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## ***PROVISIONAL AGENDA***

**25<sup>th</sup> June 2015, 09.00h – 12.00h**

### **“Exploring Opportunities for Tourism Climate Change Adaptation”**

***HOTEL NOVOTEL NICE CENTRE – NICE, FRANCE***

*Simultaneous translation EN-FR*

08.30 – 09.00 Welcome Coffee and Registration

09:00 – 09:15 **Welcome Speech**

Nice Authority, PACA Region, ENERGIES 2050, neZEH Project Leader and NECSTouR

09:15 – 09:20 **Canton Valais Teaser** - How citizens are adapting to climate change and the impact in tourism?

09:20 – 09:30 **State of art: Climate Change Adaptation and Tourism** (NECSTouR Academic Member)

09:30 – 10:30 **Overcoming Climate Change through Tourism Adaptation Strategies – Regional Challenges and Experiences**

*Session moderated by Limburg Region*

- **Canton Valais** (Switzerland)
- **Cornwall** (United Kingdom)
- **Wadden Sea** (Germany)
- **Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur** (France)

10:30 – 10:40 **Questions & Answers from the audience**

10:40 – 11:30 **Roundtable: Tourism Supply - Anticipating to Climate Change Effects**

*What are the impacts? What adaptation measures? What is the role for public authorities? Who and how to raise awareness?*

*Session moderated by UNWTO*

- *ENERGIES 2050*
- *Local Municipality*
- *Private representative*
- *Île-de-France Region*

11:30 – 11:50 **Questions & Answers from the audience**

11:50 – 12:00 **Wrap up and Closing**

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## **BACKGROUND**

### **Topic ABSTRACT<sup>1</sup>:**

The tourism industry has a key role to play in confronting the challenges of climate change. There is now a clear understanding that the industry can be part of the solution to climate change, by reducing its greenhouse gas emissions as well as by helping the communities to prepare for and adapt to the changing climate.

The IPCC has concluded that changes in a number of weather extremes are probable as a result of projected climate change. Such changes will affect the tourism industry through increased infrastructure damage, additional emergency preparedness requirements, higher operating expenses (e.g., insurance, backup water and power systems, and evacuations), and business interruptions.

It is essential to emphasize that regardless of the emissions reduction efforts all tourism businesses and destinations will need to adapt to climate change in order to minimize associated risks and capitalize upon new opportunities, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner.

Adaptive capacity is the ability or potential of a system to respond successfully to climate variability and change, and includes adjustments in both behavior and in resources and technologies. The presence of adaptive capacity has been shown to be a necessary condition for the design and implementation of effective adaptation strategies so as to reduce the likelihood and the magnitude of harmful outcomes resulting from climate change (Brooks & Adger 2005).

“It is vital for tourism destinations [...] to anticipate the coming changes and to draw their consequences, starting now. [Adaptation] is a long-term project that must be anticipated and carefully prepared beforehand; it is not easy to see this through successfully, because it entails, all at the same time, modifying economic circuits, introducing new technologies, carrying out intensive training, investing in the creation of new products, [...] changing the minds of public authorities, entrepreneurs, host communities and tourists.” UNWTO Secretary-General Francesco Frangialli - 2007

Climate change is slowly entering into decision-making of a range of tourism stakeholders studies that have examined the climate change risk appraisal of local tourism officials and operators have consistently found relatively low levels of concern and little evidence of long-term strategic planning in anticipation of future changes in climate.

The incorporation of adaptation to climate change into the collective minds of private and public sector tourism decision-makers (‘mainstreaming’) remains several steps away.

Consequently, there is a real need for effective communication between the climate change science community and tourism operators at the regional and local scale, particularly with respect to the development of climate change scenarios and indicators catered toward local tourism decision-making. In addition, there is a need to integrate adaptation measures into future impact assessments in the tourism sector to ensure a successful adaptive capacity.

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<sup>1</sup> Information extracted from: *Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in the Tourism Sector* (UNEP 2008) and *Climate Change and Tourism: Responding to Global Challenges* (UNEP 2007)

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### **WORKSHOP CONTEXT**

This workshop, jointly organized by [NECSTouR](#) (Network of European Regions for Competitive and Sustainable Tourism) and [ENERGIES 2050](#) aims at:

- Reflecting on the state of art of the impacts of climate change in tourism destinations,
- Discussing on the new challenges tourism destinations are facing due to climate change
- Sharing best practices, case studies on adaptation measures/opportunities to climate change within the tourism sector

The workshop is developed under the framework of [neZEH International Conference “Sustainable and Competitive Hotels through Energy Innovation”](#) (24<sup>th</sup> June) and the [WSTDays \(Web Sustainable Tourism Day\)](#) (25th and 26th June), both in Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur Region.

Representatives of the Tourism private sector, policy makers, research centers and universities as well as local, regional or international organisations are welcomed to participate to this workshop.

NECSTouR and ENERGIES 2050 are both partners of the [European project neZEH](#) (nearly Zero Energy Hotels), co-funded by the European Commission under the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme, which aims to accelerate the rate of refurbishment of existing hotels into nearly zero energy buildings. The neZEH project gathers 10 partners, among which the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) and represents 7 European countries.