



IRMA Timer | The monthly newsletter of IRMA project, Issue 08 | February 2014



European Territorial Cooperation Programme
Greece - Italy
2007-2013
INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE
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All the previous issues of IRMA Timer are available at:
<http://www.irrigation-management.eu/communication/newsletter>

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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 1.398.874,50€ and the implementation period is 24 months, starting from April 2013.

This (8th) newsletter aims to present the progress of the project's actions during the 11th month of the implementation period (February 2014).

As we entering the spring 2014, all the experimental activities are almost ready to start and the relevant preparations is the focal point for all partners during this period.

The project manager

Dr. Tsirogiannis Yannis

Progress of WP1 Management & Coordination

All partners wait for the submitted modification application to be accepted in order to publish a number of procurements regarding staff, external experts and supplies for experiments.

Progress of WP2 Information & Publicity

IRLA2014

A number of abstracts has been already submitted for presentation following the 1st call for abstracts of IRLA2014. The event will be held at Patras / Greece from 26 to 28 November 2014 and more information is available at:

<http://irla2014.irrigation-management.eu>.

Region of Puglia and ISPA/CNR (P5 and P4) which are involved in the organization of the symposium that will be held at Bari (spring 2015) have elaborated the plan of the event during an extended meeting. In this meeting a number of relevant organizations (like CIHEAM, <http://www.iamb.it/>) have been also participated.

The guide regarding low-water demand agricultural cultivations and local species for landscape design is at its final draft version.

The 3rd project meeting will be held at Patras, Greece at the end of March, beginning of April. AEPDE (P2) will organize it.

Progress of WP3 Network building

The irrigation stakeholders' database and the repository are under development and they will be soon operational. The Special WP3 and WP4 partners and irrigation stakeholders meeting in Greece will be held at Ioannina, Greece at the end of March, beginning of April. ROEDP (P6) will organize it.

Progress of WP4 Survey of irrigation practice

The questionnaires will be soon available in English at the web site of the project.

Progress of WP5 Irrigation management tools

The audit guide has been submitted to the project manager for comments. The Special WP5 project meeting will be held at Arta, Greece at the end of March, beginning of April. TEIEP (LP) will organize it.

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.

LP-TEIEP has already begun to construct the experimental plots that will be used, according to experimental plans.



The experiments at TEIEP will have begun by the end of March. By now, the largest sod producer company in Greece, Hellasod, supports IRMA project and expressed its interest for the experiments' outcomes.



Relevant projects

RegaDIOX Cutting emissions through better soil management in irrigated farming

An EU-funded project has been launched to improve the sustainable management of irrigated agricultural areas, in order to help mitigate the effects of climate change. This will be achieved through increased carbon dioxide (CO₂) sequestration - the process of capturing and storing atmospheric CO₂ - and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The EU-funded RegaDIOX project was

LP-TEIEP | P2-NEA | P3-INEA | P4-ISPA/CNR | P5-ROP | P6-ROEDM 5

set up in July 2013 in order to identify the most suitable land-management practices for increasing soil carbon fixation and reducing GHG emissions. Scheduled to run for three years, the initiative will improve scientific knowledge on GHG emissions and carbon capture associated with irrigated agriculture systems - the artificial application of water to the land or soil - and demonstrate irrigated agriculture techniques capable of delivering positive climate change effects.

Find more at:
http://cordis.europa.eu/news/rcn/36351_en.html

FIGARO

FIGARO or "Flexible and Precision Irrigation Platform to Improve Farm Scale Water Productivity" is a European wide research project co-funded by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) for Research and Technological Development.

The project aims to increase water productivity in major water-demanding crops and develop a cost-effective precision irrigation platform.



FIGARO focuses on significantly reducing the use of fresh water on farm level through developing a cost-effective, precision irrigation management platform. The European-wide consortium aims to develop a holistic and structured precision irrigation platform, which will offer farmers flexible, crop oriented management tool with DSS (Decision Supporting System) module to optimize irrigation and fertilizers



dosing. Read more at:
<http://www.figaro-irrigation.net/>

Other interesting stuff

World Water Day 2014

Saturday, March 22



This year, the UN's World Water Day, concerns both Water and Energy as about 8% of the global energy generation is used for pumping, treating and transporting water to various consumers. Find more at: <http://www.unwater.org/worldwaterday>

EIP Water Action Groups

The nine initial EIP (European Innovation Partnership on Water) Water Action Groups presented their on-going work to over 350 participants during the 1st EIP Water Conference in November 2013. Among them, the WaterCoRe AG on regional governance of water scarcity and drought issues (scopes (<http://www.eip-water.eu/working-groups/watercore-ag-regional-governance-water-scarcity-and-drought-issues>)) is relevant to IRMA.

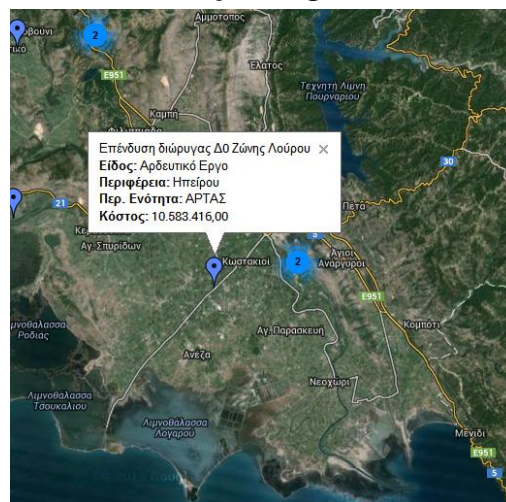
In the framework of the second call for expressions of commitment for Action Groups, 38 proposals for Action Groups were submitted. Among them is the AG Irrigation and Drainage.

7th Framework Program water projects kick-off

Fifty million Euros of the European research and innovation 2013 budget is dedicated to supporting priority areas of the EIP Water under the Framework Program 7 (FP7) Water Innovation and Demonstration call.

The eleven projects selected officially kicked-off their activities on 24 January at a meeting organised by DG Research and Innovation in Brussels. Where relevant, the projects are actively linked to the activities of the current and new EIP Water Action Groups to increase the impact of both. The dissemination of their deliverables will be supported by the activities and tools of the EIP Water to ensure continued coordination. Find more at: <http://www.eip-water.eu/water-innovation-action-50-million-%E2%82%AC-support-innovative-solutions-water-related-challenges>

Database for the major land reclamation projects from the Greek Ministry of Agriculture



According to the Ministry, all the major land reclamation projects that have been completed, or are still in progress from 1960, and onwards can be found in this relevant database. The GIS map (based on GoogleMaps) contains about 650 projects, including those at the plain of Arta.

Access the database from this link: <http://www.minagric.gr/index.php/el/mapofee-menu>

IA Webinar to Explore Value of Irrigated Landscapes

The Irrigation Association's Smart Irrigation Month: Bringing Water to Life webinar series continues with the second installment in its turf/landscape track. Determining the Value of Irrigated Landscapes will be held March 20 at 2 p.m. ET. This webinar will help address this negative perception by explaining why irrigating landscapes is necessary. Featured speakers will discuss the economic, social and environmental value that landscapes provide to the general public. More information and registration at: <http://ia.informz.net/admin31/content/template.asp?sid=33811&brandid=3253&uid=768933333&mi=3082302&mfqid=9996724&ptid=0&ps=33811>

SMAGUA 2014

From 4-7 March 2014 Zaragoza Exhibition Centre will host the 21st International Water Show, SMAGUA 2014 and the eleventh Environment Show. SMAGUA welcomed over a thousand exhibitors from 41 countries, and 32624 visitors from 57 countries! The exhibition area will cover over 4.3 ha surface, showcasing the most innovative products and services from the environmental and international water and irrigation industries.

Given the vital importance of water and its poor availability, the management of this resource has become a key issue in public management along with the search for environmental sustainability and conservation, which is a driving force for the development of new formulas, proposals and technologies for the optimization of water management.

You can apply for a free visitors pass by following this link:

<http://acreditaciones.feriazaragoza.es/SMAGUA2014/SMAGUA2014.html>

7th Exhibition Watertec – Environtec and 4th Exhibition Garden Show 2014

The newest Environmental and water technologies are of the most important solutions for the sustainability of our planet, giving, at the same time, the opportunity for business development. This is the target of the Exhibition WATERTEC-ENVIRONTEC 2014 which will take place 6 – 9 March at the Exhibition Center Helexpo Palace in Athens.

The Exhibition is the key event and the best proposition in the market, for every one who is dealing with Water and Environment Technologies.

Well organized, with a complete range of products and technologies, will be of high interest for successful deals for exhibitors and visitors.

A parallel event is the 4th Exhibition Garden Show 2014.

OLIVEBIOTEQ 2014

The 5th OLIVEBIOTEQ-2014 Conference will be held in Amman, Jordan, from 3-6 November 2014. For more information, please visit the website:

<http://www.icarda.org/olivebioteq-2014>.

Conference: Combining scientific expertise with participation: the challenge of the European landscape convention

The Institute for Environmental Management and Land-use Planning (IGEAT-ULB), with the support of the History Department (UNmur) and the Standing Conference on Territorial Development (CPDT), organizes at

Brussels a Conference on: "Combining scientific expertise with participation: the challenge of the European landscape convention" from 28-29 April 2014 at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Brussels-Belgium. Find more at the conference website: <http://igeat.ulb.ac.be/en/elc2014>.

Respectively, Italian citizens' initiative FORUM ITALIANO DEI MOVIMENTI PER L' ACQUA is active to the same direction. Find more at: <http://www.acquabenecomune.org/raccoltafirme/>

GreenSys 2015 1st announcement

The GreenSys 2015 will be held in Evora, Portugal, between 19 and 23 of July 2015. Detailed information will be shortly available in the Symposium Web page: www.greensys2015.uevora.pt.

EU calls for proposal from Interface Europe

Check the latest table at: http://www.interfaceurope.eu/calls/calls_for_proposals

SAVEGREEKWATER & FORUM ITALIANO DEI MOVIMENTI PER L' ACQUA

Both countries, Greece and Italy, have expressed their initiatives regarding the non privatization of water, according to European Water Movement.



**FORUM ITALIANO
DEI MOVIMENTI
PER L'ACQUA**

The Greek citizens' initiative SAVEGREEKWATER, was founded in July 2012 in an effort to inform the public opinion and to interconnect different organizations and people that are reluctant to accept the right of a private corporation to control a public good necessary for the survival of people, plants and animals. Find more at: <http://www.savegreekwater.org/>