

The AGRISLES Partners

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THE CHALLENGE OF INNOVATION THROUGH STRENGTHENED COOPERATIONS BETWEEN PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AND ECONOMIC ACTORS

Strengthening cooperation between public authorities and economic actors is a crucial stake for the revitalization of agriculture in the islands through organizational, non-technological innovation.

AGRISLES is aimed at setting up a common method, and create a cooperation network between the Mediterranean islands, in order to implement a transnational innovation strategy for the insular agricultural and rural development.

Good innovation practices are analysed in order to set up the common method, further tested and enriched through pilot-projects.

AGRISLES delivers elements of reflexion to improve the insular policies at the eve of the new common agricultural policy beyond the 2013.

The AGRISLES partners are public authorities able to integrate the project's results into the agricultural and rural development policies of the Mediterranean islands.

Contacts and Information

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AGRISLES MED PROJECT

**A transnational innovation strategy
for agriculture in the Islands of the Mediterranean**



Cofinanced by the European Regional Development Fund

The Project

The AGRISLES cooperation project “Elaboration and development of a transnational innovation strategy for agriculture in the islands of the Mediterranean”, ODARC being the lead partner, has been selected for support within the frame of the European MED Programme 2007-2013 concerning the countries of the northern Mediterranean rim.

The partnership of AGRISLES is composed of a sample of islands undergoing great difficulties to develop efficiently their own support system to innovation for all sectors of their agricultural and rural economy.



Islands' farmers experience very similar problems from an island to another one, and very different from the “mainland”. Difficulties are reinforced by the geographic remoteness and the limited critical mass of productions.

In order to improve the efficiency of their agricultural development policies, the insular regions partner of AGRISLES are coming closer together in order to altogether solve problems difficult to address separately.

Starting from the similarity of their problems they have adopted as objective to elaborate a common method to disseminate innovation in the islands' agricultural environment that will serve as a basis for the follow up of cooperation through the creation of The AGRISLES network.



The main areas of non-technological innovation - examples of good practices

The AGRISLES partners have defined main strategic areas for innovation and built a common method based on the analysis of good practices. An example of good practice is here presented for each strategic area.

Building of capacities

Public partners, diaspora and University partnership for the revival of the Ariousos Wine – North Aegean, Greece.

A group of villagers started a process on a dream which has become a reality: the revival of a vineyard that used to be very famous in the antiquity. With the support of a public partnership including the Ministry of development, the Region, the Prefecture, the university and institutes of agriculture, the Arousios S.A company, founded in 2004, has sold 22 000 bottles in 2009 and expect to produce 52 000 bottles in 2010.

Organization of specific production sectors

Certification used as a federative axis for a whole sector - Corsica, Corse, France

Local actors of the bee-keeping sector involved themselves in a collective, structured and participatory process, the «Denomination of controlled origin Corsican Honey, Mele di Corsica», with the objective to develop the regional production chain of the Corsican honey by making the most of both the products and identity of the region.

Organization of territories

The wine routes of Cyprus, creating a development network – Cyprus

Following the initiative of the Tourism Office of Cyprus in 2004, four routes have been created to invite visitors to go through fascinating villages, rich of traditions, and to appreciate their agricultural productions.

Promotion and marketing of products

Loja dos Açores: a public-private partnership to fill distances – The Azores, Portugal

Based on a close cooperation between the regional government and economic actors within the framework of the Operational plan for products promotion, The Loja dos Açores opened in Lisbon in 2009. This exhibition and shopping area of 183 square-meters offers its visitors regional products from several small-scale concerns of the Azores archipelago.



AGRISLES in Corsica

The ODARC has selected as pilot-project the creation of a “pole of competencies for stock-breeding”, around the Altiani experimental farm.

The idea is to give the Altiani site the opportunity to evolve towards a pole of competencies associating different partners. The objective is to favour convergences and synergies among the approaches of the different production chains and sectors of Corsica, in connection with research (INRA) and the university of Corsica, in order to face a common stake: the sustainable development of stockbreeding, centred on identity and quality.



This project has for ambition to develop:

- a research-experimentation-development continuum,
- a partnership with professional entities,
- the transfer and enhancement of knowledge in direct support to stock-breeding systems,
- a window of dynamic agriculture, in the heart of The Corsica centre area,

Thus, under the responsibility of the Rural economics division of The ODARC, it will allow the different productions sectors concerned to benefit from tools favouring their development through the selection of local breeds and certification of insular products of high identity value, such as honey, hams and sausages or cheeses (looking for quality through the link with the “terroir”).

