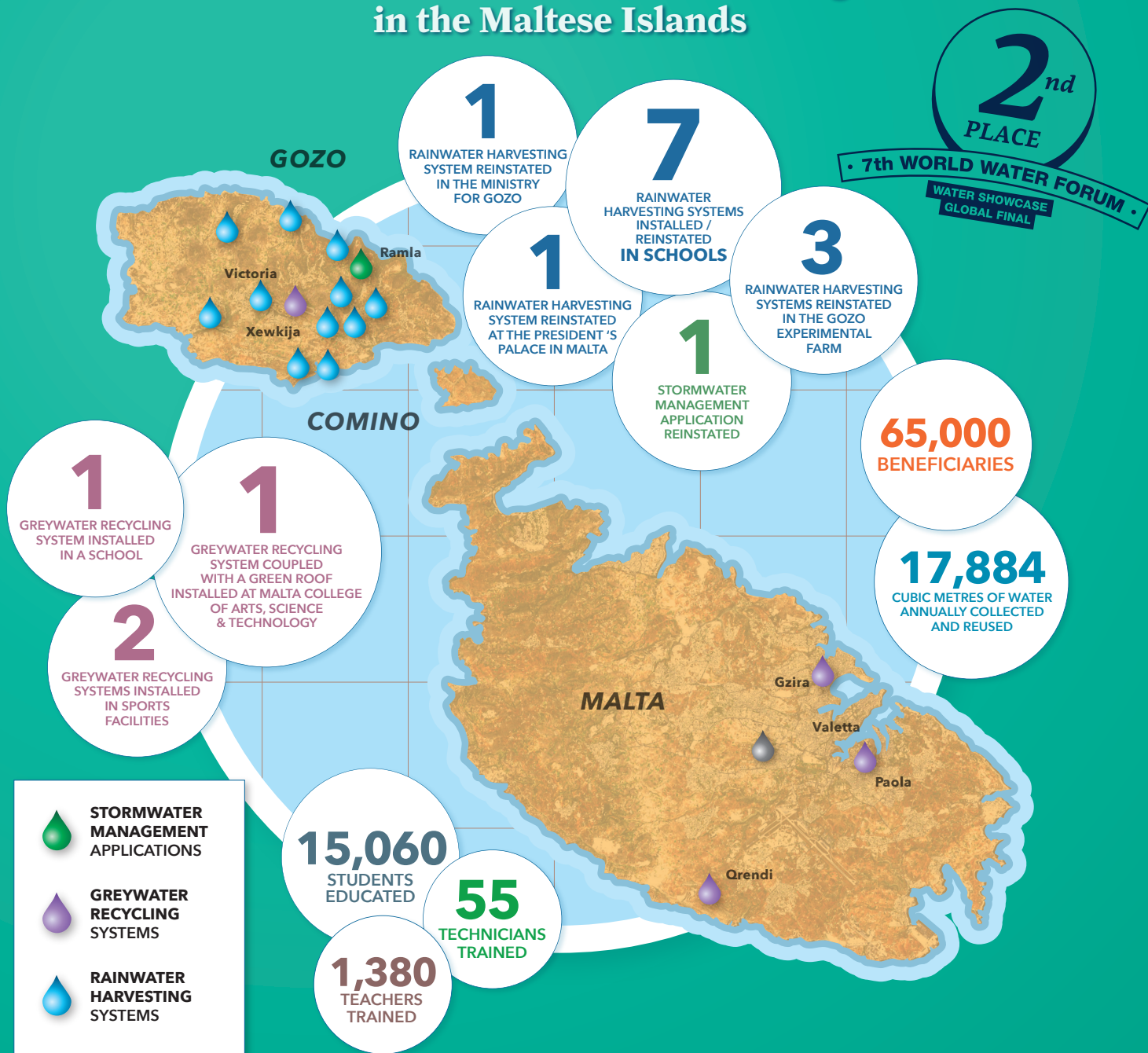


“ALTER AQUA”

Non Conventional Water Resources Programme in the Maltese Islands



The *Alter Aqua* Programme was initiated in 2011 in the island of Gozo by the regional organisation Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean (GWP-Med), in partnership with the Ministry for Gozo, the Eco-Gozo Project and the Coca-Cola System in Malta (Coca-Cola Malta & General Soft Drinks Co. Ltd), primarily funded by The Coca-Cola Foundation and co-funded by the Ministry for Gozo. In January 2014, it expanded to the island of Malta, in partnership with the Ministry for Energy and Health and the Sustainable Energy and Water Conservation Unit. The educational activities are implemented in collaboration with the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE)/MedIES Network, Nature Trust Malta and the EkoSkola programme.

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The background

Malta is acknowledged as the water poorest country in Europe. With limited freshwater resources, further depleted due to climate change impacts, dense population and rising water demand, the Maltese Islands suffer from water scarcity and heavily depend on desalination to tackle their water deficit.

Responding to the need to bridge the gap of water demand and supply, along with promoting a new water culture, locally and nationally, the *Alter Aqua* Programme aims to advance the utilisation of non conventional water resources, such as rain-, storm- and greywater, for secondary uses, as a sustainable, cost-effective way to enhance water availability and adapt to climate change. In parallel, it raises awareness among educational and technical community audiences, the authorities and the wider public, towards a more responsible attitude to water saving.

The objectives

The Programme has a holistic approach towards non conventional water resources management, aiming to:

- 1 PROMOTE** the use of non conventional water resources, especially rainwater harvesting and greywater recycling, through demo applications, as a useful method for local water availability and climate change adaptation.
- 2 CULTIVATE** a new culture of sustainable water use and saving, as well as the utilisation of non conventional water resources, among targeted stakeholders and the general public, through education, training, capacity building and awareness raising.
- 3 SHARE** knowledge and experiences on non conventional water resources management, as a good practice with replication potential in further water scarce areas.

The activities

Infrastructure works in selected public buildings

for rainwater harvesting, stormwater management and greywater recycling, demonstrating innovative technologies that can be further replicated at domestic and community level.

Education and training

- Development, based on the principles of Education for Sustainable Development, of the *Alter Aqua* Educational Material, on non conventional water resources and sustainable water use
- Educational hands-on activities in schools and development of the interactive *Alter Aqua* Video Game, to raise awareness and inform school students on non conventional water resources and water saving in everyday life
- Teacher training seminars on the cross-thematic application of the *Alter Aqua* Educational Material
- Training seminars for local technicians to enhance their know-how on non conventional water resources technologies and water related innovations

Dialogue at national and regional level

for the promotion of non conventional water resources management in the Mediterranean countries.

Capacity building

- Capacity building workshops for local and national stakeholders on non conventional water resources management
- Assistance to the implementation of the Eco-Gozo project's action plan to turn the island of Gozo into an eco-island by 2020
- Contribution to the development of the National Water Management Plan for the Maltese Islands

Awareness raising and dissemination

- Awareness raising on the use of non conventional water resources at domestic and community level, sustainable water use and saving
- Presentation of the Programme in local, national and global fora, and distinction as the 2nd best case at global level, at the 7th World Water Forum's Water Showcase Global Final (April 2015)
- Transfer of knowledge and sharing of experiences with other water scarce regions, creating the basis for a wider non conventional water resources management paradigm



MORE INFORMATION:

Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med)

- ◆ www.gwpmed.org
- ◆ www.gwpmed.org/NCWR
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WITH:

