS (GR)**

UPATRAS is the third largest University in Greece. The Computer Engineering & Informatics Department has strong collaboration ties with the Department of Economics and focuses on the development of digital and online tools in the fields of resources efficiency, industry dynamics, and economics of energy efficiency monitoring technologies.



### **EUROMEDITERRANEAN WATER INSTITUTE FOUNDATION (ES)**

F-IEA provides consultancy services to policy makers & stakeholders on issues related to water planning & management, water efficiency, waste management & sustainable tourism over a regional context



## **INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM (HR)**

IPPTO is an institution operating in the field of tourism and agriculture aiming to transfer knowledge through research & professional activities in the tourism and agricultural sector.

## **LAS NAVES (ES)**

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Supported by the City Council of Valentia, aims to provide common & inclusive regional development. It engages with a) the implementation & management of research activities, b) the implementation of pilot action & projects, c) the development of research methodologies & data analysis, d) international collaboration & exchange of expenditure through cooperation projects, and e) the dissemination of project outcomes & mobilization of relevant stakeholders.



## **DEPARTMENTAL COUNCIL OF HERAULT (FR)**

Hérault has a lead role in supporting & promoting sustainable tourism in its territory. It promotes eco labels as Green key (private accommodation) and Blue Flag (international rates of eco-friendly seaside resorts). It has been active in the field for more than twenty years.



## **DIALOGUE FOUNDATION (MT)**

MRDDF is a registered non-governmental organization in Malta focused on sustainable regional development. It has extensive experience to organize multi-stakeholders consultations, conduct research on issues of critical regional interests, and influence policy making via active civic participation and dialogue.



## **ENERGY AND WATER AGENCY (MT)**

SEWCU is a government agency operating under the Ministry for Energy and Health with leading role in formulating, and implementing national plans concerning the use of energy and water in a sustainable manner. Its mission is to promote & proactively promulgate secure, efficient & affordable energy & water resources.

# KICK-OFF MEETING – RETHYMNO (15-16 December 2016)

The kick-off meeting of Interreg Med CASTWATER took place in Rethymno last December.



## Press Conferences of Partners

IPTPO - Poreč – 31 January 2017



## Horizontal Project | Sustainable Tourism



Project co-financed by the European  
Regional Development Fund

CASTWATER project is part of the **MED Community on Sustainable Tourism**, which has been launched during the kick off meeting of the horizontal project

BleuTourMed\_C3 held on the 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017 in Marseille (France).

*“The horizontal project BleuTourMed\_C3 facilitates the knowledge sharing and the capitalisation of results of 14 cross-Mediterranean modular projects active in nine countries. During this two-day*

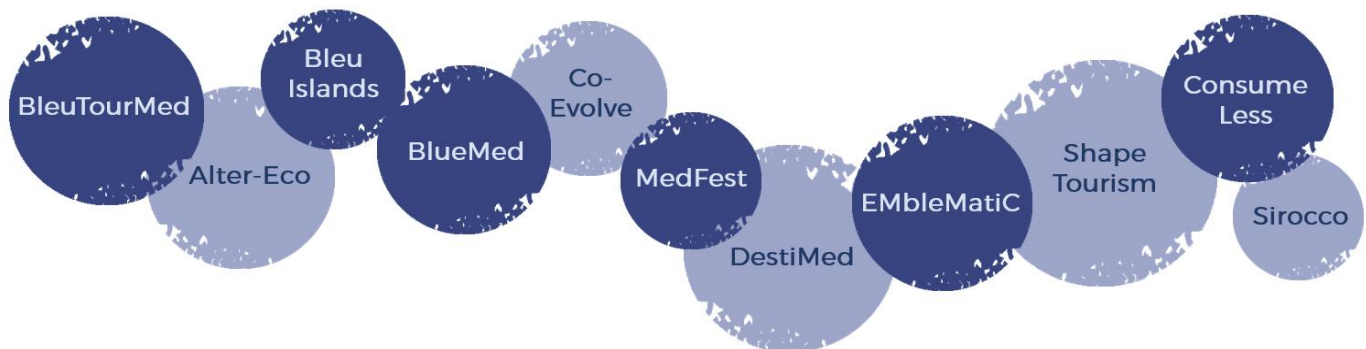
meeting, more than 70 participants had the opportunity to know each other, to share their challenges, to discover potential synergies and to launch ideas for further collaboration.

The BleuTourMed\_C3 is a three-year project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, within the Interreg Med Programme. The partnership is composed by Latin Arc (Lead Partner), Barcelona Provincial Council, Plan Bleu for the environment and development in the Mediterranean, UNIMED – Mediterranean Universities Union, Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Adriatic Ionian Euroregion.

Press release: <http://www.uni-med.net/en/sustainable-tourism-in-the-mediterranean-region-a-strategic-driver-for-economic-development-that-strengthens-the-resilience-of-the-maritime-and-coastal-ecosystems-2/>

### Participating Modular Projects:

ALTER ECO  
BLUEISLANDS  
BLUEMED  
CASTWATER  
CO-EVOLVE  
CONSUME-LESS  
DestiMED  
EMbleMatiC  
MEDCYCLETOUR  
MEDFEST  
MITOMED+  
ShapeTourism  
SIROCCO  
TOURISMED



### World Water Day, 22 March 2017



“Water is the essential building block of life”<sup>1</sup>. But it is more than just essential to

quench thirst or protect health; water is vital for creating jobs and supporting economic, social, and human development. Today, there are over 663 million people living without a safe water supply close to home, spending countless hours queuing or trekking to distant sources, and coping with the health impacts of using contaminated water<sup>2</sup>. The Sustainable Development Goals, launched in 2015, include a target to ensure everyone has access to safe water by 2030, making water a key issue in the fight to eradicate extreme poverty. In 1993, the United Nations General Assembly officially designated March 22 as World Water Day. World Water Day is coordinated by UN-Water in collaboration with governments and

partners<sup>3</sup>. (More information in the attached links)

### Venice and its Lagoon – World Heritage Site

The Site “Venice and its Lagoon” was inscribed on the World Heritage list in 1987 for the uniqueness of its cultural values, consisting of historical, archaeological, urban, architectonic, artistic heritage and exceptional cultural traditions, integrated into an extraordinary and outstanding environmental, natural and landscape context. The Site can be considered as a “cultural landscape” which illustrates the combined work of man and nature over time, under the influence of physical constraints and environmental, social, economic and cultural opportunities<sup>4</sup>.

### Water World Day event<sup>5</sup>

Athens Water Supply and Sewerage Company (EYDAP S.A.), the largest company of its kind in

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.un.org/en/events/waterday/>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/news-events/world-water-day-2017/en/](http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/news-events/world-water-day-2017/en/)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.unwater.org/news-events/news-details/fi/c/853651/>

<sup>4</sup> Exploring the Venice lagoon. Places and Values of the World Heritage Site. UNESCO regional office for Science and Culture in Europe.

<sup>5</sup> Contribution by PP4 University of Patras.

Greece serving approximately 4,300,000 customers (2,030,000 water meters), celebrated the Water World Day with a series of events. From the 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> of March, elementary school students participated to a rich and pioneer program, where they were given tours in a special constructed space, learning about the most precious natural resource, the water, in a fun and entertaining way. The celebration of the Water World Day also included a concert titled "New Greek Soloists – Sundays at Parnassus" creating a great atmosphere through a magical musical journey.

Sources (in Greek):

<https://www.eydap.gr/news/PressRelease/?id=229455b3-4090-45a7-9788-a73f00f1e8e3>

[https://www.eydap.gr/userfiles/Attachments/2017/dt\\_pagosmia\\_mera\\_nerou.pdf](https://www.eydap.gr/userfiles/Attachments/2017/dt_pagosmia_mera_nerou.pdf)

## **Ecological challenges in La Albufera de Valencia lead the World Water Day<sup>6</sup>**

The correct management of the rainwater and the waste water are two important challenges that will help to recover the ecological value of La Albufera de Valencia (the natural park of La Albufera in Valencia).

Recreational training activities have taken place in Valencia in the World Water Day with

dozens of children and their families in the Parque Natural de la Albufera, wetland in the south of Valencia.

More information:

## **Unesco: Towards the creation of a Global Network of Water Museums**

The world is plagued by scarcity of fresh water, that is considered the blue gold of the XXI

century. The water, wrongly considered an unlimited resource, has often been the subject of short-sighted policies that, globally, have tolerated enormous waste, abusive urbanization and water damage to the ecosystem. The



consequence was the alteration of the global water cycle that, in turn, effects on biodiversity, human nutrition, health and ecosystem functioning. For this reason, the international community considers it essential and urgent to implement sustainable water use projects, as also agreed in the Agenda 2030 UN on Sustainable Development, which provides as Objective 6 to "ensure to all availability and the

<sup>6</sup> Contribution by PP7 Las Naves.



sustainable management of water and sanitary facilities"<sup>7</sup>.

An International Workshop (1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017) will be organized in Venice by the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO with the support of its Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe and in close cooperation with the International Centre Civiltà dell'Acqua based in Venice, Italy. It is aimed to strengthen the existing Water Museums at global level and, at the same time, to facilitate the establishment of a formal network among them, with a view of increasing their communication potential and their impact on policy makers, stakeholders, researchers, educators, and the public at large<sup>8</sup>.

## **Two new reports of the EU Joint Research Centre for the monitoring and detection sources**



According to the MSFD (Marine Strategy Framework Directive) waste is one of the fundamental descriptors to assess the ecological status of the seas.

In the context of the project RIMMEL<sup>9</sup>, on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2017, the JRC (Joint Research Centre of the EU) has published two new thematic reports on the topic<sup>10</sup>. A report deals with the monitoring of waste<sup>11</sup>, which should be carried out according to common and shared parameters, in order to create an European observation network. The other report is dedicated to existing methodologies to search and identify the sources of waste that are discharged into rivers and merged later in the seas<sup>12</sup>.

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.onuitalia.com/2017/01/30/unesco-verso-la-creazione-di-una-rete-globale-dei-musei-dellacqua/>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.civiltacqua.org/uploads/news/WMUpperSito.pdf>

<sup>9</sup>

[http://mcc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dev.py?N=simple&O=380&titre\\_page=RIMMEL](http://mcc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dev.py?N=simple&O=380&titre_page=RIMMEL)

<sup>10</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/eu-coast-and-marine-policy/marine-strategy-framework-directive/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/eu-coast-and-marine-policy/marine-strategy-framework-directive/index_en.htm)

<sup>11</sup>

<http://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC104194/lb-na-28307-en-n%20.pdf>

<sup>12</sup>

<http://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC104038/lb-na-28309-en-n.pdf>

## CASTWATER PRESENTATION AT 8th MEETING OECD WATER GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE<sup>13</sup>

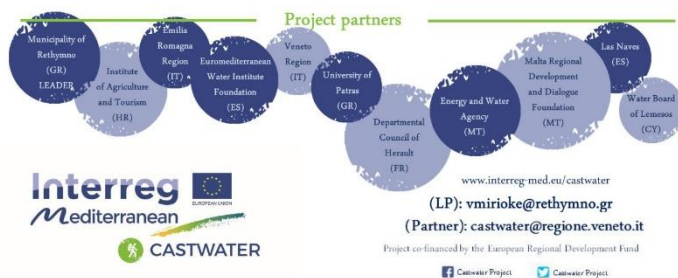
The OECD Water Governance Initiative (WGI), an international multi-stakeholder network of around 130 delegates worldwide, in its last Meeting, held in Rabat, in January 2017, hosted a presentation of CASTWATER Project, given by the Foundation IEA.

The OECD-WGI gathers twice a year in a Policy Forum to share on-going reforms, projects, lessons and good practices in support of better governance in the water sector.



The 8th OECD-WGI meeting was held at the headquarters of the Delegated Ministry for Water, Rabat, Morocco and gathered participants from 14 countries. At the OECD-WGI 8th Meeting were represented major stakeholder groups and organizations within and outside the water sector.

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According to the 8th OECD-WGI Agenda, a CASTWATER presentation was given by the Foundation IEA on behalf of the Partnership. The Foundation IEA representative stated that CASTWATER Project is relevant to OECD-WGI, due to its common goals in assessing water governance, focusing on challenges affecting the tourism industry. It aims to identify solutions to improve water efficiency in leisure activities, e.g. golf courses, hotels, camping grounds, resorts,

After the CASTWATER presentation, some OECD-WGI delegates, including the former Chief of Water at the European Commission, were interested in the Project and made some interesting suggestions and remarks in the following discussion, and as result, some other members of CASTWATER could be contacted from institutions based in their countries. More information:

<sup>13</sup> Contribution by PP5 Euromediterranean Water Institute Foundation of Murcia.

## Water-connected initiatives and entities

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In the table below water-connected initiatives and entities present in partners' countries are listed

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CENTRO INTERNAZIONALE

<http://www.civiltacqua.org/>



<http://www.museodellacqua7comuni.it/>



<http://www.watermuseumofvenice.com/>



Water Governance Initiative

<http://www.oecd.org/gov/regional-policy/water-governance-initiative.htm>



**DRINK ADRIA**

<http://www.drinkadria.eu/>

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## Contacts

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Partner	Country	e-mail	Tel.
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<b>Emilia Romagna Region</b>	Italy	maura.Mingozzi@regione.emilia-romagna.it	+390515273989
<b>Veneto Region</b>	Italy	turismo@regione.veneto.it	+390412792644
<b>Water Board of Lemesos</b>	Cyprus	phryne@wbl.com.cy	+35725830161
<b>University of Patras</b>	Greece	bouras@cti.gr	+302610960375
<b>Euromediterranean Water Institute Foundation</b>	Spain	amnieto@um.es	+34968899851
<b>Institute of Agriculture and Tourism</b>	Croatia	tezak@iptpo.hr	+38552408326
<b>LAS Naves</b>	Spain	corentin.girard@lasnaves.com	+34963910477
<b>Departmental Council of Herault</b>	France	cmuller@herault.fr	+33467676505
<b>Malta Regional Development and Dialogue Foundation</b>	Malta	info@mrddf.org	+3562142 0852
<b>Energy and Water Agency</b>	Malta	manuel.sapiano@gov.mt	+356222902589

