



FIT4REUSE

Safe and sustainable solutions for the integrated use of non-conventional water resources in the Mediterranean agricultural sector

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Brief Description	This report summarises the organization and the main outcomes of the Webinar held on the 1 st of March 2022 and dedicated to the synergies with the other 2 Projects in the field of water management financed by the PRIMA Programme in 2018.		
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarises the organization and the main outcomes of the Second FIT4REUSE Webinar, held on March 1st 2022.

According to the Grant Agreement, within the Task 8.4, Webinars and virtual trainings are planned to promote **collaborative working** between different societal actors and develop outcomes in line with societal values and needs.

The second Water Reuse Day, held on December 2nd 2021, has been an occasion to present project outcomes and to involve stakeholders. Its organization in combination with the EIT Water Scarcity grand event, "The rethinking water event", allowed to reach the widest public and to bring additional stakeholders in contact with the project, in order to further develop the project results and to allow knowledge sharing and dissemination. Considering this, it has been decided to plan the second FIT4REUSE webinar after the second Water Reuse Day, and to dedicate it to **synergies with the other projects in the field of water management financed by the PRIMA Programme in 2018 (DSWAP and WATERMED 4.0)**. During the Webinar, the 3 projects involved have been presented by the partners, possible synergies have been discussed and next steps have been agreed for the organization of another joint initiative to move forward in building synergies.

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INTRODUCTION

The idea of the second webinar was to foster synergies with the other projects in the field of water management financed by the PRIMA Programme in 2018. The concept was firstly shared with PRIMA, which agreed on the importance of this kind of initiatives to strengthen the impact of the programme. Therefore, a first meeting between the coordinators of the projects involved (DSWAP, FIT4REUSE and WATERMED 4.0) and PRIMA was organized to discuss the organization of the webinar and to start sharing some relevant projects' information. The meeting was followed by further communications amongst the working group, that have led to the final definition of the structure of the webinar, reported in the next chapter.

The 3 projects and PRIMA agreed that it would have been more effective to hold this first joint initiative internally, involving just projects' coordinators and relevant partners. This was also due to the intention to include in the webinar a discussion on the definition of a second joint initiative targeted to a wider group of stakeholders.

The aim of this document is to report the work done within the organization of the second Webinar, that was held on the 1st of March 2022.

1. WEBINAR AGENDA

The webinar agenda has been developed following the outcomes of previous discussions with projects' partners and PRIMA. It included an overview on each project, followed by a focus on specific projects' activities, and a final round table dedicated to the discussion of possible synergies and next joint initiatives. The details of the Agenda are reported in the next Table:

Table 1.1: Webinar Agenda

AGENDA:	
Joint Webinar - FOSTERING SYNERGIES BETWEEN PRIMA WATER PROJECTS (Funded projects 2018)	
14h	<p>Welcome and introduction: FIT4REUSE and the importance of knowledge sharing in the water community</p> <p><i>Speaker: Attilio Toscano, FIT4REUSE coordinator, University of Bologna</i></p>
14h05	<p>Greetings by PRIMA representative</p> <p><i>Speaker: Marco Orlando, PRIMA Project Officer</i></p>
14h10	<p>DSWAP - Decision support-based approach for sustainable water reuse application in agricultural production – Project Overview</p> <p><i>Speaker: Eddie Cytryn, DSWAP coordinator, Agricultural Research Organization (ARO)</i></p>

DSWAP – Dissemination activities

Speaker: Dr. Kyriakos Manoli, DSWAP Communication & dissemination officer, University of Cyprus

14h40 WATERMED 4.0 - Efficient use and management of conventional and non-conventional water resources through smart technologies applied to improve the quality and safety of Mediterranean agriculture in semi-arid areas – Project Overview

Speaker: Burcu Yazici, Expert – Water Resources Management, Turkish Water Institute (SUEN)

WATERMED 4.0 - Platform approach for supporting agricultural services

Speaker: Antonio F. Skarmeta, WATERMED4.0 Coordinator, University of Murcia

15h10 Break (5')

15h15 FIT4REUSE - SaFe and sustanable soluTions FOR the integRatEd USE of non-conventional water resources in the Mediterranean agricultural sector – Project Overview

Speaker: Attilio Toscano, FIT4REUSE coordinator, University of Bologna

FIT4REUSE - The assessment of final use of reclaimed water in agriculture

Speaker: Elena LURO, R&D team engineer, Ecofilae

FIT4REUSE - Water reuse risk management

Speaker: Francesco Fatone, Full professor, Marche Polytechnic University

15.45 Round table – Building synergies and next joint activities

Moderator: Marco Orlando, PRIMA Programme

Participants:

- Eddie Cytryn, DSWAP Project
- Attilio Toscano, FIT4REUSE Project
- Antonio F. Skarmeta, WATERMED 4.0 Project
- Other projects' partners

16h15 Webinar closure

2. OUTCOMES OF THE WEBINAR

During the webinar the 3 Projects involved have been presented:

DSWAP - Decision support-based approach for sustainable water reuse application in agricultural production aims at the development of cost-effective modular, de-centralized wastewater treatment/irrigation systems coupled to decision support tools that enables coupling/decoupling of treatment modules for the removal of pathogens, contaminants of emerging concern and salinity as a function of the wastewater source and measured quality parameters, to ensure optimal reused water quality for irrigation and long-term sustainability of irrigated soils. Individual modules within these networks (compiled based on specific



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requirements) will be coupled to alternative energy sources to reduce costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

FIT4REUSE - *Safe and sustainable solutions for the integrated use of non-conventional water resources in the Mediterranean agricultural sector* aims at providing safe, sustainable and accepted ways of water supply for the Mediterranean basin by exploiting non-conventional water resources. The Project is focused on innovative, sustainable and safe treatment technologies and on the use of treated wastewater and desalinated water in agriculture and for aquifer recharge. In particular, FIT4REUSE concentrates on the development of innovative, sustainable and low-cost technologies for municipal wastewater treatment, desalination and brine treatment and disposal. The project is addressing both direct and indirect use of non-conventional water resources providing guidelines and performing a holistic assessment of the use of non-conventional water resources to improve public and legal acceptance of treated wastewater.

WATERMED 4.0 - *Efficient use and management of conventional and non-conventional water resources through smart technologies applied to improve the quality and safety of Mediterranean agriculture in semi-arid areas* is focused on the development and application of an integrated decision support system based on the Internet of Things, for managing the whole water cycle in agriculture, monitoring water resources (conventional and non-conventional) and water demands including the measure of economic, energy, social and governance factors that influence the water use efficiency in Mediterranean agricultural production areas. The fundamental idea is to enable optimizations of irrigation, water distribution, and consumption based on a holistic analysis that collects information from all aspects of the system including even the natural water cycle and the cumulated knowledge related to growing particular plants.

The presentation of the projects allowed to share relevant information and to start evaluating possible synergies, that will be further discussed in a next joint initiative. The **organization of the next joint webinar** has been the central theme of the final round table, in which the following elements were agreed:

Schedule: month of September 2022 – half day duration (approx 4 hours) – Open event online (addressed to selected stakeholders).

Structure of the event: 3 separate sessions involving different topics and a final Round Table. The projects should be presented in an “organic” way, e.g. explaining how the different solution proposed may respond to the same issue.

First topics proposal:

- TOPIC 1: Projects' support to policy making (key topics: water reuse, public health,)
Possible stakeholders: policy makers,...
- TOPIC 2: Water reuse – benefits and barriers for the agronomic sector

Problems and solutions proposed by the projects - from the treatment to the final use (including irrigation - fertigation)

Possible stakeholders: companies and advisors of the agricultural sectors, ministries of agriculture, food safety departments,...

- TOPIC 3: Assessment of the environmental impacts and benefits of water reuse (soil, plant health, ecosystem,..)

Possible stakeholders: tbd

This first proposal will have to be further discussed amongst projects' partners.

A further possibility for collaboration discussed during the webinar, is an intervention related to the 3 projects that may be presented at the ECOMONDO event (November). This possibility will be further evaluated.

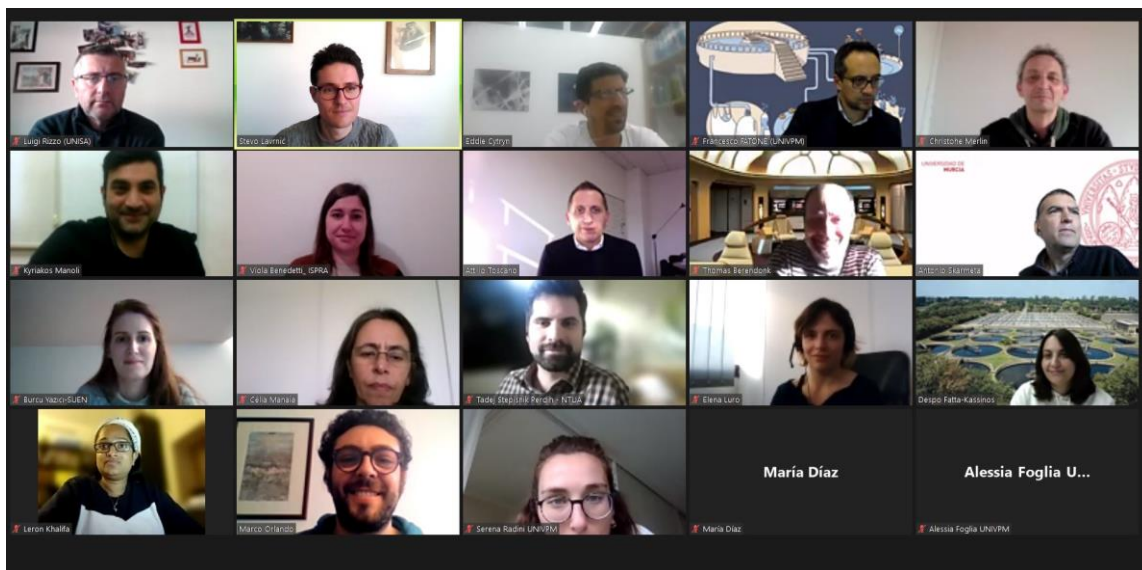


Figure 1: Webinar participants

3. NEXT ACTIVITIES

To facilitate the organization of the next joint initiative, the participants of the webinar agreed to create a working group (about 2 persons for each of the 3 projects). The WG will focus on the development of the agenda of the next joint webinar according to the following steps:



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- Definition of the 3 topics of discussion (the first topics proposal may be confirmed or modified according to projects partners' suggestions);
- Definition of the contributions (technological solutions, actions, studies and documents, etc.) of each project in the context of the defined topics;
- Identification of key stakeholders;
- Definition of how to involve stakeholders in the discussion;
- Definition of the details of the event organization (platform to be used, etc.).

4. MAIN CONCLUSIONS

The second Webinar has allowed to put in contact the projects DSWAP, FIT4REUSE and WATERMED 4.0 and to start discussion on possible synergies in the future. The main outcome expected from this initiative was the definition of the next steps to enhance further collaboration and it has been achieved through the agreement on the organization of another joint webinar in the month of September 2022.