

The GOTHAM project is coming to an end: learn more about the two-day final event organised in order to close the project.



The 3-year project is ending at the end of March 2023 and in order to mark the closure of this project, the project team met in Almeria, Spain. Throwback to this two-day event !

Day 1: final consortium meeting

On March 15th, 2023, the consortium was hosted by Cetaqua, the project coordinator, in their offices in Málaga, Spain. This meeting allowed partners to reflect on the past 3 years and the work achieved collectively. Cetaqua, NARC and ICU, gave an overview of the main characteristics and challenges of the three use cases. Then, UCO (University of Cordoba) presented the agriculture water demand assessor module. After a coffee break the team was given a overview of the co-creation workshops and the feedback shared from

stakeholders by G.A.C. who developed the co-creation methodology, as well as CETAQUA, NARC and ICU team who shed more light on the communities developed in their respective case studies. After that, extensive discussion on the GTool followed: Engineering guided partners throughout the development of the tool over the project duration. Cetaqua presented the final version of the GTool and the differences and similarities within the Spanish, Jordanian and Lebanese cases studies as well as the environmental, economic and social assessments of the tool. After a brief overview of the communication and dissemination achievement by G.A.C. Group, Emilio Custodio presented the book he wrote in the framework of the GOTHAM project *Groundwater governance and sustainability: evaluation index and application to eight diverse Spanish aquifers*. The day ended with a collective discussion on future collaboration.

Day 2: case study visit and closing event

On the second day, March 16th, 2023, project partners had the opportunity to visit "Las Palmerillas" the research center of intensive Mediterranean agriculture located in Campo de Dalías, Almería, Spain. The consortium had the opportunity to learn more about the activities of the research center and of the companies that are incubated at the research center, as well as visiting several greenhouses with various type of experimental projects ongoing, as well as organic farming.

The consortium then drove to El Ejido City Hall where the GOTHAM closing event was hosted. A total of 32 people joined the event. Francisco Góngora Cara, Mayor of El Ejido, stressed that «it has been important to participate in this project by providing the information available to us from the City Council to achieve a sustainable use of our water resources, as currently the aquifers, which are those that support the growth of our agro-industrial fabric, are overexploited». Both the mayor and Rafael



Almohalla Poveda, from the Public Works Department of El Ejido City Council, agreed that cooperation between stakeholders is key to achieve sustainable management of the groundwater resources..

Damián Sánchez, project manager of Cetaqua Andalucía: «the collaboration of the users has been fundamental for the success of the project, as one of the greatest complexities in the management of groundwater bodies in an integrated manner is the lack of knowledge about the availability of water resources and the scarce exchange of data between the different water users».



The president of the Junta Central de Usuarios del Acuífero del Poniente Almeriense (JCUAPA), Manuel García Quero, closed the event by highlighting how the tool developed in the GOTHAM project has contributed to providing a common framework for collaboration and participation between the different users and thus detecting their needs and seeking solutions to the problems of high-water demand.

Congratulations and thank you to Damián Sánchez García, Beatriz Morales Jiménez and their team for their warm welcome in Almería ! It was such a great pleasure to have the whole consortium gathered before the project ends.

THE GOTHAM CONSORTIUM