

## **“Green Growth through the capitalization of innovative Greenhouses” (MED Greenhouses PROJECT)**

**Minutes - 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee Meeting - Murcia (Spain) 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> November 2018**

### **1<sup>st</sup> day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> SCM – Monitoring the Progress of WP3**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee Meeting of the MED Greenhouses project was organized on the 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2018 at the premises of CEBAS-CSIC in Murcia (Spain). The registration for the project beneficiaries started at 10:30 am (the participants list is attached) in CEBAS building. All project partners attended the meeting except for the Regional Council of Berat (PP6) that had already informed that their representatives could not be present at the meeting. PP6 was informed about all issues that were discussed and the decisions taken about the project's next steps.

According to the agenda, at 11:00, Prof. Juan José Alarcón, project co-ordinator of CEBAS-CSIC, welcomed the guests and then all the representatives of the partners introduced themselves.

Afterwards, TEI of Thessaly (LP) co-ordinated by Prof. Papachatzis, presented the progress of WP3 (Capitalising) activities, from the beginning of the project till the middle of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, though specific monitoring tables for all the activities of WP3, namely 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3, and their deliverables.

In particular, the progress of the deliverables was presented according to the AF, highlighting the pending (from some partners) contributions and the reasons for these delays, with regards, more specifically, to the following deliverables (Act. 3.1: State of Play):

***D.3.1.1 Report on technologies of innovative greenhouses in the MED area***

***D.3.1.2 Development of Stakeholders & Beneficiaries database***

***D.3.1.3 Identification of available financial channels for eco-innovative technologies – barriers and ground for improvement***

***D.3.1.4 Report on existing policies/frameworks of eco-innovation focus on agriculture/greenhouse industry***

The missing contributions of PP2, PP6 and PP7 were mentioned as well as that it is very important that the partners speed up their actions in order to complete the deliverables

within the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. The partners justified their missing contribution; this is happening due to delays (caused by red tape issues) in the launching procedures of their public procurements for the selection of their external assistance. However, these obstacles had been addressed and they assure that they will complete their contributions within the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. The public tenders are expected to be launched in the end of November/ first week of December.

Regarding the “**D.3.1.5** Gap Analysis – Identification of missing links & development of tailored policy recommendations for the establishment of innovative greenhouse”, it was mentioned that the LP will send the methodology and the template of the deliverable within December, so the partners will be able to elaborate their contribution within the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. They all agreed to deliver their contribution at the end of January, so that the LP will be able to provide feedback (whether any modifications are required) and elaborate the Joint Report within the 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester, according to the AF.

Regarding the **Act. 3.2**, its objective (Transferring knowledge) and the deliverables (including their deadlines) that need to be undertaken within the 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester were discussed as well as the tasks of the partners and what needs to be done for the elaboration of the deliverables. The attendants were informed about the status/progress of the following:

**D.3.2.1** *Training course material for stakeholders/actors on geothermal greenhouse installations - Responsible partners: TEI of Thessaly (LP) & University of Thessaly (PP1).*

The deliverable is in progress and expected to be delivered in early January 2019.

**D.3.2.2** *Development of e-learning platform. Responsible partner: University of Thessaly (PP1).*

According to PP1, the deliverable is in progress and expected to be delivered within the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. PP1 proposed to modify an existing platform that is used by the University of Thessaly for e-learning courses, in order to achieve the sustainability of project’s platform (this will continue to operate post-project). The modified platform will respect the programme rules and will be totally operational for the project’s purposes. All the partners will have access to it as administrators. Additionally, PP1 suggested to use the remaining budget for the development of the official website of the Project’s Cluster, which will contribute to its Sustainability. Furthermore, this site will be linked with project’s official page and the e-learning platform, while it will host the online-Forum of the Project. All the

partners found the proposal brilliant and it was decided that a proposal to the Project Officer will be sent in order to get a confirmation.

**D.3.2.3 Workshops & Webinars for actors/stakeholders (Implementation period: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> semester.**

According to the AF, each country will elaborate 3 training seminars and 3 webinars, using the web platform. The training events will be based on the training material which will introduce the geothermal greenhouses (installation, operation, transfer issues, benefits, pros & cons compared to conventional greenhouses, cost, production capacity etc) to actors / stakeholders of Agriculture/greenhouse sector.

**D.3.2.4 Joint MED Action plan transferring knowledge. Responsible: CEBAS-CSIC (PP5).**

PP5 will elaborate the template and the methodology of the deliverable by the End of December 2019. The partners will deliver their contribution in early February 2019, so PP5 will be able to ask for medications (if this is required) and elaborate the Joint report.

**D. 3.2.5 Consultations. Responsible: ARI (PP7).**

According to the AF, 3 consultations will be organized in every country with the participation of Policy makers and stakeholders of the sector are foreseen. The LP had already provided guidelines and a template of the Joint report to the partners. PP7 will be responsible to elaborate the joint report by getting the input from the partners. Some partners had organized some consultations (PP1, PP3, PP4) while others schedule to make them in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester and during the 3<sup>rd</sup> one. It was highlighted that this activity is very important, not just for identifying obstacles, issues and needs of the target groups, but also as an opportunity to inform them about the services offered by the Cluster and the future activities of the project, in order to engage them as members.

**D.3.2.6 Recommendations for the establishment of mechanisms favouring cooperation between actors of the quadruple helix. Responsible: University of Thessaly (PP1).(deadline 05/2019).**

A template & instructions for the elaboration of the deliverable will be provided by the PP1 to the partners. This report will also focus on issues related with the creation & operation of the Agricultural Transnational Innovative Cluster. The Joint report will be elaborated by PP1 with the contribution of each partner. The importance of this deliberative was highlighted since it will be the basis for the creation of the cluster which is one of the main outputs of the project.

Regarding the **Act. 3.3**, its objective (Synergies & Establishment of Transnational Innovative Cluster) and the deliverables (including their deadlines) that need to be elaborated were discussed. It was discussed that although the deadlines of the deliverables are foreseen for the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester, it is essential to start the preparation and the implementation from the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. In particular, the individual partner tasks was discussed and what needs to be done for the elaboration of the deliverables together with guidelines for their implementation. In detail:

**D.3.3.1. Memorandum of agreement/understanding between actors (deadline: 07-2019, Responsible: Region of Thessaly (PP2) .**

PP2 will design & define the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement/Understanding with the contribution of all the partners. The document will be the official commitment of the members of the Agricultural Transnational Innovative Cluster/Network.

**D.3.3.2. Final Conference (deadline: 07-2019), Responsible: TEI of Thessaly (LP).**

LP will organize the Final Conference in Larissa with the participation of all the partners and actors/key players of the agriculture/greenhouse sector.

The conference, among others, will introduce & present the Memorandum of the Agreement/understanding, project results, project's main outputs, the Agricultural Transnational Innovative Cluster/Network.

**D.3.3.3. Forum of Innovative Agriculture (deadline: 07-2019), Responsible: SEMIDE (PP4).**

PP4 will be the facilitator of the online Forum and will organize the thematic groups with the contribution of the partners.

The Forum will be part of the follow up activities after project implementation, informing & publishing news to stakeholders/actors of the agriculture/greenhouse sector (including Cluster's activities) & contributing to project's sustainability.

Following the agenda, around 12:00, the partners that had completed their contribution regarding the deliverables 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3 and 3.1.4, presented their key findings and conclusions. The presentations took place with the following order:

1. PP5 (CEBAS-CSIC)
2. PP1 (University of Thessaly)

3. PP3 (Molise toward 2000)

4. PP4 (SEMIDE)

Between 13:00-14:00 p.m., a lunch break took place in the restaurant located inside the CEBAS-CSIC premises.

Between 14:00-15:00 there was an open discussion and presentations of the partners that had already organized consultations with stakeholders. The presentations took place with the following order:

1. Prof. Nikolaos Katsoulas for PP1 (University of Thessaly)
2. Mr Roberto D'Amico for PP3 (Molise toward 2000)
3. Mrs Maroua Oueslati for PP4 (SEMIDE)
4. Mr Fransisco Pedrero for PP5 (CEBAS-CSIC)

In general, the discussed topics of the organized consultations concerned financing issues and solutions, needs of the farmers and stakeholders of the sector and political commitments that need to be taken in order to promote Innovative Greenhouses. In particular:

1. **University of Thessaly (PP1):** Prof. Katsoulas talked about the Consultation organised on 12/10/2018 in Volos, Thessaly, at the premises of the University. The Project Coordinator (Prof. Alexandros Papachatzis) of the TEI of Thessaly and the Project Manager (Mata Papadimopoulou) of the Region of Thessaly participated in the Consultation, which was also attended by representatives from the Municipality of Volos, the Union of Greenhouse farmers of Magnesia, other stakeholders (Society of Agronomists of Magnesia, Network of NGOs of Thessaly, Perrevia NGO, other NGOs, etc) as well as a representative of the Green Growth Community. Main conclusions of the Consultations were:
  - a. The lack of financing tools, especially in terms of bank lending, does not allow the sector to grow in Greece, as opposed to abroad, e.g. Central and Northern Europe, where low-interest loans favor the investor.
  - b. Specialized personnel working in greenhouses do not have the appropriate education/experience (e.g. with postgraduate programs in hydroponics).

- c. Greek producers/farmers/young entrepreneurs do not have the entrepreneurial mindset / initiative to invest in new technologies in greenhouses.
  - d. The development of investments in innovative greenhouses is a matter of concern for the Civil Society, which supports the effort to revitalize rural areas and the multiplier benefits of investing in local communities (new jobs, income for young people, developing a culture of entrepreneurship and cooperation).
  - e. In the future, networking, interconnection, cooperation between four-stranded carriers will play an important role in order to be informed about technologies, tools, funding and start-ups for new investments.
2. **SEMIDE (PP4):** Mr Oueslati mentioned that SEMIDE had organized two consultations so far. The first one was in form of different individual meetings with decision makers, researchers, industries and associations. The second consultation was organized in the framework of Med Agri 2018 trade show in Avignon, 40 persons participated in the session: farmers, SME's, students, researchers, Chambers of Agriculture, public authorities, and associations. The thematic discussed were: State of play of the sector in PACA/ geothermal potential/Innovation in Greenhouses construction and Funding opportunities and difficulties. The 3<sup>rd</sup> consultation will be held during next January. SEMIDE will try to involve policy makers. The main conclusions of the consultations were:
- a. Interest in launching a "Mediterranean greenhouses" cluster
  - b. Optimization of energy costs and efficiency (geothermal, solar)
  - c. Regional production: agro-industry and population
  - d. Territorial development: agriculture / employment / wellbeing
  - e. Revitalization of funding channels
  - f. Strengthening communication between farmers / manufacturers / researchers

The 3<sup>rd</sup> consultation will be next held January and will try also to involved policy makers and engage members for project's Cluster by introducing offered services and benefits of it.

3. **MOLISE (PP3):** The first consultation was organized at Molise's premises on 11/06/2018 with the participation of 42 people. They prepared an agenda which



was divided in 2 parts. During the 1<sup>st</sup> part, several presentations took place introducing the project to the guests and the benefits of it. The 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the agenda included the following topics which were discussed in round tables:

- State of the art and perspectives in the sector.
- Obstacles to the promotion of investments in innovative greenhouses
- The added value of the MED-Greenhouses project: activities and expected results

The main conclusions of the consultations were:

- a. Most of participants wanted to know more about the project development in order to acquire specific Knowledge.
- b. Awareness of the importance of the greenhouse sector
- c. Major awareness in terms of possible funding channels from our Regional Government

The 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Consultations are scheduled for December 2018 and January 2019 respectively.

4. **CEBAS-CSIC (PP5):** Mr Pedrero informed the partners about the scheduled consultations that will be organised by PP5. The first consultation will take place on December 2018. The second will be in TECNOVA, in January 2019 and the third will be the presentation of the project on the AGRITECH platform.

At around 15:00 the planning of WP3 future activities for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the project was presented. An open discussion was held till 16:00.

The key points discussed and agreed for WP3 were the following:

- The partners (PP2, PP6 and PP7) that their contribution for the deliverables 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3 and 3.1.4 is pending, they will elaborate their reports as soon as they award the services to their external contractor (this is expected to be undertaken in early January 2019) in order the LP & PP1 (Responsible partners) to be able to publish the Joint Reports on project's official page within the 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester.
- The LP will send to the partners the methodology and the template for the Del. 3.1.5 within December 2018. The partners will send their contribution in early February 2019, so the LP to be able to elaborate the Joint report and publish it on the official project's website.
- LP & PP1 will design send the Training material (incl. Guidelines) to the partners for the organisation of the Training Webinars/Seminars (Del. 3.2.3)
- PP5 will send (within December 2015) to the partners the methodology and the template for the deliverable 3.2.4. The partners will send their contribution in early February 2019, so the PP5 to be able to elaborate the Joint report and publish it on the official project's website.
- PP1 will have the e-learning platform ready in early January 2019.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> SCM – Monitoring the Progress of WP1 & WP2

The second day of the Steering Committee Meeting started around 09:00. The partners had agreed from the day before, to start with the visit in the innovative greenhouses of CEBAS CSIC, as their transportation was more convenient (their accommodation was closer to the Greenhouses than to the premises of the CEBAS CSIC where the meeting was held). During the guided tour in the rural field (premises of Santomera) and the innovative greenhouse infrastructures, scientific personnel of the PP5 presented the applied technology and the benefits of this innovation in terms of water, energy and production. The Greenhouses correspond to several R&D projects that have been financed from the last 4 years by different national and international funds, remarking the following ones:

- HIDROLEAF project (Ministry of Economy)

The Hidroleaf project consists of developing factories of vegetable crops in smart containers. The objective is to take advantage of 100% of the water and fertilizers, nothing is thrown away, even the water transpired by the plants will be condensed by means of refrigeration systems to reuse it. It can be cultivated regardless of the outside weather conditions, whether they are 50° or subzero temperatures.

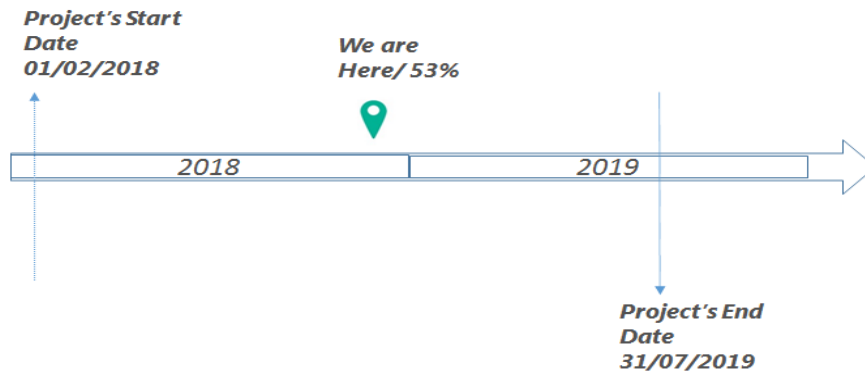
- DRAINUSE project (LIFE project)

The developed Greenhouse based on a special design, construction and set up of a full recirculation pilot system the technological possibility for Euro-Mediterranean regions of drainage reuse. The pilot system proposed here is able to collect the drainages coming from the normal irrigation of the tomato plantation, to disinfect them and to adjust the nutrient concentration, pH and electrical conductivity with the purpose of making drainages re-usable for a new irrigation cycle.

Around 11:00, the partners moved to the Campus where the premises of PP5 are located. The meeting started with the presentation of the progress of WP1 related to management and coordination of the project. Among others, he talked about the:

### ✓ **Overall Progress, update on Management**

By the dates that the SCM took place, 53% of the project duration had been accomplished. The recorded expenses of the 1<sup>st</sup> Semester were 113.561€, around 50% of the initial projections. It was highlighted that project is in a phase that all partners should pay attention to the upcoming activities / tasks for the smooth implementation of the project, mainly due to the fact that the duration of the project is limited.



✓ **Progress Reports**

The PR of some partners are still pending; it is very important to respect the internal deadlines regarding the reporting so that the LP will be able to elaborate the Project Progress Report. A demonstration of what kind of information should be filled in the reports was provided.

✓ **Project Indicators**

One of the most important factors regarding the successful implementation of the project is the indicators. The Partners should pay great attention to reach the target values foreseen in the AF.

✓ **Financial Progress**

The monitoring table regarding the budget spent by each partner per budget cost, the certified amounts and the amounts that are pending for certification were discussed.

✓ **Eligibility issues**

Eligibility issues that all partners need to give great attention were discussed, such as:

- Double entries
- Calculation errors
- Inadequate documentation
- No suitable procedure for the used method
- Procurement irregularities
- Inadequate documentation

✓ **Flexibility rules**

Each partner, within the limit of its total budget, has the possibility to shift funds between budget lines and work packages up to 20% of its total eligible budget. The total eligible budget of the partner has to remain unchanged. An example using the excel audit tool provided by the program was provided.

✓ **Project Evaluation (Del 1.2.1)**

According to the AF, a intermediate and a final evaluation report is foreseen to be elaborated by all the partners. The LP will provide the methodology and the template within December 2018, and the partners will have 1 month in order to fill in the intermediate report.

✓ **Issues, goals and next steps**

Recorded issues:

- Delays in reporting & FLC Certificates with respect to the internal requested deadlines
- Delays in internal procedures – tenders completion

Goals that have been achieved so far are:

- Smooth project implementation
- Catching up of delayed activities
- No delays in deliverables finalization
- Reaching spending targets
- Proper communication among partners
- Tangible results / outputs to be disseminated
- Ensure Quality of project deliverables and results

✓ **Open discussion & Next Steps for WP1 activities**

Few questions were made by the partners due to the detailed presentation of the WP1. Minor issues had been recorded in the 1<sup>st</sup> Semester. Partners that presented low responsiveness during the first semester were requested by the LP to give more effort and speed up their administrative procedures in order to avoid further delays. The next steps that were mentioned for the activities of the WP1 are:

- Upload of Contracts & Validation of Expenditures on SYNERGIE (all PPs)
- Validation of all Partner Reports & Obtaining of Partner Certificates (all PPs)
- Upload of Signed Certificates (all PPs)
- Validation of Project Progress Report & Payment Claim by the LP (30/11)
- Elaboration of Final SC Meeting Minutes (by SEMIDE)

- Provision of Stakeholders Database by each Partner
- Provision of Budget Re-allocations table, if applicable

Around 12:30, UTH (PP1) presented the progress of WP2 on behalf of PP1 (Responsible partner of WP2).

The following topics were presented:

### **1. Promotional material (del.2.2.1)**

The PP1 designed the templates of the dissemination material respecting the program's rules and shared it to the partners. The promotional material will be used in the consultations, the workshops/training seminars, Final Conference etc.

The output includes the following items:

- a. Bag
- b. Folder A4
- c. Notebook A4
- d. Pen (5 cm printing area needed)
- e. Small poster (for A3 or A4)
- f. USB stick
- g. Banner 2x0,80 m
- h. Brochure (A4 unfolded)

### **2. Social media pages (Del. 2.2.2)**

A facebook page and a Twitter profile were created in the 1<sup>st</sup> semester. The PP1 is feeding the social media of the project with posts and news provided by the partners. Each partner should provide at least 2 posts every month.

### **3. Video of MED Greenhouses (Del. 2.2.3)**

The video will be produced by the LP with the contribution of all in the 3rd semester.

### **4. Deliverables 2.3.1 & 2.3.2** (Links with horizontal project & participation in external events)

It was highlighted that the partners should participate at least in 2 external events (including 2 events organised by the Program and the Green Growth community) related to the project in order to create synergies with other projects. The partners will elaborate a report based on the template provided by the LP. LP, PP1, PP3 and PP7 had already participated in such events. The rest of the partners need to speed up their effort and participate in upcoming green growth events.

### **5. Feeding web platform** (Del. 2.4.1).

PP1 had to upload the 3 news and 3 events in order to activate the project’s website. This goal was achieved in the 1<sup>st</sup> Semester. PP1 is feeding the website with news and events provided by the partners. The uploading of the deliverables will be implemented during the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester once the Joint reports are completed.

Around 13:00, a round table discussion drafting of the conclusions and the decisions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee took place according to the agenda.

Aa table with the upcoming activities of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the project was discussed:

Activities & Tasks for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of project implementation	LP	PP1	PP2	PP3	PP4	PP5	PP6	PP7
Upload on SYNERGIE FLC Certification (in contractual documents section) signed & stamped (30/11/2018)								
Submit 1 <sup>st</sup> Payment Claim (30/11/2018)						N/A		
Provide Template of the evaluation Report (12/2018)						N/A		
Elaborate Intermediate Evaluation Report (01/2019)								
Elaborate Final Evaluation Report (04/2019)								
Elaborate 2nd Progress Report (earlier than 05/2019)								
Final SCM in Valbone (France) (05/2019)								
Elaborate 2 <sup>nd</sup> Project Report (05/2019)						N/A		
Validate the Expenditure of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester (earlier than 05/2019)								
Upload FLC Certification (31/05/2019)								
Submit 2 <sup>nd</sup> Payment Claim (31/05/2019)						N/A		
Validate the Expenditure of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Semester (07/2019)								
Elaborate 3 <sup>rd</sup> & Final Progress Report (earlier than 09/2019)								
Upload FLC Certification (31/10/2019)								
Elaborate 3 <sup>rd</sup> & Final Project Report (09/2019)						N/A		
Submit 3 <sup>rd</sup> Payment Claim (09/2019)						N/A		

Completed

Missing

In Progress

Key decisions that were agreed in 2<sup>nd</sup> day after the round table discussion were:

- The partners that their report is still pending must submit their PR till November 26<sup>th</sup>.
- LP will provide the methodology and the template for the Project Evaluation Report (del. 1.2.1) within December. The partners will have 1 month in order to elaborate the intermediate report. The final report will be delivered at the end of April according to the AF.
- A Skype meeting was scheduled and agreed by all on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February at 10:00 (Spanish time) for the progress of the project's activities
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Steering Commitment will be organised by SEMIDE in Valbone in early May 2019.
- The final conference will be organised by LP in Larissa in early June 2019