



## Reporting of Side Events

Please use the template below to report your side event results. This form should be submitted by email ([efe9side-events@mio-ecsde.org](mailto:efe9side-events@mio-ecsde.org)) within the day of the side event.

Basic Information	
Side event title	<b>EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY: Shifting tourism towards circular economy models</b>
Date	[October 6th 2022 - 13:10-14:40, "5b/Fresnel Building" of Cyprus Institute] [English] {Hybrid}
Organizer	ISPRA - Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research on behalf of the Interest Group on Environment and Tourism (IGET) of the European Network of the Heads of Environment Protection Agencies (EPA Network).
Co-Organizers	IGET members: Ministry of Tourism and Sports of the Republic of Croatia (HR); Agência Portuguesa do Ambiente (PT); Turismo de Portugal (PT); ADEME - French Ecological Transition Agency (FR); Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (ES); Environmental Protection Agency (IE); Fáilte Ireland (IE); Environment Agency Austria (AT); Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic (SK); SAŽP/Slovak Environment Agency (SK); Institute of Tourism (SK); Herman Ottó Institute (HU); Environment and Resources Authority (MT) ; Malta Tourism Authority (MT).
Name & Email of Rapporteur	<b>Sandra MOSCONE</b> – Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) <a href="mailto:sandra.moscone@isprambiente.it">sandra.moscone@isprambiente.it</a>
Approximate number of participants	40



Please list in bullet points some key notes as well as main results of your side event (e.g. Recommendations; Report launched; Network formed; Commitments to XYZ reinforced, etc.)

- The focus of this side event was how tourism activities can shift to the circular economy paradigm to embrace a sustainable and resilient growth pathway and main elements needed for such shift. It provided an opportunity to present the main elements of the [Information Document produced by the Interest Group on Environment and Tourism \(IGET\)](#) of the European Network of the Heads of Environment Protection Agencies (EPA Network) as a contribution to UNECE 9<sup>th</sup> Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference.
- IGET objectives demonstrated to be in line with the focus of the 9<sup>th</sup> EFe Ministerial Conference on *Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism*, in particular, the commitment to promote the development and sustainability of tourism suggesting solutions for a circular economy approach capable of reducing economic losses in the value chain and avoiding overcrowding.
- Policy-makers at EU level in the tourism field and key representatives from National/European/International competent institutions respectively the European Environment Agency (EEA), the Italian Institution for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA), EC DG-GROW, the Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT), the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) discussed together about the application of the circular economy principles in the tourism sector, identified amongst others by the EPA Network in the Bellagio declaration, a set of principles capturing the essential elements of a monitoring framework for the transition to a Circular Economy.
- The side event was aimed at stimulating and promoting an institutional debate on tourism environmental aspects, in particular on the environmental benefits linked to a circular economy approach to tourism and at providing a contribution to EU Tourism Agenda 2030-2050.



### Conclusions:

- Interventions highlighted that circular economy approaches and monitoring to tourism require cross-cutting efforts at all levels. There is a need to better steer data governance.
- It was recognised the need to increase dialogue and cooperation at all levels (local, national, international) in order to fill the knowledge gaps in the environmental dimension of sustainability of tourism; technology and innovation were recognized to play a strategic role.
- The presentations and discussion highlighted the need to raise awareness on the importance of a circular approach to tourism for mitigating environmental impacts generated by tourism activities.
- It was recognized/noted that given the peculiarity of the Interest Group on Environment and Tourism (IGET) being both represented by Environmental Protection Agencies and by Tourism Authorities it is a suitable stakeholder for providing effective contributions to the governance/monitoring of ongoing processes.
- Participants praised the initiative of bringing together key players and policy makers in both environment and tourism fields for enhancing dialogue and participation within the ongoing relevant processes.