

FUA-LEVEL WATER EFFICIENCY AND REUSE RELATED PUBLIC PERCEPTION ASSESSMENT - SPLIT FUA

Deliverable: D.T3.1.4
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Version 1
02 2020





1. BACKGROUND

The Split FUA data collection was implemented during January and February 2020 targeting the City of Split residents and daily migrants from the surrounding areas. The data collection was conducted online as well as through field research. 402 answers were collected during this period and the collected results are shown, analysed and described below.

1.1. Gender

According to the survey, the gender distribution is 63.2% female and 36.8% male (age group over 15).

1.2. Age

The youth group, ages 16 to 25 represents 57.6% of the responders in the sample. Furthermore, the responders ages 26 to 65 represent 41.6%, while the elderly represent only 0.8% of the responders in the sample.

1.3. Residence

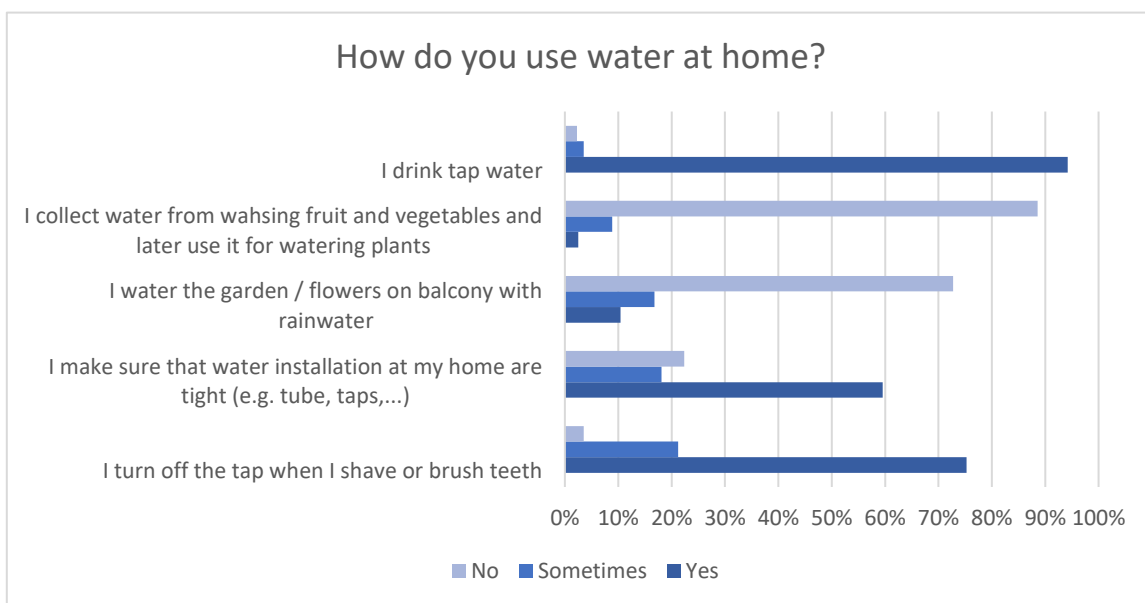
According to the most recent available data, Split FUA had 178 102 inhabitants, while 147 305 inhabitants lived in the surrounding area, most of which are Split FUA daily migrants. Regarding the responders' residence, 60.9% of responders are City of Split residents and 39.1% of them are daily migrants from Kaštela (14.8%), Solin (10.7%) and other surrounding areas (13.6%).



2. PERSONAL USES

2.1. Habits

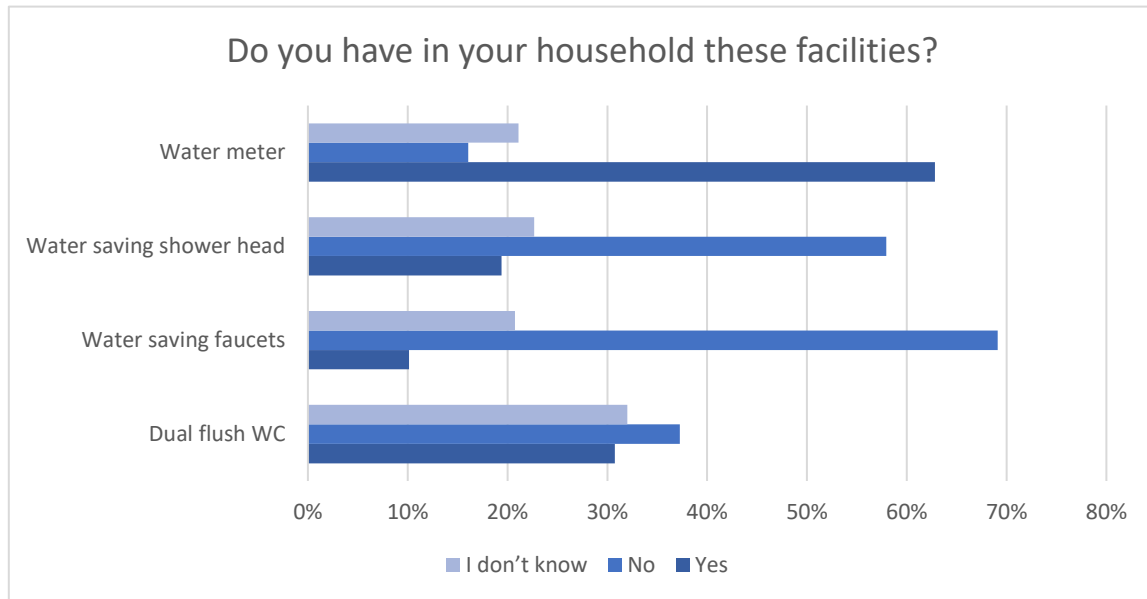
More than 70% responders turn off the tap while shaving or brushing their teeth. Moreover, more than half of them responded that they make sure that water installations at their home are tightly closed (e.g. tube, taps) and more than 90% of them drink tap water. However, collecting water after washing fruit and vegetables and using it for watering plants as well as watering the garden/flowers on the balcony with rainwater are rarely practiced. Specifically, almost nine out of ten responders do not collect water after washing fruit and vegetables for watering plants and more than 70% of responders do not water the garden/flowers on the balcony with rainwater.





2.2. Facilities

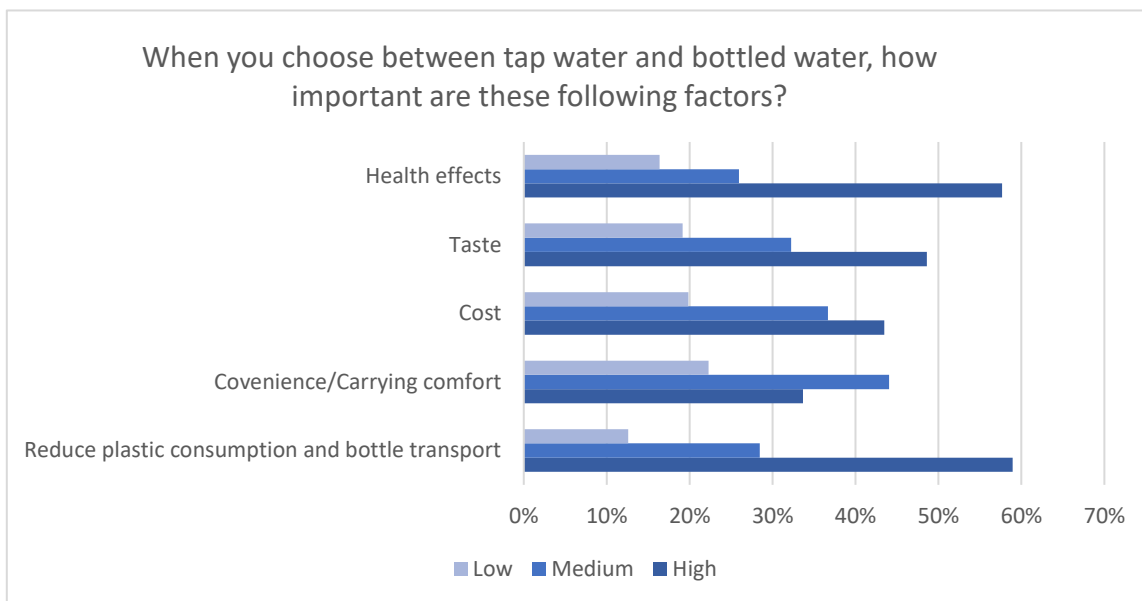
A significant rate of the households do not own water-saving facilities: about a third of the responders own a dual flush toilet, 10% of the responders own water-saving faucets and less than 20% own a water-saving shower head. A lot of the responders do not even know if they have the aforementioned facilities in their households. Most of them, what is almost two thirds of the responders, have a water meter.





2.3. Bottle or tap?

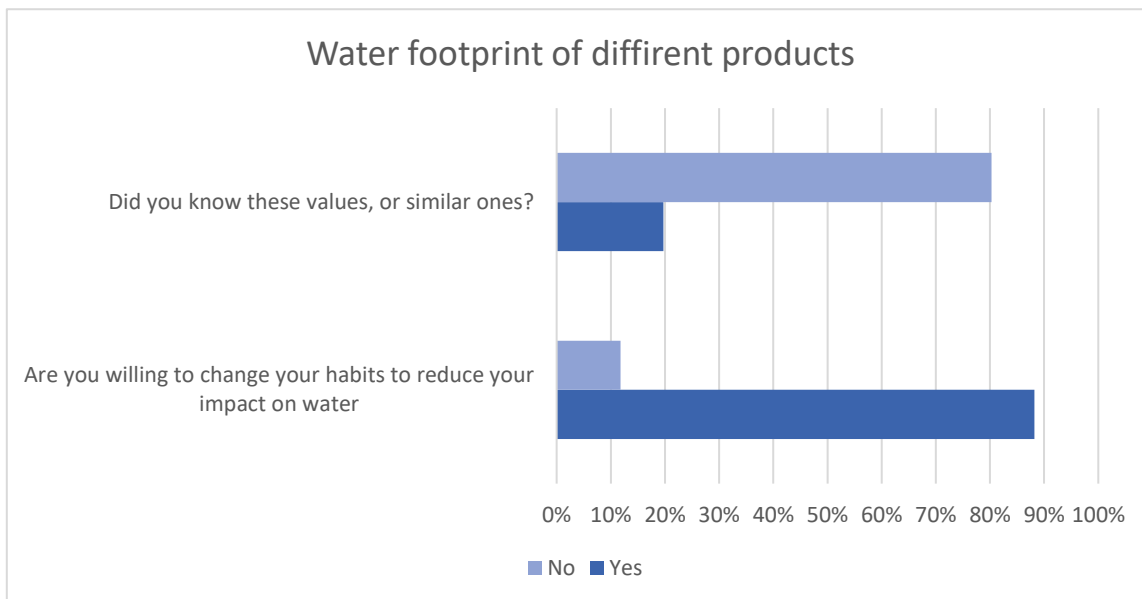
When responders choose between tap water and bottled water, the following factors are marked as important: reducing plastic consumption and bottle transport as well as health effects (more than half of the responders answered that it was of high importance while choosing between tap water and bottled water). Furthermore, the responders believe that taste and cost are very important (almost 50% of the responders answered that the taste was of high importance, while 43% of the responders answered that the cost was of high importance when choosing between tap water and bottled water). Convenience/carrying comfort was mostly of medium and high importance.





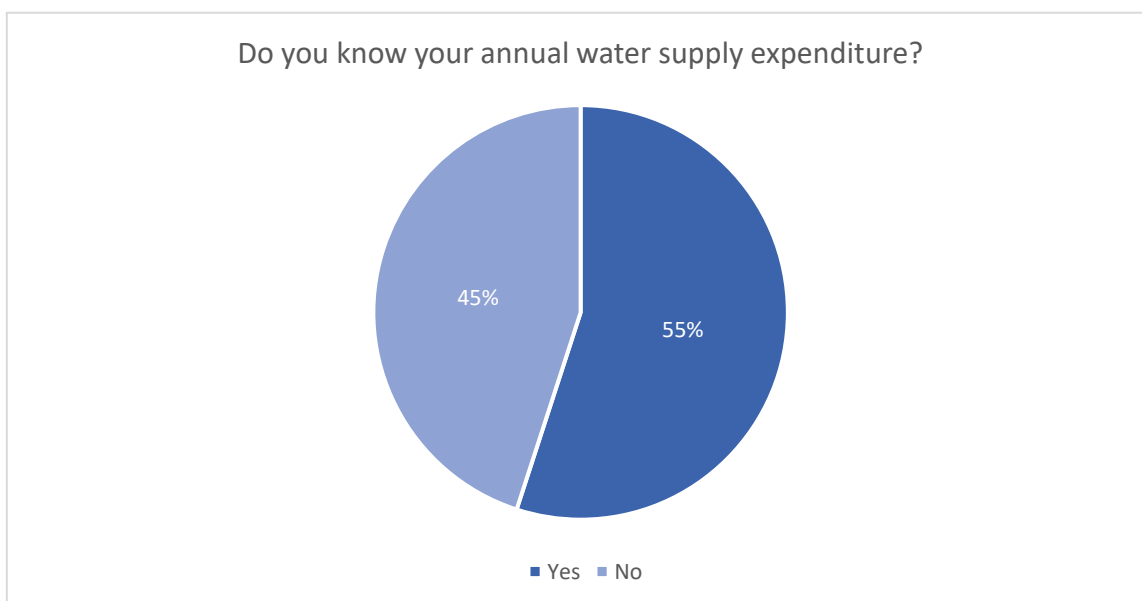
2.4. Water footprint of different products

According to the survey, four-fifths of the responders had no information about the water footprint of the products in the example/questionnaire (a piece of paper requires 10 liters of water, a steak 2.500 liters, 100 grams of bread requires 160 liters, coffee 130 liters, a t-shirt 1000 liters). On the other hand, almost every nine out of ten responders are open to change their habits in order to reduce their environmental impacts.



2.5. Annual costs

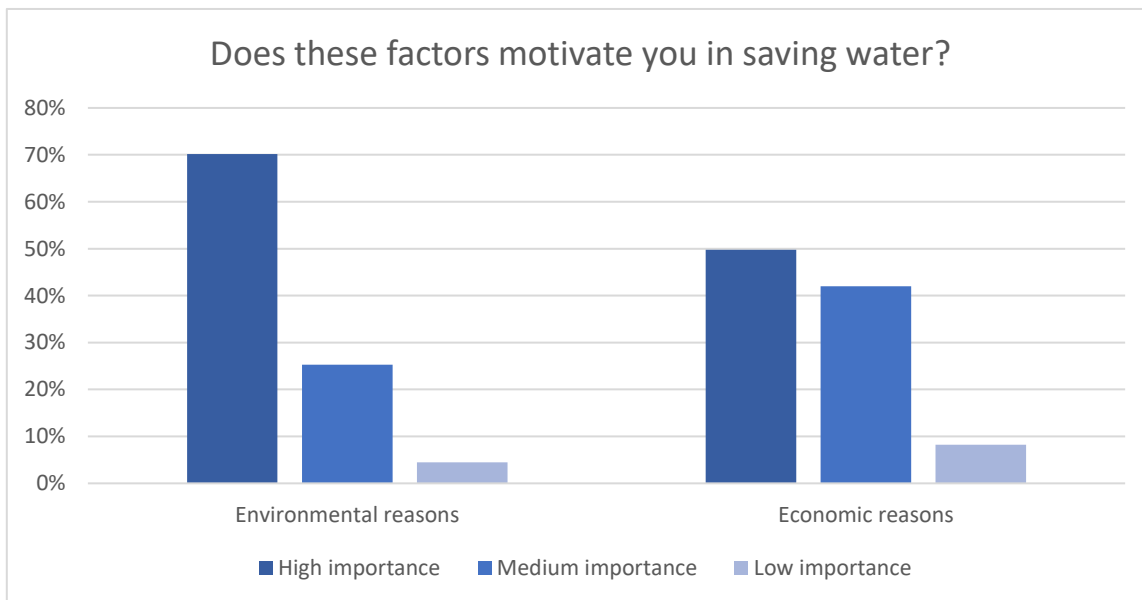
Survey results show that almost half of all responders are not aware of the annual costs of the water supply.





2.6. Motivation

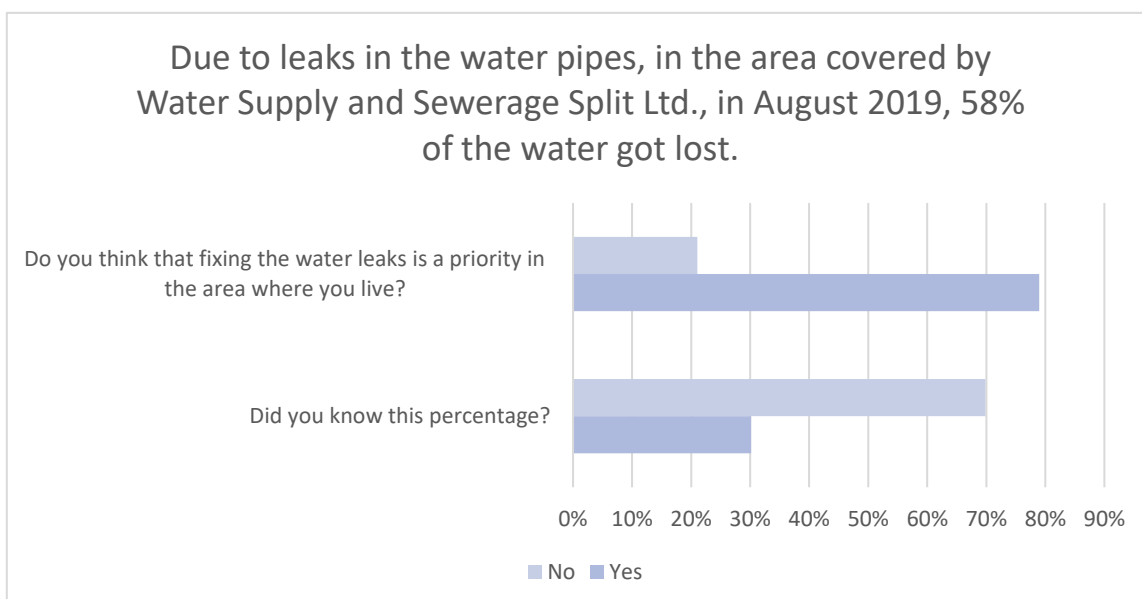
When considering motivation, environmental reasons motivate the responders more than economic reasons in saving water. For more than two-thirds of the responders, environmental reasons were of high importance while half of them believe economic reasons are highly important.



3. PROPER WATER USE AND REUSE

3.1 Water losses

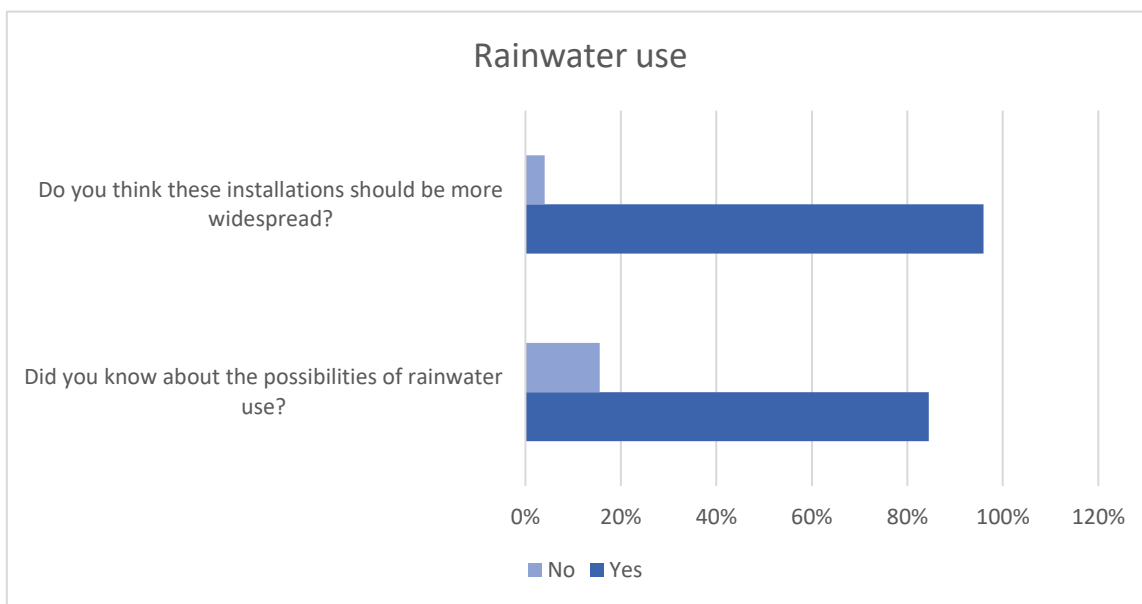
The actual state of water pipes and water loss in Split FUA is not well known by the population. 70% of the responders do not know how significant water loss is, while almost 80% of them believe that fixing those leaks is a priority in Split FUA.



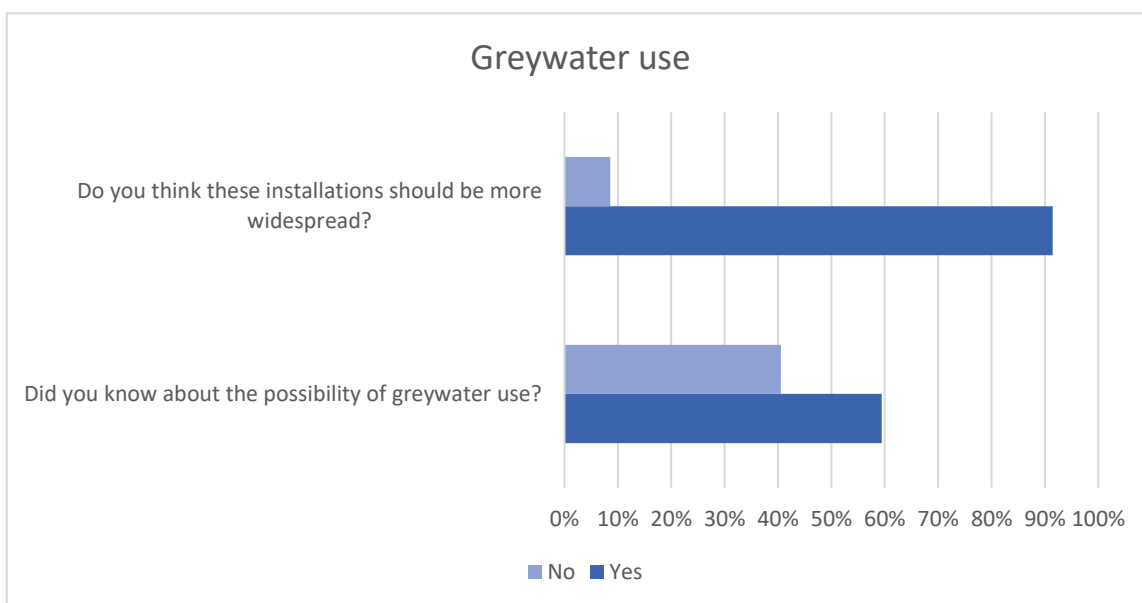


3.2 Rainwater use, greywater and “green roofs”

As presented in the following graph, more than four-fifths of the responders knew about some possibilities of rainwater use (excluding drinking), such as watering plants, flushing toilets, washing cars and similar possibilities. Additionally, more than 95% of them believe that installations relating to it should be more widespread.

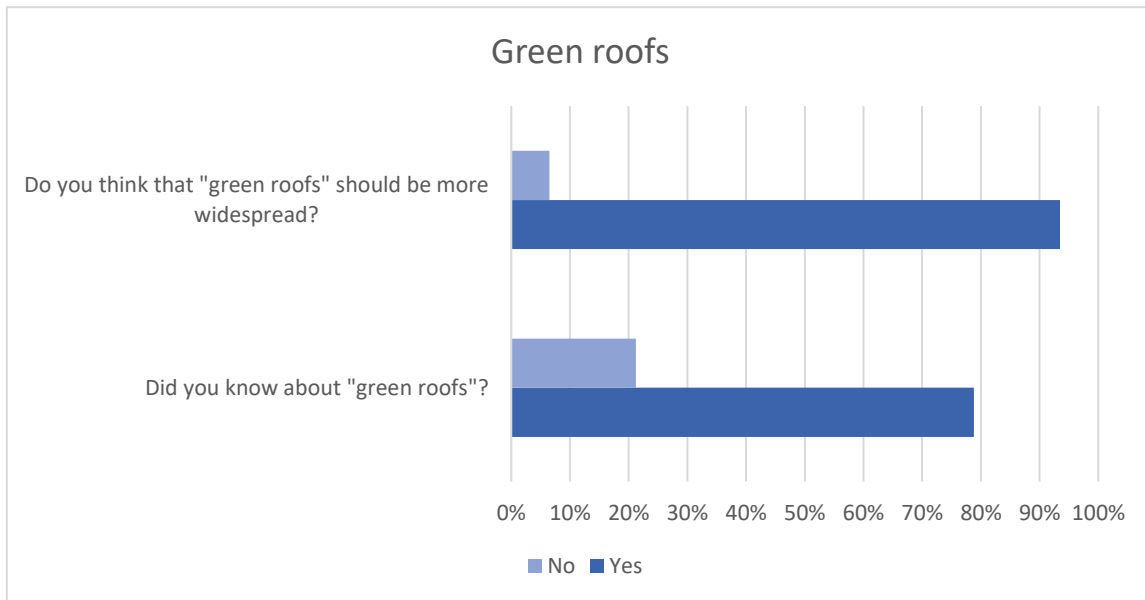


According to the survey, more than 40% of the responders did not know about the possibility of water re-use at their homes (i.e. storing water from the shower or the sink for flushing toilets). However, more than 90% of them believe that installations relating to it should be more widespread.





"Green roofs" are plant coverings for buildings that serve many purposes, such as absorption of rainwater, providing insulation, creating habitats for wildlife, helping reduce city air temperatures during the summer. According to the survey, almost 80% of the responders knew about "green roofs" and more than 90% of them believe that "green roofs" should be more widespread.

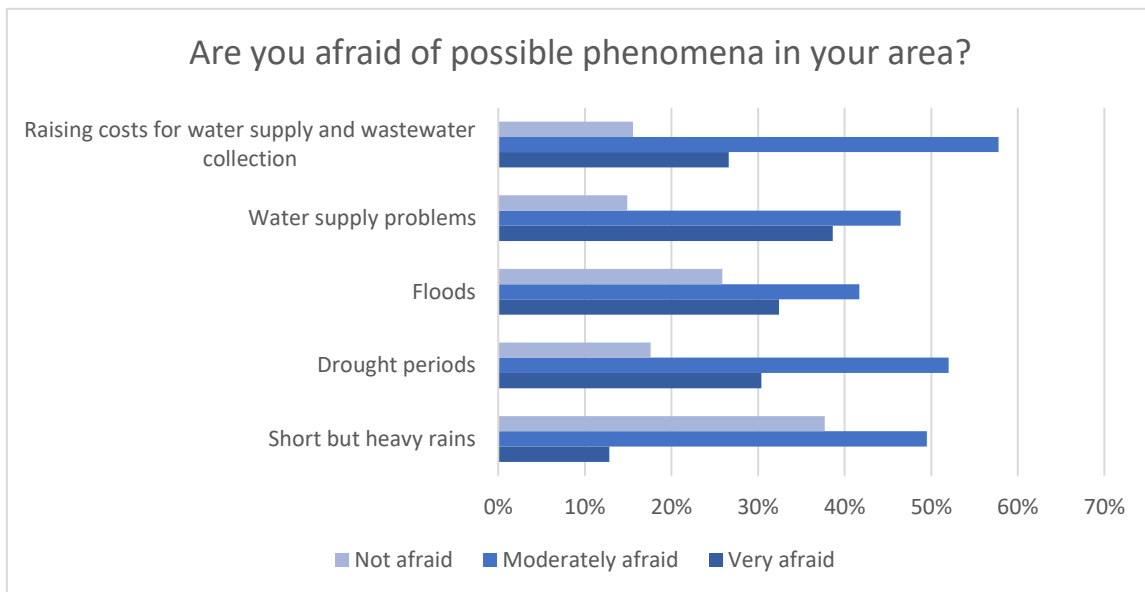


It can be concluded that the sustainable solutions of city water management are known by the responders, but what's more important is that more than 90% of the responders believe that the aforementioned installations (rainwater, grey water use and "green roofs") should be more widespread. Therefore, it is safe to assume that they would probably gladly accept changes regarding the matter.



3.3 Effects of climate change: are you afraid?

Comparing answers shown in the chart below, the responders are most afraid of water supply problems. Nearly 40% of them stated that they are very afraid and more than 40% are moderately afraid. The responders are either moderately or not afraid about the short but heavy rains (less than 15% of them are very afraid). Furthermore, they are in general moderately afraid of the drought periods and very or moderately afraid of floods. Most of them are moderately afraid of raising costs for water supply and wastewater collection (almost 60%).





3.4 Information campaigns

The most of the responders believe that information campaigns are useful (about 50% of answers) and very useful (more than one third of answers), while only around 15% of the responders believe information campaigns are not very useful.

