

MID-TERM EVALUATION CONSENSUS REPORT

Simulating tourism water consumption with stakeholders (SIMTWIST)

Name of Coordinator: Bas Amelung

Project code: WaterWorks2017-SIMTWIST

Duration of project: 36 months

Start date: **1 June 2019**

End date: **31 May 2022**

FOLLOW-UP GROUP

Please include the data of the FG members reviewing the report

Name	Organisation
Olga Covaliova	Institute of Chemistry, Republic of Moldova
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1. Scientific and technological progress (Maximum 250 words)

This is a very well executed report that presents progress in a clear, comprehensive, honest, and structured manner.

The project started in June 2019, but suffered delays due to funding decisions pending for Spain and Italy, which delayed the contracting of postdocs.

The work done covers many elements of work packages 1 to 4 and some of 5 and 6. Task 1.1 – Collection of available data sets on water supply and demand partly performed, validation and analysis of datasets is ongoing. Collection of information of existing measures and policies, scientific review on tourism water footprint is in progress. Task 1.2. – Design of water metering campaign – identification of users and meters is ongoing. Tasks 1.3 and 1.4 Smart monitoring and Water demand models – not started yet. Task 2.1. – Scenarios for tourism development – is in progress. Task 2.2. – Intervention options is in progress, a database of regional and national policies regarding water conservation is compiled. Task 3.1 – design of survey campaigns, interview design was completed. Task 3.2. – Participatory modeling process – a series of interviews have been performed, however, some interviews with stakeholders were postponed. Task 4.1 design of interview campaign – completed. Task 4.2. Interviews and consumer profiling – partially completed. Task 4.3. – Questionnaire for tourism stakeholders was administered for eleven interviewees in Benidorm, and in Rimini is ongoing. Task 5.1. Modeling – in progress, main model parameters identified.

The progress on tasks compared with the original plan is presented clearly and frankly, explaining the rationale for any changes (e.g. combination of stakeholder interviews) or delays. Very good progress has thus been made with secondary data collection and analysis, model assessment, interviews, policy review, and methodology. The scientific review of water footprint analysis in tourism locations could be expected to be completed.

Results dissemination comprises website elaborated and active, flyers distribution, lectures for students. 3 papers for peer-reviewed journals under preparation; 3 books and book chapters, one conference communication. Multi-disciplinary work performed: data collection including geographic, geological data, water resources, existing measures and policies, design of water metering campaign.

The work is being conducted collaboratively across all partners, endeavouring to maintain a similar nature and pace of work in the two cases, with work-around strategies being sensibly deployed e.g. splitting the workshop into synchronous and non-synchronous events.

2. **Collaboration, coordination and mobility within the Consortium** (Maximum 250 words)

The project is based on multi-partner Work Packages. The coordination activities described are very well-defined and strong, with a clear line of command across the project and for each work package. A very good number of meetings across the project have been held to date: a kick-off meeting was held in Wageningen, and 11 online meetings followed. In addition, there were numerous smaller bilateral meetings to address topics as interviews, climate models, water supply and consumption data.

As above, there seems to be a concerted effort to keep both case studies at the same stage of progress to ensure eventual comparability. This shows that the project work is integrated in a meaningful way across partners, whereby each partner leads an activity according to their disciplinary specialisation but with feedback from other partners, and across the case study locations, whereby the project work is developing in conjunction rather than in a disconnected way.

Although mobility has been affected by the Covid-19 situation, and the second annual meeting was moved online, the mobility between the project members has been good, with four external visits. Additional mobility and collaboration has occurred through Wageningen-based 4 MSc and 3 BSc dissertations in parallel.

We are therefore satisfied that communication across the project, as well as the integration of the project work, is excellent and raises no concerns at this stage, and, indeed, that the project is of a transnational nature that provides added value to this programme.

3. **Coordination with other international project funded by WaterWorks2017, or other instruments** (Maximum 250 words)

The report does not mention links with other JPI projects or other projects funded from other sources, perhaps as this is a smaller and more 'niche' project than some of the others funded under this call, with a very integrated and united team.

We understand that this sort of engagement is expected, but in this case and under these circumstances we are not too concerned by its apparent absence. Indeed, in many ways this project represents an example of good interdisciplinary work and cross-partner collaboration.

4. **Coverage of the themes and sub-themes of the call** (Maximum 250 words)

The Project results are related to the following themes and subthemes of the Call:
 Theme 1. Enabling sustainable management of water resources. Sub-theme 1.1. Promoting adaptive water management for global change.
 Theme 2. Strengthening socio-economic approaches to water management. Sub-theme 2.1. Integrating economic and social analyses into decision-making processes: Sub-theme 2.3. Connecting science to society: Sub-theme 2.4. Promoting new governance and knowledge management approaches:
 Theme 3. Supporting tools for sustainable integrative management of water resources.

This is a highly interdisciplinary and integrated project, and so is extremely well aligned with the themes of the JPI programme as well as its ambition. It is clear that the team is endeavouring to keep the same pace in both case studies, and to ensure comparability, which, for example, has had to be addressed due to different climate models being used in the two countries. The team is also being innovative with regard to both funding and Covid-19 mitigation measures.

5. Stakeholder/industry engagement (Maximum 250 words)

The Project has engaged a large number of stakeholders, whose participation has provided added value.

Thus, in Benidorm, interviews were conducted with eleven stakeholders from government offices, water providers, water user groups such as irrigation associations, and also the Benidorm association for bars, restaurants and cafeterias. Contact with the latter has been helpful and instrumental in designing the survey to solicit information from restaurants in Benidorm about amounts of food and drinks sold.

In Rimini, three stakeholders were interviewed to date: the main regional water supplier, and the retail water company.

Stakeholder engagement is therefore good, but is also mainly focused on the two case study locations so far and could also be scaled up to wider and/or international actors at this stage. The communication plan may need to be revised in line with the lower possibility of conducting face-to-face activities if the pandemic conditions continue to affect the countries concerned.

6. Recommendations for improvements/amendments of the report (Please complete Table below)

Page	Modification	Rationale for change
4	Explain why the scientific review is still in progress at this stage.	Explanation for the delay needed.

10	Is there any way of collating the MSc and BSc theses into project outputs?	Just a comment.
16	The paper published in <i>Urban Water Journal</i> does not mention this project as a source of funding, so should presumably be removed from the list of project publications.	Ambiguity.

7. General Assessment Comments (Maximum 250 words)

The project has made very good and solid progress, despite delays arising from funding issues and, later on, the shift to online activities as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Some changes have been made, but these have been clearly explained and justified, and are acceptable. The project is well organised and administered, and activities have been completed to a high standard, with key milestones achieved, and in a manner that integrates the project partners in an interdisciplinary and equitable way.

We feel that the progress of this project is good, and represents an example of best practice in terms of interdisciplinary research and project organisation. That said, we acknowledge that the Consortium may need to request a project period extension, to be able to completely perform all the scheduled activity.