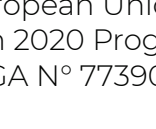




UNISECO



European Union's
Horizon 2020 Programme
GA N° 773901

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

This is the **FIRST** newsletter of the UNISECO project

WHERE YOU CAN:

- Find out what UNISECO is all about
- Read about the latest developments of the project
- Hear about our emerging findings

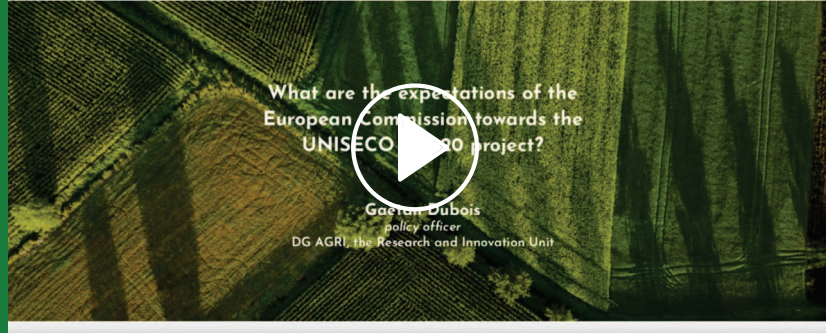
What is UNISECO ?

UNISECO (Understanding & improving the sustainability of agro-ecological farming systems in the EU) aims to strengthening the sustainability of EU farming systems through co-constructing improved and practice validated strategies and incentives for the promotion of improved agro-ecological approaches.

The key dilemma is how to produce public goods whilst having viable production of private goods, securing economic and social sustainability at a farm level, which is not overly dependent on public funds.

This EC-funded Horizon 2020 project will enhance the understanding of socio-economic and policy drivers and barriers for further development and implementation of agro-ecological approaches in EU farming systems (agro-ecological farming systems, AEFS), reflecting the low input and high labour and knowledge intensity of these systems, to identify and facilitate more effective and efficient development strategies for European agriculture across the diversity of its settings.

[Read more](#) [Download the project flyer](#)



What are the expectations of the European Commission towards the UNISECO H2020 project?

Gaëtan Dubois from the DG AGRI, the Research and Innovation Unit answers

THE UNISECO TEAM

UNISECO is committed to a genuine transdisciplinary process, reflected in consortium composition of stakeholder and scientific partners, and the emphasis on multi-actor engagement and learning in the project structure and resources.

The consortium comprises research organisations (5 HEIs, 7 research institutes), 3 SMEs, 2 NGOs and 1 organisation representing farmers and land owners across the EU (European Landowner Organisation). Coordinated by the Thünen Institute, UNISECO is characterised by its transdisciplinary nature, with significant experience of partners in co-constructing research with those responsible for policy development and delivery.

[Read more](#)



TIMELINE AND PROJECT STRUCTURE

The UNISECO project is a 3-year project and started in May 2018. The final results are expected in early 2020. The project has been timed so that its findings and recommendations can inform a number of key policy processes but also feed into national and regional policies.

[Read more](#)

What UNISECO can offer you?

At our Agro-ecological Knowledge Hub explore the questions UNISECO is in progress to seek answers for! We have set up the frames for the UNISECO Agro-ecological Knowledge Hub. Integrated within our project website we will gradually populate it with information in multiple languages tailored to our target groups for promoting cooperation and implementation of agro-ecological approaches of farming systems, as well as for providing a platform for continued knowledge sharing and capacity building as a project legacy.

[Visit the UNISECO Agro-ecological Knowledge Hub](#)

Did you know you could register for our Multi-Actor Platform Networking Facility?

As a member you can participate in our online community that provides a space for networking and knowledge exchange amongst the members of the MAPs on topics in relation to agro-ecological practices and the sustainability of MAP of European agriculture.

[Read more about and sign up to the MAP NEF](#)

Latest news from UNISECO



PROJECT KICK-OFF MEETING 28-30 MAY 2018

We came together in Braunschweig, Germany in May 2018 to mark the start of this research and innovation action project. Attendees included representatives of all UNISECO partners, project and scientific officers to the project at the European Commission and the coordinator of the sister project LIFT.

Partners took this opportunity to share their experiences and knowledge of the different themes to be tackled by the project.

[Read more](#)

CASE STUDIES: CONCEPT & APPROACH

We have discussed the concept and approaches for selecting case studies. Some of the key questions case studies aim to answer include:

- What dilemma can hinder the implementation of AE approaches?
- How can these dilemmas be addressed / solved?
- What are the implications for the sustainability (economic, social and environmental performance) of the farming systems?

Case studies are currently being identified. The cases are being selected following certain criteria. In different countries partners have started discussions with various stakeholder groups. The selection of cases should be finished this year.

[Read more](#)



TERRITORIAL ASSESSMENT

For the assessment at territorial level compilation of databases on biophysical production-consumption data for Europe at the NUTS2 level, as well as compilation of databases on environmental impacts are on the way.



POLICY & MARKET INITIATIVES

Analysis is also currently under way to identify and understand relevant examples of policy and market initiatives from UNISECO case study countries to review best practice examples on incentives promoting the transition to AEFS.



NETWORKING

UNISECO was presented at several events:

- 06/ 2018: French EIP Committee meeting [Read more](#)
- 07/ 2018: PROVIDE project regional final conference - [Read more](#)
- 09/ 2018: GfÖ conference - [Read more](#)
- 11/2018: Scotland's Biennial Land Use & the Environment Conference - [Read more](#)



PROJECT MEETING 20-22 NOVEMBER 2018

UNISECO organised a project meeting in Venice, Italy between 20-22 November 2018 to discuss existing market and policy incentives for agro-ecological farming, the UNISECO case study selection and other interim results and upcoming tasks with the Project Advisory Group and invited stakeholders.

[Read more](#)

UNISECO & fellow project: LIFT



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES ENVISAGED WITH FELLOW PROJECT FINANCED UNDER TOPIC SFS-29-2017: LIFT

Contacts with the LIFT project (Low-Input Farming and Territories - Integrating knowledge for improving ecosystem-based farming) consortium have been established.

[Read more](#)
[Visit the LIFT project website.](#)



UNISECO-LIFT REGIONAL MEETING OF PARTNERS IN HUNGARY

Hungarian teams of the UNISECO and the LIFT projects met on 11 October 2018 to discuss case study approaches and area selection in Hungary and co-dissemination activities.

[Read more](#)

JOIN US!

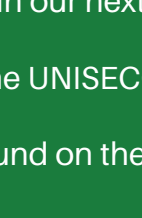
Your active engagement is important to ensure that the innovative tools, approaches and policy recommendations that we develop reflect the views of those who are directly involved in delivering or seeking to strengthen the sustainability of EU farming systems through co-constructing improved and practice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

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More information will be sent in our next UNISECO newsletter, scheduled for spring 2019.

Thank you for signing up to the UNISECO newsletter.

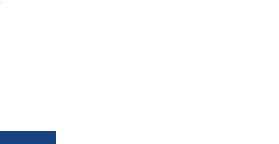
Further information can be found on the UNISECO project website & Agro-ecological Knowledge Hub homepage.



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PARTNERS



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