

“Green Growth through the capitalization of innovative Greenhouses” (MED Greenhouses Project)

MINUTES of the 3rd Steering Committee Meeting (SCM)

(Sophia-Antipolis, France, 06 & 07 May 2019)

1st day of the SCM

The 3rd Steering Committee Meeting of the MED Greenhouses project was held on 06- 07 of May 2019 in the premises of SEMIDE in Sophia-Antipolis (France). The meeting started on Monday 6 May at 9:30 with the technical visit to an organic farm “GAEC Federzoni”, in Grasse, close to Sophia Antipolis.

GAEC Federzoni is an organic farm of 7 ha established in 1956. Together with vegetables production under greenhouses, under shelter and in open field, the producer has also another activity which is the commercialization. He distributes organic products to more than 150 points. Mrs. Corine Pons from the Chamber of Agriculture of Nice participated in the technical visit, she explained the most important problems faced by greenhouses farmers in the region: Downy mildew on basil / pigeon attack (in open field) / mite and ant development.

She showed the capacitive sensors installed in the greenhouses for water efficiency. The sensors were installed by the chamber of agriculture in 2017, and the farmer confirmed that they achieved up to 30% of water saving.

Back to Sophia Antipolis project partners, had the lunch break next to SEMIDE premises.

All project partners attended the meeting except for the Regional Council of Berat (PP6) who has already informed the LP that their representatives could not be present at the meeting; PP6 was informed about all issues that will be discussed and they received the meeting Agenda.

The project meeting in Sophia Antipolis started at 14:00. Mr. Eric MINO, project coordinator from SEMIDE, welcomed the project partners and made a presentation on SEMIDE’s activities in the euro Mediterranean region.

Afterwards, Mr. Pavlos Filippidis, external colleague of the University of Thessaly (LP), presented the progress of WP3 activities for the 2nd Semester. **Activity 3.1** has been almost completed although a few contributions from Regional Council of Berat (PP6) &

Agriculture Research Institute of Cyprus (PP7) are missing. PP6 and PP7 indicated that they will recruit an external expert in a month from now to finalize the deliverables.

Mr. Filippidis had also presented the progress of the deliverables (completed and pending) of the **Activity 3.2**. In particular,

D3.2.1 - Training material (responsible partner: UTH):

Professor Papachatzis, Project Coordinator, presented the training material and more specifically, the innovative med greenhouses based on the training material that had been elaborated by the LP.

D.3.2.2 - e-Learning platform (responsible partner: UTH):

The platform is ready and ID/passwords have been provided to all partners. A short demonstration was taken place by the LP.

D3.2.3 - Workshops & Webinars:

3 Workshops and 3 Webinars should be organized by each partner using the online platform (D3.2.2). This deliverable is still in progress for some partners. In particular,

- All workshops & webinars had been completed by the University of Thessaly,
- CEBAS-CSIC suggested to conduct a consultation together with a workshop (as back to back events), including specific round tables. CEBAS has organized 2 workshops and 1 webinar up to now.
- SEMIDE asked if some research content could be provided by the LP or CEBAS-CSIC in order to disseminate research results from other regions. It was proposed to organize 1 webinar in English (incl. presentations from LP and CEBAS-CSIC) and 2 in French. Invitations will be extended to south Mediterranean actors. For the 3 workshops, collaboration with Chamber of agriculture 06, horticultural high school of Antibes and global shapers hub will be established.

Partners that had completed the requested deliverables, made presentations & discussed the key points of the deliverables 3.1.5 –3.2.4 – (5-10min/ partner): CEBAS- CSIC, Molise 2000, SEMIDE and the University of Thessaly (UTH). The other partners still need to finalize their deliverables of activity 3.1 and 3.2.

D3.1.5 - Gap Analysis & Policy recommendations (responsible partner: UTH):

SEMIDE and MOLISE 2000 presented the results of their deliverables and illustrated some political recommendations. From the presentations of the Partners noted that France and Italy have similar gaps and needs for the sector development, mainly: specific financial channels for greenhouses are necessary/ Transfer of knowledge/ political decisions.

D3.2.4 - Joint Med Action Plan for transferring knowledge (responsible CEBAS):

UTH presented a workplan for knowledge transfer up to 2021. The 3 main activities presented are: 1- Organise Capacity Building & Training Seminars/Webinars to

stakeholders (including farmers). 2- Provide match-making (Team-up) services to 4-helix-actors (e.g. Cluster's members) after assessing supply and demand services. 3- Participate in conferences, agriculture exhibitions/fairs and other dissemination events.

SEMIDE Presented a workplan for knowledge transfer up to 2021. The workplan contains 3 main activities: 1- Developing a reference framework for innovation in greenhouses. 2- Strengthening links between researchers and Farmers to better control climate and energy. 3- Programmes to help finance and promote technology and knowledge Transfer projects

D3.2.5 - Consultation (responsible partner: ARI):

The template was provided; consultations are still ongoing for some of the partners.

D3.2.6 – Recommendations for establishing mechanism to support 4-helix cooperation: policy makers and stakeholders (responsible partner: UTH):

The template and the respective guidelines were presented by the LP and discussed with the partners.

The project partners have also discussed future steps concerning the Activity 3.3.

D3.3.1 - Memorandum of agreement/understanding (MoU) between actors (responsible partner: Region of Thessaly)

This deliverable will be implemented during the 3rd Semester by the Region of Thessaly, with the contribution of all the partners. The partners should involve their regions in this.

D332 – Final conference (responsible partner: UTH)

An international conference will be held in Larissa, at the end of the project, with the participation of all the partners. Among others, The MoU and the Cluster will be presented in the conference.

D3.3.3 - Forum of innovative Agriculture (responsible partner: SEMIDE)

A LinkedIn group was created by SEMIDE for exchanging information news events and also to animate discussion and debates on greenhouses sector:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8772642/>

All partners' accounts need to subscribe on this group. Among others, the following points were agreed:

- ✓ At least one contribution (e.g. innovative technologies) from each partner is expected for the animation of the discussion group.
- ✓ Also, some parts from the D3.1.1 – technologies, financial instruments, policies related to the state of the art will be published.
- ✓ All stakeholders identified so far should be invited to join the group, each partner should invite its stakeholders to the forum.

- ✓ The forum should be promoted by all partners, in particular during events (webinars, workshops, consultations).

Between 16:30-17:00 there was an open discussion on the cluster establishment. Partners shared their ideas:

- To draw on the experience of existing clusters (EU, national, regional ones)
- How to maintain sustainability of the cluster after the end of Med Greenhouses project: no good practice from other projects

Around 20:30 a social dinner was held in Le safari restaurant in CoursSaleya in Nice, a space of excellence in the tourism field where concluded a productive day.

2nd day of the SCM

07 May 2019, the 2nd day started at 9:30 in Sophia Antipolis with 2 skype meetings;

- I. with the **Project Manager of ARI** (PP7), Mrs Loukia Vasileiou who informed the partners about the appointment of their external expert and the progress of their missing deliverables. All the missing deliverables will be delivered within the 3rd semester.
- II. with the **project officer**, Mrs Ludivine Lavoine, who clarified the following points to the project partners:
 - The project officer highlighted that the extension of the project can be of 5 months, however, in order this to be approved by the Interreg MED programme, specific activities need to be presented that require more time in order to enhance the impact and the results of the project. Delays due to procurements cannot justify a 5 months extension. The procedure for such extension requires an Interreg-Med steering committee decision. The 3 months-extension is an internal procedure and can be obtained very fast, by the end of May.
 - The Payments for 1st request (period finished on 30/08) is underway (i.e. 9 months delay between the end of reporting period and payment).

At 10:00 Mr. Filippidis commented the progress of WP1 related to management and coordination.

During the presentation, he had talked about the:

- ✓ Overall Progress and update on Management
- ✓ Progress Reports
- ✓ Project Indicators

- ✓ Financial Progress
- ✓ Project Evaluation
- ✓ Issues, goals and next steps
- ✓ Open discussion

Furthermore, some remarks were given by the LP:

- 1- ARI (PP7), region of Thessaly and Regional council of Berat are late due to delay in contracting of external consultant. → main reason for the extension (3 months)
- 2- We achieved in May 2019 83% of project duration without extension
- 3- The final SC meeting will be organised back to back with final conference in Larissa
- 4- Partners shall send their contribution to the D1.2.1 – Evaluation

Around 11: 00 Mrs. Elli Armyra from the University of Thessaly (PP1) continues with WP2 session related project communication and synergies:

1. Social media and Facebook: each partner shall send short descriptions with photos on events organized or attended
2. Each partner needs to attend at least 2 external events in order to have synergies with other projects, in the green-growth community.
3. The project video will be done during the extensions

Decisions of the steering committee:

- Partners agreed for requesting a 5 months extension: The main reason for requesting 5 months project extension is for the establishment and the sustainability of ATI -Cluster as foreseen in the project (Act. 3.3). 5 months extension would be essential in order the partners to better prepare Cluster's issues and engage/register more members, which is a vital factor for its sustainability. Furthermore, some partners face difficulties in implementing some key activities by engaging stakeholders in project's events (D3.2.3, D3.2.5), and implementing some deliverables of the activities 3.1 & 3.2 (due to delays in procurements). The outcome is still pending on these activities and an extension will offer them essential time in order to implement their deliverables and achieve the maximum result/impact.
- Individual progress reports shall be sent to the LP by each partner until 15th May.

- The contributions of the del 3.2.6 will be sent to the UTH by each partner until 14th June.
- After the consolidation of the draft version of the del 3.2.6 a skype meeting will be organized on 20 June.
- All partners have access to the LinkedIn Forum, the consortium shall publish at least 1 post/ 2 weeks.
- The modification request will be finalized after the accomplishment of the first payment.
- PP2, PP6 and PP7 agreed to speed up their efforts in order to deliver their missing contributions in the 3rd semester.
- All partners shall update the excel file "stakeholders data base" and send in to the LP.
- Partners have to send an update version of the list of staff with job description to the UTH.
- If partners estimate that they will not spend their entire budget, they will inform the coordinator as soon as possible in order to inform the Project Officer.