UNISECO Project Newsletter / Edition 4 / October 2020



UNISECO



European Union's Horizon 2020 Programme GA N° 773901



Understanding & improving the sustainability of agro-ecological farming systems in the EU

This is the 4th newsletter of the UNISECO project WHERE YOU CAN:

- Find out what UNISECO is all about
- Read about the latest developments of the project
- Know more about networking with other EU projects
- Get information on upcoming events
- Find information about how to join us

WHAT IS UNISECO?

UNISECO is an EC funded 3-year Horizon 2020 research and innovation action aiming at strengthening the sustainability of EU farming systems through co-constructing improved and practice validated strategies and incentives for the promotion of improved agro-ecological Read more | Download the project flyer approaches.

LATEST NEWS FROM UNISECO



5th PROJECT MEETING & STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

UNISECO went online virtually in Brasov, Romania with its 5th project meeting and stakeholder workshop due to the CoVid19 situation in May 2020. Despite the exceptional circumstances of having this event online, the 4 days of intensive discussions, co-creation and stakeholder interactions are considered a success.

Read more





6th PROJECT MEETING

We had our second virtual project meeting this year on 24 and 25 September. The objective of the meeting included to review the status quo of the project and the progress, to prepare forthcoming activities in the WPs and to review the next steps until the next project meeting, to review the multiactor engagement and agree on revisions and to review dissemination and exploitation.

Read more



AT CASE STUDY: LOCAL STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP IN THE ECO-REGION KAINDORF

Scientists in Austria agree that Austria's regions and municipalities are massively affected by climate change and will be even more so in the future. Agro-ecological approaches to conserve soils are a central moment not only to adapt, but also to contribute to climate change mitigation in the case study in Austria. **Read more**





ES case study workshop with stakeholders 23 June 2020

ES CASE STUDY: WORKSHOP ON CO-CONSTRUCTING TRANSITION MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

A virtual workshop with eight stakeholders from the Spanish Multi-actor Platform took place on 23 June 2020 to discuss the most appropriate strategy to implement agro-ecological practices, overcome current obstacles and improve opportunities in the case study of Navarra and the Basque Country. **Read more**



GR CASE STUDY: MULTI-ACTOR PLATFORM WORKSHOP ON CO-CONSTRUCTING TRANSITION STRATEGIES TOWARDS AGRO-ECOLOGY

A remote workshop with local actors of the Multi-Actor Platform Imathia Greek in took place on 1 July 2020 to co-construct the transition strategies towards addressing the key dilemma of sustaining the long-term economic viability of fruit farms whilst protecting natural resources. Read more





CH CASE STUDY: INTERVIEWS AND WORKSHOP TO IDENTIFY STRATEGIES FOR **REDUCING ANIMAL STOCKING DENSITIES**

During June and July 2020, we carried out online group interviews with farmers and farm advisors to identify strategies for reducing animal stocking densities in the Lucerne Central Lakes Region case study and what is needed to change in policies and market to support those previously identified strategies. **Read more**



HU CASE STUDY: FORUM DISCUSSING THE STATUS QUO AND FUTURE OF SOIL CONSERVATION FARMING

A forum with case study farmers and agricultural advisors from the Hungarian Multi-actor Platform took place on 8 September 2020 in Kaposvár, Hungary. There was a lively discussion in the group about the know-how of soil cultivation, different tools, machines and prices of operations that are changing in these technologies. **Read more**



LV CASE STUDY: ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION **ON STRENGTHENING THE TRANSITION TO GRASS-BASED ORGANIC DAIRY FARMING**

During the summer of 2020, as part of the process of constructing a strategy to foster a transition to organic and agro-ecological farming practices in the dairy sector in Latvia, Baltic Environmental Forum Latvia hosted a lively roundtable discussion attended by 11 members of the Latvian Multi-Actor Platform. **Read more**



RO CASE STUDY WORKSHOP DISCUSSED THE GOVERNANCE DIMENSION **OF AGRO-ECOLOGY**

Education and knowledge transfer. localised and collective infrastructures, and a more flexible regulation framework identified as key solutions to support and boost the use of agro-ecological practices in Romania at a workshop organised by WWF-Romania to analyse the governance dimension of agro-ecology. **Read more**

ENGAGING THE UK MULTI-ACTOR PLATFORM IN **IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS OF STRATEGIES** FOR AGRO-ECOLOGICAL TRANSITIONS OF **ARABLE FARMING SYSTEMS**

A subset of the farmers within the UK Multi-Actor Platform met to debate the role of agro-ecological practices in addressing drivers of change, and the types of barriers to their uptake. Discussion of the market and policy instruments built on those assessed in the workshop of case study actors.

Read more

UNISECO PROJECT UPDATE & DATE OF FINAL CONFERENCE

A lot of work has been done in the project since the last newsletter in February 2020. Dealing with various tasks during the Covid-19 pandemic was a challenge but the UNISECO project team managed to generate valuable results and to co-construct transition strategies with the Multi-Actor Platforms in the 15 case studies which were discussed in the recent 6th project meeting. **Read more**

> The final project conference is scheduled in March 2021 and is currently planned to take place in Brussels.

SAVE THE DATE: **UNISECO PROJECT FINAL CONFERENCE 18-19 MARCH 2021**



WATCH OUR LATEST VIDEOS



UNISECO

We want to understand and improve the sustainability of farming systems in the EU that implement agroecological approaches and research socio-economic and policy barriers



DID YOU KNOW...

That the latest project video is also available with subtitles in Czech, Greek, German, Hungarian and Romanian languages?



Watch the video

LATEST DELIVERABLES IN UNISECO

- D4.1 Report on methodological specification of the spatially-explicit modelling framework
- D5.3 Report on participatory analysis of market and policy instruments for agro-ecological transition
 - D5.3 Annex 1: Case study summaries
 - D5.3 Annex 2: Policy and Market Instruments Database

Previous deliverables, publications and presentations are available at the **Resources section** of the project website.

NETWORKING

UNISECO was represented at several events:

- ⊘ 06/2020: <u>9th AIEAA Conference online</u>
- Ø 09/2020: Series of Webinars: Crop Protection and Scenarios for the Future of Agriculture – online



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ② 10/2020: Seminar "from farm to fork" sustainable food systems and the EU Green Deal, Brussels, Belgium
- (2) 10/2020: EU Farm to Fork 2020 conference building sustainable food systems together, Brussels, Belgium
- 10/2020: <u>EU Green Week</u>
- ⊗ 12/2020: EIT food future of food online conference, online
- (A) 03/2021: UNISECO final conference
- ② 06/2021: 3rd Agroecology Europe Forum, Barcelona, Spain
- (2) 09/2021: Landscape 2021 Conference, Berlin, Germany

DID YOU KNOW...

Read more

UNISECO is also included and published in the EIP-Agri projects database?



JOIN US!

Your active engagement is important to ensure that the innovative tools, approaches and policy recommendations that we develop reflect the views of those who are directly involved in delivering or seeking to strengthen the sustainability of EU farming systems through co-constructing improved and practice validated strategies and incentives for the promotion of improved agro-ecological approaches.

THERE ARE MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED IN UNISECO:

- Participate in national workshops
- 🛞 Contribute to our virtual Multi-Actor Platform online community (MAP-NEF)
- 🖄 Take part in the case studies

SUBSCRIBE TO NEWSLETTER

READ PREVIOUS ISSUES OF THE UNISECO NEWSLETTER





More information will be sent in our next UNISECO newsletter, scheduled for winter 2020. Thank you for signing up to the <u>UNISECO newsletter.</u> Further information can be found on the UNISECO project website & Agro-ecological Knowledge Hub homepage.



This newsletter reflects only the authors' view and that the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.

Copyright © 2020 UNISECO H2020 Project, all rights reserved.

PARTNERS





This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 773901.