



“Valorisation of thistle-curdled CHEESES in MEDiterranean marginal areas” Acronym VEGGIE-MED-CHEESES

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Dissemination level	Public
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Start date of project	01.05.2019
Duration	36 months (after project end extension: 48 months)
Abstract	The 1 st year Report describes the main results and goals achieved during the first year of activity of the Veggie-Med-Cheeses Consortium

Versioning and Contribution History

Version	Date	Modified by	Modification reason
V1.0	10/06/2020	Lucia Aquilanti	First version
V2.0	12/06/2020	Lucia Aquilanti	Comments after peer review process

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GENERAL PROJECT MEETING 2
PRIMA FUNDED PROJECT UNDER THE 2018 CALL
“Valorisation of thistle-curdled CHEESES in MEDiterranean marginal areas”
Acronym VEGGIE-MED-CHEESES

8 JUNE 2020, web conference

1. LOCATION

TEAMS web conference

On June 8th, 2019, at 10.00 am (Rome time), the Principal Investigators (PI) and the research Team Members of the Partners of the VEGGIE-MED-CHEESES Consortium met via TEAMS, regularly convened by the Coordinator of the Project, Prof. Lucia Aquilanti, with an email dated 25.05.20.

2. PARTICIPANTS

The attendance situation at the beginning of the meeting is shown in the following table:

Partner No.	Organisation	Participant (Permanent Staff)	Role	Attendance
Coordinator (Partner 1)	Dipartimento di Scienze Agrarie, Alimentari e Ambientali, Università Politecnica delle Marche, Italy (short name: D3A-UNIVPM)	Lucia Aquilanti	Project Coordinator PI of UNIVPM	P
		Francesca Clementi	Team member	A
		Andrea Osimani	Team member	A
		Cristiana Garofalo	Team member	A
		Nadia Raffaelli	Team member	P
		Massimo Mozzon	Team member	P
		Silvia Zitti	Team member	P
		Simona Casavecchia	Team member	P
		Fabio Taffetani	Team member	A
		Roberto Orsini	Team member	P
		Raffaele Zanolì	Team member	P
		Cinzia Mannozi	Team member	P
		Roberta Foligni	Team member	P
		Stefano Zenobi	Team member	P
Federica Zamporlini	Team member	P		
Partner (P2)	Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura e l'analisi dell'economia agraria - Centro di ricerca Alimenti e Nutrizione (short name: CREA-AN)	Pamela Manzi	PI of CREA-AN	P
		Flavio Paoletti	Team member	A
		Antonio Raffo	Team member	P
		Fiorella Sinesio	Team member	P
		Mena Ritota	Team member	P
		Maria Gabriella Di Costanzo	Team member	P
		Elisabetta Moneta	Team member	P
		Nicoletta Nardo	Team member	A
		Marina Peperario	Team member	P

Partner (P3)	3	Departamento de Tecnología de Alimentos y Nutrición, Universidad Católica San Antonio De Murcia (short name: UCAM)	Luis Tejada Portero	PI of UCAM	P
			Jose María Cayuela	Team member	A
			Eva Salazar Serna	Team member	P
			Adela Abellán	Team member	P
			Estefania Bueno Gavila	Team member	P
			Cindy Maria Bande de Leon	Team member	P
Partner (P4)	4	Department of Food Hygiene and Technology, Veterinary Research Institute, Hellenic Agricultural Organization, DEMETER (short name: DEMETER)	Akis Psomas	PI of DEMETER	P
			Georgios Samouris	Team member	A
			Loukia Ekateriniadou	Team member	A
			Evridiki Boukouvala	Team member	A
			Maria Ioannidou	Team member	A
			George Vafeas	Team member	A
Virginia Giantzi	Team member	A			
Partner (P5)	5	High Institute of Agronomy of Chott-Mariem, Sousse University (ISA-CM)	Bouthaina Al Mohandes Dridi	PI of ISA-CM	P
			Rabiaa Haouala	Team member	P
			Ismahen Essaidi	Team member	A
			Imen Ben Ammar	Team member	A

Legend: P Present; A Absent

3. AGENDA FOR THE MEETING

10 h 00 – 10 h 15 (Rome time)

Connection and Greetings

10h 15– 11h 15 (Rome time)

Presentations of the main results achieved by Research partners involved in WP 2 and 3

- Italy (UNIVPM)
- Tunisia (ISA-CM)

11h 00 - 12h 30 (Rome time)

Presentation of the main results achieved by Research partners involved in WP 4

- Italy (UNIVPM and CREA-AN)
- Spain (UCAM)
- Greece (DEMETER)

12h 30 – 13h 15 (Rome time)

Discussion and issues from the Partners

13h 30 (Rome time)

Closure of the meeting

4. MEETING MINUTES AND CONCLUSIONS

The Project Coordinator opens the meeting at 10.00 am (Rome time) with the following agenda:

1. Connection and Greetings
2. Presentations of the main results achieved by Research partners involved in WP 2 and 3
3. Presentation of the main results achieved by Research partners involved in WP 4
4. Discussion and issues from the Partners

1. Connection and Greetings

The Project Coordinator, Prof. Lucia Aquilanti, welcomes the participants and opens the meeting with the following three communications.

- On 26 May 2020 the "PRIMA AGROFOOD 1st VIRTUAL SYNERGY MEETING" has been organized by the PRIMA Staff Secretariat member, Dr Mohamed Wageih. The headline of the event has been published on PRIMA official linkedin, facebook and twitter <https://www.facebook.com/616782781810081/posts/1680266685461680/>; https://www.linkedin.com/posts/prima-secretariat_artisanefood-camel-milk-med4youth-activity-6672481854559399936-1q63; <https://twitter.com/PRIMAInnovation/status/1266717356878974976?s=20>)
The video of the meeting can be opened at the following link: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1ab7_BmJ2JsiDAP4ZVcCwTNfe2IfLq0QI. At the meeting, all the Agrofood coordinators from the 2018 call have been invited. For VeggieMedCheeses, both the Coordinator and dr Antonio Raffo, from CREA-AN, attended the meeting. The latter started with a welcome note by the PRIMA Executive Director, Dr. Octavi Quintana, followed by a 10 min presentation on PRIMA-2018-Agrofood results and statistics, according to the order: VEGGIE-MED-CHEESES, CAMELMILK, DAINME, MEDITOMATO, Artisanefood, MILKQUA, SAFFROMFOOD, and MED4YOUTH. All the Agrifood Coordinators' presentations will be soon uploaded in a specific NEWS-box in the VEGGIE-MED-CHEESES site (public area).
During the meeting, possible synergies among some projects were found out, in view of a mutual cooperation between projects. For VEGGIE-MED-CHEESES, synergies with the project MILKQUA on camel milk were found. A discussion about the difficulties encountered during the COVID-19 emergence was opened, and a flexible approach, including project prolongations up to one year, was confirmed by Dr Wageih from PRIMA Secretariat.
- All drafted VEGGIE-MED-CHEESES deliverables have been uploaded in the SMART SHEET made available for continuous reporting by PRIMA secretariat
- As the Coordinator of the VEGGIE-MED-CHEESES project, Prof Lucia Aquilanti has authored together with other Italian coordinators or team leaders of PRIMA projects approved in 2018 – Section 2, an official Letter addressed to Prof. Angelo Riccaboni, President of the PRIMA Foundation, to urge the MUR to speed up the issuance of the decrees that would trigger the disbursement of funds.

In closure to this introductory session, the Coordinator thank all VEGGIE-MED-CHEESES Partners for their efforts made during the COVID-19 emergence to keep in touch and try to complete the still on-going activities, including the drafting of reports and deliverables.

2. Presentations of the main results achieved by Research partners involved in WP 2 and 3

The coordinator reads the list of contribution for WP2 and WP3 and leaves the floor to **Dr. Silvia Zitti, Dr Stefano Zenobi, Prof. Bouthaina Dridi Al Mohandes** for their presentation, according the following list.

- Presentation of D3A-UNIVPM Team Member, Dr. **Silvia Zitti** (Botanist) about (i) completed tasks; (ii) main results and deliverables achieved; and (iii) tasks in progress for WP2 at D3A-UNIVPM, dealing with the sampling and morphological characterization of *Onopordum tauricum* and *Cynara humilis* as well as seed collection and germination of *O. platylepis*, *O. tauricum*, *C. humilis* and *C. cardunculus*.
- Presentation of D3A-UNIVPM Team Member, Dr. **Stefano Zenobi** (Agronomist), about (i) completed tasks; (ii) main results and deliverables achieved; and (iii) tasks in progress for WP3 at D3A-UNIVPM, dealing with the cultivation of *O. platylepis*, *O. tauricum*, *Cynara humilis* and *C. cardunculus* at Didactic/Experimental farm Pasquale Rosati (AN, Italy).
- Presentation of ISA-CM Principal Investigator, Prof. **Bouthaina Dridi Al Mohandes** (Agronomist) about (i) completed tasks; (ii) main results and deliverables achieved; and (iii) tasks in progress for WP2-3 at ISA-CM, dealing with the sampling and morphological characterization of *Onopordum platylepis* as well as the cultivation of *O. platylepis*, *O. tauricum*, *Cynara humilis* and *C. cardunculus* at the Tunisian site.

3. Presentations of the main results achieved by Research partners involved in WP 4

The Coordinators thanks the Contributors that have presented their results and leaves the floor to prof. Massimo Mozzon, **Prof. Nadia Raffaelli, Cindy Maria Bande de Leon, Akis Psomas, Pamela Manzi** for their presentation, according the following list.

- Presentation of D3A team member, **Prof. Massimo Mozzon**, about (i) completed tasks, (ii) main results and deliverables achieved and (iii) tasks in progress at UNIVPM dealing with the technological characterization of aqueous crude extracts from *Onopordum tauricum*.
- Presentation of D3A team member, **Prof. Nadia Raffaelli**, about (i) completed tasks, (ii) main results and deliverables achieved and (iii) tasks in progress at UNIVPM dealing with the biochemical characterization of aqueous crude extracts from *Onopordum tauricum* and as well as purification of proteases with milk-clotting activity from this extract.
- Presentation of UCAM Team member, Dr. **Cindy Maria Bande de Leon**, about (i) completed tasks, (ii) main results and deliverables achieved and (iii) tasks in progress at UCAM, dealing with the technological characterization of aqueous crude extracts from *Onopordum platylepis* and *C. humilis*.
- Presentation of DEMETER Principal Investigator (PI), Dr. **Akis Psomas**, about (i) completed tasks, (ii) main results and deliverables achieved and (iii) tasks in progress at DEMETER, dealing with the microbiological characterization of the extracts from the three species, *O. platylepis*, *O. tauricum*, *C. humilis*.
- Presentation of CREA-AN Principal Investigator (PI), Dr **Pamela Manzi**, about (i) completed tasks, (ii) main results and deliverables achieved and (iii) tasks in progress at CREA-AN, dealing with the chemical characterization of the extracts from the three species, *O. platylepis*, *O. tauricum*, *C. humilis*.

4. Discussion and issues from the Partners

The Coordinator expresses her own appreciation for the impressive results achieved by the VEGGIE-MED-CHEESE Consortium and the encouraging evidences related to the exploitability of the project outcomes by the Mediterranean dairy industry. Then, she opens the discussion. The issues that were discussed are listed below and briefly described.

- For *O. tauricum*, in agreement with Food technologists working at UCAM, Dr Cindy Maria Bande de Leon suggested to prof. Massimo Mozzon to perform a standard assay for the evaluation of the milk-clotting activity of the extract, according to ISO 11815:2007 [IDF 157:2007] Milk — Determination of total milk-clotting activity of bovine rennets, using commercial powdered milk. This will help for a comparison of the milk-coagulation strength of the three species under study.
- Dr Antonio Raffo, from CREA-AN suggests to consider- for the final choice of the species to be exploited for the cheese-making trials- the evidences emerged by analysing the technological but also agronomical variables (e.g. germinability of the seeds, cultivability, etc.). The Coordinators fully agrees with Antonio and states that as soon as prof Massimo Mozzon makes the last data available, a further meeting specifically focussed on thistle species selection and cheese-making trials will be scheduled.

As there is nothing else to discuss, the project Coordinator declares the session closed at 13.15.

VEGGIE-MED-CHEESES Project Coordinator

Prof. Lucia Aquilanti PhD

