Social Innovation in Marginalised Rural Areas (SIMRA)

**Geographical location:**
European Union
Other

**Other location:**
Mediterranean area

**Keywords:**
community supported agriculture (CSA)
Supply chain, marketing and consumption
farmer association
producer group
social farming
Farming / forestry competitiveness and diversification
social impact

**Main funding source:**
Horizon 2020 (EU Research & Innovation programme)

**Project acronym:**
SIMRA

**Project type:**
Research project

**Starting date:**
2016

**End date:**
2020

**Project status:**
going

**Website:**
Social Innovation in Marginalised Rural Areas [1]

**Title (in English):**
Social Innovation in Marginalised Rural Areas (SIMRA)

**Language:**
English

**Objective of the project (native language):**

SIMRA (Social Innovation in Marginalised Rural Areas) is a four-year project (2016-2020) funded by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 programme. It aims to advance understanding of social innovation and innovative governance in agriculture, forestry and rural development, and how it can be boosted, in marginalised rural areas across Europe and around the Mediterranean, including non-EU countries.

**Objective of the project (in English):**

SIMRA (Social Innovation in Marginalised Rural Areas) is a four-year project (2016-2020) funded by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 programme. It aims to advance understanding of social innovation and innovative governance in agriculture, forestry and rural development, and how it can be boosted,
in marginalised rural areas across Europe and around the Mediterranean, including non-EU countries.

**Description of activities (native language):**

For the SIMRA consortium, social innovation refers to “the reconfiguring of social practices, in response to societal challenges, which seeks to enhance outcomes on societal well-being and necessarily includes the engagement of civil society actors”. Social innovation aims to increase and introduce new solutions to challenges faced by rural areas, especially those considered as marginalised.

Our project is particularly happy to share our case studies and innovation actions with other stakeholders. The difference between both mainly lies in the degree of involvement of the SIMRA project. In the case studies, we collect and analyse empirical evidence of social innovations. In the Innovation Actions, we act as observers, facilitators and analysts of such social innovation. We would be happy to have you participate in our project by giving us your point of view and feedback on our scientific publications and case studies analysis, by telling us about examples of social innovation in your region for our online free access database, by contributing to SIMRA's recommendations for policy and practice communities, and in general don't hesitate to get in touch to exchange knowledge, to create further synergies with other projects and local initiatives, and to complement each other in promoting social innovation on the ground. We could be interested in organising joint events linked to the themes of our case studies or innovation actions (social farming, smart carbon forestry, community agriculture, land banking initiatives, supporting socially disadvantaged groups in developing successful business initiatives, etc.)

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**Project coordinator**

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Partner category: Researcher

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**Short summary for practitioners (in English):**

SIMRA’s objective is to fill the knowledge gap in understanding and boosting social innovation in marginalised rural areas (islands, mountains, depopulated, hard of access, etc.) by advancing the state-of-the-art in social innovation and connected governance mechanisms in agriculture and forestry sectors and in rural development in general.

**Short summary for practitioners (native language):**
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Project partners

**Organization/Institution** Padova University  
**Partner category:** Researcher

**Organization/Institution** Lancaster University  
**Partner category:** Researcher

**Organization/Institution** Foggia University  
**Partner category:** Researcher

**Organization/Institution** Cairo University  
**Partner category:** Researcher

**Organization/Institution** Swiss Centre for Mountain Regions (SAB)

**Organization/Institution** University of Berne - Centre for Development and Environment  
**Partner category:** Researcher

**Organization/Institution** CETIP network

**Organization/Institution** SEEDS-Int Socio-Economic, Environmental and Development Services
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<th>Partner category</th>
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<td>Researcher</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICRE8 International Center for Research on the Environment and the Economy</td>
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Organization/Institut: AWI Federal Institute of Agricultural Economics
Partner category: Researcher

Organization/Institut: BOKU University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences
Partner category: Researcher

Organization/Institut: FFAO Sub-regional Office for North Africa

Organization/Institut: EURAC European Academy of Bozen/Bolzano

Organization/Institut: Rural Development Company

Organization/Institut: Perth College - University of the Highlands and Islands
Partner category: Researcher

Organization/Institut: Euromontana - the European association for mountain areas

Further details

Links to other website(s):
- Questionnaire for examples of Social Innovations in Marginalised Rural Areas [3]

Source URL:

Links
[2] mailto:maria.nijnik@hutton.ac.uk
[3] https://uhi.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/simra_en