



Valorization Legumes Related Ecosystem Services

D1.7: Synergies plan (Version 1)

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² Please consult the Grant Agreement: PU – Public, fully open, e.g. web (Deliverables flagged as public will be automatically published in CORDIS project’s page); SEN – Sensitive, limited under the conditions of the Grant Agreement; Classified R-UE/EU-R – EU RESTRICTED under the Commission Decision No2015/444; Classified C-UE/EU-C - EU CONFIDENTIAL under the Commission Decision No2015/444; Classified S-UE/EU-S – EU SECRET under the Commission Decision No2015/444

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VALERECO Consortium

No.	Participant organization name	Short name	Country
1	GEOPONIKO PANEPISTIMIO ATHINON	AUA	GR
2	ESC DIJON BOURGOGNE	BSB	FR
3	DELPHY BV	DELPHY	NL
4	UNIVERSIDADE DE COIMBRA	UC	PT
5	REFRAME FOOD ASTIKI MI KERDOSKOPIKI ETAIRIA	RFF	GR
6	INSTITUT ZA RATARSTVO I POVRTARSTVO INSTITUT OD NACIONALNOG ZNACAJA ZA REPUBLIKU SRBIJU	IFVCNS	RS
7	GOTTFRIED WILHELM LEIBNIZ UNIVERSITAET HANNOVER	LUH	DE
8	STICHTING WAGENINGEN RESEARCH	WR	NL
9	INSTITUTO NAVARRO DE TECNOLOGIAS E INFRAESTRUCTURAS AGROALIMENTARIAS SA	INTIA	ES
10	AgriFood Lithuania DIH	AFL	LT
11	UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI FIRENZE	UNIFI	IT
12	UNIVERSITA DI PISA	UNIFI	IT
13	AG FUTURA TECHNOLOGII DOOEL SKOPJE	AGFT	MK
14	SCUOLA SUPERIORE DI STUDI UNIVERSITARI E DI PERFEZIONAMENTO S ANNA	SSSA	IT
15	HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation	HELVETAS	CH

Summary

The VALERECO Synergies Plan aims to enhance the impact of the project by strategically connecting its ecosystem with other funded initiatives, thematic networks, and ongoing projects within the EU focusing on legume research, agroecology, and soil health. By leveraging the expertise and roles of its consortium partners in various Horizon and PRIMA projects, VALERECO seeks to create a robust network of collaboration that will drive innovation, knowledge exchange, and dissemination of results.

Key objectives of the synergies include enhancing cross-project collaboration, promoting mutual evaluation of activities and outcomes, and joining efforts in communication and dissemination among similar projects. Through these synergies, VALERECO will contribute valuable outcomes, including decision support systems and a digital hub, to other projects and stakeholders, enriching the broader scientific and agricultural community. Three cooperation meetings are planned to facilitate this integration and ensure active participation from various stakeholders and related projects across Europe.

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List of abbreviations

EU	European Union	
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1. Introduction

The VALERECO project aims to develop an EU-wide legume ecosystem that identifies barriers and enablers of legume adoption and highlights the economic and environmental benefits of integrating legumes into European agricultural systems. This approach supports biodiversity, climate resilience, and sustainable farming practices across the EU. Synergies are a core activity of the VALERECO project, designed to extend the impact of its activities by linking the project to other initiatives, addressing scientific and policy perspectives, and creating a collaborative network of research and innovation.

The VALERECO Synergies Plan (D1.7) outlines a strategy to connect the VALERECO ecosystem with other funded projects, thematic networks, and upcoming EU initiatives focused on legume research, agroecology, and soil health. Key objectives of these synergies include providing further elements for mapping ecosystem services offered by legume crops, enhancing cross-project collaboration through mutual evaluation of project activities and outcomes, and joining efforts on communication and dissemination among similar projects.

VALERECO's consortium partners are actively involved in significant Horizon and PRIMA projects, such as LegValue, LEGU-MED, GOOD, and Smart Protein, and have roles in existing Living Labs across Europe. This extensive involvement positions VALERECO as a central player in collaborative research, enabling it to monitor and engage with successful initiatives and thematic networks while approaching upcoming projects for potential participation in the VALERECO ecosystem.

Three cooperation meetings are planned at key project milestones (M3, M18, and M36) to facilitate integration, exchange best practices, and coordinate efforts with other related initiatives. Through these collaborative efforts, VALERECO will enhance cross-project synergies, amplify the dissemination of its results, and contribute valuable outcomes, such as decision support systems (DSS) and a digital hub, to the broader scientific and agricultural community.

The deliverable 1.7 "Synergies Plan" will report the progress and outcomes of these collaborative activities during the first three months of the project, with subsequent reports planned for months 18 and 36. This

strategic approach ensures that VALERECO not only meets its objectives but also fosters a wider impact on legume research and agroecological practices throughout Europe.

2. Participants

All VALERECO consortium partners have played a crucial role in the preparation of the Deliverable 1.7 “Synergies Plan,” leveraging their active participation in numerous related projects and networks. This involvement allows them to directly contribute their specialized expertise, facilitate connections, and establish synergies with aligned initiatives. By drawing on the knowledge and experiences gained from their engagements in these projects, consortium members strengthen VALERECO’s collaborative framework, enriching the project’s research and innovation efforts through cross-project insights and best practices.

3. Methodology

The synergies of the VALERECO project were established based on information collected by the consortium partners. The VALERECO partners contacted networks and European and national projects funded under the VALERECO topic, in which they participate, to create synergies by linking with other projects and networks to exchange knowledge on legumes and their ecosystem services.

The methodology of VALERECO emphasizes the co-creation and collaboration approach with various stakeholders across Europe to optimize the integration of legumes in farming systems. The project’s strategy includes engaging directly with relevant European and national projects, leveraging a participatory process where stakeholders actively contribute to the research design. This co-creative approach allows VALERECO to tailor its strategies to the specific needs and conditions of different agricultural systems, ensuring practical and impactful results.

4. Synergies with Projects

Establishing synergies with different initiatives delivering innovations is key in Europe for creating an enabling environment that benefits all parties. Despite VALERECO being in its third month, several synergies with various projects have been initiated, and potential collaborations have been identified and will be further developed within the project's framework.

VALERECO's synergies are built on strategic collaborations with other Horizon and PRIMA projects, facilitating the exchange of best practices, knowledge, and data. Among others, VALERECO benefits from existing networks and established frameworks, by connecting with initiatives such as LEGU-MED, LegValue, GOOD and EcoStack. These synergies enhance VALERECO's capacity to evaluate and integrate ecosystem services offered by legumes, improving decision support systems and fostering sustainable agriculture across Europe.

4.1 Projects linked with VALERECO

The VALERECO project is strategically linked with numerous national and international initiatives that enhance its research, impact, and dissemination activities. These collaborations allow VALERECO to draw from a wealth of existing knowledge, data, and methodologies, strengthening its capacity to innovate and deliver effective solutions for legume-based agricultural systems.

These linked projects are diverse, spanning various regions across Europe and beyond, each contributing unique expertise in areas such as agroecology, biodiversity, ecosystem services, sustainable farming practices, and digital tools. By engaging with these initiatives, VALERECO not only amplifies its research outcomes but also enriches the scientific community's understanding of legumes' environmental, economic, and social benefits.

The synergies fostered through these partnerships enable VALERECO to:

- **Leverage shared resources and expertise:** Accessing datasets, tools, and innovative methodologies developed by other projects helps VALERECO refine its research design and implementation strategies, ensuring the integration of best practices.

- **Enhance knowledge exchange and learning:** Regular interactions and collaborative activities with project partners facilitate the continuous exchange of knowledge, allowing VALERECO to stay updated on the latest advancements and challenges in legume research and agroecological transitions.
- **Promote cross-project innovation:** By actively participating in the broader ecosystem of research initiatives, VALERECO can co-create innovative solutions tailored to diverse farming systems, enhancing the project's capacity to address complex agricultural and environmental challenges.
- **Support policy and market integration:** Many of the linked projects work on bridging the gap between scientific research and policy or market adoption. VALERECO benefits from these connections by aligning its outputs with policy needs, market demands, and stakeholder expectations, making its findings more applicable and impactful.
- **Strengthen communication and dissemination efforts:** Through joint dissemination activities, VALERECO extends its reach to wider audiences, including farmers, policymakers, researchers, and the general public, ensuring that its results contribute to ongoing dialogues on sustainable agriculture and ecosystem management.
- **Foster a network of living labs and stakeholder engagement:** VALERECO's involvement with these projects allows it to participate in Living Labs and other participatory research environments, where practical, on-the-ground testing of research outputs takes place. This interaction helps validate VALERECO's approaches and fine-tune solutions to meet real-world needs.

Overall, these connections not only enrich VALERECO's scientific and operational scope but also position it as a pivotal player in the European research landscape dedicated to enhancing legume-based farming systems. This integrated approach ensures that VALERECO's efforts are not conducted in isolation but are part of a dynamic, collaborative network working towards shared goals of sustainability, biodiversity enhancement, and agricultural innovation.

Below is a list of key projects linked with VALERECO, each contributing specific knowledge, methodologies, and collaborative opportunities that support the broader objectives of the VALERECO initiative:

LEGU-MED Legumes in biodiversity-based farming systems in Mediterranean basin	
Type of project	Applied research project
Leading organisation	University of Firenze
Region(s)/Country(s)	Lead: Italy European Partners: 3 IT, 1 DE, 1 HR, 1 ES International Partners: 1 DZ, 1 LB, 1 TN, 1 TR
Main contact(s)	Federico Martinelli (UNIFI)
Website	https://www.legumedunfi.it/
Short Description of the Project	<p>LEGU-MED aim is to valorize, restore and manage legume biodiversity in future Mediterranean farming systems with enhanced environmental sustainability. This purpose will be obtained through: 1) an agronomic, phenotypic and molecular evaluation of wild relatives, land races, neglected genotypes, elite cultivars of lentil and chickpea obtained from different regions of the Mediterranean basin, 2) development of improved traditional farming systems using different strategies: i) diversification, ii) multi-crop rotations, iii) biological regulation of ecosystems, iv) enhanced plant-microbe symbiosis, v) natural resource conservation. We have assembled a multi-disciplinary consortium composed by 11 partners from 8 countries and consisting of 5 public universities, 5 research centers and 1 company. Our activities are designed to increase ecosystem services, maintain soil fertility, minimize the use of synthetic chemical compounds, and maintain a satisfactory and steady income for growers. LEGU-MED will use a participatory process where a subset of stakeholder’s community will be involved in the co-creation of innovative solutions. The proposal is structured in 4 work packages (WP). In WP1, we will recover, collect and characterize a wide germplasm collection of lentil and chickpea. An agronomic and genomic characterization of 125 genotypes (25 per 5 countries) for each crop will be performed in controlled conditions. The best 10 genotypes for each country will be evaluated in 5 different geographic areas of the</p>

	<p>Mediterranean basin (two years). In WP2, we will develop and test new legume-based farming systems to enhance ecosystem services and their environmental sustainability. In WP3, improved rhizobial genotype-specific strains and low-impact agro- technological measures will be developed. In WP4, a detailed plan of socio-economic analysis, management and dissemination of outputs will be performed.</p>
<p>Short Description of the Synergy</p>	<p>First evidence from literature and field work from LEGU-MED on associated biodiversity and pulse related cultural ecosystem services in the Mediterranean can feed into the Decision Support Model and can inform VALERECO’s research design.</p>

<p>LEGVALUE Fostering sustainable legume-based farming systems and agri-feed and food chains in the EU</p>	
<p>Type of project</p>	<p>RIA - Research and Innovation action</p>
<p>Leading organisation</p>	<p>Terres Inovia</p>
<p>Region(s)/Country(s)</p>	<p>Lead: France</p> <p>European Partners: 12 FR, 2 NL, 3 DE, 3 IT, 2 DK, 2 PT, 1 LT, 1 LV, 2 UK</p> <p>Associated Partners: 1 CH</p>
<p>Main contact(s)</p>	<p>Daniele Antichi (UNIFI)</p>
<p>Website</p>	<p>http://www.legvalue.eu/</p>
<p>Short Description of the Project</p>	<p>The agricultural industry plays a vital role in ensuring the sustainability of populations and meeting their food requirements. It is also a significant component of various value chains, supplying essential goods. Therefore, it is essential to introduce innovations that can minimise its environmental impact and enhance its overall sustainability, thereby</p>

	<p>mitigating the impact of climate change. The EU-funded LEGVALUE project aims to develop and implement new farming systems based on legumes that are both sustainable and competitive. The project’s objective is to integrate these systems into European food chains and agri-feed systems. To accomplish this, the project will highlight the economic and environmental benefits of these legume-based farming systems and provide evidence of their positive impact on a list of 20 value chains.</p>
<p>Short Description of the Synergy</p>	<p>Literature review on knowledge gaps of legume-linked ES, European Grain Yield Legume Dataset, European legume market analysis and policy needs can feed VALERECO input, valorization and output activities. The “Legume Innovation Network” developed by LegValue can provide a basis for DSS, capacity building and dissemination activities of VALERECO.</p>

<p>OPER8 European thematic network for unlocking the full potential of operational groups on alternative weed control</p>	
<p>Type of project</p>	<p>CSA-Coordination and Support Actions</p>
<p>Leading organisation</p>	<p>Agricultural University of Athens</p>
<p>Region(s)/Country(s)</p>	<p>Lead: Greece</p> <p>European Partners: 2EL, 1IT, 1FR, 1SW, 2 LV, 1SP</p> <p>Associated Partners: 2UK</p>
<p>Main contact(s)</p>	<p>Spyros Fountas (AUA)</p>
<p>Website</p>	<p>https://www.oper-8.eu/</p>

<p>Short Description of the Project</p>	<p>By building upon the outcomes of eight Operational Groups across Europe, the Oper8 Thematic Network will establish stakeholder engagement processes to set up and connect national networks in each partner country. It will also uncover the drivers, barriers and root causes for the lack of non-chemical weed control adoption. The network will collect, analyse, validate, and widely disseminate non-chemical weed solutions (Oper8 Inventory, Best Practices), and establish cross-fertilisation activities (workshops, demo farms) within and across the national networks. The aim will be to co-create, showcase and evaluate non-chemical weed control methods. It will also deploy knowledge transfer tools and techniques (training and policy recommendations) to adapt, disseminate and scale-up alternative weed control solutions and ensure their diffusion within countries and across Europe.</p>
<p>Short Description of the Synergy</p>	<p>VALERECO will liaise with OPER8 to consolidate gains and partnerships with relevant OGs. Exchange best practices, implement synergies and deliver added value communication, dissemination & exploitation activities.</p>

<p>GOOD Agroecology for weeds</p>	
<p>Type of project</p>	<p>RIA - Research and Innovation action</p>
<p>Leading organisation</p>	<p>University of Coimbra</p>
<p>Region(s)/Country(s)</p>	<p>Lead: Portugal European Partners: 4GR, 2FR, 4IT, 1PT, 1CY, 1BE, 2ES,1LV, 1NL, 1IE, 1RS</p>
<p>Main contact(s)</p>	<p>Alexandros Tataridas (UC)</p>
<p>Website</p>	<p>https://www.goodhorizon.eu/</p>

<p>Short Description of the Project</p>	<p>The overall objective of GOOD is to co-create innovative, systemic and sustainable AWM solutions through the deployment of LLs and to encourage a long-term and large-scale transition to sustainable biodiversity- based agri-food systems through the development of the AWM Network (AWMN).</p>
<p>Short Description of the Synergy</p>	<p>GOOD will provide specific knowledge about the barriers, drivers and challenges in the sustainable production of legumes. This knowledge will be exported from surveys and LLs which are going to be established from the partners who participate in both GOOD and VALERECO.</p>

CropMix	
Type of project	CropMix is a five-year research programme, running from 2023 to 2027, funded by the Dutch Research Council (NWO). The programme is part of the National Science Agenda and is known under file number NWA.1389.20.160.
Leading organisation	Wageningen University & Research
Region(s)/Country(s)	Lead: Netherlands 35 partners from NL
Main contact(s)	Daniel de Jong (WR)
Website	https://cropmix.nl/en/
Short Description of the Project	CropMix promotes the transition to more robust agro-food production ecosystems, in which biodiversity and resilience are the starting points. Sustainable arable farming is based on the ecological principle of (crop) diversity, but the transition to ecology-based agriculture requires changes in technology, knowledge, values and regulations in addition to changes in ecology. Therefore, in CropMix, researchers from various disciplines (ecology, economics, social sciences) work together with various chain partners, such as governments, crop protection organisations, breeders, nature organisations, banks, food chain partners, green education and other partners who play a role in helping to accelerate the transition in practice. Central to the research programme are 25 arable farms working on crop diversity using strip cropping.
Short Description of the Synergy	CropMix will assess diverse crop diversification and rotation systems to reduce the use of pesticides and mitigate climate change. These measures include strip-cropping, intercropping and crop diversification including legumes, fall in line with the objectives of VALERECO.

EcoStack Stacking of ecosystem services: mechanisms and interactions for optimal crop protection, pollination enhancement, and productivity	
Type of project	RIA - Research and Innovation action
Leading organisation	University of Napoli "Federico II" Italy
Region(s)/Country(s)	<p>Lead: Italy</p> <p>European Partners: 1 SE, 1 DK, 1 FR, 4 DE, 2 FI, 1 BG, 1 RS, 1 BA, 1 PL, 1 PT, 1 ES</p> <p>Associated Partners: 1 FI</p>
Main contact(s)	Rui Oliveira (UC)
Website	https://ecostack-h2020.eu/
Short Description of the Project	<p>Agriculture has to face the great challenge of balancing the demand for high productivity, imposed by the global increase of human population, with environmental impacts and social acceptability of new production strategies. EcoStack will develop ecologically, economically and socially sustainable crop production strategies via stacking of biodiversity service providers and bio-inspired tools for crop protection, within and around agricultural fields, in order enhance sustainability of food production systems across Europe.</p>
Short Description of the Synergy	<p>Knowledge gained about ecosystem services with different tested EcoStack measures (e.g., mulching and use of cover crops, used across different crop systems) will help to improve VALERECO strategies in the different LLs.</p>

BENCHMARKS | Building a European Network for the Characterisation and Harmonisation of Monitoring Approaches for Research and Knowledge on Soils

Type of project	RIA - Research and Innovation action
Leading organisation	Wageningen University
Region(s)/Country(s)	Lead: Netherlands European Partners: 3ES, 3NL, 2DE, 2IT, 4FR, 1FI, 1PT, 1SI, 2CZ, 2AT, 1NO Associated Partners: 2UK, 2CH
Main contact(s)	Rui Oliveira (UC)
Website	/https://soilhealthbenchmarks.eu/
Short Description of the Project	Soils provide food, clean water, habitats for biodiversity and other important services. There is no life without them. In this context, the EU-funded BENCHMARKS project will co-design an Integrated Soil Health Monitoring Framework, which will build upon the assessment of soil-based ecosystem functions to co-develop an interactive soil health dashboard. The aim is to guide the selection of appropriate soil health indicators, soil health assessment and indexation, and recommendation of management practices to support soil health. The dashboard will be designed for different stakeholders in urban, agricultural and forestry land use systems. Its proposed indicators (sample-based measurements and data, and model-derived statistics), space and citizen science observations will be tested in landscape case studies across Europe.
Short Description of the Synergy	BENCHMARKS will help VALERECO in the definition of the best soil health indicators, & VALERECO assessments across all LLs, acting as a validation for BENCHMARKS indicators.

Firmen Fördern Vielfalt (Companies Foster Biodiversity)	
Type of project	National research project
Leading organisation	Leibniz University Hannover
Region(s)/Country(s)	Lead: Germany All partners were based in DE
Main contact(s)	Christina von Haaren (LUH)
Website	https://www.umwelt.uni-hannover.de/de/sybertz/forschungsprojekte/forschungsprojekt-detailansicht/projects/firmen-foerdern-vielfalt-1
Short Description of the Project	The aim of the "Companies Promote Diversity" research project is to develop easily recordable indicators for measuring biodiversity on supplier farms of food-producing companies and to determine their informative value through on-site recording. By assessing the biodiversity services provided, a basis is to be created for sustainably maintaining or improving biodiversity on the farms.
Short Description of the Synergy	The identified key easy-to-record indicators for measuring biodiversity at the plot scale and the modelling approach to refine the field's habitat value assessments including management factors will inform the evaluations and valorisation in VALERECO.

EU-FarmBook Supporting knowledge exchange between all AKIS actors in the European Union	
Type of project	RIA - Research and Innovation action
Leading organisation	Ghent University
Region(s)/Country(s)	Lead: Belgium European Partners: 5 BE, 4 NL, 1 GR, 3 ES, 1 RO, 1 FI, 1 SE, 1 LA, 1 DK, 1 PT, 3 DE, 1 IE, 1 IT, 1 FR, 1 EE, 1 POL, 1 AT, 1 HU
Main contact(s)	Hercules Panoutsopoulos (AUA)
Website	https://welcome.eufarmbook.eu/
Short Description of the Project	An online, open-source, European knowledge reservoir about agriculture and forestry practical solutions was developed by two EU projects, EURAKNOS and EUREKA. The EU-funded EU-FarmBook project will further develop this digital platform, making it easy to search for and share practical knowledge about farming and forestry from regional, national and EU research and innovation projects. This is the first long-term, EU-wide digital knowledge reservoir. The EU-FarmBook platform will connect many AKIS actors, provide training materials as an input to the advisors and serve education institutes. In terms of dissemination, EU-FarmBook will form links to traditional channels, such as agricultural journals. The overall aim is for the platform to stimulate knowledge exchange, user interaction and collaboration, ultimately resulting in innovation for environmentally, socially and economically sustainable agriculture and forestry.
Short Description of the Synergy	The outcomes of VALERECO will be integrated into the EU-FARMBOOK knowledge reservoir to preserve practice-oriented knowledge.

IPM Decisions Stepping-up IPM decision support for crop protection	
Type of project	RIA - Research and Innovation action
Leading organisation	ADAS UK
Region(s)/Country(s)	Lead: GB European Partners: 1 GB, 1 SE, 1 NO, 1 LT, 1 FI, 1 NL, 1 DE, 1 IT, 1 FR, 1 GR, 1 SI, 2 DK
Main contact(s)	Mark Ramsden (ADAS)
Website	www.platform.ipmdecisions.net / www.ipmdecisions.net
Short Description of the Project	The aim of IPM Decisions is to development of a platform for DSS. Ambition is to make DSS available for all farmers and advisors across Europe. DSS for pests, diseases and weeds. Currently approximately 25 DSS available.
Short Description of the Synergy	Partners will be conducted with the stakeholders of IPM Decisions to disseminate the VALERECO results and identify key stakeholders and potent end-users.

IPMWORKS An EU-wide farm network demonstrating and promoting cost-effective IPM strategies	
Type of project	CSA - Coordination and support action

Leading organisation	INRAE
Region(s)/Country(s)	Lead: France European Partners: 2 DK, 4 FR, 4 ES, 1 RS, 1 PT, 2 NL, 1 CH, 2 BE, 1 GR, 2 DE, 1 SE, 1 SI, 1 PL, 3 GB, 1 FI, 2 IT, 1 IE, 1 DK
Main contact(s)	Spyros Fountas (AUA)
Website	www.ipmworks.net
Short Description of the Project	Demonstration of holistic IPM strategies, showing that IPM indeed works. 20 farmer groups across countries and sectors are the key element in this project.
Short Description of the Synergy	IPMWORKS has developed the IPM Resource Toolbox, onto which VALERECO resources can be added to preserve practice-oriented knowledge.

AgroServ | Integrated Services supporting a sustainable AGROecological transition

Type of project	RIA - Research and Innovation action
Leading organisation	ANALYSIS AND EXPERIMENTATION ON ECOSYSTEMS ERIC
Region(s)/Country(s)	Lead: France European Partners: 1 AT, 9 BE, 1 BG, 3 CZ, 2 DK, 2 FI, 5 FR, 5 DE, 1 GR, 6 IT, 1 IE, 1 LT, 2 NL, 1 NOR, 1 PL, 5 PT, 1 RO, 1 RS, 1 SI, 5 ES, 1 SE, 2 SUI, 6 UK, 4 EU

Main contact(s)	Jegor Miladinović (IFCNS)
Website	https://agroserv.eu/
Short Description of the Project	AgroServ aims to provide the scientific community with large, high profile research services to facilitate and enable interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research in agroecology and foster open science and innovation.
Short Description of the Synergy	AgroServ aims to grow the agroecology research community and support the cross-fertilisation of knowledge. This knowledge will inform the demo and capacity building activities of VALERECO.

REVINE | Regenerative agricultural approaches to improve ecosystem services in Mediterranean vineyards

Type of project	RIA - Research & Innovation Action
Leading organisation	CREA
Region(s)/Country(s)	Lead: Italy European Partners: 5 IT, 3 CY, 1 EG, 1 FR, 2 GR, 3 PT, 1 TN
Main contact(s)	Nikos Georgantzis (BSB)
Website	https://mel.cgiar.org/projects/revine

Short Description of the Project	The overall objective of REVINE is to prove that the application of regenerative agriculture practices in farms located in the Mediterranean area is capable of preserving water resources and soil fertility, controlling soil erosion, and creating the soil physico-chemical conditions that favour the presence of beneficial microorganisms.
Short Description of the Synergy	VALERECO will be fed with cost effectiveness, market valuations and the overall economic analysis developed in REVINE.

MANUELA | Management System Nature Conservation for Sustainable Agriculture

Type of project	Research cooperation/group fed by several national research projects
Leading organisation	Leibniz University Hannover
Region(s)/Country(s)	Lead: Germany
Main contact(s)	Christina von Haaren (LUH)
Website	https://www.umwelt.uni-hannover.de/en/research/cooperations/manuela-nature-conservation-management-system-for-sustainable-agriculture
Short Description of the Project	Development of algorithms and an open-source software for environmental impact assessment of agriculture on the environment, especially focussing on biodiversity. The software supports farms in particular in: (i) the presentation and evaluation of farm performance with regard to biodiversity and the biotope connectivity, (ii) the analysis of agricultural management effects and (biotope) development potentials, (iii) the estimation of water consumption and related costs, and (iv) the derivation of measures to optimise sustainable operational management.

Short Description of the Synergy	VALERECO, will develop a Decision Support System, and will build on existing knowledge and insights from MANUELA and use it as a basis to create an easy-to-use GIS-independent legume web-tool.
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BEATLES Behavioural Change Towards Climate-Smart Agriculture	
Type of project	RIA - Research & Innovation Action
Leading organisation	Agricultural University of Athens (AUA)
Region(s)/Country(s)	Lead: Greece European Partners: 2 NL, 2 DK, 1 BE, 1 SE, 2 GR, 1 DE, 2 ES, 3 LT, 1 SI Associated Partners: 1 UK
Main contact(s)	Spyros Fountas (AUA)
Website	https://beatles-project.eu/
Short Description of the Project	BEATLES aspires to identify the individual, systemic and policy lock-ins and levers that influence entire food systems behavioural change and to develop transformation pathways of change to accelerate the systemic and systematic transition to climate-smart agriculture and smart farming technologies, fully aligned with the ambitions of the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies, and the new CAP at regional and EU levels.
Short Description of the Synergy	BEATLES assesses barriers for the adoption of sustainable cropping strategies in practice and identifies solutions for these barriers. This knowledge will be shared with VALERECO partners.

REECAP Research network on Economic Experiments for the Common Agricultural Policy	
Type of project	Network
Leading organisation	n/a
Region(s)/Country(s)	Lead: n/a European Partners: FR, SWE, GER, PL, NL, PT, SP, SL, AUST, UK, IR
Main contact(s)	Ann-Kathrin Koessler (LUH)
Website	https://sites.google.com/view/reecap/about
Short Description of the Project	REECAP is a EU-wide informal consortium created in 2017, with the objective to bring together researchers, experts and policy makers interested in the use of economic experimental approaches to evaluate and improve the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).
Short Description of the Synergy	The network applies economic experimental approaches with the aim of contributing to the improvement of the EU's CAP by evidence-based policy design and evaluation. This knowledge will feed Task 1.3 of VALERECO.

4.2 Other projects under the same topic

Online meetings were held separately with projects funded under the VALERECO topic (LegumES and Legendary), as well as a cooperative meeting involving both projects. The aim was to exchange best practices, implement synergies, and deliver added value in communication, dissemination, and exploitation activities. During the cooperative meeting, VALERECO and the two sister projects presented their objectives, project structures including work packages and tasks. Subsequently, a productive

discussion ensued to define potential synergies among the projects, such as organising joint workshops and events, sharing data, establishing a shared MS Teams environment for project presentations, detailing work packages and their leaders, scheduling regular meetings among project coordinators to discuss, plan, and implement collaborative opportunities, and exchanging experiences related to project management, communication, and research activities. The next meeting is scheduled for the beginning of September.

LEGENDARY | KnowLEdGE creation and iNcreasing acreage of legumes in Diversified cropping systems by quAntification of theiR ecosYstem services

Type of project	RIA - Research and Innovation Actions
Leading organisation	Ghent University, Belgium
Region(s)/Country(s)	Lead: Belgium European Partners: 4 BE, 1 IT, 2 DK, 3 CH, 2 LU, 2 DE, 1 EL, 2 UK, 1 ES, 1 NL, 2 RS
Main contact(s)	Geert Haesaert, Steven Maenhout
Website	-
Short Description of the Project	The objective of LEGENDARY is to remove the barriers that hamper a significant and stable increase of the growing area of legumes in Europe. LEGENDARY has the ambition to develop tools and methods going considerably beyond the state-of-the-art to quantify Ecosystem Services (ESs) of perennial and of annual legumes in different agro-climatic zones. Based on co-creation, LEGENDARY aligns its research strategy with the actual needs. Field experiments will be monitored by a combination of traditional observation methods and advanced sensing technologies whose sensor reads are translated to ES trait values by means of dedicated statistical and machine learning models. These data will be fortified with results from past/ongoing projects. Valuation of the provisioning ESs will mainly be based on historical data, as the focus is to develop tools/methods for the valuation of the regulating services as

	<p>well as for the valuation of cultural/social services including recreation, education and aesthetic values. These tools/methods will provide ready-to-use indicators to better equip farmers/advisors to evaluate and appreciate the benefits of legumes, including enhanced fertilising regimes, management of noxious organisms as well as recommendations to strengthen crop diversification and longer rotation cycles with crops beneficial for the environment, the farmer and the consumer. A user-friendly Collaborative Multicriteria Decision Support System will be developed, to assist farmers in the choice of legume species and cropping systems suitable for their farm. LEGENDARY's results will contribute to develop guidelines for science-policies bodies. Consequently, the results and implementation actions provided will ultimately contribute to achieve five of the 17 UN's Sustainable Development Goals and to accelerate the transition required by the European Green Deal. LEGENDARY's legumes have the ability to promote soil health and will thus contribute to the Soil Deal for Europe.</p>
<p>Short Description of the Synergy</p>	<p>LEGENDARY and VALERECO will have cross-project collaborations.</p>

<p>LegumES Valorising and balancing the ecosystem service benefits offered by legumes, and legume-based cropped systems</p>	
<p>Type of project</p>	<p>RIA - Research and Innovation Actions</p>
<p>Leading organisation</p>	<p>Universidade Católica Portuguesa (Science coordination), The James Hutton Institute (administrative coordination)</p>
<p>Region(s)/Country(s)</p>	<p>Lead: PT</p>

	<p>European Partners: 1 MK, 2 HU, 4 DE, 1 BE, 2 ES, 2 PT, 2 SI, 1 DK, 1 FR, 1 IT</p> <p>Third countries: 1 UK, 2 CH</p>
<p>Main contact(s)</p>	<p>Pietro Iannetta (JHI)</p>
<p>Website</p>	<p>www.legumes-project.eu</p>
<p>Short Description of the Project</p>	<p>The legumES will ensure: 1, the uptake of best practices in agrobiodiverse legume-based cropped systems; 2, the uptake of methodologies and tools to quantify and balance the environmental and economic ecosystem service (ES) benefits provided by legumes; 3, that the ES benefits and cost offered by legumes are quantified across scales from field, farm, regional, national, and global levels; and 4, ES will be assessed to identify those conditions which are able to meet the EU targets: to decrease agrichemical inputs and losses, combat climate change, reverse biodiversity loss, and ensure the best nutritional provisioning. To achieve this, legumES offers a multi-disciplinary consortium comprising 22 partners from 12 EU- and third countries (UK, CH) and including: 7, academic institutions; 6, Research and Technology Organizations; 5, SMEs (or micro-SMEs); 2, non-governmental organisations; and 2, large commercial companies. The individuals comprising legumES offer skills which include: agricultural-crop and -environment (ES) monitoring, life cycle assessment, economic- and socioeconomic-modelling, social-science, EU-agricultural and environmental policy, and law, plus decision support systems. The legumES research and innovation strategy centres on the use of a multiactor action-research approach, that is, where legume-facing stakeholders, and especially producers though all value chains actors, can ‘operate’, ‘collaborate’ and, reflect critically’ on the measured ES benefits and costs of legume-based cropped systems, including legumes use in marginal lands; so that an optimal balance of ES can be achieved with success locally, and globally. To help achieve this LegumES also centres activities on a suite of 25 innovative legume-based Pilot Studies which use a wide range of legume species and types, plus different cropping approaches and linked value chains spanning the pedoclimatic regions of Europe.</p>

Short Description of the Synergy	LegumES and VALERECO will have cross-project collaborations.
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4.3 Other relevant projects

The VALERECO project aims to connect with other relevant projects to share best practices, establish synergies where possible, and enhance the effectiveness of communication, dissemination, and exploitation activities.

VALPRO PATH new VALue landscapes for plant PROtein Pathways	
Type of project	HORIZON Innovation Actions
Leading organisation	TEAGASC - AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Region(s)/Country(s)	Lead: Ireland European Partners: 1 DK, 6 IT, 4 GR, 1 RS, 3 DE, 1 NL, 3 IE, 1 ES Associated Partners: 1 UK
Main contact(s)	Dr. Ewen Mullins [Coordinator /TEAGASC] (ewen.mullins@teagasc.ie) Richard Lynch [Project Manager/TEAGASC] (richard.lynch@teagasc.ie) Prof. Mladen Radisic [WP5 leader/FSH](mladen@foodscalehub.com)
Website	https://valpropath.eu/
Short Description of the Project	The current European plant-protein landscape is flawed. Heightened societal awareness of the environmental impact of consuming animal-based protein is driving the public’s awareness of alternative, sustainable sources of dietary protein. Yet, production systems are focussed heavily on the production of feedstock for direct transfer into animal sectors in

	<p>an attempt to counter the EU’s over-dependency on imported feed. In essence, there is an absence of premium supply chains - farmers miss out on added-value opportunities that exist within the crops they already grow across Europe. There is a need to increase resilience in farming systems to mitigate against increasingly volatile climate patterns and to support farming systems to meet Farm-to-Fork strategic objectives. Built on the principles of co-creation, innovation and demonstration, VALPRO Path will design, validate and deliver sustainable and competitive plant protein crop systems and value chains. Focussed on underpinning economic value for all actors in the supply chain, it will exploit beyond state-of-the-art innovations, demonstrating and evaluating potential across 5 multi-stakeholder ‘living lab’ innovation production systems (IPSS). With strong industry involvement, the project will deliver a stronger ecosystem for plant protein production, supported with robust evidence of the social, economic, environmental, climate and health benefits. VALPRO Path will deliver new, sustainable business models, showing how focussed research can come into practice. Sustainable diversification of rotations with grain legumes will support the transition to more environmentally sustainable farming. European agriculture is at a juncture in regard to the sustainable provision of dietary protein. It can embrace opportunities presented through existing innovations that are integrated into real-life scenarios to support stakeholders realise the new market opportunities that exist for indigenous, fully traceable plant protein.</p>
<p>Short Description of the Synergy</p>	<p>Foodscale Hub Greece was a common partner of VALPRO Path until its rebranding. Under its new identity, reframe.food is no longer an active project partner. However, the proven and established collaboration with VALPRO Path will facilitate the efforts to connect the two projects and schedule a meeting this month. The goal is to explore and discuss potential areas of cooperation between the projects.</p>

D4AgEco | Digitalisation for agroecology

<p>Type of project</p>	<p>CSA-Coordination and Support Action</p>
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Leading organisation	Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering and Bioeconomy (ATB)
Region(s)/Country(s)	Lead: Germany European Partners: 2 AT, 1 CY, 1 DK, 4 DE, 1 GR, 1 PT, 1 FI Associated Partners: 1 GB
Main contact(s)	Evangelos Anastasiou (AUA)
Website	https://d4agecol.eu/
Short Description of the Project	<p>The overall D4AgEcol objective is to provide knowledge for the transition to agroecological farming by identifying appropriate digital tools and technologies and suggesting measures to adapt and exploit their potential to the transition to sustainable food and agricultural systems. The project is driven by the vision of the rapid digitalisation of agriculture, which strengthens the agricultural sector.</p> <p>D4AgEcol will show the potential of digitalisation as enabler for agroecological farming systems in Europe based on available knowledge and actors and stakeholders co-innovation capacity. The Partners will assemble a holistic evaluation of digital tools and technologies based on indicators for agroecology, economic considerations and investigations about perceived benefits for users and stakeholders.</p>
Short Description of the Synergy	We have already been in touch with Evangelos Anastasiou from the Agricultural University of Athens, a partner of the D4AgEcol project, who connected us with the project coordinator this week to cluster the two projects.

Smart Protein	
Type of project	IA - Innovation action

Leading organisation	<u>University College Cork</u> – National University of Ireland
Region(s)/Country(s)	<p>Lead: Ireland</p> <p>European Partners: 5 IE, 1 PT, 2 ES, 2 BE, 2 NL, 4 DE, 6 DE, 1 AT, 6 IT, 1 IL, 1 CH</p> <p>International Partners: 1 TH, 1 NZ, 1 US</p>
Main contact(s)	Emanuele Zannini (UCC)
Website	https://smartproteinproject.eu/
Short Description of the Project	<p>Smart Protein for a Changing World. Future-proof alternative terrestrial protein sources for human nutrition encouraging environment regeneration, processing feasibility and consumer trust and acceptability.</p> <p>It is undeniable that protein is an indispensable part of the human diet, but the way we produce and consume it today presents many challenges, in terms of both global consumption patterns and their social, environmental and economic impacts. Providing a growing global population with healthy diets from sustainable food systems is therefore an immediate challenge. SMART PROTEIN aims to industrially validate and demonstrate innovative, cost-effective and resource-efficient, EU-produced, nutritious plant (fava bean, lentil, chickpea, quinoa) and microbial biomass proteins from edible fungi by up-cycling side streams from pasta (pasta residues), bread (bread crust) and beer (spent yeast and malting rootlets) industries. The alternative SMART protein will be used for the production of ingredients and products for direct human consumption, through developing future-proofed protein supply chains with a positive impact on bio-economy, environment, biodiversity, human nutrition, food and nutrition security and consumer trust and acceptance. These priorities will be addressed through global partnerships forged with consortium members from Europe, North America, Israel, Thailand and New Zealand to develop and demonstrate a climate-smart, sustainable protein-food system for a healthy Europe. We will harness plant and microbial protein knowledge to significantly</p>

Short Description of the Synergy	enhance the sustainability and resilience of a new European protein supply chain, improve professional skills and competencies, and support the creation of new jobs in the food sector and bioeconomy.
	Knowledge obtained from cultivar validation trials of faba bean, chickpea and lentil, as well as the optimization of crop production strategies trials and field scale-up of these crops, can feed into knowledge and research design.

ReMix Redesigning European cropping systems based on species MIXtures	
Type of project	RIA - Research and Innovation action
Leading organisation	Institut National de la recherché agronomique (INRA)
Region(s)/Country(s)	Lead: France EU partners: 35 partners from NL Partners: 6 FR, 2 SE, 2 DK, 1 UK, 3 NL, 2 DE, 1 GR, 1 HU, 1 IT, 1 CH, 2 ES, 1 PL International Partners: 1 CN
Main contact(s)	Eric Justes (CIRAD)
Website	https://www.remix-intercrops.eu/
Short Description of the Project	ReMIX aim is to exploit the benefits of species mixtures to design more diversified and resilient agro-ecological arable cropping systems less dependent on external inputs. Based on a multi-actor approach, ReMIX will produce new knowledge that is both scientifically credible and socially valuable in conventional and organic agriculture. It will tackle practical questions and co-design ready-to-use practical solutions

	<p>adapted to producing mainly grain cash crops in diverse EU pedo-climatic conditions. ReMIX will: 1) overcome barriers to stimulate the adoption of species mixtures by farmers and in agri-food chains, 2) unravel mechanisms of plant-plant interactions to maximize resource use efficiency, 3) determine the role of species mixtures in controlling diseases, pests and weeds and alleviating yield damages, 4) demonstrate the role of species mixtures in improving ecosystem service provision and development of resilience to biotic stress, 5) identify key traits and create novel breeding and phenotyping methods and tools adapted to species mixtures, 6) generate novel breeding material adapted to grain legume/cereal mixtures, 7) develop generic rules for assembling species for efficient cash crop production using process-based simulation models, 8) develop new management techniques to optimise species mixtures performance, 9) optimise settings and specifications for agricultural machines for harvesting and separating grains, and 10) develop a tool box, an educational serious game and technical booklets for farmers and advisors. The project will span from the specification of end-user needs and the co-design of in-field and on-farm experiments to demonstrations with evaluation of new varieties and practices. ReMIX will contribute to the adoption of productive and resilient agricultural systems based on plants diversity, to increase legume production and competitiveness in EU and to healthier diets based on plant proteins from cereals and legumes.</p>
<p>Short Description of the Synergy</p>	<p>The essence of ReMIX is in line with the objectives of VALERECO: contributes to the adoption of productive and resilient agricultural systems based on plants diversity, to increase legume production and competitiveness in EU and to healthier diets based on plant proteins from cereals and legumes.</p>

IntercropValuES | Developing Intercropping for agrifood Value chains and Ecosystem Services delivery in Europe and Southern countries

<p>Type of project</p>	<p>RIA - Research and Innovation action</p>
<p>Leading organisation</p>	<p>Centre de cooperation internationale en recherche agronomique pour le developpement (CIRAD)</p>

Region(s)/Country(s)	<p>Lead: France</p> <p>European Partners: 6 FR, 2 ES, 1 NL, 2 DE, 2 IT, 1 GR, 2 BE, 2 SE, 2 DK, 1 AT, 1 RS, 2 UK</p> <p>International Partners: 1 MZ, 1 CN</p>
Main contact(s)	<p>Eric Justes (CIRAD)</p>
Website	<p>https://intercropvalues.eu/</p>
Short Description of the Project	<p>IntercropValueES aims to exploit benefits of intercropping to design and manage productive, diversified, resilient, profitable, environmentally friendly cropping systems acceptable to farmers and actors in the agri-food chain. It will develop both a scientific research action for better understanding and modelling intimate intercrop functioning and a detailed analysis of lock-ins and levers at the value chain level to identify credible solutions that can be adopted by farmers and value chain actors. As a multi-disciplinary and multi-actor project, it brings together scientists and local actors representing food value chain. It includes 27 participants from 15 countries (3 continents) from a wide diversity of organizations and stakeholders. IntercropValueES organizes its activities in 6 objectives, to: 1) support the design of locally relevant, legitimate and innovative agri-food chains, through 13 Co-Innovation Case Studies; 2) understand the functioning and G*G*E*M interactions allowing the selection of compatible ideotypes and the optimization of machinery and management strategies for maximizing the productivity and delivery of ecosystem services with better soil health and mitigation of GHG (meta experiment 15 sites); 3) produce novel information, improved methods and tools for intercrop management and the assessment of their performance and profitability; 4) unravel intercropping performance by modelling; 5) analyze grain and sanitary quality of cereal-legume intercrops, functional qualities for food processing and new products, 6) uncover key barriers and levers at the value chain level to boost development, and identify new market avenues and solutions to increase economic added-value of intercrops.</p>
Short Description of the Synergy	<p>The analysis of the conditions needed to increase yield and economic performance, but also soil health and ecosystem services (ES), as</p>

	indicators of the value of intercropping, could be useful in the decision making of the VALERECO project.
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ForestAgriGreenNudge | GREEN NUDGES for sustainable FOREstry and AGRicultural practices post 2027

Type of project	HORIZON Research and Innovation Actions
Leading organisation	<u>Burgundy</u> School of Business
Region(s)/Country(s)	Lead: France European Partners: 2 PT, 2 FR, 1 EL, 1 ES, 1 FI, 1 SI, 1 SE, 1 PL, 1 LT International Partners: 2 UK, 1 RS, 1 TN
Main contact(s)	Nikolaos Georgantzis (BSB)
Website	Under construction
Short Description of the Project	Behavioural and cognitive biases reduce the ability of decision makers to adopt the best solutions among the alternatives available. Borrowed from pre-existing knowledge in psychology on priming, “nudges” are defined as gentle interventions in a decision maker’s choice architecture (default choice, information, presentation, framing etc.), which enhance the likelihood of optimal choices. ForestAgriGreenNudges will first review initiatives and projects which explicitly or implicitly use Green Nudges to promote the use of sustainable practices in farming and forestry. It will then assess each type of nudge according to two types of criteria: 1) Criteria associated with efficacy in promoting the use of the desired practices over a sufficiently long period and 2) Criteria dictated by ethics and good practice principles (transparency, nudge awareness, participation/self-regulation, actor-specificity, etc.) that guarantee

	<p>the quality of the implementation process. Nudges will then be tested in the field and assessed on a grid, reflecting the desiderata of efficacy and implementation quality. The set of successful nudges will be enriched by innovative nudges based on information regarding attitudes and strategies of actors along the entire value chain. The resulting set of nudges together with their corresponding implementation guidelines, and the business models and market conditions which favour their application in agroforestry will be collected on an online tool (iNUDGE Academy) whose target audience will include policy makers, wholesalers, retailers, farmers and foresters. The tool will associate each nudge with implementation rules, possible domains of application and possible risks in terms of efficacy, good practice and trade-offs. Diffusion of the results among farming and forestry experts, policy makers, and actors along the value chain will maximise the impact of the project, enhancing the adoption of sustainable practices in the farm and in the forest.</p>
<p>Short Description of the Synergy</p>	<p>Effective green nudges identified or developed in the ForestAgriGreenNudge project can help reinforce existing sustainable practices, or they can help to initiate behavioural changes to promote healthier and sustainable diets, and leverage the adoption of legumes in production. Such costless interventions in choice architecture would then replace economic incentives and costly interventions. The iNUDGE Academy and associated resources will be made available through the EU-Farmbook platform, providing training and guidelines to best practice, and delivering a default protocol to incorporate Green Nudges into the stakeholders' approaches in a fair and consistent way.</p>

OPTIM | Opportunities through Technologies and Innovation in Moldova

<p>Type of project</p>	<p>Market System Development</p>
<p>Leading organisation</p>	<p>OPTIM is the mandate of the Swiss Government, implemented by Helvetas in Moldova.</p>

Region(s)/Country(s)	Moldavia
Main contact(s)	Bojan Kolundzija, Nenad Celarevic, Katarina Jesic (Helvetas)
Website	https://www.optimproject.md/en
Short Description of the Project	<p>Agrifood - the most significant sector in the Moldovan economy. It is the sector where the largest share of the population is employed but offers the lowest income across all sectors. In agriculture, OPTIM will seek to leverage the developing cooperation and association models to strengthen access to high-value markets for smallholder farmers or agricultural laborers, while also promoting stronger public-private dialogue spaces. It will strive to offer access to information, knowledge, finance, and digital literacy. Also, since 2019, OPTIM has been addressing the issue of fragmentation of the agricultural sector in Moldova with positive results. OPTIM has contributed to the adoption of efficient agricultural practices and new production technologies through the development of diverse services for small farmers all over the country, The introduction of innovative monitoring and field intervention solutions contributed to the decrease of farmers' expenditures by 40% and increased their income.</p>
Short Description of the Synergy	<p>The experience of OPTIM in introducing new and innovative agricultural practices will be crucial knowledge to VALERECO in work package two (WP2) when addressing farmers and convincing them of utilizing legumes crops. Moreover, this project is located in Moldova, where VALERECO has no partners and could be an entry point for extending living labs or finding new collaborators.</p>

LFMWB | Landscape Fire Management in the Western Balkans

Type of project	Climate-resilient development and Sustainable management of natural resources
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Leading organisation	The LFMWB Programme is financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation – SDC and coordinated by Farmahem (acting as Regional Executive Agency (REA)) from Skopje, with backstopping support from Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation.
Region(s)/Country(s)	Western Balkans : Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Kosovo
Main contact(s)	Farmahem, Nenad Celarevic, Katarina Jesic (Helvetas)
Website	https://www.lfmwb.net/
Short Description of the Project	The overall goal of the LFMWB is to increase resilience of Western Balkan forests and landscapes against fires benefit the people who depend on these landscapes for their livelihoods and socioeconomic development using a participatory approach that includes the local population in the processes, promotes gender equality, and further strengthens public awareness of the importance of safeguarding natural resources.
Short Description of the Synergy	A fundamental principle of landscape fire management is the active engagement of a wide array of stakeholders through a participatory approach, enabling cross-sectoral and multistakeholder cooperation. This approach and variety of actors will enable to build VALERECO’s network and potential impact, by giving it access to multiple stakeholders across the Western Balkans and stimulating cross-boundary knowledge exchange and cooperation within VALERECO.

HELVETAS in Ukraine	
Type of project	Livelihoods. Economic recovery. Resilience.
Leading organisation	HELVETAS

Region(s)/Country(s)	Western Balkans : Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Kosovo
Main contact(s)	Petr Case, Nenad Celarevic, Katarina Jesic (Helvetas)
Website	https://www.helvetas.org/en/switzerland/what-we-do/where-we-work/partner-countries/ukraine_EN
Short Description of the Project	The aim of Helvetas’ presence in Ukraine is to create long-term prospects. Helvetas has therefore, in addition to humanitarian response, extended its activities in three areas: reconstruction of damaged houses and infrastructure, enabling new job perspectives and support of community rooted projects. The Ukrainian agricultural and food industry is also heavily affected by the war – including the organic sector, which Helvetas supported before the war. This support continues. Organic farming families are contributing to healthy and sustainably grown products. With support, the producers don't lose their livelihoods, and instead have opportunities to expand their business relationships and hire more workers.
Short Description of the Synergy	Helvetas’ presence in Ukraine and projects will help promote VALERECO there and expand its reach. Helvetas will promote VALERECO and advocate for the need of innovative and effective ways of farming, promote the results and activities, and seek to expand them in Ukraine.

RECONOMY	
Type of project	Market System Development
Leading organisation	Helvetas and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
Region(s)/Country(s)	RECONOMY is implemented in the Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine) and the

	Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia).
Main contact(s)	Paulo Rodrigues, Nenad Celarevic, Katarina Jesic (Helvetas)
Website	https://www.reconomyprogram.com/
Short Description of the Project	The core of RECONOMY is using current knowledge and practices and encouraging learning and sharing between countries. The program accomplishes this by involving a variety of stakeholders, including public institutions, nonprofits, academia, and businesses. While doing so, the program focuses on common issues that countries of both regions face as well as shared actors that may step up and support systemic improvements. Since RECONOMY acknowledges that people live in countries, not regions, the program looks at local-regional processes and relationships. Without a place-sensitive frame of view, development efforts that ignore these facts frequently fall short.
Short Description of the Synergy	MSD is an approach utilized by RECONOMY that aims to make the market systems function better in order to increase the quality of life for people in need through the following. RECONOMY is present in 11 countries in Eastern Europe and in contact with a variety of stakeholders including agricultural one. This offers the opportunity to VALERECO to disseminate its activities and results through Helvetas and RECONOMY and even expand VALERECO's reach in those countries.

ECO-READY	
Type of project	Research and Innovation action
Leading organisation	Czech University of Life Sciences Prague

Region(s)/Country(s)	<p>Lead: Czech Republic</p> <p>Partners: 2 GR, 2 IT, 2 DE, 1 CH, 1 CY, 1 TR, 1 RS, 1 NL, 2 BE</p> <p>Associated Partners: 1 SCT, 1 UK</p>
Main contact(s)	<p>Ioannis Manikas (CZU)</p>
Website	<p>https://www.eco-ready.eu/about-the-project/</p>
Short Description of the Project	<p>The ECO-READY project will create a real-time surveillance system and an Observatory available as an e-platform and mobile app. This will provide real-time food system assessments and frequent updates. The Observatory will serve society, policymakers, scientists, and the agri-food industry, integrating with 10 Living Labs across Europe. ECO-READY aims to develop resilience strategies and tools, focusing on immediate and long-term challenges. It will also create an early warning system and decision support tools using AI. The project ensures European farmers' and society's interests are reflected in policy-making through active engagement and digital tools, increasing awareness of climate-adaptive agri-food products. The smart app will empower citizens to engage in policy-making and interact with various stakeholders.</p>
Short Description of the Synergy	<p>We have already been in touch with Ioannis Manikas, the coordinator of Eco-Ready project from CZU, and we schedule another meeting in September, in order to have cross-project collaborations.</p>

5. Conclusions

The VALERECO project will establish significant synergies with other European projects, enhancing its impact on legume research, agroecology, and soil health. These collaborations will create a robust network that fosters innovation, knowledge exchange, and efficient dissemination of results, supporting sustainable agricultural practices across Europe. The main conclusions anticipated from these efforts are:

1. Enhanced Cross-Project Collaboration: VALERECO's strategic partnerships with various Horizon and PRIMA projects will significantly improve cross-project collaboration. These synergies will enable the sharing of resources, data, and innovative methodologies, leading to enriched research outputs and a more holistic understanding of ecosystem services provided by legumes.

2. Mutual Evaluation and Knowledge Exchange: Through joint evaluations and collaborative meetings, VALERECO will facilitate mutual learning among projects. This will allow for continuous improvements in research approaches and help align project outcomes with broader EU goals, such as biodiversity enhancement and climate resilience.

3. Effective Communication and Dissemination: The project's involvement in joint dissemination activities, including shared workshops, digital platforms, and communication channels, will amplify the visibility and impact of research findings. This collaborative communication strategy will ensure that scientific insights reach a wide audience, including policymakers, farmers, and other key stakeholders.

4. Strengthening the Agricultural Research Network: VALERECO's active participation in networks and living labs will strengthen its role as a central player in European agricultural research. These connections will facilitate the practical application of research findings, allowing for real-world testing and validation of innovative legume-based farming systems.

5. Opportunities for Future Synergies: The project will identify multiple avenues for future collaboration, including expanding its network to new partners and projects. This ongoing commitment to synergy-building will continue to enhance the project's contributions to sustainable agriculture in Europe.

The VALERECO project's strategic approach to fostering synergies will yield substantial benefits, enhancing research quality, facilitating knowledge exchange, and driving the adoption of sustainable farming practices. Continued collaboration will ensure that the project remains at the forefront of European efforts to promote environmentally sustainable and economically viable agricultural systems.

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