

ThermEcoWat

White Paper, knowledge base and decision-support tool: what ThermEcoWat aims to leave to thermal spa towns

Turning three years of work into a transferable methodology

ThermEcoWat is not intended to produce three local assessments alone. The project was designed to build on the knowledge acquired in the pilot territories and turn it into resources that can be used by other thermal spa towns. This ambition to support knowledge transfer is at the heart of the project's final phase: making the approach sufficiently clear and structured so that a territory that has not participated in ThermEcoWat can understand where to start, which data to collect, which stakeholders to involve and how to progressively move from diagnosis to an adaptation strategy.

A knowledge base to break down information silos

The information needed to support decision-making is often spread across different departments, operators and experts. ThermEcoWat is developing a Common Knowledge Base and a Knowledge Graph to structure this heterogeneous data and, above all, make the relationships between them visible. Changes in the resource can thus be considered alongside the needs of a thermal spa facility, available infrastructure, regulatory constraints, energy-related considerations or economic dependencies. The aim is therefore not simply to accumulate more data, but to provide it with a common structure that facilitates analysis.

A decision-support tool to compare options

This knowledge base provides the foundation for the ThermEcoWat DSS, the project's decision-support system. The tool is designed to support managers in analysing possible scenarios and measures, including resource protection, infrastructure development, energy recovery, adaptation of uses and other territorial measures. Options are assessed against technical, environmental, legal, social and economic criteria, including through cost-benefit analyses. The pilot territories are being used to test the methodology and ensure that the tool can effectively support the development of action plans.

A White Paper designed as a methodological guide

The White Paper completes this knowledge-transfer approach. Its planned structure shows that it is intended not simply as a final report on the project's results, but as a guide for thermal spa operators, local authorities, public decision-makers and institutions. It will cover the thermal spa ecosystem paradigm, the development of the initial assessment, the analysis of vulnerabilities and constraints, the prioritisation of measures, feasibility studies, testing against future scenarios and, ultimately, the development of an adaptation plan. The final objective is highly practical: to help territories make more secure decisions and investment choices in a context where climate, regulatory and economic uncertainty is itself becoming a factor in decision-making.



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