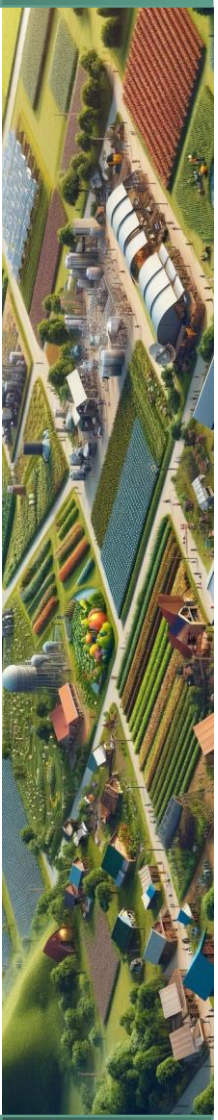
# TEAPOTS Project



| Project Logo | Project Acronym |
|---|---|
| TEAPOTS | TEAPOTS |

**Project Title**

Agriculture waste pyrolysis and thermocomposting for renewable energy in sustainable agri-food sector

| Principal Investigator | Project Duration |
|---|---|
| A. Koutsouris | 2024-2027 |

**Participating Organizations**

SMACT SOCIETA CONSORTILE PER AZIONI (IT), UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI PADOVA (Coordinator - IT), LABORATORIO IBERICO INTERNACIONAL DE NANOTECNO (PT), ETHNIKO KENTRO EREVNAS KAI TECHNOLOGIKIS ANAPTYKSIS (EL), UptoEarth GmbH (DE), AGRIMECCANICA S.r.l. (IT), WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY (NL), Stichting Biomeiler (NL), DANFOSS A/S (DK), ENTE REGIONALE PER I SERVIZI ALL' AGRICULTURA E ALLE (IT), FENIX TNT SRO (CZ), DGS SPA (IT), STAM SRL (IT), AGROTIKOS SYNETAIRISMOS ELAIOPARAGOGON PALAIOPEL (GR), Eco Farm S.r.l. O.P. IT (IT)

**Abstract**

TEAPOTS aims to give agri-food players an innovative integrated, modular, and flexible solution to meet local and seasonal energy demand through the valorisation of lignocellulosic and difficult to be treated agricultural waste while producing biochar. The first valorisation process will employ pyrolysis to extract heat from waste. Heat will be employed by an Organic Rankine Cycle to produce electric energy, which will be employed by a Dry Cooler & Oil-free AWC to cool down cold rooms for storing agri-food products. The second process will extract heat using a Compost Heat Recovery System to harness hot water from the oxidation of biomass while producing compost. Heat will be used to provide sanitary hot water. These technologies will be integrated in the TEAPOTS Integrated Solution, TIS, to demonstrate the feasibility of the entire process using all the modules to provide refrigeration. Biochar and compost will be used as plant biostimulants to increase yields and store carbon in soil improving the environmental footprint of the end-user. Feedstocks to be used in the TIS will be mixed to improve energy production and products' quality. Field and satellite data will be gathered to evaluate biomass growth, while the TIS operational data will be used to evaluate the environmental impact, through LCA analysis, and the overall functionality of the solution. Data will be integrated in a database which will allow the prediction of waste biomass production. This will be used by a Data Driven Decision Support System (DSS) to improve field and waste logistics, which will provide the means to keep the TIS up and running. The prediction system and the DSS will be integrated in the TEAPOTS Digital Platform, which will have an easy-to-use user interface to help end-users in the management of the entire solution. A Multi-Actor Approach will be employed to create a network of biomass producers interested in using agricultural waste to improve their environmental impact.

**URL**

https://www.linkedin.com/company/teapotsproject/

**Funding Authority**

Funded by the European Union

# PRO-DEMO Project

| Project Logo | Project Acronym |
|---|---|
| N/A | PRO-DEMO |
| **Project Title** | |
| Producer Organizations' trial and demonstration farms: An Organizational and Social Innovation for securing Technological Innovation | |
| **Principal Investigator** | **Project Duration** |
| A. Koutsouris | 2023-2025 |
| **Participating Organizations** | |
| Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, ELGO 'DIMITRA', AGRO Q, ASEPOP Velventos, VENUS Coop | |
| **Abstract** | |
| The low level of professional education and the small size of orchards prevent farmers from seeking and identifying the right solutions to their production problems. Increasing competition often leads innovative farmers to own 'experimentation' which nevertheless fails, thus making them averse to anything new. A solution is the establishment of trial and demonstration farms by the Producer Organizations, focusing on production needs. Such an organizational and social innovation will provide solid solutions to production problems as well as the development of permanent partnerships with research institutions and suppliers of propagating material, inputs and equipment/ technology systems. | |

# ATTRACTISS Project

| Project Logo | Project Acronym |
|---|---|
| ATTRACTISS Empowering Innovation Support Services | ATTRACTISS |

**Project Title**

Activate and trigger actors to deepen the function of Innovation Support Services

| Principal Investigator | Project Duration |
|---|---|
| A. Koutsouris | 2022-2028 |

**Participating Organizations**

WIRTSCHAFTSAGENTUR BURGENLAND GMBH (co-ordinator – AT), CREA (IT), NEROSUBIANCO SRL (IT), INNOVATIESTEUNPUNT VOOR LANDBOUW ENPLATTELAND (BE), PRASIDENTENKONFERENZ DER LANDWIRTSCHAFTSKAMMERN OSTERREICHS (AT), CENTRUM DORADZTWA ROLNICZEGO W BRWINOWIE (PL), ZLTO (NL), AGRATHAER GMBH (DE), CAMPUS DE EXCELENCIA INTERNACIONAL EN AGROALIMENTACION (ES), CONSULAI (PT), AKI AGRARKOZGAZDASAGI INTEZET NONPROFIT KFT (HU), CHAMBRE REGIONALE D'AGRICULTURE OCCITANIE (FR), ASSEMBLEE PERMANENTE DES CHAMBRES D'AGRICULTURE (FR), PROAGRIA KESKUSTEN LIITTO RY (FI), LANDWIRTSCHAFTSKAMMER SCHLESWIGHOLSTEIN (DE), THE SOIL ASSOCIATION LIMITED (UK)

**Abstract**

The objective of ATTRACTISS is to improve & embed competencies, approaches, instruments & governance models for Member States (MS) AKIS and specifically for Innovation Support Services (ISS) as a crucial AKIS actor, to enable them accelerating individual grassroots innovative ideas to come to fruition & to generate solutions for the transition process to more sustainable agriculture & forestry. ATTRACTISS has the goals to (1) empower ISS & all AKIS actors, through capacity building & provision of effective methods & supportive tools, to discover innovative ideas & enable uptake in a co-creative way thereby fostering AKIS ecosystem building to support the transition to sustainable and circular agriculture & forestry systems (2) support Managing Authorities (MA) in all EU MS to organize & monitor efficient support for ISS; & (3) provide support for new actors in AKIS processes to better facilitate cocreation approaches involving farming, practitioners & research centres. ATTRACTISS achieves these goals by (1) setting up an EU wide network for ISSs that allows to connect, develop common understanding, vision & capacities about their roles & functions within the AKIS. This ultimately leads to the development of an ecosystem in favor of Multi-Actor Approaches (MAA) & innovative projects; (2) building upon and giving continuity to other previous initiatives to focus on ISSs & broaden the networks; (3) systematizing the current databases & tools for ISSs to provide a unique virtual location for tools & guidelines to support best practice; (4) providing a step change in the provision of support & training for key actors in MAA & ISS across MS which builds knowledge, understanding & confidence in the practical delivery & benefits of these approaches; & (5) enabling institutional dialogue among ISSs & MAs based on enhanced understanding of the potential to organize ISS in a way that will lead to targeted CAP interventions for the integration of ISS within the AKIS.

**URL**

https://attractiss.eu/

**Funding Authority**

Funded by the European Union

# AgroFossilFree Project

| Project Logo | Project Acronym |
|---|---|
| AGRO FOSSIL FREE | AgroFossilFree |

**Project Title**

Strategies and technologies to achieve a European Fossil-energy-free agriculture

| Principal Investigator | Project Duration |
|---|---|
| A. Koutsouris | 2020-2023 |

**Participating Organizations**

ETHNIKO KENTRO EREVNAS KAI TECHNOLOGIKIS ANAPTYXIS (Coordinator - EL), AARHUS UNIVERSITET (DK), INSTYTUT UPRAWY NAWOZENIA I GLEBOZNAWSTWA, PANSTWOWY INSTYTUT BADAWCZY (PL), COMITE EUROPEEN DES GROUPEMENTS DE CONSTRUCTEURS DU MACHINISME AGRICOLE (BE), EUROPEAN CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE FEDERATION (BE), RESCOOP EU ASBL (BE), LANDBRUG & FODEVARER F.M.B.A. (DK), CONFEDERAZIONE GENERALE DELL AGRICOLTURA ITALIANA (IT), Lubelski Osrodek Doradztwa Rolniczego w Konskowoli (PL), AGRICULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS (EL), DELPHY BV (NL), TEAGASC - AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (IE), WIRTSCHAFT UND INFRASTRUKTUR GMBH & CO PLANUNGS KG (DE), TRAMA TECNOAMBIENTAL S.L. (ES), INICIATIVAS INNOVADORAS SAL (ES)

**Abstract**

The aim of the project is to create a framework under which critical stakeholders will cooperate to evaluate and promote currently available fossil-energy-free strategies and technologies (FEFTS) in EU agriculture to diminish in the short term and eliminate in the long run fossil fuels use in any farming process from cradle to farm gate, while maintaining yield and quality of the end-product. Such a framework will contribute in closing the gap between the available FEFTS either commercial or from applicable research results with the everyday EU agricultural practices by promoting effective exchange of novel ideas and information between research, industry, extension and the farming community so that existing research and commercial solutions can be widely communicated, while capturing grassroots level needs and innovative ideas from the farming and related industry communities. Financing opportunities for de-fossilizing EU agriculture will be investigated and highlighted. The specific objectives are to: consider and evaluate the current status in EU agriculture regarding energy use and assess existing needs and interests for the future farm energy profile; identify and register currently available and directly applicable FEFTS, spanning from applied research results to market solutions and investigate available financing tools for de-fossilizing activities; create an online platform containing all available FEFTS to be assessed and provide a Decision Support Toolkit to provide proposed interventions based on user inputs as well as links for those interventions financing; collaborate with all relative stakeholders in thematic groups using interactive physical and online methodologies to produce community-based ideas for FEFTS integration in agricultural systems in a regional and EU-basis; and, create policy recommendations and communicate them to increase visibility and promote the proposed strategies and technologies in real agricultural activities in the near future.

**URL**

https://www.agrofossilfree.eu/

**Funding Authority**

Funded by the European Union

# i2connect Project

| Project Logo | Project Acronym |
|---|---|
| i2connect INTERACTIVE INNOVATION | i2connect |

**Project Title**

Connecting advisers to boost interactive innovation in agriculture and forestry

| Principal Investigator | Project Duration |
|---|---|
| A. Koutsouris | 2019-2024 |

**Participating Organizations**

ASSEMBLEE PERMANENTE DES CHAMBRES D'AGRICULTURE (Coordinator -FR), EIGEN VERMOGEN VAN HET INSTITUUT VOOR LANDBOUW- EN VISSERIJONDERZOEK (BE), EIROPAS LAUKSAIMNIECIBAS UN LAUKU KONSULTANTU ASOCIACIJA (LV), FiBL Europe - Forschungsinstitut für biologischen Landbau in Europa (BE), INTERNATIONALE AKADEMIE LAND- UND HAUSWIRTSCHAFTLICHER BERATERINNEN UND BERATER EV (DE), MREZA SAVJETODAVNIH SLUZBI JUGOISTOCNE EUROPE (HR), PROAGRIA KESKUSTEN LIITTO RY (FI), Association de Coordination Technique Agricole (FR), UNIVERSITAET HOHENHEIM (DE), MAGYAR AGRAR-, ELELMISZERGAZDASAGI ES VIDEKFEJLESZTESI KAMARA (HU), THE CIRCA GROUP EUROPE LIMITED (IE), TEAGASC - AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (IE), CONSIGLIO PER LA RICERCA IN AGRICOLTURA E L'ANALISI DELL'ECONOMIA AGRARIA (IT), LATVIJAS LAUKU KONSULTACIJU UN IZGLITIBAS CENTRS (LV), VIESOJI ISTAIGA LIETUVOS ZEMES UKIO KONSULTAVIMO TARNYBA (LT), CENTRUM DORADZTWA ROLNICZEGO W BRWINOWIE (PL), CONSULAI, CONSULTORIA AGRO INDUSTRIATRIAL LDA (PT), MINISTERIO DE AGRICULTURA, PESCA Y ALIMENTACION (ES), DEVELOPPEMENT DE L'AGRICULTURE ET DE L'ESPACE RURAL : AGRIDEA (CH), ZUIDELIJKE LAND- EN TUINBOUWORGANISATIE VERENIGING (NL), STICHTING WAGENINGEN RESEARCH (NL), SZECHENYI ISTVAN UNIVERSITY (HU)

**Abstract**

The i2connect project aims to fuel the competencies of advisors who will support and facilitate interactive innovation processes responding to multiple challenges in European agriculture and forestry. The strategy in i2connect is to use the existing advisor networks and the experiences of success in different contexts to create a broader network and momentum of change enabling a new culture of bottom-up led innovation support. This resource of over 40,000 advisors are critical actors, supporting agriculture and forestry on the ground and must be influenced in this project to support interactively innovation with particular emphasis on EIP-AGRI 2020 target of 3,500 operational groups and beyond. An inventory will be made of the current state of advisory practices in Europe. Best Practices throughout Europe will be analysed in an interactive way to guide the development of approaches and tools, and to be studied as part of the training program for advisors. A pool of trainers will be trained to work with these materials in training and coaching advisors. Some advisors may join cross visit teams for studying interesting cases abroad. Attention will also be given to the 'enabling environment': ways in which managers of advisory services, research actors, policy makers and others can create conditions. These activities feed into a professional network with many local branches, supported by the project through a moderated on line platform for mutual coaching, sharing experiences.

**URL**

https://i2connect-h2020.eu/

**Funding Authority**

i2connect INTERACTIVE INNOVATION

THIS PROJECT HAS RECEIVED FUNDING FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION' HORIZON 2020 RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PROGRAMME UNDER GRANT AGREEMENT N. 863039

# WiseFarmer Project

| Project Logo | Project Acronym |
|---|---|
| WiseFarmer Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union | WiseFarmer |
| **Project Title** | |
| WiseFarmer: Connecting farm generations in the digital age | |
| **Principal Investigator** | **Project Duration** |
| A. Koutsouris | 2019-2021 |
| **Participating Organizations** | |
| GAK OKTATO, KUTATO ES INNOVACIOS NON PROFIT KOZHASZNU KORLATOIT FELELOSSEGU TARSASAG (Coordinator - HU); UNIVERSITATEA DE STIINTE AGRICOLE SI MEDICINA VETERINARA A BANATULUI REGELE MIHAI I AL ROMANIEI DIN TIMISOARA (RO); INSTITUT ZA PRIMENEU NAUKE U POLJOPRIVERDI (RS); MREZA SAVJETODAVNIH SLUZBI JUGOISTOCNE EUROPE (HR), SZECHENYI ISTVAN UNIVERSITY (HU); WeAreNet (SK) | |
| **Abstract** | |
| The "wise farming" concept is introduced and used by the project, and can be conceived in two dimensions: 1) the value of local experience in farming in general: a personal behavior where “The wise farmer learns from the experience of others” and as opposed to “The smart person who uses his mind and intelligence, the wise uses his experience and experiences of others to solve problems”, and 2) thinking one step further the well-known term of "Smart Farming" (re. digital agriculture) to "Wise Farming", where the introduction of agriculture 4.0 tools are to be put into local context, to match experience, attitude, cultural habits, to validate usefulness not only at the level of business return but also taking care of social, environmental, sustainability and data ownership aspects. The direct objective of the project is to bring together the younger and elder farm generations in a common programme for the exchange of knowledge, access to high quality learning opportunity, facilitation support and sustained collaboration for increased competence, from one side in the use of digital tools, from the other side the crucial farming practices based on local knowledge. The target group consists of smallholders and family farmers, where personal participation in farming is inevitable, the current level of skills and qualifications are generally low, both on the elder side - lacking digital skills, and the younger farmers - missing key competencies in the practice of farming. Elderly farmers have local knowledge that is indispensable in the successful entrepreneurship at the farm level, while younger farmers are more advanced in the use of digital devices, but also lack their specific use in farming, as gaining local (“slow”) knowledge takes a considerable amount of time. Peer-to-peer learning - as farmers main and most trusted source of information are other farmers - and knowledge co-creation can give the generations an opportunity to learn in pairs, and circumvent existing obstacles by mentoring each other, therefore the skills of using digital tools can be successfully transferred in the local context as they are connected and matched with local farmer knowledge. |
| **URL** | |
| https://www.wisefarmer.eu/ | |
| **Funding Authority** | |
| WiseFarmer Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union | |

# PASSION Project

| Project Logo | Project Acronym |
|---|---|
| PASSION Partnership for sustainable development and social innovation | PASSION |

**Project Title**

Partnership for Sustainability and Social Innovation

| Principal Investigator | Project Duration |
|---|---|
| A. Koutsouris | 2019-2022 |

**Participating Organizations**

COLLEGIUM CIVITAS W WARSZAWIE (Coordinator - PL), SWEDISH UNIVERISTY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES (SE), FACULDADE DE SCIENCIAS DA UNIVERSITADE DE PORTO (PT), UNIVERSITY OF ISLAND (IS), UNIVERSITY OF NORTHAMPTON (UK)

**Abstract**

The main goal of the project is to combine international and interdisciplinary teams to create effective methods of education tools for sustainable development and social innovation. The specific objectives of the project are as follows: a) exchange of knowledge and academic experience in education for sustainable development (ESD) and social innovation (SI); b) better understanding of generation needs of the X-Z generation; c) comparative research and analysis of competences and attitudes of young people; d) development of existing and creation of new educational tools, including recommendations from research; and e) dissemination of the research results, recommendations and teaching methods and tools. The objectives shall be attained through project meetings and workshops for academic staff, Qualitative and quantitative research on existing materials used in ESD and SI teaching; testing selected case studies and teaching tools, conducting surveys on the competences and attitudes of young people as well as research in the field of education effectiveness (Poland, Greece, Portugal, Sweden), development and translation into the national languages - teaching materials created during Erasmus+ partnerships (Poland, Greece, Portugal, Sweden), implementation of an interdisciplinary summer school and participation in international conferences as a form of dissemination of project results.

**URL**

https://passion.civitas.edu.pl/

**Funding Authority**

NAWA POLISH NATIONAL AGENCY FOR ACADEMIC EXCHANGE

# FAIRshare Project Overview

| Project Logo | Project Acronym |
|---|---|
| FAIRshare DIGITAL TOOLS FOR FARM ADVISORS — THIS PROJECT HAS RECEIVED FUNDING FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION' HORIZON 2020 RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PROGRAMME UNDER GRANT AGREEMENT N. 815486 | FAIRshare |

| Project Title |
|---|
| Farm Advisory digital Innovation tools Realised and Shared |

| Principal Investigator | Project Duration |
|---|---|
| A. Koutsouris | 2018-2023 |

**Participating Organizations**

TEAGASC - AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (Coordinator - IE); THE CIRCA GROUP EUROPE LIMITED (IE); EIGEN VERMOGEN VAN HET INSTITUUT VOOR LANDBOUW EN VISSERIJONDERZOEK (BE); COMITE EUROPEEN DES GROUPEMENTS DE CONSTRUCTEURS DU MACHINISME AGRICOLE (BE); SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE ADVISORY SERVICE NETWORK (HR); INAGRO, PROVINCIAAL EXTERN VERZELFSTANDIGD AGENTSCHAP IN PRIVAATRECHTELIJKE VORM VZW (BE); ZUIDELIJKE LAND- EN TUINBOUWORGANISATIE VERENIGING (NL); INSTITUTO NAVARRO DE TECNOLOGIAS E INFRAESTRUCTURAS AGROALIMENTARIAS SA (ES); INNOVATION FOR AGRICULTURE (UK); FUNDACION CAJAMAR (ES); CONSULAI, CONSULTORIA AGRO INDUSTRIATRIAL LDA (PT); Association de Coordination Technique Agricole (FR); MAGYAR AGRAR-, ELELMISZERGAZDASAGI ES VIDEKFEJLESZTESI KAMARA (HU); BERNER FACHHOCHSCHULE (CH); STICHTING WAGENINGEN RESEARCH (NL); Öko-BeratungsGesellschaft mbH (DE); Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente (ES); ASSOCIATION DES CHAMBRES D'AGRICULTURE DE L'ARC ATLANTIQUE (FR); Landwirtschaftskammer Österreich (AT); VIESOJI ISTAIGA LIETUVOS ZEMES UKIO KONSULTAVIMO TARNYBA (LT); STIFTELSEN RURALIS INSTITUTT FOR RURAL- OG REGIONALFORSKNING (NO)

**Abstract**

Electronic data generation, analytics and communication technologies potentially enable more accurate, faster and better decision-making on farms, with huge potential to improve agricultural sustainability. There is a major focus on digitisation by EU and national/regional policy-makers to ensure that digital innovation in agriculture keeps pace with other sectors and the benefits of digitisation are available to the wider farming community. However, there is a danger that digitisation and future innovations will be hampered unless the rural advisory community is mobilised to take ownership of digital tools and to advocate at the user interface. This CSA will engage, enable and empower the independent farm advisor community, through sharing of tools, expertise and motivations. FAIRshare has two main programmes. Firstly, WPs 1, 2 and 3 will gather an evidence base of the digital tools and services used internationally, leveraging the social networks of partner institutions that span EU and non-EU countries. The inventory of tools will be accessible to end-users on an intuitively navigable online interface that has been co-designed using a multi-actor approach. Accompanying the tools in the online inventory will be information, for instance short 'good practice' vignettes, on how the tools may be used/adapted for use. Secondly, WPs 4, 5 and 6 will generate and resource a participatory 'living laboratory', empowering advisor peers from across the EU to interact with the online inventory and, in a series of workshops, to exchange, co-adapt, co-design and apply digital tools. The FAIRshare 'living lab' will enable advisors to address challenges to embedding digital tools in different advisory and farming contexts across the EU. Special focus will be on co-designing powerful communication and engagement approaches for advisors to advocate and inspire their peers and farmer clients, driving a social movement for the wider and better use of digital tools.

**URL**

https://www.h2020fairshare.eu/

# Project Overview

| Project Logo | Project Acronym |
|---|---|
| INNOSETA INNOVATIVE SPRAYING EQUIPMENT TRAINING ADVISING | INNOSETA |

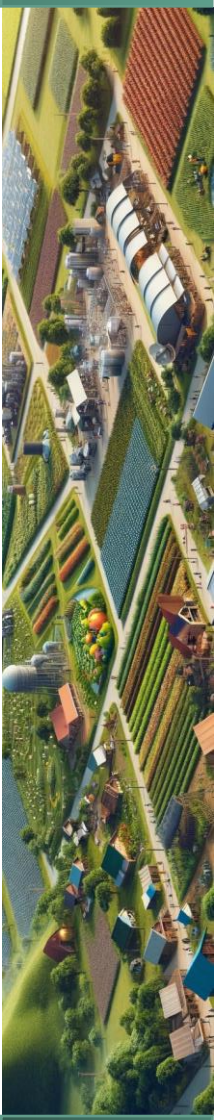
**Project Title**

Accelerating Innovative practices for Spraying Equipment, Training and Advising in European agriculture through the mobilization of Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems

| Principal Investigator | Project Duration |
|---|---|
| A. Koutsouris | 2018-2021 |

**Participating Organizations**

Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya (Coordinator, ES), Universita degli Studi di Torino (IT), Instituut voor landbouw- en visserijonderzoek – ILVO (BE), Institut Francais de la Vigne et du Vin (FR), Comite Europeen des groupements de constructeurs du Machinisme Agricole (BE), European Crop Protection Association (BE), COPA-COGECA (BE), Union de Pequenos Agricultores y Ganaderos (ES), Confederazione Gererale dell' Agricoltura Italiana (IT), Zuidelijke Land- en TuinbouwOrganisatie Vereniging – ZLTO (NL), AGENSO - Agricultural & Environmental Solutions (GR), Visavi God Lantmannased AB (SE), Zachodniopomorski Ośrodek Doradztwa Rolniczego w Barzkowicach (PL)



**Abstract**

The aim of this network is to set-up a self-sustainable Thematic Network on Spraying Equipment, Training and Advising designed for the effective exchange between researchers, industry, extension services and farming community. This network will link directly applicable research and commercial solutions and grassroots level needs and innovative ideas thoroughly captured, thus contributing to close the research and innovation divide in this area. The proposed network will be organized to cover spraying application needs in the most commonly used crops in Europe: cereals, vegetables, orchards, vineyards and greenhouses organized in seven national innovation hubs linked with international interactive workshops. This Thematic Network will address important and timely issues that are critical to improve crop productivity and reduce environmental impact. These include spraying equipment, technologies and practical methods to estimate and reduce spray drift and environmental contamination; information and procedures on the benefits of following regular inspections of sprayers in use; new spraying equipment and components to increase the efficacy of the application; practical information and advice on the dose expression dilemma especially for orchard and bush crops; calibration and operation procedures using lively videos and developed interactive training and learning material; classification schemes for sprayers and nozzles to enable farmers and pesticide companies to decide on the most suitable to them nozzle/sprayer/technology combination for certain pesticide application; environmental requirements for new sprayers following ISO 16119; and best management practices acquired over the years from several EU projects and research publications.

**URL**

https://www.innoseta.eu/

**Funding Authority**

THIS PROJECT HAS RECEIVED FUNDING FROM THE **EUROPEAN UNION'S HORIZON 2020 RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PROGRAMME** UNDER GRANT AGREEMENT N. 773864

# TPM-RYE Project

| Project Logo | Project Acronym |
|---|---|
| #YoungEntrepreneursSucceed | TPM-RYE |

**Project Title**

Scaling trust-based partnership models to recharge youth entrepreneurship: Supporting underserved communities with innovative entrepreneurship support instruments

| Principal Investigator | Project Duration |
|---|---|
| A. Koutsouris | 2018-2024 |

**Participating Organizations**

Development Agency of Karditsa S.A (GR), Microfinanza S.P.L. (IT), Foundation Technologic Incubator – YBP (PL), Autoocupacio (ES), Munich Business School (DE), KIZ SINNOVA Company for Social Innovation gGmbH (DE), Youth Business International YBI (UK)

**Abstract**

Despite significant investment, young people in many regions still face systemic challenges to start, grow & sustain a business. This is intensified by the luck of documented evidence & learning on what kind of entrepreneurship support is most effective In different contexts, and a scarcity of tested & scalable models. The main objective & expected results are: to pilot the TbP Model and provide direct services to the target group In Greece, Italy, Spain and Poland; gather evidence and improve results and social Impact of the model: to mobilize stakeholders and advocate for additional support for model scaling. The project targets underserved youth (25-30yrs) who will benefit from dedicated & highly specialized financial & nonfinancial business development services, resulting from evidence-based research. The project's outputs include: research conducted, report incl. data & evidence developed; TbP Model tested & improved; new assessment system proposed & used; methodology toolkit prepared; knowledge transfer workshops implemented; conferences organized. Accordingly, the main expected outcomes are: a) increased number of underserved youth return to training/education; found employment; and/or started entrepreneurial activity; b) Organizations use the knowledge base of what works, where & why; c) increased number of stakeholders are aware of the TbP Model.

**Figure**

**URL**

https://youngentrepreneurssucceed.com/

**Funding Authority**

EEA and Norway Grants

# UNISECO Project

| Project Logo | Project Acronym |
|---|---|
| | UNISECO |

**Project Title**

Understanding and improving the sustainability of agroecological farming systems in the EU

| Principal Investigator | Project Duration |
|---|---|
| G. Vlahos | 2018-2020 |

**Participating Organizations**

Thuenen Institute of Farm Economics (TI) Consiglio per la Ricerca in Agricoltura e l'Analisi dell'Economia Agraria (CREA) University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU) The James Hutton Institute (HUT) The University Court of the University of Aberdeen (UA) Institut Superieur D'Agriculture Rhone Alpes (ISARA) Baltijas Vides Forums (BEF-LV) Baltijos Aplinkos Forumas VSI (BEF-LT) Forschungsinstitut fur Biologischen Landbau Stiftung (FiBL) Geonardo Environmental Technologies LTD (GEO) Luonnonvarakeskus (LUKE) Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet (SLU) Gestion Ambiental de Navarra, S.A. (GAN) Asociatia WWF Programul Dunare Carpati Romania (WWF) Ustav Zemedelske Ekonomiky a Informaci (UZEI) European Landowners Organization (ELO) Bioinstitut, o.p.s

**Abstract**

The ambition and overarching objective is to strengthen the sustainability of European farming systems, through co-constructing improved and practice-validated strategies and incentives for the promotion of improved agro-ecological approaches. UNISECO addresses the work programme topic SFS-29-2017 and contributes to Sustainable Food Security by identifying and supporting farming systems that enable the production of healthy food while preserving the environment and bringing added value to farm households and the different stakeholders of the value chain.

**URL**

https://uniseco-project.eu/

**Funding Authority**

This project has received funding from the European Union's H2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 773901

# AgriLink Project

| Project Logo | Project Acronym |
|---|---|
| AgriLink | AgriLink |

**Project Title**

Agricultural Knowledge: Linking farmers, advisors and researchers to boost innovation

| Principal Investigator | Project Duration |
|---|---|
| A. Koutsouris | 2017-2021 |

**Participating Organizations**

INRA (Coordinator, France), Agricultural Advisory Center in Brwinow (PL), Boerenbondvereniging voor Projecten vzw (BE), EKOTOXA S.R.O. (CZ), Highclere Consulting SRL (RO), INRA TRANSFERT S.A. (FR), INTIA (ES), Baltic Studies Centre (LV), The Open University (UK), Stichting Dienst Landbouwkundig Onderzoek (NL), Stiftelsen Norsk Senter for Bygdeforskning (NO), The James Hutton Institute (UK), Universidade de Trans-os-Montes e Alto Douro (PT), Ustav Zemedelske Ekonomiky a Informaci (CZ), VINIDEA SRL (IT)

**Abstract**

AgriLink aims to stimulate sustainability transitions in European agriculture through better understanding the roles played by farm advice in farmer decision-making. To this end, AgriLink will analyse and improve the role of farmer advice in 8 innovation areas that combine challenges identified in the “Strategic Approach to EU Agricultural Research & Innovation”. AgriLink builds on the premise that the full range of advice-providing organisations need to be included in the assessment of service provision and innovation adoption. The methodology combines theoretical insights with cutting edge research methods within a multi-actor, transdisciplinary approach. It draws on ‘micro-AKIS’ (individuals and organisations from whom farmers seek services and exchange knowledge with) analysis in 26 focus regions, sociotechnical scenario development and ‘living laboratories’ where farmers, advisors and researchers work together. Research in focus regions will provide insight in farmers’ micro-AKIS, advisory suppliers’ business models, and regional farm advisory systems. This will feed an assessment of the efficacy of governance of farm-advice-research interactions across Europe. Newly developed advisory methods and new forms of research-practice interaction will be validated and further developed in Living Laboratories. A socio-technical scenario method will be used to explore, jointly with stakeholders, transition pathways towards more sustainable agriculture. Crucially, AgriLink builds on insights and experiences from both research and practice. The consortium consists of researchers from different disciplines (institutional economics, innovation studies, AKIS studies, sociology of networks), as well as of advisors (from public, private and farmer-based organisations) from across the EU. Actors from advisory services will be active in the validation and dissemination of results, to ensure that all project findings are both scientifically sound and practically useful

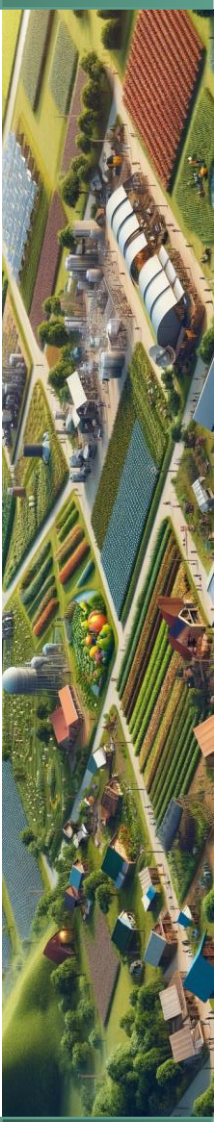
**URL**

https://www.agrilink2020.eu/

**Funding Authority**

This project received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 727577.

# AgriDemo-F2F Project



| Project Logo | Project Acronym |
|---|---|
| AGRIDEMO FARMER TO FARMER | AgriDemo-F2F |

**Project Title**

Building an interactive AgriDemo-Hub community: enhancing farmer to farmer learning

| Principal Investigator | Project Duration |
|---|---|
| A. Koutsouris | 2017-2019 |

**Participating Organizations**

EV ILVO (BE; coordinator), Association des Chambres d'Agriculture de L'Arc Atlantique (FR), University of Gloucestershire (UK), Universidad de Santiago de Compostela (ES), TEAGASC (IE), ZLTO (NL), Biosense Institute (RS), SEGES PS (DK), AGES (AT), European Landowners Association (BE), Federación EFA Galicia (ES), Odling I Balans (FarmingInBalance) (SE), Agricultural Advisory Centre in Brwinow (PL)

**Abstract**

The overall aim of AgriDemo-F2F is to enhance peer-to-peer learning within the commercial farming community. The project will utilize the experience of different actors and involve practitioner partners throughout the project to deepen understanding of effective on farm demonstration activities (multi-actor approach). In a first step, we will conduct a geo-referenced inventory of open commercial farms that engage in demonstration activities in Europe, detailing the sectors, themes and topics on which they provide expertise, and describe the mediation techniques they apply. Case studies will be selected to perform an in-depth comparative analysis. Important dimensions in selection are: 1) a widespread geo-graphical coverage within Europe, 2) representative for EU-agricultural sectors, systems and territories and 3) low tech versus high tech in mediation techniques. Case studies will be described, analysed and compared on 1) their network structure (actors, roles and governance characteristics), and 2) the mechanisms and tools used for recruitment, interaction and learning. Furthermore, effectiveness of the different approaches within the case-studies will be assessed through an evaluation of the extent and nature of learning. Both regional and international multiactor meetings will use the results of the cross comparative case study analysis to i) identify a set of best practical approaches for both the on farm demonstration of research results (science driven) and the spreading of best farming practices among practitioners (innovation driven) and ii) recommendations for AKIS governance and policies on how to support effective on farm demonstration activities. The empowerment of both the commercial farming and policy community to uptake these best practices will occur through structuring the project results and farm demo showcases on the AgriDemo-Hub, an interactive, user oriented, web-map application.

**URL**

https://agridemo-h2020.eu/

**Funding Authority**

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 728061

# SUFISA Project

| Project Logo | Project Acronym |
|---|---|
| SUFISA | SUFISA |

| Project Title |
|---|
| Sustainable Finance for Sustainable Farming and Fisheries |

| Principal Investigator | Project Duration |
|---|---|
| G. Vlahos | 2015-2019 |

**Participating Organizations**

Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KU Leuven), Belgium, Universita Di Pisa (UNIPI), Italy University of Gloucestershire, United Kingdom, Fondation Institut de Recherche pour le Developpement Durable et les Relations Internationales (IDDRI), France, Alma Mater Studiorum –Universita Di Bologna (UNIBO), Italy, Universiteit Hasselt (UHasselt), Belgium Nodibinajums Baltic Studies Centre (BSC), Latvia Universidade de Evora, Portugal Aarhus Universitet (AU), Denmark Hochschule für Nachhaltige Entwicklung Eberswalde (HNEE), Germany Uniwersytet Jagiellonski, Poland Ekonomski Fakultet – Univerzitet U Beogradu (BEL), Serbia University of Southern Denmark (SDU), Denmark

**Abstract**

A good functioning of the European food system is key to deliver food and nutrition security for all Europeans. However, that system faces many economic, environmental and social challenges as well as opportunities following socio-economic and technological developments, that are not equally distributed throughout the EU. Future policymaking aiming at healthy and resilient systems needs to take into account this differentiation and diversity of approaches, which necessitate foresight activities that take into account both the development of important driving forces as well as the social and spatial diversity. Primary production—that is agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture—forms the foundation of the food system. Its structure and performance is influenced by various conditions shaped by both the public and the private sector. As economic agents, primary producers aim at generating a sufficient amount of income, but their financial conditions are highly dependent on public and private actors, such as government regulators (including the EU's agricultural and fisheries policies), the financial sector, suppliers, the food industry, retailers, etc. In other words, the web of policy requirements as well as input and output market imperfections greatly shape farmers' and fishermen's livelihoods. Knowledge on the conditions of primary producers and the driving forces influencing these conditions exists, but in a fragmented way: not all primary producers and regions are covered, not all driving forces have been investigated, cross-linkages between them have been insufficiently analysed, future opportunities are not well integrated, etc. The purpose of SUFISA is to identify sustainable practices and policies in the agricultural, fish and food sectors that support the sustainability of primary producers in a context of multi-dimensionsal policy requirements, market uncertainties and globalisation.

**URL**

https://www.sufisa.eu/

**Funding Authority**

This project has received funding from the EU's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 635577

# WISE Project

| Project Logo | Project Acronym |
|---|---|
| WiSE Widening Interdisciplinary Sustainability Education | WISE |

| Project Title |
|---|
| Widening Interdisciplinary Sustainability Education |

| Principal Investigator | Project Duration |
|---|---|
| A. Koutsouris | 2015-2017 |

**Participating Organizations**

Collegium Civitas (Coordinator, Poland), Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), University of Porto (Portugal), Masaryk University (Czech Republic)

**Abstract**

In 2005 education and environment Ministers from across the UNECE region adopted the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). The Strategy aims to ensure that policy frameworks enable this kind of education on all levels of formal and non formal education, provide support for educators in the field of sustainable development and facilitate access to adequate teaching aids and educational materials needed for education for sustainable development. The most important recommendation in the field of education is to mainstream sustainability into the curriculum at all levels of education. Particular attention should be given to raising awareness on sustainable development among university employees - thus strengthening the profile of the teaching professions. Our project will correspond to these needs to improve the quality and relevance of higher education, by raising the general capacity of the academic teachers in several European countries to conduct interdisciplinary education focused on sustainability. The education on environment and sustainability, as well as involvement of professional actors in the development of educational materials in the project, will enable students to enhance their understanding of the social and environmental responsibilities of potential future employers and thus provide links to employability in environmental services - therefore also through that activity the relevance of higher education will be enhanced- The main aim of the project is to organize an international interdisciplinary network of academic teachers and researchers that will work together to develop operational capacity of an integrated interdisciplinary thinking about sustainable development and to create useful innovative multidisciplinary tools to support development of environmental studies embedded in Sustainable Development in Higher Education. The creation of the network and, subsequently, of teaching materials and curricula, will allow for creation of new study programmes or elements of study programmes with exceptionally high quality and 0f the innovative interdiscinlinary character.

**URL**

http://wiseproject.info/

**Funding Authority**

Erasmus+

# AgriSPIN Project

| Project Logo | Project Acronym |
|---|---|
| | AgriSPIN |

**Project Title**

Space for Innovations in Agriculture

| Principal Investigator | Project Duration |
|---|---|
| A. Koutsouris | 2015-2017 |

**Participating Organizations**

Knowledge Center for Agriculture - SEGES/KCA (Coordinator, Denmark), Dutch Southern Farmers Organisation, ZLTO (The Netherlands), University of Hohenheim, UHOH (Germany), Union of Chambers of Agriculture - VLK (Germany), Innovatiesteunpunt - ISP (Belgium), Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre - LLKC (Latvia), ACTA (France), Tuscany Region (Italy), ProAgria (Finland), IFOAM EU GROUP (Belgium), Teagasc (Ireland), CIRAD-UMR Innovation (France), ADEPT (Romania), Fundacion Hazi Fundazioa - FHF (Spain)

**Abstract**

The project name reflects the overall aim of this project: to strengthen support systems in creating space for innovating farmers. Innovative farmers are everywhere, but their environment determines the rate of success. The project aims to create more space for innovations, through amplifying good examples of innovation support systems and through multiactor learning about ways to stimulate innovation and remove obstacles. The main target group is intermediates who connect initiators to other actors for involving them in creating innovations, such as farmers, knowledge workers, actors in the value chain, administrators, civil society groups, etc. 11 European project partners are playing this intermediate role in their regional AKIS. 4 scientific partners complete the team. Each regional partner will host a Cross Visit. The visiting team, composed of project partners, studies interesting cases of agricultural innovations. The scientists provide sound methodology for making these visits valuable. Throughout the project period partners support each other in an emerging professional innovation network. They inspire each other and initiate improvements in their own systems. The project also addresses the institutional environment, involving public managers, administrators and policy makers. Case studies and lessons learned are made available to a wider public. Attention will be given to cultural and historical particularities, requiring tailor made solutions for every region. The scientists explore lessons to be generalised and added to the scientific discourse on knowledge brokers. Once the approach of joint learning through Cross Visits has been well tested and the professional network is functional, the project is ready for collaboration with other partners such as thematic networks and operational groups under the EIP as well as other interested regions in joint learning about innovation support systems.

**URL**

https://agrispin.eu/

**Funding Authority**

This project has received funding from the *European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme* under grant agreement No 652642

# ENVIEVAL Project

| Project Logo | Project Acronym |
|---|---|
| | ENVIEVAL |
| **Project Title** | |
| Development and application of new methodological frameworks for the evaluation of environmental impacts of rural development programmes in the EU | |
| **Principal Investigator** | **Project Duration** |
| G. Vlahos | 2013-2015 |
| **Participating Organizations** | |
| Thünen Institute (TI) The James Hutton Institute (JHI) Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE) Council for Agricultural Research and Economics (CREA) Baltic Environmental Forum (BEF) Szent Istvan University (SZIE) | |
| **Abstract** | |
| ENVIEVAL covered a set of EU Member States and regional study areas to test the suitability of methods to evaluate the impacts of the rural development programmes on different environmental public goods. The partner countries cover a wide range of different environmental, socio-economic and political characteristics of rural areas. The state and extent of the provision of different public goods from agriculture such as biodiversity, water quality and landscapes vary greatly across the different rural environments in the partner countries, as do the priorities in the rural development programmes, so providing a menu of different key rural development measures across all axes. Agricultural systems vary from intensive farming with fertile soils and favourable climatic conditions (e.g. parts of Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom), to extensive livestock systems in some of the most marginal and remote areas in the EU which also suffer from unfavourable natural conditions and isolation from markets (e.g. remoter areas of Finland and Greece). Agricultural sectors in the Baltic States and Hungary (new Member States) are going through a process of significant structural change affecting the quality and quantity of public goods they provide. The differences in the provision of public goods, rural development programmes and agricultural structures provide a diverse setting for the development and testing of new and improved tools to evaluate the environmental impacts of rural development programmes in a set of case studies in the partner countries which will also take account of different data requirements and availability. | |
| **URL** | |
| http://www.envieval.eu/ | |
| **Funding Authority** | |
| SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME | Grant agreement ID: 312071 |