

3RD INTERNATIONAL PROJECT MEETING, LISBON (16-18-06.2014)

The 3rd international meeting aiming to evaluate the pilot trainings and finalizing project products took place in Lisbon.

On the first day of the meeting all project partner presented the so far completed tasks based on the project plan and highlighted the results. The Portuguese and Hungarian pilot trainings were discussed in a dedicated section, as well. Both partners summarized the most important aspects of pilot training, organisation and training material creation. Furthermore, pilot training related experiences and feedbacks were also discussed. As a preparation for the next tasks after the meeting the questions about the accreditation of training materials and the finalization of training materials were also discussed. On the second day of the international meeting project partners visited one of the venues of the pilot trainings: a secondary vocational school (Escola Profissional De Desenvolvimento Rural De Serpa), where the director of the school presented the Portuguese secondary vocational school system and showed the participant around on the farm of the secondary school. We also visited a farm (Herdade dos Grous) whose farming operations manager also participated at the pilot training. The farm brings together wine, livestock, rural tourism and wine tourism under the notion of nature and sustainability. On the last day of the meeting financial plans were revisited on partner level and suggestions were made regarding the necessary modifications based on the completed and future tasks. Finally, the content of the Hungarian and Portuguese closing conference was discussed, dissemination plan of our results were created and open tasks, deadlines were collected.

PILOT TRAINING IN HUNGARY

The first pilot training of Solagro's Hungarian adapted agri-environmental assessment tool (Agridiag green point system) was held on 14-15 April 2014. Vocational teachers and advisors from all over the country participated in the training in Gödöllő.

On the first day of the 2-day pilot training participants (23 advisors and 9 vocational teachers) were presented the theory of agri-environmental assessment methods, the professional background and the

relevance in national and European Union agricultural policies. Afterwards the Agridiag tool were introduced. Indicators, the Agridiag questionnaire, the excel based data entry and evaluation form were reviewed in an interactive way providing a possibility for participants to ask questions and share views. The Agridiag handbook along with Agridiag data gathering questionnaire were distributed among vocational teachers and advisors.

In the afternoon participants and trainers visited the Józsefmajor experimental and demonstration farm where after an introduction to the farm farm data were collected with the help of the Agridiag questionnaire.

The second day of the pilot training started with a discussion where participants had the opportunity to share their views on Agridiag tool based on the theoretical training, farm data gathering and the handbook. They also explained how they see the strengths and weaknesses and the applicability of the system. Lots of useful comments and suggestions were received, demonstrating the interest and willingness of participants to apply the Agridiag tool in practice.

Following the discussion farm data gathered on the previous day was registered in the excel based evaluation form. Data entry and farm assessment were carried out individually on computers with the help of the trainers. Last but not least interpretation of results and written evaluation were also completed, again in the form of group discussion.

Participants were tasked to carry out a farm assessment individually in one month after the training declaring the knowledge on Agridiag tool. This way they did the first step as well towards building up a Hungarian data base and advisor network. Although only one farm assessment was required from participants, some of them completed five, which shows a clear interest in the tool.

On 7 May 2014 pilot training was also organized at the Dr. Entz Ferenc Agricultural Vocational School. During the one day programme, followed by the theoretical part of the training, the participants processed the data of the school farm with the Agridiag tool at the practical part of the training.

PORTUGUESE PROJECT PARTNERS

From newsletter to newsletter, partners and their role in the project will be shown in detail by participating countries. First the Hungarian partners will be introduced, the partners who are responsible for the accurate innovation transfer.

Instituto Superior Técnico

Since its establishment in 1911, Instituto Superior Técnico is the largest and most reputed school of Engineering, Science and Technology and Architecture in Portugal. At IST, the aim is to give students and alumni the education and the knowledge tools to improve, to change and to shape society through science, technology, and entrepreneurship. IST provides top quality higher education, strongly exposed to Research, Development and Innovation (RD&I) activities, immersing their students in an exciting and global environment geared towards solving the challenges of the 21st Century. The Agridiag team at IST work under the Environment and Energy Scientific Area which manages the MSc in Environmental Engineering and coordinates several projects on the field of sustainable farming. It also provides consulting to the Portuguese Government and to farmer associations in the evaluation of farming policies, both at the national and the regional level.

Terraprim

TPA is an IST "spin-off" company that provides environmental services based on scientific research on farming sustainability. Its origin lies on the project "Environmental and Sustainability Management Systems in Extensive Agriculture", coordinated by IST, in which production systems based on soil protection and carbon sequestration in farms were tested. TPA provides technical support to farmers in the adoption of sustainable farming practices and the creation of economical benefits from environmental services. Currently it manages 2 projects funded by the Portuguese Carbon Fund, in which farmers are technically and financially supported to implement farming practices promoting carbon sequestration: sown permanent biodiversity supporting pastures rich in legumes and non-invasive shrub encroachment control techniques. TPA has been nationally awarded twice and gathered a large (>500) farm network, being a case study in the payment for farming for providing environmental services.

In Agridiag TPA explores the accreditation requirements for the Dialecte-PT training module, contributes to the elaboration of Dialecte-PT training module structures and related training materials (training slides), contributes to Portuguese didactic notes for trainers as annex to Dialecte manual, selects and invites vocational tutors and advisory trainers for the pilot trainings of Dialecte, organises the pilot training for trainers/advisors.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Acronym: Agridiag

Title: „Agri-environmental farm diagnostic tool „Dialecte” in vocational training”

Duration: 1. October 2012 – 30. November 2014

Programme: Leonardo da Vinci egész életen át tartó tanulás program (EU LLP LdV Program 12/0034-L/4850)

Participating countries: Hungary, France, Portugal

Website: agridiag.szie.hu

Contact: dr. Katalin Balázs, Szent Istvan University, Gödöllő, Hungary

E-mail: agridiag@szie.hu

PILOT TRAINING IN PORTUGAL

Project partners from Portugal (P5 IST and P6 Terraprima) successfully delivered the 3 pilot training courses foreseen in the project for Portugal.

44 people with several jobs and backgrounds (overwhelmingly farming vocational teachers and farming advisors) attended the 3-day courses. The latter focused in Dialecte and also on framework issues such as evaluating farm environmental, economic and social sustainability, sustainable farming techniques and farm sustainability communication and reporting.

Pilot trainings were publicised in vocational training schools, dissemination lists focusing on environment, farming and forestry themes, farmer associations, farming consultants and advisors and farmers themselves.

The end product of the project in Portugal will be a training module consisting of slides and technical texts detailing the information presented in the pilot courses, with many didactic and pedagogic suggestions (including many examples of using Dialecte). 500 copies of the handbook is planned to be printed and distributed by IST and Terraprima, and are expected to be intensively used by vocational teachers and trainers and farming advisors.

ADAPTATION OF DIALECTE TO NATIONAL NEEDS: NEW CARBON SEQUESTRATION AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION MODULE.

The survey of adaptation needs of Dialecte to Portugal (an important action in the project) led project partners to decide on the creation of a module in Dialecte on the theme of carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emissions.

This module will automatically calculate carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emissions from the area of specific crops, number and races of livestock, amount of the different types of energy used, consumption of fertilizers and concentrates and soil carbon storage techniques (such as sown biodiverse pastures).

The increasing relevance of this topic in today's media and political agenda suggests that the new module will further increase the use of Dialecte for vocational teaching and advisory purposes not only in Portugal but elsewhere in Europe, as well.