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

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WP1, Management Costs

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**Minutes of kickoff meeting
May 14, 15 2018, Arta, GREECE**

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IR2MA KICKOFF MEETING MINUTES

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Project partners

- LB - PB1 TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EPIRUS (TEIEP) <http://www.teiep.gr/> (Lead partner)
- PB2 REGION of EPIRUS (ROE) <http://www.php.gov.gr/>
- PB3 ISTITUTO SCIENZE DELLE PRODUZIONI ALIMENTARI (ISPA/CNR) <http://www.ispacnr.it/>
- PB4 CIHEAM - ISTITUTO AGRONOMICO MEDITERRANEO – BARI (IAMB) <http://www.iamb.it/>
- PB5 CONSORZIO PER LA BONIFICA DELLA CAPITANATA (CBC) <http://consorzio.fg.it/>
- AP1 REGION OF PUGLIA (ROP) <http://www.regione.puglia.it/> (associate partner)

Project overview

Introduction – project overview

The kickoff meeting of the project was 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 took place 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 took place.

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.

Meeting agenda

Day 1 [Monday, May 14]

TEIEP, Kostakii Campus, TEIEP Central Library

14:00 – 14:30

Welcome of partners / Summary of the meeting agenda

14:30 – 18:00

Technical meeting – Administrative and financial management of IR2MA

- The IR2MA project
Dr. Tsirogiannis Yannis, IR2MA Project manager
- Rules, typical obligations and good administrative and financial management practices in the framework of Interreg V A Greece-Italy Programme 2014-2020.
Mr. Maretas Demetrios, IR2MA Financial manager
- Discussion regarding the implementation of IR2MA
- Formation of project's committees

18:00-18:30 Coffee break

18:30 – 19:30

Press conference regarding the project, the partners and their involvement in irrigation water management

Coordinator

Dr. Tsirogiannis Yannis, IR2MA project manager

Associate Professor

TEIEP, Dept. of Agricultural Technology

Day 2 [Tuesday, May 15]

10:00-13:00

Short technical visit at the participatory irrigation and drainage system of the plain of Arta (Participation was not obligatory).

Participants

Management meeting (14/5 14:00-18:00)

LB - PB1 TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EPIRUS (TEIEP)

- Dr. Konstantinos Karamanis, Associate Professor at TEIEP, Vice Rector of TEIEP and President of the Special Research Account of TEIEP
- Dr. Yannis Tsirogiannis, Associate Professor at TEIEP, Project Manager
- Mr. Demetrios Maretas, Special Account of TEIEP, Project Financial Manager

PB2 REGION of EPIRUS (ROE)

- Mr. Evangelos Sakkas

PB3 ISTITUTO SCIENZE DELLE PRODUZIONI ALIMENTARI (ISPA/CNR)

- Dr. Angelo Parente
- Dr. Francesco Montesano

PB4 CIHEAM - ISTITUTO AGRONOMO MEDITERRANEO – BARI (IAMB)

- Dott. Mladen Todorovic

PB5 CONSORZIO PER LA BONIFICA DELLA CAPITANATA (CBC)

- Dr. Luigi Nardella
- Dr. Nicoletta Novielo

The following (which are members of TEIEP's Laboratory of Agricultural Engineering and Natural Resources Management) participated at the meeting:

- Dr. Pantelis Barouchas, Associate Professor, TEIWG, Dept. Agricultural Technology
- Dr. Nicolaos Malamos, Associate Professor, TEIWG, Dept. Agricultural Technology

Dr. Dionysia Tamvaki Branch Representative Officer- Joint Secretariat, Interreg V-A Greece-Italy Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes, and Mrs. Carmela Sfregola, Communication Officer, Interreg V-A Greece-Italy Puglia Region Coordination of International Policies – Territorial Cooperation Section participated via teleconference to the meeting.

For the full list of participants please refer to the participants' list.

Public presentation of the project (14/5 18:30-19:30)

For the list of participants please refer to the participants' list.

Technical visit (15/5 10:00-13:00)

Participation was not obligatory.

LB - PB1 TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EPIRUS (TEIEP)

- Dr. Yannis Tsirogiannis, Associate Professor at TEIEP, Project Manager

PB2 REGION of EPIRUS (ROE)

- Mr. Evangelos Sakkas

PB3 ISTITUTO SCIENZE DELLE PRODUZIONI ALIMENTARI (ISPA/CNR)

- Dr. Angelo Parente
- Dr. Francesco Montesano

PB4 CIHEAM - ISTITUTO AGRONOMO MEDITERRANEO – BARI (IAMB)

- Dott. Mladen Todorovic

PB5 CONSORZIO PER LA BONIFICA DELLA CAPITANATA (CBC)

- Dr. Luigi Nardella
- Dr. Nicoletta Novielo

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the employees and collaborators of TEIEP that provided assistance for the organization of the kickoff meeting. Namely, Dr. Demetrios Kateris, Dr. Nikolaos Mantzos, Dr. Christos Myriounis, Dr. Paraskevi Mpreza, Mrs. Vassiliki Fragaki.

In memoriam

Unfortunately our friend and colleague Dr. Herakles Chalkides, Associate Professor at UTH, which provided significant contribution for the implementation of ETCP GR-IT 2007-2013 IRMA as member of TEIEP's team, is not among us anymore. His dedication will inspire all of us during IR2MA.

Minutes

Day 1 [Monday, May 14, 2018]

The first technical session of the kickoff meeting was held at the Central Library of TEIEP at Kostakii Campus.

The meeting started at 14:00 am

The Project Manager, Dr. Tsirogiannis Yannis L. (LP PB1) welcomed all participants and launched the kick-off meeting of IRMA project. He gave a brief presentation of the meeting agenda.

Dr. Konstantinos Karamanis, Associate Professor at TEIEP, Vice Rector of TEIEP and President of the Special Research Account of TEIEP also welcomed the participants and underlined the sustainability of ETCP GR-IT 2007-2013 IRMA project outcomes, a fact that generates great expectations from the implementation of IR2MA project.

Dr. Dionysia Tamvaki Branch Representative Officer- Joint Secretariat, Interreg V-A Greece-Italy Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes, and Mrs. Carmela Sfregola, Communication Officer, Interreg V-A Greece-Italy Puglia Region Coordination of International Policies – Territorial Cooperation Section, provided general information about the programme.

Dr. Tsirogiannis presented in detail the project's route from its conception to the final approved Application Form. He also pointed out the project's objectives and the expected results. He presented the Milestones and the Procurement plan.

The Financial Manager of the project, Mr. Demetrios Maretas (LP PB1) presented the rules, typical obligations and good administrative and financial management practices that have to be followed. He introduced the relevant road map for IR2MA and he explained all the required.

Dr. Dionysia Tamvaki (JS) stayed on-line during both presentations and provided clarifications.

After this a general discussion regarding the application of the project was made.

- Dr. Tamvaki (JS) referred that for PB3, PB5 the reallocation of the differences at the audits should be transferred to the same deliverable at External Experts. She also reminded the significance of the Milestones and Procurement Plan which have to be followed and that the 2018's financial target for the project is about 275.000€.
- Mr. Maretas (LP PB1), clarified that the Progress Report has to be submitted until the 30th of July. He mentioned that the PR of the last Reporting Period (of IRMA), Section 5 is the Financial Report. In this Table we insert all the paid out expenditures as well as the verified ones. You cannot declare verified expenditures without the respective certification. You can issue a certification whenever you want (within a semester), you can enter the financial data of the certification in the MIS (when this will be in force) but all these certifications have to be included in the respective Progress Report.
- Dr. Tsirogiannis (LP PB1) informed that starting date for eligible expenditure is 1/1/2014 as stated at "Period of eligibility of expenditure", page 50 of the Programme and Project Manual. IR2MA was submitted on 14/12/2016, so any cost regarding preparation of the proposal is eligible between those two

dates. The project was approved on November 11th, 2017, thus all expenses from that date on that are linked directly to the implementation of the project - including those that have been made in the framework of the budget optimisation process- are eligible.

- Dr. Tsirogiannis (LP PB1) reminded that for the posts on IR2MA FB page the appropriate hashtags #Interregproject #EUprojects #IR2MA and when it is necessary the tags @interregreeceitaly @irrigationmanagement should be used.

The partners were then asked to provide information about the members of the management committee (representative and substitute). The following were appointed as members of IR2MA management committee:

- LB - PB1 TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EPIRUS (TEIEP)
 - Representative: Ioannis Tsirogiannis
 - Substitute: Nikolaos Malamos
- PB2 REGION of EPIRUS (ROE)
 - Representative: Evangelos Sakkas
 - Substitute: Elias Manios (with probability to change)
- PB3 ISTITUTO SCIENZE DELLE PRODUZIONI ALIMENTARI (ISPA/CNR)
 - Representative: Angelo Parente
 - Substitute: Francesco Montessano
- PB4 CIHEAM - ISTITUTO AGRONOMICO MEDITERRANEO – BARI (IAMB)
 - Representative: Mladen Todorovic
 - Substitute: Saverio De Santis
- PB5 CONSORZIO PER LA BONIFICA DELLA CAPITANATA (CBC)
 - Representative: dott. agr. Nicoletta Noviello
 - Substitute: dott. agr. Luigi Nardella

The partners were also asked to send information about the people who will get access as editors to the project's FB page.

The same afternoon (it was scheduled to be from 18:30 to 19:30, but it ended at 20:30) at the Central Library of TEI of Epirus at Kostakii Campus an open presentation of the project and the partner's organization was made.

Dr. Tsirogiannis I.L. (LP PB1) welcomed all participants and made an overall presentation of the project, pointing out the project's objectives and the expected results. He also made reference to the special interest of the project for the Region of Epirus.

Dr. Angelo Parente and Dr. Francesco Montesano (PB3) made a brief presentation of ISPA/CNR while Dr. Mladen Todorovic (PB4) made a brief presentation of IAMB.

Dr. Nicoletta Noviello and Dr. Luigi Nardella (PB5) made an analytical presentation of the Consorzio per la bonifica della Capitanata and the technologies that they use to organise infrastructure registration and maintenance, water management and pricing etc. As this period there is great interest in the Region of Epirus regarding the management of Land Reclamation Organisations, numerous questions followed this presentation.

After the end of the presentation a discussion regarding the application of IR2MA with the irrigation stakeholders (local irrigation agencies, agricultural companies etc) was made.

Day 2 [Tuesday, May 15, 2018]

A technical visit to selected location that are linked with irrigation and drainage at the plain of Arta (Epirus, Greece) was organized in order for the partners to have an idea of one of the main areas regarding IR2MA implementation and also to discuss on site topics that are linked to the physical object of the project.

The schedule of the visit was the following:

1. TEIEP Kostakii Campus, Arta - Central Library Welcome – Briefing about the technical visit
2. Visit to Vigla drainage pump station and the nearby agrometeorological station of IRMA project
3. Irrigation pump station at Stefani
4. Short passing from the spring of Agios Georgios, and the roman aqueduct above Louros river
5. Pournari gateways for water supply to the system from Aracthos river
6. Short passing from the historical bridge of Arta (Aracthos river).

Presentations and material

All the presentations and indicative photos are available at: <http://www.irrigation-management.eu/communication-ir2ma#event01>

The project manager

Dr. Tsirogiannis Ioannis
Associate Professor
TEI of Epirus

Annex – I Selected photographs



