

## **Course on “Rural Areas Sustainability in the Adriatic-Ionian Basin: Multicriteria Evaluation of the Agricultural and Coastal Systems**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION** - The main objectives of the Course are the following: a) realisation of a territory information system (TIS); b) calibration of simulation models on a sample area for their subsequent use on a national scale; c) dissemination of knowledge (agronomy and agricultural techniques) for their utilisation for technical support and professional training; d) co-operation among experts in the agroenvironmental matters; e) development of a decision support system (DSS) for the planning and management of the local agricultural systems.

**OUTPUTS** - 1) First two-year period activities: a) construction of the data base with the existing hydrological, pedological, agro-environmental and managerial parameters necessary for the application of the models; b) integration of the existing data base with on field surveys; c) development and implementation of the integrated management model, the territory information system and the decision support system; d) preparation of the first base and thematic maps; e) application of the chosen simulation model to a sample area. 2) Last year activities: a) further investigations necessary for model validation with reference to the sample area; b) application of the models on a national scale; c) production of the definitive thematic maps.

**MARKET POTENTIAL** - Public and private institutions committed to environmental protection and sustainable development of the territory could be interested in this product, as well as experts and technicians involved in activities such as technical support to the farmers and professional training and updating.

**EXISTING PARTNERSHIP** - The existing partners are the following: 1) UniAdrion countries: all UniAdrion countries are involved in the definition, realisation and management of the project. The UniAdrion network will co-ordinate regular meetings aimed at the diffusion of the acquired knowledge, the monitoring and the evaluation of the results. 2) University of Udine, Department of Crop Science and Agricultural Technologies (Prof. R. Giovanardi) will participate with a team of experts who deal with the multicriteria evaluation of crop systems, coastal territory and the use of predictive models and decision support systems; there will be a collaboration with the Universities of Bologna and Ancona. 3) University of Tirana (Prof. V. Peçuli) will collaborate in gathering all available information about the different aspects of the territory, in choosing a suitable area for the calibration of the predictive models and in determining the most important impact indicators.

**EXPECTED PARTNERS** - We expect to find new partnership with scientific institutions and local administrations of other East European countries in order to broaden our knowledge and increase the impact of the project. In particular, a similar case study would be of much considerable importance in Croatia, for the same reasons that led us choose Albania as indicated in the introduction of the project description.

**STATUS OF THE COURSE**- The course has started on September 2002.

**FURTHER INFORMATION** - Professor Andrea Segrè, Department of Agricultural Economics and Engineering, University of Bologna, via Fanin, 50 - 40127 Bologna (Italy)  
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