

RURAL / ITER LdV TOI Project

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Final version

<http://www.ruraliter.eu>

## **4<sup>th</sup> SIX MONTH REPORT**

*(April 1<sup>st</sup> - November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014)*

by

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CeSAR, Deruta, Italy - November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014

This 4<sup>th</sup> semester of the project has been characterized by the finalization of the various work-packages, in order to recuperate the delays experienced in the previous phases and to deliver the products as planned. All partners have been actively involved in their respective tasks.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROBLEMS**

#### **Work package 1, RCVLL Achaia, Management and coordination**

The overall quality of Management and coordination, as performed by RCVLL Achaia, has been improving, also thanks to the efforts of Agricoltura é Vita and of CeSAR, this latter responsible for quality control, that have continuously acted – through email and skype talks - to respect the deadlines.

The Partners have received the payment of the second part of their dues, after approval of the Mid-term report, only by late July 2014.

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the parties, held in Brussels on April 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, it was decided to apply for a three month extension of the Project, to December 31, 2014, with deadlines for expenditures on November 30<sup>th</sup>. This extension has been granted by the Greek Authority on July 24, 2014 after an application submitted by the LP.

Consequently, it was decided to postpone the final Conference and 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Partners to November 20 and 21. As planned, it will be held in Patras (Greece).

## **Work package 2, Agricoltura è Vita, Training needs analysis**

This WP has concluded its activities long time ago, but we consider important to remember some dates and facts, to explain what has been happening during the Project.

The WP 2 had to be concluded before May 2013, to be discussed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop in Portugal on May 28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> 2013, but only Agricoltura é Vita respected this deadline. The other partners submitted their data during the summer and Agricoltura é Vita was able to complete the Transnational Synthesis Report only on August 30<sup>th</sup>, but on September 30<sup>th</sup> the final decision about the contents of the training program was not yet taken (See 2<sup>nd</sup> semester report).

CeSAR consequently expressed its worries about such delay, which was reducing the time available for WP 3, the most important one, by at least two months. Finally, in October 2013 the decision was taken, with the following contents:

- 1) Self evaluation tool: to be elaborated by CeSAR, including both technical and socioeconomic issues
- 2) Module on farm food processing and direct selling, by PASAGES
- 3) Module on Agrotourism and related multifunctional activity, by Agricoltura è Vita
- 4) Module on biodiversity and organic farming, by UTAD
- 5) Module on Farm use of renewable energy sources, by CeSAR
- 6) Module on CAP updated measures on good agricultural practices, by CeSAR
- 7) Module on Farm management for competitiveness and sustainability, by CEJA

All modules had to be accompanied by Case Studies: 12 from Greece, 12 from Italy, 12 from Portugal and 12 from Northern Countries, chosen by CEJA.

The program had to be concluded with a Business Plan Platform, where the users can simulate their hypothesis for innovations. It was decided that CESAR would prepare the Business Plan tool and the LP would perform all necessary modifications to include it in the training Platform.

## **Work package 3, UTAD - Adaptation and development of teaching materials**

The starting month of this Work package had to be June 30<sup>th</sup> and the First Template had to be sent by July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013 with Final Template planned for July 30<sup>th</sup>, but only during October 2013, the partners CeSAR and Agricoltura é Vita have advanced a joint proposal, concerning the contents of the modules and the whole training program, including some specimen for the templates and their proposals have been accepted by the other partners.

During the months November 2013 – March 2014, all the partners have shown the correct amount and quality of engagement and the accumulated delay has been largely – but not fully - recuperated.

The English version of the Working Program (Business plan platform excluded) was almost ready and was tested during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Bruxelles. on April 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> 2014.

The translations of the English version into the national languages has taken place during the months of September and October 2014.

A User Guide for the training Platform as well as 3 handy walkthrough videos were developed by the LP to facilitate anyone interested in using the Ruraliter training system.

### **Work package 4, PASAGES – Pilot testing of the training system**

The operations of this WP had to begin in January 2014 and to be concluded in February 2014, but due to the delays of WP3 the pilot testing of the training system had to be rescheduled, after the inputs received also through the Training of Trainers that was held on April 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> 2014, in Brussels (see WP6 here below).

The in country testing took place by the end of May and the first weeks of June.

Specifically, LP organized one pilot test in Patra on the 20th of March with the participation of 15 young farmers who tested and evaluated the training platform. Two more are scheduled to be implemented in Aigio on the 3rd of October 2014, and in Amaliada on the 12th & 14th of November 2014.

### **Work package 5, CeSAR – Quality assessment and internal evaluation**

The starting date of this Work package was anticipated to October 01, 2012, with conclusion by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Due to the extension of the project to December 31<sup>st</sup>, it will close its activities by the end of November 2014.

The following activities have been performed by CeSAR during the 4<sup>th</sup> semester:

- Evaluation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Partners
- Monitoring of the project advancement and stimulation of partners
- Control of the coherence of the training program
- Control of the quality of the materials and feed back to the Partners
- Elaboration of this progress report.

### **Work package 6, CEJA – Training of Trainers in Brussels**

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting in Vila Real, the starting month of this Work package was anticipated to October 2013, with conclusion in April 2014.

CEJA has shown a high level of commitment and professionalism, by beginning the organization of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop and ToT, scheduled for April 10, 2014 followed by an open Conference on the next day, well in advance. All organizational details have been taken care of and all three events took place as planned and brought useful results that would be incorporated into the training program for the last semester of the project.

### **Work package 7, RCVLL – Dissemination and Valorisation**

During the Vila Real meeting, Mr. THEODORATOS had illustrated to the Partners the website (<http://www.ruraliter.eu>) with all its different parts. This was slightly in delay, because the original

deadline had been established on May 15. On September 30<sup>th</sup> 2013, the website was still activated only in English.

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> Semester, all pages have been translated by the Partners into their Languages and the website is now available in all languages.

A paper about Adult Education and the Project has been presented by Koehnen, Baptista and Loureiro during the European Seminar on Extension Education, held in Turkey, in September 2013.

A Power Point Presentation about innovation and training for competitiveness and sustainability has been presented in Italian by Santucci on October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2013 in Perugia, during an international conference.

RCVTLLL developed the English version of the project's brochure and sent it to all partners for translation, production and diffusion to the public, while the project leaflet was revised in English & Greek. Both materials were used in public relations of the LP.

Both Agricoltura è Vita and CeSAR have produced and distributed an information leaflet about the RURALITER Project in Italian. CeSAR has also translated an information sheet into English, French and Spanish, for its International PR activities.

In Italy, the final national dissemination activities are planned as follows: Agricoltura è Vita in Rome on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October; CeSAR in Perugia on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November.

As concern dissemination activities in Belgium, CEJA was present on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at the Libramont Agricultural Fair (in Libramont, Belgium), and at the Massey Ferguson's Vision of the Future Conference in Beauvais (France) on 28<sup>th</sup> of August 2014. At the Libramont Agricultural Fair they presented the Ruraliter project to the general public. The CEJA's stand was visited by many farmers and young people in general to whom they explained in detail the Ruraliter Project and its objectives. Visitors to the stand mostly consisted of Belgian farming community with a few visitors coming from France and other neighbouring countries. The age groups varied from children to older generations.

CEJA have also updated and distributed project leaflet as well as created and disseminated some promotional materials such as USB sticks and pocket calendars with the project logo and training materials on it.

In Portugal, two workshops were held in November, one on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November (16 participants) and the second (10 participants) on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November, 2014 to pre-test and disseminate the materials.

In Portugal, a national mailing will be completed to emphasize the website of the RURALITER project in Portuguese.

Finally, LP will prepare a Dissemination & Valorisation plan of the project.

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