



IRMA Timer | The monthly newsletter of IRMA project, Issue 09 | March 2014



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Αποκεντρωμένη Διοίκηση Ηπείρου - Δυτικής Μακεδονίας

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All the previous issues of IRMA Timer are available at:
<http://www.irrigation-management.eu/communication/newsletter>

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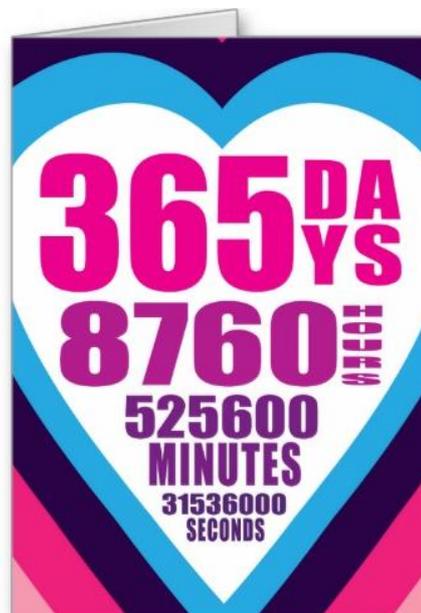
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Introduction

The project «IRMA - Efficient Irrigation Management Tools for Agricultural Cultivations and Urban Landscapes» is funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and National Funds of Greece and Italy in the framework of the European Territorial Cooperation Programme Greece - Italy 2007 - 2013 (www.greece-italy.eu). The project's total budget is 1.398.874,50€ and the implementation period is 24 months, starting from April 2013.

This (9th) newsletter aims to present the progress of the project's actions during the 12th month of the implementation period (March 2014). IRMA is half the way to its completion and most of its main activities are running. The latest approval of the modification request which enable P2 - AEPDE to fully participate in the project is expected to boost the project's evolution.



The project manager

Dr. Tsirogiannis Yannis

Progress of WP1 Management & Coordination

The modification application has been approved and P2 - AEPDE will from now officially participate at the project, while a number of procurements that was linked to that approval will be released soon.

The next progress report will be submitted at the beginning of April.

Progress of WP2 Information & Publicity

IRLA2014

Great interest has been expressed regarding participation in IRLA2014. The event will be held at Patras / Greece from 26 to 28 November 2014 and more information is available at: <http://irla2014.irrigation-management.eu>.

The Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO is the latest support organization of IRLA2014.

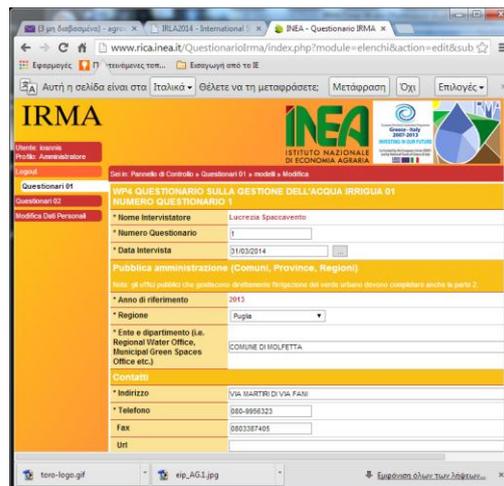
Information regarding the symposium has already been published in numerous web sites and relevant newsletters (USDA, PASEGES, GEOTEE, TEE etc).

Progress of WP3 Network building

The irrigation stakeholders' database and the repository are under last tests.

Progress of WP4 Survey of irrigation practice

The questionnaires are already available in English at the web site of the project.



Progress of WP5 Irrigation management tools

The irrigation system audits are at their pilot stage in Epirus while the irrigation advices system is under development.



P6-ROEDM and LP-TEIEP, organized a school contest for meteorological stations installation. The contest was inspired by the UN's World Water Day 2014 and the WMO's World Meteorological Day 2014. Based on



projects regarding the use of water for irrigation, 3 schools located at Arta basin (the area which will host the IRMA irrigation advice system for Greece) will be selected to host a meteorological station which will be connected to IRMA system.

Progress of WP6 Specialized research actions

All partners that are involved in research actions (P3-INEA, P4-ISPA/CNR and LP-TEIEP) have already begun the 2014 period experiments.



Experimental setup at TEIEP (March 2014)

TORO company, one of the global leaders in landscape irrigation systems expressed its interest for the outcomes of the experiments that are conducted at TEIEP regarding evaluation of different sensing technologies for irrigation scheduling.



Other interesting stuff

First day of spring 2014: Google Doodle celebrates the spring equinox

Users, who land on the search engine's homepage on March 1st, saw a black and white line drawing of a man holding a watering can.

The character moved, and walked along the top of the search bar, pouring water as he goes. Sprouts shoot up from the white background, and grow into a row of colourful flowers which spell out 'Google'. After sprinkling water on his head, the character takes his place as the letter 'g'. We at IRMA office understood it as "a bit of watering is sometimes necessary at excitement periods".



Network Efficiency through Innovation - Industry Webinar

On 6 March 2014, Marketforce and Vodafone held a One-hour Water Industry Webinar themed "Network Efficiency through Innovation". A

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panel, consisting of Mel Karam (Director of Asset Management Southern Water), Trevor Bishop (Head of Water Resources Environment Agency), Keith Banwaitt (Global Head of Fixed M2M & Utilities Vodafone Group), and Jeremy Heath (Network Manager Sutton & East Surrey Water), discussed technology and innovation requirements towards addressing the key challenges placed on water supply by floods, droughts and efficiency targets.

Key discussions at the webinar considered that technology will play a major role in achieving efficiency and risk management; two thirds of participants in the forum also endorsed the idea of compulsory metering as a means to support efficiency.

A full recording of the webinar can be watched on-demand - please visit this webpage and enter your e-mail address to log in:

http://marketforce-water-webinar-2014.streamuk.com/?utm_source=marketforce_database&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=waterwebinar_email5&elq=199d81e9492b4d3f8f0e5efc4e560050&elqCampaignId=3152

More and better innovation financing?



The FinnoWater Action Group, coordinated by European Regions Research and Innovation Network (ERRIN), recently developed and launched an online survey on finance for water innovation. The survey includes questions about a number of topics and methods of financing with the aim of gathering insights, perspectives and ideas for developing

stronger innovation funding policies. Please spare ten minutes to participate in the survey and make your ideas count!

The first round of results is expected by mid-April and all results will be published on the EIP Water Marketplace. Individual responses will remain confidential. The FinnoWater Action Group will use the results to inform the development of future innovation funding policy recommendations and thanks you in advance for your participation.

<http://www.eip-water.eu/working-groups/finnowater>

Survey link:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HRG2Q52>

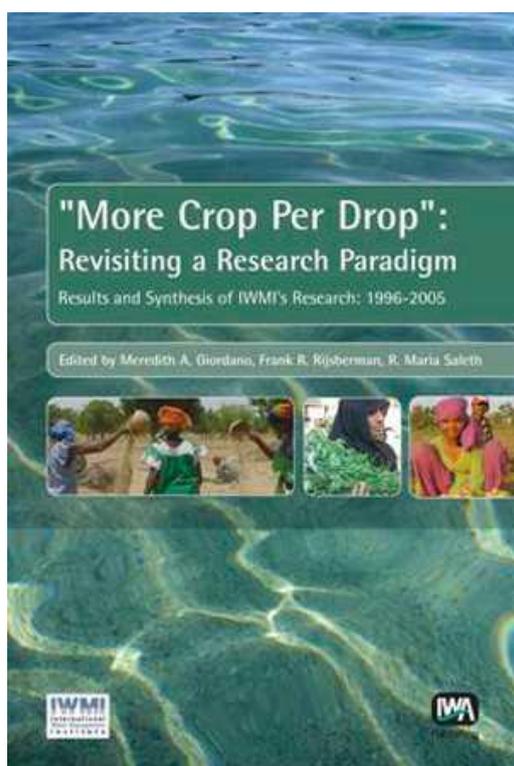
Imagine H₂O

Imagine H₂O is a nonprofit organization with a mission to inspire & empower people to solve water problems. Its vision is to turn water challenges into opportunities. The organisation hosts business plan competitions addressing specific water opportunities including Water Efficiency, Water-Energy Nexus, Wastewater and Consumer Innovations. They offer not only cash prizes for the best ideas, but an accelerator program to help competing entrepreneurs turn their plans into transformational solutions. Their open innovation programming helps entrepreneurs identify problems that have social impact and major commercial market opportunities. Imagine H₂O connects the most promising plans with world leaders in the water sector, government, and social enterprise to help turn new ideas into self-funding, high impact solutions.

Find more at:
<http://www.imagineh2o.org/>

**Revisiting a research paradigm:
results and synthesis of IWMI's
research 1996-2005**

This volume by Meredith Giordano, Frank R. Rijsberman, and R. Maria Saleth is an analytical summary and a critical synthesis of research at the International Water Management Institute over the past decade under its evolving research paradigm known popularly as 'more crop per drop'.



It describes new tools, approaches, and methodologies and also illustrates them with practical application both from a global perspective and within the local and regional contexts of Asia and Africa. Since this volume brings together all major research works of IWMI, including an almost exhaustive list of citations, in one single set of pages, it is very valuable not only as a reference material for researchers and students but also as a policy tool for decision-makers and development agencies.

You can download the ebook from here:

<http://www.iwawaterwiki.org/xwiki/bin/view/Articles/DevelopingCountriesTitlesfromIWAPublishingFreetoDownload#HMoreCropPerDrop>

The research synthesized at this book covers the full range of issues falling in the larger canvas of water-food-health-environment interface. Besides its immediate role in sharing knowledge with the research, donor, and policy communities, this volume also has a larger purpose of promoting a new way of looking at the water issues within the broader development context of food, livelihood, health and environmental challenges.