



FASTER

Farmers' Adaptation and Sustainability in Tunisia
through Excellence in Research

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Basic & Cross-cutting Multidisciplinary Trainings

Tunis, 2-4 April, 2019

AGENDA



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement no 810812

FASTER IN A NUTSHELL

Farmers' Adaptation and Sustainability Through Excellence in Research ([FASTER](#)) is a Twinning Project funded by European Commission (Directorate General for Research and Innovation) through Horizon 2020 funding programme.

FASTER aims to reinforce research and knowledge transfer capacity of INRGREF related to innovative land and water management in view of climate change and its implementation through the use of Farm Advisory Systems (FAS). To achieve its mission, FASTER will develop a sustainable framework for research capacity building, international networking and FAS practice.

The consortium gathers seven European and Tunisian partners: Two EU partners of established scientific excellence in the topic, [CREAF](#) and the [Lund University](#), will ensure strengthening of researchers and technicians of [INRGREF](#) and the associated [IRESA](#) (the Institution for Agricultural Research and Higher Education) centres. [Europe for Business](#) will then evaluate the experience from the economic perspective, and [Vision Communication](#) will ensure an appropriate public awareness, dissemination of results, and, jointly with [The Node](#), trainings support. Finally, [AVFA](#) (the Agriculture Extension and Training Agency) will serve as a liaison with policy makers and related stakeholders making sure to integrate the FASTER results in national policies.



THE TRAINING PROGRAMME

Introduction

Governments, research centers, industries and communities have a central role in tackling societal challenges such as climate change, local economic development and sustainability. However they often tend to respond to contemporary challenges - that are complex, interrelated and carry a multi-dimensional nature - in an uncoordinated and isolated fashion. The lack of a systematic and integrated approach undermines opportunities for cost-effective cooperation, advantageous synergies and sustainable long-term impact.

Today, policy-makers and public administrators need more and more science to produce actionable evidence for an evidence-based policy-making. In the same way, scientists need to raise awareness, better communicate, engage and partner with policy-makers to make the best out of their research, have a tangible social impact and avoid ill-informed policies might impede research progress and valuable findings. Policy-makers and researchers need also to coordinate with industries and markets to unlock business opportunities, products and services by designing inclusive and responsive policy-frameworks, innovative environment and open spaces of debate and exchange.

Eventually, increased research excellence is a product of an environment that can be fully operationalized by the cooperation among all the key-stakeholders previously indicated, for the benefit of all. Thus, enhanced reputation and higher competitiveness in the EU and beyond, with national and international funding opportunities, not only requires qualified scientists excellent in the research activities related to water and land management. It requires also different expertise and detailed knowledge of the role of international dynamics, the policy-making process, international and regional priorities along with key-actors and global values such as the sustainable development goals.

Trainings and Capacity-Building

To raise awareness on what outlined above, promote an effective and integrated methodology and offer support to the identified Tunisian and international key-stakeholders - as well as Tunisian project's partners - FASTER, in collaboration with [The Node for Opportunities, Development and Environment](#) will organise targeted multidisciplinary trainings and capacity-building on various cross-cutting key topics, at the heart of European and international agenda. This includes key aspects, knowledge, processes, as well as the capacities' development of key-selected staff in understanding, managing and operating at international standards levels. These aspects are assumed to be a first step advantageous to further developing research excellence and harvest its benefits for the public and private sector.

Overall objectives

The multidisciplinary cross-cutting training has for objectives to inform, empower and connect decision-makers with managers and researchers to:

1. Benefit the most from international opportunities, knowledge, best practices and synergies
2. Achieve goals while enhancing leadership, management and innovation capacities
3. Strengthen the interconnection of internal and external coordination processes
4. Advance cooperation among policy-makers, researchers, industries with knowledge, capacities and tools
5. Get acquainted with all cross cutting concepts also relevant to many EU and international funding opportunities

Methodology

The programme aims to be as interactive as possible involving a number of real case scenarios, live simulations, group works and feedback sessions. Gathering of relevant information such as expectations, key priorities and areas for synergies and opportunities will be achieved prior to the trainings via direct contacts, remote situation analysis and questionnaires. Evaluation of trainings will be carried out and participants will benefit of direct and a posteriori feedback. Relevant literature will be provided to the attendees by the experts prior to the sessions and hand-over material will be prepared as appropriate.

Target

The main target public is two-fold:

- 🍃 **Decision-makers:** Policy makers, Managers & Research Coordinators High-level Management from Ministries, Regional & Local Authorities; Presidents and Directors of Research Centers; National staff/contact points for International Organisations (UN, EU) in Tunisia, Leadership of Private Businesses Organisations (max. 20/30 persons. By invitation only)
- 🍃 **Researchers:** Senior Researchers; Team/Area Leaders; Young Talents (max. 40/50 persons)

Format

The courses will be organised from April 2nd to April 4th, divided into two parts:

- 🍃 **Training for the decision makers:** ½ day
3 hours of interactive modules, real cases simulations + networking coffee
- 🍃 **Training for the researchers:** 2 days
15 hours of interactive modules, real cases simulations + live & remote feedback

Training Provider

The multidisciplinary platform [The Node for Opportunities, Development and Environment](#) supports the Faster project in the design, delivery and coordination of the capacity-building training activities.

Agenda, Topics and Thematic experts

Training for the Decision Makers

- 🍃 **Date:** Tue 2nd April 14:30 – 17:30
- 🍃 **Venue:** Hotel Dar El Marsa, 75 Habib Bourguiba Avenue, La Marsa, Tunis
- 🍃 **Trainer:** Tomas Matraia
- 🍃 **Topic:** Leadership, innovation and effective decision-making for international cooperation
- 🍃 **Cross-cutting Topics:** Leadership; innovation; effective decision making; evidence-based policy making; public-private partnerships; international cooperation and synergies; alignment to international priorities, organisational change, strategic positioning; engagement, outreach, visibility, marketing and funding
- 🍃 **Key Thematic Topics:** SDGs and local economic development; responsible research and innovation; environmental dynamics; industry 4.0.; transition to digital environments, etc.
- 🍃 **Certification:** Participants will receive an official recognition issued by FASTER.

Leadership, innovation and effective decision-making for international cooperation

Expert: Tomas Matraia

International cooperation requires the agility to intercept and analyze heterogeneous and complex information from diverse thematic areas. The ability to swiftly compose the individual, organizational and societal dimensions is key to avoid short-sighted, unsustainable and ill-informed decisions.

Leadership, innovation and effective decision-making capacities are crucial to successfully steer a vast network of relationships across sectors (e.g. governments, businesses, research centers and civil society etc.) and to enable resources to be best channelled to target needs. Science, research and innovation can be a great ally for international organizations, governments, industries and communities, for instance, by offering evidence to decision-making, solutions tackling societal challenges such as climate change and creating jobs while alleviating poverty in rural areas.

Key decision-makers, need to break the mind-set and organizational silos, allow for resource flexibility and budgeting agility, organizational change, co-designed and inclusive new governance models while opening to multidisciplinary teams and empowering people who are able and motivated to connect, innovate and build new value.

The training will look also at ways to increase communication, coordination and synergies, at developing public-private partnerships, increasing international visibility and aligning to international priorities by taking advantage of the opportunities brought by the SDGs, Industry 4.0., Responsible Research and Innovation, international funding and market opportunities and other key issues.



About the expert

Tomas Matraia is the Director of the Strategic Advisory Group [The AdWisers](#) – specialised in internationalisation, innovation and leaderships processes - and serves also as Executive Director of the multidisciplinary platform [The Node for Development, Environment and Opportunities](#). His focus is to drive change, respond to contemporary challenges and seize new opportunities through business development, ground breaking partnerships and capacity building. He is a frequent speaker at numerous international events and debates, providing also facilitation, moderation and dedicated trainings in innovation processes, industry 4.0., leadership, change, emotional intelligence, conflict resolution and communication. He previously served in the United Nations and European Commission working on international cooperation, sustainable development, science, technology, research and innovation along with social inclusion, outreach and partnerships. Tomas holds a Master degree in Political Sciences and International Relations, a Postgraduate Specialisation in Human Rights and Development and was guest researcher at the Oslo University.



About the NODE

OUR VISION IS TO EMPOWER PEOPLE AND RESPOND TO SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

Our mission is to be a game-changing actor driving innovative sustainable development solutions.

We turn costs into opportunities, forge ground-breaking partnerships, and connect public and private sectors to overcome complex challenges.

We offer support in areas such as sustainable development, climate change, migration and participation in inclusive societies.

We train and empower people and public authorities, give visibility through human-centered campaigns and provide tools for effective resources management.

Our multidisciplinary approach and expertise combines strategic advisory, technical capacities and knowledge, market opportunities and social inclusion. Our business model is inclusive, equitable and profitable. Through the 6 interconnected pillars of the NODE we deliver a unique and powerful support.

We focus on people and inspire change.

Market services
& Certifications



Knowledge & training



Policy Analysis
& Strategic Advisory



Research and
Technology Support



Social Awareness
& Outreach



Social Inclusion
& Empowerment



Trainings for the Researchers

- 🍃 **Date:** Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th April
- 🍃 **Venue:** Hotel Lac Leman, Rue Lac Leman, Les berges du Lac, Tunis, 2045, Tunis
- 🍃 **Trainer Coordinator:** Tomas Matraia
- 🍃 **Trainers:** Joan Pino, Susanna Albertini, Robert Miskuf, Prof. Michael Kahn, Aida Balamaci, Yane Frenski
- 🍃 **Topics:**
 - Forests for the XXI century: CREAM's strategy and institutional relationships – Joan Pino (M)
 - Outreach, marketing and bio-based economy - S.Albertini (F)
 - Responsible Research and Innovation - R.Miskuf (M)
 - Innovation systems and internationalization - Prof. M. Kahn (M)
 - Women Empowerment - A.Balamaci (F)
 - Innovative education and learning solutions for SDGs, researchers, local communities & farmers - Y. Frenski (M)
- **Certification:** Participants will receive an official recognition issued by FASTER.

Forests for the XXI century: CREAM's strategy and institutional relationships

Expert: Prof. Joan Pino, Director of CREAM

CREAM is a public research center dedicated to terrestrial ecology. Created as an institutional research branch oriented at studying Catalan forests in 1987, it has evolved amplifying its fields of action, covering many different aspects on ecology, territorial analysis and global change at an international scale. Today CREAM depends mainly on EU funds and has a broad experience in competitive EU project development.

The training will highlight the principal means and strategies that led to this successful evolution of the research centre, including strategic, institutional, technical and operational aspects. Moreover, the training will elaborate on how these tools and processes can be used and adapted to different contexts such as the INRREF.

About the expert

PhD in Biology and MSc in Geographical Information Technologies, Joan Pino has been professor of Ecology at the Barcelona Autonomous University since 2006 and a researcher at CREAM since 1997. He has been responsible for over 80 scientific publications, including articles in SCI journals and other journals and book chapters. He focuses his research on landscape ecology, particularly the relationship of landscape structure and dynamics with species richness and composition, and on the application of these results in land planning. He also works on the ecology of biological invasions, particularly the study of species invasiveness and the invasibility of habitats and regions. In all his research he uses a spatially explicit perspective that includes the generation and analysis of digital cartography. He coordinates several information systems on biodiversity and the historical cartography of land.



Outreach, marketing and bio-based economy

Expert: Susanna Albertini

If you want to persuade and influence institutions and individuals to make changes, to take them where you want them to go, you need to outreach, engage and strategically position your work and organisation. This is particularly true for the scientific community and research centers, not always able to communicate and get the support for the great work they do for the benefit of their country, society and citizens. Being able to perform an external analysis to identify where your organisation stands, develop an effective advocacy communication strategy based on your needs and goals will help you plan and manage your work properly, supporting your research greatly. It will ensure you target the people with the power to bring the changes you want to achieve and to connect your research to real market needs and industries. Bio-based economy offer a great opportunity to merge technical content, with outreach and marketing opportunities to benefit research, business and societies globally, supporting cooperation between Europe and the South Mediterranean Countries



About the expert

Susanna Albertini is a communication and engagement expert who has integrated her specialization in Psychology of work and business organization with multimedia and new technology communication. Since 2000 she is involved as project manager and researcher in projects funded by the European Commission as senior expert in stakeholders' engagement and networking, capacity building, game-based training, co-creation and creativity enabling factors, communication, impact and valorization of research results. She has been selected by the European Commission as evaluator for Horizon 2020. Her main area of interest is societal challenges with special focus on sustainable and inclusive growth. She currently leads the European Bioeconomy Network, an alliance of 34 projects supporting the development of sustainable circular bioeconomy in Europe.

RRI: Responsible Research and Innovation

Expert: Robert Miskuf

RRI implies that societal actors (researchers, citizens, policy makers, business, third sector organisations, etc.) work together during the whole research and innovation process in order to better align both the process and its outcomes with the values, needs and expectations of society. In practice, RRI is implemented as a package that includes multi-actor and public engagement in research and innovation, enabling easier access to scientific results, the take up of gender and ethics in the research and innovation content and process, and formal and informal science education.



About the expert

Robert Miskuf is the Founder and CEO of PEDAL Consulting and Tenderio. Prior to that, he worked at the secretariat of the European Parliament in Brussels and later successfully managed various EU regional and community projects. Robert has implemented over 30 FP7/H2020 projects and is a leading expert within the Responsible Research and Innovation six policy key areas the EC has identified: Public engagement, open access, gender equality, science education, ethics, and governance. Robert is a leading force also behind the EC funded RRI project "Hub-IT" that connects Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to Social Sciences and Humanities. As ICT have great potential to transform society significantly, there is a need to engage wider stakeholder communities and incorporate different kinds of knowledge in ICT research and innovation to ensure that both process and outcomes are socially desirable and acceptable. The HubIT concept offers an approach that takes its point of departure in this context and goes towards a common EU Strategy, parameters and certifications.

Innovation systems and internationalisation

Expert: Prof. Michael Kahn

In a complex and fast changing world, new risks and opportunities mingle incessantly. Your research capability alone is not sufficient to achieve success. Staying ahead today requires forward-looking vision, integrated and customised approaches and actionable solutions within a cohesive environment. Public and private organisations often excel at local level but lack capacities and tools to internationalise, innovate and effectively lead their research at a regional or global level. Through smart reconfiguration of skills and capacities, new value can be created and your performance increased and highlighted internationally.



About the expert

As a respected international policy adviser on innovation policy, strategy, measurement and evaluation, Prof. Michael Kahn has maintained a lifelong commitment to social entrepreneurship and development – of people, systems and self. He has worked as an academic, official, consultant and Ministerial Adviser, with project experience in South Africa, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Qatar, the United Kingdom, and Brazil, as well as the European Commission, African Union, OECD, UNESCO, the World Bank, African Development Bank, and Iberian Development Bank. Michael is an innovative facilitator, scenario developer, and mentor. He is professor extraordinaire at Stellenbosch University, and the University of the Western Cape, in Cape Town.

Women empowerment

Expert: Aida Balamaci

Empowering women to participate fully across all sectors is essential to build stronger economies, achieve internationally agreed goals for development and sustainability, and improve the quality of life for women, men, families and communities. The research and private sector is a key partner in efforts to advance gender equality and empower women. Women's empowerment principles offer practical guidance to research centers, business and the organisations on how to empower women in the workplace, marketplace and community. Principles are designed to support organisations in reviewing existing policies and practices — or establishing new ones — to realize women's empowerment for a collective success and increased performance.



About the expert

Aida Balamaci is an international expert with more than 15 years of experience within United Nations Organisations, Ministries and Permanent Representations, Chambers of Commerce, Universities and NGOs. She specialised in knowledge, project and evaluation management for UNWOMEN and UNDP. She focused on women's empowerment, participation and leadership as well as on awareness-raising activities to challenge perceptions and social norms on women by identifying role models, champions and advocates. Her expertise includes the establishment, maintenance of partnerships with stakeholders worldwide (liaising with relevant women/gender networks, including political bodies, non-profit organizations, private sector and grass-roots movements) and partner offices to share knowledge products and promote projects.

Innovative education and learning solutions for SDGs, researchers, local communities & farmers

Expert: Yane Frenski

In the wake of the fourth industrial revolution, knowledge acquisition becomes one of the critical aspects of the efforts of institutions and individuals in keeping them abreast with the new trends and most importantly – staying competitive on the local and global markets. With the exponential penetration of modern technologies like artificial intelligence, the way we work, the way we do business is changing from one day to another. In order to adapt our skills to the rapidly changing environment, we have to also change the way we learn – we have to also innovate education. And that is even more valid for people working in the field of research. For many years, the innovation in education technologies has been limited to the digitalization of the existing educational resources. In the last few years we have seen different new approaches being explored – some of them at a general methodological level, others being purely based on the advances of technologies. Some of them, like the adaptive learning have seen their development in the mixture of methodological research and the use of cutting-edge technologies like artificial intelligence. Many of those innovative methodologies have delivered great results and can be a good add-on for your institution in your efforts to lead in the research and innovation and stay competitive.

In this context, the course will present the state of the art, trends, existing programmes and opportunities with real examples based on SDGs priorities.

About the expert

Yane Frenski is an international expert on education, technology and innovation working for the past decades for various United Nations offices around the globe. He is specialized in designing global solutions serving wide range of beneficiaries while providing localization, contextualization and implementation of SDGs. With a key focus on learning solutions, education technologies, knowledge sharing and management, Yane has worked in developing and developed countries connecting industry, research and communities. His educational background is in software engineering and his innovation and tech experience is backed by several involvements as a co-founder of startup companies. His current activities are focused on the use of modern technologies like machine learning and artificial intelligence for social impact, among which is disrupting education and knowledge sharing in a way that can serve our society in the era of the fourth industrial revolution.



Tuesday 2 April - Decision Makers Training

14:30 - 17:30 Venue: Hotel Dar El Marsa, 75 Habib Bourguiba Avenue, La Marsa, Tunis	Leadership, innovation and effective decision-making for international cooperation Concept and key topics: How to improve effective coop. between policy-makers, decision-makers, research centers and markets - nationally and internationally. Themes: International coop. opportunities (EU/UN/Private), RRI, SDGs, public-private partnerships, promotion and visibility, Strategic positioning, marketing. Innovation management and organisational change
14:30	Welcome, Opening Remarks, Objectives
14:45 - 16:00	Training - Part I: Leadership, innovation and effective decision-making for international cooperation -T. Matraia
16:00 - 16:15	Coffee Break
16:15 - 17:30	Training - Part II: Leadership, innovation and effective decision-making for international cooperation -T. Matraia
17:30 - 18:30	Group photo and delivery of Faster Certificates Networking Buffet

Wednesday 3 April - Researchers Trainings

08:00	Meeting at INRGREF (Hédi EL Karray Street, P.O. Box 10, 2080 Ariana, Tunisia) and transport to Hotel Lac Lemman
08:30 - 10:30 Venue: Hotel Lac Lemman, Rue Lac Lemman, Les berges du Lac, Tunis, 2045, Tunisia	Welcome, Opening Remarks, objectives Training 1: Forests for the XXI century: CREAM's strategy and institutional relationships – Joan Pino
10:30 - 10:45	Coffee Break
10:45 - 13:15	Training 2: Outreach, marketing and bio-based economy - S.Albertini
13:15 - 14:30	Networking Lunch
14:30 - 15:45	Training 3 - Part I: Responsible Research and Innovation - R.Miskuf
15:45 - 16:15	Coffee Break
16:15 - 17:30	Training 3 - Part II: Responsible Research and Innovation - R.Miskuf

Thursday 4 April - Researchers Trainings

08:00	Meeting at INRGREF (Hédi EL Karray Street, P.O. Box 10, 2080 Ariana, Tunisia) and transport to Hotel Lac Lemman
08:45 - 11:00 Venue: Hotel Lac Lemman, Rue Lac Lemman, Les berges du Lac, Tunis, 2045, Tunisia	Training 4: Innovation systems and internationalization - Prof. M. Kahn
11:00 - 11:15	Coffee Break
11:15 - 13:30	Training 5: Women Empowerment - A.Balamaci
13:30 - 14:30	Networking Lunch
14:30 - 15:45	Training 6 - Part I: Innovative education and learning solutions for SDGs, researchers, local communities & farmers - Y. Frenski
15:45 - 16:00	Coffee Break
16:00 - 17:15	Training 6 - Part II: Innovative education and learning solutions for SDGs, researchers, local communities & farmers - Y. Frenski
17:15 - 17:30	Group photo and delivery of Faster Certificates



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