



Launch of the Project

The consortium of the CLICHA project is celebrating the launch of the project this October.

The kick-off meeting is scheduled for December and the partners are eager to get together and set the basis for the realization of this exciting project.

The strategic objective of EU-Tunisia relations involves supporting sustainable development, reducing social and regional inequalities, and improving the population's standard of living.

The project's consortium embraces an interdisciplinary approach of to the complex problem of climate change and all six project's HEIs will work together to this direction with the support of the technical partners.

It is going to be an exciting journey, and all the partners are excited to get along and work for the benefit of Tunisia and of course, science.

The idea

The world we live in constantly changes ("everything flows" as the Greek philosopher Heraclitus pointed 2.500 years ago). Nowadays, one of the major drivers of this principle is Climate Change (CC).

The Mediterranean region has been identified as one of the most prominent CC hot-spots. In fact, CC could further exacerbate existing problems related to water scarcity, groundwater salinization and soil desertification, thus resulting in a decrease in land productivity, agricultural yields and rural income.

Agriculture has often been blamed for significantly contributing to environmental pollution. The unreasonable use of fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides and antibiotics in the conventional agriculture has induced many problems in the world, with the recent food crises being the most notable examples.

Therefore, the consortium decided to name the project Climate Change in Agriculture – CLICHA signaling that new approaches in agriculture are essential, today more than ever.

"CLimate CHange in Agriculture is designed to modernize, improve accessibility and internationalization of higher education in the Tunisia considering all necessary skills for sustainable agriculture, respectful of the environment and climate change resilience."

Erasmus+ Programme

Erasmus+ is the European Union's program for education, training, youth and sport for the period 2014-2020. It offers many opportunities for students, teachers, staff and higher education institutions (HEIs) around the world.



CLICHA
CLIMATE CHANGE IN AGRICULTURE
Project Nr. 586273-EPP-1-2017-1-EL-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP



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Objectives

The wider objective of this project is to create qualified scientists who will contribute to the development of environmentally friendly and sustainable agriculture and will be readily absorbed by the labour market. These scientists could become the transformation factor for the whole society towards a more sustainable way of farming, production, consuming and living.

The strategic objective of EU-Tunisia relations involves supporting sustainable development, reducing social and regional inequalities, and improving the population's standard of living.

The specific objectives of this project are :

- ✚ The creation of a concrete educational material on the Climate Change and its effects on agriculture and animal production in particular, as well as the measures that could be adapted in local perspective. The water and soil conservation practices, and water harvesting techniques, might be considered as good practices for rainfed farming to improve agriculture resilience for climate change. This opportunity can improve young qualified scientists' capacities to cope with climate change.
- ✚ The modernisation of university courses, based on that educational material through assessment of the existing educational programmes for engineer, master, and doctoral levels prior to developing the appropriate lectures.
- ✚ The adaptation of these courses to the specific conditions of the Southern side of Mediterranean area in general and to those of Tunisia, specifically. In particular, the adopted lectures can improve courses in the CCGE Master's degree accredited at ESIER, by integrating good agricultural practices into the competencies targeted of educational program.

- ✚ The use of ICT technologies for the delivery of the courses by creating specific tools (presentations, videos, website, e-learning platform, social media).
- ✚ The strengthening of the internationalization of HEIs and the capacity to network effectively in research, scientific and technological innovation.
- ✚ The HEIs-enterprises cooperation, through the foreseen Business fora.

Expected impact

Though CLICHA aims directly on HEIs, its impact is expected to be far wider than originally designed. In particular, the target groups that will use the project's outputs are the:

Teaching/academic staff: EU HEIs will benefit from the cooperation & brainstorming during the preparation of the educational material and the courses. Tunisian HEIs will broaden their horizons & increase their capacity to pass on knowledge, experience and novel learning methodologies by receiving a modern, attractive and full package of educational material, structured courses, media, ICT tools and cognitive content on the subject of Climate Change in Agriculture. Furthermore, they will be trained in ICT technologies and acquire useful skills and tools for their work.



- **Students in Tunisia will:** attend exciting modernized courses on CC, its effects on animal and crop production, and the possible measures to be taken. It will be a question of evaluating the appropriateness of integrating

in the cognitive aspects the good practices for the adaptation of the agriculture to the CC, in particular soil and water conservation practices, sustainable groundwater use, innovative technologies of irrigation in order to improve agriculture resilience. Moreover, they will be lectured by EU Academics & participate in specialized Business fora, enriching their education and experiences, and promoting their access to the professional and work placement. Additionally, they will practice on the new equipment, gaining thus a lot in terms of theoretical and field knowledge.

For environmental protection to become a reality, it is important for societies to develop environmental legislation, ethics and education, which together, will inform and drive decision making.

Enterprises, businesses, commercial & other companies: In CLICHA project, special attention has been given to the private sector and its live cells – the businesses. Through their participation and implication in the project events and tasks, they will be informed about the opportunities opened in North Africa. They will also acquire and exchange knowledge from the HEIs and other businesses. Finally, they will have the opportunity of working together with the HEIs' communities and initiating alliances with Academics and students. The involvement of P7, which is directly operating with farmers in Tunisia, would ensure that the project's achievements will be promoted in the best possible way.

Society: Most of the professionals who develop, lead, manage, teach, work in, and influence society's institutions are trained in HEIs. By informing them on the phenomenon of CC and training them on how to reduce and/or overcome it, one can hope that they will contribute towards a more climate-neutral & sustainable society. Turning green is the slogan of our times.