

Resilience in Whisky, Food and Drink Value Chains: technology, cooperation and youth are the answer if funding is provided

During workshops held in 2022 stakeholders from the Speyside Whisky and food and drink tourism Value Chain Assemblage (VC-A) discussed threats to their industries. The following threats were voted most important: demographic changes (causing workforce problems), inflation, and water temperature and low flows.

Stakeholders suggested a number of solutions. Promotion of the industry to young people and more favourable living conditions were suggested to encourage people of working age into the area. This could be achieved through increases to the national living wage, local planning regulations, and housing targets.

Energy efficiency and use of renewables within the whisky and tourism sectors was suggested to mitigate impacts of inflation. This change is already being implemented using biofuels to generate electricity. Continued expansion of this could help to provide lower cost energy and heat to local businesses, whilst reusing waste products.

Water saving interventions were suggested to stabilize river temperature and flow. Expansion of heat reduction technologies already in use for the wastewater released by distilleries would continue to reduce impact on water temperature. Similarly, the planting of riparian woodlands would help to shade and cool rivers. Leaky dams were suggested as a buffer against water shortages.

Due to its international market and northern location the Speyside Whisky and Tourism VC-A has some increased resiliency to these threats. However, it still faces some negative impacts, which is in part already being felt. Stakeholders were confident about the potential for mitigation, but less confident about implementing these solutions. They require significant funding, which is currently lacking.

MOVING Reference Region

Highlands and Islands

Country

UK-Scotland

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Anticipated users of PA

- MOVING related stakeholders
- Local authorities

More info

<https://youtu.be/AmfY9n3cakA>