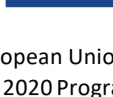




UNISECO



European Union's  
Horizon 2020 Programme  
GA N° 773901



Photo: Katalin Balázs

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

### This is the 2nd newsletter of the UNISECO project WHERE YOU CAN:

- 🔗 Find out what UNISECO is all about
- 🔗 Read about the latest developments of the project
- 🔗 Know more about networking with other EU projects
- 🔗 Get information on upcoming events
- 🔗 Find information about how to join us

### What is UNISECO ?

UNISECO is an EC funded 3-year Horizon 2020 research and innovation action aiming at 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.

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

### Latest news from UNISECO



#### TRAINING FOR ON-FARM SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENTS

UNISECO project partners were trained to carry out on-farm sustainability assessments. The training was organised by the FiBL team in preparation of the UNISECO case studies, and took place between 18 and 23 February 2019 at the Organic Research Centre in Newbury England.

[Read more](#)



#### 1ST EU STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP: FUTURE SCENARIOS IN EUROPEAN AGRICULTURE

What scenarios of future European agriculture should be investigated in UNISECO? This question and other issues relating to the participatory scenario development process being carried out as part of the territorial modelling in UNISECO were discussed with stakeholders at a workshop in Brussels on 1 March 2019.

[Read more](#)



#### Sessions on Agroecological Transitions in a Transatlantic Context

Concepts, typologies, barriers, drivers & sustainability performance

#### UNISECO SESSIONS AT AAG 2019

We organised a stream of sessions entitled "Agroecological Transitions in a Transatlantic Context" on 6 April 2019 at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers in Washington DC.

[Read more](#)



#### Annual Meeting & Stakeholder Workshop Helsinki, 7-10 May 2019

#### 1st ANNUAL MEETING & STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

The 1st Annual Meeting and Stakeholder Workshop was held between 7-10 May 2019 in Helsinki, Finland, organised by LUKE.

The objectives of the meeting were to review the status quo of the project, progress in the first year, prepare forthcoming activities in the WPs through to the first reporting period, and to define the next steps up to the next project meeting in November 2019.

[Read more](#)



#### AGRI INNOVATION SUMMIT 2019

The AIS 2019 took place on 25-26 June 2019 in Lisieux and was co-organised by the French Ministry of agriculture and food, the Association Régions de France, the Region of Normandy, the EIP-AGRI network and the European Commission. It brought together over 300 representatives from EIP-AGRI projects throughout Europe as well as local actors and experts.

The focus of the event was transition to agroecology.

[Read more](#)



#### NETWORKING

UNISECO was presented at several events:

**11/2018:** Scotland's Biennial Land Use & the Environment Conference [Read more](#)

**04/2019:** Cofarm project final Conference [Read more](#)

**05/2019:** Mission possible? Conference on Biodiversity in agricultural areas [Read more](#)

**06/2019:** 8th AIEAA Conference [Read more](#)

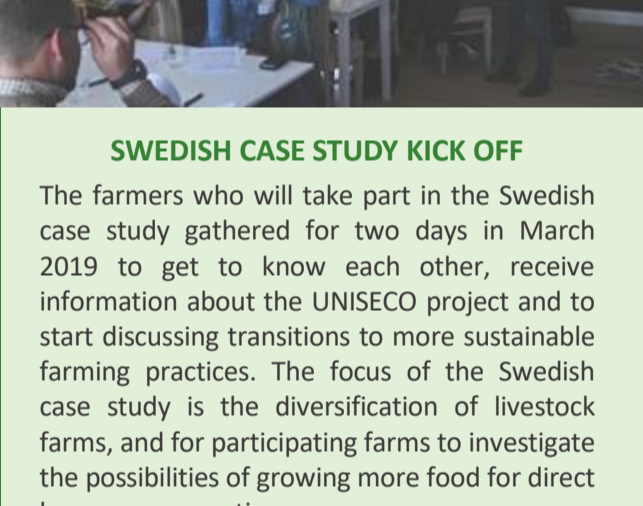
### UNISECO case study highlights



#### UNISECO CASE STUDIES

Participatory case studies are carried out in 15 European countries to analyse how socio-economic and policy barriers for agro-ecological transitions can be addressed. This will feed into the co-construction of innovative management strategies and market and policy incentives promoting agro-ecological transitions and the assessment of the sustainability implications and trade-offs of the different transition paths. Currently, farm visits are carried out on approximately 150 farms ...

[Read more](#)



#### SWEDISH CASE STUDY KICK OFF

The farmers who will take part in the Swedish case study gathered for two days in March 2019 to get to know each other, receive information about the UNISECO project and to start discussing transitions to more sustainable farming practices. The focus of the Swedish case study is the diversification of livestock farms, and for participating farms to investigate the possibilities of growing more food for direct human consumption.

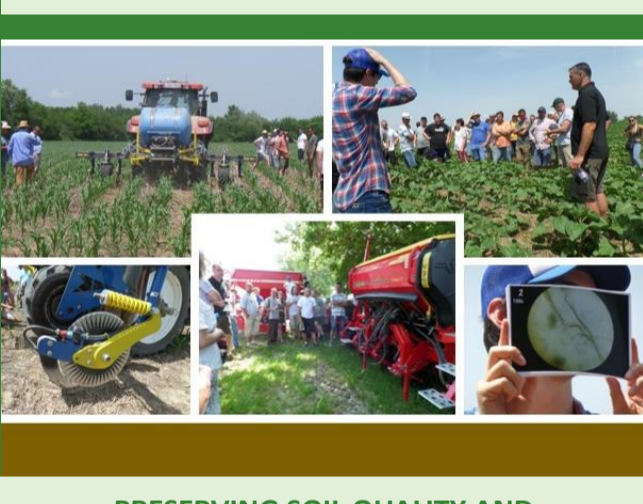
[Read more](#)



#### THE FRENCH CASE STUDY: NETWORK OF GRAPE PRODUCTION IN CUMAS

A CUMA is a group of farmers who make collective investments, joint use of machinery, and undertake group learning processes. A day of agro-ecological exhibition: on 4 April 2019, a technical wine-growing day was held for farmers near Clermont-Ferrand (Domaine de Chadiou) in the Department of Puy-de-Dôme to discuss tillage and cavillon (line of the vine plants) maintenance.

[Read more](#)



#### PRESERVING SOIL QUALITY AND SOIL HEALTH IN ARABLE FARMING: THE CASE STUDY IN HUNGARY

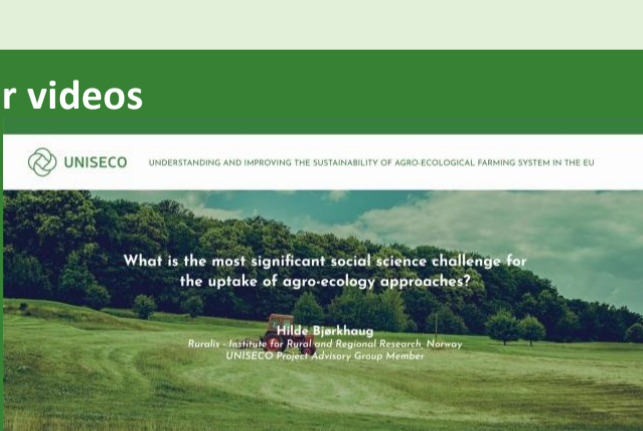
On 13 June 2019 a field day for farmers was organised by Déméter Biosystems in Somogy county at one of the UNISECO case study farms to discuss about the direct effects of climate change, the importance of soil health, soil carbon, the use of cover crops, as well as technical details and practices of cultivating maize and sunflower with no-till methods.

[Read more](#)

### Latest deliverables in UNISECO

- D2.1 - [Adapted SES Framework for AEFS and Guidelines for Assessing Sustainability of Agricultural Systems in Europe](#)
- D2.2 - [Typology of AEFS and Practices in the EU and the Selection of Case Studies](#)
- D5.1 - [Inventory of Market and Policy Incentives Supporting AEFS](#)
- D7.1 - [Guidelines for the Selection of Multi-Actor Platform \(MAP\) Members](#)
- D7.2 - [A Guide to Transdisciplinarity for Partners](#)

### Watch our videos



### UNISECO cooperation with fellow project LIFT

#### SEMINAR WITH DG AGR AND DG ENV

On 21 January 2019 a joint seminar of the UNISECO and LIFT projects took place at DG Agri in Brussels to introduce both projects to the relevant units of DG Agri and DG ENV, and to facilitate science-policy interaction.

The meeting was co-organised by DG Agri, REA and the two projects, and was attended by representatives of different units at DG Agri and ENV.

Following brief introductions of both projects discussions focussed on issues in relation to the farming typologies developed in the projects, tools and indicators to analyse sustainability at farm and territorial levels, as well as data available from the European FADN Commission such as the European FADN data.

[Read more](#)

#### LIFT: FELLOW PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

In its second year the [LIFT project](#) aims to continue active involvement of stakeholders in co-creation of knowledge. It will be organising 24 workshops in order to interact with stakeholders (farms, processors, government, NGO's, consumers and other targeted groups) and define particular issues essential for the project's progress. Key issues to be discussed cover existing typologies of farms implementing various types of ecological approaches, the feasibility of the uptake of ecological approaches at the regional level, incentives aimed at the uptake of ecological approaches and the improvement of economic and environmental impacts along the supply chain, and efficiency indicators.

[For more information visit the LIFT project website](#)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- 🔗 [Agroecology Europe Forum 2019, 26-28 September 2019, Heraklion, Crete, Greece](#)
- 🔗 [ESP10 Conference 21-25 October 2019, Hannover, Germany](#)
- 🔗 [EIP-AGRI Workshop "Small is smart" - Innovative solutions for small agricultural and forestry holdings, 29-30 October 2019, Bucharest, Romania](#)
- 🔗 [7th ODT Forum - "Agroecology: multiple transition of territories", 4-6 December 2019, Lausanne, Switzerland](#)

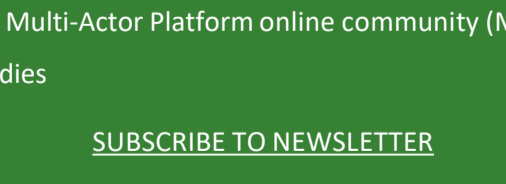
### JOIN US!

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

#### SUBSCRIBE TO NEWSLETTER



More information will be sent in our next UNISECO newsletter, scheduled for autumn 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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