

What is BalkanMed?

The "Balkan-Mediterranean 2014-2020" is a new cooperation Programme, deriving from both, the split of the –"South East Europe 2007 2013" and the strong will of the "Balkan-Mediterranean" participating countries to promote cooperation in the area. The Programme brings together five (5) countries, three (3) EU member states (Bulgaria, Cyprus and Greece) and two (2) candidate countries, Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. It is the first time ever that the European cooperation addresses the Balkan Peninsula and the Eastern Mediterranean Sea together, in a joint effort across maritime and terrestrial borders, to contribute to the growth .

The Balkan – Mediterranean Cooperation Programme is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) with 28.330.108,00 Euros. The total support from the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) fund accounts for 5.126.138,00 Euros. Therefore, the total budget of the Programme, including national contribution, is 39.727.654,00 Euros. BalkanMed is focused on addressing two key challenges: territorial competitiveness and environment. Accordingly, the Programme is built upon the following two Priority Axes: - Priority Axis 1: "Entrepreneurship & Innovation" - Priority Axis 2: "Environment"

AgroLabs Partnership



Lead Partner - Special Account for Research Grants (ELKE) of the University of West Attica, Greece



Project Partner 2 – Region of Central Macedonia, Greece



Project Partner 3 - Cyprus University of Technology



Project Partner 4 - Development Agency of Lemesos, Cyprus



Project Partner 5 - Agricultural University of Tirana, Department of Agroenvironment and Ecology, Albania



Project Partner 6 - Municipality of Fier, Albania



Project Partner 7 – Municipality of Razlog, Bulgaria



Project Partner 8 - Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Biology, Department of Ecology and Environmental Protection, Bulgaria

Interreg 
Balkan-Mediterranean
AGROLABS

AgroFood Innovation Clusters

The AgroLabs project brings together eight project partners from the four countries - Greece, Cyprus, Bulgaria and Albania included in the Balkan – Mediterranean programme

„Project co-funded by the European Union
and National Funds of the participating countries”



www.agrolabs.eu



About AgroLabs

AgroLabs project aims to foster the production and distribution of innovative agro-food products of the Balkan-Med area by organising local value chains, supporting SMEs and producers in their development projects and creating new markets for their products through an open procedure. In addition, specific objectives of AgroLabs will contribute to the inclusion of agro-food chains and creation of local clusters, foster entrepreneurship and innovation, increase the visibility and reputation of typical agro-food products, develop their commercialization, develop local capacity through open access of transnational exchanges and finally to set the basis so as to initiate the Route of Balkan-Med Agro-Food Products and integration with AgroFood Clusters in EU level. To achieve these aims towards the sustainable growth of the Agro-Food sector, all relevant actors should be engaged.

Start date: **01.08.2017**

End date: **31.07.2019**

Budget: **956 303,00 euros**

AgroLabs project includes:

1. Diagnosis of the agro-food chain of Imathia, Lemesos, Blagoevgrad – Razlog and Fier regions. The knowledge gained from the diagnosis will be compiled in a Transnational Synthesis Report.
2. AgroLabs Workshops so as to enable multi-stakeholders' joint conceptualisation and development of pilot agro-food innovation clusters.
3. AgroLabs Innovation Summit. Transnational conference that involves key stakeholders from each region, to promote the transnational exchange and networking, discuss challenges and develop common solutions and strategies concerning the growth of agro-food sector in Balkan-Med region.
4. Four Local Action Plans will be developed during the implementation of the project. They will be the result of stakeholders' consultation activities and they will aim at building joint strategy at regional level. They will serve as the operational plan to establish the AgroLabs cluster.
5. AgroFood Innovation clusters.

The AgroLabs clusters will be developed and operate in the regions of Imathia, Greece; Lemesos, Cyprus; Razlog, Bulgaria and Fier, Alabania.

Agro-Food Innovation clusters (AgroLabs) will serve as physical place where industry (agro-food enterprises, producers, actors in the value chain etc.), research institutions and public authorities meet. AgroLabs' operation involves supporting, monitoring, mentoring sessions and training activities so as to ensure the sustainability of the cluster developed, incorporate innovative products in the SMEs production and enhance typical products' commercialization etc. The 4 AgroLabs will not only operate as units but also as a transnational network.

The innovative approach of AgroLabs will allow to meet the needs and the aspirations of the involved stakeholders and to ensure the appropriation of the AgroLabs clusters by building a joint strategy through cross-border exchange of experience. This will lead to the creation of the Balkan-Med network of agro-food clusters. In addition, AgroLabs partners acting as facilitators will provide open and free support to relevant stakeholders throughout the project's lifecycle.

The AgroLabs clusters will continue their operation after the project has been finalized. The AgroLabs clusters will continue to provide support to agro-food SMEs to facilitate the delivery of concrete solutions for common problems by pooling resources and expertise and strengthening innovative capacity, without distorting the market.