IR2MA – Large Scale Irrigation Management Tools for Sustainable Water Management in Rural Areas and Protection of Receiving Aquatic Ecosystems

CONSORTIUM

This project is coordinated by the University of Ioannina - Special Account for Research Funds (UoI) and involves the following partners:

- *Region of Epirus (ROE);*
- *Institute of Sciences of Food Production (ISPA – CNR);*
- *Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (CIHEAM-BARI);*
- *Consortium of Reclamation of Capitanata "Bonifica Della Capitanata" (CBC);*
- *Region of Puglia (ROP).*

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PROJECT AT A GLANCE

WATER-ENERGY-FOOD-ECOSYSTEM NEXUS

IR2MA – Large Scale Irrigation Management Tools for Sustainable Water Management in Rural Areas and Protection of Receiving Aquatic Ecosystems – is launched in April 2018 within the framework of the Cooperation Programme Interreg V/A Greece-Italy 2014-2020. The project lasts 24 months and involves 6 partners (regional authorities, research centres, universities and water management organizations) from regions of Epirus (Greece) and Apulia (Italy).

The IR2MA multi-stakeholder network supports a coordination platform of expertise exchange to increase shared knowledge and disseminate best practices and tools regarding irrigation-drainage management and their effects on the receiving aquatic ecosystems across the Mediterranean area. Hence, the project will develop, test and promote management options / solutions for efficient water, fertilizer and energy use at different scales (crop-farm-irrigation district) and sustainable ecosystem functioning. The IR_2MA partners will interact designating joint experimental, research and training activities in both target regions.

CIHEAM-BARI will exchange and enhance technical and professional expertise regarding the use of recycled water in agriculture, performance analysis of irrigation systems, water-energy-food-ecosystem nexus, development and evaluation of a common decision support system (DSS) for water management at end-user level, and elaboration of a guidebook for the performance of large-scale participatory systems.

Moreover, the project includes the communication activities (service points, workshops, seminars, demonstration sites etc.) in order to contribute to public consciousness building regarding water, and professionals training programs about strategies/methods/tools for efficient irrigation-drainage management and protection of receiving aquatic ecosystems.

Pooling the operational experience of project research activities and previous relevant knowledge and experience, the outputs of this project will lead to valuable feedback and applicable recommendations for the application of innovative approaches based on cross-border collaboration and common interest to improve resource efficiency and integrated environmental protection of both water and waste sectors with regard to socio-economic development, health and welfare of society.