



IRMA Timer | The monthly newsletter of IRMA project, Issue 07 | January 2014

A composite image containing the logo for the European Territorial Cooperation Programme Greece-Italy 2007-2013, the IRMA logo (a stylized water drop), a QR code, and the website address www.irrigation-management.eu.

European Territorial Cooperation Programme
Greece - Italy
2007-2013
INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE
Co-funded by the European Union (ERDF)
and by National Funds of Greece & Italy

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Introduction

The project «IRMA - Efficient Irrigation Management Tools for Agricultural Cultivations and Urban Landscapes» is funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and National Funds of Greece and Italy in the framework of the European Territorial Cooperation Programme Greece - Italy 2007 - 2013 (www.greece-italy.eu). The project's total budget is 139.8874,50 € and the implementation period will last 24 months starting from April 2013.

This (7th) newsletter aims to present the progress of the project's actions during the 10th month of the implementation period (January 2014). This year is the most crucial for the implementation of IRMA. Almost all time-consuming bureaucratic processes are expected to have completed before the end of February. Irrigation practice surveys and audits as well as field experiments that we are preparing all this time will start this spring. The year will practically close with IRLA2014 (26-28/11/2014 at Patras, Greece), the first of the two multinational events of IRMA regarding irrigation and drainage.

For the latest we are expecting the active participation of the whole community of IRMA. The 1st call for abstracts has been published and the relevant tool is open for interested scientists and stakeholders to register and submit abstracts.

The project manager

Dr. Tsirogiannis Yannis

Progress of WP1 Management & Coordination

Most work during this period concerned the effort to submit financing reports for the first semester of 2014, the 3rd progress report, certification of expenditures and a number of procurements regarding staff, external experts and supplies for experiments.

Progress of WP2 Information & Publicity

IRLA2014

[HAICTA](#) (Hellenic Association of Information and Communication Technology in Agriculture, Food and Environment), the Greek Branch of [European Federation for Information Technology in Agriculture \(EFITA\)](#) became an official support organization of IRLA2014.



The objectives of HAICTA are:

1. To foster research & development of Information and Communications Technologies for the benefit of Agriculture, Food Quality and Environment.
2. To encourage the adoption of initiatives and organise working

groups for the detailed consideration of relevant scientific issues.

3. To promote partnership meetings and contacts with other companies in the bio and earth sciences.
4. To carry out scientific and educational activities for the development of Information and Communications in bio and earth sciences.
5. To contribute to the development of scientific and technical information through conferences and other publications.

The honor is great as HAICTA is among the most active scientific societies of Greece.

The 1st call for abstracts of IRLA2014 has been published and the relevant tool is open for interested scientists and stakeholders to register and submit abstracts.

The event will be held at Patras / Greece from 26 to 28 November 2014. Find more information at the official website of the symposium: <http://irla2014.irrigation-management.eu>.

Progress of WP3 Network building

The irrigation stakeholders' database and the repository are under development and they will be operating soon.

The [Geocommunity](#) Open Source Tool for Joomla has been selected for the Stakeholders Database. This will allow the registration in both spatial and informative level.

[Phoca](#), has been selected for the development of the repository.

Progress of WP4 Survey of irrigation practice

Four types of questionnaires have been prepared by INEA in collaboration with LP, P2 and P6. Separate questionnaires were prepared for the following stakeholders:

1. Public administration units of the region (it also includes a special part regarding units which directly manage water sources and irrigation/drainage systems.
2. Local Organizations for Land Reclamation
3. Irrigation and drainage systems at farm level
4. Private Landscape / Leisure irrigation and drainage systems

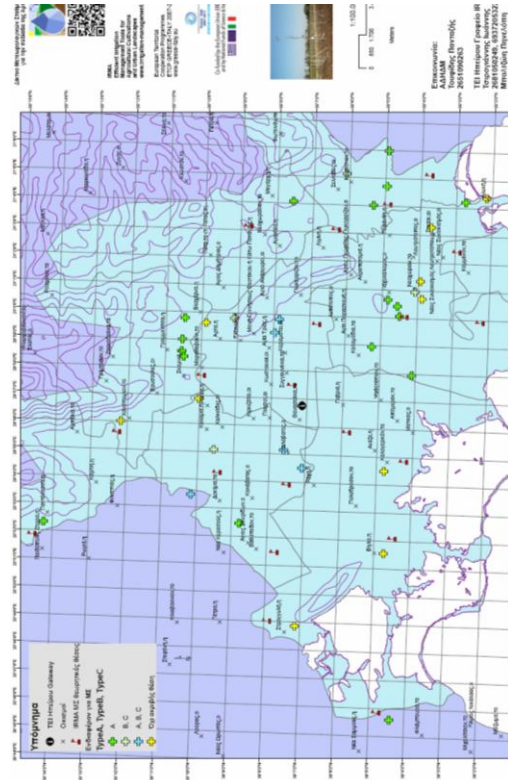
They will be soon available at the web site of the project.

Progress of WP5 Irrigation management tools

The audit guide has almost finished.

A number of organizations, schools, companies and farmers situated at the plain of Arta, have expressed their interest to host IRMA meteorological stations.

The Decentralised Administration of Epirus and Western Macedonia (P6) is expected to release the call regarding the meteorological stations network and the relevant experts next month.



Progress of WP6 Specialized research actions

All partners that are involved in research actions (P3-INEA, P4-ISPA/CNR and LP-TEIEP) all finalizing their experimental plans and relevant preparatory actions for 2014.

IRMA partner presentation - INEA

INEA (National Institute of Agricultural Economics) is an Italian public research institute under the surveillance of the Ministry of Agriculture (MiPAAF), with legal status and autonomous administration.





Established in 1928, the Institute has been included among the public scientific research bodies of outstanding relevance (1975) and is a component of the National Statistic System (SISTA N – from 1990). INEA's operational structure embodies 20 Regional branches made of Agricultural Economics Observatories and Farm Accounting Offices.

INEA activities focus on the fields of structural, social and economic features of agriculture and agro-industry sector, including forestry and fisheries, performing:

- Research
- Data collection
- Analysis and forecasts
- Provision of the above to policy makers and the civil society
- Programme monitoring

Support to the Public Authority for the implementation of agricultural and rural policies at regional, national and EU levels.

INEA, except of IRMA, is involved this period in a number of R&D projects in the field of environment and natural resources in agriculture.

Dr. Silvia Vanino is the contact person for INEA regarding IRMA.

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More information at INEA's website:
www.inea.it.

Other interesting stuff

Interregional Cooperation 2014-2020

Discussions on the multi-annual financial framework (in other words, the seven-year budget for the EU from 2014-2020) have been well publicised, with an agreement made between the European Council (Member States representatives) and the European Commission in February 2013. This agreement budgets EUR 8.9 billion for European Territorial Cooperation as a whole.



The budget has to be approved by the European Parliament.

A provisional agreement with the EP in June 2013 allocates

€359m to INTERREG EUROPE.

Find more at:
<http://www.interreg4c.eu/programme/2014-2020/>

USDA Surveys Farm Irrigation Practices

Source: IA News, Jan 2014

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is conducting a national Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey this period.

NASS traditionally conducts the irrigation survey following



each Census of Agriculture. Only those producers who indicated in the 2012 Census of Agriculture that they irrigate are eligible for sampling.

The results of the survey help in the development of improved technology, better equipment and more efficient water use practices.

For more information about the Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey visit www.agcensus.usda.gov.

Another interesting virtual seminar by Decagon

Soil Moisture 201: Water Content Measurement Methods and Applications

Presenter: Dr. Colin Campbell, VP of R&D, Decagon Devices, Inc.

Learn about theory and methods for measuring soil moisture. Focus on:

- Direct vs. indirect soil moisture measurements
- Neutron probe, dual needle heat pulse, and dielectric techniques
- Suggested techniques for different research applications

Time: February 26, 2014. 8:00 AM PST

You can register here:

<http://decagon.us2.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=874b1784bd142518756e8b07a&id=97c6134774&e=196f8fb1a6>

Survey of Irrigation Association (USA) reveals top priorities for irrigation show attendees

Source: IA News, Dec 2013

Education classes, new technologies and networking opportunities were key motivators for attending the Irrigation Show. Follow the link to learn more:

<http://ia.informz.net/admin31/content/template.asp?sid=33301&brandid=3253&uid=768933333&mi=2909815&mfqid=9292977&ptid=0&ps=33301>

USDA / NRCS Release Microirrigation Guide

USDA / NRCS released Part 623 (Chapter 7 Microirrigation) of the Irrigation National Engineering Handbook. A very interesting publication that can be downloaded for free from:

<http://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/OpenNonWebContent.aspx?content=34517.wba>

H₂O LA LA!

A very clever title for a very interesting television documentary series regarding water sources, find more at:

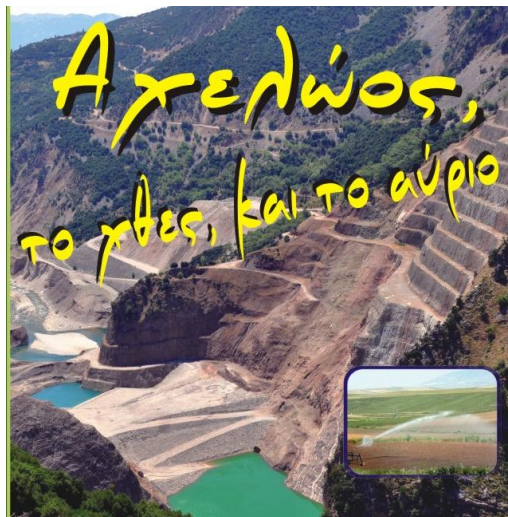
http://www.dev.tv/index.php/production/documentary/h2o_la_la_95_x_3_fra_ncais/%20

The Greek Supreme Court decided against the diversion of Acheloos river

This information probably seems very local but as Acheloos is one of the biggest rivers in Greece, and is sited in the area of interest of IRMA it could not be left aside.

Acheloos diversion scheme is a plan that occupies farmers, environmentalists and the public for some decades now. This massive project would split the river in order to provide among others irrigation water sources for the water consuming cultivation of the great plains of eastern Greece.

Some weeks ago the Greek Supreme Court decided against the diversion of Acheloos river.



Find more at: <http://www.water-technology.net/projects/achelous/>

New law regarding drillings registration in Greece

The new law (KYA 145026/14-01-2014, ΦΕΚ 31/Β') regarding registration of water sources and drillings was activated at the beginning of 2014 and its objective is to facilitate the procedure which begun 2 years ago with limited success. According to the law all water sources have to be registered before May 2014.

Find more at: <http://www.ypeka.gr/Default.aspx?tabid=389&sni%5B524%5D=2898&language=el-GR> (in Greek)

PEOPLE and LANDSCAPE III - European Landscape Convention in Practice

The third People and Landscape seminar calls all experts, representatives of state institutions and public active in the field of landscape planning and landscape management for sharing their experiences and opinions related to ELC (European Landscape Convention) in three discussion panels:

- Landscape Planning and Management
- Public Participation and European Landscape Convention
- Education and Landscape Planning

The aim of the seminar is to create discussion platform by sharing different experience and showing good examples from countries all over Europe. The seminar includes also:

- 7th UNISCAPE General Assembly (29th May, 6:30 - 8:30 pm)
- The introduction of bilingual (Czech-English) publication about Czech landscape and ELC
- The exhibition of students work from three weeks interactive workshop
- Poster section
- Guided excursion in Lednice Valtice Designed Landscape (31st May)

Find more at: <http://umluvaokrajine.cz/international-seminar/>

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