EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
Department B - LIFE and H2020 Energy, Environment & Resources
Unit B3 - LIFE and CIP Eco-Innovation

LIFE15 KICK-OFF MEETING

ENV RESOURCE EFFICIENCY/ SOIL

14 October 2016

Venue: EASME, Place Charles Rogier, 16, B-1210 Brussels
(*Building COV2, Floor 11, Room: 190*)

Project Summaries

LIFE15 ENV/ES/000506– LIFE + POLYFARMING

Demonstration of a new agro-silvo-pastoral land use to improve farm profitability in mountain areas

The objective of the project is to test an innovative and cost-efficient multifunctional agro-silvo-pastoral system, in order to halt the abandonment of multifunctional agriculture in the Mediterranean mountains. This system will help to reverse the adverse environmental (e.g. soil degradation, vulnerability to climate change, risk of fire and loss of biodiversity) and socioeconomic impacts of land abandonment. The new system adapts different techniques for improving the structure, fertility and water retention capacity of the soil, and defines a new way of interrelating these techniques at farm scale to facilitate an improved land use.

Coordinating beneficiary: Universitat Autònoma Barcelona - Centro de Investigación Ecológica y Aplicaciones Forestales
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LIFE15 ENV/FR/000512– LIFE - AGROMINE

Cropping hyperaccumulator plants on nickel-rich soils and wastes for the green synthesis of pure nickel compounds

LIFE - AGROMINE aims to demonstrate a non-destructive phytomining approach for the recovery of high-value metals (e.g. Ni) from sub-economic ores. The project's approach will use plants to accumulate trace metals from soils and transport them to their shoots, which can then be harvested. Phytomining or agromining therefore offers an eco-efficient alternative to classical pyro- or hydro-metallurgical processes. The project is in line with the circular economy concept and creates a new business aimed at recovering high-value metals, ensuring the use of secondary resources that can then be reused in other production processes.

Coordinating beneficiary: Université de Lorraine
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LIFE15 ENV/IT/000225– SOS4LIFE

S.O.S. 4 LIFE - Save Our Soil for LIFE

SOS4LIFE is a demonstration project that aims to implement European regulations on soil protection defined by the European Guidelines on Best Practices to Reduce, Mitigate and Compensate Soil Sealing. The main objective of the project is the implementation of a viable regulatory framework and planning tool to achieve, at municipal level, the 'no net land take' target and promote de-sealing interventions as a way of compensating fir newly urbanised areas and improving urban resilience to climate change. SOS4Life aims to fill a structural gap that is widespread in public systems of land governance, namely the lack of tools and appropriate urban regulations for municipalities (not only in Italy) to counteract land take.

Coordinating beneficiary: Comune di Forlì

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LIFE15 ENV/IT/000392– VITISOM LIFE

VITiculture Innovative Soil Organic Matter management: variable-rate distribution system and monitoring of impacts

The objective of the project is to introduce an innovative organic fertilisation system as a strategy to enhance vineyard soil protection, in relation to the EU Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection. The project aims to support sustainable soil management in the viticulture sector, through the development of a "Variable-rate technology" for organic fertilisation in vineyards. While it is already used for field crop management, the innovation consists in applying it to viticulture and in using organic fertilisers instead of chemical ones, so encouraging the diffusion of organic farming. The project also aims to provide cost-effective solutions for the improvement of existing viticulture practices in order to promote the conservation of the environmental functions of soils.

Coordinating beneficiary: Università degli Studi di Milano

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LIFE15 ENV/IT/000396– LIFE-BIOREST

Bioremediation and revegetation to restore the public use of contaminated land

The project aims to provide a viable method that uses fungal and bacterial strains for the in situ bioremediation of contaminated sites. The approach will be used to bioremediate soil from a site at Fidenza in northern Italy, reducing the presence of contaminants to within threshold limits for residential and public use, while restoring the ecological functions of the site. The project will also assess the cost effectiveness and replicability of the remediation methods, and will demonstrate the feasibility of scaling up to industrial level the production of micro-organisms that are used for bioremediation. The project will also produce bioremediation guidelines, enabling the transfer to other locations of the techniques used, and will promote awareness of microbiological remediation of contaminated sites.

Coordinating beneficiary: Consorzio Italbiotec

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LIFE15 ENV/IT/000423– LIFE AGROWETLANDS II

Smart water and soil salinity management in agro-wetlands

The project will test an innovative technological solution – the SMART-AGROWETLAND management system – to reduce water and soil salinisation in agricultural wetland ecosystems. The system will be applied in a pilot area located on the northern Italian Adriatic coast that is affected by a high degree of soil salinisation. The site is located near two Natura 2000 network site areas that are part of the regional Park of the Po Delta, and is also listed in the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. By applying the technology, the project will contribute to the objectives of the EU Soil Thematic Strategy and the EU Water Framework Directive: preventing soil degradation, increasing the efficiency of water use, reducing the vulnerability of water resources to climate change, reducing soil salinity and protecting wetlands and the aquatic ecosystem.

Coordinating beneficiary: Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna

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LIFE15 ENV/IT/000585– LIFE DOP

LIFE DOP - Demonstrative mOdel of circular economy Process in a high quality dairy industry

Life DOP aims to promote the transition to a circular economy along the whole value chain of the dairy sector. The project will evaluate and demonstrate a new model, and apply it to the production of Grana Padano DOP (Denominazione di Origine Protetta/Protected Designation of Origin) and Parmigiano Reggiano DOP. The project will integrate all the phases along production chains (from livestock rearing to production), in order to re-use all of the waste products/materials generated. This not only promotes a circular economy and greater resource efficiency, but also reduces PM10, ammonia, NOx and CO2 emissions. In turn, the re-use of slurry as fertiliser will decrease ammonia emissions and increase soil organic content, thus contributing to the Soil Thematic Strategy.

Coordinating beneficiary: Consorzio Latterie Virgilio

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LIFE15 ENV/IT/000641– LIFE SOIL4WINE

Innovative approach to soil management in viticulture landscapes

The project aims to prevent various soil threats affecting the vineyard landscapes of North Apennines areas, such as erosion, decline of organic matter, local and diffuse contaminations, sealing, compaction, decline in biodiversity and landslides. It will achieve this aim within four protected areas of western Emilia-Romagna: Parco dei Boschi di Carrega, Parco del Taro, Parco dello Stirone and Parco della Val Trebbia. LIFE+ SOIL4WINE will contribute to the goals of the EU Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection. Furthermore, it will create synergies with other EU policies such as the European Innovation Partnership on Agriculture Productivity and Sustainability that focuses on land management, including the efficient use of resources and sustainable use of agricultural soil. It also in line with the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, Target 2, which focuses on maintaining and enhancing ecosystem services and restoring degraded ecosystems.

Coordinating beneficiary: Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

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