

PRESS RELEASE

Kick-off meeting for IR2MA project
Arta, 11-5-2018

IR2MA “Large Scale Irrigation Management Tools for Sustainable Water Management in Rural Areas and Protection of Receiving Aquatic Ecosystems” is one of the 41 projects that were approved in the framework of the 1st call for ordinary project proposals of the Cooperation Programme Interreg V/A Greece-Italy 2014-2020, <http://greece-italy.eu/>. The project started during the spring of 2018 and is expected to last 24 months. The Lead Beneficiary of the project is the Technological Educational Institute of Epirus (TEIEP, <http://www.teiep.gr/>). The other four beneficiaries of the project are the Region of Epirus (ROE, <http://www.php.gov.gr/>), Istituto Scienze delle Produzioni Alimentari (ISPA/CNR <http://www.ispacnr.it/>), Istituto Agronomico Mediterraneo – BARI (IAMB, <http://www.iamb.it/>) and Consorzio Per La Bonifica Della Capitanata (CBC, <http://consorzio.fg.it/>). The Region of Puglia (ROP, <http://www.regione.puglia.it/>) participates as associated Partner.

Both Greece and Italy try to put in practice rules that originate from the directive 2000/60/EC in order to protect water in both qualitative and quantitative terms. The major water user in the programme area is agriculture. Efficient management in large participatory irrigation-drainage systems as well as at end-user level is expected to lead to improved water usage and control of drainage. The latest transfer contaminants generated from fertilizers, plant protection materials etc. to underground aquifers and surface aquatic receivers. Many of these receivers include sensitive ecosystems that are top ranked in environmental agreements (Ramsar, NATURA2000 etc). Central participatory systems in Epirus are characterized by low technological level of infrastructure and poor management. The application of a common decision support system (DSS) for water management at end-user level (capitalization of ETCP GR-IT2007-13 IRMA project) will promote cooperation of their managing authorities to confront common problems. The participatory irrigation system of Capitanata (CBC, Foggia) is considered to be the most advanced in the programme area. It applies state of the art infrastructure and management systems and it also applies for years a water management DSS for end-users. IAMB holds extended expertise regarding management of irrigation-drainage systems in all levels and will bring extended know-how to the project as it is part of CIHEAM, an organization with branches all around the Mediterranean Sea. Their cooperation with Greek partners (TEIEP, Region of Epirus) will provide valuable feedback and applicable recommendations for the improvement of participatory systems in Epirus. In this framework, activities regarding measurement of water quantity and quality, flood alarms, DSS application etc. will be applied. IAMB, ISPA/CNR and TEIEP will also perform applied research activities which will be mainly focused on the use of recycled water (from various sources) for irrigation of crops. This is a practice of great interest which is expected to become mainstream in the near future in order to save good quality fresh water for other uses and to reduce contaminant loads from being directly discharged to aquatic receivers. Finally the project will include communication activities (help desk, seminars, demonstration sites etc.) in order to stimulate public consciousness regarding water issues and professionals training regarding strategies and methods for efficient irrigation-drainage management and protection of receiving aquatic ecosystems. The participation of the Region of Puglia as associate partner will provide great assistance to that.

The kickoff meeting of the project has been scheduled for Monday 14 and Tuesday 15 May 2018. During the first day a technical meeting of the consortium as well as a public presentation of the project will be made at the Central Library of the TEIEP at Arta, Greece. During the second day a technical visit to the participatory irrigation and drainage system of Arta will take place.

Information

TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EPIRUS

Department of Agricultural Technology

Laboratory of Agricultural Engineering & Natural Resources Management

Dr. I.L. Tsirogiannis, Associate Professor +302681050279; itsirog@teiep.gr

Regione Puglia - Joint Secretariat Communication Officer

Carmela Sfregola +39 3493916007 c.sfregola@regione.puglia.it; press@greece-italy.eu

www.greece-italy.eu



Interreg V-A Greece-Italy Programme is an European Territorial Cooperation Programme that aims to help public institutions and local stakeholders to develop cross-border projects and pilot actions and to create new policy, products and services, with the final goal to improve the citizens' quality of life. Strategically, the programme will enhance innovation in a number of fields such as blue growth, tourism and culture, agro food and cultural and creative industries. Interreg V-A Greece-Italy Programme aims to get maximum return from EUR 123 million financed per 85% by European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and per 15% by the 2 member states through a national co-financing.