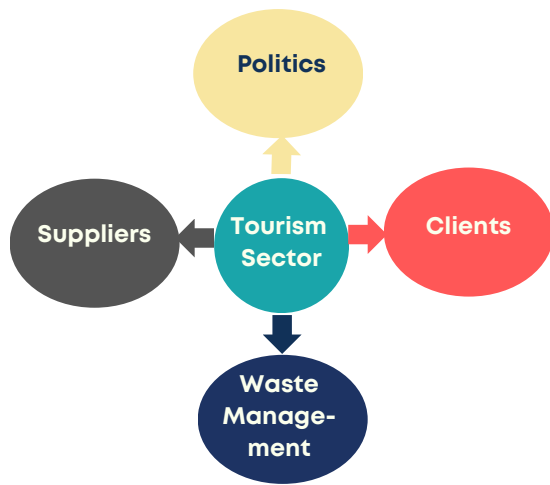


Background Information

The **circular economy** (CE) is a production and consumption model that emphasizes sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing, and recycling materials and products to extend their lifecycle. This approach minimizes waste and, when products reach the end of their life, ensures that their materials are recycled and reused, adding value to the economy.

Embracing this concept within the tourism industry and aligning with its principles can lead to significant and transformative changes. Fields of action for establishing CE for materials in the tourism sector can be assessed below.



There are different ways of waste prevention across different departments:

- All (management led): Develop waste inventory
- Procurement: Efficient ordering & storage; local sourcing and packaging return; selection of low-packaging products
- Housekeeping: Efficient bathroom toiletries; efficient housekeeping
- Catering: Provision of low-impact drinking water; efficient breakfast provision
- Reception: Efficient document management

According to the TouMaLi project's monitoring of beach litter, the **main types of litter found on the beaches in Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt**, on average, are pieces of plastic between 2.5 and 50 cm in size, **cigarette butts, candy wrappers, bottle caps and plastic bags.**

Best Practice Examples for reduction of marine litter

- Hand out pocket ashtrays
- Make separate waste bins available
- Implement a deposit-refund scheme on plastic containers at social events
- Promote reusable items such as cups and bags
- Make water refill stations available
- Use eco-labels and certifications at restaurants, hotels, beaches, etc.
- Raise awareness and conduct clean-ups



Discussion



Question 1

How can the tourism sector push the development of a Circular Economy? What different roles do policymakers, tourism associations, travel agencies and tourists play?

Question 2

Prevention is the top priority of the waste hierarchy. What are the main benefits of waste prevention in hotels?

Question 3

How can we integrate best practice examples in the partner countries effectively? What are measures that are easily implementable?

Question 4

What are the main challenges and difficulties in the different partner countries?