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November 2017

Newsletter 2



*Dear Friends,
on behalf of the Lead Partner,
Municipality of Rethymno, we
would like to welcome you to the
2nd edition of the Newsletter of the
project CASTWATER!*

WATER IN 6 WORDS

Contribution from: Veneto Region

From this issue, we would like to introduce an interesting publication made by Civiltà dell'Acqua International Center Onlus: *Water in 6 words*. It covers the water issue giving overview over different themes, with the aim to improve the water awareness and culture. We will publish one chapter per newsletter throughout all the next editions.



REGIONE DEL VENETO



Publication by International Center of Water Civilization

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Edit by Eriberto Eulisse, Francesco Trotta

Year 2017

CASTWATER

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PRESENTATION

WATER IN 6 WORDS

"Water can no longer be considered as a simple resource, but it is an exhaustible good, that needs to be protected, by ensuring its integrity and ethical use" Renzo Franzin, 2005

Now more than ever, it is clear that the responsibility for the survival of the Earth is up to the humanity and, therefore, a new approach regarding the water element is urgent and necessary, starting with the knowledge, awareness and understanding that humanity has reached over the decades. Nowadays, in fact, human beings have gained technological capabilities that hundred years ago were unthinkable. New horizons of formidable power are rising every day and this implies an huge responsibility for human beings. It is clear that mankind must take on the responsibility of its actions, without thinking only about the present but above all about the future.

Especially some regions of Europe, where the economic development model is an example all over the world, must take in the right consideration the environment issue. Pollution accidents, in fact, happen quite frequently and it confirms that there can be no

real growth without an alliance with the nature.

There is, thus, a need to rethink about our relationship with the environment. Waste and contamination are the most serious problems we are facing today, both in our territories and in the rest of the planet. To fight them, we must start watching the world not anymore in a technocratic or technical way, rather in an holistic way. The risk is to lose an overall perspective in order to focus on an utilitarian one, which may prevail over any values and also over the future generations right to have an healthy, clean environment in order to protect the most essential good of life: water.

Serenella Vian - President of the Lagoon Basin
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ETHICAL AWARENESS OF ALL USES

"The true eye of Earth is water. In our eyes is the water that dreams of" G. Bachelard, 1942

Why do we still talk about water? The future of humanity and the Earth necessarily comes from our relationship with water, both individual and collective. We are living the time of responsibilities that concern each of us, no one excluded. In the last decades, science and technology taught us so much about water. Meanwhile, however, we have lost the ability to observe it and understand its value and power. The only form of imagination we seem to be able to express is the one captured by the advertisers and the water marketer. However, water represents the life principle (our own chance to survive), but we do not realise it anymore. Special effects and consumer compulsions caused the loss of the sense of the things in such a violent way that the ability to discern the true values of life, such as the value of water, seems to have reduced.

To pursue the water conservation only with rational arguments means, ultimately, to get the equation "water is precious because it is scarce". Such consideration, however, risks to entrust water only to the market economy, in which water is, inevitably, reduced to merchandise. However, that is not enough! In

fact, as long as we won't be able to identify in the water the elements that are beyond the economic logic, we will not save it, we will not recognise the waste and we will not respect it. This is why, it is important to recognise the intrinsic water life value that gives it back its uniqueness. A value, we would like to imagine, not irremediably lost.

Therefore, "water in six words", where the number "six" is not a coincidence. "Six", in fact, are the topics dealt with in a short and informative manner, as "six" are the different observation points in order not to lose the essence of this precious element. The liquid element has no form, but when it aggregates in solid formations (such as in snowflakes), it assumes a hexagonal shape.

Nicola Nardin – Director of the Lagoon Basin Council of Venice

"If we look in a superficial way, beyond visible signs of pollution and degradation, it seems that things are not so grave and that the planet could remain for a long time in the actual conditions. This kind of evasive behaviour is necessary to keep our lifestyles, production and consumption. It's the way that human beings arrange to power all self-destructive vices: trying not to see them, postponing important decisions, behaving as nothing happened". Pope Francesco, *Laudato si'*. Encyclical Letter on the Care of the Common House, 59, 2015.



1. ANCIENT

***"Water is the principle
Of all the things"***

Talete Milesio

ANCIENT WATER

Life comes from water. Water is "the beginning", its never-ending movement, known as **hydrogeological cycle**, is the condition base of the existence of the biosphere (part of the Earth's surface where life can exist).

The water, with its movement, becomes pure and gives the blue colour to the planet; it shapes the territory, creating a countless variety of landscapes: mountains, valleys, lagoons, lakes, rivers and so on. The Sun is the great engine that activates, with its own energy, the cyclic water movement.

Some scientists claim that at least half of the water on earth is older than the same Solar System! According to this assumption, water would have come from a place beyond our Solar System - maybe from the stars - and it would have fallen down on Earth in the form of ice meteors, which have been fragmented in the impact with the atmosphere.



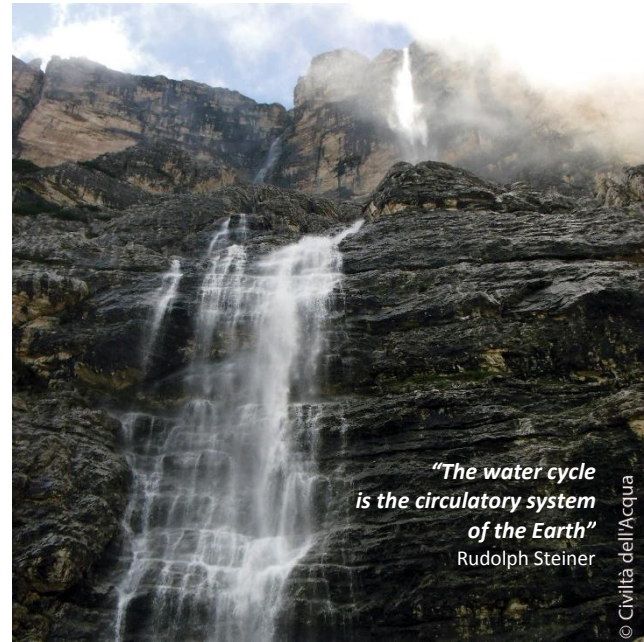
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HYDROGEOLOGICAL CYCLE

The water cycle constitutes the hydrosphere (that includes the troposphere) and forms the biosphere, which is the area where there is life on the planet. The biosphere extends from - 11.5 km of the Mariana Trench up to about 15-20 km. In the lower part of the atmosphere, called troposphere, most of the meteorological phenomena occur. The biosphere is the heart of the Earth. Its function can be recognised in the hydrogeological cycle. Water is like blood, which carries nutriment to body tissues and removes waste products.

The water cycle is the Earth's circulatory system.



*"The water cycle
is the circulatory system
of the Earth"*
Rudolph Steiner

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The Earth's environment is dynamic, it repeats and renews itself all the time. Water is the beginning of such movement. It is also the only substance that can be found on the Earth's surface in the three different physical states of matter. For this particular characteristic, the hydrogeological cycle can be possible.

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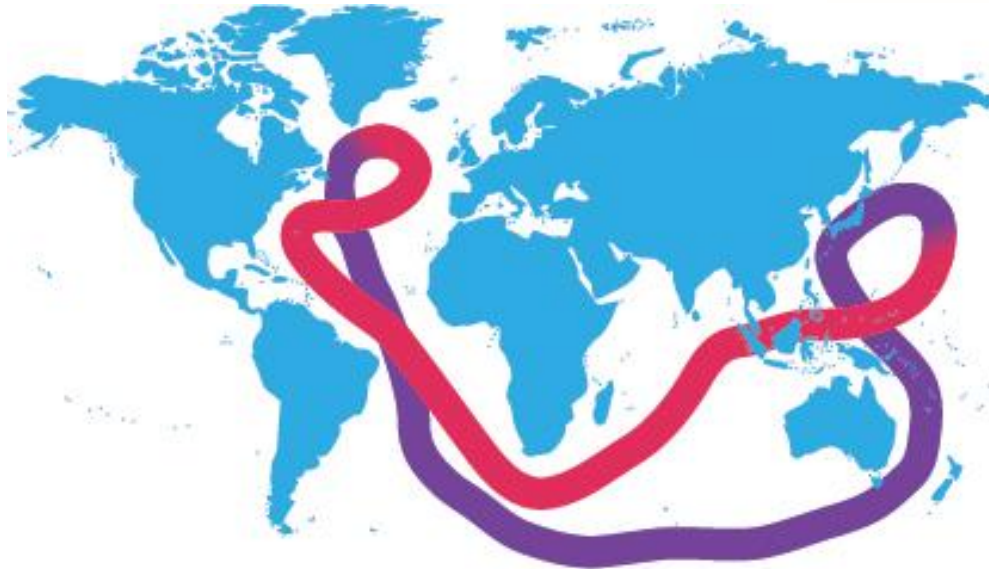
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The oceans', the seas, and the **plants transpiration's** waters (rise up to the sky as water vapour, creating clouds. From the clouds, under certain weather conditions, this rainwater falls on the mountains and starts its unstoppable return to the sea, dragging pebbles, sand and silt. In this path, it fertilizes the land, produces energy, supplies food and carries ships that allow us to move, bringing materials and goods.

The hydrogeological cycle moves and preserves the movement of other cycles of chemical and biological transformation, such as the carbon cycles or the nitrogen one, which are also indispensable for the biosphere equilibria.



© Civiltà dell'Acqua

Thermohaline circulation

Oceans and seas are moved by currents caused by the density variation of water masses. These masses move the waters from one place to another and they push water in depth: such action cannot be made by winds.

This is the global and perpetual thermohaline circulation (from Greek "thermos", temperature, and "halos", salinity) which permits the Earth's climate balance necessary to host life.

The Earth, according to the hypothesis "Gaia" by J. Lovelock, is an organism capable of self-regulation (Lovelock, 1989).

Transpiration of plants

The transpiration of plants consists in the release of water from the leaves in the form of steam.

A birch tree transpires more than 300 litres of water per day, while a corn plant, during its lifetime, transpires around 100-180 litres of water. One hectare of wheat, during the vegetation period, instead, can transpire up to 1500 cubic meters of water.

It's understandable then, the reason why the deforestation has a strong impact on the climate. During rainfalls, if there's no vegetation, rainwater flows rapidly on the ground, moving away through rivers. The consequences can be: sharp atmospheric changes, fast temperature increases, excessive salinity of the ground, droughts in some areas and floods in others and hydrogeological disasters. The only solution is the reforestation of the planet.

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WATER: AN ENDLESS RESOURCE?

Water is ancient. The same water we observe in the glass before drinking has existed for millions of years. In all these years it has always been moving between sky and earth, it has dissolved rocks, it has been in plant fibres, animal organs and even in the body of men who preceded us.

Mankind today seriously endangers this wonderful system of balance and harmony, which involves nature and all living things.

The balances are changing in a very clear way: let's think about the **climate changes** we experience in always more unrecognisable seasons, or the **increasing desertification**, causing the exodus of thousands of people from the South of the world, which tend to reach developed countries. Nowadays, it is up to the human being to take responsibility for his actions that have an effect on the environment and natural resources, as well as on the lives of human beings, animals and plants.

This paragraph should have been titled "Water: unchanging resource", but now more than ever, this claim - although scientifically correct - is likely to be completely misleading. Indeed, if it is true that the amount of water on Earth has always been the same for millions of years, its quality has dramatically deteriorated during the twentieth century.

The human being has synthesised chemical elements that nature does not recognise anymore and that the natural decomposition processes are unable to reabsorb, once they have been released into the ground. Therefore, we have contaminated waters that take hundreds of years to get pure again and even more if considering atomic radiations or batteries we use every day (i.e. a cadmium battery takes thousands of years to deteriorate).

In recent decades, five enormous plastic islands have formed in the oceans over an area of 16 million square kilometres (equal to 53 times Italy). This plastic is crumbling under the impact of atmospheric agents in so many tiny particles similar to plankton, which fish ingest.

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A "Laguna di Venezia" Basin Council's project realised in collaboration with the Centro Internazionale per la Civiltà dell'Acqua Onlus.*



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STEERING COMMITTEE – BOLOGNA (27th- 28th June 2017)



The CASTWATER partnership met in Bologna (Italy) on the 27th and 28th of June 2017, at the Emilia Romagna Region premises for the second Steering Committee.

IEA FOUNDATION AT THE KICK-OFF MEETING FOR THE 3RD MEDITERRANEAN WATER FORUM - MWF

Contribution from: IEA Foundation

IEA Foundation and Segura River Basin Authority (CHS) took part in the kick-off meeting for the 3rd Mediterranean Water Forum celebrated on the 17th July 2017 in Montecarlo, Monaco. The meeting was organised by the Mediterranean Institute for Water (IME), based in Marseille (France) and co-sponsored by the Prince Albert II Foundation from Monaco and the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UPM). The event meant to

gather the main Mediterranean stakeholders who deal with water issues, such as decision makers, local and regional authorities, government officials, NGOs and States' representatives – to focus on relevant water related topics. The topics were selected to reflect the specific features of the Mediterranean and were directly related with the priorities of the 8th World Water Forum, to be held in Brasilia in March 2018. Participants took part in both plenary sessions and thematic workshops dealing with issues like: management and rehabilitation of ecosystems for water services and biodiversity, water for energy, water and mitigation of the effects of climate change, sanitation for all, technologies for the water treatment and reuse and, last but not least, financial resources for sustainable development. Several dignitaries and representatives of the multiple participating organisations attended, and IEA Foundation was present too, represented by CHS staff specifically commended to participate in the management and rehabilitation of ecosystems for water services and biodiversity work group. IEA Foundation representative delivered a presentation to show the endeavours to recover the river Segura: the implementation of a sanitation plan and different projects aimed at retrieving the ecological functions of the river and its associated ecosystems.

PARTICIPATION OF IEA FOUNDATION IN THE 3RD MWF

Contribution from: IEA Foundation

IEA Foundation, one of the CASTWATER partners, has been selected to co-pilot one of the topics of the 3rd Mediterranean Water Forum (Cairo 23rd-



24th January 2018). During the kick-off meeting for the 3rd Forum, held in Monaco on the 17th of July 2017, IEA Foundation developed the topic “*Ecosystems: Managing and restoring for water services and biodiversity*”. The 3rd Mediterranean Water Forum, part of the 8th World Water Forum which will be held in Brasilia from 18th to 23rd of March 2018, involves countless Mediterranean water stakeholders and it will be organised through a regional event. The Mediterranean Water Forum, instituted in 2011 in Marrakech, became an efficient platform for dialogue and exchange between all regional stakeholders, which aim at strengthening the cooperation and exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of water. Main steps have been done for the 8th World Water Forum preparation, and the 3rd edition of Mediterranean Water Forum will be one of them. The event will gather the Mediterranean Water Community to discuss and debate topics closely linked with the Mediterranean preparatory process for the 8th World Water Forum.

THE REGION OF MURCIA IS ELABORATING A NEW REGIONAL WATER PACT

Contribution from: IEA Foundation

The Region of Murcia is implementing a Regional Water Pact, in which every political actor takes part with the idea of reaching consensus in order to satisfy the water needs of all users. The Director of IEA Foundation participates in the work of coordinating this pact by providing the

technical knowledge about hydrological planning in the Segura basin and its necessary coordination with the national hydrological planning. For the Regional Government of Murcia, this is a very important and decisive step for the achievement of a reference framework that allows to overcome the political differences on the water issue at regional level. The document details are currently being finalized. In this phase, more effective participation in negotiations is expected, in order to reach agreements at the national level. The Regional Water Minister, Francisco Jódar, has held working meetings with representatives of all parliamentary groups at the regional level, and has stated that the working document submitted to the groups collects their contributions and, especially, the proposals of farmers, producers and exporters of fruits and vegetables. The Regional Pact recognises various elements: the need to go hand by hand with the National Pact in order to have a joint vision of the new hydrological planning, the existence of a water deficit of 400 hm³ of water in the Segura basin, the maintenance of the Tajo-Segura and the need for new transfers to meet the water needs. The Regional Water Pact also contemplates the need to improve the environmental situation of aquifers, to develop connections among basins, to make the desalination plants capacity-efficient, to establish a single price for desalinated water, to carry out an interconnection between desalination plants and to realise new infrastructures. The document also includes all measures to be carried out in the area of the Segura basin, as well as some measures to provide definitive solutions to all basins and to water scarcity situations in Spain.

THE NEED TO IMPROVE THE DESALINATION PLANTS PERFORMANCE IN THE SPANISH MEDITERRANEAN COAST

Contribution from: IEA Foundation



In summer 2017, the estimated presence of 3 million tourists on the Murcia and Alicante regions coasts has forced the Government of Spain to approve a 12 million euro project concerning the realisation of six desalination plants. The tourists are not the only one beneficiaries of the project, but also more than 2.5 million people who live in the 80 municipalities served by the *Mancomunidad Canales del Taibilla*, the entity in charge of providing water for this territory, will take advantage from it. In details, there are 43 municipalities from the Region of Murcia, 35 from the Valencian Community and 2 from Castilla - La Mancha.

According to the CASTWATER project analysis, water scarcity affects the tourism industry in the south-east of Spain in a striking way. The new works of large desalination plants allowed to meet the demand, generated by the increase of population, and the needs of the tourism sector, which

is one of the most contributing to the generation of wealth and employment in Spain. The interventions are framed in the “drought” Royal Decrees of the Segura and Júcar rivers, in force since 2015, which allow the Government to arbitrate exceptional measures in order to minimize the social and economic environmental impacts that occur in drought situations.

The planned actions permit to obtain more water to address the scarcity of resources from the Tajo-Segura Aqueduct and the reduction of the river. The measures respond to an exceptional drought situation in regions where the high demand for tourism bumps into farmers’ one.

The works on these six desalination plants include several improvements such as a better regulation of the canals, branches connection to desalinated water systems, expansions in transport capacity and extension of existing connections.

All these measures, added up to those adopted by the Spanish Government, since the beginning of the drought, have the aim to increase the water availability in the affected regions (Murcia, Valencia and Castilla-La Mancha) due to the lack of rainfalls.

ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF MURCIA STAKEHOLDERS IN CASTWATER ACTIVITIES

Contribution from: IEA Foundation

Public and private entities, members of the Local Stakeholder Group of the CASTWATER project, have actively participated in the first period activities.

The CASTWATER local stakeholder group of the Murcia Region (Spain) was created on the 15th May 2017. This group is made up of more than 20 entities interested in participating in the project due to its relationship with the water and tourism sector. The stakeholders group counts members of three Universities of the Region (Catholic University, University of Cartagena and University of Murcia) and of the University of Alicante (in Valencia Region). The group is composed also by institutional actors, such as the General-Directorate for water and the General-Directorate for Tourism of the Murcia Regional Government, several municipalities and private actors, for instance water distribution companies, tourism business organisations (Hostemur, Hostetur), the Segura River Basin Authority, several tourist companies and other experts.

Hostemur and La Manga Club collaborations have also been important for the good practices contribution. In particular, the second one is a resort with golf course, luxury hotel, restaurants and it is a clear reference for good water management in the Region of Murcia.

Also from the University of Murcia, Mr. Ramón García Marín, participating in different workshops, presented the CASTWATER project at the University of Coimbra (Portugal) and at the Universidade Federal de Uberlândia, Estadode Minas Gerais, in Brasil.



THE REGION OF MURCIA PRESENTS A CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Contribution from: IEA Foundation

On the 29th and the 30th of September 2017, the School of Tourism of the University of Murcia, in partnership with the General Directorate of Tourism, organised a conference on sustainable tourism. Representatives of the IEA Foundation had been invited to this Conference as members of the CASTWATER project. Several organisers of the conference on sustainable tourism were part of the local stakeholders



group. During the meeting, the participants studied the main environmental challenges faced by the tourism industry.

The Region of Murcia wants to contribute to the celebration of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development 2017, declared by the United Nations. In this context, it is recognised that environmental aspects are one of the keys to the necessary contribution of the tourism sector to global sustainability, implying a major challenge for the tourist enterprises of the 21st century within the framework of its image policies and Corporate Social Responsibility.

During the conference, it was emphasised that sustainability is presented to the tourism industry as an excellent opportunity to consolidate or undertake new products which expands the niches market and offers innovative business proposals with ecotourism, as the axis of activities.

In a time when customers increase their demands of quality, innovation, diversification and sustainability of the destination and of the tourist product, it is particularly appropriate to improve close relationships among tourism companies, destinations and environment as essential alliance that can bring benefits to all.

The seminars set out their objectives in the reflection and presentation of experiences on three key themes: how can sustainability be integrated in the tourist business, what is the role of natural resources in tourism action, how should the issue of sensitive destinations be addressed and how the emerging ecotourism experiences can be strengthened and enhanced. Some speakers and experts of these conferences were also invited to the activities of CASTWATER project in the Region of Murcia.

MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES IN VALENCIA INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED FOR ITS INNOVATION AND EFFICIENCY

Contribution from: Las Naves



The City of Valencia hosted the *BonicaFest Festival* from the 12th to the 15th of September 2017. During the festival citizens could visit the exhibition “*València, capital of water technology. From the sources of fountains to smart meters*” to discover the Valencia benchmark in efficient water management and environmental protection realised by Global Omnium Foundation/Aguas de Valencia. According to the “*Innovation and the City*” report, published last March by the Centre for an Urban Future (CUF) and Wagner Innovation Labs, from the NYU Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service (New York), *Aguas de València* smart meters have been selected as one of the top 15 most important innovations in the world. The report highlights Valencia as a pioneer in the use of remote metering to repair and detect leaks, reduce fraud and promote responsible

consumption among citizens.

As a matter of fact, according to the report, Valencia is the largest European city having implemented a system of this kind in almost its entirety, with a total of 420.000 smart meters installed. Thanks to this system, a huge amount of real-time information from each household is recorded by means of 24 daily readings. This system has proven to be quite useful since it facilitates efficient decision-making and optimises water and energy resources. As a result of these actions, last year Global Omnium saved over 300.000 m³, which amounts to 2 days of water consumption in Valencia and it contributes to the CO₂ emission reduction of over 80 tons per year. These positive data are an important signal for a city committed to the protection of the environment and fighting climate change.

THE ANNUAL MEETING ON THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Contribution from: University of Patras

Urban areas are growing larger. Following the UN predictions, by 2050, more than 6 billion people will live in cities. Considering the climate change issue, sustainable water management in cities is a challenge both at environmental level and at the economic-social one.

Water is an unique and irreplaceable commodity, but it has an important economic impact due to its needs for proper management, processing, transportation and distribution.

Water companies continue to struggle to design and implement effective water management systems. Obsolete infrastructures, the lack of incentives and know-how and a scarce awareness are among the reasons why substantial amounts of water reserves are lost annually. The difference between the amount of water entering the distribution network and the amount of water supplied remains a challenge for all water distribution companies.

The impact of disruptive technologies and services, the collection and utilization of data, the implementation of control methodology and decision-making tools, offer a new landscape of opportunities in the field of water resource management.

In this context, the 4th Water Conference is the ideal platform and a great occasion for communicating and disseminating new ideas and solutions among water industry companies, public utility companies, local authorities, businesses and science for Sustainable Water Management Resources in our country.

[Link](#)

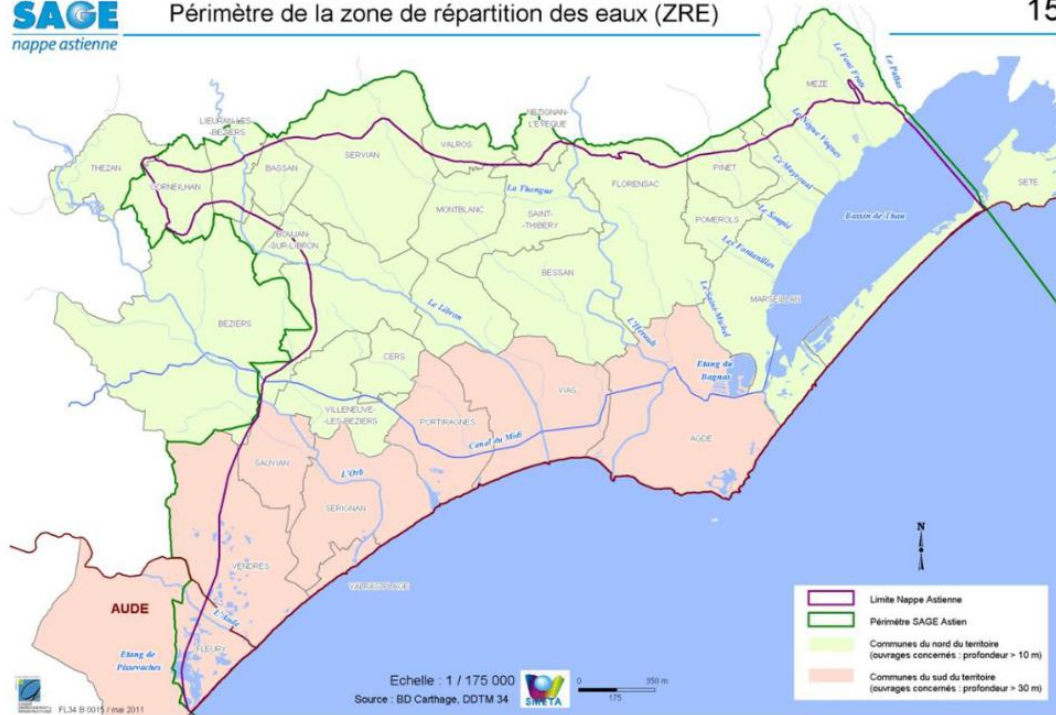
Date: 8/11/2017

Venue: Maroussi Plaza

City: Maroussi, Attiki

WATER SAVING ACTION PLANS

Contribution from: Herauld Department



The Chamber of Commerce of Hérault organised a meeting in partnership with the Union of Campsites and the Syndicate for Surveys and Works on the Astien aquifer. The meeting was held on 15th of June 2017 in Serignan Plage, with the participation of 56 campsite managers.

The event took place in the context of a long term water shortage that triggered an administrative procedure for a territorial water share plan (water withdrawals are both submitted to authorizations and limited by a maximum threshold).

The objectives consist in conducting 215 000 m³/year of water savings and withdrawals in the Astien Aquifer (west strip of Hérault's coastline). The estimate of the additional water saving, in case of private swimming pool reuse, amounts to 300 000 m³/year.

The following step of the meeting is the planning of customised action plans for each manager made by individual audits and based on

calculation of water saving in volume and time span, analysis/proposal of technical implementation, general set up and constraints.

WATER LITE TEAM MEMBERS VISITED THE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM

Contribution from: Institute of Agriculture and Tourism Poreč



On the 26th April 2017, the “WATER lite” project team members visited the Institute of Agriculture and Tourism in order to be informed about the main objectives of the CASTWATER project. The visit was a starting point in achieving a great cooperation and networking between the two projects which deal with similar issues.

“WATER lite” project is a multilateral project financed by the Erasmus+ programme. The main aim of the project is to examine water resources management in four sectors, namely industry, energy, tourism and leisure. In all of these sectors, team members consist in professors and pupils of

high schools from Germany, France, Finland and Croatia.

Three CASTWATER team members presented 3 mutually related themes, that included the following topics: general information about CASTWATER project, facts about usage of water in tourism emphasising coastal part of Croatia and two examples of good practices (Villa Rosetta hotel and Punta Skala Resort).

IEA FOUNDATION AT 9TH OECD WATER GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE

Contribution from: IEA Foundation



On July the 3rd and the 4th, the 9th Meeting of the Water Governance Initiative was held in Paris, at OECD headquarters. The Region of Murcia and Segura River Basin, represented by IEA Foundation, are members of this unique group established within the OECD architecture. OECD-WGI, considered an innovative, bottom-up and multi-stakeholders platform, is a critical driver for sustainable and inclusive growth and it is praised for up-scaling the OECD work on water. The WGI has largely contributed to produce and disseminate evidence that “most water crises are primarily governance crises”.

The results of the pilot-test activity, regarding the OECD Water Governance Principles and its indicators, has been presented and discussed in this meeting. The Segura River Basin Agency (Murcia

Region - Spain) welcomed the traffic light system as a useful tool for stakeholders dialogue during the pilot-test workshop, hold previously in Murcia, although it was pointed out that further guidance and clear definitions would be helpful. Some indicators are more fitted at national level, while others are rather micro-indicators. The Checklist helps guide discussions and build consensus among stakeholders. As for the quantitative indicators, it was noticed that they could include more *governance*, rather than *management* or *dimensions*.

Furthermore, the OECD Director for Local Development and Tourism, pointed out the leadership and the excellent track record of the WGI in terms of sharing knowledge, experience, lessons-learnt from water-related projects and reforms. These factors contributed to lead important streams of global agendas and of World Water Forum, producing and peer-reviewing analytical work and setting cutting edge standards through the *OECD Principles on Water Governance*, which now are “Legal Instruments” of the OECD Council Recommendation on Water.

Moving forward, the development of water governance indicators will be critical to support the implementation of the OECD Water Governance Principles. Water is a key to climate change adaptation and it is a service primarily managed locally and, as consequences, cities are key-players in water management. The ongoing territorial reforms and the tourism industry have also implications in terms of identifying at which scale water functions are best managed. The meeting concluded by thanking the countries who have largely contributed to the success

of the WGI through their financial support, in particular the Netherlands, Spain, Korea and Germany, while Mexico and Brazil provided through their national policy dialogues on water governance.

COLLABORATION FOR WATER SCARCITY PROBLEMS IN MURCIA REGION

Contribution from: IEA Foundation



The European Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Water Technology (WETSUS) offers collaboration to the Region of Murcia about drought and water scarcity problems.

Pieter De Jong, representative of the European Center of Excellence for Sustainable Water Technology (WETSUS), during his visit in the Region of Murcia (20th July, 2017), held a meeting by the Ministry of Agriculture and IEA Foundation to discuss about solutions for fixing the serious regional problems of water scarcity which is causing drought.

The WETSUS is an institution based in the Netherlands and it is composed

by research institutes and innovative companies from all over the Europe. The purpose of the visit was to invite the Region of Murcia to participate in the Global Innovation Meeting for Water Management held in Leeuwarden in October 2017, as well as to explore the implemented solutions for brine rejection in the *mar menor* and to collaborate for the integration of the region into new European projects.

The WETSUS representative was surprised for the explanations given by the director-general of water, Miguel Ángel Del Amor, when he informed him about the drought issue gravity which threatened a collapse for the Region of Murcia in a few months. The resources of the Tajo-Segura transfer are so critical because they lead to the bankruptcy of the entire regional system, which depends on agriculture, agri-food industry and international trade .

Pieter De Jong has offered an innovative technology for agricultural enterprises in the region which converts the desalination plants discharges into dry residue. In this way farmers would not be forced to treat desalination effluents as a new discharge to the *mar menor*, but as a waste that can be valued outside the water law and in accordance with the general system of industrial waste. This technological solution has already been tested with success in the treatment of brackish water in oil extraction.

The meeting ended with the collaboration of WETSUS for the integration of the Region of Murcia into European projects co-funded by the Regional Development Fund. These are new initiatives that could benefit, *inter alia*, the agri-food industry, following the example of the INTERREG

CASTWATER project, which promotes sustainable water management in the tourism sector.

INTERVIEW TO CIVILTÀ DELL'ACQUA INTERNATIONAL CENTER DIRECTOR

Contribution from: Veneto Region



Eriberto Eulisse talks about the water importance from the touristic point of view, focusing on the navigable waterways and some of related-theme projects carried on by his association.



LAS NAVES

