European Territorial Cooperation Programmes (ETCP), GREECE-ITALY 2007-2013

Efficient Irrigation Management Tools for Agricultural Cultivations and Urban Landscapes

IRMA

Subsidy Contract No: I3.11.06 I MIS 902056

IRMA Timer | The monthly newsletter of IRMA project, **Issue 14 | August 2014**

www.irrigation-management.eu

IRMA Timer | The monthly newsletter of IRMA project, **Issue 14 | August 2014**

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

Contents

Introduction 3
Progress of WP1 Management & Coordination 4
Progress of WP2 Information & Publicity 4
IRLA2014 4
Presentation of IRMA in IHC2014 4
Progress of WP3 Network building 4
Progress of WP4 Survey of irrigation practice 6
Progress of WP5 Irrigation management tools 7
Irrigation audits 7
Web irrigation advices system 7
Progress of WP6 Specialized research actions 7
Other interesting stuff 8
European Irrigation Association (EIA)2014 Irrigation Days and Awards 8
Horizon 2020 8
ERANETMED 9
Better flood alerts based on EU funded research 9
European Soil Maps 9
Open access irrigation and drainage books by Intech 9
NRN Guidebook for Rural Networking 10

IRLA2014, International Symposium, 26-28 November 2014, Patras, Greece

Introduction

The IRMA project aims to develop efficient irrigation management tools for agricultural cultivations and urban landscapes. It 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.

The current newsletter presents the progress of the project's actions during the 17th month of the implementation period (August, 2014).

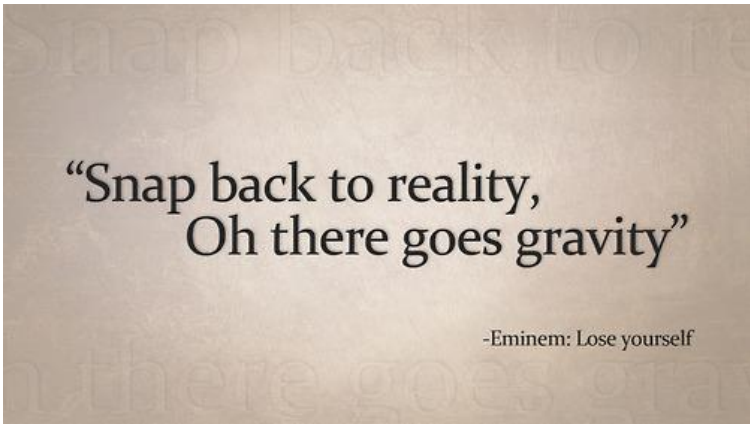
As summertime is the best period for irrigation related experiments all partners that are involved in WP6 - Research activities have to work hard. The others are charging in order to work hard the following months. All the experiments are progressing well and soon the first results will be published.

IRLA2014 will be a good opportunity for this. The first international symposium of the project is in its final straight and the potentials for networking that it offers is great.

Kind regards to all hard working fellows,

The project manager

Dr. Tsirogiannis Yannis



Progress of WP1 Management & Coordination

Most partners are in the process of the first expenses audit this period.
Until the end of September the second modification request is expected to be formed.
A big issue has to do with the financing of the project as most of the actions are running and the need for payments is very high. The JTS fully understands this reality and tries to ensure economic resources to support the progress of IRMA.

Progress of WP2 Information & Publicity

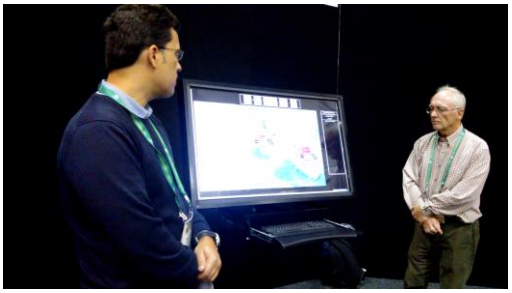
IRLA2014

IRLA2014 will be held at Patras / Greece from 26 to 28 November 2014 and more information is available at: http://irla2014.irrigation-management.eu.

84 contributions have finally been accepted for oral or poster presentation during the event.
The JTS of ETCP GR-IT 2007-2013 will be officially represented by Mr. D. Karavatos.
Uniscape, the Network of Universities especially dedicated to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention will be represented by its new President, Professor Juan Manuel Palerm Salazar.

Presentation of IRMA in IHC2014

The project manager of IRMA, attended the 29th International Horticultural Congress, IHC2014 (ISHS) and took advantage of this opportunity to present IRMA.



IRMA's project manager, Dr. Tsirogiannis I.L., gives a brief presentation of IRMA. At the right is Dr. Richard L. Snyder, the Chair of ISHS's Commission for Irrigation and Plant Water.

Progress of WP3 Network building

The networking platform has been already developed in the framework of WP3 and the available tools that can be reached from the project's website are the following:

- The forum
- The pages at selected social media networks (Facebook, Google+, Twitter, Linked in, YouTube) and
- The repository
- The stakeholders database

Also at the website one can find:

- Announcements
- The issues of the monthly newsletter (IRMATimer)
- Information (including presentations) regarding all the project's events
- Publicity material

We invite you to actively participate by visiting: http://www.irrigation-management.eu/network/participate.

Some brief instructions regarding how to participate are available bellow:

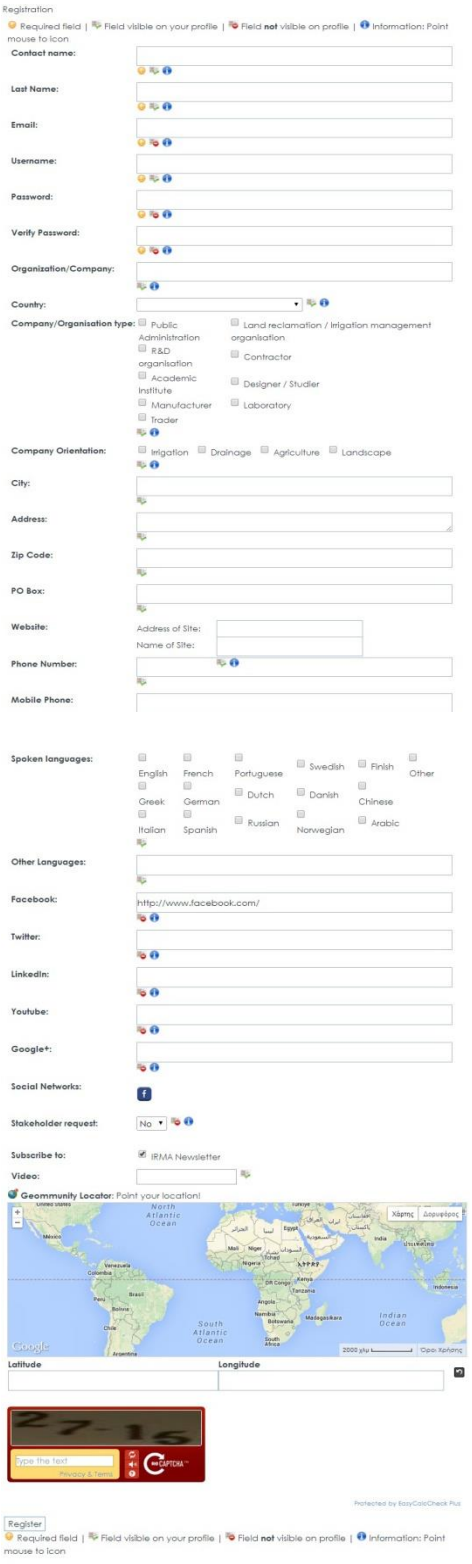
1. Visit IRMA's web page at: http://www.irrigation-management.eu
2. From the main menu select Network → Participate

3. This way you will access the Registration form.
4. You can use your Facebook, Twitter of LinkedIn account to provide information to the form. Alternatively you can fill it from scratch.

5. A number of symbols provide information for each field:

All fields must be filled using Roman characters.

At the Organisation/Company Field you can also use Greek characters.



If desired, links to selected social networks (Facebook, Twitter, LinkdIn, Youtube and Google+) can be also provided. In case that you fill one of more of them then the relevant icon/link will be present at your public profile.

If you want to participate in Stakeholders database, select Yes at the Stakeholders request field.

If you want to receive the IRMATimer, the official newsletter of IRMA, leave the relevant selection box ticked.

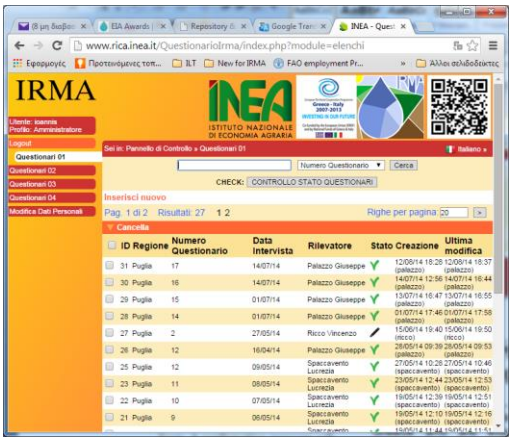
Have in mind that all the fields can be altered after becoming a member, by accessing your account.

Once all required fields have been field you can press the Register button at the bottom of the form. A confirmation message will appear and an email will be sent to the provided address.

6. After you reply to the confirmation email, the web site managers will activate your account. Then you will be able to use the networking tools (forum and stakeholders database) features that are available to members.

Progress of WP4 Survey of irrigation practice

The 4 types of questionnaires that P3-INEA, has developed in cooperation with LP-TEIEP and P6-ROEDM in English, Italian and Greek have been included in the survey management system the P3-INEA has developed.



The web system that P3-INEA has been developed in order to manage the survey on irrigation practice in both participating countries.

The survey is under full development in Apulia and is expected to be completed as scheduled.
In Greece P2-AEPDE has published a relevant call in the middle of summer and P6 - REODM has released a call for the survey in Epirus at the end of August.

Progress of WP5 Irrigation management tools

Irrigation audits

Audits are under full development in Greece and are expected to be completed as scheduled.

Photos from audits in Greece (u-d): big gun in corn field, sprinklers in football field and drip irrigation in greenhouse.

Almost 50% of the 100 audits that are planned to be performed in Greece have been done regarding the field measurements part. All the farmers, irrigation managers etc will receive an analytical audit report and the results will be used to improve the process.

Web irrigation advices system

P6-ROEDM has published the call for the installation of the meteorological stations system in the plain of Arta. This is a great step for the development of the system.

Progress of WP6 Specialized research actions

All partners that are involved in research actions (P3-INEA, P4-ISPA/CNR and LP-TEIEP) are running the 2014 period experiments.
LP-TEIEP has completed the "Review regarding low water–demand agricultural crops and local plants for landscaping" and the relevant manuscripts will be available in the middle of September.
This period the following experiments are running:

1. Evaluation of satellite images for evapotranspiration estimation.
2. Evaluation of sensor driven irrigation in greenhouses.
3. Evaluation of sensor driven irrigation in landscaping
4. Evaluation of alternative (saline) water sources water for cultivations
5. Evaluation of alternative water sources (gray, waste) for landscaping .

6. Evaluation of irrigation using alternative heavy metal contaminated water sources

Photos from the experiments are uploaded reguraly at both Google+ and Facebook pages of the project (http://www.irrigation-management.eu/network/social-networks).

Other interesting stuff

European Irrigation Association (EIA)2014 Irrigation Days and Awards

The EIA is organising its 2014 Irrigation Days in Bologna, between 10 and 13 November, during the EIMA trade show.
Find more at:
http://irrigationeurope.eu/news/call-participation-2014-irrigation-days

Also, the second edition (2014) of the EIA Awards is open to all EIA and non-EIA member companies that have built innovative product, equipment, site, project or design that promote water and energy savings. These awards will be handed in during an attention grabbing gala dinner in the evening of 13 November in Bologna, Italy.
Find more at: http://irrigationeurope.eu/page/eia-awards

Horizon 2020

The European Commission has recently opened Horizon 2020 calls for 2015 based on an updated version of the Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2014-2015 adopted on 22/07/2014. The EU's programme for research and innovation includes for 2015 fourteen different topics of particular interest to agriculture and forestry for an overall indicative budget of around 123 million Euros. As well as this, the agricultural and forestry sectors can also benefit from central calls on the SME instrument and from the brand-new instrument 'Fast-track to innovation'. All aim at making the best of the EU's biological resources in a sustainable way.
Fourteen research topics for a more sustainable agriculture and forestry. Seven of the Horizon 2020 topics support projects which target demand-driven innovation and a multi-actor approach to knowledge-exchange activities. Thematic networks, for example, are supported under the topic Closing the research and innovation divide. Involving end-users, such as farmers, farmers' groups, advisors, enterprises and others, throughout the whole project will ensure that innovative solutions which are more likely to be applied in the field are produced. In 2015, five thematic networks for around 10 million euros will be selected. They will contribute to the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI).
Find more at:
http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/eip/index_en.htm

ERANETMED

A pre-announcement of ERANETMED, Joint call on Renewable Energies, Water Resources and their connections for the Mediterranean Region has been recently published.
ERANETMED scheme is a EU FP7 initiative that aims at co-ordinating research activities of the different national research programmes from EU Members States, Associated Countries and Mediterranean Partner Countries.
Renewable energies, water resources and their nexus are important challenges in the Mediterranean region and face common constraints and issues, while trans-national research addressed to these challenges is still highly fragmented and requires a strong co-ordination and joint-effort of countries to enhance effective and high impact research as well as innovation.
Find more about the pre-announcement at:
http://www.etrera2020.eu/link-9/168-pre-announcement-of-the-eranetmed-call-on-energy-water-innovation.html

Better flood alerts based on EU funded research

According to a recent EU press release (28/8/2014) number of tools that where derived from EU funded research are expected to upgrade the potentials regarding flood alerts. More specifically, the following projects are presented:

- Imprints (3,3M€, FP7, 18 partners, 7 countries): http://floods.jrc.ec.europa.eu/flood-research-atjrc/flashfloods.html
- WeSenseIt (5,4M€, FP7, 8 partners,): www.wesenseit.com
- UrbanFlood (2,3M€, FP7, 6 partners): www.urbanflood.eu

European Soil Maps

In the last issue (No 68, August 2014) of the European Soil Data Centre's newsletter, it was written that the European Digital Archive of Soil Maps (EuDASM) has concluded the metadata entry for 1.312 European maps.

Soil map of Greece (EuDASM)

This is part of the global EuDASM project making available more than 6.000 Maps from 142 countries around the World. To ensure their preservation and easy disclo-sure, EuDASM scanned paper-based soil maps with the maximum possible resolution and stored them into a digital format. Many of these maps are over 50 years old and are beginning to de-teriorate.
Find more at:
http://eusoils.jrc.ec.europa.eu/library/maps/country_maps/metadata.cfm and
http://eusoils.jrc.ec.europa.eu/library/maps/country_maps/list_countries.cfm

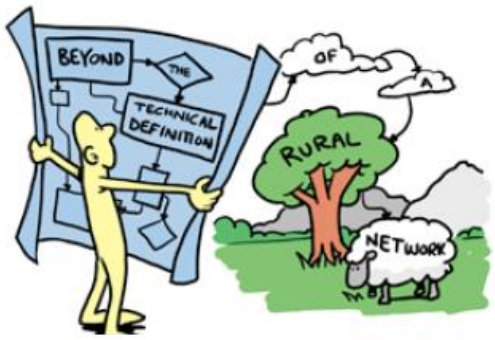
Open access irrigation and drainage books by Intech

Check the following interesting titles of Intech (free download):

- Abiotic stress plant responses and applications in agriculture
- Abiotic stress in plants mechanisms and adaptations
- Abiotic stress response in plants physiologica biochemical and genetic perspectives
- Responses of organisms to water stress
- Water quality soil and managing irrigation of crops
- Irrigation systems an practices in challenging environments
- Problems, perspectives and challenges of agricultural water management
- Water stress

NRN Guidebook for Rural Networking

'Networks' and 'networking' are widely recognised and adopted as key tools for supporting and promoting sustainable rural development around the world. Both academic research and practical experience indicate that the main added value of networking is its ability to produce solutions and results that otherwise would not have occurred. A problem shared is a problem halved; as the saying goes.



The European Network for Rural Development has recently published the NRN Guidebook - Networks in Transition which provide very interesting information regarding networking good practices.

Download it from:
http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/enrd-static/app_templates/enrd_assets/pdf/guidebook/nrn_handbook_webversion.pdf

IRLA2014
International Symposium
Effects of Irrigation and Drainage on Rural and Urban Landscapes
26-28 November 2014
Patras, Greece

Greece
the true experience