CONSUMELESSMED

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THE ENERGY & WATER AGENCY

ConsumeLess

Deliverable 5.4.1 – Policy Paper promoting the CONSUME-LESS tourism model

LESS is more CONSUME less

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE.

CONSUMELESSMED

Consumeless   Consumeless

Epsilon Malta Limited   By: Bonazountas, M., V. Katsoni, V. Aliberti, D. Schembri (ewa)

Abstract

Bonazountas, M., V. Katsoni, V. Aliberti, D. Schembri (2019): ConsumeLess in Mediterranean Countries. Interreg project (Report RP2--Policy paper on the integration of the ConsumeLess model in tourism policies). The Energy & Water Agency, Malta. Contract No, EWA 118/2019

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The **Consume-Less Project** has been funded under the Interreg MED Programme 2014-2020 and has been managed by the Energy and Water Agency (EWA) of Malta. The report present results whist considering European policies and programmes related to sustainable tourism. The effort delivers to Maltese Stakeholders recommendations and guidelines relevant to implementation of the *Consume-less tourism model* within their policies, plans and programmes related to sustainability and the development of the tourism sector. The **specific objectives** of the Interreg project are: (1) to boost public and private actors to replicate the Consume-Less tourism model at Regional, National and European level, (2) to provide to regional and national governments recommendations and guidelines for including the implementation of the "consume-less" tourism model within their policies, plans and programmes related to sustainability and the development of the tourist sector.

The **Conclusions** are: **(1)** The ConsumeLess project provides valuable guidelines for eco-friendly tourism and must be seriously considered by the participating counties and other stakeholders of Europe; **(2)** The model proposes an innovative approach and offers options for measures and action for implementation and integration onto the Mediterranean Tourism Policies; **(3)** Thirty basic ConsumeLess actions and their analysis provide a good basis to start with, by coordinating with stakeholders an implementation list combined with statistics on savings, and a monitoring programme, will be an ultimate contribution to the tourism business and the environment; **(4)**The ConsumeLess program in a region (e.g. island) or a major region (e.g., Sicily) or a country like Malta, must be supported the local or regional government in an aggressive and supportive way, to make it happen; **(5)** The cost to implement the ConsumeLess programme in a region are area by multiple stakeholders, must be less that the expected benefits in a short period of 2 years after implementation (this is the authors guess); **(6)**A ConsumeLess Med conference with Europe wide invitees, will be of good value for all stakeholders; **(7)**The Integration of the ConsumeLess Model in the tourism policies must to supported by the six Key players are: (a) Municipalities, (b) Trade, environmental and tourism associations, agencies & NGOs, (c) Public/private companies managing services: energy, water, waste, (d) Tourism Service Providers, (e) Tourism Agencies and Tour-operators, and (f) Individual facilities (e.g., hotels); **(8)**The implementation strategy has 3 key principles: (a) Development of the integrated approach, (b) ConsumeLess services an (c) Campaigns. The implementation actions involve 8 activities: Activity 0 – Involvement of stakeholders for fine tuning and approval of actions: (a) Activity 1 – ConsumelessMed agreement for the implementation of the model and launch of the implementation phase; (b) Activity 2 – Design of the communication campaign and related tools; (c) Activity 3 – Selection and design of the demonstrative measures; (d) Activity 4 – Implementation of the action plan: the ConsumelessMed label; (e) Activity 5 – Implementation of the action plan: the awareness raising campaign; (f) Activity 6 – Implementation of the action plan: the demonstrative actions; (g) Activity 7 – Monitoring of the action plan; **(9)**Key measures we transfer and integrate are: (a) the ConsumeLess principles and elements, (b) the Awareness raising campaign and its elements, (c) Demonstrations measures as elements; the ConsumeLess label system, (d) Training and motoring;

Key words: energy, water, waste, nexus, consumption, consume less, Interreg, Mediterranean region, tourism, national heritage, environment, guidelines, Albania, Greece, Italy, Malta, Spain,

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1 Introduction& Scope of RP2

The Energy and Water Agency (EWA) of Malta commissioned Epsilon Malta Ltd to support the ConsumeLess Project funded under the Interreg MED Programme 2014-2020[1]. The effort is based on the result of testing and transferring of activities made available by the EWA, whist considering European policies and programmes related to sustainable tourism of all involved countries and stakeholders, fostering a process aimed to integrate the proposed ConsumeLess model into existing strategies, policies, plans and programmes related to sustainability of the tourism sector.

The overall objective of the Interreg project is: (1) to contribute to sustainable energy, water and waste management with focus on the reduction in the consumption of energy, water, and waste through prevention of waste generation in the tourism sector in Mediterranean cities. (2) to promote sustainable tourism models, based on the enhancement of local historical heritage, natural resources and products, and (3) to promote responsible behaviour of tourists.

The specific objectives of the Interreg project are: (1) to boost public and private actors to replicate the Consume-Less tourism model at Regional, National and European level, (2) to provide to regional and national governments recommendations and guidelines for including the implementation of the "consume-less" tourism model within their policies, plans and programmes related to sustainability and the development of the tourist sector.

The scope of this effort (assignment) is:
1. A policy paper aimed at promoting the introduction of ad-hoc incentives within tourism policies aimed at encouraging public and private actors to adopt the Consume-Less tourism model at Regional, National and European level. This policy paper includes a detailed review of Sustainable Tourism Policies in the EU, with specific focus to the countries participating in the CONSUME-LESS project, and
2. A report on the review of Sustainable Tourism Policies in the EU (with focus to the countries participating in the CONSUME-LESS project), including the recommending of options for the integration of the Consume-less model in Malta's national tourism policies.

Deliverable of this effort (assignment) is three reports:
- Report RP1: Review of Sustainable Tourism Policies in the EU, with focus to the countries participating in the Consume Less project
- **Report RP2**: Policy paper on the integration of the Consume Less model in tourism policies
- Report RP3: Recommendations and guidelines for the integration of the Consume-less model in Malta's tourism policy

This is Report RP2, Policy Paper on the integration of the ConsumeLess model in the tourism policies *Sustainable Tourism Policies in the EU-MED with focus to countries participating in the Consume Less project and primarily in Malta*; it is geared to supporting environmental improvement efforts of multiple Stakeholders in the Tourism Sector towards reducing *Energy, Water and Waste* (EWW). It is critical to note. The ConsumeLess model proposes something different from the existing tools (e.g., EMAS) because it is addressed to small and medium facilities, an innovative approach, while existing tools are normally proposed at EU level for big businesses (e.g., KPIs, EMAS[2]).

2 ConsumeLess Model Integration in Tourism Policies

2.1 Overall

Most of the coastal cities in the MED are interested in received higher and higher numbers of tourists. While this fact creates economic and employment opportunities, it also brings negative side-effects. The ConsumeLess partnership faced this problem by developing a clear model for sustainable tourism. The model is of unique characters for coastal territories chosen as ConsumelessMed locations[3]. This model has been enhanced through communication and territory-based marketing campaign in most counties, whist this was made possible by involving interested participants and multiple stakeholders (e.g. in all project counties, Table 1).

ConsumeLess is *not* aimed transferring a "*label*", rather a Tourism "*Model*" to position stakeholders and municipality as a unique destination based on the implementation of a label to identify them as part of a Mediterranean network of authentic destinations, aiming to preserve their natural and cultural resources as a common *Mediterranean identity*.

Table 1: ConsumeLess Project Partners

Project Partners	
Partner Name	**Country**
The Energy and Water Agency	Malta
Malaga County Council Urban Waste Consortium	Spain
EGTC Efxini Poli - SolidarCity Network	Greece
EuroMediterranean Center for Sustainable Development	Sicily, Italy
Ambiente Italia srl	Italy
Provincial Government of Malaga (Diputación de Málaga)	Spain
Municipality of Naxos and Small Cyclades Islands	Greece
Municipality of Saranda	Albania
Regione Siciliana - Dipartimento del Turismo, Sport e Spettacolo - Area 2 "Sviluppo, Analisi, Bilancio, Attivazione Fondi U.E."	Sicily, Italy
Ministry for Gozo	Gozo, Malta

2.2 The ConsumeLess Countries-MED

The ConsumeLess Model identifies a set of integrated activities to be implemented in a Mediterranean tourist destination for increased sustainability. It considers (Figure 1):
- 5 countries (Albania, Greece, Italy, Malta, Spain)
- 5 activities (label, demos, awareness, monitoring, marketing)
- 5 facilities (hotels, camping, cafes/restaurants, food & handicraft shops, beach resorts)
- media/nexus[4] (energy, water, waste).

Components are (i) interconnected towards policies to consume less, and (ii) can be linked to KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) if appropriate per Medium and Facility (e.g., KPI waters use of m^3 of hotel) for facility promotion (e.g. energy saving hotel) via labelling and social media (e.g., TripAdvisor, Booking.com, Facebook).
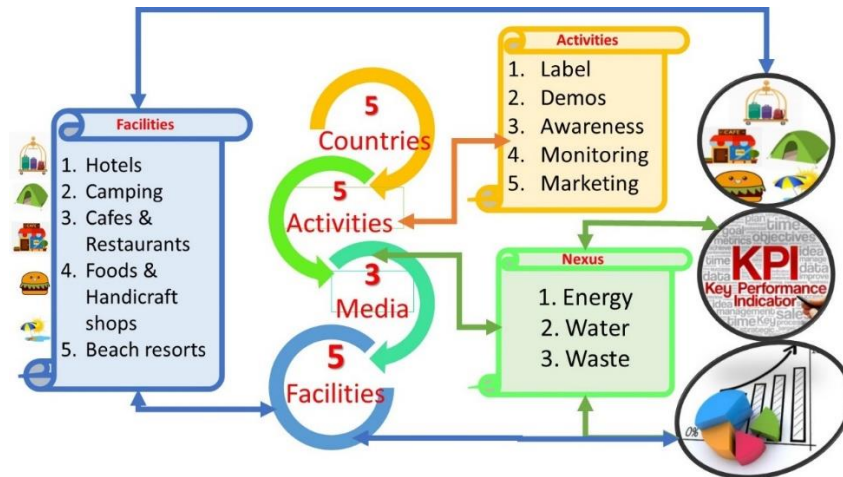
Figure 1: The Consume Less Model & KPIs per Medium & Facility for Labelling

2.3   Stakeholders engaged

The integration of the ConsumeLess Model in tourism policies, via a transferability plan or Action Plan, involves public and private actors, coastal and inland municipalities and cities, and the support of the Regional Government. It also must involve trade associations, environment and tourism associations, agencies & NGOs, companies managing services as energy-water-waste, tourism service providers and agencies, tour-operators, and individual facilities (e.g., hotels). All above must be supported by a ConsumeLess Committee. It is important for model implementation to foresee engagement of such stakeholders whist pilot cities are essential at start.

Without the *Stakeholders* the implementation of the Model is not be possible. Although facilities and cities are the main objective, there are economic actors representing tourist services who might have a special interest in positioning the city and their facilities as ConsumelessMed companions, thus, *Municipalities* must serve as Moderators

2.4   Model implementation strategy

This implementation (integration) strategy is clearly defined by introducing the concept of the territorial label: "ConsumelessMed". In this case the ConsumeLess tourism model is based on 3 main principles:

1. *Integrated Approach*: It includes multiple types of energy and water saving actions, along with taking waste prevention and management measures (Table 2, see RP1). For each of the measures, specific activities are assumed at stakeholders- or municipal- or regional-levels.

2. *ConsumeLess services*: With the active involvement of tourism service providers that help reorganize services, in order to give tourists choice of services during their stay that includes: (a) reducing energy use, (a) minimizing water use, (c) decreasing waste, and appreciating local products via actions and measures (Table 3). Model validation and implementation when aiming at these services is achieved via 8 steps (Figure 2).

3. *Campaigns to raise awareness* and to tune behaviour: They are based on combination of methods and solutions for changing unsustainable behaviour. Campaigns shall be implemented, through demonstrative actions planned, whist reflecting requirements and distinctiveness of the tourist areas. The ConsumeLess Project is intended to be transferred to

other territories, with active involvement of a wide range of local, regional and national actors. Typical campaign raising actions are depicted in Table 2.

Table 2: Important ConsumeLess Project Actions, Measures, Policies (Aggregated list)[1]

Energy actions	Water actions	Waste actions	Global actions
1. Use of solar-photovoltaic and wind systems 2. Introduction of LED lighting 3. Auto-energy control and illumination systems (sensors) 4. Heating, AC, kitchens, laundry energy control& recovery systems (new systems) 5. Regulation of room temperature at 22 degrees, etc. (e.g., doors control) 6. Optimization of energy supply to appliances (TV, etc.) 7. Insulations systems	8. Control of leakage and dripping 9. Water saving devices & systems (e.g. toilets) 10. Eco-sign for towels-use and general laundering 11. Smart gardening (e.g. water-reuse from treatment plant) 12. Rainwater harvesting 13. Kitchens water control (e.g., dishwashers) 14. Swimming pools water management & checks	15. Minimize packaging 16. Minimize disposable and consumable goods 17. Waste separation & management 18. Waste and hazardous waste recycling (organic, paper, plastic, metal, glass, aluminium, other) or relevant disposing off & recycling (e.g. medical) 19. Use of reusable products 20. Minimize paper and plastic use 21. Use of eco-friendly cleaning products 22. Use of organic products for food etc.	23. Set targets of ConsumeLess local action plan & strategies 24. Awareness and training program (facilities staff, stakeholders, workshops, SWOT analyses, social media, publicity) 25. ConsumeLess Eco-labelling in multiple places 26. Info and Communication material to guests on environment and measures 27. Offer by facility (e.g., bicycles) and indication on public transport use 28. Metering systems, regular checks, reporting, and audits (Energy, Water, Waste), KPIs/ETIS indicators use (facts sheets of usage) 29. Coordination with Municipality and stakeholders 30. ConsumeLess Conference

Table 3: Implementation of Actions and Measures of the ConsumeLess Model for policies

Actions and measures can be applied at all levels, tourism facilities, municipal-regional. The implementation Plan at a level (e.g., facility hotel, municipal) is based on eight the activities:

1. Activity 0 – Involvement of stakeholders for fine tuning and approval of actions.
2. Activity 1 – ConsumelessMed agreement for the implementation of the model and launch of the implementation phase
3. Activity 2 – Design of the communication campaign and related tools
4. Activity 3 – Selection and design of the demonstrative measures
5. Activity 4 – Implementation of the action plan: the ConsumelessMed label
6. Activity 5 – Implementation of the action plan: the awareness raising campaign
7. Activity 6 – Implementation of the action plan: the demonstrative actions
8. Activity 7 – Monitoring of the action plan

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[1] These actions and measures can be applied at both, tourism facilities and municipal levels

Figure 2: The ConsumeLess Model approach in 8 steps

To work on a successful transferability of the project, it is important to understand the key factors aimed to ensure the durability and the sustainability of the ConsumelessMed Model to stakeholders, via above activities and a actions like (Figure 3 Malaga D4.1.1.1):

− Maintaining a strong network
− Integrating results at a local/regional system
− Producing results and outcomes ready to be capitalized
− Finding new funding, and
− Finding an institutional home related to thematic stakeholders.

Figure 3: Factors ensuring durability & sustainability of ConsumeLess-Med

3   Key integration policies

Prior aiming at the transferability process, we need to know the tools to be used to transfer, i.e., the catalogue of "services" we offer to Stakeholders as assistance to implement the ConsumelessMed Tourism Model. Tools are available at www.consumelessmed.org with the following basic elements.

3.1   ConsumeLess-MED

It involves:
- *Identify stakeholders*: i.e., mapping the Stakeholders in the region, following a series of interviews and communication.
- *ConsumeLess Tourism Model*: Deliver the document that provides common guidance for designing a local action plan for the development of the ConsumelessMed tourism model, aimed at promoting sustainable tourism in Mediterranean coastal territories, identifies set of integrated activities that should be implemented to increasing sustainability of tourism.
- *ConsumeLess-Med Label Guidelines*. Delivers the document that provides common guidelines describing the general criteria for applying and monitoring the ConsumelessMed label. It includes technical annexes describing actions to be implemented by different categories of tourist service providers (hotels and accommodation facilities, cafes and restaurants, shops, beach resorts, etc).
- *Template to set up the local committee*. Since the committee is the main body to promote the label, it is necessary that each member signs a Memorandum of Understanding committing to manage the label implementation.

3.2   Awareness raising campaign

The implementation of extensive awareness raising targeted to tourists is aimed to communicate to tourists how to do the right thing in a sustainable way, taking care of the territories they are visiting and, at the same time, promoting the local historical heritage, natural resources and products. The campaign is based on multiple behaviour change approaches, including the 'nudges, smacks, hugs and shoves' approach, the environmental marketing of the ConsumelessMed brand, and additional tools as feedbacks, norm appeals, commitments and prompts. It involves:

- *Marketing study*: Awareness also includes the marketing strategy aimed at enhancing the ConsumelessMed label and the model to be implemented. The strategy focuses on promoting the Consume-less brand awareness (i.e. objective, identity, logo and main message), taking also into account the specific identity in each area (i.e. target, origin of tourists, attractive locations etc.) and the main media and physic tools (i.e. banner, postcards, stickers, video etc.).

- *Kit of Communication Tools*: Layout of communication tools for each type of facilities, ready to be produced and available in different languages. Communication material: Logos, posters, brochures, banners, desktop, headed paper, roll ups, etc.; Entertainment activities as atypical events to raise awareness; Kit for tourists & facilities, including ideas and designs; Kit for external communication.

- *Project website/portal:* A platform to provide visibility to the cities, facilities and actors involved at Mediterranean level. It must be more than a website. It must have the characteristics of a portal with communication capabilities linked to social media.

- ***ConsumeLess Conference****:* The ConsumeLessMED project must organize a European Conference prior to project closer and receive input form participants via a well-structured program. In addition, participants can release statistics and other information as to be guided by the conference organizer, so to gain effective and usable information.

- ***ConsumeLess Training****:* Training is key component and must be well defined. Training material must be produced in form of Manuals or Cookbooks.

3.3   Demonstration measures

Demonstrations costs range from a few hundred of Euros (e.g., photovoltaic panels) to high costing measures (e.g. LED public lighting). Some measures belong to the private sector (e.g., e-bicycle), therefore the private sector and the public funds (e.g., EC Structural funds) must be well activated. Multiple demonstration measures are reported in D.3.1.2 (Ambiente Italia).The cost is high, when implementing measures at city level aimed at reducing water and energy consumption or waste production, by installing some visible and concrete equipment in popular public or private spaces/buildings having a high visibility for tourists. In this case Structural Funds must be utilised. The impact of such demo measures to tourists is high. These demo measures can be specifically co-designed and realized "ex novo" together with local stakeholders in case of public resources and/or private sponsorships available.

3.4   The ConsumeLess labelling

The Label is assigned to private and public operators (tourism service providers) which apply specific energy, water and waste sustainable management actions in their activities, offering to tourists choices of services to minimizing consumption of water and energy and the generation of waste, and also, to better know and appreciate local products during their stay. The ConsumeLess Labelling process must be well planned, and it is a low-cost action compared to its benefits. However, it must truly reflect the ConsumeLess process and "not be a Label" alone. The Label must be communicated to the social media and the booking portals (e.g., TripAdvisor, Booking.com, Expedia). Scope of the Label and its implementations guidelines are described in D.3.1.1.

3.5   Monitoring

It is necessary to set up a monitoring approach in the territories implementing the model, to collect information (both quantitative data and qualitative feedbacks) on the development of the label and demonstrative measures. Being aware of the reached results and properly communicate them is fundamental step to further improve and promote the Consume-less approach. Moreover, this kind of bottom-up information represents a starting point towards the development of a broader monitoring system like the European Tourism Indicators System (ETIS) aiming to better describe and monitor the tourism impact and the sustainability performance of the area. Monitoring must be accompanied via:

- ***List of indicators to measure the involvement of facilities*** towards this level. Based on a list of mandatory and voluntary initiatives organized by type of facility. Hotels, B&B, Holliday and other short-stay accommodation; Camping Sites; Cafes& Restaurants; Food and handicraft shops; Beach resorts.

- ***ETIS Indicators selected and adapted*** to the ConsumelessMed Model, after analysing feasibility and synergies with the model.

3.6   ConsumeLess Implementation Strategies

Based on the two-days CONSUME-LESS Project Capitalization Conference took place in Palau Pedralbes, Barcelona, Spain, on 6–7th November 2019, during which project partners presented the outcome of the Consume-Less project to multiple stakeholders and experts from across all European Union and Mediterranean countries, the policy implementation guidance is prosed.

3.6.1   At MED-Government Level (push policy)

Local *ConsumeLess Committees* are key vehicles to effectively enabling the adoption of the CL policy following basic steps like:

1. The ConsumeLess policy can be first adopted by the *Local Authorities* and Entities, in any incremental uptake. For example, in Malta there is limited number of communities (e.g., Sliema, Gozo) engaged in CL, thus there is need to enlarge this number for wider coverage.

2. Local Authorities or Local Committees must pursued stakeholders on the relevance and benefits these stakeholders will acquire when adopting the CL model for their own operational benefit, because this can boost tourism at local and regional level, whilst setting targets for energy, water and waste, linked to financial profits expected.

3. Establishment of *Local CL Committees* is a plus, as they can promote adoption of the label and at the same time, seek means for financial instruments to support the implementation target.

4. Once a Local Committee is established and well-functioning, then the higher-Level Committees (Government, MED-wide) can follow afterwards in their footsteps.

3.6.2   At the Consumers / Stakeholders Level (pull policy)

ConsumeLess facilities must be self-promoted by advertising the criteria of the CL via multiple media channels and implemented in an effective way. Therefore, it is also importance to have the Local Authority supporting and guiding stakeholders and offer incentives to stakeholders (e.g., financial, marketing, tax deduction as eco-contribution or eco deduction).

3.6.3   At Malta's level (push/pull policy)

Malta is a small and well-organized country; hence there is no need for excess bureaucracy. Two levels of implementation are enough:

3.6.3.1   *At 1st level*
The aim is to encourage Maltese entities (e.g. WSC, EWA, MCCAA) via the Local Councils to incorporate the CL concept and promote it to stakeholders by getting "closer". In parallel, to increase the number of the Local Councils (e.g. 15-20 from the limited now) aimed to consider CL and increase the number of stakeholders who can implement the label (targeted to create a nationwide CL Label). This will be beneficial even from a marketing point of view. In the end, to also "induce" a small Councils competition that will increase uptake (e.g., Sliema has several stakeholders with the CL label, whist St. Julian is lacking wide consideration).

3.6.3.2   *At 2nd level*

There is no need for Malta to have CL Committees at local level. The 2nd level must foster effective communication between localities which can acquire the label and promote the business aspects. There may be a need of either one nationwide Label Committee, or two so that the island Gozo can have its own Committee. The 2 Committees will obverse the CL applicability and replicability and see how the market is evolving (MTA label on its website) and can assume that there is a wide CL uptake, leading further to a National CL Committee.

3.6.4   Five Maltese Pilots proposed for 2020

Since Marsaskala is one of the four local councils currently on-board (Marsaskala, Cospicua, Rabat and Zabbar) it is proposed to conduct full scale pilots for the CL model uptake in 2020 for: St. Julians, Sliema, Gzira, Mellieha, St. Paul's Bay.

4   Recommendation Steps

1. The ConsumeLess project provides valuable guidelines for eco-friendly tourism and must be seriously considered by the participating counties and other stakeholders of Europe.

2. The vast literature on eco-tourism offers unlimited options for measures and action like the ConsumeLess Model implementation and integration onto the Mediterranean Tourism Policies.

3. The 30 basic ConsumeLess actions (Table 2) and their analysis (see RP1) provide a good basis to start with, by coordinating with stakeholders an implementation list combined with statistics on savings, and a monitoring programme, will be an ultimate contribution to the tourism business and the environment.

4. The ConsumeLess program in a region (e.g. island) or a major region (e.g., Sicily) or a country like Malta, must be supported the local or regional government in an aggressive and supportive way, to make it happen.

5. The cost (euro) to implement the ConsumeLess programme in a region with multiple stakeholders, must be less that the expected benefits in a short period of 2 years after implementation (this is the authors guess).

6. A ConsumeLessMED conference with Europe-wide invitees, will be of good value for all stakeholders.

7. The Integration of the ConsumeLess Model in tourism policies must to supported by the six key players: (a) Municipalities, (b) Trade, environmental and tourism associations, agencies & NGOs, (c) Public/private companies managing services: energy, water, waste, (d) Tourism Service Providers, (e) Tourism Agencies and Tour-operators, and (f) Individual facilities (e.g., hotels).

8. The implementation and integration strategy has 3 key principles: (a) Development of the integrated approach, (b) ConsumeLess services, and (c) Campaigns. The implementation actions involve eight activities: Activity 0 – Involvement of stakeholders for fine tuning and approval of actions: (a) Activity 1 – ConsumelessMed agreement for the implementation of the model and launch of the implementation phase; (b) Activity 2 – Design of the communication campaign and related tools; (c) Activity 3 – Selection and design of the demonstrative measures; (d) Activity 4 – Implementation of the action plan: the ConsumelessMed label; (e) Activity 5 – Implementation of the action plan: the awareness raising campaign; (f) Activity 6 – Implementation of the action plan: the demonstrative actions; (g) Activity 7 – Monitoring of the action plan.

9. Key measures to transfer and integrate are: (a) the ConsumeLess principles and elements, (b) the Awareness raising campaign and its elements, (c) Demonstrations measures as elements; the ConsumeLess label system, (d) Training and motoring.

10. The integration of the ConsumeLess Model in tourism in Malta (and the remaining MED countries) must be supported by the EWA and the Government of Malta. Stakeholders must have a *Guidance Book* supported by a *National Conference*.

11. The cost to implement the ConsumeLess programme in a Maltese region/area by multiple stakeholders must be less than the expected benefits in a short period of 2 years after implementation (this is the authors guess), it will have a high return after.

12. Five full scale pilots for the ConsumeLess model uptake in 2020 are proposed for St. Julians, Sliema, Gzira, Mellieha, and St. Paul's Bay.

13. A ConsumeLess Med conference in Malta with Europe-wide invitees in 2020, will be of good value for all Maltese stakeholders.

5   Authors

5.1   Prof. Marc Bonazountas

<u>Profile</u>: 47 years of academic and professional experience. Born in Athens Greece (GR, 1945); GR/USA citizen; Civil Engineer; World-wide experience; Expertise in the entire spectrum of civil/environment sciences/engineering; technologies of GIS/Geoinfo; ICT/space/Copernicus; Policy/Law; Management of large scale EC projects; Authored 600+ publications; On the editorial board of several scientific journals; Languages: Fluent in Greek, English, German, French, basics in Italian & Flemish; World-wide working experience in 60+ countries and with 35+ international organizations.

<u>Degrees</u>: National Technical University Athens (NTUA, Dipl.-Ing., 1969); Technical University Munich (TUM, Dr.-Ing., 1973); Data Processing Institute Athens (Diploma in Fortran/Cobol programming; DPS, 1968); Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT, Postdoc Water Systems, 1975); Harvard University, J. F. Kennedy School of Government (1982, Public Policy); National Technical University of Athens (NTUA, Habil. -Ing., 1984); PPL Aircraft Pilot (Hellenic Civil Aviation Authority, YPA, 1998); Drone Pilot (YPA 2018) Additional Certifications.

<u>Positions</u>: EPSILON Group (Head of RTD, 2012-today); National Technical Univ. Athens (Prof. NTUA, 1985-2012); European Environment Agency (EEA Scientific Management Committee EEA/SC, 2007-2010); European Council of Civil Engineers, ECCE Chairman, Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee, (ECCE, 2007-2010); Arthur D. Little Inc, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA (ADL, 1975-90); St. Petersburg State Polytechnic University (STPSP/RU, 1996-97), Rhein-Main-Donau AG, Germany (RMD, 1972-73); Technical University of Munich (TUM, 1969-73).

<u>Experience</u>: In the entire civil engineering- water resources- and environmental sciences and engineering-spectrum (e.g., air, land, water, soil, marine, ecosystems, ICT/GIS/ Space/Copernicus, policy, economics) and associated sciences (e.g., geoinformatics, databases/INSPIRE, mathematical modelling, statistics & indicators, sustainable enviro-management, earth surveying technologies, remote sensing/space/Copernicus, ICT, geospatial processing, policy, risk/civil protection, laws/directives). Managed 50+ major EC/RTD projects (1989-today), lead/guided 200+ state-of-technology projects, supervised 40+ academic research projects, supervised 40+ academic theses, conducted day-to-day RTD and teaching next to an experience in administrative assignments and public administration. His current emphasis is in the use of ICT technologies (GIS, remote sensing, Copernicus, AI, Bloch chain) in the sectors of his expertise.

<u>Focus</u>: (i) Management of large-scale interdisciplinary projects (e.g., space/ geoinformation/Copernicus, environment, civil protection, security/CIP, aerosystems, shipping, aviation, security); Policy & Economics, EU-/world-wide experience. (ii) Development of new large H2020 projects, (iii) EC and governments support to major national projects development/implementation, (iv) work in environment domains combined with Geoinformation (e.g. web Geomatics, S[pace/Copernicus) for policy and technologies development as added value products (e.g. MRV emissions platform via Copernicus).

5.2   Prof. Vicky Katsoni

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University of Athens, Department of Economics and a BSc in Tourism Management from the Technological Educational Institute (T.E.I.) in Thessaloniki, Faculty of Business Management, Greece. She has published 12 books on tourism, chapters in edited volumes, and numerous papers on highly academic journals. She is the President of the non-profit "International Association of Cultural and Digital Tourism" and a member of the Editorial Board of many journals in tourism and marketing. Her research interests include tourism marketing management, tourism destination strategies, sustainability and DMOs, tourism distribution channels, digital tourism, and tourism consumer behaviour, and has participated in several European and National research programs, such as Horizon 2020, Erasmus +, etc.

5.3   Mr. Vivian Aliberti

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5.4   Mr Dylan Schembri

Mr. Dylan Schembri forms part of the Water Policy Unit within the Energy and Water Agency (EWA). He is currently involved in implementing different European projects in the Maltese Islands with regards to project management and coordination. He holds a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Earth Systems and is currently undertaking a Master's Degree in Integrated Water Resources Management.

6   References

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